Hosting a Valpo Summer Send-off

Hosting a summer send-off is an excellent way to bring friends of Valparaiso University together and support Valpo students. A traditional event for some chapters, send-offs are easy to plan and a great way to kick-off the year.

"Hearing stories from alumni was helpful," said Dan Pieper, the son of Jan Beeching-Pieper from the Washington DC chapter and a freshman. He attended a picnic send-off in August. The send-off built his enthusiasm for going to VU, and on campus, he has a connection with students he met at the send-off.

Here are tips to help plan a successful send-off. To start, think of people who may be interested in attending: students (current, new, and prospective), parents, siblings, grandparents, Guild members (current and former), Valpo alumni (especially recent graduates), church youth groups and anyone with a connection to VU.

By involving Guild and non-Guild members in the planning, responsibilities can be distributed. Ask one person to accept RSVPs and answer questions, ask another to organize catering, and assign another person to welcome newcomers and organize a mixer. Some Guild chapters join with Valpo clubs to plan and publicize the event.

Many Guild chapters choose a family-friendly activity for the send-off such as a picnic, baseball game, or concert in the park. If attending a ticketed event, Alumni Relations will take reservations and process credit card payments.

The Guild and Alumni Relations offices will assist in planning summer send-offs by providing names of invitees, publicizing the event in publications and on VU's website, creating invitations, and supplying Valpo give-aways as prizes. The Guild office will arrange for guests from the University to attend.

Ellen Klein, from the Cleveland, OH chapter, said that over 50 people attended the send-off that her chapter hosted with the Lorain, OH and Medina, OH chapters. Give-aways, provided by the University, were well received by the guests—especially students.

The day of the send-off announce Guild activities that the students can expect throughout the year such as personal cards, or care packages. The summer send-off is perfect for setting up carpools, inviting mothers to join the Guild, distributing information on upcoming chapter events, and sharing stories on the Valpo experience.

After the send-off, communicate with those who attended and invite them to participate in next year's planning. Students will appreciate the Guild's acts of encouragement throughout the year and will look forward to the send-off as their kick-off to returning to Valpo!

Timeline for a Successful Summer Send-off

FOUR MONTHS BEFORE
- Determine the planning committee and assign responsibilities
- Choose the date and location
- Contact the Guild office with the date and preliminary details
- Determine who to invite
- Set dates for future committee meetings

THREE MONTHS BEFORE
- Request alumni or student lists from the Guild office
- Determine a program/theme for send-off if necessary
- Finalize budget for expenses and set a per person fee

TWO MONTHS BEFORE
- Mail invitations
- Request send-off kit from the Guild or Alumni Relations office
- Publicize in church bulletins and newspapers

TWO WEEKS BEFORE
- Make personal follow-up calls
- Confirm details with location and committee

DAY OF SEND-OFF
- Welcome guests with nametags
- Inform on future Valpo events taking place in the area
- Gather names and addresses to send follow-up information
- Return evaluation to the Guild or Alumni Relations office
WITH ONE VOICE
By Judy Mason

Does life sometimes feel like you’re running on a treadmill? We have all had that “I’m moving too fast and can’t stop!” feeling at some point. We live busy lives. We have over-booked schedules. We wish we could just slow down. But we keep moving to fulfill responsibilities and commitments while continually striving for self-improvement. We want to be more efficient, more physically fit, more giving, more in control.

The VU Guild also keeps moving to fulfill its responsibilities while striving for improvement. To maintain organizational vitality we must keep running. We must continually reinvent ourselves to respond to changing needs.

This new Guild Bulletin format responds to member needs. The Guild Bulletin serves to build community among the membership as we carry out the work of the VU Guild. It shares new ideas, introduces you to members, and recognizes the importance of our work. You have already noticed the readable layout, but take time to discover new features such as the devotion written by Guild member Carol Dausch, campus news, and individual profiles.

The Guild is on the move in other areas. The leadership has begun the process of developing the Guild’s second long-range strategic plan. The plan will address issues related to chapter operations, membership recruitment, and fundraising strategies. Plans made this year will ensure an active and vital organization for the future. We agree our mission is important, but now we must find new ways for the VU Guild to succeed, grow, and thrive.

While the Guild changes to accommodate today’s lifestyles and busy schedules, the core values we hold dearly and that bind us together will not change. Richard Baerle, in his book, Flame of Faith, Lamp of Learning—A History of Valparaiso University, describes the VU Guild as “tenacious in supporting the deep links between the academic and churchly aspects of the University.”

