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Valparaiso University School of Law

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ABA MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

FOUR STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY: BRIDGITT ANDERSON • GUEST WRITER

About two weeks ago (Feb. 3rd – 7th) four of your fellow classmates Bridgitt Anderson (3L), Bobbie Hirsch (2L), Elizabeth Hollingsworth (2L), and Nancy Ruiz (2L) had the privilege to attend the ABA’s Minority Judicial Clerkship Program in Orlando, Florida. The ABA was celebrating the tenth year of this program. Ninety-three students from twenty-two different schools were present, as well as fifty esteemed judges from around the nation. The conference consisted of hearing oral arguments of real cases at Florida A&M’s law school, several question and answer sessions with the judges, an intense research assignment, resume workshop, and several award ceremonies.

Judges from state, federal and military courts, and the United Nations participated in the Program. The state of Indiana was well represented with the Honorable Michael Wilte of the Dearborn Superior Court in Lawrenceburg, Honorable Margret Robb from the Indiana Court of Appeals and Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan in attendance. In addition to Justice Sullivan, state Supreme Court justices from Arizona, Vermont and North Carolina also participated. All of the judges made extraordinary efforts to get to know the students and responded candidly to pointed questions by students on a variety of topics: Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces Andrew Effron elaborated on the limited jurisdiction of his court and Colonel Linda Strite Murnane, USAF retired, spoke openly about the adversity she overcame as a law student when she worked full time, attended law school and took on a second part-time job to help pay the added expenses for her sick child. Col. Murnane also took time to speak with those students interested in international law explaining her current job at the U.N. as Chief of Court Management & Support Services for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at The Hague, Netherlands. Col. Murnane noted that clerks working for her during the summer are usually required to have an LLM degree, however there are possibilities for non-paid internships during the year for second and third year law students.

The conference’s primary focus was on informing students about the duties and responsibilities of a judicial clerk, and encouraging students to apply. We learned that essentially a clerk conducts research about the issues regarding a case before her judge, and then writes an informal opinion outlining the conclusions of law her research supports. In order to get hands-on experience with the work of a judicial clerk, students were grouped in teams of 6 with one to three judges assigned per team. We were presented with a case involving the Takings clause of the Fifth Amendment, and were given the research techniques employed by several students. Even though the event was sponsored by LexisNexis, many students used Westlaw because they were not familiar with Lexis, and even worse, instead of ‘focusing’ their search to save money, several students launched new searches every time they received unfavorable results. It was clear that some law schools do not do as great of a job as Valpo Law in teaching students to research efficiently. We definitely had, and have, an advantage over our competition. Thanks Legal Research professors!

The highlight of our weekend was when Justice Sullivan took us to dinner. Justice Sullivan plays an integral role in the program, and was this year’s recipient for the Litigation Award. He recounted a story from Valparaiso’s history, including the part he played in repealing a rule, “Rule 13”, requiring certain courses to be taken as a prerequisite to sit for the Indiana bar that would have kept a number of Valpo Law students from graduating due to the part they played in a political protest. Toward the end of the evening a certain dinner guest who shall remain nameless blurted out that she was born the same year Justice Sullivan graduated from law school. Fortunately, she earned a reprieve after he learned she’d played Juliet in Romeo & Juliet. As it turns out, Justice Sullivan is well versed in Shakespeare and expressed an interest in auditing Professor Nuechterlein’s Shakespeare and the Law class. At the close of the night, I think what struck us most was how little we talked about the law and how much time we spent enjoying a casual evening with our very gracious host. Our experience was very positive, and we encourage other students to participate in the program next year!

Bridgitt is a 3L and can be reached at Bridgitt.Anderson@valpo.edu.

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A n internship with a public interest organization is a great way to gain practical legal skills and explore an area of law that you may be passionate about. Public interest interns often are able to develop skills in areas of client intake and counseling, trial strategy, legal research and writing, oral advocacy and negotiation. While most public interest summer internships are unpaid, here are some programs that will aid in funding a summer public interest internship:

PSLawNet is a community for public interest oriented law students and attorneys and is one of the greatest resources on the web for finding public interest jobs and funding. PSLawNet's goal is to be a "one stop shop" for law students and law school graduates working, or hoping to work, with nonprofits, public interest law firms and government agencies. To access the list of summer funding sources, go to www.pslawnet.org, click on "Career Central" on the left sidebar, then click on "Financing a Career or Summer Jobs." PSLawNet offers daily summer internships. For more information on summer funding opportunities, please contact Christine Corral at careerplanning.law@valpo.edu.

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Summer Internships: For students interested in working in Chicago, this is a great opportunity to work in public interest law. PILI sponsors a Summer Internship Program for first and second year law students from Illinois or the greater Chicago area. Summer Interns receive $5,000 for 10 full-time weeks of work. The application period for summer of 2010 opened in December of 2009 and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through March of 2010. The earlier you apply, the better your chances of obtaining an Internship. For an application see the PILI website at www.pilli-law.org.

Equal Justice Works Summer Corps Program: Summer Corps is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides law students with the opportunity to earn a $1,000 education award voucher for spending the summer in a qualifying internship at a non-profit, public interest organization. Students must complete 300 service hours to receive the education award voucher, which can be used to pay current educational expenses or qualified student loans. Applications will be available in mid-March 2010. Apply as soon as applications become available, if possible; applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information about eligibility criteria and the application and selection process, visit http://www.equalequalexprograms/summersummercorps/general.

Equal Justice America Legal Services Fellowships: These fellowships are for first and second year law students who will be working for organizations providing direct civil legal services for the poor. This means that positions that are strictly policy focused are not eligible. The fellowships are for up to $4,000 and the position may take place anywhere in the United States provided that the hiring organization is a non-profit organization providing direct civil legal services to the poor. Applications for Summer 2010 are due March 22, 2010. For further information visit Equal Justice America’s website at www.equalequalex.org.

ABA John J. Curtin, Jr. Justice Fund Summer Legal Internship Program: This program pays a $2,500 stipend to students who spend their summer working for a bar association or legal services program designed to prevent homelessness or assist homeless or indigent clients or their advocates. All law students are eligible, and first and second year law students are encouraged to apply. Students find their own eligible internship and must commit no less than eight continuous weeks between May 1 and October 1 to the program of his or her choice. Applicants must submit a resume, an application form and a prospective program’s supporting statement. For further information see the Curtin Justice Fund website at http://www.abanet.org/homeless/curtin.shtml. Applications are due by Friday, March 26, 2010 (early applications encouraged).

