Thibodeau’s Thoughts

When I was twelve, my father took my brother Mark and I with him to Madison to where he was to argue a case in front of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He was representing a widow who lived on a farm bordering a county highway. The county raised the grade of the road and made it dangerous to get out of her driveway. My father argued that the county had the responsibility to make it safe for her. We were impressed by our father’s compassion and eloquence. The next June, nine months after the trial, my father told us to get some boxes and get into the car. We drove out into the county and turned into a newly paved driveway. A kind, older woman wearing a printed apron greeted my father. She saw us with our boxes and pointed us to her strawberry patch. “Pick as many as you like” she said with a smile. She and my father sat with a cup of coffee and chatted while they watched us. My father that day did the work of justice for a widow and was compensated with strawberries. It was a foundational moment for me.

Servant leaders develop their talents and abilities to speak truth to power with love on behalf of those who live close to the margins. There are prophets and then there are profits. Justice needs both in order to be in right relationship. The joy of service is often compensated with a few kind words in a hand written note, a jar of maple syrup and lessons which have blessed and formed a life a service and leadership.

P.S. About three years ago, after telling the story of my father, an attorney came up from the audience and told me that the law had been changed. When the grade of the road is raised, homeowners are entitled to a safe right-of-way.

“The one who plants the tree rarely sits in the shade. “Chinese Proverb

Peace and all good,

Tom

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Viterbo hosts Servant Leadership Conference

SAVE THE DATE—June 24, 2015

The Master of Arts in Servant Leadership program and Viterbo University will host an all day Servant Leadership conference. Envision this day of rejuvenation and inspiration! Join the gathering of regional leaders for this full day conference. Details to follow.

Email mjcooney@viterbo.edu with your interest.
Alumni Audit

As alumni you have the privilege of auditing any MASL course for $100 per credit hour!
Contact Maureen Cooney for information.
mjcooney@viterbo.edu

Summer Semester 2015  Register online starting January 19, 2015

All SVLD Summer Institute courses have an official start date of June 1, with the end date of August 14. Dates and times listed below are required class meeting days.

SVLD 551 Peace Making and Conflict Resolution, Matthew Bersagel Braley, June 15 - 18, 12:00 - 8:00 PM (3 cr. elective course)

SVLD 546 Power, Trust and Organizational Culture, Rick Kyte, June 19 - 20 and 26 - 27, Fridays 5:30 - 10:00 PM; Saturdays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (3 cr. elective course)

SVLD 501 Servant Leadership Theory and Practice Tom Thibodeau, June 22– 25, 12:00 - 8:00 PM (3 cr. core course)

SVLD 510 Social Scientific Inquiry in Servant Leadership, Jenny Anderson Meger, Monday, June 22, Tuesday, June 23, Thursday, June 25, 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Friday, June 26, 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Prerequisite: 601 or 602 (3 cr. core course)

The following Ethical Leadership courses are not part of the MASL Summer Institute. These are MASL electives offered in July; start date is July 1, end date is August 14.

ETHL 531 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence I, Tom Thibodeau, lecture dates are 7/6–9, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

ETHL 532 Interpersonal and Organizational Excellence II, Tom Thibodeau, lecture dates are 7/20–23, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Register for courses on VitNet. See My VU. Room numbers and book lists on VitNet.


Graduate Writing Assistance

This service is offered through the Academic Resource Center for all Viterbo graduate students (both on-campus and off). Writing assistance will be provided primarily online, but in-person appointments can be arranged. For assistance, students should contact Lindsay Cummings, gradwriting@viterbo.edu

Assistance is available for any paper-literature review, sections of a graduate thesis, capstone paper, seminar paper. If the volume of requests is extremely high, the turnaround time for the paper may exceed 48 hours. Students should allow for plenty of time when submitting papers due to the potential for high demand.

Fall 2015  Register online starting April 17, 2015

Course listing is tentative, check website for verification.

Dates and times listed below are required class meeting days.

SVLD 502 Theological Inquiry in Servant Leadership, Matthew Bersagel Braley, ONLINE, October 26—December 18, (3 cr. core course)

SVLD 504 Ethical Decision Making for the Common Good, Rick Kyte, August 31—October 22, Meeting Dates: 9/11-12; 9/25-26; 10/9-10, (3 cr. core course)

SVLD 530 Grant Writing, Matthew Bersagel Braley/Cary Heyer, August 31—October 22, Meeting Dates: 9/12; 9/26; 10/10, (3 cr. elective course)

SVLD 553 Ritual and Celebration, Tom Thibodeau, October 26—December 18, Meeting Dates: 10/30-31; 11/13-14; 12/4-5, (3 cr. elective course)

SVLD 690 Colloquium, Matthew Bersagel Braley, August 31-December 18, Meeting Dates: 9/12; 10/17; 11/21; (1-3 cr. core course)

Register for courses on VitNet. See My VU. Room numbers and book lists on VitNet.

A crisis in institutions.
That is the context in which the modern concept of servant leadership was forged. Robert Greenleaf perceived two dimensions of this crisis: (1) serving and caring for others increasingly takes place in and through the activities of large institutions, and (2) distrust in our institutions was increasing. Fast forward forty years... many of the institutions entrusted to serve legitimate needs have grown in scope, scale, complexity, and influence in our daily lives – e.g., health care systems, foundations, higher education. At the same time, the public’s confidence in institutions continues to decline steadily, and in some cases precipitously (see Gallup’s “Confidence in Institutions” historical poll data).

