



# VALPO Parent



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

## Dear Parent,

As the parent of a new Valpo student, your summer is filled with preparations for the fall: residence hall room selection, roommate introductions, class schedules, and much more.

It seems like yesterday when we brought our oldest child to Valpo to begin his first year. We felt he was prepared to leave home, but were a little anxious as he started this new chapter in his life. Did we prepare him well enough? We soon learned that Valpo was exactly where he needed to be. Three years ago our youngest child was dropped off at Valpo's doors, leaving us with an empty nest. Again, we were anxious, but knew it was harder on us to leave our only daughter behind. Both of our children have thrived at Valpo - making life-long friends, opening their minds to challenging ideas, deepening their faiths, and developing greater self-confidence.

Even though we've experienced Welcome Weekend several times, we're still very excited to attend again. The best advice we received from seasoned parents when embarking on the journey the first time was to enjoy the moments as our family began this new adventure. Throughout it, the Valparaiso University Parents Council will be your resource for information about the University, and will help get your parent questions answered.

We'll host the **Parents Council Welcome Center** while your student moves in on August 23, 2008. Stop by our tent and talk with other Valpo parents while you enjoy some refreshments. Also, mark the dates for **Family Weekend** on your calendar, Nov. 7-9, 2008. Come and enjoy the academic, arts, athletic, and social events that showcase the University's offerings and student talent.

Enjoy your summer and welcome to the Valpo parent community!

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

### Resources:

Parents Council website  
[www.valpo.edu/parents/council](http://www.valpo.edu/parents/council)

Valparaiso University Guild website  
[www.valpo.edu/guild](http://www.valpo.edu/guild)

## Faculty Achievement

Valparaiso University School of Law professor Rebecca Huss recently received two awards for her work as guardian/special master of the American pit bull terriers formerly owned by Michael Vick in the Bad Newz Kennels case. Dr. Huss, a nationally-recognized expert on animal law, was honored with a 2008 Law Enforcement Public Service Award from the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia and an Award of Excellence from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General.

Last October, Dr. Huss was named guardian/special master in the civil forfeiture case involving Vick and given responsibility for observing the dogs, reviewing evaluation reports from animal care professionals and interacting with evaluation teams to make recommendations for their future. Her recommendation to place 47 of the pit bulls with eight rescue organizations was approved in December by the judge overseeing the case.

"I am hopeful that the attention brought to this case can raise awareness about who are the true victims in dog-fighting cases - the dogs," Huss said. "Many people had to work together to achieve the positive resolution in this case, including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals evaluation team, Bay Area Dog Lovers Responsible About Pit Bulls, the Virginia shelters that cared for the dogs and, of course, all the people at the federal government who did what was necessary to consider the dogs as individuals."

## Valpo on Top Again!

Valparaiso University has been named a recipient of the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization, which recognizes the University as a model for other institutions of higher education in preparing graduates with strong cross-cultural skills and global awareness.

Valpo is one of just five institutions in the United States to be honored with this award by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the world's largest professional association dedicated to campus internationalization efforts. The University's accomplishments in promoting international education will be featured in their report, "Internationalizing the Campus 2008: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities," this fall, and will also be recognized at the upcoming annual NAFSA conference in Washington, D.C.



## Important Dates

August 23	.....	Move-in Day
August 26	.....	Classes Begin
August 31	.....	Sesquicentennial Campus Kickoff Celebration
October 10-12	.....	Homecoming and Reunion Weekend
October 17-18	.....	Presidential Inauguration
October 23-24	.....	Fall Break
November 7-9	.....	Family Weekend
November 22-30	.....	Thanksgiving Break
December 15-19	.....	Semester Exams

