On a Mission to Grow

Viterbo Looks to Increase Enrollment One Student at a Time

When newly announced president Rick Artman arrived on campus more than 18 months ago, he immediately made it known that he was “(Vi)terbo-charged,” and excited to be part of Viterbo’s energy and growth. During that time, he facilitated a campus wide effort resulting in a vision for the future built on four priorities: academic distinction; a strong Catholic and Franciscan identity; enrollment growth; and access, affordability, and success.

As this article goes to press, high school seniors across the nation are scrambling to make their 2008 college plans. The possibilities are staggering. At last count, over 4,000 colleges and universities are clamoring to gain the attention of these highly sought after teens who are bombarded with a world of educational options.

These “prospects” receive volumes of mail, phone calls— they’ve attended college fairs, been subjected to grilling by parents and relatives about future plans, and now, it’s decision time.

Which of these students will choose Viterbo University, and why?

The answer to that question lies at the heart of the admission process and is crucial to a recruitment plan that calls for Viterbo to substantially grow enrollment. Just over 3,000 students currently attend Viterbo, a figure that could grow to 5,000 according to the plan which will be phased in over seven years. This growth, college officials promise, will be anything but a free-for-all grab for students. Instead, the initiative will be well thought out, intentional, and implemented in a way that supports the mission and unique Franciscan nature of the university. The projected increase will create many opportunities for Viterbo to expand its influence by reaching more traditional and adult students.

While the educational landscape is exceedingly competitive and crowded with other colleges that also want to increase enrollment, the sentiment is that Viterbo’s growth plan—based on past performance—is achievable. After all, the university’s current headcount is more than double what it was 15 years ago.
Furthermore, Viterbo’s reputation for offering a values and ethics based curriculum is attractive to employers, as well as prospective students and their parents. Likewise, the market for highly skilled professionals in healthcare, education, the arts, and business—the type of student that Viterbo graduates—will only continue to grow.

Still, college officials say that the success of Viterbo’s ambitious growth plan will require the involvement of virtually everyone on campus to assure that the quality and reputation of a Viterbo education is not diluted in the process.

Several students—the type and caliber of recruit Viterbo would like to attract in growing numbers—recently reflected on their experience at Viterbo.

**Importing talent and creativity, all the way from Las Vegas**

Lance Newton hails from the Southwest...beautiful, sunny, warm Las Vegas, which is a complete contrast to the cool overcast October weather La Crosse students were experiencing the day he was interviewed for this story.

A student at the Las Vegas Academy for the Performing Arts, Newton quickly caught the attention of Rick Walters, chair of Viterbo’s theatre department. Viterbo’s showcase Fine Arts Center and excellent theatre program prompts Walters’ national search to recruit top prospects. Each year, he travels to Las Vegas to audition students at Newton’s school and his efforts have yielded good results. At any given time, a half dozen or so attend Viterbo.

Newton, who had never traveled much outside of Las Vegas, gives Walters much of the credit for his eventual decision to attend Viterbo.

For Newton, who was accepted at the University of Southern California and Northern Colorado, it was Walters’ persistence and genuine interest that made the difference. “My high school theatre teacher knows Rick and they keep in touch. A bunch of universities came down to audition us. It was Rick who stayed connected and was interested in me as a person.”

The transition from Vegas to La Crosse wasn’t completely smooth, but Newton is glad he headed north. “I hesitated at first, because I hadn’t really been anywhere and it isn’t as diverse here. But, I needed to go to a place where I could slow down, relax, and collect my thoughts, which isn’t that easy in Las Vegas. I know you have to work hard here to accomplish things, and Viterbo is definitely a community that provides a lot of help.”

So far the fit is a good one. An extremely talented performer, Newton has earned roles in several plays.

Meanwhile, Newton is working hard to improve his overall grade point average so that he will be eligible to participate in a study abroad program, perhaps to Africa.

“I didn’t realize when I first came, how important it is to get good grades,” Newton said.
Now that he’s situated, his only complaint is the weather, something Viterbo can’t do much about. “Oh the weather!” he laughs. “Do you know there are some days here when the sun doesn’t shine at all?”

For Viterbo though, the picture is anything but cloudy. Newton represents a class of students who have been recruited from distant locales to La Crosse for a high-quality “destination” program of study.

Inviting academic excellence into the sciences

Meanwhile, another “perfect fit” was finding her way to Viterbo University. Danielle Quinette arrived in La Crosse from Cedarburg, just north of Milwaukee, a little more than three years ago, hoping that the small college that she had heard so much about would be able to help her pursue her dream to become a doctor.

At the time, Viterbo had just finished building the $11 million D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology and the state-of-the-art facility featured new science laboratories, the first the university had seen in more than 50 years. Quinette, who scored an outstanding 30 on her ACT test and was ranked fifth in her class of 300 back home, liked what she saw at Viterbo.

“The Reinhart Center is impressive and so are the faculty,” said Quinette, biology major. “I liked the smaller school atmosphere. When I visited campus, Dr. (Ron) Amel—he called me by my first name and he had just met me. The attention I received was remarkable.”

Her stint at Viterbo has been rewarding. Quinette, 21, has a perfect 4.0 grade point average, she volunteers at the local hospital in the emergency room, and she helps fellow students as a tutor.

As Viterbo expands, the sciences have been targeted as a place where growth is expected to take place.

The competition for academically talented students like Quinette is fierce. While she received a substantial scholarship, Quinette, who could have attended any college, only looked at Viterbo. It didn’t hurt that her mother is a Viterbo alumna. Still, her decision to come to campus and the fact that Viterbo was her first and only choice, is what the science faculty have worked hard to achieve in building a strong reputation for their program.

“A lot of people are now looking at Viterbo. These are students who have been accepted at a number of other schools, but chose to come here when they had a lot of other choices,” Quinette said. “That says a lot.”
As Viterbo’s largest major and one that perennially has a waiting list, by all appearances, nursing is the one program that should not be targeted for growth.

However, nothing could be further from the truth.

According to School of Nursing Dean Silvana Richardson, the unprecedented demand for nursing graduates needs to be met and she wants Viterbo to be the leader in addressing the shortfall.

Baby boomers are aging and will need quality healthcare, including increasing numbers of competent and compassionate nurses of the kind Viterbo graduates.

It is estimated that in order to meet the demand just in Wisconsin, more than 2,600 additional registered nurses will be needed each year until at least 2014. The nursing shortage is expected to reach 20 percent by 2020.

Therein lies the opportunity to grow.

The nursing program, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary, is Viterbo’s largest major. Six-hundred and seventy-four students are enrolled and job placement is 100 percent. Marquette University and Viterbo are tied for having the distinction as Wisconsin’s largest private college providers of four-year nursing graduates.

While being at the top has its advantages, Richardson is cautious to avoid resting on her laurels knowing that Viterbo must help meet the growing demand for RNs in Wisconsin.

That’s a lot of nurses, even for Viterbo. Because of the great need for more nurses, Richardson is busy planning the next steps to assure that Viterbo is ready. However, before more students can be accepted, a new nursing facility is required as the existing building doesn’t have the space, technology, or other amenities required to meet the very complex needs associated with training more nurses. And like Viterbo’s other programs, she wants to assure that special care is taken to maintain the university’s leading reputation for training nurses who are both competent and compassionate.

“I think what has set Viterbo apart is the commitment of students to teach holistic nursing care, to take care of the whole person,” she said.

A long-term goal will be to expand the bachelor of science in nursing program enrollment by 25-30 percent. And with perfect placement and jobs that start at $40,000-55,000, the prospects are appealing.

“The need definitely exists,” Richardson said, “and we are excited about the opportunities on the horizon and the responsibilities we have to our profession as leaders in healthcare.”
Growing enrollment and student success—one at a time

Nobody knows the challenges of growing enrollment more than Roland Nelson, vice president of enrollment and Wayne Wojciechowski, interim academic vice president.

With more than a half-century of collective experience, the two have seen a number of changes occur to the Viterbo landscape. Wojciechowski recalls times when Viterbo's enrollment was little more than 600 students—less than 25 percent of what it is today.

Since then, Viterbo has accommodated the growth while at the same time maintaining a strong sense of mission and purpose. “I know it sounds like a cliché,” Wojciechowski said, “But there is something called the ‘Viterbo Way.’ It’s the personal attention that we provide and we haven’t lost that even as we have grown in numbers. People have to work at getting lost here. Students still come because they have a sense they are cared about.”

Recent surveys and other research confirm Wojciechowski’s sentiment.

In the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), students shared their opinion on how engaged they feel in the learning process and the grades these students gave Viterbo were impressive.

First year students gave Viterbo marks that exceeded national benchmarks in four of the five measured categories. Senior students ranked Viterbo even higher, exceeding the benchmarks in all five categories which included supportive campus environment, faculty and staff interaction, and level of academic challenge.

The findings revealed that twice as many Viterbo seniors participated in community-based projects as part of a course than seniors from other participating colleges. Similarly, when compared to students from other colleges, significantly more Viterbo students indicated they had developed a personal code of ethics and contributed to the welfare of their community.

Nelson and his admission staff, who ultimately must recruit more students, like what they see in these surveys.

“Viterbo’s reputation is definitely out there,” Nelson said. “We are now more of a first choice school. Students look at us as being different in size and in our ability to help.” Nelson knows that despite Viterbo’s many strengths, the pressure will be on to grow in order to meet his ambitious target. Yet, like everyone else who was interviewed, he is confident Viterbo will be successful in this newest venture to increase enrollment by offering more opportunities emphasizing the theme used during President Artman’s inauguration: Hope and Help.

“Each student who applies here—it’s one at a time. That’s the way Viterbo operates. Often, I will open up the file of a prospective student who arrives with his or her parent. I’ll look at
the transcripts and other information and then I’ll say, ‘I want to tell you how we are going to help you.’”

“That’s our mission here,” Nelson said without hesitation, “and it will never change.”

From Student to Trustee
Alumna Comes Full Circle

Nola Jo Starling-Ratliff ’74 has very fond memories of her time in La Crosse as a Viterbo University student, although her collegiate career did get off to an inauspicious beginning.

“When I first got to Viterbo from Mississippi, my suitcases hadn’t arrived with me,” she remembered with a smile. “I happened to be wearing pants, and I went to the cafeteria to eat. In the early 70s, slacks weren’t allowed in the cafeteria and everyone was looking at me. I thought they were staring because I was the only black person there. When they found out I had nothing else to wear, it was OK.”

Now, over 30 years since she graduated with a degree in music, she has come full circle, serving on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater.

“I truly believe in giving back to those who have given to you,” said Starling-Ratliff, who has been a proponent of bringing increased diversity to the Viterbo community. “I’m giving back to this institution because I don’t think I’d be where I am today if it weren’t for the Franciscan Sisters here. They really helped me become what I am, and I want to return that by helping someone else become what he or she truly wants to be.”

Starling-Ratliff’s unique contributions have made her a very valuable member of the board, said Viterbo President Rick Artman.

“Nola Jo brings several perspectives to the Board of Trustees—as an alumna when Viterbo was an all women’s college, a gifted vocalist who is deeply committed to Viterbo’s excellence in the fine arts, and as principal of an ethnically diverse high school,” Artman said. “She is deeply committed to our Catholic and Franciscan heritage, and she is very enthusiastic and confident about our future.”

Today Starling-Ratliff, is the highly regarded principal of William Horlick High School in Racine, one of the largest and most racially diverse high schools in the state. Horlick has undergone an impressive transformation since she arrived on the scene as principal.

