

VITERBO UNIVERSITY

Honors Program Newsletter

March/April 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Inside this issue:

- Mission Statement, Volume 3: Faithful Service and Ethical Leadership **1**
- Upcoming Important Dates **1**
- Humanities Symposium Recap **2**
- Louisiana Spring Break Trip **2**
- Save the Date! Theological Virtues Conference **2**
- V8 Spotlight: Shannon Foss **3**
- Honors Fall Classes **3**
- Scholars Day Presentations **4**

The Viterbo University community prepares students for faithful service and ethical leadership.

By: Emily Dykman
As a university community, we have named a mission that assists us in focusing our work and energy. At the core of all that we do, we are reminded that, in the end, our hope is that a Viterbo graduate will have considered the concepts of faith, service, ethics, and leadership. It is clear that our world does not currently offer us many examples of ethical leadership. As we read the news, we hear more and more about individuals or groups being caught up in power and material gain. These stories frustrate us, but they should also inspire. How might we begin to impact the world, even our own little corner,



by choosing to lead ethically? What sacrifices might this require us to take? What benefits will there be amid these sacrifices? An ethical leader is one who uses power not to control, but to empower. An ethical leader is able to step back and take a long view of an issue, build consensus, listen to others, and use language to nurture community. An ethical leader practices empathy and acceptance. Each of us is challenged to develop these qualities through active engagement in and out of the classroom, on and off campus. Where have

you chosen to accept the call to lead? Please be sure to share with us when you are in a leadership role, whether the role comes with an official title or is more of a collaborative experience. These are wonderful opportunities for development and celebration. At the end of the semester, 10 members of our Honors Program will walk across the stage at the La Crosse Center, marking the end of the undergraduate education. We hope that each recognizes that they carry with them the mission of the University, and the Honors Program, as they move into the next stage of their lives.

Upcoming Important Dates

Lunch N Learn

Student Development, Honors Program, and the Ethics Institute presents a Lunch N Learn with James Ault. It is **March 30th** from 12—1pm in the RC Boardroom. Ault will be discussing his recent film "African Christianity Rising: Stories from Ghana and Zimbabwe." The lunch is free to all who attend.

Blood Drive

Come help save lives by donating blood. Held in the Mathy Center on **April 5th**. All support is welcomed.



Theological Virtues Conference

The ethics institute is hosting a theological conference on Faith from **March 31—April 2**. This is the link to the schedule of all the speakers and other

opportunities. <http://www.viterbo.edu/uploadedFiles/centers/ethics/2011%20Conf%20Schedule.pdf>

Save the Date! Theological Virtues Conference

By: Kaitlyn Hamann

The Institute for Ethics in Leadership will be hosting the first of three theological virtues conference this year. Running from Thursday March 31st to Saturday April 2nd, this conference will be dealing with Faith.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear several different speakers from not only Viterbo but other universities as well. The keynote speaker is the scholar, author, and documentary film maker James Ault. His topic deals with Virtues and Vices within faith and he will be presenting on Thursday March 31 at 7:00 in the Fine Arts Main Theater. This conference touches on all aspects of life and we hope to see you there.



“Achieving More...with Less”

By: Kasie Von Haden

As a member of the Honors Seminar on the Humanities Symposium with Dr. Andrew Hamilton, I was quite fortunate to have had the opportunity to not only attend the Humanities Symposium about wealth and the common good offered through the university, but I was also able to gain a historical perspective on capitalism and think more in depth about how capitalism works within our society. In the class, we learned about the Greeks and about their philosophies on wealth. They felt one couldn't be wealthy and virtuous at the same time; one should be more involved in the issues of the city-state than in one's own household. We also learned about

Doing Good on a Trip of a Lifetime

By: Kaitlyn Hamann

Spring Break is a time for many to head home or to travel south and work on a new tan. This spring break for a special group of 27 members from Viterbo not only worked on our tan but more importantly helped the bayou community of Chauvin, Louisiana.

Our group of 27 piled onto a coach bus on Saturday March 5th to head down to Louisiana for the whole week of spring break. For our duration down in the bayou we stayed in the Bayou Grace Community center in Chauvin. Ms. Diane, a worker for the community center, gave us the opportunity all week to work, sight see, and appreciate authentic Cajun cooking. Mon-

day and Friday of the week consisted of working around the community center and making native species planter boxes. Tuesday was our chance to see the sights of New Orleans and Wednesday was our education day. Through a Research center (BTNEP) we learned about how Louisiana is rapidly losing its coast line. That night Ms. Diane invited two locals to cook up some good home style jambalaya that had people going back for seconds and thirds. Thursday was a chance for our group

not just monetarily. We should be considering things like family, friends, goods and services, like public water systems and libraries, as goods and riches, especially in comparison to other countries and others in unfortunate circumstances. Personally, when I begin to consider all that I do have, it adds up to a lot. By participating in the seminar class and attending the humanities symposium, I was able to come to a better understanding and appreciation of how I can be content with less possessions, desires, and wants, and focus on the needs in my life, like family and friends.



day and Friday of the week consisted of working around the community center and making native species planter boxes.

