



# VALPO Parent



News From Valparaiso University's Parents Council | [www.valpo.edu/parents](http://www.valpo.edu/parents) | April 2008

## Dear Parent,

We have had both a son and now a daughter attend Valpo. Since we live more than five hours away from the university and our children attended a small high school, we hoped the FOCUS orientation program would be a good way for them to learn about the university and feel at home on campus. Meeting a couple of other students would be a plus. How surprised we were when their FOCUS experience helped them way beyond our expectations.

Both our son and daughter loved the FOCUS activities. We were amazed that in the first hours they already made many friends ... including the wonderful and supportive orientation assistants. Keith and Cheryl left campus completely ready and excited about having the school year begin. FOCUS gave them confidence and a sense of place before they even started classes. We parents also made many friends and enjoyed FOCUS so much that we were sad to have our time at Valpo end.

FOCUS serves as an important transition for both students and parents. This well-organized, fun orientation helps both you and your student find a place in the Valpo community. While incoming students meet other students, select classes, obtain their IDs, take placement tests, and get together with academic deans, parents learn about the university by meeting other parents and speaking with Valpo's faculty and staff.

Don't miss FOCUS! Send in the FOCUS registration form you recently received or call 1.888.GO.VALPO. Be sure to look for Parents Council members at your FOCUS session and during Family Weekend, Nov. 7-9, 2008. We'll share our personal FOCUS stories. We can't wait to hear yours!

See you soon,

**Brent '71 and Jan '73 Duesenberg, Co-Chairs  
Valparaiso University Parents Council**

## Valpo Names New President

Mark A. Heckler, provost and vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at University of Colorado Denver, will become the 18th president in Valparaiso's nearly 150-year history, effective July 1, and will replace Alan F. Harre, who is retiring June 30 after 20 years as president.

A native of Pennsylvania, Heckler has been at the University of Colorado Denver since 1995, when he joined the staff as a tenured professor of theatre and director of the School of Arts. Under his leadership, the School of Arts was expanded and renamed the College of Arts and Media and he was named the new college's founding dean in 1998. He held that position until 2003 when he served briefly as UC Denver's acting chancellor before being appointed to his current position.

Heckler earned a bachelor of arts degree in communications with honors from Elizabethtown (Pa.) College in 1977 and a master of fine arts degree in drama with an emphasis in directing from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1979. He is nearing completion of a doctorate in educational leadership and innovation from the University of Colorado.

For more information about president-elect Heckler, visit [www.valpo.edu/president/elect](http://www.valpo.edu/president/elect).

## Valpo on Top Again!

Senior Josh Wood is the third Valparaiso University engineering student in four years to be named to the All-USA College Academic Team, selected by *USA Today* to recognize the nation's most outstanding undergraduate students.

Wood, a computer engineering major from Reynolds, IL, was named to the Third Team along with 19 other students. A panel of judges selected the 60 members of the three teams from approximately 500 students nominated by colleges and universities across the United States. Wood was recognized for his research in nanocomputer technology, including determining how to do matrix multiplication using quantum computing techniques.



## Important Dates

April 5	.....	Parents Council Meeting
May 1	.....	Housing & Tuition Deposit Form Due
May 18	.....	Valparaiso University Commencement
May 20	.....	Summer Session I Begins
June 9-10	.....	FOCUS 1
June 13-14	.....	FOCUS 2
June 16-17	.....	FOCUS 3
June 20-21	.....	FOCUS 4

## Did You Know?

Once a final decision has been made, there are a number of reasons why a student should deposit by May 1.

1. Depositing reserves a spot for the student in the freshman class. As a competitive university, it is possible that Valpo could reach capacity in a particular college or program before the student has committed by making a deposit.
2. By depositing early, the student gains priority for course selection and housing preference.
3. The student can rest easy and with confidence for the remainder of his/her busy senior year of high school. After all, this is an important life decision that requires careful consideration. Once the decision is made, he/she can begin thinking seriously about preparing for college.

Students can deposit online at [www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted](http://www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted).