“When I first arrived at Horlick, students were not engaged academically or socially,” she said. “Far too many students were truant, being suspended, or expelled. Parents did not feel a part of the school their children attended. It was my responsibility, along with the staff, to establish a school that is respected by the community it serves. With a committed staff, we
are gradually reaching our goal. We are trying to create a community of learners, where all stakeholders are active participants. This is not my school, it’s our school.” Her first order of business was to change the culture.

She recalled an instance in which she was surprised when a teacher mildly took her to task for hugging a particular student.

“Don’t you know he’s a gang member?” the teacher asked.

“I responded by asking the teacher, ‘Don’t you think it would be good to get that student on our side? We have to show him that we care about him.’”

Often an achievement gap is the result of a community gap, she said. Now, she makes sure each ethnic group is represented at each school function. Parents are also engaged with activities ranging from a student award dinner to a distinguished alumni recognition ceremony.

Above all else, Starling-Ratliff has brought a caring attitude to her career in education, an attitude she attributes to her time as a student at Viterbo.

“The Franciscan Sisters really taught us the need to care,” she said. “By caring, you’re not only helping that person, but you’re also helping yourself. That is so important. You have to give a little.”

Starling-Ratliff grew up in Canton, Miss. (the hometown of the famous Thea Bowman, FSPA, who is now a candidate for sainthood), where she attended the FSPA’s Holy Child Jesus School. The school was staffed with Franciscan Sisters, who spoke often of La Crosse and their connection with Sr. Bowman.

“La Crosse was in essence my second home, I heard so much about it,” she said. “That’s how I ended up at Viterbo.”

While it was very difficult for her to leave her family and travel outside of Mississippi by herself for the first time, she found a warm and welcoming community at Viterbo, she said.

Growing up with the Franciscan Sisters, her transition to Viterbo was a smooth one, she said. She quickly became a part of the community, making close friends and getting to know her fellow music students very well.

“I remember a close friend telling me, ‘Nola Jo, I used to think to myself, I’m going to meet my new black friend. Then I realized, I’m going to meet my friend,’” Ratliff said.

“Viterbo wasn’t just a college for me, it was my home away from home,” she said. “The sisters would check on us when we were sick and make sure we had somewhere to go on Thanksgiving.”

“I think the Franciscan Sisters were one of the first women’s rights groups,” she said. “They really instilled in us the power to be whatever we wanted to be.”

Upon graduation, Starling-Ratliff embarked on a career as an elementary school music teacher. She was eventually assigned with building a middle school music program. She then decided to change careers, becoming a principal in 1983.
“I asked myself how I could stay in education while advancing myself professionally at the same time,” she said. “I thought I had this knack of reaching out to children. They liked me and I really liked them. I wanted to be more of an effective leader and to help all children. Being a principal, I can help children, not just my students, but all the children in the school.”

Her first assignment as a new principal was an at-risk school to which “no one wanted to go,” she said. Ninety percent of the students were eligible for free or reduced lunch.

“I loved it,” she said. “It was the best experience of my life. I stayed there five years.”

She then served at a predominately white school in Sussex, but decided to move back to the city so her daughters could grow up in a more culturally diverse environment. Her decision was affirmed when one of her daughters told her, “Mother, it’s not where they come from, it’s what’s within them that makes them a good person.”

Whether it was as a teacher or a principal, Starling-Ratliff has been known as a “cheerleader for students” throughout her career in education. She also encourages her teachers to take 15 of their most at-risk students and become mentors for them.

“The most rewarding part of my job is when a student tells me, ‘Ms. Ratliff you care,’” she said. “I make sure it’s not about me, it’s about the academic excellence of our children.”

Her good work over the years has not gone unnoticed by the Viterbo community. Two scholarships in her honor are now in the planning stages by Viterbo benefactors. “That is the best gift someone could ever give me,” she said. “The scholarship recipients will receive the same gift I did, the gift of an outstanding Viterbo education.”

Young at Heart

On New Year’s Eve in 2001, Herb Heili lay on an operating table in a University of Wisconsin-Madison hospital, awaiting a heart transplant. He received a new lease on life thanks to that life-saving operation, and now is determined to make the most of it.

At a time in life when he and many people his age are retired and enjoying things such as golf and grandchildren, Heili, 69, is also hard at work at Viterbo, raising money for a number of planned initiatives in the School of Nursing. On the university’s radar are a new building and a doctorate program in nursing. Projects such as these are expensive, but critically important in maintaining Viterbo’s position as one of the premiere institutions for nursing in the Midwest, and Heili wants to be a part of it.

“Throughout my life, I’ve felt that I have been very fortunate and blessed,” he said. “Having a heart transplant has provided me with additional years of life, and an opportunity
to contribute to others in many ways. I want to demonstrate that people who have had a major organ transplant can continue on to be contributors to society, but more importantly, education has always been important to me, and I want to be part of the process to create educational opportunities for future generations.”

Heili is a well-known member of the healthcare community, having worked 42 years in the industry, including more than a decade as Searle Pharmaceutical’s executive director of North American operations, and later he served as executive vice president of Gundersen Lutheran from 1998-2002.

His expertise and contacts in the field of healthcare will be a great asset to Viterbo as it moves forward with its future plans.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have a man of Herb’s talents to help us share Viterbo’s healthcare story and the effect our graduates have on the industry in general,” said Viterbo President Rick Artman. “We have a strong reputation as a leader in healthcare, the sciences, dietetics, and in pre-medicine, and both Herb and his wife Barbara, who is a registered nurse, are deeply committed to the compassionate and personal care that is very much a part of the curriculum emphasized at Viterbo.”

Heili’s journey to Viterbo began with a biology degree from St. Norbert College and a two-year stint as an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps from 1960-62. He then took a job as a sales representative at Lederle Laboratories in Austin, Minn. He spent 23 years with the firm, a division of Cyanamid Company, rising through the ranks to director of training and manpower development. It was this type of work that Heili found the most satisfying.

“Providing opportunities for other people to succeed in life is one of my personal goals,” he said. “I served as a mentor to approximately 55 people in the pharmaceutical industry who advanced to management positions, with two or three even becoming company presidents.”

Seeing the positive results of his work in healthcare and the new drugs created by the pharmaceutical industry has also been a rewarding aspect of his career. Lederle Laboratories was the major supplier of oral polio vaccine that eradicated the disease worldwide. “That really satisfied some of my personal goals in life,” he said.

During his early career, Heili didn’t realize that one day the industry he worked in would help save his life.

Cardiovascular problems were prevalent in his family, and in 1984 he found himself hospitalized for an angioplasty. “I had a major heart attack following the procedure that caused extensive damage to the heart muscle.”

Heili lived with his damaged heart until one day at work in the fall of 2000, he felt light-headed and weak. In an attempt to return to his office, he collapsed and experienced sudden cardiac arrest. It took seven shocks with a defibrillator to save his life. During a later hospital stay, an Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator was implanted in his chest. He also needed a heart transplant, which he would receive on New Year’s Eve 2001.

“I consider myself extremely fortunate because a limited number of patients get to the point at which they actually get a new heart,” he said. “There are approximately 2,700 people on
the waiting list for a new heart in the United States. I am so grateful that people are willing to donate organs. There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t say a prayer for the young man and his family who donated his heart to me and allowed me the opportunity to survive.”

The operation was a complete success. He now takes 54 pills (which includes anti-rejection drugs) a day, “but that’s a small price to pay to survive,” he said. He even went on to win a gold medal in the high jump at the 2004 Transplant Games.

During his hospital stay, he and his family developed a close relationship with the transplant coordinator for UW-Madison, Heather Jaeger, a 1999 Viterbo graduate. He also became very familiar with other Viterbo nursing graduates through his work in healthcare.

“I’ve been extremely pleased with the quality of nurses the university has produced,” he said. “Viterbo nurses have learned that caring is the foundation and a critical component of nursing practice. The faculty members in the School of Nursing have recognized that caring is both an art and a science, and they instill in their students that it is accomplished with knowledge, wisdom, compassion, and competence.”

Others will also benefit from the planned facility and program improvements in the School of Nursing, Heili said. “Ultimately, consumers of healthcare will be the beneficiaries from the continuous improvement that is essential in today’s environment,” he said.

In addition to his duties at Viterbo, Heili is extremely active in the La Crosse community. He serves on the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation Board and the Riverfront, Inc. board. He is also one of only two patient delegates for the United Network of Organ Sharing, a non-profit, scientific and educational organization that administers the nation’s only organ procurement and transplantation network established by Congress in 1984. He is also a practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly.

He has been married for 47 years to his wife, Barbara, and they have three very successful children. Seven grandchildren also keep him busy and happy. So does his work at Viterbo.

“What attracted me to Viterbo was the fact that the mission of the university closely matched my own,” he said. “Healthcare and education have always been very important to Barbara and myself. There is a real opportunity to make a difference here at Viterbo. As leaders in healthcare, Viterbo is at a critical crossroads. I have the opportunity to promote the new facility and doctorate program, and that’s exciting. I can hardly wait to share the vision.”
ON CAMPUS

President’s Column

I hope you will enjoy, as I did, reading this issue of Strides. The richness of Viterbo’s distinctiveness can be found in the three lead stories.

The cover story offers a glimpse at our future along with a look at Viterbo’s newest strategic initiatives. Yes, transformation is taking place and we will change. We will grow. And in the process we will confront new challenges and pursue exciting opportunities. But, after reading about students such as Danielle Quinette and Lance Newton, I trust you will agree there is a “Viterbo way”—a distinctive thread that has been woven into the campus culture through the years. In the short time that Joan and I have been at Viterbo, we understand why it holds a special place in the hearts and minds of current students, alumni, faculty, administration, staff, and trustees. We all have every reason to be proud of our heritage and progress. Together, we will build upon our strengths and continue to expand our influence and increase our impact.

Further along in Strides, trustee Nola Jo Starling-Ratliff is singled out for some very special and well-deserved recognition. Nola Jo is a 1974 graduate of Viterbo, a respected principal in the Racine area, and an articulate advocate for the life-changing opportunities provided by higher education. We are grateful that she has come “full circle,” returning to Viterbo to help us shape the future for the next generation of students. Nola Jo is one of 30 trustees who serve on the board who give their time, talent, and treasure to the university. One of the truly unique features and strengths of American higher education is our practice of governance, wherein lay leadership accepts the fiduciary and stewardship responsibilities of our colleges and universities. Trustees receive no compensation for their service. To the contrary, their philanthropy amounts to the largest portion of donations from any one sector in American higher education.

Finally, friends of Viterbo will also be interested to read about Herb Heili. At age 69, Herb is one of our “newest hires.” Rather than say too much at this point, I’ll simply encourage you to get to know Herb through the telling of a very inspiring story. He is as enthusiastic as a freshman, and passionate about our plans for the future, particularly in the area of healthcare.

There’s much to be excited about here at Viterbo and that becomes very evident as we share the stories about friends and alumni who are contributing to the betterment of our society in some very profound ways.

Richard B. Artman
Barbara Gayle Named New Academic Vice President

The Viterbo community will welcome Barbara Gayle, Ph.D., as the university’s new academic vice president when she begins her duties June 1.

Gayle is currently serving as the vice president for academic affairs at St. Martin’s University in Lacey, Wash. She will succeed interim academic vice president Wayne Wojciechowski.

Twenty Years of Helping Students

Way back in 1987, the members of the staff assembly created a scholarship in an effort to help students. Twenty years, 35 students, and $44,800 later, they were certainly successful.

The staff assembly is comprised of housekeepers, administrative assistants, maintenance workers, and other hourly employees.

“The staff assembly scholarship has been a great and positive project for our assembly,” said Chris Sanger, manager of development services, and chairperson of the grant committee. “It has given each of us great satisfaction to know that we are making a difference for some of our students. And we appreciate the support the entire Viterbo community has given us along the way.”

