



# VALPO Parent



News From Valparaiso University's Parents Council | [www.valpo.edu/parents](http://www.valpo.edu/parents) | April 2009

## Dear Parent,

We have had both a son and now a daughter attend Valpo. Since we live more than five hours away from the university and our children attended a small high school, we hoped FOCUS would be a good way for them to learn about the university and feel at home on campus. Meeting other students would be a plus. How surprised we were when their FOCUS experience helped them way beyond our expectations.

Both our son and daughter loved the FOCUS activities. We were amazed that in the first hours they already made many friends ... including the wonderful and supportive orientation assistants. Keith and Cheryl left campus completely ready and excited about having the school year begin. FOCUS gave them confidence and a sense of place before they even started classes. We parents also made many friends and enjoyed FOCUS so much that we were sad to have our time at Valpo end.

FOCUS serves as an important transition for both students and parents. This well-organized, fun orientation helps both you and your student find a place in the Valpo community. While incoming students meet other students, select classes, obtain their IDs, take placement tests, and get together with academic deans, parents learn about the university by meeting other parents and speaking with Valpo's faculty and staff.

Don't miss FOCUS! Send in the FOCUS registration form you recently received or call 1.888.GO.VALPO. Be sure to look for Parents Council members at your FOCUS session and during Family Weekend, Oct. 24-25, 2009. We'll share our personal FOCUS stories. I can't wait to hear yours!

See you soon,

**Brent '71 and Jan '73 Duesenberg, Co-Chairs  
Valparaiso University Parents Council**

## Valpo Research Team Makes Progress in Solar Energy Study

A research team from Valparaiso University's College of Engineering is working to turn concentrated sunlight into metallic zinc – an effort that may one day help make large-scale storage and transportation of the sun's energy practice and provide possibilities for enabling sunlight to play a more significant role in the world economy.

2008 Valpo Mechanical Engineering graduates Peter Krenzke, Katie Krueger, and Nate Leonard spent last summer at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland working alongside Valpo Professor of Mechanical Engineering Bob Palumbo. With assistance from Mechanical Engineering Professor Scott Duncan, the team tested a solar reactor they designed and built from scratch to study high-temperature solar electrolysis in hopes of turning concentrated sunlight into metallic zinc, an important process because zinc could be used in fuel cells to produce electric power. The tests successfully produced zinc.

"There are so many challenges to overcome in high temperature solar electrolysis," said student Nate Leonard. "We learned a lot from our experiments, and it's rewarding to know that our research could help lead to industrial use down the road."

Learn more about the endeavors of Valpo's College of Engineering students at [www.valpo.edu/engineering](http://www.valpo.edu/engineering).



## Valpo on Top Again!

Valparaiso University senior chemistry and biology major Ryan Beck recently received a Research Citation Award for his research related to an amino acid that could help reduce stress on the body during operations for surgery and trauma patients. The award was presented to Ryan during the 28th annual Critical Care Congress held in Nashville, Tennessee. More than 700 abstracts were submitted to the conference, the vast majority by researchers holding a Ph.D. or M.D. or currently in a doctoral program or medical school. Ryan's abstract was one of only five selected to receive the award.

## Important Dates on Campus

April 14	.....	Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship
April 24-26	.....	2009 Christian Women's Conference
May 1	.....	Housing & Tuition Deposit Form due
May 2	.....	150th Anniversary Gala
May 17	.....	Valparaiso University Commencement
May 19	.....	Summer Session I begins
June 8-9	.....	FOCUS 1
June 12-13	.....	FOCUS 2
June 15-16	.....	FOCUS 3
June 19-20	.....	FOCUS 4

## Did You Know?

Once a final decision has been made, there are a number of reasons why your student should deposit by May 1.

