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Remembering a friend
VUSL plants tree to honor memory of colleague

BY HEATHER MONTEI
Executive editor

More than two dozen VUSL faculty, staff and students gathered Friday morning to dedicate a tree in memory of Rich Blennerhassett. The 56-year old unexpectedly passed away last December.

Blennerhassett was the Associate Administrator for Technology at VUSL. He had served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was an aviation enthusiast, licensed as a pilot and member of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

“Rich was such a good guy. We just wanted to do something to honor his memories,” stated Associate Dean Persyn. Dean Persyn led the drive to remember Blennerhassett with a tree and a memorial plaque. “Everyone was very generous – we were able to get twice the tree we had originally planned on.” The tree is located on the corner of Greenwich and Freeman Streets.

VUSL has also created the Rich Award, which bears the motto “Diligimus pro Diligentia.” The award has already been granted to three staff members for their hard work and dedication.

Blennerhassett’s wife Debbie is Circulation Supervisor for VUSL’s library. Debbie stated, “It was just so great, it was so much more than what I imagined.”

Ghostbusters at the Porter County Courthouse

BY JEAN STARR
Times Correspondent

Packing cameras, sound recording devices, heat-sensing equipment and other paraphernalia, Ghost Trackers of Northwest Indiana on Friday, April 29, 2005, stalked the Porter County Courthouse in search of the paranormal.

According to the group’s president, Mike McDowell, it came to sense the triggers - imperceptible evidence of past occurrences like murder and suicide. The group’s goal: to find evidence of things that happened in the courthouse’s history to cause unwieldly beings to haunt the place.

The group, which consists of about 300 members throughout the state, began in 2000. According to Dan Wilbur, of the Lafayette chapter, the group asks the spirits questions like, “Do you have any messages?” They validate answers by asking for the entity’s mother’s maiden name or other means of corroboration.

The small group traipsed slowly up each flight of stairs. The first stop was a second-floor courtroom. Leaving the lights out, Ghost Trackers warned one another before triggering their cameras with a “flash” announcement. Gliding slowly through the dark, snapping flash photos, alerting one another to blips on their electromagnetic field microphones that there was “something” in the room with them.

McDowell spoke a litany of questions: “Tell us your name,” “How long have you been here?” “Is there someone you loved or cared about that was sentenced here?”

On the third-floor landing, a member of the group stopped and retracted her steps.

“Something happened here, a fight or something,” she told the others. “It started here and went down the stairs, a very bad struggle.”

None of the trackers claimed to have psychic abilities. Most rely on various tools, from heat sensors to pendulums. Most say they just want to know why certain places are rumored to be “haunted.”

The trackers won’t know the results for at least a week. They plan on presenting what they found to the County Commission.
Saying goodbye
An editorial chapter closes and a new one begins

BY FORUM STAFF

In every organization there are always those people who are in the limelight. And then there are those who balance everything out who are never seen but who are just as important to the running of the show.

The FORUM was lucky to have two such frontrunners who have done their due and who will be moving on to their professional careers as the school year comes to a close. They are the ones who stayed in the office for countless hours; writing, editing, paying the bills, and doing everything no one else wanted or had the time to do.

They made the paper function and along with the rest of the Staff have made The FORUM something to be proud of. We will miss them, but we will never forget the memories each of them has brought to us and everything that we have learned along the way.

There could not have been two more different people that somehow always picked up where the other left off and created something that can be called a reputable law student publication.

This last issue of the FORUM for the school year represents the effort of the 2005-06 Editorial Board. This issue is bittersweet for those of us on the FORUM staff. Two individuals who have been responsible in large part for the quality product you hold in your hands are graduating and commencing their career to be successful legal careers. Please take a moment to honor the accomplishments of Jonathan Pasky and Bill Smith.

Thank you Jon & Bill for all of your hard work over the past two years and good luck in your legal careers!
NEWS IN BRIEF

Law School graduation to be held May 21st

Commencement for the May law school graduation will be held at Chapel of the Resurrection, on the Valparaiso University campus, at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2005.

Law School Textbook buyback

The Book Center's Ducks & Bucks book buyback is scheduled for the following dates and times: Thursday - Saturday, May 5-7, 9AM to 5PM, and Monday - Saturday, May 9 - 14, 9AM to 5PM.

As part of promotions during the week the bookstore will be giving away 3 textbooks stipends for the next semesters. They include one $200 and two $150 awards to the lucky winners. Students can also win tee-shirts, CD players and lots of other items when they choose a lucky duck. There is a minimum $25 buyback to choose a duck.

When selling back books, students should remember that workbooks and other materials that include answers in them should be cleaned up to bring the most value. Many workbooks are of no value when they have the answers in them or pages missing.

Students do not need their original receipt to sell back books; however, they do need their student ID. Students can sell books back as many times as they want... however, selling them earlier may bring more money on selected books the bookstore is buying back for itself.

Christopher Center wins second design award

Valparaiso University's Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources has received the 2005 Excellence in Architecture Citation from the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The citation said the Christopher Center "is a symbolic bridge between the community and the academy at Valparaiso University."

The Christopher Center was one of eight new buildings located around the world to receive one of the design awards, which recognize and honor excellence in architectural design.

The Christopher Center was designed by the San Francisco-based architectural firm Esherick Homsey Dodge & Davis and opened in August 2004.

In December, the Christopher Center received the Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Outstanding Concrete Achievement Award, which honors projects that use concrete in a unique and exceptional manner.

The Christopher Center also was featured in this year's campus architecture supplement of the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Step renovation

Attention law school students, the front steps of Wesemann Hall are undergoing renovation. Please keep off the marked off area until repairs are complete. Students are discouraged from vandalizing the steps while the steps are undergoing this process. Questions should be directed to Physical Plant.

Smoothie central

The Health Center staff will be mixing up Fresh Fruit Smoothies for the first morning of finals. The smoothies will be available in front of the student health center on Thursday, May 4, from 9AM to 12 noon.

Summer classes to begin May 23

Registration for summer school courses at Valparaiso University School of Law is underway. Summer Session runs from May 23 to July 11. The deadline to register for courses is May 26.

A listing of courses available this summer and registration forms also can be found on the registrar's web site.

Cinco de Mayo

Students looking for a study break on Saturday, May 7, can go to the Valparaiso University Student Union at 6 PM for a Cinco de Mayo celebration.

There will be traditional Mexican food, music and speakers in the Great Hall. Cost of admission is $5 for students, $7 for non-students.

New portraits in atrium

Many students have noticed the new portraits hanging in the atrium. The portraits are in fact not new; they were relocated from the second floor of Wesemann Hall near the administrative offices.

The portraits are of past law school deans Knute D. Stallard, Dean Morland, Milo Jesse Bowman and Col. Mark Demotte. Students should take a moment to reflect on deans of days gone by.

Law professor named associate dean

Alex Geisenger, professor of law, has been appointed to the new position of associate dean for faculty development for the School of Law.

He will be responsible for facilitating scholarly and related work by law faculty and make resources available for that work and for teaching enhancement.

Extreme makeover

The School of Law needs the help of students to assess the physical needs of the Law School. Associate Dean Cichowski is heading up a task force to survey and assess "the good, the bad, the ugly, and the missing."

The task force is looking for what the students think works and does not work. Do you like the Atrium, or do you think it needs improvements? How about the bathrooms? The library?

If you have any suggestions please email them to Dean Cichowski or one of the other committee members. The other committee members include Associate Dean Persyn, Professor Whitton, Lisa Todd, Valerie Jenson and Jim Vondracek.

— Melissa Durham, Production Editor
The issue in this case was how to interpret 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), which purports to prohibit felons who have been convicted in "any court" from owning guns.

Justice Breyer, joined by Justices Stevens, O'Connor, Souter and Ginsburg contended that "any court" was only applicable to domestic courts. However, Justice Thomas wrote a dissent with Justices Scalia and Kennedy which indicated that the statute should be interpreted literally to mean any court, including foreign courts.

The majority contended that applying the law to foreign convictions was unfair because procedural protections are often less in international courts. The Court reasoned that U.S. law, which prohibits felons who have been convicted in "any court" from owning guns, applies only to domestic crimes. The Court concluded that if Congress intended foreign convictions to apply, Congress can rewrite the law to specify such a restriction.

**Agriculture, Constitutional Law, Environmental Law**

High court rules against pesticide makers

Petitioner Small was convicted in a Japanese court of trying to smuggle firearms and ammunition into Japan. Small served five years in prison and then returned to the United States, at which time he bought a gun. Small had answered "no" to the felony conviction question on a federal form when he bought the handgun in 1998 a few days after he was paroled from a Japanese prison for violating weapons laws in that country.