The first staff assembly scholarship awarded was $400 in 1988. Since then, students have received a total of $44,800, with as much as $6,000 being awarded in a single year.

The staff assembly has raised over $65,000 for the grant during the past 20 years, through the contributions and fundraising efforts of its members. In December, the funds were used to create an endowed scholarship, ensuring it will continue forever.

Hello Neighbor

Georgia Christensen, FSPA, and Viterbo student Molly Simones were two of over 35 members of the campus community who distributed loaves of bread to the university’s neighbors in October as part of Founder’s Day. The activity is an annual tradition, celebrating Franciscan hospitality.
Concert for Safe La Crosse

A free outdoor public concert by acclaimed La Crosse musician Rob Gonzalez in Assisi Courtyard in September launched Safe La Crosse, a community-based initiative that encourages safe and responsible behavior related to alcohol consumption.

Safe La Crosse was created by the Tri-Campus Advocacy Group with the goal of significantly reducing alcohol related injuries in the community. Viterbo, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and Western Technical College conducted a number of activities on their respective campuses to promote the campaign.

All proceeds generated through donations and concession sales at the concert benefited Safe La Crosse and Operation: River Watch, a group of students who volunteer their evenings to patrol Riverside Park, the location of several student drownings.

Gonzalez, a pianist and singer/songwriter, performed trendy pop music and jazz piano. He was joined by opening performer April MacLean of Nashville, whose lyrics encompass the themes of empowerment and healing.

“Many students welcomed the opportunity to support a positive message regarding responsible alcohol consumption,” said Kartick Patel, president of Viterbo’s Student Government Association. “It’s one thing to sit back and talk about problems, it’s another to be proactive, which is what we want to do.”

New AmeriCorps/VISTA -Volunteer Begins at Viterbo

The Viterbo community welcomed Todd Vandenberg, the new AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer.

Vandenberg works at the Amie L. Mathy Center for Recreation and Education, developing programs between Viterbo and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse.

“I want to get the students more involved as mentors,” he said. “Volunteers get as much as they give when they help others.”

Vandenberg can be reached at twvandenberg@viterbo.edu.
Dietetic Faculty Presents at National Conference
The Viterbo nutrition and dietetics department was well represented at the annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) in Philadelphia this past fall.

All senior students in the program attended the meeting, where they heard national speakers and took advantage of the many other learning opportunities.

Faculty members Alida Herling, Carol Klitzke, and Lori Lewis also played prominent roles at the conference.

Herling presented a poster on the results of the grant she obtained from the Wisconsin Foundation of Independent Colleges and the Helen Bader Foundation. The poster was entitled “Learning from One Another: Providing Opportunities for Intergenerational Social Exchange Using Nutrition Services as the Learning Catalyst.”

Lewis helped present one of the positions of the ADA on the role of dietitians in health promotion in her capacity as a member of the ADA National Association Positions Committee. She also presented a poster session on assessment practices in dietetic education entitled “Effective Management of Dietetic Education Programs Using a Utilization Focused Approach: A New Leadership Opportunity for Dietetic Educators.”

Serving as an evidence analyst for the unveiling of the evidence-based practice guidelines for nutritional treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, was Klitzke. She helped analyze numerous research reports that led to the guidelines.

Speaking Up for Responsible Choices
Miss America 2006 Jennifer Berry met with benefactors and other guests before giving her presentation in September. Pictured with Berry are Wisconsin State Senator Dan Kapanke, Joan Artman, and Rick Artman. Miss America 2006 Jennifer Berry shared her perspectives on teaching quality decision-making skills, resisting peer pressure, and the measures needed to avoid excessive drinking at all ages as she opened the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership’s fall lecture series in September.

Berry was the 2006 national spokesperson for Mothers Against Drunk Driving and spent the year traveling across the country speaking to communities, high schools, and organizations promoting intolerance for drunk driving and underage drinking.

She also has served as the national spokesperson for the Children’s Miracle Network, visiting hospitals across the country and offering hope and inspiration to children and their families. In addition, she has worked as a motivational speaker and leadership consultant for various
groups and organizations, and she has spoken to members of Congress and wounded soldiers at the nation’s most prestigious military hospitals.

“Our community needs to have ongoing discussions about the dangers of alcohol abuse,” said Rick Kyte, director of the Reinhart Institute. “We hope that Berry’s presentation will be part of a broad effort by individuals and organizations to address a persistent problem that affects many lives.”

Berry’s appearance at Viterbo was sponsored by the Sarah Mullenbach Foundation and many local benefactors.

For more information about the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership or any of its events, visit www.viterbo.edu/ethics.

**Business Leaders Talk about Ethics**

Bruce Simones, owner of the Recovery Room, a neighborhood tavern located near Viterbo, opened the 2007-08 Leadership at Noon Series in September.

Simones discussed the values and ethical decisions that go with owning and operating a neighborhood bar with a good reputation in an age where alcohol-related issues have received considerable visibility within the community.

Formerly known as the Brown Bag Series, the Leadership at Noon Series is entitled “The Vision and Values of Successful Business Leadership” and features area business people discussing the crucial components of a successful business.

“We believe the reason this series of lectures has been so popular is that it gives both our students and the general public an opportunity to hear about the positive side of business,” said Rick Kyte, director of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership. “It gives us a chance to learn about the basic values and commitments that characterize so many of the exemplary businesses in this part of the country.”

The series continued with Julie Stansfield Nordeen, CEO of Stansfield Vending, Inc., and Janet Stansfield Hess, president of Stansfield Vending, Inc. and Allan McCormick, president and CEO of La Crosse Technology.

Rusty Cunningham, publisher of the *La Crosse Tribune*, will conclude the series for the year Wednesday, March 12. The *La Crosse Tribune* was founded in 1904 and purchased by Lee Enterprises in 1907 for $15,000. The paper, which has a daily circulation of 33,000 (41,000 on Sundays), is the source of local news for much of western Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota.

For more information on the Leadership at Noon Series, visit www.viterbo.edu/ethics.aspx?id=26484.
A Hands-on Education

Six biology students from Michael Alfieri’s classes volunteered to help the Coulee Region Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources repair a section of Mormon Coulee Creek (located between La Crosse and Coon Valley) that was damaged by flooding. After two hours of removing rock and gravel that had collected to form a dam, participants succeeded in restoring proper flow to the stream and improving the spawning habitat for brown trout. Participating were students Amber Miller, Du Wayne La Fountain, Logan Kiekhafer, Janet Wuensch, Carlson Thwing, and Daniel Katzenberger; Michael Leonard of the Wisconsin DNR; biology faculty member Michael Alfieri; director of the Ethics Institute Rick Kyte; and Cy Post of Coulee Region Trout Unlimited.

Campus Alive with Franciscan Fest

The Viterbo campus took a journey back in time, at least for one day, as the Franciscan Spirituality Center hosted Franciscan Fest, a medieval festival celebrating Franciscan heritage and life during the time of St. Francis and St. Clare, in Viterbo’s Assisi Courtyard in September.

Viterbo’s own Rick Artman and Pat Kerrigan were some of the “stars” of the event, both wearing traditional attire of the day. Artman played St. Anthony of Padua while Kerrigan was Brother Illuminato. Both were friends and companions of St. Francis.

The festival began in Maria Angelorum Chapel at St. Rose Convent with harp music by Malinda Gerke, FSPA, and Brother Ed Coughlin’s keynote address, “Exploring the Franciscan Way.”

At noon, the medieval village in Assisi Courtyard opened to trumpets and song. The village featured music, a town square with craft demonstrations, vendors, and villagers in costume.

Understanding Radical Islam

Radical Islam in the modern world was the theme of a December lecture given by Msgr. Bernard McGarty, Viterbo’s visiting scholar in ecumenical studies.

McGarty has given lectures on a number of other religious traditions and he selected the topic of radical Islam for the lecture based on the prominence and timeliness of the subject matter.
“In today’s society, it is important to understand the political and religious implications of radical Islamic thought and how this thinking has created seismic changes in our modern world and the nature of its current conflicts,” said McGarty.

McGarty said confusion exists in the minds of many Westerners who do not differentiate the extreme elements from mainstream Islam. “It’s important to know that a very miniscule minority is carrying out much of the turmoil which we read about in the newspapers including the suicide bombings and other forms of violence.”

Teacher Artwork Featured in Gallery

Artwork by Lori Aschenbrener
The artwork of local high school educators was on display in the Fine Arts Center art gallery in November and December.

The exhibition featured two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork by 13 art teachers from La Crosse Central, Logan, and Aquinas, and high schools from the outlying areas of La Crescent, Onalaska, West Salem, and Holmen. The participating artists were Lori Aschenbrener, Joe Beck, Gary Boisvert, Quenten Brown ’99, Nick Dietmaier, Gene Gagnon, Angie Hendriksen, Ron Kale, Liz Schank, Angie Szabo, Monica Treu-Olbert ’97, Mai Chang Vue, and Tami Weiss.

“This exhibition was the Viterbo art department’s way of thanking these teachers for their extraordinary efforts in guiding our art students throughout the years,” said Marilyn Fernandes, Viterbo art faculty member.

The Viterbo art gallery features a variety of art throughout the school year. There is no admission fee to the gallery, which is located on the third floor of the Fine Arts Center. For a full schedule of events, visit www.viterbo.edu/arts.aspx?id=9806.
In Defense of Freedom

The Viterbo community lost one of its bravest members in October as nursing student Rachael Hugo was killed while serving her country on active duty in Iraq.

Hugo was assigned to the 303rd Military Police Company based in Jackson, Mich. She lost her life when insurgents attacked her unit using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

“The war and its effect on our lives never felt closer than when we received the news of Rachael’s death,” said Viterbo president Rick Artman. “We pray for Rachael and for her family as we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences during this difficult time. Rachael was passionate about the nursing profession and her death is deeply and personally felt on many levels by all of the faculty and fellow students who knew her.”

A vigil was held in her honor on campus and a memorial was displayed in Brophy Nursing Center.

Giving Back

Viterbo employees continued their tradition of giving back to the La Crosse community by raising over $10,000 for the United Way. The annual campaign is just one example of the university and its employees striving to be good citizens and a valued member of the greater community.

Popular MBA Program Continues to Grow

To meet the increasing demand for its popular Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, the Viterbo Dahl School of Business opened a second annual cohort, which doubled the size of the program and reduced the existing waiting list.

The new cohort, or group of learners, began classes this January, said Tom Knothe, director of the MBA program. Previous cohorts were only started in the fall semester.

Started just a few years ago, Knothe said the MBA program’s unique emphasis on ethical leadership and strong decision-making—all things highly sought in today’s business world—have contributed to the program’s success. Students also appreciate Viterbo’s strong customer service and personal attention, he said.
For more information on Viterbo’s MBA program, contact Tom Knothe at 608-796-3376 or teknothe@viterbo.edu or visit www.viterbo.edu/MBA/

**Students Give Viterbo Top Grades**

Prominent in higher education news this semester was the decision by 257 colleges and universities, including Viterbo, to disclose student ratings of their undergraduate academic experiences. The National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) was prominently featured in *USA Today* on Nov. 5, 2007. The results indicated that compared with the averages of students at peer institutions, other Catholic institutions, and at all 1,200 campuses which administer NSSE, Viterbo’s students give their college experience the highest marks on a number of key areas. Viterbo’s seniors indicated they were impressed with Viterbo’s active and collaborative learning, level of academic challenge, and faculty/student interaction.

Viterbo also received other positive media attention in a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article, which described the experiences of Viterbo students who participated in Metro Urban Studies Term, a semester-long course in Minneapolis offered by the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA), of which Viterbo is a member. HECUA is an organization of 17 liberal arts colleges, universities, and associations dedicated to education for social justice.

