When I was in third grade attending St. Mary’s grade school in Wisconsin Rapids, my father approached me and asked if I would want to go to 6:30 A.M. Mass every day during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday. He said if we were able to do it every day during the week, we would treat ourselves at the bakery on Saturdays. I was all for it for the next nine years. Early morning Mass throughout Lent with my dad. This shaped my life. Discipline, faith, commitment, prayer, love, and donuts continue to be part of my daily existence.

All development in servant leadership is character development. We become what we do, deliberately and intentionally. We become our habits. What are the habits that have been nurtured and developed in you over a lifetime of practice and repetition?

Sow a thought and you reap an action;
Sow an act and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;
Sow a character and you reap a destiny;

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The practice of servant leadership never ends; Ash Wednesday reminds me of that.

Peace and all good,

Tom

Tom Thibodeau

Director, Master’s Program in Servant Leadership, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership
Associate Professor, Religious Studies and Philosophy, tathibodeau@viterbo.edu

Mark your Calendars! Collective Song Writing and the Beatitudes Workshop with the internationally acclaimed song writer, singer, and storyteller Larry Long. Saturday, March 19th, from 9 A.M. to Noon, Reinhart Center Boardroom. Soup lunch follows the program. Bring a friend! "Called ‘a true American Troubadour’ by author Studs Terkel, Larry Long has made his life's work the celebration of American stories and heroes. Now a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, Long is a recipient of the prestigious Bush Artists Fellowship, the Pope John XXIII Award and In The Spirit of Crazy Horse Award for his work in forgotten communities."

RSVP by March 17, 2011 to Maureen at mjcooney@viterbo.edu or 608-796-3082
Kathy Fassbender and Tom Thibodeau will be offering this popular sequence once again this summer. Consider obtaining your Certificate of Ethical Leadership with ETHL 531 and ETHL 532 plus two approved electives.

For more information contact adultlearning@viterbo.edu

ETHL 531 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence I, 3 credits, July 5 - 8
ETHL 532 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence II, 3 credits, August 1 - 4

Kudos to 2011 May and Summer Graduates

May and Summer candidates for the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership degree are Kerry Brennan, Teresa Erickson, Laurie Finn, Ann Larkin, Sheryl Picha, James Stolpa, Robert Toomey, Rosine Urujeni and Stacy Vlachakis. Students will present colloquium papers on April 29 and 30. Kerry Brennan and Laurie Finn will be presenting on June 25.

Papers to be presented include the topics: “How Community Forms Leaders and Leaders Form Community” (Brennan); “Relationship Between Healing, as an Element of Servant Leadership, and Interpersonal Forgiveness” (Finn); “Teaching with Awareness and Compassion Through Mindfulness” (Larkin); “How Do Male Graduates of the MASL Program Communicate Servant Leadership in the Workplace” (Stolpa); “Words, Welfare, and Wisconsin Works: Language of Welfare Reform and the Language of Servant Leadership” (Toomey); “Leadership in Transitional Societies: A Case Study of Post-genocide Rwanda” (Urujeni); and “Students’ Perceptions of the Qualities of Servant Leadership that Best Help Students to Learn” (Vlachakis). All are welcome to attend the presentations.

RSVP by 4/27/11 or 6/24/11 to mjcooney@viterbo.edu.

Summer Institute 2011
Sunday, June 19 - Friday, July 1

SVLD 602 Theological and Philosophical Foundations of Servant Leadership, Matthew Bersagel Braley, 3 credits, Sunday, June 19, 20, 21 and 22, noon - 8 p.m.
SVLD 603 Art of Leadership, Sr. Georgia Christensen, 3 credits, Thursday, June 23, 24, 26 and 27, noon - 8 p.m.
SVLD 605 Colloquium, Saturday, Matthew Bersagel Braley, Dr. Barbara Gayle and Dr. Glena Temple, 1, 2, 3 credits, on-line beginning May 23, on campus June 25. Colloquium is available to students after completion of their first year.
SVLD 650 Building Community, Dr. Richard Kyte, June 28, 29, 30 and July 1. 3 credits, noon - 8 p.m.

