



## Master of Arts in Education

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### Viterbo is Education...

- Teacher education since 1890
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) approved
- Iowa Board of Education approved
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredited

### Why Viterbo?

- Cost – competitive graduate credit
- Convenient – taught in several geographic regions
- Flexible – coursework timeline chosen by you
- Statewide – classes taught across Wisconsin and Iowa

**Note:** Select licensure program credits may be applied toward the Master of Arts in Education elective credit requirement.

In addition to educational license and degree programs, Viterbo's curriculum focuses on the core values of:

- Contemplation
- Hospitality
- Integrity
- Stewardship

### *A Time for Being Thankful...* by Rhonda M. Rabbitt



Thank you for reading this newsletter—and thank you for choosing Viterbo. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you connected to the Main Campus in La Crosse and to share program highlights.

At this time of year, people often take pause to be thankful for their family, friends, and good health. As the new assistant dean, director of Graduate Programs in Education, I am especially grateful to have found a home at Viterbo University this past spring. Why?

- I can unabashedly live out my values while working.
- I am surrounded by caring and supportive colleagues.
- The number of colleagues within my circle is unprecedented.
- My arrival to campus was at a pivotal moment in time: a transitional period of honoring the past while planning to move forward into the next century.

These themes run deep and wide across our graduate programs in education, and are evident in faculty evaluations, student feedback, and word of mouth advertising. For this, I am thankful because it tells me that what I have experienced in my first six months at Viterbo is authentic and long-lasting.

May your season of thanks extend beyond this moment...*Rhonda*

### *Congratulations!*

**These Viterbo students deserve your recognition and appreciation:**

**Jill Abing** has been chosen to represent the La Crosse School District on an international exchange with La Crosse's sister city, Dubna, Russia, in April 2010. Jill is a post baccalaureate biology graduate of Viterbo and is seeking a second license in broad field science. She teaches at Logan High School in La Crosse.

**Leah Lechleiter-Luke** received \$3,000 from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation when she was named Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year. Leah teaches Spanish in Mauston and is a Viterbo Master of Arts in Education alumna.

- *Service*

*"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within." - Elisabeth Kübler-Ros*

**Kim-Sidwell Frame**, a 2009 Master of Arts in Education graduate from Iowa, had her research highlighted on the Smart-Music Web site. To see her research quoted go to: <http://www.smartmusic.com/Educators/Resources/Research.aspx>

**Abby Ryan**, Emerson Elementary School third-grade teacher, received a \$10,000 scholarship from UCB Pharmaceuticals which makes awards to outstanding students of all ages who are living beyond the boundaries of Crohn's disease. See her videoclip on the UCB Web site: <http://multivu.prnewswire.com/mnr/ucb/39858/>

**Elyse Wilde** was chosen as Teacher of the Year from the Iowa District East of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Elyse received her middle school endorsement through Viterbo University.



Viterbo University, Murphy Center, La Crosse

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#### **In Wisconsin:**

*Educational Leadership:*  
*Jim Bagniewski*  
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[jjbagniewski@viterbo.edu](mailto:jjbagniewski@viterbo.edu)

*Bernie Ferry*  
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### **Master of Arts in Education News From Wisconsin**

#### **Educational Leadership News and Updates:**

The Wisconsin Educational Leadership program has been growing in the number of participants and in the number of licensure program offerings. There were 82 teachers in the 2009 cohort group—up from about 50 during summer 2007. Viterbo University is proud to offer the following Wisconsin Administrative licenses:

- Principal - DPI #51
- Director of Instruction - DPI #10
- Director of Special Education and Pupil Services - DPI #80
- School Business Administrator - DPI #08
- And we are presently working on the application for District Administrator/Superintendent license DPI #03. Target date: 2012.

Please note that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is updating the Wisconsin Content Standards for Principals with the other license guidelines to follow accordingly.