New students should return the completed Health Form by **July 1**. Please refer to the Health Form inside the student's Enrollment Guide or visit [www.valpo.edu/health](http://www.valpo.edu/health) for additional information.

## VAN on the Move

The efforts of the Valpo Admission Network (VAN) are among the reasons the University has received increased interest from prospective students in the past five years. Beginning in 2002, VAN members have represented Valpo at college fairs that admission counselors could not get to, contacted admitted students in their hometowns, hosted receptions, helped with FOCUS new student orientation, and shared their Valparaiso stories with families wanting to learn more about Valpo.

VAN benefits students, families, and its members. As 2003 grad, Larissa Knudson of Omaha, NE says, "VAN is great - I get to share my wonderful Valpo experience with potential students and stay connected with the campus."

## Campus News

**A Feast From the East Cultural Dinner** will be sponsored through the Valparaiso University Asian American Association (AAA), April 5, 2008 at 6 p.m. in the Valparaiso Union. There will be a variety of authentic cuisines as well as music and other Asian cultural activities. Tickets can be purchased at the Union Information Desk.

**The Union Board will host Valparaiso University's annual jazz festival throughout the week of April 14-19.** All events are open to the public and will include performers such as local high schools, the Valparaiso University Jazz Band, and recording artist John Pizzarelli. For more information, visit [www.valpo.edu/union](http://www.valpo.edu/union).

**Valparaiso University Theatre will conclude its theatre season with performances of Wendy Wasserstein's Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Heidi Chronicles,"** a poignant and humorous look at the Baby Boomer generation. Directed by R. Andrew White, associate professor of theatre, "The Heidi Chronicles" will be performed at 8 p.m. April 25 and May 2, 2 p.m. April 26 and May 3, and 7 p.m. April 27 and May 4 in the University Theatre. For more information, visit [www.valpo.edu/theatre/season.htm](http://www.valpo.edu/theatre/season.htm)

**A new 202,000 square-foot Valparaiso University Union** is currently under construction, and is scheduled to open in the 2008-2009 academic year. Watch the building evolve via live webcam at [www.valpo.edu/construction/union/webcam.php](http://www.valpo.edu/construction/union/webcam.php).

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that included internships and extracurricular activities she participated in at Valpo, such as WVUR - Valpo's student run radio station, and VUSIT - Valpo's storm chasing team. In addition to school activities, she held an on-air meteorology position at WYIN PBS 56 in Merrillville, Indiana, a job which she also secured through Valpo. "TV Stations don't just hire 'weather gals' anymore - they hire layered humans with rich knowledge and a true passion for the science of meteorology," Ginger said. "Getting to NBC 5 was no cakewalk - I had a dream, and Valpo gave me the tools to realize it." Ginger Earned her Bachelor's degree in Meteorology in 2002.

**A Valpo Alumna You Should Know**  
Each weekend, residents of the Chicago area tune in their televisions and see a Valpo meteorology graduate deliver their weather forecast. The smiling face that they see is that of alumna Ginger Zee (02) - weekend meteorologist and environmental ("Going Green") reporter for WMAQ NBC 5 Chicago.  
Every Saturday and Sunday, Ginger delivers the weather forecast from 6-10 a.m. and 5 and 10 p.m. She also provides "Going Green" reports each Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.  
Ginger achieved her NBC position as a result of networking at meteorology conferences and building a solid resume of experience

**Financial Aid - Special Circumstances**  
When a family is confronted with financial challenges that impact the ability to continue college enrollment, we encourage them to contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss possible options for assistance. Sometimes a family's situation can't be adequately described on the FAFSA: costly illness or injury, death of a family member, divorce, loss of income or employment. The Financial Aid staff works with families to factor these circumstances into our aid awards. One student whose family has a six figure income did not initially qualify for aid. However, when the father lost his job, we were able to offer a combination of grants, loans and part-time work totaling over \$14,000 so that the student could continue at Valpo.  
If a special circumstance occurs, please call the Office of Financial Aid at 219-464-5015.