The reporter from the paper interviewed Amanda Lube, a recent Viterbo graduate. Lube participated in the HECUA course, which was cited by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as one of the 21 programs nationwide that are most effective at heightening students’ political knowledge and participation. “The things we learned...should absolutely be required for any social science program at a university,” said Lube, a sociology graduate. “It definitely helped me realize how complicated politics are.” Through HECUA, Viterbo offers students life-changing experiences comparable to programs at Duke, Brown, Harvard, and the University of Minnesota—also on the list.

**Special “Sister School” Anniversary**

*Pictured are the presidents from the two universities, Rick Artman and Wang Jianji, at a special signing ceremony.*

In November, Viterbo hosted a delegation from its sister school in Luoyang, China, and in the process celebrated a special anniversary. The delegation representing Henan University of Science and Technology was on campus for a three-day visit that culminated in a special signing ceremony renewing the original partnership established 10 years ago. Students from Viterbo have studied in Luoyang and several faculty exchanges have taken place. While on campus, the delegation met with several deans and faculty members, toured campus facilities, and had dinner with the university’s international students.
Two Faculty Named Fulbright Scholars

For the first time in Viterbo’s history, two faculty members were awarded prestigious Fulbright Scholarships to teach abroad during the spring semester.

Lyon Evans (right), a Viterbo professor of English, is lecturing on American literature at Silesian University in Sosnowiec, Poland, from February to July. Larry Harwood (left), an associate professor of philosophy, is lecturing on “The Quarrel Between Philosophy and Literature” at the University of Lisbon in Lisbon, Portugal, from February to May.

“It is quite an honor, not only for the two faculty involved, but also for the university in general,” said Viterbo University interim academic vice president Wayne Wojciechowski. “They are outstanding faculty members, and Viterbo is proud of them and supportive of their efforts to strengthen the global reach of the Viterbo community.”

Viterbo’s most recent Fulbright Scholarship recipient was Rev. Thomas O’Neill, vice president for mission and ministry, who traveled to Australia in 2005 to learn about the past and present of the country and to study the utilitarian influence of Jeremy Bentham.

Recipients of Fulbright Scholarships are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

The Fulbright program, America’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is designed to promote mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and other nations.

Nursing Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Viterbo alumni returned to their alma mater in October for the School of Nursing 40th Anniversary Celebration. The event was part of the university’s annual alumni weekend.

The event featured a brunch and program; a Viterbo History through the Decades DVD presentation; student, alumni, and faculty speakers; tours; and a glimpse into the future of nursing.

“It was also a great opportunity for guests to connect with old friends, classmates, and current students,” said Silvana Richardson, dean of the School of Nursing.

Over 3,000 nurses have graduated from Viterbo since 1971, and the program is one of the largest in the state of Wisconsin.
New Faculty

Anthony Gerig is an assistant professor of chemistry and physics. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Taylor University and a master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He can be reached at algerig@viterbo.edu.

Aimee Ebersold-Silva is an assistant professor of nursing. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and a master’s degree from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. She can be reached at amebersoldsilva@viterbo.edu.

Maria Beatriz Rodriguez-Feo is an assistant professor of world languages. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and a master’s degree from the University of Iowa. She can be reached at mbrodriigelzfeo@viterbo.edu.

International Flavor

Three distinguished writers in residence from the University of Iowa’s international writing program visited Viterbo in October.

Elena Bossi of Argentina, Khaled Khalifeh of Syria, and Peter Kimani of Kenya read from their works and then participated in a discussion about the values of internationalism, which included questions from the audience.

The event was sponsored by Viterbo’s departments of English, global education, and world languages, and the President’s International Initiatives Fund.

Viterbo Accreditation Notice

Viterbo University is currently engaged in a comprehensive self-study in preparation for an institutional accreditation review Monday, Oct. 6-Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008, by the Higher Learning Commission North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). Viterbo University has been accredited by NCA since 1954. All constituents of Viterbo University are invited to forward questions and comments regarding Viterbo University and the re-accreditation process to:

The Higher Learning Commission
30 North La Salle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602-2504
Telephone: 800 621-7440
Earl Madary 1965-2007

Viterbo Says Goodbye

A giant timber fell in the Viterbo forest Dec. 16 as the campus community first mourned the loss, then celebrated the life of Earl Madary ’88, beloved teacher, colleague, musician, brilliant theologian, environmentalist, family man, and alumnus, who died of cancer at age 42.

As the news quickly spread, the outpouring was immediate and enormous. Seating was nearly doubled in San Damiano Chapel, the site of the funeral Mass which was celebrated Dec. 19. Still, 30 minutes prior to the service, the chapel was already overflowing—even the aisles were packed with those who wished to pay their respects to this humble and gentle man who emulated the Franciscan spirit that is at the core of Viterbo’s mission. More than 450 others were able to watch the service via a closed circuit broadcast.

Nine priests concelebrated the Mass with Rev. Thomas O’Neill presiding and giving the homily. The Most Reverend Jerome Listeki, Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, also attended and gave a farewell reflection.

After Mass, the gathering moved from the chapel to the Fine Arts Center, where many alums who had traveled hundreds of miles, shared “Earl Stories” at an informal reception that lasted for more than three hours.

It was no surprise that many individuals who considered themselves to be good friends of Madary, found that they shared that distinction with the company of hundreds of others who felt the same way. He was, as one observer described in the local newspaper, “The soul of Viterbo.”

Off-campus condolences poured in to a special alumni Web site that was set up to share personal reflections. Within days, hundreds of messages were posted, revealing the deep love and admiration so many had for Earl Madary, a man who was profoundly involved and authentically interested in the lives of others.

The consensus was that despite what appeared to be an early death, Earl Madary modeled inclusivity and lived a large, and fulfilled life, joyfully in love with people and his God.

In doing so, he touched the lives of the young and the old, those with abundance as well as those living on the margins, and with the scholarly and those without a formal education. In
just 15 years at Viterbo, he was awarded most of the university’s highest honors: the Leadership Award (1999), Mission Exemplar Award (2000), Alumni Spirit of St. Francis Award (2005), and Teacher of the Year (2005). At the time of his death, he was chair of the religious studies and philosophy department, director of the St. Francis Choir, former president of the Faculty Assembly, and co-founder of A Place of Grace, a Catholic Worker House. A talented vocalist, pianist and guitarist, he recorded two CDs: *Gilead* and *Prodigals*.

As those who knew him struggled to give expression to their thoughts and feelings, Fr. O’Neill issued a challenge to the bereaved to dedicate their lives to uplifting others—much like Earl had modeled during his time on Earth. “And we who remain,” he said, “we have our memories. But Earl is not merely a memory; he is part of us, of each of us. He is woven into the fabric of our lives—into each of our lives in a unique and distinct fashion. Who and what I am, Earl Joseph Madary has helped to shape. His courage and his laughter, his Christian confidence and his limitless love—these have seeped into me and I believe into each of us who knew him, loved him, and were touched in some way by him. For the way Earl lived, he is alive with God. By the way we live, let us keep Earl alive in our hearts.”

Madary is survived by Marci, his wife of 19 years, his daughter Rachel, and son, Joseph.

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To learn more about the life of Earl Madary, to look over the hundreds of alumni remembrances, or to read several powerful accounts published in the local media about the effect this humble, gentle, giant of a man had on others, go to [www.viterbo.edu/alumni.aspx?id=31556](http://www.viterbo.edu/alumni.aspx?id=31556).

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PHILANTHROPY NOTES

**Sponsoring the Arts**

Many sponsors play an important role in bringing quality and diverse arts experiences to the city of La Crosse and the Tri-state Region. A number of sponsors provided support:

**Ronald McDonald Arts for Young America Series**
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota

**Bright Star Season**

**Major Sponsors**
- Lukasek Family Endowment Fund
- Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- Franciscan Skemp Mayo Health System
- Gundersen Lutheran
- WXOW TV-19
- Wisconsin Public Radio
- WKBT NewsChannel 8

**Co-Sponsors**
President’s Festival of Lights

The President’s Festival of Lights and Carols for benefactors began with lessons and carols in the Maria Angelorum Chapel followed by holiday festivities in the Fine Arts Center. Over 1,000 invitations were sent to benefactors at the $200 giving level and higher for this annual event.

Trustees Open for Opportunities

When is there ever enough money to go around to fund all the good ideas that must do battle with the limitations of a tight budget?

That dilemma was addressed at Viterbo by the Board of Trustees who individually gave generously to a collective pool of funds that provided almost $320,000 in funding for new and different ideas.

Delighted Viterbo faculty and administrators submitted an array of entrepreneurial initiatives, and “out-of-the-box” proposals for consideration.

The process was intentionally made simple and required only a one-page application, which addressed the university’s institutional priorities. The majority of the requests were targeted to enrollment growth and programs to enhance academic distinction.

The entrepreneurial spirit is indeed alive at Viterbo if a sampling of the requests was any indication.

Rick Walters from the theatre department traveled to distant locales to conduct a national drive to recruit students for his program. His travel, complete with an impressive new exhibit, came compliments of the trustee fund.

Stephanie Genz, nursing, was able to get help in filming a recruitment video for nursing and
Glena Temple, natural sciences, credits part of the increase in biology students to funding from the trustees, which opened up new opportunities for students to conduct research.

Pat Kerrigan, communications and marketing, wanted to use the Internet and Google to search for top science and performing arts students and he needed funds for this effort.

In all, everyone was so impressed with the results that the trustees again agreed to raise money amongst themselves to fund the project for another year.

**Alumni and Parent Phonathon**

Alumni and parents continued their crucial support of Viterbo this fall, as student callers raised over $80,000 for the university during the annual phonathon.

Benefactors were given the opportunity to support a particular school or department. The funds are then used to purchase items such as new books, supplies, or to upgrade classroom technology.

Alumni still wishing to make a gift may send their contribution to:

Viterbo University
Institutional Advancement
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601

or give online at [www.viterbo.edu/institutionaladvancement.aspx](http://www.viterbo.edu/institutionaladvancement.aspx).

**New Grants Awarded**

- **The Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships** program gave $32,173 to be used for financial aid for master’s degree level nursing students.
- **A United States Department of Agriculture Partnership for Public Health Nutrition** subgrant of $21,000 over three years will be used to increase practicum experiences for dietetics students.
- **Southwest Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers** provided $5,881 to enable CARING, Inc. to expand services to New Horizons Women’s Shelter.
- **The Women’s Fund of the La Crosse Community Foundation** granted $3,000 for CARING, Inc. to expand services to New Horizons Women’s Shelter.
- **The Wisconsin Arts Board Performing Arts Network** gave $20,884 in support of the Bright Star, NexStar, and Arts for Young America series.
- **The Dr. Scholl Foundation** granted $15,000 in scholarship funding for the Viterbo Health Science Scholarship competition.
- **The FSPA Ministry Fund** awarded $6,000 in support of CARING, Inc. and another $6,000 for the Parish Nurse Ministry Resource Center.
The Emory T. Clark Foundation of Milwaukee gave $25,000 to provide master’s degree level education courses for Milwaukee inner city teachers.

New Scholarships
ENDOWED
- The Sister Agnes Marie Nash Dietetics Scholarship was established in honor of the former Viterbo faculty member.
- The Cyrilla Barr Sacred Music Scholarship was established in honor of the longtime faculty member who taught 27 years at Viterbo and 23 years at the Catholic University of America.
- The Samantha Ashley Stritmatter Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of the daughter of Fatemah “Fifi” Stritmatter ’76, who is now a U.S. government nurse.
- The Sister Marlene Weisenbeck Piano Scholarship was created in honor of the longtime member of the Viterbo music department, the former chair of the Board of Trustees, and the current president of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

ANNUAL
- The Diane Schmitz Sociology Scholarship was created in honor of Diane Schmitz ’68, an alumna who is the volunteer activities coordinator for Milwaukee County Corrections. For the past 20 years, she has been a committed volunteer in arranging for personal development activities for incarcerated men and women.
- The Virginia Marcotte Larkin Sacred Music Scholarship was created in honor of Virginia Marcotte Larkin. This scholarship will serve students seeking a sacred music minor at Viterbo.