There is conversation at the national level of an Advanced Principal Certification program (2011). We anticipate this will be similar to the National Board Certification program for teachers and we are actively involved to meet the needs of our area administrators. We believe that this can be a positive step for administrators.

It is our plan to continue to grow and expand programming to meet the needs of School District Administrators, not only in the Coulee Region, but throughout the

state of Wisconsin. If you have any suggestions or needs call or email Jim Bagniewski or Bernie Ferry.

*Early Childhood:*  
Ruth Badciong  
608-796-3388  
[rebaciong@viterbo.edu](mailto:rebaciong@viterbo.edu)

**Early Childhood:** Four-year-old kindergarten is becoming the norm. Viterbo's Early Childhood Education licensure program is designed to meet the needs of elementary teachers in Wisconsin who seek an add-on 70-777 license which covers the PK-K levels.

Applications are now being accepted for three cohorts starting in fall 2010 in La Crosse, Green Bay, and West Allis. The Early Childhood Education program will offer two courses per semester so students will be able to complete it in as little as 18 months.

*Reading:*  
Lisa Valentini-Lilly  
608-796-3395  
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**Reading (316, 17, Literacy Coaching):**

Reading crosses all subject matters. You may want to consider joining the growing number of educators gaining expertise in the teaching of reading by enrolling in our 19-credit 316 Reading Teacher licensure program. This is a great way to learn current trends, methodologies, and research related to teaching reading in the K-12 classroom. We also offer an online 17 Reading Specialist license and a Literacy Coaching certificate. Our courses are offered at various locations throughout the state. For class information and to register, call 1-800-234-8721.

*Post-Baccalaureate:*  
Betty Pfaff  
608-796-3287  
[bjpfaff@viterbo.edu](mailto:bjpfaff@viterbo.edu)

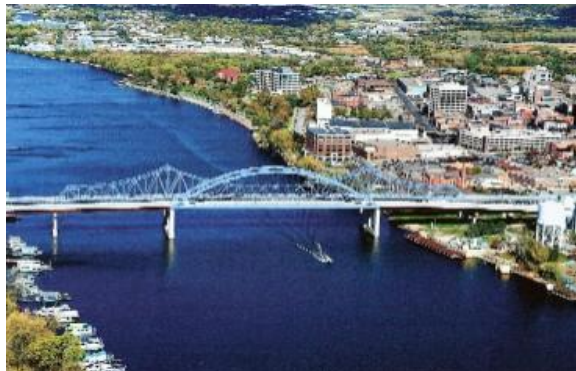
**Post Baccalaureate (initial teaching certification):**

This is a cohort program of individuals who have typically worked in their field and have decided to switch to the field of education. Current licensure areas include: art, biology, broad field science, broad field social studies, business education, chemistry, English, math, music (choral or general), Spanish, technology education, and theatre arts.

Special Post-Bac Faculty Appreciation to:

**Mary Newgard-Larson**, a popular English Method's instructor, was selected for a full-page feature story about education in the La Crosse Tribune in October. Throughout the article former students praised Mary for how she successfully challenged them to think about literature, writing, and life in different ways.

**James Lowell**, new Viterbo instructor teaching Inclusion of Student's with Special Needs, received the Foundations for Excellence award from the State of Florida. The award is given to the top 100 teachers in the state, where Jim recently retired as an elementary level special education teacher. The award was announced earlier this year.



Blue Bridges across the Mississippi River to enter or exit La Crosse.  
Photo by Robert J. Hunt

## **Off-campus Wisconsin Programming:**

Chris Valenti, Coordinator  
800-234-8721  
[cavalenti@viterbo.edu](mailto:cavalenti@viterbo.edu)

*“Believe that with your feelings and your work you are taking part in the greatest; the more strongly you cultivate this belief, the more will reality and the world go forth from it.”*

*- Rainer Maria Rilke*

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## **From Wisconsin via West Allis:**

The Wisconsin off-campus center is celebrating its 24th year. We have helped thousands of educators in the State of Wisconsin earn their master's degree, reading and early childhood licenses. There were 14,000+ individuals taking our courses this last fiscal year. The campus in West Allis houses the off-campus administrative offices and two classrooms. We have a Green Bay center with two classrooms that serve as the site for our electives and core courses in the Master of Arts in Education, reading, and early childhood programs and the Educational Leadership courses with two classrooms.