Tuesday was our chance to see the sights of New Orleans and Wednesday was our education day. Through a Research center (BTNEP) we learned about how Louisiana is rapidly losing its coast line. That night Ms. Diane invited two locals to cook up some good home style jambalaya that had people going back for seconds and thirds. Thursday was a chance for our group

to get down and dirty and help reclaim some of the Louisiana coast line. Through that same research center, we went out into the marsh and helped plant many different species for research and hopefully growth. Sadly on Friday we had to bid farewell to our new found love of Louisiana food, weather, and friends but not without memories. This spring break trip was an experience of a lifetime because it helped the amazing people of Louisiana but also changed a group of strangers into a family.

V8 Spotlight: Shannon Foss

By: Nikki Fanta

As a freshman member of the V8 team, mathematics major Shannon Foss has hit the ground running during her first year here at Viterbo, impressing everyone with her work ethic, creativity, and insight. As her freshman year draws to a close, Shannon looks back at her first-year experiences at Viterbo, counting her best memories as those dealing with the Honors Program. Shannon comes to us all the way from Washington as a winner of Viterbo's prestigious Health Science Scholarship. After only a few months of be-

ing a V8 member, Shannon has already taken on various projects, including putting together a video presentation for the PSYC 114 class's fall retreat, helping with the Honors Holiday Service Event, and organizing the upcoming St. Patrick's Day PUB event. Shannon is also involved with other activities on campus; she serves as a Fine Arts Center usher and also as a math tutor. Shannon revealed that

she has dreams of starting a new club on campus called "The Knights of Viterbo." She describes her idea as "a club of people united by their love for medieval lore and all things old fashioned." Shannon leaves us with three words that she feels best describe the VU Honors Program: creativity, leadership, and excellence. Shannon Foss is someone who embodies each of those qualities in every way.



Registration! Starting April 5th registration for next year falls classes begin. Before signing up for courses please consider all of the Honors courses available next year.

Upcoming Fall Honors Courses

As registration is fast approaching it is important to know all the offered honors courses for the coming fall.

HONR 356.001: Ethical Leadership (1 credit) Kyte

Students will meet once a week to discuss leadership and ethics in context. Students will choose a topic connect to leadership and ethics and will develop a researched reflection paper on that topic and present the paper to the class. The intent of this presentation is to engage in critical discussion of one's work and develop one's ability to write clearly. This is a discussion-based course particularly led by students. The course typically aligns with the themes and speakers of the Reinhart Ethics Institute speaker series.

HONR 499.001: Senior Seminar (1 credit) Dykman

As the online capstone course for the Honors Program, this course usually enrolls juniors or seniors. Students are encouraged to enroll in this course during the same semester that they developing their disciplinary capstone or research project. Students finalize their honors portfolio for review and publicly present their capstone project.

PHIL 100.004 (3 credits) Howard

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the practice of responsible ethical reflection and judgment. Students will learn about the practice of moral analysis, examine many influential moral theories, such as Virtue ethics, Deontological ethics, and Utilitarianism, and look at many contemporary moral debates in applied ethics, such as the issue of capital punishment, euthanasia, animal rights, and abortion. The course tends to be discussion based.

RLST 317.001: Theological Perspectives in Film (3 credits) Dykman, Nettles, Koester

This course uses films (and similar media) to help participants develop an ability to recognize theological and Christian themes and to practice methods of theological reflection in order to better understand the way in which film is able to communicate a particular worldview. A variety of films will be shown, rated G-R, on themes of sacrifice, vocation, leadership, forgiveness, love, family, faith, and Catholic tradition. In the past, the final project has asked students to construct their own brief film using themes and worldviews of their choosing. Students will need to have a basic exposure to theological

concepts as we will be studying some primary texts in this course as they relate to the films being viewed.

ENGL 486.001: Madness and Renaissance Drama (3 credits) Cosby Ronnenberg

This course explores the cultural construct of madness portrayed on the Renaissance stage, utilizing texts in the history of psychiatry/medicine, early modern theories of the body, mind, and emotions, and literary criticism on gender, madness, and drama. A discussion based course, it will culminate with a researched interpretive argument.

A Spring 2012 course to consider... VUSM 200: Living in a Diverse World – Communicating Across the Barriers (3 credits) Gayle

This course will discuss and consider the prejudices and biases that we carry with us. It will ask the questions: 1) Where do our ideas come from? and 2) How do we respond to diversity? Students will engage in journaling throughout the semester in order to uncover how the theories discussed in class apply in real life. Students will construct a creative project for their final assignment. The course will engage students in discussion, film review, and guest speakers on a variety of topics.

