

VERITASING: EVEN BETTER THAN SUMMERING

BY: ANN MCWILLIAMS

Not so long ago, I couldn't imagine a gerund* more lovely than summering. Visions of deck-sitting, weather-discussing, debating whether 10:30 is too early for lunch(ing).

Until summer Veritasing.

Summering alone, frankly, is passive. Veritasing has purpose.

Summering says, "I suppose I'll water the tomatoes today." Veritasing says, "I have a fascinating lecture at 10, a service day tomorrow, and I'm on a field trip next week to somewhere I didn't even know I wanted to go."

Veritasing means diving into the summer offerings of the Veritas Society Lifelong Learning Institute—all designed for curious members who refuse to believe learning ended with the spring term.

Summering alone can become repetitive. There are only so many afternoons one can spend cursing squirrels or pretending to understand hydrangeas. Veritasing keeps the mind humming.

And unlike ordinary summer activities, Veritasing comes with built-in companionship. You meet fellow curious people—the kind who ask questions, laugh easily, and genuinely enjoy discovering new things without anyone assigning homework. They may bring you giant zucchinis, but no one is perfect.

Best of all, Veritasing gives us no-longer-working people the perfect answer to the dreaded question: "So... what do you do all day?"

Smile mysteriously. Dramatic pause.

"Oh, I'm Veritasing."

**A gerund is when you take a perfectly respectable verb and turn it into something noun-y by adding "-ing." Running. Gardening. Complaining-about-property-taxes-ing. It took me 40+ years to understand gerunds. Gerunding?*

Summer 2026 & Fall 2026- Key Dates to Remember

Summer Information Emailed – June 1

Summer Registration Opens - June 3 at 9 a.m.

Fall Catalog Emailed - September 2

Fall Registration Opens - September 9 at 9 a.m.

Fall Classes Begin - October 5

Fall Classes End - November 13

VERITAS SUMMER ADVENTURES:

FEATURING FIELD TRIPS, VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES, AND ENGAGING CLASSES
THROUGHOUT JUNE AND JULY

As summer arrives, Veritas is ready to move into our next season of lifelong learning opportunities designed to inspire curiosity, connection, and discovery. This summer's schedule offers a flexible and engaging mix of in-person experiences, virtual adventures, and thought-provoking discussions to keep our members learning.

Members can look forward to a variety of field trips, virtual field trips, and Distance Dialogues, along with traditional classroom-style sessions covering a wide range of topics and interests. Whether exploring local history and culture, traveling virtually to fascinating destinations, or engaging in lively conversations with experts and fellow learners, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The summer series will feature activities in June and July, providing new and returning members with opportunities throughout the season to stay engaged and connected with the Veritas community.

A Veritas summer membership is just \$20, and each activity will have an individual fee associated with it. This format allows participants to select the programs that best fit their interests and schedules while enjoying the benefits of membership all summer long.

From enriching educational experiences to meaningful social connections, Veritas summer programming continues the organization's mission of lifelong learning for the Louisville community and beyond.

Schedule of activities will be released Monday, June 1 via email. Registration will open on Wednesday, June 3 at 9 a.m. using the Veritas registration system, not Eventbrite.

**Special note: Due to construction on I-65 for June and July, we will provide alternative routes to access some of the in-person locations in the confirmation emails. The organizations are cognizant of this and helping to provide the best access for our members.*

THE 2026 VERITAS BOARD ELECTION

Eight seats were up for reelection this Spring for a place on the 2026 – 2028 Veritas Board of Directors. We had a 42% response rate to our online Election Runner election. We have two newly-elected board members joining the Board—Theresa deMatas and Susan Mateja. Re-elected are Jeff Conner, Ron Gordon, Ann Nunn, Herb Shulhafer, Judith Skretny, and Jonathan Smith. All will serve a two-year term.

We would like to give a special thank you to Sandra Cherry for her service to the board as she rolls off this year after 14 years. Sandra previously served as Board President from 2015 - 2017 and has served as Special Events Chair for a number of years, helping to coordinate the Holiday Luncheon and Spring Celebration Banquet.