Thank you to our satellite and cohort hosts in the state: Jacey Lea, Chippewa Falls School District, MA cohort; Nancy Graese and Connie Erickson, CESA 11/12 Facilitating the Future group, MA cohort; Sue Wilson, De Forest School District, MA cohort; Mary Ellen Ruzga, Milwaukee Public Schools, reading cohort; Mark Deditz, St. Germain, reading cohort; Steven Miller, Shawano School District, MA cohort; Stacey Jauquet, Luxemburg-Casco School District, MA cohort; Jeff Bentz, CESA 8-Gillett, MA and reading satellite; Nancy Wyngaard-Middleton, Cross Plains, MA and reading satellite; Barbara Billings, Columbus Catholic High School, MA satellite site; Matt Reynebeau, Appleton Xavier High School, MA satellite site; Lou Chicquette, Appleton School District, reading satellite site; William Froelich, Baraboo SCEA offices, MA satellite site; Michael Krumm, Kewaskum, MA satellite site.

We would also like to thank the many partner CESA's, school districts, and the association/consulting group affiliations that we have (WASDA, AWSA, WASBO, WCASS, Wisconsin School Music Association, Advanced Learning Designs, MEDS-PDN...to name a few). Our success over these many years is due to all of you.

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## **Off-campus Iowa Programming:**

Director, John Della Vedova

General Master's, MS, TAG  
contact: 888-235-2200

ECE, Online, AEA & School  
District contact:  
Shelly Stoppel 888-235-  
2200

Educational Leadership,  
Reading contact:  
Anne Kruse 888-235-2200

## **Master of Arts in Education News from Iowa**

It is exciting to be a part of the first Graduate in Education Newsletter. The Iowa office is very proud of accomplishments over 20 years of service. We have approximately 2,000 Iowa alumni and have helped many more earn Reading, Early Childhood, Middle School endorsements and Principal Licensure. In turn, we are helping Iowa children receive high quality education.

Our mini-campus consists of five classrooms located in West Des Moines. We also rent space in outlying areas and deliver classes when at least seven teachers are interested.

We're adding a talented and gifted endorsement this summer. This will consist of 12 semester hours. We are always excited to deliver new programs to our Iowa teachers.

Adjunct faculty are terrific teachers in their own right, including two former Iowa Teacher of the Year awardees: **Ruth Anne Gaines** and **Jan Keese**.

Thank you to **Gary Sinclair**, superintendent of the Dallas Center Grimes Community Schools and the Board of Education, for having the vision to present meaningful staff development and endorsements to staff through a Viterbo partnership.

Our biggest cohorts for the general master's degree with endorsement reside in the Des Moines metro area, Cedar Falls, and southeast Iowa. A majority of students report that colleagues are our best advertisement. If you know someone who might be interested, have them call the Iowa office, and we will get them started on the Viterbo journey—a journey of education for life.

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**We're on the Web:**  
[www.viterbo.edu/med/](http://www.viterbo.edu/med/)

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Director of Graduate  
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608-796-3384

*Make the most of yourself,  
for that is all there is of  
you.*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Master of Arts in Education Staff



Back Row L-R: Susan Batell, Bernie Ferry, John Della Vedova, Rhonda Rabbitt  
Middle Row L-R: Anne Kruse, Chris Valenti, Betty Pfaff, Lisa Valentini-Lilly  
Front Row L-R: Jim Bagniewski, Shelly Stoppel, Ruth Badciong