



# VITERBO UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL *of* NURSING

Volume 2 Issue 1

*This newsletter is for past, present and future nursing students as well as preceptors and faculty. In these pages we celebrate the accomplishments of our nurses.*

### Message from the Dean



In the fall of 2018, I had the extraordinary privilege of traveling to Rome, Greccio, and Assisi, Italy on a Franciscan Leadership Pilgrimage sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. During the pilgrimage, a poignant homily by Father André Cirino was about power. He spoke about Franciscan priest and ecumenical teacher Richard Rohr's three-dimensional definition of power: the ability to act from the fullness of who I am, the capacity to establish and maintain a relationship with people and things, and the freedom to give myself away.

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In this issue of the newsletter, there are numerous examples of how students, faculty, and staff in the School of Nursing emulate these dimensions of power. You will read about an undergraduate student who acted from the fullness of who he is, using his talents in graphic arts to create an illustration for a scientific publication. The story that brought him from graphic artist to nursing is impressive. You will read how our relationships with people and things have been a powerful force, bringing good to others. This issue spotlights numerous initiatives, including Doctor of Nursing Practice students who worked with the Tomah VA to teach therapeutic dance to veterans with Parkinson's disease to improve their mobility. The grants we have received, faculty presentations, and publications provide a glimpse into how faculty members are freely giving their time and talent to find ways to serve others. I invite you to read through their many scholarly contributions. They are outstanding ambassadors for our programs as we strive to provide quality nursing education.

As the summer comes to close, I look forward to what's to come during the next academic year. I am excited to see the many ways we can continue to enact the dimensions of power and I thank those who provide steadfast and ardent support to our nursing programs.

Pax et Bonum (Peace and Good),

Martha Scheckel PhD, RN

Dean of Viterbo School of Nursing, Health, and Human Behavior

## Nurses for Underserved Rural Students Seeking Educational Success (NURSES) Program

In 2017, Viterbo University was the recipient of a \$1.64 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Workforce Diversity Program. The NURSES program is designed to address the rural nursing workforce shortage and improve rural health outcomes through an increase in the number and preparedness of nurses from, and willing to serve, rural and disadvantaged populations. The *La Crosse Tribune* published the following article about the program on October 12, 2018. Reprinted with permission.

On one hand, Emma Lee does not want to stray too far from her family's beef farm, just east of Coon Valley.

On the other hand, Lee is pursuing a

degree in nursing and has big plans for her life and career after college.

Under normal circumstances, she might feel tugged in those divergent directions, forced to choose one and abandon the other. But a new program at Viterbo University is giving students the opportunity to work in rural hospitals, and, in turn, giving small communities access to the kind of health care usually reserved for larger cities.

"I knew that I didn't want to go to a huge town, a big city, and I knew I couldn't leave my family's farm," said



**VITERBO UNIVERSITY**

### **N.U.R.S.E.S.**

**NURSING for UNDERSERVED  
RURAL STUDENTS  
SEEKING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS**

Lee, one of 17 students enrolled in Viterbo's Nurses for Underserved Rural Students Seeking Educational Success (NURSES) program. NURSES, which accepted its first cohort last spring semester, is funded by federal grant dollars.

"This is a great program for me and a lot of other students," Lee said.

"Especially because I feel that some people in rural areas don't feel it's as important to go in and see a doctor."

The program is intended to improve rural health outcomes by recruiting and engaging students who are willing to serve rural and disadvantaged populations.

Rural hospitals often struggle to recruit qualified workers, and are understaffed as a result. The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis reports that only 16 percent of registered nurses practice in a rural area, although 19 percent of the country's population lives in a rural area.

It's especially problematic for rural hospitals to be short-handed, given the health-related challenges those areas face.



*NURSES students participating in a team building exercise.*

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Compared to those living in cities, residents of rural communities are more likely to struggle with obesity and other chronic health conditions.

They're also more likely to live in poverty, and more likely to be uninsured or underinsured, according to the Rural Health Reform Policy Research Center.

"This is a maldistribution of care providers, and that can have a negative effect across these communities," said Martha Scheckel, dean of Viterbo's College of Nursing. Scheckel added that students who grew up in rural areas are particularly well-suited to fill the voids in rural hospitals.

"Knowing the culture of rural health gives you a deeper understanding of people and their needs," she said. "People like Emma go back to their hometown, and they improve the health outcomes there."

Lee said she would like to work at Vernon Memorial Healthcare in Viroqua, perhaps specializing in women's health.

She has been drawn to medicine for years, she said, ever since family friends started telling her how fulfilling of a career it was. A desire to help people is

also deeply ingrained in her—her parents, both teachers, have always emphasized it.

In addition to helping out at the family farm and keeping up with her own coursework, Lee leads a weekly tutoring session with first-year students in the NURSES program.

"It's like a little family," she said. "I'm a mentor to them, but I still have mentors that I can go to."

Scheckel followed a similar path. Raised on a farm in southwest Iowa, she developed a deep appreciation for small-town life and a keen understanding of rural health care. She worked in small towns, Baraboo and Portage, before transitioning to higher education.

"I look back, and I'm really thankful that I had that life," Scheckel said. "It's important to highlight, spotlight and promote the value of being a rural nurse. They do a lot of things for a lot of people."

