

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

Service Learning Partnerships

The Graduate School, in partnership with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) and the ELCA Global Mission (ELCA), is giving volunteers with an undergraduate degree and one year of volunteer service the opportunity to earn credits. Volunteers can earn up to 6 credits towards an internship, independent study, or elective in a graduate program. Some of these graduate programs include International Commerce & Policy, English Studies and Communication, Chinese Studies, Nursing, and Business Administration. Students will also be given scholarships equal to the amount of credits earned through volunteer service. For example, volunteers enrolled in a MA, MS, or MEd program can receive up to \$2,880, while those in a MBA program could receive up to \$3,840. For more information and a complete list of available graduate programs visit http://www.valpo.edu/grad/lvc_elca_volunteers.php.

***Congratulations to Lindsay Jarosak,
MSN alum & Doctorate of Nursing Practice student,
for receiving the 2009 Distinguished Student Award.***

***Welcome to all new graduate students and
welcome back to returning graduate students!!!***

- From the staffs of the Graduate School & the Graduate Newsletter

Interested in learning what the Graduate School does?

Did you ever wonder what exactly everyone on the Graduate School staff does? Here's a great opportunity to learn! Graduate Admissions Counselors Jamie, Yan and Laura will be traveling to a number of Graduate School fairs this year, including day trips to:

Sept. 24: DePauw University

Oct. 1: Valpo's Grad School Fair

Oct. 8: Chicago Grad School Fair (includes students from UI-Chicago and surrounding Chicago schools)

Oct. 15: Grand Valley State University

Oct. 21: St. Xavier University

Nov. 3: Calumet College of St. Joseph

Nov. 23: American Model UN Grad School Expo

If you don't have class and would like to join one of our Graduate Admissions Counselors when they travel to a Graduate School fair to promote Valpo's Graduate School, please email us at Graduate.School@valpo.edu and include the date for which you are available.

We're Now the Graduate School!

Valparaiso University's Graduate Division has now been renamed to the Graduate School. This name change is a reflection of the growth and importance of the more than 40 graduate program options VU offers. Dean Rowland stated in a recent press release that the name change "more accurately describes the large, self-standing and diverse program of studies that we offer to students." According to President Heckler, the new title of Graduate School "reflects the increasing size, complexity, and importance of graduate education at Valparaiso University both today and in the future." The enrollment rate for VU graduate students has doubled over the last five years with a 27 percent increase in the last year. "Our enrollment growth reflects the increasing reputation of Valpo's graduate programs," Dr. Rowland states. "Students understand that we combine outstanding academics with a positive campus experience outside the classroom." VU's Graduate School's growth is also due to developing relationships with overseas universities. Currently, international students make up more than 20 percent of VU's graduate enrollment and help bring new perspectives to each of VU's graduate programs. The Graduate School enrollment will hopefully continue to increase as our reputation spreads and our programs continue to grow. This fall, enrollment in the Graduate School totals just under 600 students taking graduate classes.

The Graduate School Needs Your Help!

The Graduate School needs your help on Friday, October 9, 2009 from Noon to 4:00 pm for our second annual Fall Open House for the Graduate School. Scheduled to coincide with Valpo's 2009 Homecoming weekend, the Open House is open to prospective and current students plus alumni and will be in the Harre Union Ballroom A.

The Graduate School needs your help to greet visitors to the Open House, give campus tours to buildings that are important for graduate students and connect them with Program Directors and Advisors. This is a great opportunity for you to share your Valpo experience with future students and encourage them to join us at Valpo!

Volunteers are needed from Noon to 4:00 pm, and you can sign up for one hour blocks or the entire afternoon. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Jamie at Jamie.Haney@valpo.edu with your availability.



Academic Success Center established...

Beginning this fall, VU will be offering academic support for undergraduate students through the new Academic Success Center (ASC). Tricia White, Coordinator of the ASC, defines the ASC as currently “a referral system for campus-wide academic services and resources including: tutoring, help sessions, study group sessions, academic advisement, learning assistance, learning enrichment workshops, career planning, student support groups, and disability support services.” The ASC coordinates with offices across campus to supply the academic support based on the needs of individual students.

Currently, the ASC works with undergraduate students after they have first utilized assistance from “the professor/department level or from established campus services such as the Writing Center, Hesse Center, Language Resource Center.” If graduate students are seeking assistance, they should first take advantage of the Graduate Tutoring Lab, located on the first floor of the library, for academic assistance. Graduate students still needing assistance should contact the Graduate School at Graduate.School@valpo.edu. There may be future plans to extend the support of the ASC to the graduate level as the center grows. For more information, please visit the ASC website at www.valpo.edu/academicsuccess or email questions to academic.success@valpo.edu.



Important Dates & Reminders

- ⇒ September 18: Valpo Career Fair in Harre Union
- ⇒ October 9: Fall Graduate School Open House, *Volunteers needed!*
- ⇒ October 9 to 11: Valpo Homecoming Weekend
- ⇒ October 15 & 16: Fall Break, no classes
- ⇒ October 2: Application for Degree due! *If you're planning to graduate in December, this is required.*
- ⇒ October 23: Senator Zwingina from Nigerian speaking on campus.
- ⇒ November 21 to 29: Thanksgiving Break, no classes
- ⇒ December 12: Reading Day, no classes
- ⇒ December 14 to 18: Final Exams
- ⇒ December 13: Winter Commencement

Focus on School Psychology students...

Ben Cunningham started at VU in August 2007 and is currently enrolled in the School Psychology program on campus. Ben is originally from Valparaiso and completed his undergraduate degree at Wabash College before returning to his roots for his Master's degree. “Being from the area and part of the Valpo community,” says Ben, “I was quite aware of Valpo's strong reputation and what they had to offer. While doing some research, I came across some information that rated Valpo's graduate division as one of the top in the mid-west.” Ben decided to enroll in the School Psychology program in order to pursue his passion for working with children. This program's collaborative nature and professional development through on-site school training in both Valparaiso and Hammond has created memorable experiences for Ben.

Currently, Ben is completing his final year of the School Psychology program by completing an internship in Missouri. In the future, Ben would like to continue his path to become a school psychologist by either continuing his higher education or heading straight into his career field.

Newest Master's Program at VU Announced

Fall 2010 marks the beginning of a new Sports Media program available to VU graduate students. This new program incorporates Physical Education and Management as well as Communication courses focusing on sports media. “Additionally, we made sure that the program incorporated Valpo's traditional emphasis on ethics and values. The degree includes courses in Sports Ethics and Ethical Issues in Digital Media,” states Dr. Doug Kocher, Chair of the Communication Department.

The new Sports Media program is seen as an “extension and expansion” of what has been done for years in the undergraduate program. Besides a wide range of classes, this program requires an internship, consisting of 150-200 hours, with Horizon League streamcasting and/or with VU's Sports Information office. The Sports Media program is now accepting applicants. For more information, contact Dr. Doug Kocher by email at Douglas.Kocher@valpo.edu or by phone at 219-464-5271.

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
with questions or ideas.



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL AND
CONTINUING EDUCATION