ROAD SCHOLAR LIFELONG LEARNING ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

What a deal! Road Scholar offers a free Online magazine: just [click here](#).

As a member of a Lifelong Learning Institute, you share our belief that curiosity doesn't retire. Road Scholar's Lifelong Learning & Adventure Magazine is created for people who want to keep learning, exploring, and engaging with the world—wherever life takes them next.

VERITAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Since becoming a Veritas member, you may have wondered what your Veritas membership includes. Sure, you now have the ability to register for classes, but why else are you paying that fee? See below for a listing of the many great benefits of the Society!

- Register for classes of interest. No prerequisites, tests, or grades!
- Access to year-round activities: lectures, Distance Dialogues, field trips, & social events
- Free parking on campus
- Full use of Bellarmine Library & SuRF Center
- Free Admission to most Bellarmine Athletic Events
- Bellarmine Veritas Student ID card and “Student” Discounts at local community partners with Student ID card

Check out our [Membership Handbook](#) for details about membership benefits.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION BANQUET

The 31st Annual Veritas Spring Celebration Banquet had a large turnout on May 5 at the Olmsted. A delightful program of familiar songs was offered by the Inner VOICES Ensemble; the program was introduced by Veritas member Judith Skretny, who is also a member of that musical organization.

Course Presenters, Production Assistants, Veritas Volunteers, Veritas Champions (members who recruit new members), and Veritas Board Members were all recognized.

Individual awards:

Betts Meehan Lifetime Membership Award: John Sistarenik

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Maureen Fitzgerald & John Hosek



MEET ROBERT SPRAWLS

Your relatively new course on the history and practice of Darts has become the hottest ticket in Veritas! But I heard somewhere that you taught Darts at Chautauqua before you brought it to us. How did your interest in the game arise, and how long have you been at it?

I did provide Darts for self-development and competition as a Special Studies course at Chautauqua last year and thus proposed teaching the same course at Veritas. Judith liked the idea and evidently convinced others to give it a try.

I became interested in darts back in 1980. I had moved to New York, twenty minutes outside of Manhattan in Ardsley. Being new to the area and not having many contacts, I went to a local English-themed pub after work one evening and was adopted by two very friendly Armenians who insisted I come play darts with them. I immediately took to it because I have always liked projectiles and because the banter with my new friends was very funny and heart-warming to me.

How long have you been in Veritas? What brought you to the organization and what are your thoughts on the time you have spent or experiences you have had there? Do you have chief areas of interest beyond your own class?

This is my second year at Veritas. I came to Veritas because my wife was teaching an academic course on fungi, mycelium, and mushrooms. I have yet to avail myself of any other courses due to recent “retirement” travel and because of our involvement in the addition of our first grandchild. I fully intend to participate as soon as time permits.

As for my other interests, they are chiefly: playing harmonica in bands with friends; reading in a couple of book clubs; bicycle riding and repair for friends; camping and hiking; visiting France; and—best of all—just hanging out with friends and family. I like the in-between times where conversations become the main thing.

What is your professional or career background?

In reverse order, I was an independent financial adviser for nearly forty years. I believe much of the planning needs to focus on what I termed “behavioral finance.” By that I mean attitudes about savings, spending and understanding where the risk of investing lies and how you react to that.

Prior to that I was a social worker for YMCA Shelter House as an outreach coordinator and a house parent for runaway/throwaway youth.

Prior to that I worked in outdoor education with YMCA Camp Piomingo, where I was an assistant camp director. The conversation with the kids renewed me every day. Prior to that I was a drummer in a touring rock band. Playing the music was fun. Living the traveling life was not.



MEET ROBERT SPRAWLS, CONT.

What makes you laugh?

I find humor in almost everything and in most people. As it just so happens, I am expert at Dad Jokes. We tell Dad Jokes to our children to make them fully groan. See what I did there? I am without a doubt a goofy person and embrace it. I like stand up comedians, watching *Parks and Recreation*, and mostly engaging in witty repartee with friends and family.

Who inspires or did inspire you?

My family inspires me. I have watched them respond to life's demands and situations and to other people and am inspired to try to be more like them. As far as icons, I was first inspired by the truth being told by Martin Luther King. The self-sacrifice of Jesus. The patience of people who listen. Musicians, writers and artists continue to inspire me as I discover their works. My beloved University of Louisville Fighting Cardinals.