Valparaiso University School of Law Summer Public Interest Stipend: The SPIS program was established to encourage students to explore public interest work over the summer. You are eligible for the SPIS if you are working for a public interest employer and are not receiving compensation for your work and are not receiving school credit. Public interest positions may include employment such as working for a legal aid organization, non-profit organization, governmental agencies, prosecutor’s office, public defender office, or working for a judge. The deadline to submit the SPIS application is April 1st, 2010. Contact Jason Prowant, Assistant Director of Career Advising at Jason.prowant@valpo.edu with any questions.

Equal Justice Alliance (EJA) Summer Public Interest Supplemental Grant: Equal Justice Alliance is Valparaiso University School of Law’s public interest student group. EJA provides scholarships to students completing unpaid public interest summer internships. Recipients do not need to be members of EJA. Grants are awarded based on financial need. For more information contact Julie Norton at julie.norton@valpo.edu.

For more information on summer public interest funding opportunities, contact the Career Planning Center to schedule an advising appointment at: 219-465-7814 or visit Wesemann room 125.

Mr. Prowant can be reached at careerplanning.law@valpo.edu.

A spring break draws closer, it is important for students to be proactive with the little bit of extra time they’ll have. Some students may use spring break to fulfill pro bono requirements, visit family and friends, or study. No matter how you plan to spend your break, it is important to use the activities in which you engage as productively as possible. Consider asking pro bono supervisors or co-workers who is in your network and expand your own. Reconnect with family members and friends and investigate networking opportunities with them and their networks. If you’re planning to catch up on your studies, be sure to take healthy breaks and pace yourself. You can use the healthy breaks to peruse employment listings, update your job search documents, and update your Strategy recruiting profile.

To help students remain on track, the Career Planning Center has developed Career Planning Timelines for each class. These timelines emphasize monthly focal points for your career and job search process. An outline for the month of March follows:

1L Points of Focus for the Job Search
-Contact employers from Pro Bono opportunities list regarding summer pro bono project (Full-time students are eligible to complete pro bono requirement after 1L year. Part-time students are eligible after completing 30 credit hours).
-Part-time students are eligible to complete pro bono requirement after 1L year. Part-time students are eligible after completing 30 credit hours).

2L and 3L Points of Focus for the Job Search
-Continue contacting potential employers for both paid and non-paid summer opportunities.
-Apply through Strategy for externship opportunities for summer and next academic year.
-Complete application for Summer Public Interest Stipend if working without pay in the public sector for the summer.
-Contact employers from Pro BonO opportunities list regarding summer pro bono project (Full-time students are eligible to complete pro bono requirement after 1L year. Part-time students are eligible after completing 30 credit hours).
-Part-time students are eligible to complete pro bono requirement after 1L year. Part-time students are eligible after completing 30 credit hours).

3L: Pay your BARBRI tuition balance in full by March 1st and we’ll credit you 2,500 Westlaw Rewards points.

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1L: You can take advantage of this offer too! Bring up your balance to $250 by April 1st and you’ll get 2,500 Westlaw Rewards points.

For more information on summer public interest funding opportunities, contact the Career Planning Center to schedule an advising appointment at: 219-465-7814 or visit Wesemann room 125.

Mrs. Corral can be reached at careerplanning.law@valpo.edu.
By: Rich Mitchell  • Staff Writer

The Office of Student Relations is staffed by Dr. Joe Baruffi. I suppose you could go through your entire law school experience and never meet Joe, but that would be a loss. I sat down with Joe to find out exactly what his office deals with at Valpo Law on a day-to-day basis. In large measure Joe is a counselor, assisting students in navigating through their years at Westermann. But because of that role, and because all 562 of us navigate differently, Joe's office is never the same day-to-day.

When hearing his counseling hat, Joe's role is as varied as our student lives. Sometimes he is dealing with the calls from various police departments regarding "concerns" generated by students. Joe was pleased to report that those problems are far reduced now, especially with the current classes. Changing a school's culture doesn't occur overnight, but in his three years at Valpo Law, that is one cultural change he is pleased to see.

Relationships can also get out of control. Personally, Joe helped me to solve what could have been a fairly dangerous "jealous former boyfriend" issue. Sometimes, when we're in the middle of a stressful event, we don't or can't think it through clearly. Joe's office can provide that clarity when needed and I highly recommend you access it.

Joe's administrative hat is Silver Level. I figured Dr. Baruffi must be a psychologist. It turns out his Ph.D. is from the University of Chicago in Ancient Mediterranean Studies. And, Captain Baruffi was a long time officer in the Marines. But Joe's role

5 MINUTES WITH PROFESSOR MOSKOWITZ

By: John Bayard  • Staff Writer

This month I interviewed Professor Sy Moskowitz. Professor Moskowitz has been a Law Professor at Valparaiso University School of Law for over 30 years. Originally he never thought that he would be a Law Professor. His interest was in labor law and civil rights. It is these interests that drove him to become a lawyer. After graduating at Harvard Law, where one of his classmates was Justice David Souter, he started and was the first director of VUSL's clinical program. During his time as director, he developed an interest in teaching law.

When asked about teaching, Professor Moskowitz said, "Some teachers changed my life and forced me to think about my own ideas. Teachers should make students think about their beliefs and make them challenge their own beliefs." Moskowitz added that "Teaching is a sacred calling."

Moskowitz teaches administrative law, constitutional law, family law, and also teaches family law practicum with a sitting judge. Moskowitz stated that the most important thing students should learn in law school is how to become professional students. "This includes an increased demand upon students and obligations to serve clients with that sense of professionalism," Moskowitz said.

For those students looking for employment, Professor Moskowitz said the more a student is involved in the law and the practice of law, the better they know what it means to be a lawyer. His final advice was to "IlLs" saying that they should aim to maintain a balance in life between work and enjoyment in order not to be overwhelmed. Besides teaching, Professor Moskowitz enjoys a variety of other interests. He enjoys hiking, rafting, camping, and yoga. He also loves listening to music, especially jazz and classical. He still involves himself with some law cases in Indiana.