Watch a video about the program released on June 17, 2019 here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTgFV5y-oOM&feature=youtu.be>

## Current Issues in Nursing Education

According to the 2018 Annual Report from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the need for nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree remains strong, with 49% of employers requiring nurses have a BSN and 86% of employers preferring nurses with a BSN. The report indicates a continued upward trend in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs and enrollments. There were 20 DNP programs in 2006; in 2017, the number of programs skyrocketed to 336, growing more than 3000 percent.

Viterbo University continues meeting the demand for nurses prepared with a BSN or DNP. The School of Nursing admits BSN nursing students twice annually, and admits registered nurses into the BSN Completion program annually. Viterbo recently partnered with Western Technical College to offer dual enrollment, allowing students to work concurrently on their Associate Degree while completing their BSN at Viterbo. The DNP program admits students annually into one of four specialty tracks .

## Student Notes

### Senior Nursing Students Advocate for Nursing on Capitol Hill

Senior nursing students Julia Klimek and Monica Burt accompanied Viterbo School of Nursing Dean Martha Scheckel to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Deans Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, to attend the AACN Student Policy Summit. The summit is a 3-day conference where students deepen their knowledge of

policy and advocacy. Along with deans and students from Wisconsin nursing programs, one of their stops included a visit to the offices of Wisconsin legislators on Capitol Hill, where they advocated for addressing hot-button issues such as nursing workforce development, nursing research needs, and student loan programs.

Dr. Connie Delaney, dean of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Viterbo alumna, and Viterbo Board of Trustees member, invited them to have dinner with retired US Army General Clara Mae Leach Adams-Enders. "One thing I will never forget is the message she (General Adams-Enders) sent to me about how big of an impact nurses

can have," said Klimek. "While sometimes we get caught up in the tasks of working, we really need to step back and realize how much of an impact the team of health care has on our patients—because after all, the patients are the most important part of the team."



Front row (left to right): Linda Young, nursing program dean at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Martha Scheckel, nursing program dean at Viterbo University; Viterbo University nursing BSN students Julia Klimek and Monica Burt. Back row (left to right): Michael Jaeb, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire BSN student; Janet Krejci, nursing program dean at Marquette University; Kim Litwack, nursing program dean at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Jennifer Kowalkowski, University of Wisconsin PhD student; and Bintou Suso, University of Wisconsin BSN student.

### Nursing students win ethics competition

The D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership hosted a student ethics video competition this past spring. The competition contributes to the common good by demonstrating how students are advocating for social justice. Nursing students Kaitlin Rubinzer, Ashley Breu, and Ciara Hovell produced "The Stigma

and Lack of Access to Mental Health Care" and won first place. Other nursing students participated in the competition as well.

Watch the videos from the top six finalists here:

<https://bit.ly/2WQtWk1>

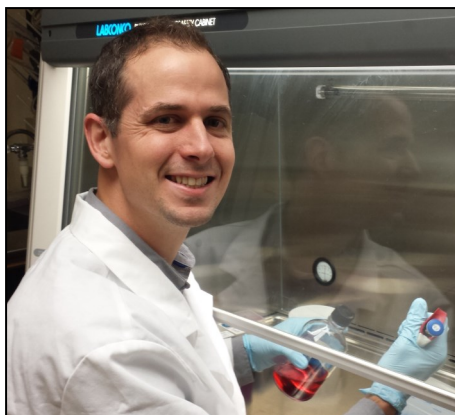


**D.B. REINHART  
INSTITUTE**  
*for* ETHICS IN  
LEADERSHIP



## Student Spotlight: From Graphic Design to Nursing

Chris Mayne, Assistant Professor in the Biology Department, shared with Dean Scheckel how nursing student, Derek Fuchsberger, utilized his first Viterbo University degree in graphic design to create figures for an article on the role of vitamins A and D in graft-versus-host disease (GVHD). Mayne said, "Derek has, without exaggeration, created the best figures I have seen representing the pathogenesis of GVHD in the entire field."



*Chris Mayne*

This feedback led Dean Scheckel to ask Fuchsberger to tell his story in his own words:

When I first started at Viterbo, I was exploring a major trying to decide between three majors: graphic design, psychology, and nursing. My dad wanted me to be a teacher, my sister wanted me to be a pediatric nurse, and my mom wanted me to be a pediatric oncology nurse. However, being a new college student and athlete juggling classes, social life, and soccer, I ultimately decided on graphic design. Four years later, during the final class of my degree, before finals, I received a phone call from my mom saying that my dad just had an aneurysm. At first, she told me to stay at school and focus on finals, but then changed her mind and asked me to come home.

We stayed at the hospital until late that night. The next day, exactly a week before graduation, near the end of a long day, my dad had no neurologic activity and was pronounced dead.

Throughout the whole long experience at the hospital, what made an impression on me was the nurses and doctors who interacted with us. Long before going back to nursing school, I remember thinking how inspirational they were, and how much I would rather be on the other end of the scenario: taking care of and comforting people instead of needing to be comforted. I was very impressed with how well they handled the whole situation.

I surprised everyone by making it to my finals and taking them all within 24 hours. My whole family was immensely impressed with how well Viterbo stuck behind us and supported us in this difficult time. The news of my father's death spread very fast, and we received overwhelming support. We even had a faculty member and a couple of her fellow Franciscan sisters drive two and a half hours to make it to the funeral.



*Derek Fuchsberger*

Less than a month after graduation, I got a really great graphic design job, but I was not satisfied with the work. I was talking to a physician's assistant who told me I should give the medical profession a try. He said he thought it would fit my personality and that I could start out as a medical assistant, and if I liked it, go on to be a nurse. The next day I applied to a school to get my medical assistant certificate. However, less than a month before classes were to start, they closed down multiple campuses, including mine. I called up Viterbo and applied to the university for a second time, this time for nursing.