Small was indicted in 2000 for lying on the form and for illegally owning two pistols and 335 rounds of ammunition. Federal authorities charged Small under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), which forbids "any person ... convicted in any court ... of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year ... to ... possess ... any firearm."

Small pleaded guilty while reserving the right to challenge his conviction on the ground that his earlier conviction, being foreign, fell outside §922(g)(1)'s scope. The Federal District Court and the Third Circuit rejected this argument.

However, the Supreme Court held that §922(g)(1), which prohibits a person who has been "convicted in any court" encompasses only domestic, not foreign, convictions. In fact, the Court ruled that people convicted of crimes overseas may own a gun in the United States.

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RECENT ORAL ARGUMENT

Criminal Law & Procedure

- High court to decide who pays for indigents' guilty pleas

Halbert v. Michigan, 03-10198 (April 25, 2005).

The Supreme Court heard arguments on April 25, 2005, over whether a Michigan law discriminates against the poor by barring the state from paying for appeals for indigent defendants who plead guilty.

The Michigan law was aimed at helping clear a backlog of more than 4,000 cases before the appeals court. One-third of the claims were from defendants who had pleaded guilty. Most of the defendants were seeking reduced sentences.

The law under review was approved by Michigan voters in 1994. It bars automatic appeals for defendants who plead guilty or no contest unless they fall under a limited set of exceptions, including if a prosecutor seeks an appeal. Defendants can still ask the Michigan Court of Appeals for permission to appeal, but that request is seldom granted.

Michigan is the only state with such a law. However, 17 states are backing its case, and advocates for the poor warned those states will pass similar laws if Michigan prevails.

The 17 states supporting Michigan are: Louisiana, Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

The case involves Antonio Dwayne Halbert, who plead no contest in 2001 to two child molestation charges and received up to 30 years in prison. Halbert, who has learning disabilities, has unsuccessfully sought a state-appointed lawyer to appeal based on his contention that the length of his sentence was improperly calculated.

David Moran, a Wayne State University law professor representing Halbert, contended during oral arguments that although the law does not stop someone from seeking an appeal, the law created separate justice systems for the rich and poor. However, Justice Scalia responded during arguments that, “A right to ask for an appeal is not a right to get an appeal.”

Recent Case Granted Certiorari

Constitutional Law

- Supreme Court to hear dispute over student loan repayments


High Court said on April 25, 2005, that it will consider whether the federal government can seize a person’s Social Security payments to pay off student loan debts that are at least a decade old. The case hinges on a pair of congressional statutes that send mixed messages as to whether Social Security payments are shielded: the Debt Collection Act and the Higher Education Act (HEA). Justices will decide what Congress ultimately intended when it revised the two laws.

Justices agreed to hear an appeal by James Lockhart, a disabled man who says he needs his monthly check to pay for food and medication. The San Francisco-based Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said the U.S. Department of Education, which wants to seize his Social Security checks.

When Congress passed the HEA in 1991, it eliminated the 10-year time limit on the government’s right to seek repayment on defaulted student loans by seizing payments to individuals.

However, the Debt Collection Act created an exception to that rule for Social Security payments. Congress eventually amended that law to allow the seizure of Social Security payments, but then left intact a separate provision that continued to set a 10-year time limit.

However, the case will not be heard until the Court’s next term beginning in October and the justices will decide what Congress ultimately intended when it made the series of revisions to the two laws.

According to the Bush administration’s Supreme Court filing, billions of dollars are at stake. There is nearly seven billion dollars in delinquent student loan debt, half of which is more than 10 years old. However, attorneys against the law countered that a ruling for the government puts at risk the Social Security funds that millions of people rely on.
When you enter the legal field, your reputation is no longer individual. It becomes reflective of those around you as well. Your actions will make a difference not only to your future, but to your peers as well. A great job on your part may convince partners to open doors for future students.

Likewise, poor judgment on your part, intentional or not, will close opportunities for others. Like it or not, you are judged by those you choose to associate with; the actions of other VUSL students will make an impact on the way you are viewed in the job market.

In a market where finding a legal job seems equivalent to finding a diamond in the rough, it is up to each of us to open doors for other VUSL students entering the job market. We face competition on all fronts, from IU, Notre Dame, and the half dozen law schools in the Chicago market. The work you do beginning this summer affects VUSL as an institution and can make it easier or harder for future VUSL students to find work.

Best of luck to the 3L class as you venture out into the workforce. May your reputation exceed your highest expectations.

A wise 1L legal writing professor once said that reputation is the most valuable asset one has in the legal field. It is the one thing you have complete and total control over. You control your work ethic, you control the job you accept and you control your ethical obligations. Whatever job you find yourself in this summer, first year associate, summer associate, public interest, pro bono, or Starbucks Barista, hold fast to the reputation you have begun to develop.

Reputation is seemingly an elusive concept. After all, reputation is not only a reflection of self-perception, but also the perception of an individual in the work community. Reputation can be developed quickly or slowly, as a result of one incident or a culmination of several.

Unfortunately, a bad reputation more often develops as a result of one incident of unbridled frustration. Contrastingly, a good reputation results from several instances of exhibiting grace under fire and self-restraint. Reputation is a result of self-confidence, self-initiative, and dedication. It begins as early as your first written correspondence in a cover letter and resume.

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Summer magic

Remember the feeling you got during childhood as time inched toward the last days of school? As the daylight lingered for hours and the night air stayed warm, an eager restlessness would steal over you: summer is coming. That familiar feeling of excitement and transition — something new, something different — is back again, and it represents something special for everyone.

For the graduating class, summer represents the transition from being students to becoming lawyers. Best wishes to each of you as you tackle the bar exam and try to find out niche in the legal profession.

For new students, summer represents preparing to embark on the journey we’ve already begun, and each of them will make the transition in their own way. They will arrive at VUSL in August, fresh from undergraduate study, or from established careers; from two states over, or from continents away.

In the midst of all these changes, summer represents something to SBA as well. We’re taking advantage of the next three months to guarantee you a tangible difference when you return in the fall. With the early- or mid-summer completion of our new website, (www.valpo.edu/student/sha) we’ll join the ranks of hundreds of law schools who use the web to keep students informed and involved. SBA will also be working closely with the Administration this summer to plan orientation events, ensuring that incoming students feel welcome and connected from the moment they arrive.

We’ll be more in tune with student organizations through a running dialogue that encourages suggestions and feedback. Finally, SBA meetings and Administrative Board members will be more visible, with regular office hours, a consistent meeting time for the entire year (Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.), and minutes of our meetings posted to the web.

For everyone, this is a time of change. As spring and the school year come to a close, let’s embrace that change with the enthusiasm that only summer can bring.

Kristin is a 2L at VUSL. She can be reached at kristin.nesbitt@valpo.edu.

Ending with a new beginning

By Tara Wozniak

Mock trial team

For the past three years, I have had the opportunity and privilege of being a member of VUSL’s Mock Trial Team. Throughout these three years, the VUSL Mock Trial Team has changed drastically. We’ve gone from a small group of students just on the team to compete, to an organized body of competitors doing everything in our power to learn the game and win.

Unfortunately, new organizations follow a learning curve. That first win takes time, but each year the team’s quality improves. Competition judges have mistaken VUSL Mock Trial for teams that traditionally win the regional competitions. In addition, our knowledge of the law and evidence exceeds many of our competitors.

Mock Trial Team members spend months pouring over case materials for our competitions. Team members prepare by conducting research; developing case theories, themes, and strategies; arguing pretrial motions, motions to dismiss, and complicated objections; and presenting opening statements, direct examinations, cross examinations, and closing arguments. Mock Trial Team members have to think on their feet, be creative, flexible, and captivating.

After competing for three years, I see us slowly rising to the level of the winning teams. The VUSL Mock Trial Team is becoming a competitor to be reckoned with.

Recently, the Mock Trial Team selected another group of incoming competitors, who will continue on this path. This try-out season was one of the most competitive the VUSL Mock Trial Team has ever seen. Congratulations to the 2005-2006 VUSL Mock Trial Team: Erica Allen, Patty Andritsakis, Meghan Bass, Deb Beaverson, Erin Brady, Ruth Delgado, Nicholas Gaeke, Erin Gallagly, Caton Hanson, Christine Parry, David Payne, Vanessa Samano, Maziar Shafiei, Andrew Smith, Korin Spahr, Brad Thies, and Azra Zaidi.