"Some of the things I enjoy most about being a teacher is being with students and colleagues. I learn about things myself through research and writing and teach people how to learn. I think teaching people how to learn is the most important part of law school. Once students know how to learn, they can go out and learn anything about the law on their own," Moskowitz said.

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John is a 2L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
BY: DEAN JAY CONISON

I graduated from law school in 1981—at the peak of a severe recession that included high unemployment, high inflation and astronomical interest rates. Today, we are again in a period of severe economic stress, with low inflation but a weak employment market. I pursued a law job during the 1980-82 recession. In the end, I obtained one, but it wasn’t easy and I could have been smarter. I would like to share with you two important things I have learned in the thirty years since—things I wish I had known when I was in law school.

First, I used to be socially ill at ease. I assumed that people would not want to help me if I met them, so why bother to ask? I found it hard to strike up conversations. In 1980-81, these attitudes held me back, and I did not try to make connections that could help me get a job. What finally brought about change in me was recognizing that, if I ever wanted to obtain help from people in achieving my goals, I had to go out and meet them and work with them. It wasn’t optional. The “had to” part finally hit home. So I forced myself to take the initiative to meet people and find ways to ask them or encourage them to do things that could be a benefit. For example, when I started as Dean, it quickly became clear that I had to get out and meet alumni and friends, and sooner or later ask them to make gifts to the law school. Like most people, I did not relish doing this. I felt that I didn’t know how, and feared that I might make a fool of myself. But I had to do it and so I did.

Not only was it not so bad—I discovered that meeting people, getting to know them, and finding ways to encourage them to help was very enjoyable. All the assumptions I had made about my lack of interpersonal skills and all the worries I had had about what people would think or say were erroneous and, in any event, I became better at talking to people. Here, the “it’s not just you” idea that I mentioned earlier really came to fruition. I certainly wasn’t the most hopeless case—I was probably pretty typical in my social unease. But if I could push myself to become a good conversationalist (mainly, it involves being a good listener) and a good networker, and could learn to ask other people for help, so can almost anyone.

Of course, I make this point, not because I expect you to go out and raise money for the law school, but because I expect you to go out and help yourselves. We are collecting data on employment for recent graduates and, not surprisingly, 2/3 reported obtaining employment through either networking or self initiated contacts with employers. This is the way the world works. No matter how secure your first job out of law school, your future career growth will depend on taking the initiative to meet and work with people who can help you. It is an essential attitude and skill. (Note—a classic book that can help you with this is Dale Carnegie’s How to Win Friends and Influence People.)

My second point is that, while taking the initiative in your career is essential, it is not enough. Again, I will refer to my own case. I also used to have mediocre organization and planning skills. Deadlines would slip, paper would pile up, I didn’t have control over what I needed to do, and I could not always see the way to achieve my larger goals. This, too, held me back in 1980-81, as well as in the years after. But again, the solution ultimately was simple: organizing. Changing attitude was essential, but once the attitude was adopted it only required putting in place the means—preferably, simple means—for identifying goals, for listing the to-do’s needed to get there, and for keeping track of progress. (There is no one right way to do this, but the most helpful book I know is David Allen’s Getting Things Done.)

I make this second point because, if you are going to get out and help yourself, and in particular help yourself to pursue your career, you need to be organized and make sure you do what you need to do. I can’t give you statistical data in this case, but I have seen over the years that the surest way not to have a job after graduation is not to have a plan and simply put off thinking about plans and efforts until after graduation.

The two points—take initiative to pursue help and opportunities on a person-to-person basis, and be organized—are critical today, when the employment market is so stressed. Your success is ultimately up to you. But I must also emphasize that there are many, many resources in the law school to assist you. The law school is not only in the business of educating you, it is in the business of helping you pursue a career. (That is why, for example, we are greatly expanding the staff and services in the Career Planning Center.) You have substantial resources at hand through the Career Planning Center, the faculty, the librarians, and the staff. But, the resources are only as valuable as the use people make of them.

So, be smarter than I was thirty years ago. Understand what you need to do to help yourself, and take advantage of the resources available. These are keys to success now, not only in your career search, but in an endless array of contexts and opportunities as you go forward with your life and your professional growth.

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JESSUP MOOT COURT

By: Katie Kurowski • Jessup International Moot Court President

The weekend of January 28th -30th, the International Moot Court’s Ferrell Team won first place in the Susan J. Ferrell International Human Rights Moot Court Competition at the St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida. Second year students Anne Klosowski, Godwill Tachi, and Laura Vogler, and third year student and returning member, Brandie Thomas, the infamous appellate brief, and the 2L’s are working hard at doing 2L stuff, respectively. a successful first semester. defeated Howard University to claim the title at the appellate style moot court whatever that means. The one thing we all seem to have in common however of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. that the desire for property law was going unfulfilled, this year is different. competition modeled after the International Court of justice. In the final round, is an insatiable desire to learn, understand, and do property law! That and sleep Godwill Tachi won the distinctions of 4th Best

BY: HEATHER LOORBY

100 DAY PARTY

By: Heather Loo • Editor-In-Chief

On February 12, 2010, SBA hosted its annual 100 Day Party to celebrate the fact that 3Ls *had* 100 days until graduation! This year’s event was held at Old Town Banquet Hall and had a 1950’s “Rat Pack” theme. Students decked out as mobsters and lounge singers to enjoy four hours worth of appetizers, drinks, and dancing! There was also a free photo booth for students to capture the memories of this fun event!

Heather is a 2L and can be reached at Kathleen.Kurowski@valpo.edu.

ETIQUETTE DINNER

By: Jenna Throw • BLS President & WLSA Secretary

On February 1, 2010, the Valparaiso University School of Law’s Business Law Society (BLS) and Women Law Student’s Association (WLSA) student organizations, along with Christine Corral from the Career Planning Center, hosted an Etiquette Dinner in the Valparaiso University Harre Union Ballroom. The dinner featured guest speaker Dana Adams, Director of Catering at Loyola University. He explained to a group of 70 law students how to conduct themselves properly during dinner interviews. During the meal, Mr. Adams walked students through the etiquette tips pertinent to each course, such as proper positioning of soup spoons, cutting large lettuce leaves, and signaling completion of a meal. Encouraging an interactive environment, Mr. Adams also fielded individualized questions from students, such as the proper way to handle allergies with the restaurant staff and modifications for left-handers on the correct way to hold utensils. Students received packets of Mr. Adams’ presentation for later reference, as well as laminated cards with tips for professional business dress provided by BLS and WLSA. A limited amount of extra copies of these materials are still available in the Career Planning Center office.

