

Dear International Students & Scholars,

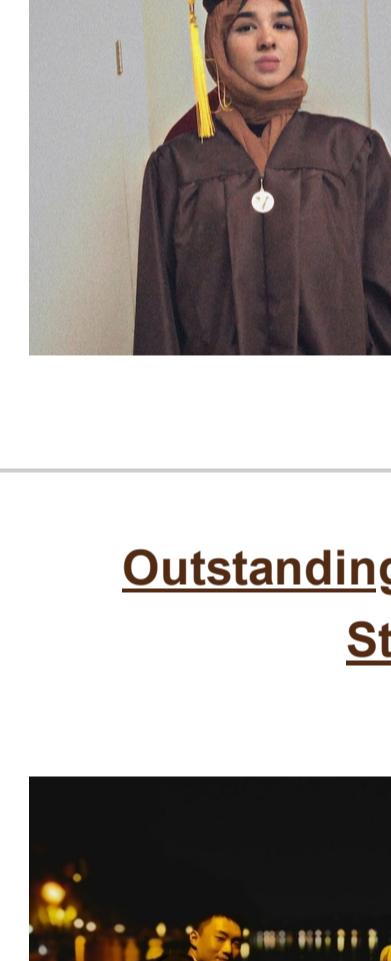
None of us might have envisioned the uncommon and challenging conditions of the past year when every one of you began here at Valpo 4, 3, 2, or 1.5 years prior. We have adapted to countless things every day: how to deal with the video-conferencing, how to plan weekly outings to the supermarket during a pandemic, and above all, how to be grateful for easily overlooked details: friends, family, our health, etc.

All of you graduates have driven forward and soon you will have vanquished the challenges of acquiring an esteemed degree while in a country a long way from home. We are sure that the exceptional skills you have gained will lead you to be successful in your first job or further study. **Congrats!!!**

This week, we will highlight the graduating international students who received awards last week at the OIP graduation reception. We wish we could highlight everybody! Yet, we just have space for a few. We will list the recipients of the VISA awards, the Outstanding International Undergraduate and Graduate Student awards, and the OIP Student Ambassador awards.

[The OIP Staff](#)

VISA (Valpo International Student Association) Award



Linh Tran

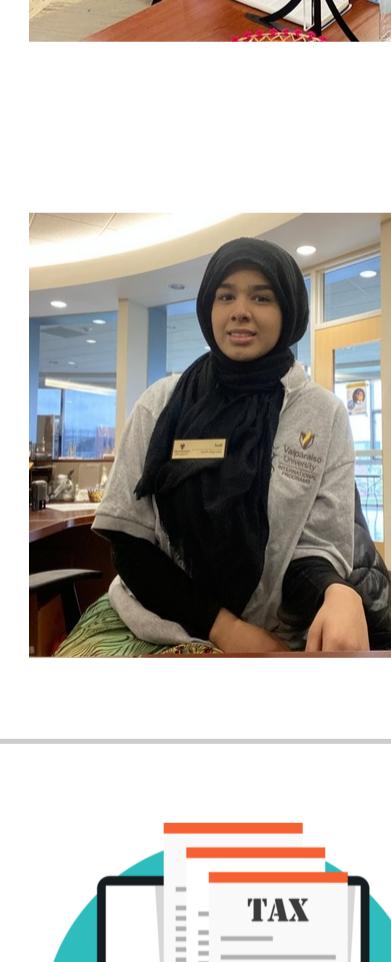
Earning her bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Linh served on VISA as event chair for 2020-21. She supported VISA by helping out during the World Banquet and she also helped in organizing many other events on-campus. Linh Tran is from Nha Trang, Vietnam.