Unlike the prophets of old, who found their voice in the wilderness, beyond institutional life, modern servant leaders respond to the call to be regenerative agents within institutions. Leadership legitimacy in the 21st century begins with trust, no less so for individual leaders than the institutions through which they serve.

As David Sprecht and Dick Broholm remind us in their theological framing of institutional life, “Institutions are called and gifted, they are fallen, and they are able to be redeemed. ... No matter how unlikely, how apparently fallen or broken, institutions are capable of reawakening to their own best possibilities. Part of holding an organization in trust is reminding it of its own best possibilities, and calling it back toward a recommitment to this potential.”

If the Gallup polls are an accurate barometer, then the institutional crisis may have deepened since the time of Greenleaf’s writing. Thankfully, as the hopeful realism of our students and alumni reminds me daily, so, too, has the commitment to becoming regenerative agents.

MASL Commencement, December 2014
Congratulations to our eight new alumni!
Front row, L-R: Sr. Georgia Christensen, FSPA, faculty, Shelly Hoffman, Kim Smith, Darcey Johnson-Timmerman, Tina Cruse, Sheryl Barker, Jennie Anderson Meger, faculty, Tom Thibodeau, faculty.
Back row, L-R: Rick Kyte, faculty, Matthew Bersagel Braley, faculty.
Not present: Melissa Darelius, Ewell Bryant, Reggie Rabb.
Jennie Anderson Meger, Research Fellow of the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership, joined MASL as research faculty. [http://www.viterbo.edu/centers/ethics/people/Jennifer_Anderson-Meger.aspx](http://www.viterbo.edu/centers/ethics/people/Jennifer_Anderson-Meger.aspx)

Matthew Bersagel Braley, MASL faculty, presented at the “Practices, Peoples, Partnerships, and Politics, conference on Religion as Social Determinant of Public Health, at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Melissa Darleius, MASL ‘14, and her husband, Tony, announced the birth of their daughter, Annie Clara, born December 20, 2014.

Josh Deppe, MASL student, and his wife, Dana, welcomed their daughter, Kylah Marie, on December 4.

Rita Jordi, MASL student, and her husband, Aaron, welcomed their baby daughter, Margo, into their life on August 31.

Mary Jo Klos, MASL ‘10, has launched her new business, MJKlos Consulting. [http://www.mjklosconsulting.com/](http://www.mjklosconsulting.com/)

Jean Lauer, MASL ‘03, was honored for her work with youth through Restorative Justice programs, Winona, MN.

Michael Mauthe, MASL ‘07, is the new principal at Xavier High School, Appleton, WI.

Kalpesh Patel, MASL student, and his wife, Dipeeka, welcomed their baby boy, Veer, on November 12, 2014.

Kim Smith, MASL ‘14, will present her Colloquium research, “A Case Study: Servant Leadership and Groundwater Sustainability,” at the Viterbo University Water Ethics Conference, April 2015.

Tom Thibodeau and his wife, Priscilla, became grandparents! Elizabeth Grace was born on January 7.

Jason Walter, MASL student, and his wife, Courtney, announce the birth of their son, Titus Charles, December 19, 2014.

**Share Your Good Work!**

How you are making a difference in our world?

Email your good news to mjcooney@viterbo.edu
MASL alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends were enlightened by the diverse topics of research. Thank you to our eight students for sharing their Colloquium projects; this scholarship was outstanding!

Tina Cruse, “Servant Leadership Principles and Possible Influence on Church Membership”
Shelly Hoffman, “Case Study in Servant Leadership Certificate Programs”
Darcey Johnson-Timmerman, “Morale and Employee Retention Relating to Human Services Organizations”
Sheryl Barker, “Do Girl Scouts Become Servant Leaders?”
Ewell Bryant, “Servant Leadership, Non-Profits and Quantitative Outcomes”
Reggie Rabb, “Choosing Servant Leadership or Transformation Leadership”
Kim Smith, “A Case Study: Servant Leadership and Groundwater Sustainability”

The traditional celebratory luncheon followed, gratitude to Eric Fynbo, MASL student, and Tom Thibodeau, faculty for their combined gifts of hospitality.

**SAVE THE DATE: COLLOQUIUM, Spring 2015, April 25**

Nicole Balsamo, Heidi Borgwardt, Cynthia Duley, Brad Grant, Lisa Hahn, Michael Krueger, Shawn McAlister, Brian Nichols, and Jason Walter are preparing to present their research April 25, in the Nursing Building, Room 195. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**From the Library**

**Master's Scholarship in the Viterbo Research Collection**

The Viterbo Research Collection (VRC) brings together faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research produced at Viterbo University. The VRC is building a strong collection of master scholarship that has been generating interest among students. More students are approaching the library with questions about finding their own research and reading papers from others. Recent graduates have the ability to use their username and password to login to the collection and view their paper. Alumni, please contact the library at reference@viterbo.edu if your commencement date is more than 12 months past.