Since starting the journey to nursing at Viterbo, I have been constantly reminded that I made the right decision. From getting top grades to experiences with patients at my job as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Mayo, I feel like I am in the place where I am meant to be. I have also received numerous positive remarks from professors and faculty, including one such professor whom I never even had the pleasure of having class with. She said that she thought I was just great. She said I was professional, friendly, outgoing, and that she thought I was going to do awesome. She told me she cannot wait to see what kind of nurse I would become. This was the most amazing

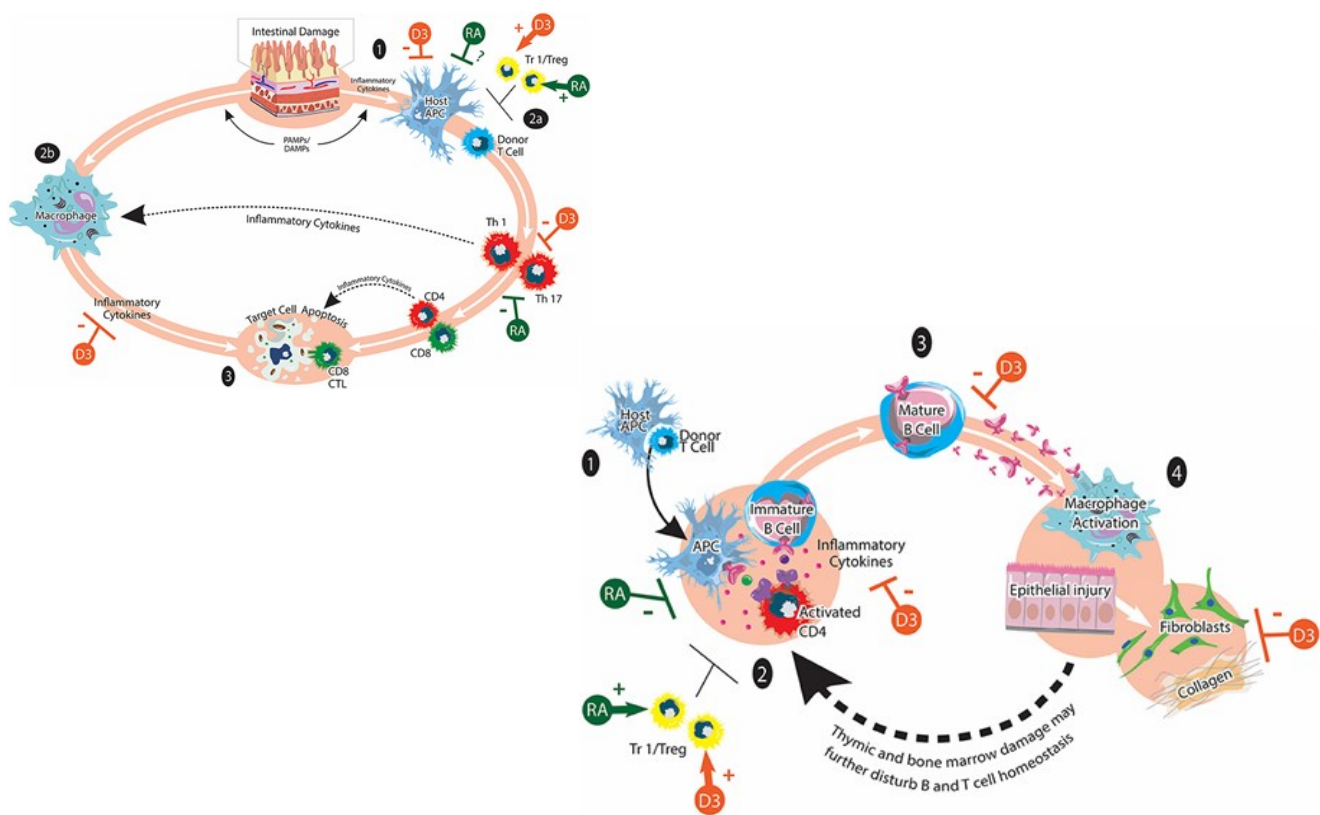
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thing I had heard and gave me so much more inspiration and passion. I will never forget that. She also told me, "Just remember, take all of this and do something with it." I really hope to.

Clinicals have been an incredible experience and have further reinforced my decision. This process really has been an incredible journey thus far and I am glad I decided to come back. Having the opportunity to explore my calling and make a difference has meant the whole world to me.

One of the connections I made throughout this experience was my anatomy and physiology professor, Chris Mayne, who made a big impression on me from the first day. Doing well in both of his classes, I decided to become his supplemental instruction tutor for anatomy and physiology where we got to know each other a bit more. Then, at the end of this last summer, he emailed me telling me he was co-authoring a research review article for a medical journal and he wanted me to do the designs. This was really exciting, because I was able to use both of my degrees at once to enhance my design. It was like the culmination of the last eight years of my life. After countless hours and many revisions, Chris told me it was the best artwork he had seen in a medical journal article. It was beyond exciting to see the finished product on the internet. It was such an honor to be a part of this and I hope there are many more opportunities like it in the future.



GVHD: The first figure depicts the acute disease process and the second figure depicts the chronic disease process.

