Important Dates:

- May 13: MALS, ESC, MED-IL & SPSY dinner
- May 18: Commencement, Congratulations to our new graduates!!
- May 20: First day of Summer I classes
- May 26: Memorial Day — no classes
- June 30: First day of Summer II classes
- August 26: First day of Fall classes

Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Just Announced

Valparaiso University has established a post-MSN doctorate program, designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice. The DNP curriculum builds on the master's program by providing education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems thinking among other key areas. DNP graduates will likely seek such leadership roles as: advance practice nurses, managers of quality initiatives, executives in healthcare organizations, directors of clinical programs, and faculty responsible for clinical program delivery and clinical teaching.

For more information about the DNP program, visit www.valpo.edu/gce/graduate/programs/nursing/dnp.php or call 219-464-5313 to request a brochure and application. The Fall 2008 application deadline is May 30, 2008.

ICP Student Richard Mitchell: Ready for a Change

After 20 years in education, including many years as a chemistry teacher and an administrator in public secondary schools, Richard Mitchell was ready for a change. "I had already earned a BS in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, an MS in chemistry education from Purdue, and a PhD in science education and curriculum from Purdue," he said. "If I was going to go back to school at 43 years of age, I wanted to learn something different."

So, in the fall of 2007, Mitchell veered away from the sciences and administration and chose Valpo’s International Commerce and Policy Master’s program. “I’m not so much interested in international trade as I am in what makes people work together, live together, function or not as individuals and as groups,” Mitchell said. “I think at my age you finally realize…that the work that you do, whether it’s your career or your education, should have some intent of improving the lives of those in the world around you. ICP has opened my eyes to what previously was a very closed view of the world.”

One way that Mitchell’s eyes have been opened is through his study abroad program in Mexico at the University of the Americas (UDLA) in San Andres, Cholula, Mexico for the winter semester. Because roughly half of the students in the ICP program are international, Mitchell found it interesting to see how these students were able to keep up in advanced graduate coursework.

“I decided that I should have this experience, too.”

Mitchell is currently enrolled in five courses in Mexico but he says the real learning takes place outside of the classroom and in the streets, restaurants, bars and even the laundromats. Once he returns from Mexico in May, Mitchell has only a few more classes until he’s done with his degree in December. He’ll then enter law school at Valpo as part of the dual degree program.

And after that? “I will work only if I can locate a position, or create a career, that allows me to concentrate on developing people and improving the life experience of those around me,” he said. Whatever he does, Mitchell says he’ll do it because it will “literally change and improve the world, bring people closer, engage people in dialogue about change, about self-improvement, and about understanding, tolerance and acceptance.”
VU Receives Prestigious Award for Internationalizing the Campus

It’s not often that a university is recognized by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) two years in a row, but Valpo managed to do so. Last year, it was a spotlight award that focused on VU’s freshman core and curriculum, and this year, VU won the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. The award, named after the late Senator Paul Simon, (D-Ill.), recognizes outstanding and innovative efforts in campus internationalization.

“That we have so many things going on internationally is not common (for a school of this size),” said Dr. Hugh McGuigan, Director of International Studies. “We’ve got over 200 international students from over 50 countries here.” And apparently NAFSA agrees, as they refer to VU as “successful” in its accomplishment of sending “upwards of 200 students a year to study abroad” in last year’s Internationalizing the Campus publication which recognizes the school.

VU has 13 approved study abroad opportunities and is working on other opportunities to draw students from other countries to come to campus. Currently, about 20 percent of students study abroad during the semester, McGuigan said, but if extracurricular opportunities such as spring- and summer-break trips are included, about 30 to 40 percent of VU students travel abroad.

For international student Kazuka Masuyama who’s receiving her Master’s in clinical mental health counseling, coming to VU a couple of years ago as an exchange student was “one of the most significant life events” she’s gone through. “Valpo provides international students like myself, who start off with limited verbal communication skills, with a very supportive learning environment,” Masuyama said, noting that professors are understanding and open-mindedly encourage students of diverse backgrounds to share their ideas with classmates. “This deep connection between professors and students is what makes Valpo an effective learning environment for international students,” Masuyama said.

New Legal Principles Certificate Established

The Graduate Division has added a Certificate in Legal Studies & Principles (LSP) to its available programs. The 15 credit certificate provides an introduction to legal processes, domains and procedures for professionals desiring exposure to elements of law but not wanting a para-legal certificate or law degree. For more information, contact Graduate Studies at 219-464-5313.

Valpo receives Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant for 3rd Consecutive Year

Up to 24 VU students will have the opportunity to study in Hangzhou, China for the next four summers due to a $378,768 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant, which VU received through the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, supports an advanced Chinese program for K-12 educators, college and graduate students. The Fulbright-Hays program annually awards 45 projects to educational institutions nationwide, with five normally focusing on Asia.

This summer opportunity, which is open to participants from across the nation who have studied Chinese at the college level at least two years, aims to serve K-12 teachers, college and graduate students who are committed to achieving functional fluency in Chinese language. Participants will have the option of choosing between one or both phases of the program being offered throughout the summer, depending on their language skills. The program is managed by the Office of Graduate Studies in conjunction with the MA Chinese Studies program.

2008 Spring Research Symposium

The Spring 2008 Graduate Symposium was held on April 18, 2008 in the evening. The symposium and banquet were by invitation to graduating students, and recognized all graduates, students giving research presentations and students earning graduation honors of distinction and highest distinction. Student presenters were Elizabeth Olejniczak, MS in Nursing, and Bernadette Hartsough, MED in Teaching & Learning.

Valparaiso University
Office of Graduate Studies
1700 Chapel Drive
Kretzmann Hall 116
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Please contact student writer Yonika Willis with any questions or story ideas at yonika.willis@valpo.edu