Is there a material object in your house that means a lot to you?

My father's flight jacket he wore as a B-17 bomber pilot in WW II. He was at Pearl Harbor the day it was attacked and then served in the Air Force for almost thirty years. It is well-worn, frayed and bears the signs of countless household projects. It eerily fits me like a glove in the back and shoulders.



What is the most influential book you've read? Film? Work of art? Music?

The book that comes to mind is *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck. The first paragraph will either grab you or turn you off. Then the story delves into the beauty and desperation of being human. His descriptive prose starting Chapter 14 gives me chills.

My most influential film is actually two series, *The West Wing* and *Newsroom*. For me it demonstrates what I hope to see in our time.

I can't rank the paintings, sculptures and objects of art that inspire me. It makes me humbled to think people can bring their visions to life when I'm looking on and can't fathom how they can accomplish such things. Music means a great deal to me. I am a fan of nearly all things piano; favorites include Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Hiromi. I appreciate drummers and have been inspired to request that a 2:30-minute drum solo be played at my memorial, if I have one, by Billy Cobham, titled *Ozone Part 1*.

Best piece of advice you ever received?

"Nothing is ever as good or as bad as they're telling you it is."

TRAVEL NOTES: ON THE ROAD WITH MARILYN

BY: MARILYN SCHORIN

In April 2026, I had the opportunity to visit Algeria. It's the 10th largest country in the world—about six times the size of California. Yet more than 90% of the 48 million residents live in the coastal area along the Mediterranean Sea. The temperature there is mild, a sharp contrast to the dry Sahara Desert or the snow-capped peaks of Atlas Mountains.

Although the country hosted around 3.5 million visitors in 2024, it has a long way to catch up with neighboring Morocco which saw more than 14 million tourists. Yet Algeria has so much to offer with its seven UNESCO World Heritage sites.

I flew into Algiers, the capital, from Paris, although the country connects with numerous European and Middle Eastern countries. A former French colony (1830-1962), Algerians speak primarily Arabic, although older citizens speak French. Increasingly, English, the language of videogames, some television and international business, is spoken here.

In Algiers, we visited the Kasbah, or fortified citadel, a UNESCO site. Originally a Phoenician trading post from the 6th century BCE, the current layout of a labyrinth of narrow alleys lined with whitewashed houses was established by the Ottomans in the 16th century. The region was laid out as a maze to foil enemies attacking from the sea. Much later, the French added a grid-like downtown, so that their tanks could move along the streets. In the Kasbah, we found Ottoman-style palaces, souks (markets), and hammams (bath houses) with magnificent tile work. This area was formerly home to about 50,000 people.

Of course, the French were largely Catholic, and the city still is home to the beautiful Church of Notre Dame d'Afrique, visited by Pope Leo, who was arriving three days after us.



In many ways, the city still remembers its long, bloody battle for independence and the monument at Martyrs' Square is lit up at night, a tribute to the brave folks who surrendered their lives for independence from the French. (Some of you may remember the extraordinary 1966 film by Gillo Pontecorvo, *Battle of Algiers*, which some have dubbed the greatest war movie ever.)

Several hours south of Algiers, and past the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, lie the remains of the Roman Emperor Trajan's city of Timgrad (another UNESCO site). Originally founded as a military colony in 100 CE, the area has triumphal arches, baths and markets, and is an example of urban planning.

The Romans reigned in this entire region until 430 CE when the Vandals invaded, and the town was finally abandoned in the 8th century with the arrival of the Arabs.

TRAVEL NOTES: ON THE ROAD WITH MARILYN, CONT.

Constantine is the second major city in Algeria, a city bisected by an impressive gorge from along the Rhumel River and connected by numerous bridges. The city dates from 200 BCE and has been continuously inhabited.

Tipasa in western Algeria dates from the 6th century BCE and was a Punic stronghold, predating the Romans. Highlighting its importance for trade and cultural exchanges, the Roman settlement was followed by the Vandals (430 CE), the Byzantines (6th century) and a mix of peoples subsequently. UNESCO World Heritage designation has helped to preserve its ruins.