Chen, X., & Mayne, C. G. (2018). The role of micronutrients in draft-vs.-host disease: Immunomodulatory effects of vitamins A and D. *Frontiers in Immunology*, 9, 2853. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2018.02853

## Alumna Speaks at the Pi Phi Induction Ceremony

The Pi Phi Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing held its annual induction ceremony in April. Dr. Lisa Skemp, Viterbo University alumna, was the dignitary speaker. Dr. Skemp is professor and chair of Health Systems, Leadership, and Policy Department at Loyola University Chicago.

In her speech, Dr. Skemp conveyed the importance of building bridges of relationship with our communities. "As nurse leaders we realize that most of health care occurs in the communities in which we live out our lives. While we want to improve the health of all people globally, we understand that we act locally because each community is unique in its diversity, history, strengths, goals, health needs, and readiness to address these health needs. What works in one community in La Crosse Wisconsin may not be culturally appropriate in another community. Viterbo University helped me learn this when Sister Grace Clare (then the Dean of the School of Nursing) agreed that I could do my senior year preceptorship in the hills of Whitesburg, Kentucky. Learning about the deep coal mines and black lung disease among the men in Kentucky was very different from the health needs of those living with lung disease in La Crosse."



*Dr. Lisa Skemp*



Members of Pi Phi Chapter share the vision set forth by the Honor Society of Nursing, "to create a global community of nurses who lead using scholarship, knowledge, and technology to improve the health of the world's people."

## Doctor of Nursing Practice Projects Improve Nursing Practice

Nine students in the Viterbo Graduate Nursing Program presented their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) projects this past spring. The projects varied in purpose and scope, but all have had an impact on nursing practice. For example, Lu Ann Fowler's project resulted in a special interest group for Nurse Practitioners in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Annaliese Wagner and Courtney Beyer's project involved therapeutic dance for veterans with Parkinson's disease as a way to improve mobility, which was featured on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website. Two quality improvement projects focused on enhancing outcomes using telephone follow-up: Ashley Nelson and Eukeria Boila Epse Nsameluh's project improved patient satisfaction for those recovering from thoracic surgery and Julia Jurgensen's project resulted in a reduction in attrition rates for those recovering from bariatric surgery. All DNP students presented their projects at Nursing Research on the Green at Viterbo, and several are preparing to submit their projects for publication.



*Andrea Castle and Kara Delger*



## School of Nursing Welcomes New Pediatric Simulator Hal

The use of simulation in nursing education over the last 20 years has grown exponentially, with studies validating it as a viable replacement for some clinical experiences. This past fall, *WKBT News8000* featured a story about Hal, the most recent simulator in the School of Nursing's Clinical Simulation Learning Center.

WKBT News8000 published the following article about Hal on October 24, 2018. Reprinted with permission. Edited for length.

Nursing students at Viterbo were caught by surprise today when they had to use their newly learned skills to save a 12-year-old boy who was having difficulty breathing.

Only this boy wasn't a typical patient, or even a boy at all.

It was a simulator.

The simulator, called Pediatric HAL, is one of the newest, most realistic training mannequins on the market, and Viterbo is one of the first schools to train with him.

Viterbo nursing students, like Michaela Sandquist, had no idea when they arrived to class they would be putting their lifesaving skills to the test.

"We prepped on our patient scenarios last night but we had no idea that when we came in today that we'd have a new mannequin," Sandquist said.

Sandquist and her classmates discovered that the simulator, aka Kenny, a 12-year-old-boy, was having some major problems.

"We checked some vitals, took his overall appearance in, asked him how he was feeling and then checked his breathing. He was having some difficulty breathing," Sandquist said.

After some examination, Sandquist discovered what was wrong.

"He had some asthma exacerbations," Sandquist said.

And even though Kenny, of course, was never in any danger, Sandquist said the experience felt real.

"It's scary because it's so realistic," Sandquist said.

Sandquist's professor, Jamie Dunnum, said it's important for students to learn and make mistakes during simulations like this rather than in real life.

Even though Kenny is Viterbo's newest simulator, they also have a handful of others, including a baby and a pregnant mother that can even give birth.

In a typical class they will spend at least 12 hours in the Clinical Simulation Learning Center.

The University says since they opened the simulation center in 2011, they can see a big difference in how their students perform.



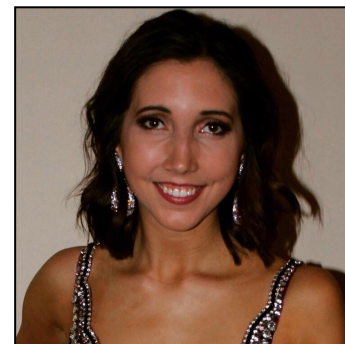
Story by Scott Behrens [www.news8000.com](http://www.news8000.com)



## Nursing Student Maddie Adickes First Runner Up in Miss Wisconsin Competition

This June, senior nursing student Maddie Adickes was named first runner up at the Miss Wisconsin Competition. The competition is part of the Miss Wisconsin Scholarship Organization focused on achievement and is a preliminary to the Miss America Competition. Adickes earned \$2,750 in scholarship dollars, receiving \$2,000 for placing first runner-up, \$500 for winning the Preliminary Talent Award, and \$250 for winning overall Rookie Talent Award.

As part of the competition, candidates select a social impact focus. Adickes' focus was: "Voices Unheard: Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention." She became committed to human trafficking awareness after hearing a speaker discuss its impact.