Jenna is a 2L and can be reached at Jenna.Throw@valpo.edu.

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PROPERTY LAW SOCIETY

By: Vincent D’Onofrio • Guest Writer

After trudging through the first six weeks of second semester, it seems appropriate to reintroduce you to VPLS. That’s right, the Valparaiso Property Law Society! At six weeks in, we already have the 3Ls counting down the days until graduation, the 1Ls enjoying their time preparing the infamous appellate brief, and the 2L’s are working hard at doing 2L stuff, whatever that means. The one thing we all seem to have in common however is an insatiable desire to learn, understand, and do property law! That and sleep deprivation. While last year there were constant grumbles in the hallways that the desire for property law was going unfulfilled, this year is different. The need has been fulfilled by the newly created Property Law group. The Valparaiso Property Law Society is on its way after completing a successful first semester. VPLS was created to facilitate additional educational opportunities for students in the area of real property. This includes networking events, inviting speakers, and hands on experience. VPLS has been working with two nonprofit organizations; Housing opportunities and Habitat for Humanity. Last semester VPLS helped Habitat complete a house here in Valparaiso. There were several big work days getting the majority of the interior work done. For housing opportunities VPLS volunteered three Saturdays in the fall worth $1,595.00. VPLS helped install drainage pipes and gutters, build bike sheds, and paint the interior and exterior of the properties. Besides filling a community service role, these volunteer days also demonstrate the work a landlord is expected to do to take care of his property. Finally, the best volunteer day from last semester was the trick-or-treating dry goods drive where the law students went trick-or-treating in the neighborhood to collect dry goods and of course candy! The most notable trick-or-treater was Kim Jong II, who was seen running from house to house with Indiana Jones and a rugby player collecting paper towels and Kleenex for the homeless before going to the SBA Halloween party to strut his stuff. VPLS raised $1,200 in dry goods from the trick-or-treating dry goods event, which is the equivalent of enough dry goods to completely stuff a mini-van and partially stuff a sedan.

Last semester, the VPLS speaker was Glenn Harris from the Federal Highway Administration. He talked about being an in-house attorney for the United States Department of Transportation. This semester we have Cliff Fleming the President of the Burns Harbor Redeveloping Commission coming to Valparaiso to talk about the interaction between property development and the law. This will be a great event because Cliff brings a wealth of knowledge and will be entertaining any and all questions following his presentation.

Looking forward, VPLS will be cosponsoring a golf outing on April 24th with the Business Law Society with proceeds going to local charities. There will also be volunteer days for both Housing opportunities and Habitat for Humanity. So for all you 3Ls grumbling about not being able to get outside and get real world experience in property upkeep, here’s your chance. For you 1Ls, I would encourage you to take advantage of any opportunities to network that come your way.

For more information, VPLS can be contacted at valpopropertylawsociety@gmail.com.

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BIPARTISANSHIP:
FEASIBLE OR JUST A PIPE DREAM?

By: Michael Folga • Staff Writer

President Barack Obama delivered a powerful and deeply critical State of the Union address on January 27, 2010. Obama railed on Republicans for arguably sabotaging his administration’s legislative agenda, he berimicthed Congressional Democrats for being too soft despite a legislative majority. He also criticized the Supreme Court’s recent decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission which held that restricting private financing of independent political broadcasts violated the First Amendment. But despite Obama’s dissatisfaction with both the legislature and judiciary, he admitted some blame towards his own administration and suggested new strategies to work towards in 2010.

A running theme throughout President Obama’s address to the nation was an emphasis on creating jobs and stressing bipartisanship in furtherance of that goal. No doubt the question remains, is bipartisanship really feasible for significant legislation, or is this prospect just fluff without substance? Optimists may insist that much legislation is already a compromise between the two heavyweight parties and their disputes are a natural result of an adversarial system. Furthermore, they may state that since our government has produced key pieces of legislation in the past, that no systemic changes should be imposed. Skeptics however may argue that during the current administration the parties have only further entrenched their own beliefs and stubbornly aligned themselves solely in preparation of the next election.

Should Americans be optimistic or skeptical? Should they jump on the rhetorical wagon and hope that it reaches a desired destination, or should they vigilantly oppose what they see as being flawed? The real question is, aren’t Americans entitled to the best possible representation? As a disgruntled American citizen, I hope that the petty ideological differences between our Congressmen can be put aside in order to address this nation’s mounting problems. An idle and unchanged 2010 American narrative will never amount to a storybook ending without activity grinding this nation’s gears.

SINKING THE BIPARTISAN SHIP

BIPARTISANSHIP IS OVERRATED

By: Mike Duffy • Columnist

Bipartisanship is overrated. We’ve heard about it repeatedly over the past year, amidst grandiose promises from Mr. Obama to bring a new spirit and sentiment to Washington. Nevertheless, the nation is as polarized as ever. Is this anyone’s fault? Should we be in a huff about the Washington environment? I happen to think it’s good that there’s some tumult and furor in D.C. This country has a two­party system and each party features its own unique agenda and represents two or more distinct political ideologies, specifically Conservatism and Liberalism. If everyone in Washington agreed on everything and spoke with the same voice, then neither party would be true to its platform and the great variety of this country’s political viewpoints wouldn’t find any expression. Worst of all, Washington would fall into the trap of groupthink, “a pattern of thought characterized by self­deception, forced manufacture of consent, and conformity to group values and ethics” (sounds a lot like law school, doesn’t it?). We need some disagreement and dissent to keep our political system healthy. There’s nothing wrong with agreeing to disagree.

This is not to say that we should be uncivil toward each other. On the contrary, there’s no excuse for name­calling or mean­sprititedness. Maybe this is all the American people want—friendly disagreement. Yet, Americans of all political stripes seem indifferent when Republicans and Democrats don’t concur on everything, regardless of how nice they are to each other. While these Americans may have good intentions, I think they’re a little misguided. It’s alright for the parties to disagree. If Democrats get behind a piece of legislation en played.