Outstanding International Undergraduate Student Awards



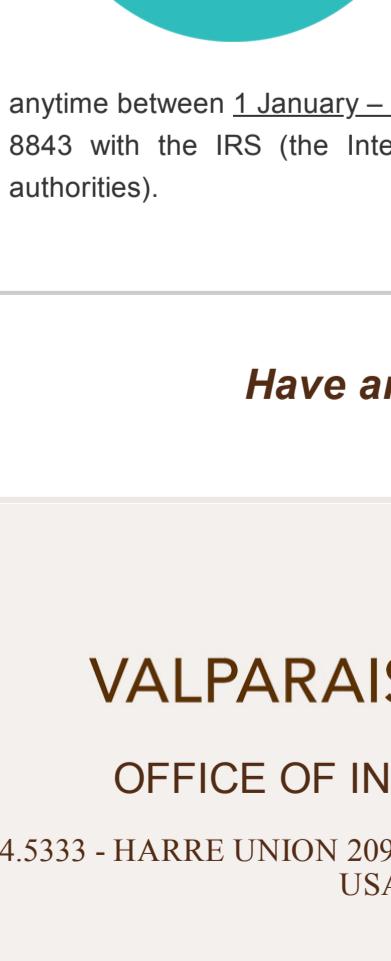
Abraham Cervantes Diaz

Earning his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Abraham was the international student senator and the VISA treasurer during his sophomore year and he was the VISA vice president in his junior year. He received the HAAS Scholarship from the college of engineering. Abraham's home country is Mexico.



Estefany Bocangel Gamarra

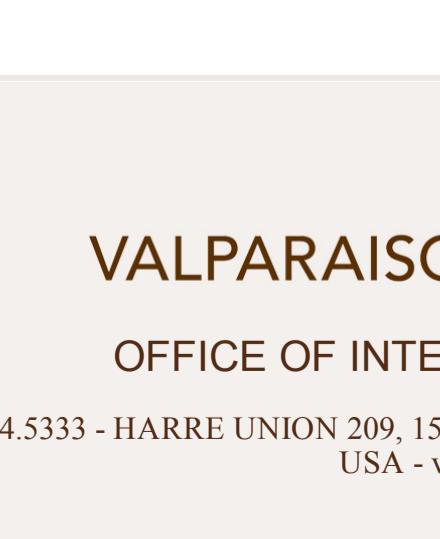
Earning her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry & Biology, Estefany was the first recipient of the Dr. Hugh McGuigan International Student Scholarship in 2020, and she is the recipient of the outstanding leadership and service award. She is also the Secretary of VISA for 2020-21. Estefany's home country is Peru.



Muntaha Zahid

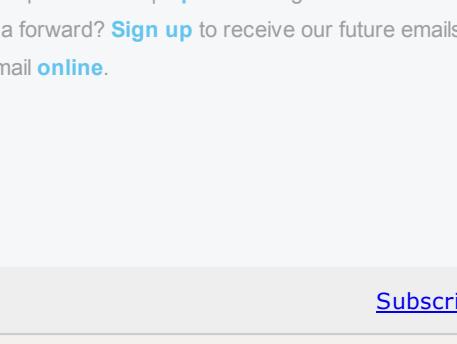
Earning her Bachelor's degree in Biology, Muntaha is also excellent at maintaining her academic performance. Muntaha worked as a peer mentor for new international students in helping them better understand Valpo. Muntaha's home country is Pakistan.

Outstanding International Graduate Student Awards



Qi Li

Earning his Master's degree in Information Technology, Qi Li has paired outstanding academic performance with responsibility in helping other newly arrived international students. Qi Li's home country is China.



Yazeed Aldhwayan

Earning his Master's degree in Analytics and Modeling, Yazeed found time beyond academic performance to play a key role in organizing food events representing Saudi Arabia. Yazeed also helped the office of International Programs in modifying the website & newsletter with his technical knowledge. Yazeed's home country is Saudi Arabia.

Bhawana Rana

Earning her Master's degree in International Economics & Finance, Bhawana also worked as a Research Assistant. She is well known for her dance performances in cultural events and she represented India in the World Banquet with a dance performance. Bhawana's home country is India.

OIP Student Ambassador Award

Siva Venkata Viswadeepti Korada

Earning a degree in Information Technology, Siva represented India as a student aide in the OIP. She was always attentive to the needs of those walking into the office and she was one of the virtual hosts for the 2020 Diwali event.

Muntaha Zahid

Earning a degree in Biology, Muntaha represented Pakistan as a student aide in the OIP. She is very friendly in nature and always has a big smile on her face.

Final Reminder to File Taxes!

May 17, 2021 is the tax filing deadline for the 2020 tax year!! Please check the email from oip@valpo.edu titled "Important 2020 Tax Instructions for Current VU International Students and Scholars" for complete info.

Even if you did not earn any income, if you were physically in the US on F or J status

anytime between 1 January – 31 December 2020, you are obligated to file a Form 8843 with the IRS (the Internal Revenue Service, or 'IRS', are the US tax authorities).

Have an Awesome Summer!

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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