The 2005-2006 Executive Board is: Erin Gallagly, Chairperson; Nicholas Gaeke, Interschool Competitions Chair; Meghan Bass, Membership Chair; Andrew Smith, Finance Chair; and Ruth Delgado, Secretary and Alumni Relations Chair.

My hope is that this new team of hardworking, dedicated and talented students will continue to raise the bar for themselves as a team, so that one day VUSL will be known for its Mock Trial program and the litigants it sends into the legal world. The Mock Trial Team now has a dedicated coach, Steven Langer of Langer & Langer in Valparaiso, Indiana. As I join this firm after graduation, I will continue to lend my support to the Mock Trial Team to ensure that this Team and this group of hardworking students have the support and resources it needs to succeed.

My days at VUSL and on the Mock Trial Team are numbered now, but as I enter the legal community, the skills that I will take with me from Mock Trial are invaluable. I hope Mock Trial continues to pass on these resources to new members year after year.

Tara is a 3L and can be reached at tara.wozniak@valpo.edu.

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

By Steven Probst

Educational Services Librarian

I remember hearing about some great internet sites for legal research that may come in handy over the summer but can't recall any of the web addresses. Can you suggest some good sites?

If you can only remember one web address to assist you with “free” online legal research, develop a preference for a good legal directory and memorize or bookmark it. Such a directory will point you to various legal websites.

One of the best is the Legal Information Institute, maintained by Cornell University Law School (www.law.cornell.edu). Other good directories include Lawyer Express (www.lawyerexpress.com), and one maintained by the Law Library of Congress (http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law-guide.html).

Also, don’t forget about government web sites containing information you would otherwise pay for through a commercial database. For federal publications, including federal legislative, regulatory, and judicial materials, check the Government Printing Office first at www.gpoaccess.gov. Other great sites are Thomas (http://thomas.loc.gov) and the U.S. Courts website (www.uscourts.gov) for nearly anything related to the federal judiciary.

Indiana has a great deal of information for legal professionals available through Access Indiana, (www.in.gov). Other states’ official sites can be found by using the State Web Locator (www.infoctr.edu/swl).

If legal news is what you’re interested in, I would recommend Jurist (http://jurist.law.pitt.edu) for national and international legal news, or the Indiana Law Blog (www.indianalawblog.com) for in-state legal developments.

Finally, for non-legal research, I would recommend a good reference directory such as www.refdesk.com.
From a blue...to a red

No one ever said it was easy, no one ever said it would be this hard.” I think that Coldplay lyric aptly sums up my feelings after nearly completely my first year of law school. Before I ventured west, I thought the hardest part of law school would be adjusting to life in the Midwest.

Moving from a “blue” state to a “red” state, superficially anyway, has not been quite the adjustment I thought it would be. Honestly, other than the substantial increase in “W” bumper stickers and bible stations on the radio, northwest Indiana is very similar to upstate New York.

For those “non-conventional” students like myself, I would guess the hardest part of adjusting to law school would be life without a steady paycheck. I truly realized my fall from grace last week that has affected me significantly. I truly believe Coldplay's lyric aptly sums up my feelings after nearly completely my first year of law school.

Throughout history, and in America today, persons who would like to gain power use religious fundamentalism and fear as a method for control. Those on the right have called me a communist for saying such things. However, that attitude goes a long way to proving my point. The right would like to declare “war,” or create an enemy out of any idea it doesn’t understand or want other people to hear. God forbid, pun intended, there should be a free flow of ideas in a society that prides itself on liberty.

I respect every person’s right to believe what they want; unless that belief encroaches on the beliefs of others. This point became embarrassingly clear with the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. Those on the right side of the aisle accused the judges of being “activist.”

It has been en vogue lately for the right, when things don’t go the way their pride itself on liberty. The proof is in the pudding, nothing mobilizes people like fear and religion, and the combustible combination thereof. In a society as diverse as ours you can’t please everyone. But, I would like to think we are sophisticated enough not to succumb to fear and a western version of religious fundamentalism.

Damon is a 1L at VUSL. You can reach him at damon.newman@valpo.edu.
Looking back...

and looking ahead...

Gina Goce, '05
Thoughts and reflections on law school

A message from the consummated class adviser

Professor Al Morrisson

Since they have demolished, graded and reseeded the site of the building where I attended law school classes, it is a miracle that I have any memories at all. Nevertheless, let me share a few observations.

When we sat in class, everyone took notes using a writing stick. Laptop computers had not been invented and if anyone had suggested that students would someday use such a device we would have thrown a net over him.

Notice I said him, because my class was unique in that it had two, count 'em, two women students. If we wanted to make a phone call, it was two flights down to the payphone. Anything that rang in the classroom was presumed to be the start of a fire drill.

When we were terrified into doing any legal research, it was accomplished by thrashing about in the stacks of the library and not by going on-line. In fact, we had no idea what "on-line" meant.

So why am I apparently trying to solidify my geezerhood credentials? Take heed of the lesson contained in this confession. Change will occur within the time of your professional life, too. Be prepared for it, embrace it and learn to roll with the punches it delivers.

Don't be one of those poor souls who spend most of his or her time muttering under their breath about the "good old days". Evidence usually demonstrates that they were not as good as we remember them.

If I can learn to use a computer, you can learn to deal with the changes that will be flung in front of you as the years go by. Just be on the lookout for anything that suggests that it can be a replacement for a lawyer.

Go forth and do good work.

Best Wishes,

Al Morrisson
Dear graduating students

A letter from Professor Rebecca Huss

I would like to begin by telling you that I consider it a real honor to be asked to participate as a hooder in your graduation ceremony.

I was privileged to have almost all of you in Business Associations last year. (For the last time, I did not “like” the Spring Semester class more than the Fall Semester class. Just like a parent’s love for his or her children, I enjoy teaching all my classes the same amount.)

This letter provides me with one last opportunity to remind you of the phrase (poor grammar and all) said frequently in that class—okay—all together now—“LYING IS BAD.”

Since you are now past Business Associations (and I am sure all thankful for that fact) I can expand the use of the phrase in a way that connects to your graduation from law school and future. Of course, lying in your professional life will cause all sorts of trouble. I am confident that you have all acquired the necessary tools to become really good lawyers.

I also believe that one thing that will amaze you about practice is the incredibly learning curve you will be on the first few years of practice. Once you figure out what you truly enjoy about the practice of law I hope you trust in yourself enough to do what you need to in order to spend the bulk of your career on that area. I hope that you are able to find a job that you enjoy as much as I enjoy teaching at Valparaiso.

Congratulations again. Make sure to keep in touch with us and remember that if you make a whole lot of money and are willing to share it with us we would be happy to name a faculty chair after you.

P.S. Post-graduation you should feel free to call me by my first name—and I will try to use your first name as well.

A letter to the Class of 2005

From Professor Laura Dooley, your proud “hooder”

It seems like yesterday that you were sitting in your first day of Civil Procedure class, wondering (in no particular order): 1. What is due process?; 2. Why does everyone else seem to know what it is?; 3. Who the hell is this guy Mitchell that Dooley (or Lind) keeps talking about, and if he’s so important why is the case called Pennoyer v. Neff instead of Mitchell v. Neff?; 4. I was a perfectly happy, normal person before this week—what possessed me to enter law school?; and 5. Duffy’s or Buddy & Pal’s tonight?

A lot has happened since that first day, and now you are likely struggling with a very different set of questions—questions like whether you’ve made wise decisions about where and in what setting to practice law, what bar review course to take, how to deal with all those relatives coming for graduation, Martini’s or Buddy & Pal’s tonight?

Client by client, case by case, the world will change a little bit, and sometimes profoundly, because of the work you will do. Your legal training imbues you with both power and with the duty to use that power for just causes. And as you do that, you will continue to make us proud.
The opportunity to be heard

The 3L Class of 2005 sounds off on Valpo Law and beyond

Mike Anderson
Future Plans: Take IL Bar. Best of Luck to everyone!

Jonathan Baker
I came to VUSL not knowing what to expect, but am leaving with tons of great memories; Friday lunch crew, poker, road trips, criminal clinic, needing the face book, wearing the racing shirt.... I will be taking the Kentucky Bar and practicing in Stanford, Kentucky.

Adam Bancroft
Future plans include beginning my legal career in West Michigan and marrying my fiance, Kim, in December. I would like to thank Professor Stuart, Professor Potts and Registrar Debbie Gleason for their encouragement and faith in me and the Mock Trial Team for helping me prepare as a future litigator.

Nicholas Barnes
Future Plans: Army Jag or a Prosecution Office Bar: Indiana. "We all have stories."