Kay Shriver and Sr. Laverne Ramaeker: Friends Give to Viterbo
Education has always been very important to long-time professional colleagues Kay Shriver, Ph.D. (left) and Laverne Ramaeker, Ph.D., FSPA (right). Now, thanks to an endowed scholarship they have established at Viterbo University, they will be sharing that love for education with students for countless years to come.

The Shriver/Ramaeker Health Sciences Scholarship will provide funds to a Viterbo student or students majoring in a health science field. “Helping people who want to further their education is our way of giving back,” said Shriver.

“Education has always been a paramount goal of ours,” said Ramaeker. “We’re career minded individuals, and being students has always been a good time in our lives.”

The scholarship is a wonderful legacy for two people who value education so highly, said Gary Klein, Viterbo’s vice president for institutional advancement.

“This endowed scholarship will live on in perpetuity, helping to provide a quality, liberal arts,
Catholic education to students who might not otherwise be able to afford it,” Klein said. “Endowment plays a crucial role in keeping Viterbo affordable and accessible.”

Drs. Shriver and Ramaeker have been friends for 40 years, ever since meeting during their careers at St. Francis Hospital.

**SPORTS CORNER**

**Happy 35th Birthday to Viterbo Athletics**

The year 1971 is a particular milestone in the annals of Viterbo sports history. The Fine Arts Center opened that year and the “V 76” fundraising campaign was launched. The university also decided to create an athletics department.

Originally named the 76ers (an acknowledgement at the time to America’s impending bicentennial celebration), Viterbo’s first sport was men’s basketball, started in 1972. Women’s basketball followed in 1974, volleyball in 1976, and men’s soccer in 1978. Years later, softball (1987), baseball (1988), women’s soccer (1996), men’s golf (2007), women’s golf (2007), men’s cross country (2008), and women’s cross country (2008) were added.

The 76ers were renamed the V-Hawks in 1999, complete with a new mascot, Vic the V-Hawk. The university competes in different venues—the Varsity Athletics Center, the Outdoor Athletics Complex, and the La Crosse Country Club.

**-Hawk Athletes Join Wall of Fame**

Kara Brandau (women’s basketball), Craig Davis (men’s soccer), and Ryan Lium (baseball), will be inducted onto the Viterbo Athletics Wall of Fame Saturday, Feb. 16, during homecoming weekend.

Brandau ’02 is arguably the best women’s basketball player to ever wear a Viterbo uniform. A power forward, Brandau left Viterbo a two-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II All-American, a two-time Midwest Classic Conference (MCC) Player of the Year, a NAIA All-America Scholar Athlete, and a Kodak All-American. She also currently holds eight school records, including all-time leading scorer (2,104 points), all-time steals leader (315), and the leader in all-time field goals (788). She also helped lead the V-Hawks to their first ever appearance in the NAIA Division II National Tournament in 2001. That season, the V-Hawks finished 30-5 overall, 12-0 in conference, and were ranked as high as fourth in the nation. Brandau teaches math and coaches girl’s basketball at Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School.
Davis ’00 was a defensive standout for the V-Hawks from 1996-2000. Individually, Davis had a great deal of success as he received all-conference honors all four years, which included three first-team selections. His senior year, he finished second on the team in goals with eight and first on the team in points with 21. As a team, the V-Hawks had tremendous success during Davis’ four years. The V-Hawks won three straight MCC titles (1997-99), including going 18-0 in conference during those three seasons. The V-Hawks also qualified for the NAIA Region VII tournament during Davis’ final two seasons.

Lium ’95 played outfield for the V-Hawks from 1992-95. Lium had tremendous success both offensively and defensively for the V-Hawks. After batting .212 as a freshman, he eventually batted .321 as a senior. A three-time all-conference performer, Lium finished with a career batting average of .303. At the time of graduation, Lium was the V-Hawks all-time leading hitter (144 hits), second all-time in doubles (27), and fifth in runs scored (87). Lium currently is working with his father at Lium Insurance Agency and lives in La Crosse. He is also serving on the Viterbo Alumni Board.

Cross Country to Run This Fall

As the university continues to grow, so too does the V-Hawk athletics department with the announcement that varsity men’s and women’s cross country teams will join the Viterbo sports lineup this fall.

The addition of cross country comes one season after Viterbo added men’s and women’s golf. Barry Fried, athletics director, is still in the process of finding a home course for the V-Hawks and is hopeful to have a place finalized in the near future.

“Continuing to expand our athletics department has been a vision of mine for some time now and to add cross country to our department is very rewarding,” said Fried.

When cross country is up and running the number of varsity teams will have grown to 11.
The V-Hawk volleyball team concluded their season finishing 29-13 overall and 6-2 in MCC play. They competed for the Midwest Collegiate Conference title until the final regular season game. The V-Hawks say goodbye to two seniors, Alicia Hynek and Nicole Valencia, who are two of only 16 players in Viterbo history to play four years of volleyball.

Women’s soccer finished 9-7-1, posting their sixth straight winning season. The V-Hawks made a run at their third straight MCC title before falling 3-0 to St. Ambrose University in their final game. Seniors Amber Hoppe, Megan Husby, Kailey Husby, and Lisa Jaroczynski finished their V-Hawk careers with two MCC titles and an impressive 22-6-1 conference record.

Men’s soccer finished 4-12 overall. However, eight of the 12 losses were by just one goal. Their one conference win came against William Penn University, 3-0. Seymour Essor, Ryan Fohrman, Joe Ganser, Pat Graham, Rob Iliff, and Chase Vaughn wrapped up their V-Hawk careers this past fall.
Men’s golf had a strong showing in their debut season as the team finished in the top half of all of their tournaments. The season highlights included a third place finish at the Ronnie Eastman Invitational at the La Crosse Country Club. Sophomore Ren Jungck also had the top individual finish of the season, winning the Ronnie Eastman Invitational.

Women’s golf got off to a slow start, but team play improved by the end of the fall season. Their top finish came at the Iowa Wesleyan Invitational where they finished sixth out of nine teams. As a team, the V-Hawks finished sixth at both the MCC and NAIA Region VII tournament.

Friends Tee Off for Athletics

Over $25,000 was raised at the annual Viterbo Athletics Golf Scramble, which was held at the Golf Club at Cedar Creek in Onalaska. The sold-out event featured 144 golfers and 175 people in attendance at dinner. There were 50 registered sponsors, including title sponsor La Crosse Insurance Agency, and 65 businesses donated prizes for the event.
Greetings Alumni,

In October, we asked you to fill out a survey about Strides in order to learn more about your interests and opinions of the magazine. We were extremely pleased that over 800 of you responded to our request—not a bad response rate!

Since then, we have been sifting through your responses, tallying data, and compiling comments. I am pleased to share some of the results with you:

- When asked if you feel that Strides projects a positive image of Viterbo, 96 percent of respondents selected “agree” or “strongly agree.”
- Sixty-four percent indicated that they read Strides cover to cover.
- Seventy-six percent gave Strides an overall assessment of “very good” or “excellent.”
- Eighty-seven percent “agree” or “strongly agree” that Strides makes alumni proud of their alma mater.

When it came to content of the magazine, the most-read sections are, not surprisingly, “Alumni Now” and “Class Notes.” Respondents also indicated that they were most interested in reading campus news and feature stories.

On behalf of the Strides editorial staff, we thank you for taking the time to respond, and we are encouraged by the positive results. We are always looking for story ideas and interesting features about Viterbo alumni. If you have an idea for a story that you’d like to share, please send it to me at alumni@viterbo.edu. I’d love to hear from you!

All the best,
Jen Roberdeau ’04
Director of Alumni Relations

P.S. Congratulations to Carrie (Emond) Jacobson ’97, survey respondent and winner of the Viterbo blanket!

A Much Needed Water Break

Viterbo Alumni Association Board members Melanie Johnson ’86 and Mary (Sendelbach) Dudley ’76 handed out bottled water to new freshmen and their families on move-in day in August. Thanks to a donation from Pepsi-Cola Bottling of La Crosse, the Alumni Board was able to hand out over 550 bottles of water and provide a much needed break from moving.
Viterbo Night in Minneapolis/St. Paul

Over 40 alumni, parents, and friends gathered at the Nicollet Island Inn in Minneapolis in September for Viterbo Night in Minneapolis/St. Paul. The event, which was hosted by Connie (Barr) Delaney ’75, featured a campus update by President Rick Artman, fabulous door prizes, and of course, great food and fun.

Viterbo Night at the Loggers

Rick and Joan Artman visited with alumni and friends who attended Viterbo Night at the Loggers in July. Over 70 Viterbo guests attended and enjoyed the beautiful summer evening, great food, and conversation.

November Remembrance

Over 970 submissions were received for the annual November Remembrance via mail, email, or the alumni Web page. Submitted names were remembered in prayer throughout the month at San Damiano Chapel.

Jacque Polder Visit

Jacquelyn Polder ’76 visited campus in September to speak with current students about her position at the Center for Disease Control in Houston. While on campus, Polder shared with students her experiences on her most recent assignment, preparing for a pandemic flu outbreak. She also had some time to catch up with friends at a reception in her honor.

From left to right: Ann (Sendelbach) Beinborn ’78, Julie (Ritter) Loewenhagen ’76, Jacque Polder ’76, Rev. Tom Finucan, and Dick Beinborn ’76.
An Evening with Health Professionals

Five alumni from Viterbo’s science program visited campus in October to share their experiences working in different health professions. Amanda (Sprehn) Byom ’98, Joe Kotnour ’75, Cindy Maas ’02, Luke Peterson ’03, and Chris Wood ’97 spoke to about 40 students who are interested in pursuing careers in healthcare.

Business Alumni Share Tips

From left: Heather (Davidson) Christianson ’00, Derek Jackson ’99, and Amy Jo Preisler ’98.

Three alumni from the Dahl School of Business shared their experiences and career advice with current students at the School of Business Alumni Panel in November.

Be an Online Mentor

Alumni have the opportunity to mentor current Viterbo students through the new online mentoring program, Viterbo Alumni-Student Connection (VASC). The program is designed to connect alumni mentors with students in order to give future graduates a competitive edge in their field. It took only two weeks for over 90 alumni to volunteer to serve as mentors via the new program, which is co-sponsored by the alumni association and career services.

Alumni mentors have volunteered to conduct mock interviews, provide resume critiques, host job shadowing experiences, sponsor an internship, and share general career-related information with students.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor? Visit the VASC Web page at www.viterbo.edu/alumni studentconnection.aspx. For more information, please contact Beth Dolder-Zieke, director of career services, at 608-796-3827 or bdzieke@viterbo.edu, or Jen Roberdeau, director of alumni relations, at 608-796-3072 or alumni@viterbo.edu.
Alumni Children’s Christmas Party

Alumni and employees of Viterbo braved a snowstorm with children in tow on Dec. 1 to attend the annual Alumni Children’s Christmas Party. The event included crafts, games, face painting, music by Viterbo’s 9th Street Singers, and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

Remembering Brett Magritz

Pictured at the golf outing are Viterbo graduates Tim Porterfield ’06, Garrett Belisle ’04, Greg Kumlien ’06, and Jay Benish ’03.