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. Romans 15:5. The Guild has endurance as it continues to race into the future, fulfilling its mission of service to Valparaiso University.

Valpo CDs Available as Chapter Fundraiser

A new partnership between the VU Guild and VUCAMedia, the recording label of the Department of Music, has formed to create a distribution network for University recordings and provide a new fundraising option for Guild chapters.

Several recordings by VU’s music ensembles and faculty are available to Guild chapters at a discount price. By ordering through this program, Guild chapters can sell the CDs at list price—keeping a portion of the sales as profit to benefit the Guild’s project. Through June, Guild chapters will receive free shipping on orders placed through this program.

Members will receive a brochure with descriptions of the recordings. To assist in launching this program, the Guild office and Jeff Hazewinkel, Director of Operations for the VU Center for the Arts, are available to answer any questions.

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The VU Guild is Nuts About Pecans

In early October, Barbara Oster from the New Orleans, LA chapter sent an e-mail to her co-workers requesting pecan orders. Within a few minutes, she had ten sales. By the end of the week, she had sold 137 bags of pecans!

“People at work start asking about the pecans toward the end of summer. They don’t want me to forget,” she said. Oster has coordinated the New Orleans chapter pecan fundraiser for four years.

“The first year, the orders trickled in, but the orders came in faster the following year because people knew about them.” At her desk, Oster keeps order blanks, pecan samples and information on the Center for Library and Information Resources. Her co-workers purchased approximately 85% of the chapter’s pecans.

Valparaiso University is frequently mentioned throughout her process. From the initial e-mail to the final sales receipt Valpo or the VU Guild is mentioned. The New Orleans chapter places multiple orders through Schermer Pecans to fill orders for Christmas, Valentine, and Easter baking.

The Naperville, IL chapter has also developed a loyal business over the past three years. Barb McKissick, who chairs the pecan project for the Naperville chapter said, “We sell our pecans with little effort due to repeat buyers. The pecans are so fresh and flavorful, they sell themselves.”

Even chapters selling pecans for the first time reported success. The Land of Lakes, MN chapter commented that sales were a success based on funds raised, and took less effort than other projects.

Some of the nuts and bolts to successful pecan sales include: provide samples (all of the Guild cookbooks have pecan recipes); place a package of pecans purchased at a local grocery next to the Schermer pecans so customers can see the quality of Schermer’s product; and attach some information to the package on Valparaiso University (and the Guild) to promote the University and to make customers aware that this is a fundraiser.

From the pecan report forms received, Guild chapters report selling a total of nearly five tons of pecans—halves, pieces, chocolate covered, cinnamon covered and clusters. Oster said, “One taste will get them hooked. My customers tell me that the chocolate is the best!”

All of these pecans add up to over $23,000 in profit for the “We See Clearly” project fund to raise $200,000 for the Center for Library and Information Resources. Some chapter project money has been supplemented by matching funds from AAL.

If you’re looking for a new successful fundraiser—join the other chapters that are “nuts” about pecans. Information and tips will be mailed to all chapters again this summer, but if there are questions in the meantime, please contact the Guild office.

Orange-Pecan Balls

1 stick butter
1 (1 lb) box confectioners sugar
1 (11-12 oz) box vanilla wafers, crushed
1 (6 oz) can frozen orange juice concentrate, undiluted and thawed
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix together butter, sugar, crumbs and orange juice concentrate. Roll into 3/4” or smaller balls. Roll in chopped pecans. Refrigerate in container until ready to serve.

Yield: 140 delicious balls.

Contributed to Guild Cookbook Vol. II by Elizabeth E. Siefker, Indianapolis, IN

Guild Cookbooks are now available from the Guild office for $5 each.

Where are they now?
A visit with former Guild cookbook scholar, Ann Simonet

Former VU Guild Cookbook scholar and Guild member Ann (Zobel) Simonet graduated in 1987 with a double-major in Music and French. Thanks to the financial aid she received, including the cookbook scholarship, she was able to attend VU. And thanks to VU’s overseas program, she fell in love with the French language and became intrigued with the international lifestyle she now lives.