Erin Baugh
I would just like to give a special thank you to Dean Conison and the Career Planning Center for all of their help and support over the past 3 years. Plans: Moving to Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico in August to complete an 18-month culinary course.

Ryan Borgmann
I would like to thank Fred McGivern, Jason Bere, Don Baylor, Dusty Baker, Sammy Sosa, Alex Gonzalez, and Steve Bartman for their assistance in getting me through law school. If the Cubs hadn't fizzled at the end of 2002 and 2004, I probably wouldn't be graduating (assuming I am).

Annette L. Brady
Future Plans: Illinois Bar, Phil, I'm going to miss special coffee.

Kristin Bruess
Northside, Pass Times, BW3's; Climb out of debt and charge legal fees! Bodenstein, Dooley, Berner, Lind; New days are blowing our way like the wind. Watch out real world, we soon will arrive; I will miss you, Class of 2005!

Jessica Buum
I will never forget all the fun times we have had at Valpo! I am very grateful that I got to know so many of you, and I hope to see you all again in the future! I don't know where I am going yet, either South Dakota or Iowa. I wish you all the best of luck in everything you do, especially the Bar Exam!

Sean Campbell
My favorite part of law school, by far, was being member of the Mock Trial Team and competing in Pittsburgh - I love everyone on the team! After graduation I am going to Arizona to sit for the bar and then I am moving to Madrid, Spain and getting a job waiting tables in a coffee shop.

Fred Carpenter
Upon graduation and taking the Indiana Bar Exam, I will begin working at Spangler, Jennings & Dougherty in their Merrillville office. I will be working in their business law area and doing who knows what else. My family and I plan on staying in this area, most likely in Valparaiso, for some time.

Ellen E.H. Cavendish
Many thanks to my family for their support these past three years and a special thank you to my fiancee Joe and our crazy dog Chicken - you two are the best! I'll never forget the wonderful friends I've made here. I'll miss you guys! Future plans: Smith Bovill, Saginaw, Michigan.

Teri Cummins
Future Employment Plans - Hopefully working as a Prosecutor in the Indianapolis area. Favorite Memory - Not any one favorite memory, but Cambridge, the Faukens, and the Criminal Clinic definitely stand out in my mind! Words of Wisdom - Have fun while you're here, and don't take school to seriously!

Mike Dobbs
We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Matthew Doherty
I will be the only Valpo law grad going to the frozen tundra that is North Dakota and the only Alumnus in the state. Look me up if you need local counsel. I'll be clerking for the ND Supreme Court, hopefully joining a firm thereafter, and working just long enough to buy a golf course somewhere warm.

Deidre R. Eltzroth
Future Plans: After graduation, I plan to resume my pre-law school transient lifestyle sleeping on the sofas of friends and family while I prepare to take the Indiana bar exam and wait to find employment in anything but private practice.

Daniel Evans
I was told we only have 50 words to sum up our law school experience. So I'll briefly describe each year: First year: I knew nothing. Second Year: I knew more than last year. Third year: *Poof!* I'm a lawyer. At least law school taught me to count to 50.

Joe Felty
My future plans are to stay involved in the environmental arena, either through traditional legal practice or as a consultant where my engineering experience blends with my legal education in order to remediate problem sites. A word of thanks to my friends, both student and non-student - your support was critical and sincerely appreciated.

Benjamin Fryman
I won't be completely gone from school after graduation because I'll be here all Summer for Indiana bar review. After that, my schedule is pretty much wide open for the next forty years. I hope my wife doesn't mind supporting us for a little while longer.

Tim Fesko
Congrats everyone and I hope we all stay in touch. For the next year. I'll likely be working in beautiful Lake County Indiana (da Region) if anyone is wondering where I'll be.

Anthony Flore
Favorite Law School Memories: Getting to run with the bulls in Spain, becoming a Law School Rock Star. Future Plans: Find a nice beach-intensive country where creditors will never find me, live out my days as a street performer or hatmaker.

Beth Garrison
Upon graduation, I will be moving to Indianapolis to begin working at the law firm Hume, Smith, Geddes, Green, & Simmons, where I will be primarily doing insurance defense work. I will always value my time at VUSL, remembering the timeless friendships I developed, the never-ending support from the faculty, and the countless laughs I shared in the moot court office.

Dave Garrison
To the Valpo Law class of 2005, it was great getting to know all of you. I wish I could have been around more often my 3L year, but enjoyed visiting. After graduation, I plan to practice in Nashville, Tennessee. If you're ever in Music City, please look me up!!

Toni Giancola
Future Plans: Prosecution in Illinois Thank you: Joe Langerak I could not have made it through my first-year without you; Baker for the air-mattress; Nicholas for the Marengo experience; Elyssa for your ring; and Elizabeth for Europe and always keeping me sane. Advice: Remember that everything happens for a reason.
CLASS OF 2005 SPECIAL EDITION

Gina Marie Gioe
Plan to practice somewhere around Indianapolis (possibly my hometown of Noblesville, IN). Thanks to all of you for so many great memories. I will always cherish my time here and consider you to be my closest friends. Best of luck! “Whatever you are, be a good one.” ~Abraham Lincoln

Elizabeth Goodrich
As a result of my participation in the Criminal Clinic, I have decided to practice criminal law in Indiana. To enable me to better defend future clients, I will spend eight weeks in Oaxaca, Mexico, after the Bar Exam, learning to speak Spanish.

Jessica Greyerberh
Moving to St. Joseph, MI- where I will be practicing at Hunt Suedhoff Kalamaros. I’m hoping to have my own beach house by the time next summer rolls around. Trips to scenic mock trial competition cities and opportunities for new friendships with my classmates are things I’ll always be thankful for. Good luck all.

Kristen Hall
I would like to thank my parents and fiance, Jeff, for helping me through law school. I would also love to thank Bridget, April, Erika, and Laura for making the whole experience bearable, and sometimes even fun! I plan to stay in the NW Indiana area after graduation.

Krista Hamby
I consider being a student at VUSL one of my life’s biggest blessings. I will leave Valpo with more than an education and a degree. Over the past three years, I have made friends that have become like family, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Nicholas Haverstock
I will be moving back to Crawford County to practice law or get disbarred. Thanks to professors Morrison and Welter for your helpful advice. Thanks to the wonderful people in the Criminal Clinic for days of enjoyment and entertainment. Thanks to T & E for helping me graduate.

Philip Heimlich
Future Plans: Going to BW’s and getting a beer. At first I thought this blog idea was pretty stupid, and now I still think its pretty stupid. However, a large member of the 3L steering committee is sitting next to me and threatening severe bodily injury. So here you go Avaneesh, 50 words...now stop bothering me.

Matthew A. Horeled
Reflections on our first week at Valpo: Monday: Meet and Greet at Kirchoff Park Free beer and meeting new friends for the first time = “Law school is Awesome!” Wednesday: Getting called on the first day in Prof. Lind’s Civil Procedure class and barely remembering my own name let alone the correct answers. Experiencing what public humiliation and degradation truly feels like. = “Law school is definitely Not Awesome!” Friday: Welcome back mixer at Duffy’s More free beer and making many more interesting friends while realizing we’re going to make it somehow = “Law school is still Awesome!” We’ve all come a long way since that first week. Best of luck to everyone as we now go our separate ways.

Nicholas C. Huang
Future plans: I’m planning on taking the California bar & practicing in LA. Thanks to everyone for making the VUSL experience enjoyable. Good times, good people, visit me.

Paul S. Kelly
Future: Hoeppner Wagner & Evans – Business Litigation. Thank you to Valparaiso University School of Law and the Moot Court Honor Society. I have appreciated the opportunity to grow professionally and academically.

Grace Johnk
My best memory came five months ago with news my sister and her husband will be having their first baby in September! To my friends Phil ’Q Garrett, ’Other’ Phil, Mike, Elian ‘Easy E’ Cavendish, Carrie ‘Sassy’ Smith, Elyssa ‘Eeeelictic’ Meade, ‘Law Review’ Joe, Julie, KMc2, Amy ‘Doom & Vroom’, Toni, Elizabeth, Anne, and others – thanks for making this so much fun – ’The Bleachers’; Pass Times; me vs. Lego’s; Yuengling, Breakfast at Jimmy’s; crowned pool champion with Joe ‘Cavendish’ ‘we won’t be out long, just one beer.’ And to Prof. Nuechterlein – thank you for being a great professor and mentor.

Samantha Joslyn
I have many things to take away from my time at VUSL. From the great friends I have made to the educational experiences I have had, I am grateful. Thank you to everyone who has played such an important part of these past three years.

