

VALPO Parent

February 2010

NEWS FROM VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S PARENTS COUNCIL

800.833.6792 • www.valpo.edu/parents • parents@valpo.edu



Dear Parent,

As alumni of Valparaiso University, it is hard to believe that our daughter is a Valpo senior this year. We look back to when we dropped her off for her first year then see her transformed into the individual she is today due to her experiences at Valpo. She has grown academically, socially, in her faith, and as a person. From leadership positions she has held to taking a semester overseas, she has had a wonderful Valpo experience. The support from faculty and staff has been tremendous. It is sad, in a way, to see this chapter of her life end.



As parents, we have shared our daughter's Valpo experience by having the privilege to serve on the Valparaiso University Parents Council for more than three years, helping to support the students.

You, too, will have support as a parent of a future Valpo student. The Valparaiso University Parents Council serves as a liaison between the University and other parents. Parents Council members are available to you as a resource for questions and concerns you may have regarding your student's stay at Valpo. This is accomplished in several ways, such as

- **FOCUS.** This orientation for new students takes place on June 11-12, June 14-15, June 18-19, and June 21-22. Parents Council members will answer your college transition questions, assisting you through the process.
- **Fall Welcome,** Aug. 21 through Aug. 23. The Parents Council Welcome Center offers refreshments, information, comfort, tissues, and an opportunity to talk with other parents.
- **Family Weekend,** Oct. 8-10. Your whole family will enjoy activities that are arranged by the council, including a tailgate party and football game, dinner, jazz brunch, and Sunday worship. This is a great time to reconnect with your student and meet their new friends. It's a fun weekend.

In the meantime, if you have questions, you are encouraged to contact any Parents Council member listed on our Web site at valpo.edu/parents. Also, we ask that you update your e-mail address while you are there so we can communicate with you. We wish you well during this exciting time and look forward to helping you navigate this important chapter in your student's life.

Sincerely,

Jon ('83) and Kim (Mathews '83) Olsen, Co-Chairs
Valparaiso University Parents Council

Important Dates

Feb. 13 – Honors Student Visit Day

Feb. 27-March 14 – Spring Break

March 1 – FAFSA Priority Deadline

March 18-19 – Admitted Student Visit Days for students admitted into the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, or College of Engineering

March 28-29 – Admitted Student Visit Day for students admitted into the College of Arts and Sciences or College of Nursing



Valpo on Top Again!

- **U.S. News & World Report** 2009-2010 ranks Valpo as a top school in the Midwest for overall quality and value. Valpo's College of Engineering ranks among the top 15 percent in the nation among master's-level schools.
- **Princeton Review.** Best 301 Business Schools cites Valpo's College of Business Administration as one of the nation's outstanding business schools for the sixth year in a row.
- For the fifth time in six years, Valparaiso University is among the nation's leaders in producing winners of prestigious Fulbright awards for international study, research, and teaching. Five students won Fulbright awards for 2009-2010.

Did You Know?

An admitted student's date of deposit determines his or her housing placement. Depositing reserves a spot in the first-year class and retains your student's scholarship/financial aid award package. As a competitive university, it is possible that Valpo could reach capacity in a particular college or program. Deposit as soon as a decision is made by May 1 and reap the benefits.

To ensure that you receive the maximum total financial aid package at Valpo, remember to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1, 2010. Your student will then be eligible for priority aid consideration. In 2008, 92 percent of Valpo students received financial aid. **You can file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.**

The City of Valparaiso offers the V-Line, an innovative transit system that helps students and citizens of Valparaiso get across town and beyond. Shuttles depart from the Valparaiso University Harre Union and travel to popular destinations within the city of Valparaiso. A weekend route also is available to take students to the South Shore Line, a commuter railway system that services Chicago to South Bend.

For more information about the V-Line, visit www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/v-line.

For more information about the South Shore Line, visit www.nictd.com.

You will find answers to many of your Valpo questions at www.valpo.edu/parents.

Student Achievement

Months before his graduation date, Valparaiso University senior meteorology major Aaron Brackett has taken his first on-air job as a television meteorologist at WREX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Rockford, Ill.

Brackett's new duties have him commuting on weekends from Valparaiso to Rockford, where he forecasts the weather and delivers his reports on the weekend 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts.

"A typical night consists of looking at the latest weather model runs, analysis and satellite loops to get an overall feeling of what the big forecast issues are. I then make my forecast for the day from many different sources of information. By 6 p.m., I need to be ready to go on the air," Brackett said. "After the news, I update the station's weather blog, update the radio forecast and make sure the Web site forecast is current. Before the 10 o'clock news, I check for changes

VAN on the Move

The Valpo Admission Network (VAN) is an international group of 825 alumni and parents who represent the University by assisting with college fairs, off-campus receptions, and sharing their Valpo stories. They also provide Valpo materials to high schools and churches and are available to chat with you and your student about careers,



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Student Alumni Association

Valpo's Student Alumni Association works to foster pride and tradition among current Valpo students so that they may develop lifelong relationships with Valparaiso University. Each year, the group sponsors exciting campus events and activities such as barbecues, a Founders Day celebration, Homecoming and Family Weekend activities, and more. These events promote school spirit and tradition while enhancing interaction between students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

in the models and adjust my forecast as needed, check to make sure the graphics are ready, and prepare to go on air again."

Brackett said Valpo's meteorology program prepared him for the job by allowing him to learn both inside and outside the classroom.

"From Valpo's in-house weather studio to our convective storm chases, I think it's the added out-of-classroom experiences that gave me the edge," said Brackett. "When I went into the interview with my resume DVD in hand, I felt confident that I was comparable to others with previous on-air experience thanks to our weathercasting classes and our top-notch educational curriculum and staff."

Brackett's weather blog can be viewed at addins.wrex.com/blogs/weather.

transitioning to college life, and other college- and Valpo-related topics. If you have not received a call from a VAN member and would like to connect with one, please send an e-mail to the VAN director, Barb Lieske, at admissions.network@valpo.edu or call her toll free at 888-468-2576.