At the recent La Crosse Conversation on Servant Leadership, Dick Pieper, chair of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership said, “there is a 160 ton crane on your campus, it can serve as a metaphor for all of us. Like the crane, use the power of servant leadership alive in the La Crosse community to lift the state of Wisconsin up. Your goodness in the practice of servant leadership can serve as a catalyst for good for the entire state.” This is an apt metaphor. The commitment to service and leadership rooted in goodness is uplifting for individuals, institutions and communities. It is incumbent upon all of us who are beneficiaries of the service of others to savor, nurture, and share the power of our commitment to the Greater Good. The test for servant leadership states “what is the effect on the least of our brothers and sisters?” May the strength of our goodness lift up the people we love and serve in this sacred season.

Peace and all good,

Tom

Tom Thibodeau
Director, MA in Servant Leadership program, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership, Associate Professor, Religious Studies and Philosophy, tathibodeau@viterbo.edu
**Spring Semester 2012**

**SVLD 603, Art of Leadership**, Sr. Georgia Christensen, Tomah VA, Thursday evenings, March 15, 22, 29, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 3 cr.


**SVLD 650 Building Community**, Rick Kyte, Tomah VA, Thursday evenings, January 19, 26, February 2, 9,16, 23, March 1, 3 cr.

**SVLD 651 Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution**, Sr. Georgia Christensen, La Crosse, March 16 - 17, March 30-31, April 20-21, 3 cr.

**SVLD 653 Ritual and Celebration**, Tom Thibodeau, La Crosse, January 20-21, February 3 - 4, February 7-18, 3 cr.

**SVLD 786 Special Topics: Servant Leadership in World Religions**, look for ST CMPRTV RLG PSRCTV, Matthew Bersagel Braley (online), beginning March 14 - May 11, 3 cr.

*COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281*

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**2012 AFCU Symposium**

You are cordially invited to attend the 2012 AFCU Symposium. The theme of this year’s event is “Franciscan Leadership” with an emphasis on the themes of “serving,” “learning” and “leading.” In the spirit of St. Francis, participants will explore together the ways in which we are called to **serve** the communities in which we live and work, to **learn** together about our communities and their needs, and to prepare to **lead** for the sake of the common good. The symposium will take place June 12-14, 2012 at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Keynote speakers will be Kent Keith, CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, Aurelie Hagstrom, Associate Professor of Theology at Providence College, and Tom Thibodeau, Director of the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership at Viterbo University.

In addition to the conference sessions, this year’s events will include a special student track dedicated to presentations by and for undergraduates. To register, submit a proposal, or simply learn more about the opportunities the symposium presents, please visit the AFCU Symposium website at [www.viterbo.edu/AFCU2012](http://www.viterbo.edu/AFCU2012).

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**Masl Summer 2012 Courses**

**SVLD 601 Servant Leadership Theory and Practice**, Tom Thibodeau, June 24, 25, 26, 27, 3 cr.

**SVLD 604 Ethical Decision Making for the Common Good**, Rick Kyte, June 28, 29, July 1, 2, 3 cr.

**SVLD 605 Colloquium**, Matthew Bersagel Braley, June 30, 2 cr.

**SVLD 610 Methods of Leadership Research**, Matthew Bersagel Braley, June 24, 25, 26, 27, 3 cr.

**ETHL 531 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence I**, Tom Thibodeau and Kathy Fasbender, July 16, 17, 18, 19, 3 cr.

**ETHL 532 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence II**, Tom Thibodeau and Kathy Fasbender, August 6, 7, 8, 9, 3 cr.

All summer session courses are held on the Viterbo University La Crosse campus.

*COURSE DESCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281*
One of the frequently asked questions about the MASL program is “what do you do with a degree in servant leadership?” It is a legitimate question. We are surrounded by calls to account for the value-added in each of our decisions and rewarded for our consumer savvy. A recent La Crosse Tribune headline read “Colleges Defend Humanities amid Tight Budgets.” A few days earlier, 800 pages of glossy ads for Black Friday deals on things “we must have” landed with a thud on doorsteps just as family and friends gathered to give thanks for what we do have. We do not have to look very far to find persons willing to tell us what we should value.

Conversations with current MASL students and alumni rarely begin with an answer to what they are doing with their degree. Instead, the conversations tend to surface stories of who they are becoming. They are stories about vocation, about the ongoing, often messy work of integrating who you are with what you do. The time set aside to participate in a learning community that values reflection and conversation on leadership is valuable in and of itself. As one student offered after a recent weekend class: “It’s like sitting in a room with good friends having meaningful conversations about life. Very rejuvenating!”

