

# VALPO THE GRADUATE

News from Valparaiso University's Graduate School



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## Alumni Spotlight – Jim Nondorf

By Cam Byrd

James “Jim” Nondorf, MALS '06, is the Vice President and Dean of College Admissions and Financial Aid at the University of Chicago where he handles undergraduate admissions and oversees the Office of Financial Aid. Prior to joining the University of Chicago, Jim was the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Before that, he served as the Director of Student Outreach and Associate Director of Admissions at Yale University, where he oversaw the development and implementation of recruitment and yield activities.

Jim's dedication to students and their success as well as his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies in Ethics and Values from Valparaiso University have been central to his professional career.

MALS students will have the opportunity to meet Jim and other MALS alumni (Nora Brathol, Abby Rom and Jetaun Allison) at the upcoming MALS Alumni Forum on Thursday, February 11, 2010.



## Graduating in May or August?

Don't forget to turn in your Application for Degree!!!

## Graduate School Offers New School Counseling Degree

By Cam Byrd

Fall 2010 will mark the start of the new Master of Education/ Education Specialist in School Counseling degree offered at Valparaiso University. A joint collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Psychology, School Counseling will offer students the education needed for future school service professionals as well as the training required to achieve licensure as a school counselor.

“Because of the similarities across core and even specialty standards for training, it is exciting that Valparaiso now can provide training that will result in licensure as a school counselor,” said Dr. Christina Grabarek, coordinator of the school psychology program. “Anyone that has a strong interest in the blend of psychology and education should consider this a possible career choice.”

Students are also able to gain dual licensure in school counseling and school psychology by completing a few additional credit hours, which includes a practicum or internship. Although distinctly different, the two fields often work side by side in the promotion of academic success and social-emotional health of children. “Opting for dual licensure opens the door for greater career options in the future,” said Grabarek.

Those that are interested should contact Dr. Grabarek in the Department of Education or Dr. David Simpson in Department of Psychology. The Fall application deadline is May 1, 2010.

## Congratulations to...

- ⇒ **James “Eddie” Johnson** (ICP) is the first recipient of a new ELCA Global Missions Service Scholarship program at VU's Graduate School (he volunteered in South Africa prior to enrolling in ICP).
- ⇒ **David Masciotra** (English Studies & Communication) recently published a book about Bruce Springsteen. Read the full story at [www.valpo.edu/news/news.php?releaseId=4290](http://www.valpo.edu/news/news.php?releaseId=4290).
- ⇒ **Alex Stys** (ICP '09) is currently interning with the Texas Public Policy Foundation and recently completed work on their 8th Annual Policy Orientation, including congressmen, scholars and policy-makers.

## Graduate School Reaches Record Spring Enrollments

The Graduate School has once again reached record enrollments with 546 graduate students for Spring 2010. Welcome to all new students and welcome back to returning students!

## Find the Graduate School on the Web!

**Facebook:** Valparaiso University Graduate School page—become a fan!

**Twitter:** Follow our happenings as the Admissions Counselors travel and welcome new grad students!

**Linked In:** Connect with your current student peers as well as network with alumni.

## Counseling Student Brings East Coast Perspective

By Wuyan Dai

Andrea Rotz began VU's Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) Program in Fall 2008. Originally from Auburn, Maine, Andrea has lived in Connecticut, Hawaii, and most recently, Valparaiso. However, she still considers Maine to be her home. Andrea chose VU because she found it not only reputable but also affordable. When asked why she chose the CMHC program, she felt “it met many of the standards necessary for licensure across multiple states.”

Although Andrea enjoys all of her classes and professors, she finds her practicum and internship experiences most useful and looks forward to more clinical experiences in the upcoming semesters. She is also excited about starting a research project with Dean Rowland this spring. She realizes that “in addition to coursework and internships, [it is] the opportunity to supplement my classes.” After graduation, Andrea would like to travel and then finish applications for doctoral programs in health psychology. However, she also considers becoming a full-time ski bum equipped with her formal clinical training.