Thus, in regard to the healthcare debate, we shouldn’t be surprised that Democrats have tried to dominate the legislative process—they have the numbers to do so. If Democrats manage to ram something through in the coming days, we can certainly dislike the law and the way it was engineered, but Democrats do have the right not to involve Republicans if they choose not to. Now whether they should as a matter of principle or morality is a different question. I’m all for having the two parties communicate and find common ground when they can, but I don’t think unity should be forced. Certainly Democrats should listen to Republicans and give their recommendations serious consideration, but of course they don’t have to (although they may need to make some concessions to get that coveted sixtieth vote).

There’s been a lot of talk of Republicans being obstructionists. I think this is silly. Just because Republicans vote against a certain bill doesn’t mean they’re trying to make trouble; it may simply mean that they philosophically oppose that piece of legislation. The same can be true of Democrats not signing off on Republican initiatives. No one should dissent just for spite. But if someone has a profound ideological problem with a proposed law, she shouldn’t be steamrolled into voting for it. Obama has told Republicans that there’s only one way forward in Washington—his way—and if they resist, then they’re guilty of obstructionism and entirely responsible for the faults of government. Obama is wrong to label all opposition to his ideas obstructionism. Neither party should be brow­beaten into compliance with the other’s agenda. Variety can be a good thing.

We also need to remember that it’s not always politicians or pundits who divide us. The issues themselves are often what split us into opposing camps. It’s hard to find common ground on some things: abortion, torture, and civilian trials for terrorists, among many others. Deeply­held and irreconcilable philosophical beliefs can prevent us from agreeing, but that’s fine. Let’s just make sure we can still be friends at the end of the day.
TIME TO MAKE A BUCKET LIST??

By: Jolene Cieniawski • Executive Editor

Being in law school sure takes one a step up from those fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants college days when the only thing most students aspired to was to just pass and get that degree. I know it was that way for me—I thought was something I needed a pat on the back for. I thought I was doing a good job of it, but this has been more of a slow process where the more and more I realize that marriage and a career in law were not passing things, but life-long experiences, the more and more I find myself thinking of what I want to accomplish before I die. This, coupled with my love for MTV's "The Buried Life," (yes, at age 27 I still watch MTV) has made me write my own "bucket list."

I feel everyone should have their own "bucket list," and based on my experience, I really feel as if the list suddenly starts to come to you once you're in the place in your life when you know you're in it for the long haul. So, in light of my seemingly sentimental "life-plan encouragement" talk, a preview of my list may surprise you...

In no particular order:
(1) Finish law school and get a kick-ass job
(2) Have at least one child
(3) Go to Japan
(4) Learn how to fly a plane
(5) Go to the final game of a Chicago Cubs World Series (hey, it could happen!)
(6) Fetch a foul ball while in a kayak outside of (the now) AT&T Park in San Francisco
(7) Go to a Chicago Bears Super Bowl
(8) Throw out the opening pitch at a Cubs game
(9) Sit atop the Green Monster at Fenway
(10) Write and publish a biography about my mother
(11) Own a boat and know how to navigate it
(12) Brew/create my own beer
(13) Go to a NCAA Final Four Championship game (preferably to see Purdue)
(14) Assist on location with the Red Cross or Peace Corps
(15) Visit Graceland
(16) Meet Dolly Parton (as it was one of her songs for which I was named)
(17) Be interviewed on national television
(18) Scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef
(19) See the Great Pyramids
(20) Teach a child how to read
(21) Watch all 100 movies on the AFI's 100 Years, 100 Movies list
(22) Bake a wedding cake for someone's wedding
(23) Learn how to drive a manual stick car
(24) Help to rehab the Polish church my parents were married in
(25) Own my own business

I encourage everyone to create a list. You may discover, as I have, that your life-long goals may be more fun to reach than you think.

Jolene is a 2L and can be reached at forum@law.valpo.edu.

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Kathryn Bigelow and "The Hurt Locker"
2. Morgan Freeman and "Invictus"
5. Clint Eastwood
6. Best Stunt Coordination
7. 15 minutes
8. "Beauty and the Beast!"
9. Christopher Boyes, Gary Summers, Andy Nelson, and Tony Johnson
10. Emilio "El Indio" Fernandez
Welcome any questions that anyone would like to submit!!

1. My girlfriend and I have been together for over a year now, but she lives back home which is a couple hours away. I love her to death but I also love this freedom I have here at school. I feel like I'm starting to doubt our relationship. What should I do? Can we really make it work while I'm in law school? From Loving from a Distance.

Of course you can make it work! And to be perfectly honest, you should do everything in your power to make it work. The grass always seems greener on the other side and almost NEVER actually is. This freedom that you feel at school probably just means that you need to make sure you and your girlfriend still have your own "things." Take time to go play basketball or hang out with the guys every once in a while and encourage her to do the same with her friends. If you and your girlfriend spend every waking moment together, the walls will quickly close in on you. As for the hesitation you are having in your relationship right now, you can rest assured that you are probably making a mistake if you think you are going to find your soul mate in Valparaiso, Indiana. If you ever decided to date another law student it would probably only take a matter of weeks before you realized you wanted the person you really love back. It is absolutely possible to make things work long distance. You have to make sure you keep yourself focused on your school work during the week and keep yourself occupied in any down time with your good friends here. Make the extra effort to be with your girlfriend on the weekends and it will definitely be worth it in the end. That being said, only you know how you truly feel about your current girlfriend. If you do not see yourself being with her in the long run, then there is no reason to drag things on and cause more heartache in the end. Good luck with this decision because it will affect the rest of your life!

2. I have been dating this guy for a few months, but I am starting to become concerned about the fact that I feel like I am also dating his family. Does this guy have some sort of separation issue that he will get over or should I take this as a sign and head for the hills? From Family Issues.