Family, friends, and former classmates of Brett Magritz ’05 gathered in October at Meadow Springs Golf Course in Jefferson for the first annual Brett Magritz Golf Outing. The event was organized to raise money for the new Brett Magritz Scholarship fund, which will benefit a student at Jefferson High School, where Magritz was a three-sport athlete and 2001 graduate. Over $4,000 was raised at the event.

Magritz, a former Viterbo baseball player, died in a car accident on Jan. 18, 2007. The golf outing weekend coincided with what would have been his 25th birthday.

Broadway Actor Returns to Campus

Dell Robinson with theatre faculty Janet McLean and Sr. Marie Leon La Croix.

Arbender “Dell” Robinson ’98 visited campus in September to speak to students in the theatre program. Dell recently made his Broadway debut in the musical *Hairspray* and soon after began working on the world premiere of Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*, which opened on Broadway in January. While on campus, Dell led a presentation for community members and current students called “Life On Broadway” about his experiences working as a professional actor.

Commencement

Viterbo welcomed just over 100 new alumni from the Class of 2007 on Dec. 15. Ron DuCharme ’99 addressed the graduates and welcomed them into the alumni association.
Awards Nomination Deadline Nears

The Viterbo Alumni Association Board is seeking candidates for the Outstanding Alumni Awards to be presented during Alumni Weekend 2008. Awards may be presented in the following categories:

- **Young Alumni** - for exhibiting outstanding accomplishments since graduation from Viterbo in the past 10 years.
- **Professional Development** - for significant and broad accomplishments in one’s professional career.
- **Educational Achievement** - for personal scholastic achievement.
- **Service to the University** - for generous and devoted service to Viterbo.
- **Community Service** - for demonstrating that a liberal arts education can be the foundation for unselfish and outstanding service to the community and humanity.
- **Spirit of Francis Award** - for a layperson who embodies and exemplifies Franciscan values in their personal, professional, and spiritual life.

Visit the alumni Web page at [www.viterbo.edu/alumni.aspx?id=9700](http://www.viterbo.edu/alumni.aspx?id=9700) to print a nomination form. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2008.

Spotlight On…

Angela Senoraske ’01

Angie Senoraske isn’t one to sit still very long. Since graduating from Viterbo, she has lived in Arizona, traveled around Europe, moved to Florida, and finally settled in Hawaii. Angie currently works as a registered nurse in the emergency room/trauma center at Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu, which is the only trauma center in the South Pacific. She loves the warm weather and the culture of Hawaii, and she says that everyone is laid back and “full of aloha.”

Angie competed in the Tinman Triathlon in Honolulu in July. This was her first triathlon, and although she was quite nervous, she describes it as an “awesome experience.” She had already completed three marathons, so she wanted to prove to herself that she could do this as well. According to Angie, “If you ask my old coach, Bobbi Vandenberg, I hated running. Kind of weird I chose to do all this.”

When it came to training, Angie only had eight weeks to get in triathlon shape. She often had to work out very early in the morning or late at night, before or after one of her 12-hour shifts at the hospital. In addition, she was on a volleyball team that competed once a week and a canoe paddling team that trained three days a week. She would often have to add on a running, biking, or swimming workout after one of these practices. On most days, she would do “brick” training, where she would train in two of the three sports. “I think the hardest part was my first long brick workout. I biked about 15 miles, then got off the bike and ran three miles. That is the craziest feeling. OK, maybe crazy is an understatement. It’s painful!”

So what’s next for Angie? She plans to complete the Lavaman Triathlon in April on Hawaii’s Big Island, and she may possibly train for another marathon. She enjoys challenging herself, whether it’s competing in a triathlon, running a marathon, paddling, or hiking. “I never really
look at it as a race against others; more to just say, ‘yeah, I can do that.’ I won’t be breaking any records, but I can do it.”

CLASS NOTES

1950
Dick and Elizabeth (Buchner) Vaughn ’58 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Married June 8, 1957, the Vaughn’s reside in Huntley, Ill.
Clarone Brill, FSPA ’59 retired from Villa St. Joseph June 6, 2007 and resides at St. Rose Convent.

1960
Bernadette Prochaska, FSPA, Ph.D. ’62 presented “Historic Fabulation” and “T.S. Eliot’s Little Gidding” May 16, 2007 at Harvard University Divinity School. She taught English to priests and sisters in Prague, Czech Republic.

1970
Cynthia (Cassel) Peterson ’70 graduated in August 2006 from Red Rocks Community College in the physician assistant program in Lakewood, Colo., and is employed at Desert Valley Family Medicine. She resides in Gilbert, Ariz.
Cecilia (Escher) Becwar ’72 is celebrating her 35th year of teaching at St. John’s Catholic School in Prairie du Chien.
Kathleen Holland, OSF ’73 received the Founders’ Award for distinguished, long-term service to Ashford University at the fifth annual Founders’ Day celebration of the history and mission of Ashford University. Ashford University is the former Mount St. Clare College, founded by the Clinton Franciscans in 1918.
Laurene (Sloniker) Wurster ’73 works at St. Joseph’s Community Health Service, Inc., and was honored for 35 years of service.
Beth and John Satory ’74 celebrated the marriage of their son, John Satory IV and Connie Milonakis in Crete, Greece. Both are graduates of Georgetown Law School.
Mary (Sendelbach) Dudley ’76 was honored with the 2007 Philanthropist of the Year Award by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation in August in Denver. It is an annual award given to a certified registered nurse anesthetist who has given time, talent, and treasure in service to mankind.
Joseph (Gauss) Paulauskis ’78 was promoted to senior director in the division of translational molecular medicine. He now leads the pharmacogenomics group for Pfizer in Groton, Conn.
Nancy (Bina-Adams) Pilmonas ’78 along with fellow alumni Sandra Homb-Merry ’80 performed with the Star of the North Concert Band in Germany, Austria, and Italy along with Viterbo junior, Samantha Merry. Nancy celebrated the birth of her first grandchild, Emma Patricia Adams, June 28, 2007.
Carol Brueggen ’79 co-authored “Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Syndrome of Appendiceal Origin: An Overview,” published in the August 2007 issue of Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. Carol is an oncology clinical nurse specialist at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minn. Susan (Stangel) Sevcik ’79 is teaching family and consumer science at Roncalli High School in Manitowoc.

1980

Paul Krystofiak ’80 directed the summer art program at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in the Houston, Texas Independent School District. Paul assumed the director’s position of the 15th Annual Summer Academy of Scholarship in the Arts. Vicki (Balts, Nichols) ’80 and Dave Rach were married Aug. 18, 2007 and reside in Chaseburg.

Arlene (Frappier) Moore ’81 retired this year from Saint Francis Health System where she worked as a patient accounts specialist. Diane Osterhaus Neefe ’81 has been selected as dean of the Health and Public Safety Division for Western Technical College in La Crosse. Patricia (Flock) Bodden ’82 is the clinical director of Northwest Home Health and Rehab in Algonquin, Ill. Gregory Gilman, BSN, RN, RDCS, FASE ’82 accepted a position as senior research associate with Kardia Health Systems, Inc., a healthcare information technology firm. Kardia Health Systems is commercializing the Mayo Clinic-created Echocardiography Information Management System. Pamela (Porter) ’82 and James Hundt ’81 celebrated the marriage of their son, Benjamin, and his wife, Sarah, April 21, 2007. Ellen (Curti) Kirking ’83 earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of Minnesota in May 2007. Terrill Prouty ’83 retired five years ago and is living with his family in Thailand, teaching English to fifth and sixth graders.

Yvonne D’Arcy ’86 has written a book, Pain Management: Evidence Based Tools and Techniques for Nursing Professionals, published by HcPro, Marblehead, Mass. In June 2007 she was awarded the Nursing Spectrum Excellence in Nursing Award for Advancing and Leading the Profession. Carrie (Witcraft) Hankes ’88 was promoted in July 2007 to vice president of Affinity Health Systems in Appleton. Sarah (Buche) ’88 married Mark Serdin Oct. 6, 2007 in a ceremony at the Chicago Cultural Center. They reside in Skokie, Ill.


Sara (Schroeder) '90 and Anthony Warmka celebrated the birth of a daughter, Naomi Jean, Aug. 31, 2007. She joins siblings, Greta, 7, and Roman, 3.

Patricia and Peter Hansen '91 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Danielle, in November 2006. She joins brothers, Brice, 10, Kyle, 9, and Kadon, 5.

Brenda Valadez-Franken '91 and Bill Franken celebrated the birth of a son, Owen William, May 26, 2007. Brenda is a child and family social worker for Olmsted County Community Services in Rochester, Minn.

Christina and Martin Welles '91 celebrated the birth of a son, Robert William, May 16, 2007. He joins twins Marty and Laura, born May 4, 2006. For those keeping score, that's 600 diapers a month. Martin received a Master of Laws degree with highest honors in litigation and alternative doctoral residency from George Washington Law School and is currently enrolled at Georgetown Law Center for a second master’s degree in taxation with a focus on employee benefits. He is a labor and employment attorney with the United States Postal Service.

Laura (Rice) Damrow '92 accepted a position through Franciscan Skemp Healthcare as a certified nurse midwife on the Sparta campus in Sparta.

Sara (Aschom) '92 and Thomas Heiss celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac Cooper, June 22, 2007. He joins siblings, Miles, 5, and Grace, 4. In December 2006 Sara was awarded “Teacher of the Year” by the Wisconsin Parent Teacher’s Association. Sara received her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from UW-Whitewater and is pursuing a second master’s degree in educational leadership through Cardinal Stritch University.

Catherine Lau '92 is teaching Spanish and French at Marshfield Public Schools in Marshfield.

Kaydee (Kempfert) '92 and Joe Ruppert were married Sept. 16, 2006, in Waupaca. Kaydee is the director of business services for ACES Xavier Educational System, Inc.

Teresa (Freiberg) '93 and William Conroy celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sophia Teresa, Dec. 11, 2006. She joins brothers, Zachary and Stephen. Teresa is pursuing a master’s degree in science for clinical nurse specialist with an education focus at Grand Canyon University.

Vikki Seefeldt-Harraden '93 is living in England and working with Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) overseas as a wellness coordinator. She is also attending graduate school.

Eileen Shaw, FSPA '93 is a payee case manager for Catholic Service Center in Mobile, Ala.

Heather (Baker, Rollings) '94 and Jeff Givens '94 were remarried Sept. 22, 2007.

Anne (Walker) '94 and James Hassett celebrated the birth of a son, James Dyson, in June 2007. He joins his sister Grace, 2.

Holly (Gierok) '94 and Scott Kampa were married June 2, 2007 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Independence.

Donna (Rejman) Borre ’95 finished her doctorate of education in educational leadership with a focus in nursing, June 11, 2007.

Karen (Johnson) ’95 and Mark Conway were married Aug. 25, 2007.


Stacie Rogers and Brian Murley ’95 were married Oct. 27, 2007.

Kristin Nelson ’95 was selected as an analyst for a national study through The Education Trust in Washington, DC. There were eight analysts selected from the United States. The study involved effective teaching practices of middle school math teachers.

Kristy (Marohl) ’95 and Mark Weis celebrated the birth of a son, Zachary Ryan, July 28, 2007.

Jo Ann Welch ’95 retired in June from teaching in the Waterloo School District.


Janelle (Johnson) Earl ’96 retired June 29, 2007 from Eleva-Strum Area Schools after teaching for 38 years.

Wanda Esch ’96 received a Master of Arts in Education degree in Administration from Edgewood College in May 2007.

Shannon (Peters) ’96 and Jasan Franek celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ella Sophia, Aug. 30, 2007. She joins siblings, Lauren, 7, Ethan, 5, and Mason, 2.