Her first taste of international living came during her junior year, which was spent abroad studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. After graduating from VU, she spent a year working with Cree Indians in northern Manitoba as a Volunteer-in-Ministry for Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. From there, she received her master’s degree in French from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and spent two years in France. She taught English as a Second Language and French at the bilingual Lutheran High School in Bratislava, Slovakia, thoroughly enjoying her international experiences.

In 1994, Ann married Stéphane, who is French, and moved to France to teach university-level English and US culture at the University of Tours and the Graduate Business School of Tours. She teaches English to French business people who will attend meetings or make presentations in English. Some of her students are preparing to move to the United States and need cultural survival skills. She enjoys her work because it allows her to develop her love for languages, education and international cultures that was fostered during her education at Valparaiso University.
We See Clearly:

Valparaiso University
Guild’s National Project
2001-2003

On April 27, 2002, ground will be broken for Valparaiso University’s Center for Library and Information Resources. Funding for the $33 million building is supported by the VU Guild’s pledge to raise $200,000 for a reading room on the third level.

Each Guild member can participate by doing the following:

1. **Support the project with prayer.** Pray for the architects, the campus administrators, and the construction workers who are involved in the CLIR.

2. **Consider giving an individual gift to the Guild’s “We See Clearly” campaign and having that gift matched by your employer or AAL/ Lutheran Brotherhood.

3. **Encourage your Guild chapter to participate in the fundraisers proposed by the national Guild and participate in the fundraisers that your chapter organizes to raise funds for the Guild’s 2001-2003 national project.**

4. **Be proud that the VU Guild “sees clearly” the importance of the CLIR to Valparaiso University.**

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**CAMPUS CONNECTION**

Karl Lutze Writes of Those

Professor Karl Lutze has published a fascinating book, *Of Walls and Doors*. The book displays varied tones, from humorous to heartbreaking. In one segment, Lutze describes himself as a young minister who nervously plays three hymns — the only hymns he knew — on the piano at a Baltimore prison. Later, he tells of a Muskogee family that lost their meager possessions in a fire, and how the community helped rebuild their lives.

Leaders, such as former Valparaiso University President Otto Paul Kretzmann, who demonstrated unbiased Christian beliefs, influenced Lutze. For example, Kretzmann once escorted VU’s first black female student to campus by walking with her down Lincolway Ave., carrying her bag. Experiences with leaders including Lester Granger, former executive director of the National Urban League, and Craig Barry Anderson, a bishop of the Episcopal Church, are shared.

Lutze writes: “In vignettes I have hoped to tell how these people who have been processing though my life have enriched my ministry and have endeared themselves to me.” He emphasizes that, “It is not meant to be an autobiography. I am trying to write about people who have crossed my path.” Regardless of how he modestly attempts to hide his own contributions, stories told in *Of Walls and Doors* are souvenirs of human compassion, wisdom, faith and courage.

*Of Walls and Doors* can be purchased through Association of Lutheran Older Adults for $20, plus $5 shipping and handling. Call 1-800-930-ALOA to place an order. Lutze is available to share his experiences with Guild chapters.

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**Thank you to the Guild members who supported the men’s and women’s basketball teams as they advanced to the NCAA and WNIT. Go Valpo!**
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

I’m bursting with joy. It’s bubbling over like a fountain. My joy is peace deep within me. It is the quiet joy of cuddling a newborn baby, the exhilarating Easter greeting “He is Risen,” or the vibrant excitement of scoring the winning point. But what does Paul mean when he calls joy a fruit of the Holy Spirit?

If Paul were with us today he might tell us that as Christians we can’t wear catcher’s mitts on both hands. We need one hand free to throw. Real joy is in catching God’s love and “throwing” it to those around us. Freed by our faith we can live the joy of giving. Joy is both in healing and being healed, in comforting and in being comforted, in feeding and being fed. The scriptures repeatedly use the phrase “that your joy may be complete.” Our joy is complete not in getting but in giving.

There are so many ways to share joy — with a pan of warm cinnamon rolls or a story read to a child, with a care package to a student away from home, or a visit to a friend. In the words of Psalms 33:3: “Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” 2

The Christian Leader devotion was written by Carol (Erdmann) Daush (VU ‘63), from the Baltimore, MD chapter. She is the Library Manager for Baltimore County Public Library.

**Guild Special Award Benefits VU**

The Guild Special award has made wishes come true at VU since 1936. At Convention 2001, Greek Life and Volunteer Programs was selected as a co-recipient of the Guild Special to fund a lecture series focusing on women’s issues. Lectures on topics ranging from values and self-esteem in sorority life to breast cancer self-exams attract from 150 to 200 women per session.

