



DISCOVER

ETHICS, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY AT VITERBO



FALL-WINTER 2024
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MAKING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

ON THE COVER

Cultivating global connections is a Viterbo University priority. Keith Knutson, ECAS professor of political science, recently traveled to Luxembourg on an overseas community-building effort. During his stay, he met with local government leaders and Luxembourgish colleagues connected with Viterbo. Knutson was also invited to lead a few classes at Lënster Lycée International School in Junglinster, a La Crosse sister city.

On the cover, Knutson is pictured in the original Luxembourg City center, a space that has been inhabited as an urban site for over 1,000 years.

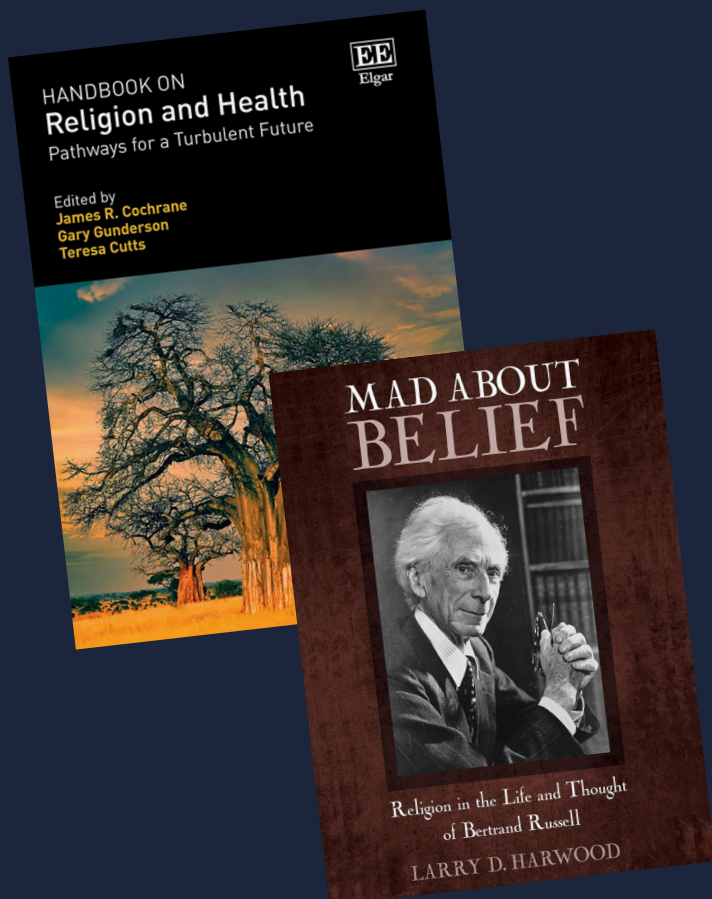


ECAS FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

NEW RELEASES

Handbook on Religion and Health: This revelatory collection of essays explores the relationship between spirituality and healing. ECAS Professor Matthew Bersagel Braley authored chapter two, “Scanning a Moving Field: Religion and Health,” which sets the entire study in the context of the local Driftless region around La Crosse.

Mad About Belief examines the complexities of Bertrand Russell’s views on Christianity. While many scholars have assumed Russell was dismissive of religion, ECAS Professor Emeritus Larry Harwood reveals that these assumptions are an oversimplification. His book, based on a thorough and painstaking engagement with the archival record, is a substantial contribution to Russell scholarship.





CAPSTONE PROJECTS 2024

Above: Rose Bush in Spain
Painting by Gretchen Cortez '24

ECAS celebrated the graduation of six majors in spring 2024. Following is a summary of their senior capstone projects:

Gretchen Cortez: Visited Spain and Portugal in 2023 as part of a study abroad course led by ECAS Professor Jesús Jambrina. Her project, *Art, History, and Memory*, involved the creation of six original oil paintings inspired by her travels and her family history, which is traced to the region.

Emery Byus: Investigated the historical tension between science and religion through the lens of the vaccination controversy during COVID-19 pandemic.



Above: Rosary making workshop
led by David Novak '24

Nicole Johnson: Underscored the critical need addressed by after school programs in the U.S. through a case study of Pointer Play, a novel kids club in her hometown of Mineral Point.

David Novak: Focusing on restorative justice and environmentalism, David developed a rosary workshop inspired by the Papal encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

Isabel Villagomez: Tackled the history of home schooling in America and provided a regional assessment using original interviews with local students and parents.

Sidney Wateski: Analyzing the work of John Dewey, Sidney unpacked the challenges of systemic inequality in elementary education in the U.S. since industrialization.

WHERE WILL ECAS TAKE YOU?

Viterbo believes that study abroad is vital to the formation of ethical leaders. Many of our ECAS majors take advantage of the faculty-led travel opportunities offered by Viterbo to explore and experience our global community. Recent destinations include Alaska, South Africa, Italy, Belize, Spain, England, Thailand, and more.

Right: Viterbo students take in the view of Sanabria Lake in Zamora, Spain. Co-led by Jesús Jambrina in 2024, this study abroad course offered an unforgettable, culturally immersive experience. At the center (seated on a rock) is Izabella Britten, a Viterbo student pursuing an ECAS and Spanish double major.



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