Valerie Kokott-Rebhahn ’96 and Brian Rebhahn celebrated the birth of a daughter, Danika Dee, Sept. 24, 2006. She joins sister Brianna Jayne. Valerie is a full-time instructor at Viterbo University in the psychology department.

Amanda Lambert ’96 is a library assistant for the University of Wisconsin, Ebling Library in Madison.

Alexis (Akey) Ludewig ’96 is a co-author with her sister of the book, 101 Great Classroom Games, released by McGraw-Hill.

Molly (Kulig) ’96 and Travis Matejka celebrated the birth of a daughter, Eden Emily, March 13, 2007. She joins siblings, Ellie, 5, and Nickelson, 2.

Christina (Gryskiewicz) ’96 and Raleigh Nichols were married Dec. 31, 2006.

Laurie (Finch) Popp ’96 completed the histotechnician program at Mayo/University of North Dakota. She passed the histotechnician test with American Society for Clinical Pathology. Laurie and her husband, Christopher, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kaiana Leigh, Aug. 10, 2007.

Michelle (Jenks) Tilson ’96 has been certified as a wound, ostomy, and continence nurse. Joanne and James Vacek ’96 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Evonne Louise (Evie), Aug. 8, 2007. She joins brother Jerome Joseph II (Rome), 2.


Kari (Verse) Bruley ’97 was promoted to major in the United States Army at Veteran’s Memorial Monument, Aug. 17, 2007.
Betsy Fowler ’97 and her sister, Kathy (Fowler) Mydy ’84, traveled to Australia in January for a month to visit Kathy’s grandchildren, Lisaat and Jacob. Betsy has been a volunteer for the Salvation Army’s food pantry for the past six years.

Amy (Paukner) ’97 and Greg Frank celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan, Feb. 6, 2007.

Amy (Harlander) Hadsall ’97 is serving in the United States Army and was promoted to major in June 2007.

Danielle (Klingbeil) ’97 and Scott Krueger celebrated the birth of a daughter, Davina Donna, Aug. 13, 2007. She joins siblings, Jazmine and Joey.

Amy and Andrew Swendrowski ’97 were married in April 2006 and celebrated the birth of a daughter, Alexis, Oct. 3, 2007. Andrew merged two family owned and operated companies, forming Legacy Bogs, LLC, and Cranberries Limited in March 2006.

Deanne Valadez-Vick ’97 and Tim Vick celebrated the birth of a son, Isaac Timothy, Jan. 21, 2007. Deanne is the director of dietary services at Tweeten Lutheran Healthcare Center in Caledonia, Minn.

Chad Babcock ’98 opened a State Farm Agency in Excelsior, Minn.

Shealan (Crowley) ’98 and Scott Bahr celebrated the birth of a son, Vincent Carl, Nov. 23, 2006.


Christine (Melko) ’98 and Mark Healy were married July 27, 2007 in St. Paul.

Susan (Fitzpatrick) Horne ’98 graduated from Winona State University in May 2007, with a Master of Science degree in counselor education. She is the human resource director for Main Street Ingredients.


Doreen Schwahn Mikeal ’98 and Martin Mikeal were married Aug. 24, 2007.

Barbara (Boerschinger) Payette ’98 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Terri Lee, in 2007. She joins sister Mariah.

Arbender “Dell” Robinson ’98 recently appeared in his first Broadway show, Hairspray, and has been offered a major role in Disney’s new Broadway musical, The Little Mermaid.

Christopher Stake ’98 was promoted to captain in the United States Army.

Karen (Hubbard) ’99 and Scott Andrew celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ashley, Jan. 25, 2007. She joins sister Haley, 3.

Shelbie (Eckman) Ewing ’99 graduated with a master’s degree in criminal justice from Florida Metropolitan University and is pursuing a doctorate at Capella University for criminal justice. She resides in St. Anthony, Minn.

Deana (Eley) Foster ’99 accepted a position with the Wisconsin Beef Council as director of nutrition.
Kristine (Starkey) ’99 and Paul Gasch celebrated the birth of a daughter, Harmony Ellen, born June 26, 2006.
Derek Jackson ’99 graduated from the University of Phoenix campus in Brookfield with a Master of Business Administration degree and is a senior accountant at Trane.
Crystal (Oslie) ’99 and Jason Sobotta celebrated the birth of a son, Owen, May 19, 2007. He joins brother Trey.
Dinah (Storkel) Sparks ’99, a program analyst for the Tomah VA Medical Center in Tomah, retired in January.
Jenny (Zeman) ’99 and Gregory Stenberg celebrated the birth of a son, Thompson Gregory, March 26, 2007. He joins brother Sam, 2.
Pamela (Boyer) Wagner ’99 graduated from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota with a Master of Science degree in nurse anesthesia, Aug. 17, 2007. She passed the State Board Exam and is a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Regions Hospital.
Carolyn (Jorgensen) Wetuski ’99 is area director for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development in Plover.

2000

Gail (Korn) Fancher ’00 accepted a position as the head business technology program instructor at Western Technical College in La Crosse.
Dana (Pukrop) Jackson ’00 accepted a position as solo pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Trempealeau and Tamarack Lutheran in Arcadia.
Terry and Nicole Nikles-Cilley ’00 celebrated the birth of a son, Joshua David, Oct. 9, 2007. He joins brother Noah, 3.
Lynda (Palen) ’00 and Pete Privet celebrated the birth of a son, Leo Matthew Gary, May 17, 2007. He joins siblings, Samuel Peter, 4, and Ava Jane, 2.
Laura (Schachtner) ’00 and Brant Schimmel celebrated the birth of a son, William Edward, Oct. 28, 2007. He joins sister Juliana, 3.
Angela (Sammartano) ’00 and Robert Smith ’94 were married in February 2007.
Aaron Jacob Tyznik ’00 finished his doctorate in immunology and is working at The La Jolla Institute of Allergy & Immunology in California.
Erin (Latham) ’00 and Nicholas Walters celebrated the birth of a daughter, Reese Noel, April 15, 2007.
Matt and Katherine Wiederholt ’00 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ava, Feb. 15, 2007.
Elizabeth “Beth” (Bergeron) ’00 and Steve Zalewski celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sofia, July 24, 2006.
Melanie Belden '01 retired after 21 years of teaching in the Waukee Community Schools in Waukee, Iowa.

Jill Blume-Lamb '01 and Daniel Lamb '01 were married July 7, 2007 at St. Mary’s Church in Marathon.

Tamara Steinlicht and Timothy Hall '01 were married May 25, 2007 in Interlaken, Switzerland.

Scott Hendricks '01 accepted a position as the resident director and director of intramurals at Concordia University of Chicago in River Forest, Ill.

Kay Freibel and Ryan Myers '01 were married Aug. 25, 2007. Ryan received his Master in Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a self-employed ceramic artist.

Samantha '01 and Aaron Scheffer celebrated the birth of a daughter, Jillian Grace, July 9, 2007. She joins brother Mason.

Monica (Gross) '01 and Richard Simpson celebrated the birth of a son, Blake Xavier, Feb. 13, 2007.

Jean (Schultz) '01 and Doug Stavenau celebrated the birth of a daughter, Andrea Jane, Oct. 3, 2007.

Kimberly (Shelton) '01 and Darrell Vitullo were married Oct. 28, 2006 in Edina, Minn. Kimberly is teaching math in the Richfield Public Schools.

Heather (Patzman) '02 and Travis Brown '07 were married Sept. 9, 2006

Becky and Mike Brudos '02 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Josi, Nov. 16, 2007.

Korinne Collier '02 graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and recently passed the bar.

Nicole “Nikki’ (Washleski) Draper ’02 accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Oceanway Elementary School in Jacksonville, Fla.

Kimberly (Knudtson) Foster '02 is working for Dairyland Power as an applications analyst/programmer-senior. Kimberly celebrated the birth of a grandson, Kadin Lee, Jan. 27, 2007.

Nikki Paulzine and Mike Klassen '02 were married June 30, 2007.

Crystal and Shane Lanning ’02 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Addison Lea, Sept. 11, 2007.
Hayley (Donner) ’02 and Jared Reed ’03 celebrated the birth of a son, Jackson Carter, June 21, 2007. He joins sisters, Gabriella, 4, and Abigail, 2.

Graham Arntzen ’03 is attending the University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs with a focus on global public policy and international business. 

Susan (Schaffer) ’03 and Nathaniel Barber were married July 28, 2007 in Madison.

Erica Tuten and Dave Ellenwood ’03 were married June 16, 2007 in La Crosse. 

Jessica (Carlson) ’03 and Ryan Hamilton ’02 were married July 23, 2007. Jessica received her master’s degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota in May and is a certified nurse midwife at Robinwood Medical Center in Hagerstown, Md. Ryan is teaching English at Boonsboro High School in Boonsboro, Md.

James Hanson ’03 graduated from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver May 25, 2007 and began his residency in radiology in Madison at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

Ryan Herman ’03 has a new album out titled Live a Little.

Marcia Van Roekel ’03 retired in May 2007. Marcia taught for 32 years, 21 of them in Waukee, Iowa. Marcia is enjoying her hobbies and refinishing furniture. She is involved with a fundraising group called Dollars for Scholars.


Francine (Peroutka) ’04 and Jason Brocious were married Sept. 29, 2007.

Peter Congdon ’04, ’07 is a reserve district manager with the Farmers Insurance Group in Bloomington, Minn.
Erin Peterfeso '04 and Chad Edlund celebrated the birth of a daughter, Paige Peterfeso, Aug. 15, 2007. She joins siblings, Joshua and Lauren.

Melissa Sonsala and Dustin Hundt '04 were married July 7, 2007.

Crystal (Link) '04 and Tony Kirchner celebrated the birth of a son, Leo James, March 6, 2007.

Monica (Beaty) '04 and Benjamin LaFleur '04 were married Sept. 22, 2007 in Onalaska.
Lois Leitfield '04 is teaching second and third grade charter school in the Howard-Winnesheik Community School District in Elma, Iowa.

Tiffany (Fawcett) '04 and Trevor Miller celebrated the birth of a son, Henry Reed, Jan. 22, 2007. He joins sister Brynn.

Kendra (Zetes) '04 and Ben Reynolds celebrated the birth of a daughter, Ashlynn, July 21, 2007.

Heather (Bass) '04 and Anthony Schiller celebrated the birth of a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, Feb. 27, 2007.

Mark Trenier '04 is the learning coordinator for St. Catherine’s High School in Racine.

Angela (Dunwald) '04 and Michael Winters were married June 16, 2007 at Pettibone Park in La Crosse. Angela is working at the Family and Children’s Center and is pursuing a master’s degree in counseling and psychological services at Saint Mary’s University in Winona, Minn.

Kristin (Chwala) '05 and Marc-Nathan Aspiras were married June 9, 2007 in Gilman.

Susan Burns '05 is teaching in the Menasha School District and received the “Teacher of the Year” award.

Adrienne '05 and Aaron Gerst '05 celebrated the birth of a son, Aiden Armstrong, Feb. 4, 2007.

Laurie Jurjens '05 is a social worker for inpatient psychiatry at Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse.

Jillian Palmer '05 works at Helping Hands Rehabilitation Center as a music therapist. Jillian was selected to attend a Cabaret Conference this past summer and is writing a cabaret show to perform in the Chicago area.

Myriah (Erickson) '05 and Andrew Peterson celebrated the birth of a son, Brekk Andrew, June 17, 2007. He joins sister Mckenna, 2.

Elizabeth “Liz” (Olson) '05 and Nathaniel Roske were married July 15, 2006. They celebrated the birth of a daughter Makenna Lyndsey, Aug. 20, 2007. Liz is working at Luther Mifield Northland as a registered nurse in the obstetrics department.