It is in and through those conversations that I believe the real value of servant leadership as formation reveals itself.

In peace,

Matthew

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

**COLOQUIUM AND COMMENCEMENT**

This December’s candidate for the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership degree is Kristin Johnson. Kristin presented her research, “Women as Servant Leaders in the Catholic Church” at Colloquium, on December 10th. Commencement activities on December 17 include: Master’s Degree Hooding ceremony, 8 a.m., Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, a reception precedes the ceremony at 7 a.m. in Fine Arts Center Hospitality Suite. Baccalaureate Mass, Mary of the Angels, 9 a.m. Graduation Ceremony, 10:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center Main Theater. Join us in congratulating Kristin on achieving her MASL degree.

**2011 SUMMER INSTITUTE ANNUAL RIVER CRUISE**
SR. GEORGIA CHRISTENSEN will be going to Cameroon for almost four weeks over the Viterbo Christmas break to work with a group of Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in Bamenda, Cameroon, as part of a renewal program that is being assisted by the three US Franciscan congregations who are part of the Cameroon Common Venture. The Common Venture grew out of the three US Franciscan congregations wanting to work together in thanksgiving to God for blessing us over the 150 years of our common founding.  
(http://www.fspa.org/sponsoredministries/cameroonconnection.html) “This will be my eighth visit to Cameroon to share with the Sisters. They have been a special gift to me each time I’ve visited there.”

AMY MOORE ’04 is currently serving as the parish administrator at St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church in Lino Lakes, MN. “I find myself ‘living the SL life’ in the day-to-day interaction with the parish staff. There are 11 full-time staff serving the parish, and I oftentimes think back to our coursework when planning a staff development event, as well as working with our parish leadership groups. I am also grateful for the tools that were presented to me in our SL courses when it comes to serving the very diverse needs of our 2000 parish families. There are a variety of ‘tribes,’ to use John Allen Jr.’s definition of Catholics, and in attempting to meet the needs of each group, it is helpful to rely on the principles of Servant Leadership. In one’s personal life, it is extremely helpful to utilize the self-awareness piece of our SL coursework as we continue to grow and develop on a journey towards wholeness.

SHERRY PICHA ‘10 wishes to share her Christmas gift of words. “Our enrollment is unusually low, due to the economy, so I was struggling to figure out what I can do for my employees in the midst of everyone’s hours being cut and the budget already stretched to the breaking point, for a Christmas gift. I am writing a hand-written card to each of our 100 plus employees expressing my gratitude for their dedication to our day care center organization. I asked each of our center directors to please help in the process by providing a few areas of strengths for each of their employees to me, so I can really personalize their card. Our "Gift of Words" has evolved to each center doing a "Secret Santa Drawing." The employees will draw a name of another employee at their center, they will then write a handwritten card to that person. Each center is having a holiday potluck and I will attend and read their cards to them, out loud, that I compose, and invite the employees to do the same. This has created a buzz of excitement throughout our centers.”

JAN WHALEN’S ‘06 book Rock Solid Confidence: Presenting Yourself with Assurance, Poise and Power was published in April. During book promotion, “I was magically placed in the path of a man who has a company to promote support for veterans and their families. Since my dad was a Pearl Harbor survivor and my niece and nephew were in Iraq, I felt the need for confidence and strategies to manage life as a civilian–beyond the normal job searching offerings. Right now, I’m surveying veterans, spouses and families to see how we can connect the dots between my work and this great need. I feel that to honor our veterans and their families will benefit all Americans. My email is jan@personaljaz.com if you know anyone who would like to assist me.”

ROSINE URUJENI ‘11 is a Rwanda Operations Manager at the Indego Africa NGO. Rosine chose to work with this NGO for many reasons, “one being that I am working with women directly (women cooperatives), empowering them to become independent businesswomen (women handcraft cooperatives). My main responsibility is to equip them through trainings and mentorship to attain their objectives which is developing good leadership skills but also becoming independent and capable businesswomen. Having been working with ‘A1’ team here in Rwanda and our women partners, I can tell you that it is challenging, difficult but also it gives me a feeling everyday that I am working on something that makes changes into others life every day. I cannot forget that those women do a really good job.” You can find their products in different stores or buy them online through Indego’s website: www.indegoafrica.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SPRING 2010 VITERBO UNIVERSITY SERVANT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, A ten-week series of 2 hour workshops facilitated by Tom Thibodeau, Rick Kyte and Viterbo MASL Alumni.

MARCH 22, 2012, JIM HUNTER will be speaking at Viterbo University, Fine Arts Center, 7 a.m. thanks to the generosity of Dave, Barb and Mark Skogen and Festival Foods Corporation.