## Did You Know?

1. Valpo's overall placement rate in jobs and graduate programs within six months of graduation was 94.8% for 2007.
2. Construction is underway on a new 202,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art Union, to be completed in Spring 2009. The structure will feature the Career Center, Multicultural and International Program Suite, an expansive central dining hall and specialty food item cafe offering a wide variety of food selections such as fresh-baked pizza, wok cooking, and a soup and salad bar; 24-7 accessible computer lab, lounge, and student organization suite; recreation areas; University Book Center; and more!
3. The 2008-2009 academic year marks Valparaiso University's 150th anniversary. A variety of sesquicentennial events are planned to honor the past, celebrate the present, and share excitement about the future. For more information about upcoming events, visit [www.valpo.edu/150](http://www.valpo.edu/150).
4. Valpo Crusader athletic teams had an outstanding first year of participation in the NCAA Horizon League. The volleyball team participated in the tournament championship; cross country runner Linda Rolf earned the title of "Individual Women's Cross Country Champion;" track and field athlete Steve Bartholomew was named "Male Athlete of the Year;" and the men's basketball team appeared on national television a total of six times!

## VAN on the Move

Over 60 graduating Valparaiso University seniors joined the Valpo Admission Network this month, taking this volunteer network of alumni and parents to a membership of 700! VAN members just wrapped up hosting receptions for admitted students in 20 cities around the country, while others are preparing to host fall receptions for prospective high school seniors. Alumni in the VAN share their experiences as Valpo students while providing insight into their career fields. Parents in the VAN are great resources for the parents of our new students, sharing insight that eases *their* transition and involvement with Valparaiso University.

If you would like to speak with a VAN member or are interested in spreading the word about Valpo, contact us at [admissions.network@valpo.edu](mailto:admissions.network@valpo.edu) or visit [www.valpo.edu/van](http://www.valpo.edu/van).

## Campus News

**Reminder:** Health forms are due by **July 1**. If you have misplaced your copy, visit [www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted](http://www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted) to download one.

**Lodging for the August 23 Move-in Day** should be booked soon. Visit [www.valpo.edu/admissions/visit/area](http://www.valpo.edu/admissions/visit/area) for a list of local hotels.

**WVUR, Valpo's campus radio station, and the *Torch*, our campus newspaper, were recently voted the best college radio station and best college newspaper in the state of Indiana!** Students of any major may participate in both of these organizations – will your Crusader help us win our next award?

Mechanical Engineering/Mathematics alumnus Nick Skyland '02 has a job that is "out of this world." Nick is currently project manager of the Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Physiology, Systems and Performance (EPSF) Project at NASA's Johnson Space Center. This scientific and research effort examines human performance during space walks, with the aim of developing more safe and efficient systems for exploration missions and NASA's Constellation Program. Nick is also currently on rotation as the Technical Assistant to the Deputy Associate Administrator for Strategic Partnerships at NASA, where he supports the agency in further developing partnerships to help NASA with its exploration mission.

Nick has extensive experience managing projects and research efforts which utilize analogue testing environments, such as the underwater and NASA's partial gravity simulator, which simulates weightlessness in order to characterize human performance and space suit interactions. Prior to joining Space Life Sciences, he worked at NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL), where he was responsible for Extravehicular Activity training and real-time flight support for the International Space Station and Space Shuttle programs.

He says that his greatest career success thus far was when he was invited to take part in a special initiative and give a presentation at NASA called the "Generation Y Perspectives" presentation, which discussed NASA and space exploration from the points of view of those born from 1977-2000. This presentation has since been given to several civil servant and contractor management teams as well as at national conferences, and has made a direct impact on the future



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of the space program by inspiring the recruitment of more young engineers and scientists at NASA.

"Sending in my acceptance letter to Valparaiso University was the best decision I ever made," Nick says. "Although at the time I didn't realize it, Valpo forged a value system and work ethic that has since provided a very solid foundation to navigate through life's hard decisions and events. Instead of being just another engineer that is focused in on the details, I've been trained to think bigger – to look at the whole problem – and to make a decision based not only on the technical merit but also on how it impacts people, relationships, and organizations."