

# THE VOICE

Volume 23 Number 3 A Publication of the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University: The Next Great Learning Experience Spring 2019

## SPRING TERM COURSES -- FROM BARBARIANS TO KEATS AND FAITH TRADITIONS

The diversity of Veritas course offerings is always amazing, and the lineup for the spring term is another winner. There's history, current issues, literature, film, art, and discussions of faith and loss. And the Lunch and Learn topics range from parks to music.

Detailed descriptions will be included in the course catalogs that will soon arrive in your mailbox. The spring term will run March 4 through April 12. Registration will open at 9 a.m. Thursday, January 24.

The morning discussion groups will focus on words of wisdom from five faith traditions, grief and loss, the odes of Keats and the Underground Railroad.

Courses on current issues will include one on what incarceration means for us. Another will be based on presentations made at last summer's Chautauqua Institution in western New York.

On the literary front, there will be courses on dramas with characters who have disabilities, a variety of

mysteries, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," and Homer's epic Greek poem "The Iliad."

There's a wide selection of history courses. You can study Asia and the visual arts; Romans and barbarians; Winston Churchill; the history of Westphalia (a historic region in northwest Germany); and archeology of the Holy Land. The history of Russia course is being continued.

Other courses include: French for travelers, wisdom-based retirement, plants that changed history, and the connection between art and medicine. The Friday afternoon film series will feature movies about courage and perseverance.

The Lunch and Learn series speakers are: John Gaton, Bellarmine English professor emeritus, reading Irish literature; Rich Lechleiter, president, and Julie Baum, operations manager, of the Catholic Education Foundation; Stuart Sanders, executive director of the Kentucky Historical Society; Brooke Pardue, president of the Louisville Parks Foundation; and Pat Lentz, guitarist and luthier.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 24	Registration opens at 9 a.m.
February 15	Board of Directors meeting
March 1	Deadline to file for Board of Directors elections
March 4 – April 12	Spring Term

## CONFERENCE SPARKS EXCITING IDEAS FOR IMPROVING VERITAS

Abigail Walsh and Dennis Wiseman returned from a conference on lifelong learning programs last August brimming with ideas for making our society even better.

Abigail, our staff member who coordinates enrollment, and Dennis, a Veritas board member, were among the 188 people who attended the Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement held at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

They heard how other programs developed successful programs and activities. How do you create a strong curriculum and attract engaging instructors? What are some tips for marketing? How do you encourage volunteers and diversity in your membership?

Abigail and Dennis summed up what they learned in a 14-page report. It included a host of proposals for Veritas, which the Board of Directors adopted at its November 19 meeting.

A task force will be set up to expand our membership and create more diversity. It will look at membership statistics, evaluate target groups and develop a plan for expansion. Another task force will study the possibility of adding new activities and programs, expanding interest groups and creating a lecture series. Then it will develop an implementation plan.

The Veritas staff recently surveyed members to learn which activities are most appealing. The biggest group (157 votes) wanted a lecture series during times Veritas was not in session. Other choices included a trivia night (41); back-to-class picnic (39); Veritas night at a Bellarmine basketball game (36); and a paint night (17).

The board also agreed to create a Veritas Facebook page run by office staff. The staff and members of the curriculum committee will brainstorm potential partnerships for the addition of Monday and Wednesday morning classes, possibly at locations other than Bellarmine. If you're interested in being a part of one of these task forces, contact Abigail at (502) 272-8374.

## TEN SEATS OPEN ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Veritas Society has always been a participatory group. Your chance to get involved in devising and developing programs is coming up this spring when elections are held for 10 seats on the Veritas Board of Directors.

And even if you aren't sure you want to join the board, there are plenty of other ways to get more involved in shaping the Veritas experience by joining a committee.

Ten of the 15 seats on the board are open; voting will be conducted this spring. The winners will serve two-year terms running from June 2019 through May 2021. If you'd like to get on the ballot, contact Jerry Hubbs, board vice president, at [gghubbs@msn.com](mailto:gghubbs@msn.com) by March 1. To be eligible for election, you must have paid membership fees for at least one term within the last academic year.

Joining the board can enrich your Veritas experience. It's a great way to develop friendships and be a part of the teams that make Veritas

happen. There's a satisfying feeling knowing you helped plan that field trip or special event, lined up teachers for new courses, or wrote newsletter articles. Time commitments are very doable, even for busy retirees.

Board members attend board meetings – about four a year, each lasting two hours. (See what they're like by attending the next one on February 15.) There may be a couple other board meetings for special projects. Everybody serves on a standing committee. Those are: Curriculum, Lunch & Learn, Production, Membership, Special Events, Finance, Field Trips, Newsletter and Volunteers. (You can still get involved with them as a non-board member.)