Maddie Adickes

She said it, "Truly opened my eyes that human trafficking is going on right here within our Wisconsin communities. That day was my call to action." Maddie has since spoke about this social issue with various community organizations as a way to call attention to addressing this significant social problem.

## Nursing students in ROTC program



Olivia Hanson

Viterbo University is a member of the Eagle Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Battalion, which consists of cadets from Viterbo University, UW-La Crosse, Winona State University, and Saint Mary's University. There are currently eight Viterbo nursing students in the battalion, where they develop leadership skills to serve in Army active duty, National Guard, and National Reserve nursing positions following graduation. "Truly, it is an incredible experience to watch these nursing students walk a patient to a place of calm," said Lieutenant Colonel Erik Archer, Professor, Military Science Department, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. "They're incredible and a product of your program."

Olivia Hanson, who graduated with her BSN in May, said of an experience helping an ill soldier during ROTC training, "I see the person that I helped as a part of my ROTC family and I was able to make sure that he was safe and taken care of until a higher level of care could arrive. I truly felt like a Viterbo and an Army nurse."



## School of Nursing faculty member receives Viterbo grant to fund hospital simulation challenge

**Jamie Dunnum** was a recipient of a Viterbo University Title III Grant – Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) High Impact Practices (HIPPI) grant, which she used to purchase *Friday Night at the ER®*, a board game developed by Breakthrough Learning, Inc. The game is used by variety of organizations to teach teams to think systematically and collaboratively. "The game challenges teams of students to learn the necessity of relying on one another to provide quality and safe patient care," said Dunnum.

*The US Department of Education Title III Grant – Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) is designed to help higher education institutions expand their capacity to serve at-risk students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. More than 20 Viterbo University faculty and staff have been awarded HIPPI grants in order to support development and integration of new high-impact practices across the campus.*



## Grants Corner

### Viterbo receives grant to support Community Assessment, Resources, and Intervention through Nursing Guidance (CARING)

Viterbo University was awarded a \$23,427 grant from the Otto Bremer Trust to support Community Assessment, Resources, and Intervention through Nursing Guidance (CARING), a long-standing, nurse-managed health clinic at the La Crosse Salvation Army. The clinic is staffed by Viterbo nursing faculty, undergraduate nursing students, and La Crosse County Health Department public health nurses. The grant will support services for vulnerable populations, such as advocacy, preventive health education, health screenings, and referrals to health care providers. To date, CARING has provided health care services and wellness education to nearly 9,500 clients to improve local health outcomes.

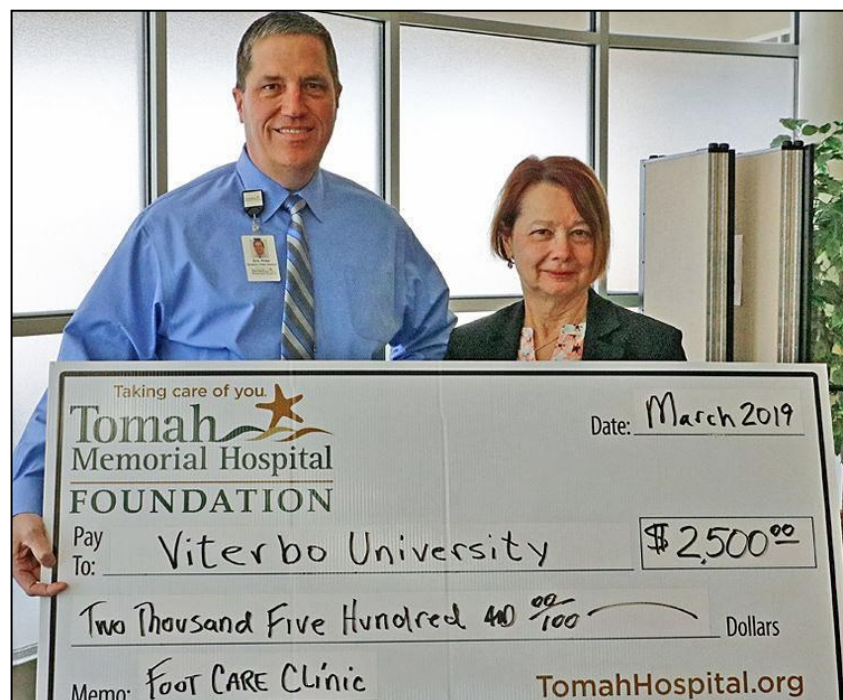
**About the Otto Bremer Trust:** The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, Minn., is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$600 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Visit [ottobremer.org](http://ottobremer.org).

### Viterbo Receives Grant from Tomah Memorial Hospital Foundation to Provide Foot Care

*The Tomah Memorial Hospital News & Events published the following article about foot care on March 6, 2019. Reprinted with permission. Edited for length.*

The Tomah Memorial Hospital Foundation stepped forward to help elderly Monroe County residents who suffer from foot health issues. Officials from the philanthropic arm of Tomah Memorial Hospital have donated \$2,500 to Viterbo University of La Crosse to fund a free foot care clinic for seniors later this year. “By providing comprehensive nail and foot care, we can prevent a lot of the complications that plague older adults and those with chronic diseases,” said Mary Ellen Stolder, Viterbo University Graduate Nursing Program director. “We are thrilled to be the recipient of this generosity from the Tomah Memorial Foundation.” According to Stolder,

Monroe County is home to more than 7,000 adults over the age of 65, and foot problems affect 75 percent of those adults.