Joe Langerak
My fiance, Julia, and I will be moving into our recently purchased home in Evansville, Indiana. I am employed by Rudolph, Fine, Porter & Johnson working in civil defense litigation. My best memory from VUSL is meeting my future wife. Further, I will always hold Moot Court in high regard.

Katherine Lord
I will be moving to Washington, D.C., after graduation and will hopefully be able to find a job that fuels my passion! I would like to thank the three people who actually read my blog and are things I will always hold Moot Court in high regard.

Senthil Raj Malviya
To the VU law class of 2005!: It’s been a great 3 years. I am headed back to west Michigan to pursue employment. Home is where the heart is. To the great friends I have made here: Joe, you still owe me for those drinks at Linebacker, you’re buying at the next Sinatra night; Amir, I’ll never forget the ND tailgating, go Irish! Steulner, thank god were moving out of the nursing home; Vandelay; Marta enjoyed “House of Kobe”, I’ll never forget our castle and dirty Frank at 809; Steulner, that goes for you too. Van G, “Hey, I uh, go to school here”, Raj, “Uh, Okay? , Hulst, H-town baby! Here we come; Olsen, I’ll always remember the lone 3 on the dance floor at B&P’s, Hulst, that goes for you too. Mullis, always wear the cowboy hat when you show up for court. I’ll miss you all.

Avaneesh Marwaha
I will be moving to Chicago, and working at Amin Law. I will be involved in IP licensing and litigation along with FDA regulatory work. I would like to thank everyone for a great three years. I will miss Apt. B and 103. To my neighbors, dates partners, and Cubs fans its been real. Everyone: Eat, Drink, and be Merry.

Kristin McClellan
Ice Miller, Indianapolis, Municipal Financing Edition. Prof. N., Thank you for you guidance, support, and for believing in my over the last three years...without you, I would have never made it past first semester. Josh, James, Joe, Matt, Joey, Christi, Lindsay...one year to go...I am so proud of each of you!

Deshawn McQueen
boys & girls, I am done with you and will NEVER forget you!!...be gentle, take GREAT care with yourselves, have fun, live each day like it’s your last...a lifetime full of last days, ok?! Great big bear hug to you in my thoughts, FOREVER anton. p.s. – arizona bar!

Megan Moore
I’m from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, so I’ll be studying for and taking the Bar Exam in Nashville this summer. I’m still job searching. I plan on practicing in Nashville or M’boro.

Goodbye snow, hello sunshine! To my classmates, have a nice life.

Paul Mullin
Foremost, I’d need to thank John H. Lewis and Kimberly Wilkins (VUSL ’88) of Lewis and Wilkins P.C. for taking a chance on a scrappy Irish kid from the northside of Indianapolis. I’ll buy the first round for Valpo Law 3Ls after we finish the IN bar in July. Mullin@lewisandwilkins.com.

Jason Mullis: What can you really say? I came to law school with some clothes and aspirations. I am now headed to Phoenix with a $100,000 debt and a drinking habit. Is it worth it? Well, I have met some great people along the way. The road goes on forever and the party never ends!

Stephanie Nemeth
After graduation I will be working for a small firm, May Oberfell Lorber, in South Bend, Indiana. Soon I will be looking for my own house, which is exciting too. Thanks to all my friends for making my Valpo days so fun and memorable. I wish everyone all the best and I hope we all stay in touch!

Timothy R. Nagalski
Future Plans: J.A.G. Attorney, U.S.M.C. In the words of Thomas Paine, These are the times that try our souls. Whatever each is called to do, my wish for the 2005 class is that we all stand the test of life with heads held high and honor intact.

Jim Oppenhuizen
Congratulations 3Ls and good luck on the Bar Exam! I will
be moving back to Grand Rapids, Michigan. I look forward to spending a lot more time with my daughter, Kennidie. I would like to work in the areas of business law and creditors’ rights.

Jonathan R. Pasky
Future plans: Intellectual Property law at Botkin & Hall, LLP in South Bend, Indiana. Thanks especially to the FORUM editors and staff: without your dedication, the vision would never have become a reality.

Jennifer Pomaranski
Future Plans: If I can’t find a job, there is always the option of being a professional Cardozo Cup Cheerleader. Shout Out: I would like to thank my dear friend, Erin, who has exemplified the true meaning of courage and perseverance in law school.

Barry Pruett
After graduating in the beginning of August, I begin working at Burke, Costanza & Cuppy in Merrillville and Valparaiso. I clerked there over the summer last year and am very excited to be working with such good people. My most memorable moments are all from the Cardozo Cup Softball Tournament: Last year 3L team ten home runs in 2 minutes - $10. Beating the 2L team for the second year in a row - $20. Jeremy Willett jumping over the wall to rob a homerun from a 2L to end the game – PRICELESS!

Joni Reed
Future Plans: Taking the Indiana Bar and moving to Hamilton Co. in October. I am not sure how much of the last 3 years I am retaining, but I know the friendships I have made will be around forever. Thank you to all of my great friends. Law school would have been completely different without you.

Crystal Rice
Two wonderful parents, two beautiful sisters and two perfect nephews await my return to Grand Rapids, Michigan. My legal career will begin at the Michigan Court of Appeals. To my friends at Valpo, thank you for your encouragement and support. Congratulations and best wishes to all of the 3L’s!

Julia Riecken
Upon graduation, I will be practicing civil litigation at Bowers Harrison, LLP in Evansville, Indiana. I will cherish all my memories at Valpo, especially meeting my fiancéé, Joe Langerak, making so many amazing friends, participating in the law school musicals, and just “hanging out” in the Moot Court office.

Abby Michele Ross
Future Plans: Taking Maryland Bar Exam in July; Judicial clerkship for Baltimore City Circuit Court 2005-2006. Remember: A way of life that is odd or even erratic but interferes with no rights or interests of others is not to be condemned because it is different. Mike Rusch: thought it poignant to express myself in bad Haiku! Call this one “Clune” Guidance Counselor Said: simple, dense, no college. Now I say: Screw you! For all of those who kept the faith, thank you! Finally, the 2006 Superbowl championship will go to the Chicago Bears! Oh yeah!

Tara Rusch
After graduation I will be staying in Valparaiso for the bar review. Then if I pass, I will be working in the Valpo area at Allen Law Offices as an associate. Favorite memory: Contracts 1L year when I was the stereotypical Wisconsin native who had uncanny knowledge about cows! Thanks a lot Doherty! Good luck to all my classmates! Go Badgers!

Tonya Shaw
I’m staying in Valparaiso this summer to study for the Indiana Bar. I will be practicing at Emison, Doolittle, Kolb & Roellgen in Vincennes, Indiana. They let me wait until September 1st to start, so I get to have a little fun after the bar =)

Anne M. Skallerup
Future Plans: Sit for the Illinois Bar, go back to Europe for a little while and then work in Chicago somewhere. Good Luck to all the future classes!

Carrie Smith
I plan to head to Chicago to practice after taking and hopefully passing the bar. I have enjoyed all three years at law school but especially liked second semester 3L when school is just a little less important. Good luck to everyone and thanks for a great 3 years.

Jamie Spence
“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Regardless of the times, every day I know that I am a more equipped person because of my time at VU, and I am excited to see what paths await me. Already I have been blessed with a two-year clerkship.

Bill Stanton
As for my future plans, I will be pumping gas at the Citgo at Elston and Cicero in Chicago. Special shout out to my Crim Clinic Crew, the near-dynasty Cardozo Cup team (repeat), and the best there ever was/best there ever will be Bar-a-thon team. The Coaches (three-peat) AKA Dynasty. Much love to K-dogg, GG, and my many admirers. Thanks, T-Diddy, for all your support (she thinks my tractor’s sexy). I’m not conceited - I’m just better. PS - Blue’s over there, and he’s wasted.

Chris Stemler
Future plans: My immediate plans include practicing as a trial attorney with the firm of Rich & Clark in the St. Louis area. Thanks to my friends for the debauchery, Coaches, 3-Peat, Dynasty.

Amir Tahmassebi
I would like to thank my professors, administrators, and friends for the last three years. It has been educational and enjoyable and I look forward to what the future may bring. “For me: the secret for harvesting from existence the greatest fruitfulness and greatest enjoyment is - to live dangerously.” - Nietzsche

Hollie Tanguay
Future plans: to sit for the Michigan Bar and to give my baby Noah lots of love. Special thanks to my husband Chris, for without his enduring love and support I never would have made it. No matter how much stress you have to endure, always remember the important things in life.