Overhead projectors were also purchased with Guild Special funds in 2001. Department of Foreign Languages and Literature professors, as well as other departments teaching in Meier Hall, rely frequently on overhead projectors. “There was a shortage of this tool. We used to need a checkout and reserve system,” said Carole Goss, Director of the Language Lab.

In 2000, a Life/Form Auscultation Trainer and Smartscope was purchased by the College of Nursing through the Guild Special. The sophisticated learning tool resembles the trunk of a human body, and simulates breath and lung sounds. Named “Donald Trunk” by students, the Auscultation Trainer is used by prospective students during Nursing Visit Days. This Guild gift is the College of Nursing’s most sophisticated piece of equipment.

The Chapel of the Resurrection received the award three years ago to purchase songbooks for the Gloria Christi Chapel. *Worship and Praise*, a book of contemporary music, replaced tattered photocopies of hymns. Pastor Joseph Cunningham said the Guild’s support “has been a real blessing.” VU students use the songbooks during the Celebrate Eucharist Service and Candlesight Vespers.

Each Guild chapter contributes $30 annually toward the Guild Special. In recent years, the award has ranged from $2000 to $2500. At convention, Guild members vote on proposals submitted by VU departments. It is another way that the Guild supports the needs at Valpo. 2

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Spice up chapter meetings by trying the ideas used in Area I. Chapters have hosted a tuenrn style dinner; silent auction; and Pampered Chef or Watkins parties. One chapter asked a VU alumna to speak about her work and another chapter organized a used book sale to tie in with raising funds for VU's Center for Library and Information Resources.

In addition to pecans, Area I chapters sold fruitcakes, Grace Notes greeting cards and soup mixes.

Area I chapters have also worked to raise awareness of VU in their hometowns. In February, members participated in Valpo Sunday by serving as readers and ushers, arranging for altar flowers, and using bulletin inserts. Local Lutheran churches have been encouraged by Area I Guild members to forward current confirmand lists to VU.

Special events in Area I chapters include a special anniversary dinner meeting and a fundraising "tea" where chapter members sell seats to a table and provide desserts.

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Area II chapters have recovered from the many holiday celebrations, including Chicago NW Suburban chapter's annual cookie exchange and Geiseman Memorial's potluck and gift exchange. The Glenbrook chapter packed nearly 500 survival kits and attended VU's Christmas Concert in Chicago.

The number three is key for the Rockford chapter. Three families have three Valpo grads or current students. Pat Atwood and her two daughters are grads; Mary Lou Steele's two daughters are grads and her son is a junior; and Sandy Hallman and her husband are grads and their son is a freshman. Last month, Rockford elected new officers at their annual Guild cookbook potluck.

At their winter meeting, Quad City chapter members enjoyed a presentation on Germany by member, Sieglinde Paulsen, a native German. In addition to selling pecans and Creative Communication cards, the chapter was successful with the Scrip program — raising $280 to support Valpo.

The St. Louis chapter had its annual Advent Vespers where a skit by Jody Wallace on how to get ready for Christmas was presented. The New Mexico chapter celebrated the holidays with a wine and cheese party at the home of Marie Johnson Hahn.

In January, the Kansas City chapter enjoyed a luncheon at the home of Nita Runge. The VU-University of Kansas basketball game was attended by the chapter. The game was exciting, even though Valpo did not win!

Looking to spring, the Lincoln chapter, which has an equal number of members from Seward and Lincoln, will meet over lunch at a restaurant overlooking a lake.

The menu for the Des Moines chapter's spring salad luncheon was chosen at a January tasting. A style show took place at the March luncheon. The event strengthened members’ bonds of friendship.

The St. Paul chapter will host its traditional luncheon in May. The three Twin Cities chapters of St. Paul, Land of Lakes, and Minneapolis plan to hold a summer gathering.

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Area IV chapters are actively supporting the VU Guild's mission in their communities. The Diablo Valley chapter has great results selling Entertainment Books and participating in Zany Brainy fundraisers. Members will celebrate the chapter's 20th anniversary this year.

The Orange County chapter was also successful in working with Zany Brainy for its "Shop Night Fundraiser." During a Super Bowl party and meeting they supported Orange Co. Valpo students by packing homemade cookies during half time.