Tomah Memorial Hospital Foundation ex-officio and Tomah Memorial Hospital marketing and public relations director Eric Prise, left, presented a \$2,500 ceremonial check to Viterbo University Graduate Nursing Program director Mary Ellen Stolder, PhD, RN, ANP-BC. The donation will enable the university to provide a foot care clinic to Monroe County residents free

## School of Nursing Welcomes New Faculty and

**Maryann Abendroth:** Associate Dean, undergraduate nursing programs. She has experience in nursing education, academic nursing leadership, community health, and medical/surgical nursing. She holds a BA in French from Emory University, a BSN and MSN from Florida State University, and a PhD in nursing sciences from the University of Florida.

**Judy Anderson:** Professor, Graduate Nursing. She has many years of academic experience at Viterbo University. She holds a diploma in nursing from Mounds-Midway School of Nursing, a BSN from Viterbo University, an MSN from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and a PhD in nursing from Weidner University.

**Kim Garves:** Administrative Assistant. She has experience as an administrative assistant, with database, project management, graphics, and publishing experience. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration majoring in organizational management from Viterbo University and an Associate Degree in graphic arts/printing and publishing from Western Technical College.

**Stephanie Genz:** Project Director, NURSES Program. She has experience as a nurse clinician, educator, administrator, and nursing dean. She holds a BSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MS in public health nursing and an EdD in higher education – policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.

**Sherry Harris:** Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing. She has experience as a family nursing practitioner. She holds an ADN from Western Technical College, a BS in Nursing from Winona State University, and a MS in nursing – family nurse practitioner track, and DNP from Indiana State University.

**Daniel Lundtvedt:** Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing. He has experience in nursing education, medical/surgical nursing, and emergency room nursing. He holds an ADN from Northeast Iowa Community College, a general studies degree from Northwestern State University, a BSN from Upper Iowa University, and an MSN from Liberty University. He is retired from the United States Army Reserve, where he served as a career counselor for 22 years.

**Lisa Martis:** Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing. She has experience as a family nurse practitioner and in emergency and medical-surgical nursing. She holds a BA in communication, media, and theater and a BA in psychology from St. Norbert College, a BSN from Bellin College of Nursing, and an MSN from Concordia University.

**Michele Merten:** Assistant Professor, Graduate Nursing Program. She has experience as an adult nurse practitioner in endocrinology and has nursing experience in an inpatient general medicine with a subspecialty nephrology unit and in an ambulatory primary care setting. She holds a BSN, MSN, and DNP from Viterbo University.

**Amanda Sandager:** Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing. She has experience in surgical-trauma and emergency nursing and telemedicine. She received her BSN and MSN from South Dakota State University.

**Jennifer Schmaltz:** Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing. She has experience in medical/surgical nursing from the US Army, with her most recent position as chief army nurse of Professional Development. She received her BSN from Viterbo University and her MSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. She is a retired lieutenant colonel from the United States Army after having served as an Army nurse for 24 years.

**Amee Vang:** Project Coordinator, NURSES Program. She has experience in medical and academic research and quality improvement. She holds a BS in sociology and an MPH in community health education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

**Jamie Waldera:** Assistant Professor, Undergraduate Nursing. She has experience as a behavioral health and long-term care nurse. She holds a BS in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, an ADN from Western Technical College, a BSN from Viterbo University, and an MS in nursing from Winona State University.

**Terra White:** Simulation Technician. She has experience as a licensed practical nurse in maternal-child nursing, as well as experience in simulation and staff training. She holds a practical nursing degree from Western Technical College.



## Nursing Faculty Notes

### Retirement

**Dr. Jackie Kuennen** received the title of professor emeritus at the 2019 Viterbo Commencement Ceremony. Kuennen retired after 31 years of service. She taught in all three nursing programs during her tenure (traditional BSN, BSN Completion, and graduate nursing). She was known for her strong commitment to service, including serving as an accreditation peer reviewer for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, chair of Viterbo's Curriculum Committee, and Institutional Review Board member. She also served as a nurse practitioner at the Tomah VA Medical Center and served our country as a US Naval Reserve training officer and combat specialty nurse from 1993-2002.



*Dr. Jackie Kuennen*

### First annual Sister Grace Clare Beznouz luncheon a success

Thanks to the generous support of Drs. Robert and Silvana Richardson, the School of Nursing held its first annual Sister Grace Beznouz Luncheon. Sr. Grace Clare Beznouz was a trailblazer, founding the baccalaureate nursing program at Viterbo University (then Viterbo College) and served as chair of the Nursing Department from 1967 to 1989.



*Dr. Silvana Richardson*

She is remembered for her passionate commitment to the advancement of professional nursing education based on the belief that nursing is a sacred call to serve humanity. To honor Sr. Grace Clare, a professorship was established in her name in 2014 to recognize and support a nurse leader who is committed to the advancement of professional nursing education. Dr. Silvana Richardson was named the first Sr. Grace Clare Beznouz Professor of

Nursing in 2014. From 1991-2014, Dr. Richardson's leadership as a faculty member and dean continued the tradition of educational excellence laid down by Sr. Grace Clare. Current and retired faculty as well as staff enjoyed the luncheon as they shared memories of Sr. Grace Clare while reflecting on their own contributions to the School of Nursing.