University housing is available. Contact Vickie Unferth at vlunferth@viterbo.edu.

Course descriptions are available www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281
One of the fears I hear—and often express myself—about the digital age is the impact it will have on our relationships with one another. Dialogue devolves into diatribe in the online comments sections of news sites, hospitality gives way to hostility as tweets replace bumper stickers as identity markers, and conversations of consequence slide into conversations of convenience as we rely more and more on filters to sort out our news from their news.

Concern for our very ability to imagine the needs of our neighbors—much less serve them!—is expressed in these fears. Yet my experience this spring with our program’s first online course provides strong evidence that while these fears are not unfounded, they are by no means an inevitable consequence of the digital age.

The nine brave servant leaders who stepped virtually into the course Servant Leadership and Global Change did not all do so enthusiastically, at first. But as the following comment attests, the online forums have become a place of discovery and deep dialogue:

“I’ve really been enjoying the discussion threads. I’ve never had an online class like this before and love the way people are engaging more than they probably would in the classroom. Everyone’s voice is being heard and all the food for thought is so interesting.”

Is an online course for everyone? Probably not. Will online courses replace the core face-to-face pedagogy that has made MASL courses transformative for so many of our students? No. Can online courses provide opportunities for meaningful and difficult conversations about servant leadership in the midst of world-changing events like the ones we have been riveted by this spring? If the thoughtfulness and sophistication of the responses offered in online discussions thus far are any indication, then, without a doubt, yes.

We will continue to offer online courses in the coming year including a one-credit readings course in the fall and spring and a three-credit course on servant leadership in the world’s religions in the spring. If you are considering taking an online course, I hope you will take the opportunity to speak with students who have served as pioneers on the MASL digital frontier.

In peace,

Matthew Bersagel Braley, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy Coordinator, Master’s Program in Servant Leadership, mtbersagelbraley@viterbo.edu

MASL Fall 2011 Offerings!

SVLD 604 Ethical Decision Making for the Common Good, Rick Kyte, (La Crosse), September 9 - 10, September 23 - 24, October 14 - 15
SVLD 605 Colloquium, Matthew Bersagel Braley, Dr. Barbara Gayle and Dr. Glenda Temple, (La Crosse), September 16 - 17, December 9 - 10
SVLD 610 Methods of Leadership, Matthew Bersagel Braley, (La Crosse), October 28 - 29, November 11 - 12, December 2 - 3
SVLD 786 Special Topics: Reading I, Matthew Bersagel Braley (online), beginning August 29 - November 29

Course descriptions are available www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281

Fall Semester 2011 Registration begins on April 4

Trouble registering?
Contact Maureen at mjcooney@viterbo.edu 608-796-3082

Matthew Bersagel Braley
MASL Grads, May 2010
Front row: Laurie Noelke, Michelle Neitzke, Mike Hesch, Mike Erickson, Ann Kiel, Rose Boesen, Traci Alwardt, Cory Rajek Back row: Steve Smart, Shawn Dutchin, Matt Cripps, Julie Wiedmeyer, Mike Redington, Theron Isensee, Ryan Waldhart
**Servant Leaders in Action**

**Molly Bird** was on a “VISION trip (Volunteers in Service Internationally or Nationally) which is a service program through our Campus Ministry office and is centered around living and exploring six components: Service, Simplicity, Spirituality, Justice, Community, and Cultural Exchange. We traveled to Laos during the month of January and helped in a bathroom - building project for a high school in a small village called Sop Jak. Other activities we did were singing, dancing, weaving, loomong, cooking class, bamboo rafting, and learning about the Buddhist culture through visiting Buddhist temples, giving alms, and meditating with a novice monk.” Molly, a MASL student, is walking the SL path in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In Deer Park, New York, **Kerry Brennen** is the co-coordinator of stewardship in her parish. “I’m always looking for ways to gather people to share their gifts. We are having a family fun fair to celebrate the work of the ministries in our parish. We’ve added a twist this year. Ministries are teaming up so that they will be collaborating on how to give our parishioners a better view of the work that is done by so many people. This year each group will be ‘hosting’ games for adults and children to give a different face to ministry - it can be fun. This will be an opportunity for people involved in diverse ministries to join others and not only provide fun for our community, but learn from each other about all the different ways people are using their gifts in our parish.” Kerry is completing her MASL degree this year.