Mark Van Donselaar
I want to thank some people who have made my time in Valparaiso very enjoyable: Brewski’s, Duffy’s Place, The Dynasty, Broadway Cafe, Jimmy’s Cafe, Northside Tap, El Salto, Viking Chili Bowl, Dawn’s Diner, Maria Elena’s and most of all El Amigo. I plan to savor the last moments with these special friends before moving on to find some new friends in the Chicago-land area.

Josh Van Gorkom
In the first few weeks of Contracts with Adams, there was a case from the Iowa Supreme Court. Adams asked if there was anyone in the class from Iowa. Out of about 100 students, I was the only one to raise my hand. He said, “O.K., can you tell us about the case?” I said “no,” we stared at each other for a few seconds, and I had learned the most important rules of law school: never be fooled when a professor acts friendly in class; never raise your hand, for any reason, in class, and don’t go to law school if you are from Iowa.

Julie Van Groningen
I will be working for the Michigan Court of Appeals as a Prehearing Attorney in Grand Rapids.

Amy J. Vroom
Future plans: Indiana & Illinois bars. Thanks to those who made it possible--my parents, Jim & Carol, my brother, Dan, family & friends. Congratulations & best wishes 3Ls--we made it!

Christopher Westmoreland
Haiku for remedies:
The brain, going mush remedies and heat destroy sweet unconsciousness jule takes good notes attentive studious smart immune to boredom; david took good notes graduation looming close distraction came easy; blah blah punitive blah blah excessive response alien judges.

Jeremy Willett
First, I want to say how much I’ve enjoyed the past 3 years and the people I’ve met. I will be harassing my law-school friends and professors for years to come. As for me, I could end up anywhere. I wish everyone luck in their lives and careers.

Tara M. Wozniak
Future plans: Trial attorney at Langer & Langer, Valparaiso. Thanks to the Mock Trial Team for the close friendships I’ve made and for helping me discover my passion. 3L Steering Committee: Heck of a job this year! Wherever you go in life, always remember where you came from. tmw.langerlaw@crown.net.
The 3L most likely to...

...date a client:  Jason Mullis
...become an adjunct professor:  Gina Goe
...become a full-time professor:  Jamie Spence
...be argue in front of the Supreme Court:  Joseph Langerak
...be selected as Trial Lawyer of the Year:  Ghislaine Storr
...beg for a job from the DNC:  Katherine Lord
...beg for a job from the RNC:  Ryan Adler
...beg for a job:  Bob Summerfield
...take this law degree and shove it:  Fiona Salerno
...make a hit CD:  Jeremy Willett
...become mayor of Valparaiso:  Ryan Adler
...write a law school casebook:  Julie Van Groningen
...live at home the rest of their life:  Krista Hamby
...be disbarred:  Jason Mullis
...not be allowed to sit for the bar:  Ryan Adler
...be found in contempt:  Bob Summerfield
...be a “yes-man”:  Scott Steiner
...go bankrupt fighting for their cause:  Katherine Lord
...have a hall in the law school named after them:  Paul Mullin
...be first to make partner:  Bridget Adaska & Kristin McClellan
...be the first to have a solo practice:  Jeffery Haupt
...handout business cards at a Jerry Springer show:  Jennifer Spiegel
...be a professional student for the rest of their life:  Amir Tahmassebi
...forgo taking the bar exam & open a petting zoo/dog bakery:  Erin Baugh
...work for Westlaw:  Lindsay Berlin
...be the next Governor of Indiana:  Paul Mullin
...become a law librarian:  Joanne Kagler
...ask a client if they want fries with that:  Leo Bonser
...have an ad on the back of a phonebook:  Christopher Stemler
...get every question on the bar exam correct:  Julie Van Groningen
...appear on the Apprentice:  Scott Steiner
...replace TV’s Judge Judy:  Latoya Dixon
...write a best-selling autobiography:  Grace Johnk
...join up with a comedy tour:  Joshua Van Gorkom
...be the next “Bachelor”:  Jason Mullis
...be the next “Bachelorette”:  Krista Hamby
...be the first to win a million-dollar case:  Joseph Langerak
...become a state Supreme Court justice:  Matthew Doherty
...be the best dressed in the courtroom:  Deshawn McQueen
...be the best dancer at the firm’s holiday party:  Deshawn McQueen
...open a firm together:  Jonathan Sayas & Robert Sayas
Cap & Gown Pick-Up
Caps & gowns will be distributed the week of May 14-20. 3Ls, watch your e-mail for pick-up times. Caps & gowns will need to be returned immediately following commencement exercises. You are required to fill out a 2005 Graduate Survey from the Career Planning Center before you may pick up your cap & gown.

Commencement Week Activities:

Saturday, May 14, 2005: Last Day of Finals / 3L Barbecue
Kirchoff Park, 2:00 p.m., 1Ls and 2Ls are invited. Family members welcome.

Sunday, May 15, 2005: Baccalaureate Ceremony
Chapel of the Resurrection, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 18, 2005: 3L Pregame Patio Party for White Sox Game
Buses leave VUSL, 10:15 a.m. Reservations were required.

Thursday, May 19, 2005: 3L Shake Your Tailfeather Celebration
Aberdeen Manor Ballroom, 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, & dancing. Invitations to only 3Ls sent in early April. RSVPs were required, 3L guests: $25.00. If you have not RSVPd and you would like to attend, please send tara.wozniak@valpo.edu an e-mail by Friday, May 6, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 20, 2005: Champagne Reception (cocktail attire)
Strongbows, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., 3Ls only. Adult family members of 3Ls welcome.

Saturday, May 21, 2005: Commencement Ceremony
Chapel of the Resurrection, 11:00 a.m., doors open at 10:00 a.m.
Seating is first come, first serve. Graduating 3Ls: Please line up along the sidewalk on the south side of the Chapel of Resurrection no later than 10:30 a.m. If there is inclement weather, we will line up in the chapel balcony.

Commencement Photography
A professional photographer from Chappell Studio, Inc. will be taking photographs of each student shaking Dean Conison's hand, and being hooded during commencement. Chappell Studio will contact then contact you by mail and offer you the opportunity to order pictures if you desire.

Handicap and special seating
Special arrangements may be made for guests in wheelchairs or with other physical disabilities. In addition, there is a special section for the hearing impaired. To obtain tickets for reserved seats for these guests and one additional person to accompany them may be obtained by contacting Kellie Bindas, Office of Alumni Relations, Loke Hall, Valparaiso University or via email to Kellie.Bindas@valpo.edu, or by calling 219-464-5142.

Name Pronunciation
If you are concerned that your name may not be pronounced correctly during the commencement ceremony, you will need to contact Dean Bruce Berner personally about this concern at bruce.berner@valpo.edu.

Reception
A reception at the Community Center in the Christopher Center will immediately follow commencement. Family & friends welcome.

Cap & Gown Return
You must return your cap and gown immediately following the Commencement Ceremony to the Heritage Room in the Christopher Center.

Diploma
During Commencement, you will receive an empty diploma with a letter from the VUSL administration. You will have to pick up your real diploma in the Heritage Room in the Christopher Center immediately following the ceremony.

Open House
Wesemann Hall will be open from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on commencement day if you would like to show your family members the School of Law.

Diploma Framing
The VUSL Book Center sells frames for your diploma with VU and "School of Law" printed on the mat, custom made to fit the size of the diploma. The Book Center provides several different wood tones and styles to choose from and normally has several choices in stock, allowing students to purchase a frame and take it home the same day. You may either preorder a frame or choose one in stock. The cost averages $125.00.

Good luck to the Class of 2005
I have been a little frustrated with the misinformation around the law school and among the pundits regarding the filibuster, judicial nominees, and the role of the Senate. I am by no means an expert on the Constitution, but I believe that I do know a little bit more than the average person. Three long years of law school will do that to you. After researching the filibuster, here is what I found.

Most of the etymological dictionaries agree that the word filibuster came from the Dutch “vrijbuiter,” which means pirate. Around 1587, the word was borrowed by the Spanish and English languages and recorded in English as filibuster, which also meant pirate. Apparently around 1792, filibusters were a class of piratical adventurers that pillaged the West Indies.

Between 1850 and 1860, the word evolved to refer to lawless adventurers from the United States that went on expeditions to Cuba, Nicaragua, and Mexico in order to engage in uprisings and private revolutions. Although the word filibuster was first recorded in the Congressional Record in 1890, the word evolved around 1853 from meaning piracy to meaning “an act or instance of obstructing legislation by prolonging debate.” The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology 382 (Robert K. Barnhart ed., 1988). In American English, the latter definition became popular by 1855, and in present day colloquial English, the current definition has completely supplanted the former definition.