*Sr. Grace Clare Beznouz*



*School of Nursing faculty and staff participating in the first annual Sister Grace Beznouz luncheon*



## School of Nursing in the ELNEC Hall of Fame



Viterbo's School of Nursing has been listed as an End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Hall of Fame undergraduate school by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The designation is in recognition of Viterbo nursing faculty members Cameron Kiersch and Lynne Kuhl's efforts to introduce end-of-life education into NURS 221 Gerontology and NURS 301 Death and Dying. The courses will use the new curriculum for competencies and recommendations for educating undergraduate nursing students from AACN's ELNEC.

## Why Create Art?

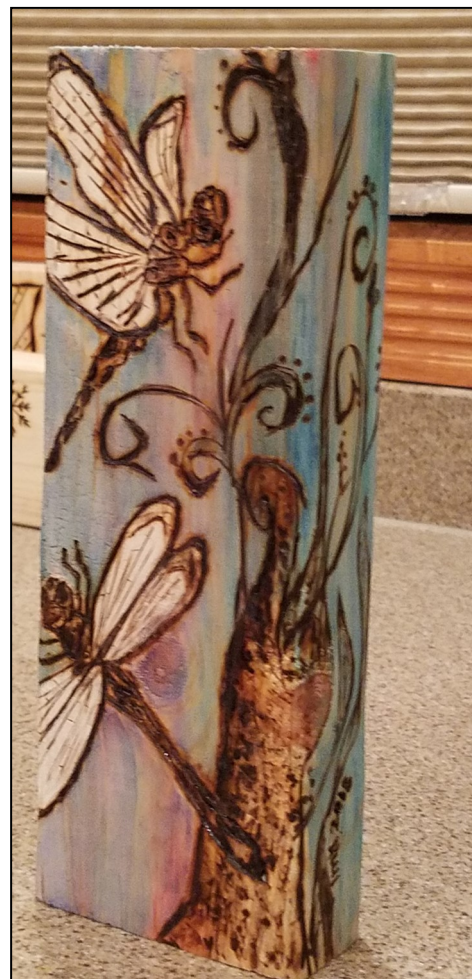
By Lynne M Kuhl, MSN, RN

This may seem like a simple question, yet as a person who spends much of her life thinking, working and teaching "nursing" the need to express and create is essential and integral to my self-identity. Making art is an expression of fun and adventure; building bridges between myself and the world around me; reuniting and recording fragments of thought, feeling, and memory; and saying things that I can't express in any other way. I

dabble in multiple media; paint, fabric, clay, sculpture and found items (multimedia) with my latest expression in wood burning.

The "Giraffe," one of three pieces in a collection called "Burnt Offerings," was featured in the 2019 Touchstone magazine and the Viterbo spring art show. The inspiration for these pieces are mother and sisters; strong, beautiful women. The giraffe is for my mother and symbolizes grace, peace, individuality, protection, communication, perception, and farsightedness. Wood burning and watercolor were used and the wood is made up of remnants from my husband's building projects. This is significant as it connects the people who are in my life.

For more information about my art, feel free to contact me at [lmkuhl@viterbo.edu](mailto:lmkuhl@viterbo.edu)



## In Memoriam Patricia “Pat” Wessels



Faculty and staff celebrated the life of long-time faculty member Pat Wessels on September 21, 2018 through a memorial gift presentation ceremony. Pat died on August 5, 2018. Pat's family donated a quilt inscribed with the nurse's prayer to the School of Nursing. Pat was best known for teaching a rigorous pathophysiology course and having a passion for teaching students to be caring and compassionate nurses. She also served in various faculty roles, including Assistant Dean.



## Featured Faculty Scholarship

### Publications

Beuscher, T., Moe, H., **Stolder, M.**, Peloquin, L., & Nesbitt, B. (in press). Expanding education for foot care nurses: A quality improvement project. *Journal of Wound, Ostomy & Continence Nursing*.

**Scheckel, M.** (2019). Designing courses and learning experiences. In D. M. Billings & J. A. Halstead (Eds.), *Teaching in nursing: A guide for faculty* (6th ed.). St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier Inc.

**Scheckel, M., & Hedrick-Erickson, J. H.** (2019). Participate in curriculum design and program evaluation. In J. A. Halstead (Ed.), *NLN core competencies for nurse educators: A decade of influence*. Washington, DC: National League for Nursing.

Prochnow, J. A., Meiers, S. J., & **Scheckel, M. M.** (2019). Improving patient and caregiver new medication education using an innovative teach-back toolkit. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 34(2), 101-106.

### Doctoral and Masters Works

**Fowler, L.** (2019). *In nurse practitioners (NP) specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine, will creating a section within the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine to provide improved access, resources and support for NPs increase NP membership, over the course of one year?* (Doctor of Nursing Practice Project). Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**Harris, S.** (2018). *Implementation of shared medical appointments for type 2 diabetic patients in a community health center* (Doctor of Nursing Practice Project). Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

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**Merten, M.** (2018). *Implementation of survivorship care plans in a thyroid cancer population* (Doctor of Nursing Practice Project). Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**Smith, M.** (2019). *An exploration of nursing communication competence during the handoff report* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Waldera, J.** (2019). *Stress, resilience, and well-being in undergraduate college students* (Thesis). Winona State University, Rochester, Minnesota.

### **Presentations**

**Busteed, K., & Dunnum, J.** *Women's health: How to manage and treat endometriosis*. Pi Phi Spring Educational Event, Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI, April 2019 .