In the M'Zab Valley, in the rocky part of the Sahara Desert, lie five small fortified villages. Since their founding between 1012 and 1350, the people have maintained traditional building techniques that enabled them to be used for defense and to withstand the harsh desert climate. These techniques even influenced Le Corbusier in the 20th century. Some attempt is made to maintain a traditional lifestyle also and married women are forced to cover themselves if they see someone in the street. They are only allowed to have one eye showing! Although girls do go to school and some will leave the village to attend university, nonetheless, these traditional restrictions continue to apply.

This description only touches on a few of the wonders of Algeria. With such a rich and remarkable history, it may one day achieve the popularity of its North African neighbors, Morocco and Egypt.

DINING ROOM
CEILING FROM THE
CASTLE OF THE
PASHA (THE PRINCE)
IN KASBAH IN
ALGIERS



TRAVEL NOTES: ON THE ROAD WITH MARILYN, CONT.



YOUNG GIRLS IN THE
KASBAH IN ALGIERS WHO
HAVE RENTED BEAUTIFUL,
TRADITIONAL OUTFITS FOR
PHOTOS TO POST ON
INSTAGRAM!

DETAIL OF A MOSAIC
SHOWING A CHILD AND FISH
FROM
TTIMGAD. (180 CE)



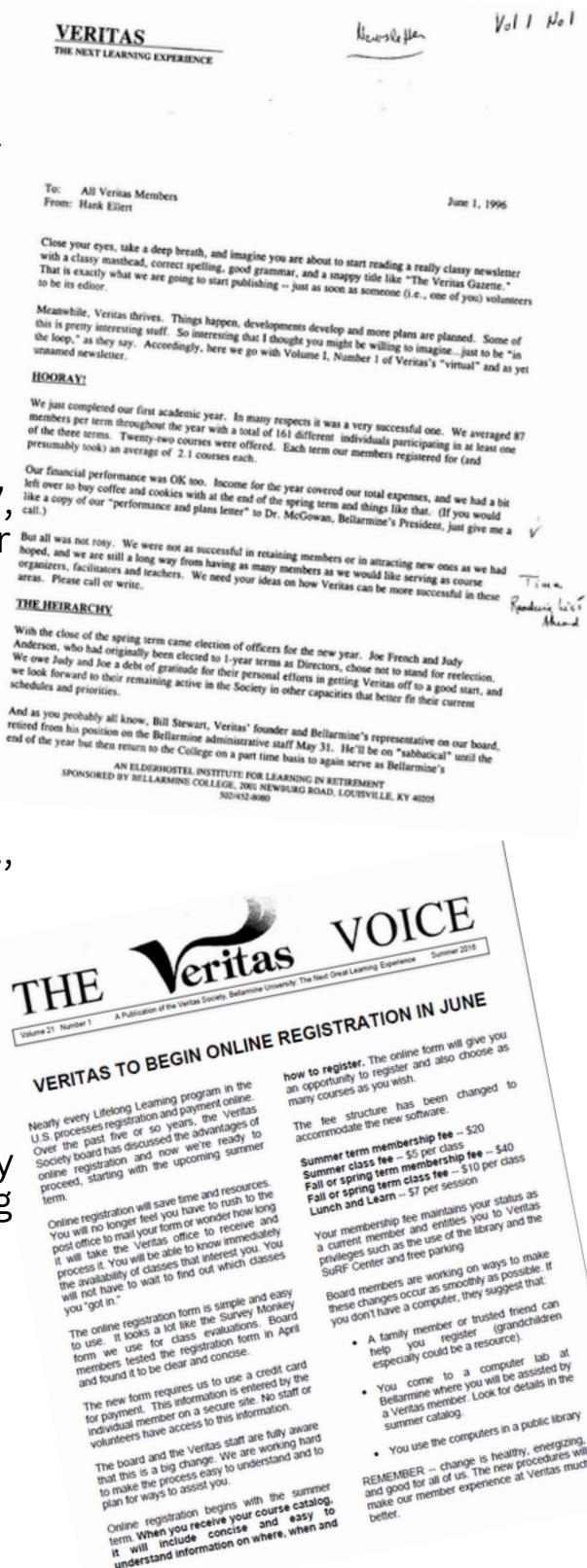
THE GORGE OF THE RHUMEL
RIVER AND THE SUSPENSION
BRIDGE CROSSING IT.
CONSTANTINE, ALGERIA