Remember, newcomers are elected to the board all the time. You can "get your name out there" and improve your chances of getting elected. Work the check-in desk during the first week of class. Volunteer as a facilitator. Attend interest group meetings. Go on a field trip. And introduce yourself to people wherever you go!

# VERITAS BY THE NUMBERS

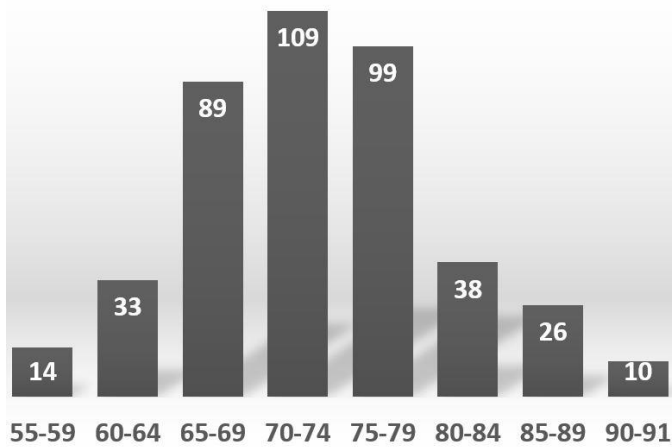
About half of us are in our Seventies, most of us are female, and a majority take one or two classes each term. Lots of people are interested in joining Veritas, and our ranks are growing. We come from all over -- 45 zip codes in the Louisville area and Southern Indiana. About 1 in 4 of us volunteers for Veritas in some way. And we share a campus with more than 3,300 students.

The Voice decided to take a fun, by-the-numbers look at who we are. This is what we found, based on statistics from the fall 2018 term.

## CATALOG MAILINGS

516 catalogs mailed to active members  
258 catalogs mailed to prospective members

## MEMBERS BY AGE



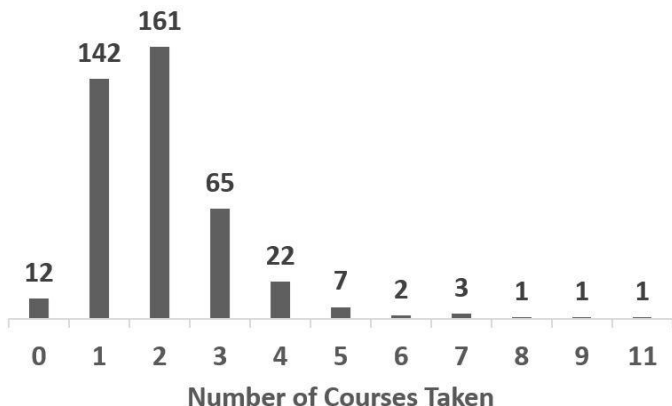
## SEX OF MEMBERS

Male 121 (29%)  
Female 297 (71%)

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT CLASSES

Class with highest percentage 87 % of registrants  
Class with lowest percentage 58 % of registrants

## NUMBER OF COURSES PER PERSON



## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Fall 2001 202  
Fall 2011 297  
Fall 2018 418

## NEW MEMBERS FALL 2018

71

## VOLUNTEERS

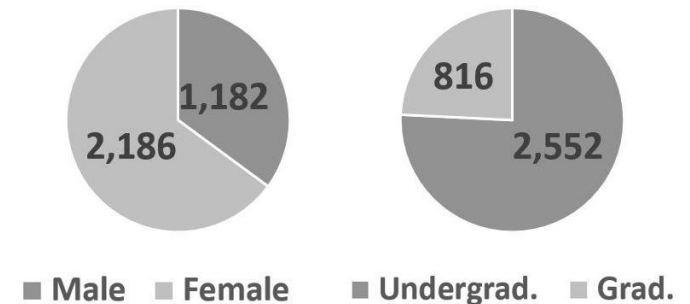
105

## VERITAS BY ZIP CODES (Top 10 out of 45)

40205 85 members  
40207 65  
40241 29  
40204 24  
40220 22  
40222 21  
40299 17  
40206 14  
40059 13  
40223 12

## BELLARMINE ENROLLMENT

Total 3,368



# THE VILLAGE VOICES SHARE STORIES ABOUT OUR REMARKABLE VOLUNTEERS

By Linda Miller

*(The Village Voices is an ongoing column reflecting the observations and opinions of newsletter staff.)*

The essence of the Veritas Society is defined by, and is dependent on, its volunteers.