“United Way’s **James Falvey** is a man on a mission. Falvey has always been passionate about helping others, which has led to a career in fundraising. He became the new president of Great Rivers United Way on Dec. 30. He had worked since 2008 at Viterbo University to develop successful fundraising strategies. Falvey learned the power of helping others through his parents. His dad had a growing law practice in the Twin Cities but left it to establish a permanent public defender’s office, and his mom was a special education teacher. ‘People derive satisfaction out of helping other people,’ Falvey said. ‘It made them better people, happy people.’ He believes in the United Way’s mission of helping others. ‘We as a society have come together for the common good since Day One. We can be part of improving the quality of our community. You don’t find people happy because they’re rich. People are happy because they’re making a difference in the world around them,’ Falvey said. ‘That’s what makes us feel good at the end of the day.’” Excerpted from an article by Käri Knutson, La Crosse Tribune, 1/24/11, James has been a MASL student since 2010.

**Laurie Finn** of the Iowa City area writes that “My own servant leadership activities fall into the realm of healing–I am working with a small team to plan a spiritual healing service, Wings of Healing, for women survivors of sexual trauma. This service, which will draw on Christian and Native traditions, is based on the ritual I developed in last semester’s Ritual and Celebration course. Laurie will graduate this summer.

**Susan Sieger** MASL ’10 grad, works in the area of employee benefits in Onalaska, Wisconsin. “Our organization assists brokers and employers alike in understanding the new health care law, and at the same time find ways to stretch benefit budgets in order to continue to offer health insurance and other tax advantaged accounts to employees. I have been invited by several organizations affiliated with the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) to help them understand all of the changes set forth as a result of the Affordable Care Act passed last March. Whereas there are pieces of the health care reform law passed last March that have helped people access care, there is still little incentive to lower the cost of care. Plans to curtail tax deductions for medical expenses in the next couple of years will act as a tax increase for the middle class. I will be traveling to Washington DC for the third year to help educate members of Congress on the importance of employer sponsored benefits and the tax deductible status of medical care expenses under flexible spending accounts, health reimbursement arrangements, health savings accounts, as well as the need to increase the tax deductions for child care expenses.”

**Elaine Wiatr** MASL ’09 grad, volunteered for the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation in the West Bank, Palestine. “My place of residence was in Bethlehem where I worked in the HCEF office. My primary responsibility was to assist in editing documents, brochures, and videos so that the English language was written and presented correctly. Although English is spoken by most people in Palestine (their native language is Arabic), written English can be more difficult. I also worked on women empowerment issues and spent time learning about businesses that have been started by women. One project that they are trying to get on the ground is a radio program that will highlight women’s issues. The daily blog I wrote is: [www.franciscanaction.org/blog](http://www.franciscanaction.org/blog).” Jan is a servant leader in Manchester, Connecticut.

**Jan Whalen**’s “book “Rock Solid Confidence: Presenting Yourself with Assurance, Poise and Power’ is intended to serve a general audience in becoming confident, which will enable them to speak out. “Servant Leadership is mentioned in the book as an ideal model for speaking. Servant Leadership is a way of being, and so anyone I affect positively is somehow feeling the effects of my work with this amazing concept Robert Greenleaf coined.” Jan, MASL ’06 grad, is making a difference in Tempe, Arizona.

**Send us your Servant Leader in Action story!**