The first thing you have to decide is: if you are willing to date someone who is so close with their family. You have to remember that having a close family is probably all they know and it is not their fault. At the same time, you are worried about how close your hunky new boyfriend is to his family, he is probably worried about how you are not. The door swings both ways. The main thing is that you both have to be willing to give and take. You have to understand that he is close to his family but he has to be understanding that at the end of the day he is dating you and may be marrying you, not his family. If this guy lives and dies by what his family says and always chooses them over you then that may be a sign that the relationship is not right for you guys. He has to realize that he will never be able to maintain a relationship if he doesn't start putting the person he loves before everyone else. If you really care about this guy then sit him down and talk to him about it. All good things are worth waiting and fighting for. Be understanding, but be reasonable! XOXO, Aphrodite & Ares

Danyel and Megan are both 2Ls and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

MOVIE REVIEW: VALENTINE'S DAY

By: Ross Brennan * Columnist

Gary Marshall, the man who brought you Pretty Woman and who I guarantee you are a family friend if you cannot picture him right off the hat, now brings you Valentine's Day. Marshall's latest take on the RomCom is a funny piece that tells the romantic stories of numerous of people and couples, all of which are nicely intertwined. Think Crash, but with a much lighter subject matter.

There really is not a main character in the film, despite the previews that make it appear as if Julia Roberts is the focal point. Thus, I will try to give you a quick rundown of what is going on and what to expect. Ashton Kutcher is in love with Jessica Alba. Jennifer Garner is best friends with Kutcher, but is in love with the very married McDreamy, who plays a doctor (what a stretch). McSteamy, playing a pro football player, whose story is not-so- loosely based on Brett Favre, is in love with a woman named Red. The most predictable, but funny scene. Jamie Foxx has some good scenes, and Topher Grace shines as a naive Hoosier who is now a L.A. transplant. Viewer beware, there are some jokes that involve Indiana as a punchline.

Overall I would recommend Valentine's Day. For the gentlemen out there, if you have the will power to walk past Edge of Darkness and actually have a seat in the Valentine's Day theater, you will discover a few jokes you appreciate. For the ladies, I do not have to tell you that the movie is geared towards your tastes. Enjoy the 125 minutes of romance, and take it for what it is worth.

Ross is a 2L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
FEBRUARY 2010

FOOD & GAMES

The Forum

NOSHIN' WITH NIKKI & THE NINJA...BISTRO 157

By: Nikki Knowlton • Columnist

By: John Bayard • Staff Writer

By: David Johnson • Puzzle Editor

February 2010

Food & Games

The Forum

O n February 8th, I took my Mom and my boyfriend John to a place called Bistro 157 to try some of the award-winning food that has been prevalent throughout the city for the last few years. I had heard about it from a friend of mine and thought it would be a great place to try some of the best cuisine in Valpo. Well fear not, the Bistro is located at 157 W Lincoln Way Valparaiso, IN 46383, on the same block as Passtimes. It boasts gourmet cuisine along with a vintage wine collection. Just like any other upscale place, it is recommended that you make reservations. The Ninja and I went on a Wednesday but we still made reservations because it was the Wednesday before Valentine’s Day weekend.

Atmosphere:

Bistro has a warm and inviting atmosphere. When you first walk in there is a breeze-way where you can take off your coat and there are hangers available, sort of a “do-it-yourself coat check.” Once inside the restaurant you can’t help but notice the wonderful brick walls with pieces of art hanging throughout. They had candlelit tables with white table linens. No booth seating at this place; it’s just regular tables and chairs which I believe makes it a classier place. The Ninja felt it was a welcoming place. Bistro 157 has limited seating, so making a reservation is always a safe bet. By my count, there were about 15 tables at the most. There is a bar area as well. It’s a very intimate setting for you and that special someone.

Friendliness:

When we first walked in, there was no one at the hostess desk and we stood there for about four to five minutes. That may not seem long but imagine standing at the front door with nowhere to sit waiting for someone to come over to help you. Finally, someone came over and took us to a table for four, which I loved because I had more room. The hostess turned out to be our server. She was very friendly and kind. She goofed a little and handed us the lunch menus and it took awhile for her to come back around so we could tell her we got the wrong menus. Once that was set straight we were ready to get started. Bistro is also known for their specials and along with their specials comes the lengthy description. The Ninja said, “the specials are a little exhausting to listen to because of the extensive usage of many adjectives; just not my cup of tea.” I agree, I’m all for specials but when they take so long to listen to that I forgot what the first special was and you need to explain it again, it’s really not worth it. But still, the server couldn’t have been sweeter. When I needed her to go through the specials again she did and actually edited the descriptions so they weren’t so lengthy. She was very accommodating by starting us out with soup and salads while I pined over the menu a few more minutes. She wasn’t overwhelming or bothersome by constantly checking on us. She let us have out space and was tremendously friendly.

Money Matters:

Okay, this place will hit your wallet but it all depends on what you order. The Ninja and I are pretty economically sound people and for a Valentine’s Day/Out of the Doghouse/Impress Your Lady dinner, I think we did well. We had a meal that included a soup, salad, and entrée for each of us for $68.76, not too bad. We both tried their soup special; they had two so we got one each and those ran us $5.50 each. We then had a Caesar salad costing us $7.25 each; why 25¢ we could not figure out. We both passed on the specials for our main course and the Ninja ordered the lamb stroganoff and I ordered the walleye. This cost us $17.00 for the Stroganoff and $19.00 for the Walleye. I had an iced tea and the Ninja had water, costing us $2.75. So for a three course meal (technically) it cost us around $70. Maybe it’s just me, but for a nice restaurant and three courses, that’s not too bad.

Yum-O or a No-No:

I have only been to Bistro 157 once and I remember their soups were amazing, so when they mentioned the soups, our eyes lit up. I had a potato garlic soup and the Ninja had the braised beef stew. The potato soup was creamy, lightly sprinkled with chives, and had just the right amount of garlic. The Ninja’s braised beef stew was wonderful; believe me, I had a bite. The Ninja said, “it was excellent with a unique flavor.” The flavor was unique and neither one of us could put our finger on what it was; all we know is that it was first-rate. The Caesar was well, it was a Caesar. The Ninja and I both felt it could use a bit more gusto, if you know what I mean. It wasn’t as bold as the Ninja and I are used to. I had the walleye, which was lightly breaded with parmesan, served with mashed potatoes with a tomato-onion sauce. It was AMAZING!!! I could not stop eating it. I was so glad I took my time when ordering and decided on the walleye. You will not be disappointed. The lamb stroganoff, however, wasn’t as flavorful as the Ninja was hoping for. It had a bit of a Cajun spice to it, but it was bland. It wasn’t his favorite, but it was still a good dinner choice. Overall, the food at Bistro had tons of different flavor but take your time picking your entrees.

