

# VALPO THE GRADUATE

News from Valparaiso University's Graduate School



219.464.5313 \* 219.464.5381 fax \* www.valpo.edu/grad \* graduate.school@valpo.edu

## Graduate Student Housing: VU's New International House

Valparaiso University has a new housing opportunity for all graduate students known as the International House. The House includes lounges with a television, ping-pong table, and foosball table as well as a community kitchen and computer lab/study room. Kay Lechner, Graduate Assistant Resident Director at the International House, believes that the best parts of the "International House community are the learning that takes place outside of the classroom," including learning about other cultures as well as one self, and "the great food from around the world." There are also only 30 students living in the International House, so there is a tight-knit community environment for residents.

According to Jennifer Guzewicz, Coordinator for Academic Services, the International House builds a sense of community - this trust and communication among graduate students is important as they progress through their studies."

"Living in the International House can ease students' move to the United States and help with culture shock," states Kay.

"Since part of my position is to connect students with on and off campus events and resources, students who are adjusting to the US can more easily meet people, find ways to get involved, and transition into the culture here by living in this type of community."

Every Sunday evening residents take part in weekly

dinner where the students take turns cooking for each other. Huiyan

(Vicky) Liu, a resident of the International House, mentions that "everything is provided for you in the House" and "after dinner we often play games," which is one of the many things she enjoys. Other activities include different community outings, such as a visit to Valpo Velvet Ice Cream Shoppe and the Popcorn Festival, parties in the House for holidays, and several game and movie nights. Upcoming events for the International House include a talent show, Christmas decorating, and an end-of-semester celebration.



## Congratulations to our Current Students...

- ⇒ **Anik Chatterjee** (Digital Media) is working with MBA Professor Bruce Maclean to establish course lectures live via the internet. Chatterjee uses Adobe Acrobat Connect to record the lectures and oversee the interactive discussions.
- ⇒ **Victoria Georgoff** (CMHC) who recently completed her Master's thesis entitled "Psychoaffective Differences and Sexual Experience: Psychoaffective Differences Between Sexually Functional and Dysfunctional Men in Response to a Sexual Experience." Her thesis panel members were Dr. David Rowland, Chair, Dr. Stewart Cooper, and Dr. James Moore.
- ⇒ **Robert Ordway** (ICP) who interned in Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas' office for the Fall 2009 semester and will be spending Spring 2010 semester in Indianapolis, where he will be interning for the House Republicans.
- ⇒ **Navdeep Sood** (MBA) who is currently interning with MacNeil Accounting & Consulting, LLP, in Chicago, IL.
- ⇒ **Jaichitra Thirumangaram Prasanna** (ICP), who recently completed an internship with rTrail, and after graduating in December, will be interning with the House Minority.
- ⇒ **Congrats to all students graduating in December!**

## Congratulations to our Alumni...

- ⇒ **Thomas Crowel** (MALS '05) was recently featured on BBC Radio - London about his book "The Passerby." Crowel spent three years conducting his own amateur investigation into the cold case of Brandie Peltz, who was found strangled in a small farming community. The podcast can be heard online at [http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4/today/today\\_20091017-1124a.mp3](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4/today/today_20091017-1124a.mp3).



- ⇒ **Momodu Maligi** (ICP '05) who is running for a place in his native Sierra Leone Parliament—good luck!
- ⇒ **Ted Mueller** (MEd-LEAPs '02) who recently attained National Board Certification in the area of middle school language arts. This national honor recognizes him as a Master teacher. Ted lives and teaches in the Charlotte, North Carolina area.

# THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

## A Closer Look at Graduate Research Assistants

A research assistant is a selected student that assists a professor with their research. The student is a helpful tool in this specialty research because he/she helps the professor get direct experience in the specified area of interest. Safiya O'Brien is currently research assistant to Dr. Greg Stinson in Valparaiso University's Institutional Research and Assessment department. This VU department completes research as a way to assess and improve our University. "I feel I am learning a great deal from Dr. Stinson," states Safiya. Her current project "involves the evaluation of student writing effectiveness and seeks to determine if Valparaiso University students (particularly upper level undergraduate) are writing at a quality that is expected of Valparaiso University graduates."

Throughout the course of her research, Safiya has learned the importance of ethical precautions when attempting research as well as a project's different phases to ensure accuracy and validity. We wish Safiya and Dr. Stinson success as they continue their research.

Other graduate research assistants selected for the Fall 2009 semester and the departments for which they are working:

- Heather Madden—Psychology/Counseling
- Michael Wilson—School Psychology
- Amrita Rajkhowa—International Commerce & Policy
- Kate Wilkening—English Studies & Communication
- Rajesh Jakotia—Information Technology & Management
- Ajit Yadav—Information Technology & Management
- Xia Zhang—Electrical Engineering

Congratulations and good luck!

## Interview with Current Student— Wuyan Dai

Wuyan Dai started at VU this fall as a student in the English Studies and Communications (ESC) program. Originally from China, Wuyan studied at Luther College in Iowa to earn her undergraduate degree before coming to study at VU. Wuyan chose to enroll in the ESC program because she felt "it would be a good continuation and expansion of [her] undergrad major which [was in] English."

Although Wuyan enjoys all of her classes and professors, she especially likes her Sino-American Landscape and Spirit course with Professor Ruff. "That class has a good mixture of mature adults and vigorous young students," adds Wuyan. In the future, Wuyan has plans to either pursue a Ph.D. in Literature or become a teacher.



### Important Dates & Reminders

- ⇒ Now until January 6: Registration for Spring classes
- ⇒ November 21 to 29: Thanksgiving Break, no classes
- ⇒ December 4: Graduate Student Holiday Party—all are welcome to attend, to be held in Harre Union!
- ⇒ December 12: Reading Day, no classes
- ⇒ December 14 to 18: Final Exams
- ⇒ December 13: Winter Commencement and Graduation Luncheon
- ⇒ January 5: New Graduate Student Orientation
- ⇒ January 6: Spring classes begin
- ⇒ January 18: MLK Birthday, no classes

## VU Global Imports

VU's Homecoming marked the first sales event for VU Global Imports, a business created by graduate students through the ICP 615 course. According to professor Jennifer Guziewicz, these graduate students "developed the business idea, determined what products to sell [as well as the] pricing, marketing, etc." These students had the chance to experience the entire process of starting a business, including planning and developing it. "Part of [VU Global Imports'] purpose is to bring products from around the globe to VU as a celebration of the many cultures that are here on campus," states Guziewicz. VU Global Imports plans to continue into the future and devote any profits to campus scholarships.

**Valparaiso University**  
**The Graduate School**  
1700 Chapel Drive  
Kretzmann Hall 116  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

\*Please contact  
The Graduate Editor  
Jamie Haney or  
Student Writer  
Miranda Heckler  
at [graduate.school@valpo.edu](mailto:graduate.school@valpo.edu)  
with questions or ideas.



**VALPARAISO**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL AND  
CONTINUING EDUCATION