Article I, section 5 of the Constitution provides that each House of Congress may determine the Rules of its own proceedings. Currently, only the Senate rules allow for unlimited debate or a filibuster.

Originally in the early 18th Century, unlimited debate was a feature of the House of Representatives, and although unlimited debate was available to Senators, it was not used often in the “staid and polite” Senate. With the large increases in the number of representatives, the House rules were changed to prevent unlimited debate.

Currently in the Senate, debate can be stopped by invoking cloture. Senators may invoke cloture if 60 Senators agree to stop debate and vote on the issue. The conflict with the Senate rule that allows unlimited debate and cloture is caused by Article II, section 2 of the Constitution, which states that the President shall have the power to appoint federal judges by the advice and consent of the Senate.

Our founding fathers sought to require a super-majority for only a few instances and did not for others. Those instances that require a super-majority are when the Senate ratifies treaties, overrides a Presidential veto, and tries an impeachment. When a President seeks the advice and consent of the Senate for a judicial nomination, only a majority vote is required to confirm the nomination.

There is an anecdote that Thomas Jefferson once asked George Washington about the sluggish Senate. Washington responded by asking why Jefferson poured his coffee into the saucer. Jefferson said that he wanted to cool it, and Washington responded for this reason legislation is poured into the Senatorial saucer to cool it.

This analogy works well with legislation of which the Congress constitutionally has sole discretion. However, judicial nominations are an executive function and have a very distinct constitutional character from legislation, because judicial nominations are derived from the constitutional powers of the President.

I agree that legislation should be cooled by unlimited debate in the Senate, as it is their constitutional privilege to make rules regarding their legislative functions and the practice may aid in the protection of minority rights.

That being said, because judicial nominations are constitutionally an executive function and have a very distinct constitutional character different from legislation, using a filibuster to cause a super-majority of 60 votes to confirm as opposed to a simple-majority of 51 votes to confirm frustrates the intent of our founding fathers and the purposes of the clauses in the Constitution.

Some argue that a rule change would disrupt the checks and balances established by the Constitution. The problem with that argument is that the Senate voting by simple-majority on the confirmation of an executive appointment is the check and balance on the executive branch. The Republicans are not seeking to eliminate the checks and balances, but to constitutionally enforce them. Further, the changes that the Republicans seek to make will not entirely eliminate the filibuster. After the proposed changes, the Senate will be free to exercise its constitutional privileges and filibuster any legislation.

The changes to the filibuster rule would prevent the Senate from requiring a super-majority when fulfilling its duty to advise and consent to the President’s executive appointments.

Many political arguments have been made that a rule change is a Republican power grab or the minority is protecting minority rights by upholding the checks and balances. As any rational person can clearly and readily see, requiring a super-majority to confirm a nominee of the President is unconstitutional.

Changing the Senate’s unlimited debate and cloture rule for executive appointments is the only option to restore constitutionality to the Senate. This is sound constitutional practice and will equally benefit the Democrats when they are in the duly elected majority.

Barry is a 3L at VUSL. You can reach him at barry.pruett@valpo.edu.
Artist Place Eatery & Pub

BY GENEVIEVE BOARMAN & CHRISTINE HASKELL
Guest columnists

A change of name but not a change of hats. Previously Aberdeen Brewing Company, the Artist Place Eatery & Pub opened the same doors January 7th of this year with a new paint job, wine & martini lounge, and a focus on local artwork. With the high cost of repairing brewery equipment, the owner decided to change the focus of the eatery.

Currently, the works of two local artists are on display. The paintings adorning the walls present a nice conversational piece contemplating which is your favorite, or how ironic it is for a painted bovine to stare at you while you are eating a cheeseburger. Artist Place also offers live music on Friday and Saturday evenings ranging in style from classical to bluegrass.

The menu has an interesting variety away from the standard American chow, but beyond salads the vegetarian selection is nada. Honoring Valpo’s yearly trip to England, we started with scotch eggs. For those who have yet to venture this delight, hardboiled eggs are encased in spicy sausage that are then coated in breadcrumbs and then deep fried. Accompanied with ranch dressing, this was a hearty, delightful beginning.

Pizza…with chicken, bacon, and broccoli? Who can pass up such an unusual combination? Not we. The dough was soft and tasted similar to that used in making homemade pizza, bringing back childhood memories. The sauce was simple yet wonderful: No annoying chunks of tomatoes to obstruct the free flow of taste from the toppings.

Now to the split opinion: broccoli texture. The broccoli was not precooked before hitting the pizza and this caused one reviewer annoyance at the crunch required. However, the other enjoyed the variety of texture the broccoli offered to the creation.

Why is a grilled sandwich so much more appetizing when it is called a panini? After all, panini only means a small bread often horizontally cut and filled with some sort of meat or cheese.

The Southwest Panini consists of grilled chicken, jalapeno peppers, roasted red peppers, cheese, and a chipotle sauce. The jalapeños add heat to the sandwich that the sauce, which could be a spicy cousin of a thousand island dressing without the relish, does not help to extinguish.

All sandwiches are served with tasty parmesan herb shoe string potatoes that brought back memories of Andy Capp’s fries. Ketchup lovers beware because the strings are very thin (think half the size of Steak ’N Shake’s fries), and it is like trying to eat ice cream with a coffee stirrer.

The homemade chocolate cheesecake is nicely plated but lacks any dramatic taste. The consistency is thick and rich, but the taste is rather bland. The crust is a surprise of graham crackers, sugar, and nuts, much like the filling in baklava.

Although serving tasty food, three gavels are given due to the lower bang for your buck, absence of decent vegetarian dishes, and the dessert leaving us with little flavor to contemplate.

The verdict: A delicious meal, but no sweet ending.

Restaurant Review
Rating Scheme:

5 gavels: “Windfall victory plus attorney’s fees.”
4 gavels: “The court’s opinion directly quoted the analysis in your brief.”
3 gavels: “Has a rational basis.”
2 gavels: “Respectfully disagree, your honor.”
1 gavel: “Held in contempt.”
LEGALLY BLONDE & BRUNETTE
Advice for Law School & Life

By Christi Klein and Lora Nowzaradan

Q: I am going to be staying in the “Vale of Paradise” this summer, do you have any suggestions of fun activities I can partake in on my weekends? –Boyd 2L

B&B: Well Boyd, the world is your oyster. You are actually quite close to the Indiana Dunes State Park. You can actually go to the beach. If you are not a fan of sand, you can try water parks. There is Splash Down Dunes on Route 20 in Chesterton or Deep River Water Park which is on Route 30 toward Merrillville. If you want nothing to do with water, you can always go to Chicago. You can easily take the train and hit up a Cubs or Sox Game. Around the 4th of July, you MUST go to the Taste of Chicago. There are several other festivals in Chicago this summer that are worth checking out. If theme parks are your thing, Six Flags Great America in Gurnee is only a two hour drive away. But if you don’t feel that you want to go all the way to Chicago, there are still plenty of things to do here, such as going to the Outlet Mall in Michigan City and going to all of the County Fairs in the area. Whatever you do - keep an open mind, it’s really not that bad here - you can have fun!

Q: Can you tell me how I go about fulfilling my pro bono requirement? –Lerol, 3L

B&B: Yes, Lerol, we can. Watch for emails from Career Services about Pro Bono opportunities and respond to them. To order to fulfill your requirement, and you do not get any academic credits for it, so plan accordingly. You must fill out paper work that can be picked up in the career services office and you must have the signature of a supervisor verifying you completed your hours. Also, you must register for it on DataVu as though it is a class. Many students simply choose to extend an externship for a couple of extra visits and have their externship supervisor sign off on it. The Pro Bono requirement can be completed either your 2L or 3L year. See Jane in career services for more information.

Q: I am really not finding a job for this summer - what do I do? -Dave, 1L

B&B: When all else fails Dave, go to summer school. There are plenty of classes you can take requirements that you can get out of the way. You can concentrate on the few classes you are taking, and do really well. All the while, you probably still have time to get a part time non-law job, if you are really hard pressed for money. The best part of this will be when you don’t have to take a full 15 credits one semester because you have extra ones from the summer.

A Special Year-End Treat Courtesy of B&B:
Since this is our last column of the year, we wanted to end it with something special. Both of us have enjoyed Business Associations with Prof. Jeremy Telman, who commemorates important case law with a catchy limerick in his class. Prof. Telman kindly agreed to impart upon the students of VUSL some poetic stylings to capture the essence of this time of year. The following limerick is courtesy of VUSL’s own poet laureate Prof. Telman:

I’d rather be hit by a Hummer,
Than face this semester’s end bummer.
Yes, it’s time for tests:
Panic, night sweats,
Then it’s over! Enjoy the summer!!