Recommendation:

The Ninja gave Bistro 157 4 out of 5 throwing stars. We loved the atmosphere, the friendly service, and the wonderful food, especially the soups. So, if you’re in the doghouse and need to get out, take your lady or Bistro for a nice night out. Make sure you try the specials, they won’t let you down. Until next time, Mangia... Mangia... Mangia!!

Nikki is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

Oscars Trivia

1. Her nomination for Best Director made her the fourth woman ever to be nominated for this category. Her ex-husband was nominated for this category as well.

2. This actor has been nominated for Best Actor. He won the award for Best Supporting Actor in the past for his role in “Million Dollar Baby” and has been nominated for Best Actor in such films as “Driving Miss Daisy” and “Shawshank Redemption.” Who is he and what movie was he nominated in?

3. These three movies are currently tied for receiving the most Oscar awards. The record is 11 awards. Name the three films.

4. Name the youngest actor and actress to win awards for Best Actor and Actress respectively?

5. This person is currently the only person to have ever directed, produced, and starred in two Best Picture winners.

6. This proposed award has been rejected twice. Once in 1999 and once in 2005. Where was this award’s first ever Academy Awards held in 1929? Being the only Academy Awards ceremony not to be broadcasted on either TV or radio, it lasted how long?

7. The first ever Academy Awards was held in 1929. Being the only Academy Awards ceremony not to be broadcasted on either TV or radio, it lasted how long?

8. Pixar’s “UP” not only received a nomination for Best Animated Film, but it also received a nomination for Best Picture as well, making it only the second animated film to be nominated for Best Picture. Name the only other animated film ever to be nominated for Best Picture.

9. O.K. here’s my “Avatar” question. “Avatar” has received a nomination for Sound Mixing. (Yeah there’s a category for sound mixing.) Name the four people who were nominated for their work with sound mixing in “Avatar?”

10. The actual Oscar award is modeled after this Mexican film Director.

Sudoku

Answers for January

8 9 3 1 2 5 7 4 6
5 6 4 7 3 9 1 8 2
1 2 7 4 6 8 5 9
2 7 1 3 8 6 4 9 5
9 8 5 2 1 3 6 7 9
3 4 6 9 5 7 8 2 1
7 1 9 8 4 2 6 5 3
6 3 8 1 9 5 2 7 4
4 5 2 6 7 3 9 1 8

Puzzle for February

8
5
9
7
3
4
1
6
2

David Johnson makes a Sudoku Puzzle each month for The Forum.

Forum@valpo.edu
I know I said it in my other column, but I don’t know what to do with myself without football. Nobody can honestly expect me to subsist on NASC or basketball. I need football in my life. I’m just bucking up for a bumpy NFL offseason ride, and the next rest stop is in April when the NFL Draft happens. I know the Scouting Combine comes first, but for as much as I like football, even I can’t force myself to watch that meat market. It’s just not interesting to watch NFL hopefuls work out for the scouts.

So, I know I’m disappointed with the outcome of this year’s season. I fully expected the Colts to walk away with the Lombardi trophy at the end of the Super Bowl. Instead, I found myself with my jaw firmly planted on the floor from the opening kickoff of the second half until the end of the game. I don’t think anybody on Earth expected to see that onside kick. Unfortunately for the Colts, they couldn’t recover fast enough from that play and the Saints ended up running away with their first Super Bowl win in franchise history.

I suppose there is a “feel good” story in the Saints winning the Super Bowl. The win symbolizes the rebirth of New Orleans. It also gives the NFL a chance to invent a long history of loving the New Orleans Saints organization. It makes for all kinds of warm, fuzzy human interest stories about long-suffering Saints fans, and how they no longer have to wear bags on their heads. Although, I have a little less trouble swallowing the stories of long-suffering Saints fans coming out of the woodwork than I do in believing in the manufactured tradition of long-standing die hard Patriots fans.

Editor’s Note: I still firmly believe that there was no such thing as a Patriots fan until 2004 when the Red Sox won the World Series. I also believe that anyone who claims to have been a Patriots fan prior to 2004 is either lying to you, or is some kind of figment of your imagination, like Tyler Durden in Fight Club.

But aside from the Super Bowl, a lot of great things happened across the entire league this season. A few teams really hit their stride and showed a lot of potential for the coming years. My favorite story line of the year was the Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals moved past an alarming trend of having unexpected freezing temperatures and snowfall. The dunk contest was typical of potential for the coming years. My favorite story line of the year was the Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals moved past an alarming trend of having unexpected freezing temperatures and snowfall. The dunk contest was typical of potential for the coming years. My favorite story line of the year was the Bengals.

It’s much as I like football, even I can’t force myself to watch that meat market. The NFL Draft happens. I know the Scouting Combine comes first, but for as much as I like football, even I can’t force myself to watch that meat market. It’s just not interesting to watch NFL hopefuls work out for the scouts.

Another team built upon a strong foundation for the coming years is the Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons accomplished a feat for their franchise this season when they recorded back-to-back winning seasons for the first time. This might not sound like a huge accomplishment for fans of other NFL teams, but it’s a big deal for Atlanta, and with the core of high-character, talented players on the roster, like quarterback Matt Ryan and running back Jerious Norwood, the Falcons have a strong nucleus of skill players to make them competitive in the NFC South for the coming years. The Falcons had a tough road to rebuild their franchise in the wake of the Michael Vick incident, but appear to have weathered the storm nicely.

It wasn’t all sunshine and smiles this season though. The coaching carousel happened again this offseason. The Bills brought Chan Gailey out of unemployment, and only time will tell if this coaching change will make the Bills relevant again. The Redskins dumped Jim Zorn and brought in Mike Shanahan as their new coach. I give Daniel Snyder a few months until he does something stupid to isolate himself from Shanahan.

Most troubling though, is that the owners and the players seem to be at an impasse with labor talks. It appears that the 2010-2011 season will happen without a salary cap. Lower revenue teams might not be able to compete with high revenue teams for free agent talent. Another big labor issue is rookie contract values. The days of top draft picks getting millions upon millions in guaranteed money might be numbered. But the worst possible contingency might be upon us in 2011. If the owners and players can’t come to a new collective bargaining agreement, there might be a lockout. Then I’d really be lost in a world without football.