THE WAY WE WERE: ON THIS DAY IN VERITAS VOICE HISTORY

30 years ago. In the very first issue of what would become the *Veritas Voice*, Veritas President Hank Ellert began a memo to "All Veritas Members" with these words: "Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine you are about to start reading a really classy newsletter with a classy masthead, correct spelling, good grammar, and a snappy title like 'The Veritas Gazette.'" That is exactly what we are going to start publishing—just as soon as someone (i.e., one of you) volunteers to be its editor." Ellert would continue sending memos, albeit under the new Veritas logo, until the Fall of 1997, when the newsletter was called *Veritas Voice* for the first time, and was edited by Elaine Thomas.

20 years ago. All Veritas members were invited to the final session of Rick Eckert's course in "Cool Jazz": a 90-minute live jazz session in Frazier Hall, performed by the Jamie Aebersold Quartet. Aebersold, a music instructor at U. of L., also explained the principles of classic Jazz, which combines familiar tunes with improvisational riffs by the individuals in the band.

10 years ago. The Summer 2016 issue announced that Veritas was joining "nearly every Lifelong Learning program in the U.S." by moving to online registration for classes. Members without computers or internet access were encouraged to (1) seek out a family member for help (grandchildren were especially recommended); (2) come to a Bellarmine Computer Lab and receive help from another Veritas member; or (3) use the computers in a public library.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Beyond the Veritas classes—and not limited to term-time—Veritas members are invited to take part in a variety of voluntary interest groups. Here are the ones currently meeting.

Let's Do Lunch: Healthy Eating Group

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, eating at various restaurants chosen by the members. Contact Barb Simmons at barbsimmons88@gmail.com for reservations or additional information.

Mystery Book Discussion Group

Meeting the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Highlands–Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. You can also join via Zoom. Contact Rebecca Beyerle by email at beyerler@gmail.com to receive notices of future book choices.

The Spiritual Seedlings Interest Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 10:30 a.m., at the Immanuel United Church of Christ, 2300 Taylorsville Road. For more information or to register, email Barbara MacDonald, Group Leader at barbpmac@gmail.com.

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 information and reservations, contact organizer Mary Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or email her at thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com.

DoBU (Do Bellarmine University events)

This group attends BU music, theater, sports, lecture events—anything happening at BU. Depending on event schedule, group meets monthly. Most events are free or have a nominal charge. If interested, email Ann McWilliams veritasDoBU@yahoo.com.

Darts Enthusiasts Group

Past Veritas dart class attendees meet the first and third Fridays of the month at 2:00 PM in Vernon Lanes (KY's oldest bowling alley), 1575 Story Avenue. The dart boards are downstairs. Contact Jeanette Rode at rodebard@bellsouth.net.

Who We Are

For 30 years, the Veritas Society Lifelong Learning Institute has brought adults age 50 and better in the Louisville area together through a shared love of learning, meaningful connection, and curiosity about the world. We believe learning is essential to brain health and overall well-being as we age, and an active mind supports a fuller, more engaged life.

Our purpose is simple: to keep our minds active, open, and growing through enriching learning experiences that:

- explore our history and shared culture
- keep us informed about and engaged with the world around us
- help us make sense of an ever-changing world and find our place within it
- foster belonging through meaningful social connection and shared experiences

Our members include retirees, semi-retirees, and those still working -- people from many professions and backgrounds. We welcome individuals from every walk of life, belief system, and educational experience. You don't need to be a Bellarmine graduate or have any University affiliation - Veritas is open to everyone.



What We Do

Veritas is a hands-on learning community. Our members shape our programs, and we invite engaging speakers and instructors from across the region to share their knowledge and experiences. We offer six-week learning programs each fall and spring, along with additional classes, talks, and social activities during the winter and summer months.

Board of Directors

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