So far this year, the Spokane chapter has celebrated Valpo Sunday and enjoyed a women's retreat led by the chapter's newest Guild member, Mary Cartwright. This spring the chapter will have a Pampered Chef party and join other Northwest Guild chapters for a Guild retreat in Oregon.

In March, the San Diego chapter had its annual St. Patrick's Day gathering. This year they had soup and salad and gathered items to send to the two students from the San Diego area as well as the election of officers.

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Celebrating, planning and growing are the themes of the spring months in Wisconsin chapters. The Merrill and Sheboygan chapters celebrated Valpo Sunday with traditional activities and events including Merrill's VU display booths set up at area churches and Sheboygan's annual Valpo Sunday brunch at the Sheboygan Yacht Club for all Valpo friends.

Milwaukee Suburban and Racine chapter members will package special treats for VU students to be delivered during spring semester. Milwaukee Suburban's annual spring basket luncheon takes place on April 13 — two weeks before the Covered Bridge and Milwaukee Golden Gems chapters co-host the state unit meeting at First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg. This meeting offers Wisconsin chapter opportunities for chapter sharing, campus updates and a worship service.

Membership recruitment is encouraging chapters to reach out and share information about the Guild. Four prospective members are attending Racine chapter events, the Golden Gems chapter has two new and six prospective members and the Milwaukee Suburban chapter welcomed the new year along with seven new members.
Over 100 members attended the Detroit chapter's annual Christmas Tea at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church. The program included a short Advent service and music by Lutheran High School East's Chorale along with a cookie sale and tea sandwiches. The chapter welcomed four new members this fall. Planning is underway for the annual spring fashion show and luncheon. Nearby, the Detroit Suburban West chapter was successful with nut and dried fruit sales. Profits doubled through AAL matching funds. In March, the chapter had a luncheon meeting.

Rochester, MI chapter members attended the Valpo vs. Oakland basketball game and reception. Congratulations to chapter president Mary Burrell who recently had a baby.

The Battle Creek chapter stays busy with cutlery and pecan sales, dinner at Cornwall's Turkey Farm restaurant, a Christmas tea, and a Valpo Sunday brunch.

Fun and fellowship was enjoyed at the Saginaw chapter's Christmas luncheon with a musical program by the Recyclables. Guild members and registered dietitians Bonnie Johnson and Sally Faubel presented "What's New in Nutrition and Health?" at the March meeting.

Over 100 members attended the Hammond chapter's spring meeting, which welcomed four new members — two moms of current students and a grandma.

At the Four Winds chapter's spring meeting, members will discuss a chapter membership campaign and will plan their annual May potluck.
2001 SURVEY RESULTS

Guild Membership Survey

In 2001, the Valparaiso University Guild surveyed its members to learn more about the individuals that make up the VU Guild. With this information, the national Guild will better serve Guild members and can anticipate trends by comparing the data to past surveys.

Of the 745 members who responded, the majority have been members for over 10 years (10-19 years = 22.4% and over 20 years = 42.6%). The membership survey found that 3% are in their 20s (a modest increase from the 1996 survey indicating 2.2% in their 20s). Most members responding are between 61-70 years old and 66.2% are over age 51.

Not surprisingly, 42.3% responded that they are retired and nearly as many responded that they are employed (27% are employed full-time). From the surveys returned, 59% indicated that they are VU alumni and 34.6% have pursued education beyond a Bachelor's degree.

In addition to gathering demographic data, Guild members were asked why they joined the Guild. Over half of the members joined to support VU. Other reasons frequently indicated include a child attending VU, or because they were asked.

It is also interesting to note that the five most popular interest areas among the Guild members responding are: Arts & Crafts, Devotions/Bible Study, Cooking/Catering, Event Planning and Committee Leadership.

Members may still return the survey and new members will be asked to complete the survey so the national office will be aware of new member interests.

Winter 2001 Guild Bulletin Survey

Thank you to the members who responded to the survey in the last Guild Bulletin. From this survey we determined that members read the cover story, With One Voice column and Chapter-to-Chapter information first. Several women responded that they read the entire Guild Bulletin from cover-to-cover. Thanks!

Most respondents indicated that they would not be more likely to attend convention if it were combined with Homecoming. This information is valuable as we seek to increase attendance at Guild convention.

Thank you for the devotional resource suggestions. A bibliography of recommended devotion books will be distributed at convention in September. Members may continue to submit devotional book recommendations.

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