Jill (Darelius) '05 and Greg Schams '06 were married Oct. 27, 2007. Jill is employed by the Sparta Area School District. Greg is employed by the School District of La Crosse.


Emily (Speltz) '05 and Carey Tweten were married Sept. 1, 2007.

Duane Young '05 is the assistant principal for Lampasas High School, in Lampasas, Texas.

Tim Weister '05 is a staff registered nurse at Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn.

Rebecca (Hawkinson) '06 and Scott Wayne Bacon were married Sept. 1, 2007 at Resurrection Catholic Church in Rochester, Minn. Rebecca is working as a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago.

Andrew Gilman ’06 graduated from Advanced Individual Training for the U.S. Army in September 2007 and is serving as a soldier medic specialist. Gilman is at Ft. Hood in Texas and may deploy overseas in June 2008.

Nancy Lo ’06 is a graduate student assistant at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Danielle Denise Olson ’06 is working at Franciscan Skemp in the cancer center as an oncology social worker in La Crosse. Ingrid Peterson ’06 accepted a position with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a sexual assault counselor. Jill Prahl ’06 is working at Marketplace as a commercial property manager in Redwing, Minn. Janice Roelofs ’06 is teaching servant leadership philosophies in her new business, Personal Jaz, in Arizona. Lynn Schaal ’06 is teaching in the Bonduel School District in Bonduel. April Schmitt ’06 is teaching seventh and eighth grade science and history classes at a Catholic school in Calmar, Iowa.

Renae (Dykhuis) ’06 and Craig Solverson were married Aug. 25, 2007 in Viroqua. Eric Tanlaka ’06 is working part-time as a registered nurse at Beverly Living Center-Rochester and is a graduate assistant with Winona State University-Rochester in Rochester, Minn. Katie Tomsyck ’06 is an administrator floater for Global Cash Flow Network in Phoenix. Chad Wahls ’06 spent time in Postville with Chris McClead, Viterbo campus minister, and 10 students in August 2007, camping and touring the school and city. Joe Besl ’07 is a registered nurse in Gastroenterology and Endoscopy at Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse.

Tim and Rhonda Bjelland ’07 celebrated the birth of a daughter, Kale Marie, April 12, 2007. Rhonda completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching first grade in the East Marshall Community School District in Laurel, Iowa. Amanda Blank ’07 is teaching psychology and economics at Onalaska High School in Onalaska. Austin Bloomberg ’07 is a residence life coordinator for the University of Wisconsin-Richland in Richland Center and is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in May for student affairs administration in higher education. Kaycee Broten ’07 is a registered nurse at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse. Elizabeth Calease ’07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching second grade at West Marshall Schools in State Center, Iowa. Jill Carstens ’07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching kindergarten in the Ashwaubenon School District at the Cormier School in Green Bay. Kristine (Starkey) ’07 and Paul Gasch celebrated the birth of a daughter, Harmony Ellen, June 26, 2006.
Cassandra Gretzinger '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is the reading specialist with the School District of Rhinelander. She resides with her family in Crandon.

Wendy Hamann '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching physical education at Neuman Catholic Schools in Wausau. Wendy and her family reside in Mosinee.

Erik Hamilton '07 is working at the University of Minnesota as a principal accountant for the medical school.

Paula Houdek '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching reading and general music at Phillips Elementary School in Phillips, where she resides with her family.

Angela Jamison '07 accepted a position in physician recruitment with Sutter Health in California.

Sarah (Stevens) '07 and Ryan Kaus were married in 2007. Sarah is teaching eighth grade in the Mauston School District in Mauston.

Jeffrey Kenas '07 completed his Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching math in the high school with the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District in Middleton. He resides with his family in Waunakee.

James Kertis '07 is enrolled in the School of Dentistry at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Janet Kilburg '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching second grade in the Prairie du Chien School District. She resides with her family in Eastman.

Jessica LeJeune '07 is a registered nurse at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare in La Crosse.

Kyla Manske '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007. Kyla is teaching in the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District in Merrillan. She resides with her family in Sparta.

Michele Mushall '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007. Michele is teaching in the Wauwatosa School District in Wauwatosa.

Andrea Myers '07 was accepted into the chemistry graduate program at Northern Illinois University.

Toni Novak '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is the band director in the Abbotsford School District, where she resides with her family.

Jennifer Orlando '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is the cognitively disabled teacher in the Racine Unified School District in Racine.

Kathryn Riederer '07 is working as a manager for Walgreens in Wauwatosa.

Lisa Roanhouse '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching third grade in the Waterford Graded School District in Waterford. Lisa and her family reside in Burlington.

Tara Royster '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007. She is teaching second grade in the Ankeny Community School District and resides in Des Moines.

Amanda Sanderman '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching chemistry in the Howard Suamico School District in Green Bay. She resides in Wrightstown.

Anne Schmidt '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching science at Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools in Waverly, Iowa.
Svetlana Schmitz '07 is working at Gundersen Lutheran as a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Administration degree, and works in the pediatric neonatal intensive care unit. She is pursuing a Master of Family Nurse Practitioner degree at Winona State University.

Anna Schlenker '07 is participating in training with the United States Navy.

Allan Thompson '07 is substitute teaching grades 6-12 in the Tomah and Sparta School Districts.

Kristen Thompson '07 is teaching third grade at St. Aloysius in Prairie du Sac.

Ryan Vogler '07 accepted the position of interim athletic director for the Onalaska School District. Ryan and his wife Andi, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Olivia Kaylynn, Aug. 16, 2007.

Terry Williams '07 completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in July 2007 and is teaching art at Waterloo Community Schools in Waterloo, Iowa. She resides with her family in Cedar Falls, Iowa.


IN MEMORIAM

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.


Ottona Meierotto, FSPA '46, Sept. 9, 2007.


Jon G. Felsheim, June 16, 2007, husband of Mary (Streicher) Felsheim '49, father of Jack Felsheim '84.

Thomas McMullin, Oct. 15, 2007, brother of Rose Therese McMullin, FSPA '51 and Alice McMullin, FSPA '52.

Rose (Julutta) Schreck, FSPA '56, June 2, 2007, sister of Laura Schreck, FSPA '62.


Leona Squires, April 2, 2007, mother of LaVon (Squires) Rader '64.

Judy (Kampa) Sweeney '64, Nov. 27, 2007.


Richard Rickert, June 29, 2007, father of Patricia (Rickert) Bacon '70.

LaDema M. Keller, June 25, 2007, mother of Nancy (Keller) Becker '73, and Lynette (Keller) Reichmann '75.

Irvin Minear, March 6, 2007, father of Jannette (Minear) Domayer '75.

Larry Thompson, Oct. 15, 2007, father of Patricia (Thompson) Johnson '76.
Albert Davidson, Sept. 10, 2007, father of Diana (Davidson) Broniec ’83, Daniel Davidson ’84, and Dione (Davidson) Brandt ’90.
Beth (Brigson) Ferrel ’93, Sept. 2, 2007.
Harry Schroeder, Sr., Aug. 29, 2007, father of Barbara (Johnson) Schmidt ’95.
Joshua Lee Lunsford, July 31, 2007, brother of Amanda (Lunsford) Schock ’03 and son of Sharon Lunsford ’06.

A FINAL WORD

Profile in Courage
By Amanda Kistler as told to Anthony Slaby, Strides Magazine

Viterbo biopsychology major Amanda Kistler, 24, served as a medic in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This essay is her account of the morning of Feb. 22, 2007, a day she’ll never forget.

Chaos. It’s hard to remember and explain.

There had been a huge explosion. The Humvee behind us was engulfed in smoke and dust. We turned around and drove cautiously back to it, where I grabbed my medical bag and got out.

Sergeant Reed was helping Staff Sergeant Hays climb out of the damaged Humvee when I reached the truck. Half of Hays’ face was gone. An Explosive Force Projectile (EFP) had exploded and ripped through their 12,000-pound vehicle, sending pieces of shrapnel through his face. He didn’t have a nose anymore. There were just two eyes looking at me. He was crying and using what was left of his mouth to say, “I’m not going to make it, I’m going to die.” There was blood everywhere.

I did the best I could to clear his mouth and throat. Because of the large amount of blood loss I was unable to give him an IV. I just tried to keep him talking because I knew if he passed out, he wasn’t going to make it.

I had joined the National Guard in 2002 because I wanted the experience and the challenge. Three years later, I wasn’t happy when I got the notice that our unit was being activated, but I had known something was coming. It was mid-August, just two weeks before school started,
and I had just bought my books and landed a new job. A month later, I was in Camp Shelby, Miss.

My unit arrived in Kuwait in March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After some additional training and some time to become acclimated to the weather (it hit 148 degrees one day in July), we were sent to Iraq.

The base where my medical unit was stationed was teeming with medical support, so after just one month in theatre I was reassigned to the 1-125th STRIKE Field Artillery Battalion. The unit was charged with route security, presence patrols, and serving as a quick reaction force. Our base was located 80-100 miles south of Baghdad, just outside of the infamous Sunni Triangle.

Medics weren’t allowed to help our troops by driving, gunning, or anything of that sort, so basically I rode along in the back of the Humvee, waiting for something bad to happen. There had been a few minor incidents, but nothing could ever prepare me for what was to come.

While on patrol in the early morning hours of Feb. 22, we watched as mortar rounds landed near our base. Because our squad was already outside the wire, we were sent to find the point of origin. We were traveling in three Humvees, my vehicle was in the middle. I remember talking with the others in my truck, and saying, “One of these times there is going to be an ambush and we’re going to get blown up.” A minute later, there were explosions.

Everything happened so fast. EFPs had gone off ahead and behind us. We stopped, and attempted to establish radio contact. Everyone seemed to be all right. The Humvee behind us radioed back to say they were “good,” when another explosion occurred.

I told Sergeant Smith to keep Staff Sergeant Hays talking and moved on to assist the others. Someone had called for a tourniquet. I knew that wasn’t good.

The lower part of Specialist Richert’s leg resembled spaghetti. He would later lose his entire leg. Specialist Jones had suffered a traumatic brain injury. He was unable to communicate, and we originally thought he had been killed. Finally, he responded by honking the horn in his truck. He still couldn’t talk, but would squeeze your hand when you asked him questions.

Sergeant First Class Berry had died. I couldn’t help but wonder what I had done wrong. Later, I was told that even if there had been a surgical team on sight, he still would have died. His internal organs had been ripped apart from the explosion and shrapnel.

The wounded were loaded onto helicopters and flown to a trauma center in Baghdad and then on to Germany and the United States for higher levels of treatment. Upon returning to base several hours later, we learned that the base had been hit by several rounds of mortar fire, and that five others from our platoon had been wounded. It had not been a good night for our unit.

After the completion of my extended tour, I finally returned to the United States on July 13, 2007. I had the opportunity to meet up with Hays, his family, and my other comrades from Iraq at a military ball this past fall. I have to say, he looks amazing, particularly better than he did the last time I saw him. I think he’s beautiful.
Overall, I’m glad I was there and that I did what I was supposed to do. I often wonder to myself what would have happened if I hadn’t been able to handle the situation. Would Hays and Richert have died? I’m just glad I didn’t let them down.

SPC Amanda Kistler received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for her actions on Feb. 22. The soldiers who were with her that night recommended her for the honor. The accompanying paper states, “For valorous achievements while serving as a squad medic on a combat logistics patrol during an attack by multiple Explosive Force Projectile arrays. SPC Kistler disregarded incoming small arms fire to assist with removing soldiers from the stricken vehicle, correctly and effectively performing triage and applying medical care. Her willingness to expose herself to danger and expert application of medical skills saved the lives of two of her fellow soldiers.”