Good Luck with Finals, have a great summer.

Christi Klein is a 2L and can be reached at christi.klein@valpo.edu. Lora Nowzaradan is also a 2L and can be reached at lora.nowzaradan@valpo.edu.

Martinis

Comedy Night
Friday, April 1
The 1st Friday of every month
Martinis brings you Comedy Night.
Featuring: Mimi Gonzalez & Brian Archer
Show starts at 8pm
~ Full Menu Available
~ Reservations Recommended

Schedule of Events:
Fri. May 6: Comedy Night
Sat. May 7: Dawnstone
Fri. May 13: Nawty
Sat. May 14: Current
Fri. May 20: Shuddup & Drive
Sat. May 21: Ripple
Fri. May 27: Dashboard Divas
Sat. May 28: Autumn Dawn
(opening with Nawty)

Every Monday Evening:
Michael Di Muccio on the piano
Mini Martinis & 1/2 Price Appetizers

Every Thursday: Planetary Blues

Join our Martini Club featuring over 100 Martinis on the menu & The Martini of the Week

1004 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso, IN (219) 464-0801
Sports

Blame it on L.A.

The pen is mightier than the sword (unless your agent is Drew Rosenhaus, at which time all bets are off). This was in my mind when I was seriously considering taking such a writing utensil and jamming it in my head. Why, you ask? To relieve the pain!

It was a slow news day. No new fortunes had yet surfaced for a politician to lead onto. The new pope dominated the headlines because he decided to take a nap. Someone decided to liven things up by giving Ryan Seacrest a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame. Well, he’s hosted American Karaoke for four years now, so I guess he deserves a star.

If you think that’s bad, it got worse. Paris Hilton thought it appropriate to issue a press release stating her and Nicole Richie were no longer friends (and that’s when the Earth stopped rotating).

Don’t fear, though, because Kimberly Stewart, daughter of Rod Stewart, will replace Nicole in “The Simple Life.” Questions have mounted: Who cares? “The Simple Life” is still on the air? Was a press release really needed? Rod Stewart procreated?

And it was at that point that a pen in the eye seemed like a pleasant alternative. But it got me thinking: this garbage is coming from Los Angeles! So instead, I decided to steal a play from the Republican playbook and I will blame all the problems in sports on Los Angeles.

We start with the NHL, which wouldn’t even be on this list if not for Los Angeles. If the Kings never traded for Wayne Gretzky, hockey wouldn’t have made it on the map. If it had just stayed in Canada, we would still be laughing at it like we do soccer and cricket.

Sure, hockey had its run, but that was back when roller-skating on sidewalks in a tank top, running shorts, tube socks, and a bright neon cap was trendy. Those days are long gone, and hockey should follow suit: it should never enter the public eye unless a creepy 48-year-old with a porn star mustache decides to leave his apartment during daylight.

Next up: the NBA. The association is in the playoffs, but the headlines are dominated by the Lakers. News flash: the Lakers didn’t make the playoffs. In fact, they had less wins than the Los Angeles Clippers. That’s sad, because I could get a team of eighth graders with lazy eyes that could challenge the Clippers.

Yet the Lakers are still relevant. The team can’t accumulate more wins than the stepchild franchise of Los Angeles, but they get the headlines? Only in Los Angeles could something of such mediocrity receive so much publicity (I call it Barbara Streisand Syndrome).

MLB is next on the block. While most run away from Los Angeles, Arte Moreno, owner of the Angels, is running to it. Moreno wants to be associated with Los Angeles for marketability, but must have Anaheim in the team’s name for contractual purposes. Solution: Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Anaheim is not Los Angeles! It’s not even close (this is only an estimate, but it’s about three traffic jams and 26 Starbucks away). What next, the Chicago Crusaders of Valparaiso? After all, Valpo is only two traffic jams and 23 Starbucks away, so it’s closer in vicinity.

Finally, the NFL. The NBA, MLB, and even the NCAA all have two teams in Los Angeles, but the NFL doesn’t have even one. Commissioner Paul Tagliabue wishes to change this.

Tagliabue wants to capitalize on Los Angeles’s large market. The city used to have two teams, but they both left for smaller markets because they were able to make more money outside L.A. So why does the commissioner think something has changed since?

There is a consensus to avoid expansion, so the only feasible option is a team moving there. This leads to one result: all teams looking for a new stadium deal will hold their city ransom. The Cleveland Browns and Houston Oilers did so in the ‘90s. Now, teams like the Indianapolis Colts and Minnesota Vikings will do likewise.

As I finish my stolen Republican play and blame everything on Los Angeles, I feel uneasy for not giving equal deference to both political parties. So I end by stealing a play from the Democratic playbook: even though I didn’t accomplish an inkling of change by writing this article, I will act like I did.

And with this gleam of (feigned) pride, I remember that it all goes back to the pen. After all, it’s just another day of work, another box of stolen pens.

Joey is a 2L and can be reached at joefavata@valpo.edu. You can also listen to Joey every Thursday night on Valparaiso University’s radio station, The Source 95.1 FM.
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This Old House

Across
1 Name dropper, e.g.
5 Tree output
10 Zipped
14 Run easily
15 Orthopedics concerns
16 Broadway attraction
17 Emeril’s need
18 Locomotive garage
20 Tiger’s achievement
21 CEO’s concern
22 Boring item
23 Informed
25 Troubles
27 _____ Islands
29 Pavarotti offering
33 Revere
34 Branch Davidian & others
35 AMA, e.g.
36 Poverty stricken residential area
37 Shows excessive fondness
38 Belmont Race Track, e.g.
39 Frank McCourt effort
40 Wanders
41 Hilton offering
42 Dicken’s Scrooge
44 Line of work
45 Nightingale and others
46 Renegue
47 Smart-mouthed
48 Line of work
49 Nightingale and others
50 Track event
51 Frequently
54 Free round
57 Lay to rest
58 Spool and string
59 Change
60 Swiftly
61 For the second time
62 Suspicious
63 Cinema’s Hackman

Down
1 Swill
2 Star
3 The Met
4 London clock
5 Atmospheric phenomenon
6 Glenn ______
7 Burden
8 Operated
9 Composer Rorem
10 Partner
11 Follows spark or fire
12 Freedom from difficulty
13 Colorful worker
14 Arsenio and family
15 Like a poor excuse
16 _____ as toast
17 Man and others
18 _____ Scads
19 Moisten the turkey
20 Improvise
21 _____ as toast
22 _____ and others
23 Arsenio and family
24 _____ as toast
25 Man and others
26 Scads
27 Moisten the turkey
28 Improvise
29 _____ as toast
30 Picture palace
31 Angry
32 Watcher
33 Inlets
34 Inlets
35 Catnap
36 Possessive pronoun
37 Catnap
38 Possessive pronoun
39 Color again
40 Color again
41 Bargain offering
42 _____ as toast
43 Like some patronage jobs
44 Weight watchers snack
45 More sensible
46 More sensible
47 Legume
48 In a little while
49 Sebaceous gland infection
50 Silent
51 Football Hall of Famer
52 Football Hall of Famer
53 Font
54 Football Hall of Famer
55 Actor Holbrook
56 Heard in Pamplona
57 Container

Quotable Quote
Last night I stayed up late playing poker with Tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.

• • •

Steven Wright

Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

By GFR Associates
CLOSING ARGUMENTS

This was to be the last time anyone would park too close to her car.

The cones finally had a target in sight— the waiting had finally paid off. It was time to initiate the attack.

They could hear the approaching stampede— 10:50 AM had come so quickly.

Legal Trivia
Firsts Edition

1) Who was the first postmaster general, in 1753?

2) Who was the first US Supreme Court chief justice, in 1789?

3) Who was the only unanimously elected US president?

4) Who was the first US president to be inaugurated in Washington, DC?

5) Who was the first US president to die in office?

6) In what year did the first woman, Victoria Woodhall, run for President of the United States?

7) Who was the first US president born west of the Mississippi?

8) What state elected the first woman to US Congress, in 1916?

9) What state elected the first female governor, in 1925?

10) Who was the first US president to speak on television?

ANSWERS:

1) Benjamin Franklin
2) John Adams
3) George Washington
4) Thomas Jefferson
5) William Henry Harrison
6) John Tyler
7) Herbert Hoover
8) Montana
9) Wyoming
10) Franklin D. Roosevelt

10) Franklin D. Roosevelt