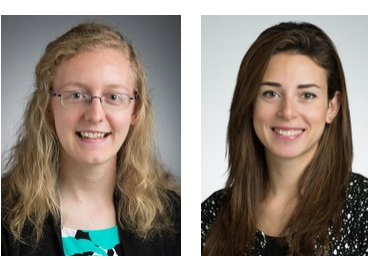
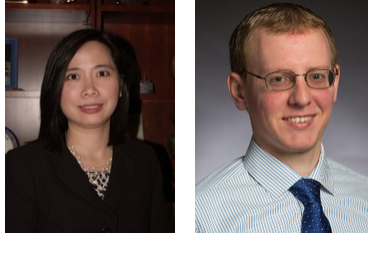




Hello, Friend!

Greetings from Valparaiso University! We are so excited to finally have a master list of VU international alumni! We look forward to reconnecting with you in the coming months & hearing the stories of all the amazing things you are doing around the world. Please connect with us on social media so you are kept up to date with upcoming alumni events & other Valpo news. Our Fall semester has just finished up & students are now enjoying Winter Break. We hope this newsletter brings back warm memories of your time at Valpo!

-The OIP Staff



Click [here](#) to meet the current Office of International Programs staff.



VISA News

The Valparaiso International Student Association (VISA) has been very active this Fall hosting culture nights for Mexico & Germany, hangout nights featuring Loteria (Mexican bingo), oragami, & Christmas traditions around the world and of course, the annual International Food Bazaar, which this year featured 20 countries and had over 300 people in attendance! Now VISA is busy preparing for the World Banquet which will take place on Saturday, February 16th. This year's theme is "Stuck at the Airport." Watch for more information to come!



Recruitment News

Representatives from Valparaiso University may be coming to a city near you this Spring!

January - India, Seattle, WA & Oregon

February - India, Pakistan & Nepal

March - Vietnam, China, Colombia, Jordan, Kuwait, UAE & Morocco

April - Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Africa (countries TBD)

May - Bulgaria

These travel plans are tentative at this point, however, if you are interested in helping with recruitment efforts in your country and/or meeting up with VU recruiters who come to visit cities near you, please contact marci.fradkin@valpo.edu.



Global Coffee Hour

With the closing of the Valpo INTERLINK center this summer, the Office of International Programs decided to carry on the tradition of bi-weekly Global Coffee Hour. We've enjoyed getting to know our international students better through Global Coffee Hour. It's also provided a neat opportunity for international students to get to know faculty/staff & community members better. We have partnered with the Friendship Families program & the Valparaiso International Center to host this event. If you're in or near Valpo on one of our Spring Global Coffee Hour dates, we'd love for you to stop by & join us!



Current Student Spotlight

Rafael Duizit Mentzingen, from Brazil, was a men's soccer team stand-out this season. He won several accolades from the Missouri Valley Conference & most recently, a national honor to play for the all-west region second team. He just finished up a bachelor's degree in Economics with the highest GPA of all of our graduating international undergraduate students. This fall, despite traveling for an away game the following morning, Rafael & one of his teammates, Lucca Lacerda, cooked amazing Brazilian food for the International Food Bazaar. Last

week, Rafael was awarded the Outstanding International Undergraduate Student award at the Office of International Programs/VISA Graduation Dinner. We wish Rafael the best of luck in his future endeavors! For more information about Rafael, click [here](#).

Alumni Spotlight

Name: Mercy Ngetich

Degree from Valpo: BSBA in Business Administration

Hometown: Nakuru, Kenya

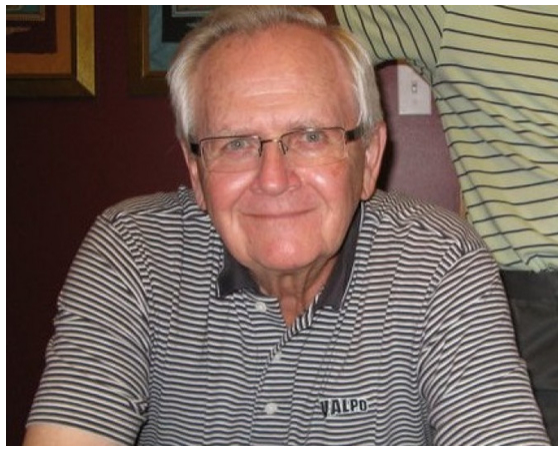
Where are you now: Currently in Keyna & self-employed running an online company.

Favorite Valpo Memory: The ASA (African Student Association) meetings and class times were my favorite times.



Tell Us Your Story

We are in trying to collect stories from as many of our alumni as possible! Click [here](#) to share your story with us. It may be the next to be featured on our website!



Dr. Hugh McGuigan Scholarship Fund

Dr. Hugh McGuigan was the Director of International Studies at Valparaiso University for over 25 years from 1983 to 2008. He has impacted the lives of hundreds of international students that have come to Valpo from around the world. A group of alumni has started a Go Fund Me campaign to raise money to start an endowment scholarship in honor of Dr. Hugh McGuigan. Funds will be distributed to international students that demonstrate exemplary scholarship & leadership qualities. For more information about Dr. McGuigan, the endowment campaign, or to make a donation, please visit the [Go Fund Me](#) page.