In our next issue of the Voice, we will list all of our volunteers, and we will celebrate their contributions at our annual spring awards banquet. As you read in the article "Veritas by the Numbers" on page 3, almost one-fourth of the membership serves as a Veritas volunteer in some capacity.

We wanted to tell you about a few of these creative and devoted volunteers.

- As far back as 2005, **Dr. Evanthia Speliotis** has volunteered to teach a course for Veritas each spring. She also is a full-time associate professor of philosophy at Bellarmine. She teaches Veritas classes about ancient Greek history and mythology. Veritas members treasure Evanthia's classes because of her knowledge, her sense of humor, and her gentle, caring personality.

- **Barb Simmons** is a long-time Veritas member. Last fall, she volunteered to be the facilitator for Dr. Jennings Mace's book discussion class about "Tender is the Night" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This class took place in room B10, on the bottom floor of the library.

The Veritas office asked facilitators in these bottom floor rooms to review emergency directions in case of fire or other emergency, especially since many Veritas members might not be able to handle the two

flights of stairs and may need to exit the building on the lowest level.

Barb took it on herself to print a copy of these detailed directions for each person, then demonstrated to the class how to fold it to fit behind their name badges.

Then at the end of this intensely stimulating, moving and participatory class, she presented Jennings with a bottle of Old Fitzgerald bourbon as a proper memento of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

- The Veritas catalog lists courses and detailed instructions for on-line registration. The instruction page tells members that Veritas volunteers will be available in the library to assist them if they have no other options to complete their online registration.

In the past, few or no members came seeking this assistance.

On August 30, fall term registration day, **Darrell Shelton** and **Gary Dodson**, members of the Veritas Production Team, volunteered to help members at the library. They were very surprised when at least 18 Veritas members came for assistance. **Linda Bailey**, director of continuing education in the Veritas office, also was there. These three were able to successfully register these members on what turned out to be a very busy morning.

The Veritas Society salutes our devoted volunteers!

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE FALLS ON CAMPUS

We hope it doesn't happen, but occasionally one of our members will fall and is injured. If you fall, or are assisting someone who has fallen, remember to call campus security at 272-7777. (Put it on your cell phone contacts list.) There will need to be an incident report filed with Bellarmine. And, of course, if you think injuries are severe enough, call 911.

# MEET GARY DODSON

(This is part of a series profiling interesting members of the Veritas Society.)

Gary Dodson joined Veritas in the spring of 2017. You will often see him assisting Veritas presenters with their audio-visual needs.

## What prompted you to join Veritas?

After I retired from the phone company, I became a volunteer at Louisville International Airport, working at the Information Desk. There I met some Veritas members who told me how much they love going to classes. They encouraged me to join.



Gary Dodson

## What do you remember from your childhood that had a big effect on who you are today?

My dad loved tools and anything mechanical. He could fix anything. Early on, he showed me and taught me what he knew. I think I share his talents and that is why I liked my job at the telephone

company installing phone and internet lines for customers. It made me happy to fix things for them. Also, I worked hurricane recovery in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana, including 5 months in Baton Rouge and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

## What are your hobbies?

I rode motorcycles for many years. My favorite trip was to the Blue Ridge Parkway with two long-time friends. I still love to tinker with motorcycles. Also, I grew up across from Bowman Field and always have had a fascination with airplanes. I have a pilot's license and belong to the Aero Club.

## How do you relax at home?

I surf on the internet to find information about tools and how to repair things. YouTube videos are a great resource for this. Also, I enjoy cooking new recipes.

## Tell us something about you that might surprise us.

I really like comedy clubs. My wife and I try to go to a show at the Caravan Comedy Club whenever we get an opportunity.

## What do you enjoy most at Veritas?

I really like to be helpful. I guess that is why I joined the Production Team. But I also like people watching, listening, and getting to know new people.



## WHAT TO DO IF IT SNOWS



What if you get up the morning of your Veritas class and there's snow on the ground or the roads look icy? How can you find out if classes will be called off? *Whatever is announced for Bellarmine classes applies to Veritas as well.* That's the bottom line. Veritas students will NOT be called individually about cancellations. But it's easy enough to check the website [www.bellarmino.edu](http://www.bellarmino.edu) to find out the status of Bellarmine classes.

Any closings at Bellarmine also will be posted on all the radio and television stations. If you don't want to wait for the announcement, you can check the TV stations' websites. Just Google the name of your preferred station, then follow the links that say "weather" or "closings." So you're not tech savvy or don't have a computer or TV? Arrange a buddy system with a Veritas friend whom you can call to get the information.