## Valpo Delegation to Visit India

By Wuyan Dai

VU's President Mark Heckler, Graduate School Dean and Associate Provost David Rowland, Associate Provost Renu Juneja, and Professor Jaishankar Raman (Economics) will be traveling to India this February for about two weeks. The goal of this trip is to strengthen the partnerships that VU has already established with some universities in Delhi and Indore, India. Through this trip, VU also seeks the opportunity to establish new partnerships in some new areas in India, such as Chennai and Banda.

This partnership will involve an exchange of faculty between VU and overseas universities. It will also allow international students to take one or two courses towards the Master's programs at VU in their home country before they attend VU's Graduate School. This partnership has benefited not only Indian students, but also many international students from China and Saudi Arabia. The Gateway program that VU has established in China is another successful partnership example.

China and India are two of the biggest developing countries in the world and the population of international students in America from those countries has increased consistently in the recent years. Seeking a new opportunity for visibility, publicity and a news conference in India are the main goals of the trip, but Dean Rowland also looks forward to good Indian food and culture. By taking this trip, he believes that it would further benefit VU by increasing the population of international graduate students in the future. However, the increasing population of international students also becomes a challenge to VU that "we should be ready to embrace," states Dean Rowland.

## **Career Center Offers Services for Graduate Students**

By Cam Byrd

The biggest thing on many graduate students minds nowadays is not the research paper that's coming up or when they will find time to study for an exam. Actually, it is how to ready themselves fully for the professional world and be successful at finding an internship or job. Yes, coursework is still important, but beginning a career path from day one at Valparaiso is critical in an increasingly competitive job market.

An excellent place for any graduate student to start is Valparaiso University's Career Center. Students from all disciplines can make use of the different services offered including job and internship search advice, resume and cover letter critiques, career counseling and mock interview sessions.

"The Career Center can help you further develop your skills and abilities to become better prepared and to find success during your job search and career," said Director of the Career Center Tom Cath. A new service offered is called Interview Stream that students can use with an internet connection and Web cam. All it takes is a visit the Career Center's Web site to quickly create an account and then set up different series of practice interview questions. The users' responses are recorded and are available for the user to review, from substance of the responses to facial expressions.

The Career Center also hosts on campus programs and events from networking and job search strategy workshops to the upcoming Spring Career and Internship Fair on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Harre Union Ballroom. Here undergraduates, graduates and alumni can speak with 40 to 45 organizations about possible career opportunities. "The fair is an opportunity to learn about different fields and employers," said Cath. "Employers are always looking to meet talented people and get to know who is out there."

## New Actuarial Science Graduate Certificate at VU

By Wuyan Dai

VU's graduate school is adding a new certificate for students—an Actuarial Science certificate. The certificate can be added to any graduate degree, but may be best suited for students in International Economics and Finance (IEF).

The certificate requires five courses, three of which students of IEF may have already taken or will be taking as a part of their degree requirements. The other two courses can be taken as electives with approval from their academic advisors. Students can begin the classes this spring and continue through summer to complete the certificate by fall.

Students with a background in statistics, accounting and calculus are also encouraged to apply for this certificate. Since the statistics, accounting and calculus classes are similar to those IEF students take, they may find an easy accessibility to this certificate.

An Actuarial Science certificate will be an excellent benefit for IEF students if they are preparing for Actuarial Science exams if they want to work in the fields of finance and insurance. Usually, an exam like this takes many years and different steps for a student to complete, but according to Dean Rowland, "this Actuarial Science certificate can get our students started."

## **Adding "Concentration" to Diplomas**

By Wuyan Dai

Students graduating in May should be thrilled to learn that their diplomas will have an added piece of information—their program's concentration. Adding the concentration means that when a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies student graduates with concentration in History, he or she can get a diploma of Master of Arts in Liberal Studies but additionally indicating the concentration in History. Likewise, a student with a Master of Science in Digital Media will have his or her diploma printed to include the concentration area of Digital Media.

By doing so, Dean Rowland believes the updated diplomas will provide our graduate students with convenience when they seek positions in job market. They no longer need to take out their transcript in order to show people what their studies included, as many graduates had to in the past. This change will help students become more confident because they do not need to explain to people what their concentration was...instead they can simply present their diploma.

Besides, "It has no extra cost for our students to add concentration to their diplomas," jokingly states Dean Rowland.

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