**Burke, M., Schamberger, B., & Mathwig Ramseie, C.** *Saving time and saving trees while increasing test integrity with Respondus LockDown Browser*. Viterbo Celebration of Teaching and Learning, La Crosse, WI, January 2019.

**Harris, S.** *Incorporating shared medical appointments to improve type 2 diabetic outcomes in a rural community health center – follow-up presentation*. Wisconsin Primary Care Health Center Association – Fall Learning Session, Marshfield, WI, September 2018.

**Jacobson, S., Richardson, S., & Cieslicki, S.** *Caring science in action: Developing nursing student commitment to community*. Celebration of Faculty Scholarship, Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI, October 2018.

**Kuennen, J., Hedrick-Erickson, J., & Burke, M.** *Reflective learning: use of portfolio*. Viterbo Celebration of Teaching and Learning, La Crosse, WI, January, 2019.

**Kiersch, C., Pinzl, M., Holter, J., & Busteed, K.** *A pilot interprofessional education experience: Nursing, social work and interpreting studies*. Viterbo Celebration of Teaching and Learning, La Crosse, WI, January 2019.

**Kiersch, C., & Burns-Gilbert, C.** *UGetConnected Service Learning Module: Integrating a new resource*. Viterbo Celebration of Teaching and Learning, La Crosse, WI, January 2019.

**Kiersch, C., & Kuhl, L.** *Engaging young adults in conversations and contemplation about death, dying and grief*. International Death, Grief and Bereavement Conference, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, WI, June 2019.

**Meyers, J., & Bersagel Braley, M.** *Health care from the outside in and the inside out: The transformative potential of a Franciscan nursing education*. Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Symposium, St. Francis University, Joliet, IL, June 2018.

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**Merten, M.** *Endocrinology – diabetes and disorders of the thyroid.* Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development, Physician Assistant Board Review – A Comprehensive Review for Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners 2018 General Session, Rochester, MN, August 2018.

**Merten, M.** *Implementation of survivorship care plans in a thyroid cancer population.* 88th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association, Washington, DC, October 2018.

Philips, B., & **Kuhl, L.** *Learning to be a professional nurse: Easier said than done: A principle-based concept analysis.* Sigma Theta Tau International Research Conference, Melbourne, Australia, July 2018.

Philips, B., & **Kuhl, L.** *Learning to be a professional nurse: Easier said than done: A principle-based concept analysis.* Celebration of Faculty Scholarship, Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI, October 2018.

**Smith, M.** *Exploring shift to shift handoff reporting between nurse dyads.* Research Corner, Nursing Research on the Green, La Crosse, WI, April 2019.

**Stolder, M. E.** *Foot and nail care: Education for nurses.* University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Continuing Education/UW-Extension, Eau Claire, WI, April 2019.

**Waldera, J.,** Borhart, B., & Panek, M. *Stress, resilience, and well-being in undergraduate nursing students.* Midwest Nursing Research Society 43rd Annual Research Conference, Kansas City, MO, March 2019.

**Weibel, J., & Meyers, J.** *Dedicated education units Viterbo academia.* Preceptor Training La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium, La Crosse, WI, August and November 2018.

## Book Reviews

**Cieslicki, S. M.** *Caring science, mindful practice: Implementing Watson's Human Caring Theory* (2nd ed.). Doody's Review Service, Oak Park, Illinois.

**Schamberger, B.** *Nursing theorists and their work* (9th ed.). Doody's Review Service, Oak Park, Illinois.

**Scheckel, M.** *Spiritually competent practice in health care.* Doody's Review Service, Oak Park, Illinois.

## Board Certifications

**Richardson, S.** 2018 Advanced Holistic Nurse Board Certified (AHN-BC), American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation

**Rinzel, M. T.** 2019 Advanced Holistic Nurse Board Certified (AHN-BC), American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation





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**Waldera, J.** 2018 Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing Certification (RN-BC), American Nurse Credentialing Center Board Certification

### **Awards**

**Kuhl, L.** 2019 Viterbo Student Leadership, “Involved Faculty Award”

**Kuhl, L.** 2019-20 Ethics Research Fellowship, “Professional Identity in Nursing”

**Smith, M.** 2019 Selected as Doctoral Speaker – University of Las Vegas Nevada School of Nursing Graduation

**Smith, M.** 2019 Outstanding Nurse PhD Award, University of Las Vegas Nevada School of Nursing

**Waldera, J.** 2019 Honorable Mention Student Poster Presentation, Midwest Nursing Research Society

### **Greg and Diane Lind Family Nursing Faculty Development Endowment Grant**

The generous gift from the Lind family provides nursing faculty with funding to support scholarly research, curricular and instructional projects, professional continuing education, and program development. Grant recipients (2019-2020) include:

**Busteed, K.** HealthPartners Clinical Simulation. “Create, Collaborate, Innovate.” Regions, Hospital. St. Paul, MN.

**Dunnum, L.** National Nurse Educator Summit, Assessment Technologies Institute, Savannah, GA.

**Fowler, L.** Recipient of Lind Family Incentive Program for Nursing Faculty Pursuing Doctoral Degrees.

**Kuennen, J.** 28th Annual Nurse Educator Conference in the Rockies. “Visioning in Vail: Innovation and Inspiration.” Vail, CO.

**Kiersch, C.** Health Innovation & Leadership Resiliency Workshop & Retreat, University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, Minneapolis, MN.

**Meyers, K.** 2018 Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) Symposium. University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL.

**Richardson, S.** American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation, AHNC-Board Certification. Cedar Park, TX.



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