## VERITAS BUDDIES HELP NEW MEMBERS

As the fall term began in early October, Linda Roosevelt was a brand-new member. She did not know her way around campus. She needed to print information about her classes. She did not know if there was an easy place to eat or grab a snack between classes. She needed to find one of her first classes -- in level B of the library.

Linda was in luck! Ruth Mace, an established Veritas member, was assigned to be her buddy as part of the new "buddy program" started last fall. Ruth called Linda before classes began. She met her on campus the day before classes started to show her around. She printed her class information and answered Linda's questions. Linda said, "I do not know what I would have done without her."

Kitty Darst, another Veritas buddy, contacted Jan Eastburn, one of her assigned newbies. She met her for lunch in the dining room and was able to answer many of her questions and make a new friend at the same time.



Buddy Ruth Mace and Linda Roosevelt

Abigail Walsh, Veritas enrollment coordinator, suggested the idea of the New Member Buddy Program during the Veritas strategic planning meetings last year. She envisioned it as a way to help new members "learn the ropes" and hopefully get them involved as volunteers.

Fifteen Veritas members volunteered to be buddies for 71 new members. Abigail assigned each volunteer five or six new members. These buddies contacted the new members by email or telephone, offering to answer questions, meet for lunch, take a tour of campus and offer other assistance.



Jan Eastburn with Buddy Kitty Darst

Abigail predicts that about half of the new members availed themselves of buddy help, and she has heard positive comments from those who did so. She looks forward to continuing the program in the spring as our new member count continues to rise.

If you would like to volunteer to be a buddy for spring term, please call Abigail Walsh at Veritas (502) 272-8374.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 15

Meetings of the Veritas Board of Directors are open to all members. You're invited to the next meeting on February 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The board wants your feedback! The location will be announced in the online Veritas Weekly report. There will be an open mic at the beginning for anyone to speak; comments will be limited to two minutes per person. Once the meeting begins, discussion is restricted to board members. Check out a meeting or two – it might inspire you to get involved in a committee. That's a great way to see if you might want to run for the board of directors; elections are held each spring.



# HORSES ARE THE STARS OF TRIP TO CHURCHILL DOWNS

The field trip to Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum last September started with a hearty breakfast in the track kitchen on the backside where the horses are stabled. Then our group clustered along the track rail for an up-close view of horses galloping during their morning workout sessions. Then we toured the Kentucky Derby Museum, the paddock, grandstand areas and Winner's Circle.



Posing in the Winner's Circle



Patty Gillette (left) and Bobbie Painter



Marilyn Schorin shows off her jockey skills.



Nancy Walker (left), Chuck Schlensker, Lorena Stierle



Mary Margaret Mulvihill views a celebrity dress.

## VERITAS INTEREST GROUPS

**The Healthy Eating Group** meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. Contact Marilyn Schorin at [mschorin@gmail.com](mailto:mschorin@gmail.com) or (502) 452-1100 for reservations or additional information.

**The Mystery Book Discussion Group** meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. Sessions include book discussions, sometimes a local author, or mystery movies based on books. Occasionally the group attends local productions of mystery plays. For additional information, contact Rebecca Beyerle at [beyerler@gmail.com](mailto:beyerler@gmail.com) or (502) 454-0268.

**The Eat/Talk Group** meets the third Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the University Club on the University of Louisville campus. Contact Dennis Wiseman at [dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com](mailto:dennis.sinnedagain@yahoo.com) or (502) 533-8989 for more information.

**The Ethnic Lunch Group** meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various locations for different ethnic food each time. For more information or reservations, contact Mary

Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or [thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com).

**The Moveable Feast Literature Discussion Group** meets monthly when Veritas is not in session. Meetings are usually held at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. For future dates and books, contact Amy King at [acalaryllis@gmail.com](mailto:acalaryllis@gmail.com).

**The Movie-Dinner Group** meets the first Thursday of the month. They attend an early movie and then go to dinner to discuss it. Members share the task of making movie and dinner selections and arrangements. For more information, contact Linda Miller at [linda.loves.walking@gmail.com](mailto:linda.loves.walking@gmail.com) or (502) 216-4075.

**Dish 'n' Dine** meets Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. during the Veritas spring and fall terms in the Bellarmine dining hall. Come, bring a friend and enjoy an "all you can eat" meal for \$9.22 with other Veritas members. Contact Marilyn Schorin at [mschorin@gmail.com](mailto:mschorin@gmail.com) or at (502) 452-1100.

## FIELD TRIP TO CHURCHILL DOWNS BACKSIDE



Veritas members watch from the rail as horses head to their workout session.