1. Depositing reserves a spot for your student in the freshman class. As a competitive university, it is possible that Valpo could reach capacity in a particular college or program before your student has committed by making a deposit.
2. By depositing early, your student gains priority for housing preference.
3. Your student can rest easy and with confidence for the remainder of his/her busy senior year of high school. After all, this is an important life decision that requires careful consideration. Once the decision is made, he/she can begin thinking seriously about preparing for college.

Students can deposit online at [www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted](http://www.valpo.edu/admissions/admitted).

New students should return the completed **Health Form by July 1**. Please refer to the Health Form inside the student's Enrollment Guide or visit [www.valpo.edu/health](http://www.valpo.edu/health) for additional information.

## VAN on the Move

The efforts of the Valpo Admission Network (VAN) are among the reasons the University has received increased interest from prospective students in the past six years. Beginning in 2002, VAN members have represented Valpo at college fairs that admission counselors could not get to, contacted admitted students in their hometowns, hosted receptions, helped with FOCUS new student orientation, and shared their Valparaiso stories with families wanting to learn more about Valpo.

VAN benefits students, families, and its members. As a 2003 grad, Larissa Knudson of Omaha, NE says, "VAN is great, I get to share wonderful Valpo experience with potential students and stay connected with campus."

## Campus News

**The Harre Union will host Valparaiso University's annual jazz festival throughout the week of April 13-18.** All events are open to the public and will include performers from local high schools, the Valparaiso University Jazz Ensemble, The Valparaiso University Faculty Jazz Trio, The Monty Alexander Trio, and Grammy-winning vocalist Patti Austin. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.valpo.edu/union](http://www.valpo.edu/union).

**Valparaiso University Theatre will conclude its season with performances of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's timeless classic, "The Magic Flute,"** Directed by John Steven Paul and musical director Dennis Friesen-Carpenter. Show times are Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 22 at 8 p.m.; Friday, April 24 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m.; and Tuesday, April 28 at 8 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.valpo.edu/theatre](http://www.valpo.edu/theatre).

**Valparaiso University will conclude its sesquicentennial celebration with a ticket, black-tie optional Gala on Saturday, May 2 from 6 p.m. to midnight.** Internationally-known actor, singer, and author John Lithgow will serve as the evening's emcee, and musical entertainment will be provided by the Duke Ellington Orchestra. For more information, visit [www.valpo.edu/150](http://www.valpo.edu/150).

**American Idol Season 7 winner David Cook** took the stage in the Valparaiso University Harre Union ballroom on February 21. Valpo's student-run radio station, WVUR, conducted an interview with Cook right before his performance. Visit [www.valpo.edu/wvur](http://www.valpo.edu/wvur) to hear what he had to say about his life as an "American Idol."

**Financial Aid – Special Circumstances**

Each year the Valparaiso University Office of Financial Aid completes many special circumstance reviews for families due to factors such as private elementary/high school tuition, extraordinary medical expenses, change in family situation such as divorce, and reductions in income. The current economic situation has further strained the resources of students and their families. If you are experiencing any of the above or other unusual circumstances which can not be shown on the FAFSA form, please contact our office at 219-464-5015 or visit [www.valpo.edu/financialaid](http://www.valpo.edu/financialaid) where there are forms you can complete to request a special review. We are here to help you and look forward to doing so!



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CME Group acquired the New York Mercantile Exchange. Julie came to the CME group in 2007 during the merger after joining the Chicago Board of Trade in 1996, where she rose to Vice President of Business Development.

"Many of my career successes can be attributed to the values and skills that I learned at Valpo," she says. "The attention and mentoring I received from my professors greatly impacted my education. My Valpo mentors are still some of the most important parts of my business network today."

As the managing director of research and product development at the CME group, the world's largest futures contracts exchange, Valparaiso University College of Business Administration alumna Julie (Tiede '96) Winkler works in the thick of the current market turmoil. Julie leads and oversees new product development, modifications to existing products, supports sales and marketing efforts, and conducts general research for various exchange departments, including investor relations.

The CME group formed in 2007 when the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade merged. In 2008, the

## A Valpo Alumna You Should Know