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**WEAK SUPERBOWL COMMERCIALS...**

By: MIKE WILD • Sports Editor

So, if you're like me, you know it is over. I have nothing to live for, except the hope that August is only six months away. Football season is over. Now, all that separates me from more football is an abyss of NASCAR, non-playoff baseball and the seemingly endless basketball season. I remark on basketball and its contribution to the downfall of Western civilization for a later time, because I have to tell my colleagues at Sweet Valpo High about the decline of the hilarous Super Bowl commercial and how that really grinds my gears.

I'm spoiled. I grew up in the age of Spuds MacKenzie and the Bud Bowl. I still remember when that upstart team of Bud Dry made it into the Bud Bowl to take on Budweiser. The Budweiser frogs were one of the few good memories I have from the Bills Super Bowl years. But recently, the beer commercials have declined substantially. Instead of the Miller Lite girls lighting in a fountain, I have to watch to commercials for men's body wash and whatever the Punxsutawney Polamalu commercial was trying to sell.

Editor's Note: I have yet to discover a way to wash my eyes after the Punxsutawney Polamalu commercial. If anyone knows how I can un-see that creepy commercial, please let me know as soon as humanly possible.

Let's delve into some of the lowlights from this year's crop of Super Bowl commercials. First, why was I subjected to so many commercials for video games? Last time I checked, football and video games only go together in August, when the new Madden game is released. People play the new game, win the Super Bowl with their favorite team, and go back to their regular lives. Otherwise, video games and football are incompatible forms. Football is about brute strength, speed and violent collisions. Video games are about drinking excessive amounts of Mountain Dew and otherwise sitting still while committing senseless acts of simulated violence against animated monsters.

So how does football's biggest game suddenly turn into a platform for video game publishers to sell video games? This makes no sense to me, and the glut of video game commercials eliminated space that should be reserved for beer commercials.

And what was with all the dudes missing their pants? Did anyone else find it odd that there were back-to-back commercials prominently featuring a lot of dudes without pants? On a related note, did anyone else find that really weird, and possibly a little unsettling? Careerbuilder.com is making a habit out of showing Super Bowl commercials featuring dudes without pants, and frankly, it might be about time to change strategies. I also find it odd that Dockers would make a commercial designed to sell pants that did not, in fact, show any pants. I might have taken note of the actual pants, but there were no pants to speak of, so I suppose it's Dockers' loss, not mine.

There were also a lot of commercials about the emasculation of the American man. Commercials for men's body wash? Do I really need a body wash to moisturize my skin? I doubt it. Hundreds of generations of men got along just fine without moisturizing body wash, so maybe we could avoid those commercials next year and make room for more beer commercials.

Another prime example of emasculation dude syndrome was that Dodge commercial. It featured a whole bunch of dudes talking about the emasculating things they have to do all day, such as cleaning up after themselves, or listening to their wives or girlfriends talk about their feelings. The saving grace to the all-consuming sense of emasculation is that these dudes reserve just enough of their masculinity by driving a Dodge. Whatever happened to the days when you show how great the car is? I'd much rather see a stunt driver drive the car at unseal speeds on really windy roads or show the car doing something awesome on a test track. I want to hear masculine sounding statistics like how long it takes to go from zero to sixty or how much horsepower it has. I certainly don't want to hear any references to cleaning while I watch car commercials.

So what have we learned? In the wake of the Janet Jackson incident in 2004, everything about the Super Bowl has become entirely too family friendly. That is a bad thing. Football isn't about being prim and proper. Football is about trash talking, having a few beers and eating artery-clogging snack foods. So, let's all collectively hope that next year, we get a chance to re-create some Super Bowl commercial magic from years past.

Mike is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

**MMA MATCHUPS...MARCH**

By: DAN D. HALLBERG • Staff Writer

February was a somewhat uneventful, but still entertaining month of fights, particularly if you enjoy geriatrics getting crushed by even more geriatrics. Unfortunately, that all faded away after Hardy has no business fighting this fight because Hardy has a puncher's chance, but I still remember when that upstart team of Bud Dry made it into the Bud Bowl to take on Budweiser. The Budweiser frogs were one of the few good memories I have from the Bills Super Bowl years. But recently, the beer commercials have declined substantially. Instead of the Miller Lite girls lighting in a fountain, I have to watch to commercials for men's body wash and whatever the Punxsutawney Polamalu commercial was trying to sell.

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Mike is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

**LAW WEEK: NEW EVENTS!!!**

By: JOHN BAYARD • Staff Writer

With Law Week comes many exciting events for the members of the Law School community. I discussed the week's events with Nicole Knowlton, SBA Special Events Coordinator.

Nicole said that there were several new events planned for this year:

"We moved up one of our Blood Drives to the start of Law Week. Wednesday will be the inaugural "White-Out." The "White-Out" will have a Pep Rally with free food and t-shirt giveaways. Also, Coach Homer Drew will be there. Then we all head over to the ARC for VU vs. Loyola. Another new event is Spirit Day and the Bake-Off. For Spirit Day, students are encouraged to wear VU apparel or apparel for the organization they are most proud of. The Bake-Off is to raise money for Special Olympics. This year, the SBA decided to raise money for a local charity during the Law Week. We chose the Porter County Special Olympics."

Thanks to all of the students who helped make this fun-filled week of school spirit and philanthropy a success!!!

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Undergraduate School: New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, NM and The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
Undergraduate Major: History, Concentration Civil War Era and the West after the Civil War, a.k.a the Wild West!
Family: Yes I have one. My Ma, Sharmen and the older brother Kierre
What's your favorite taco topping? Cheese and Sour Cream and Green Chile

What's the farthest place you’ve been from Valpo in the past 6 weeks? In my mind I’ve been to Canada, but in reality, Ft. Sheridan, IL

Big Spring Break plans coming up? No!
Do you use any websites to follow celebrity gossip? If yes, which? OMG...I do...It’s called OMG!
Would you rather have a super-cold March this year or an unseasonably warm May? Unseasonably warm May. I would like a bright blue sky as I walk through the Chapel on Graduation Day!
What's your favorite band? The Judds...wait no...The Miami Sound Machines...wait no...Peter Paul and Mary...wait no...N'Sync...wait no...Gem and the Holograms...no the Misfits...wait...Another Bad Creation!
Which Valpo Law professor dresses the most stylishly? Duh...Dean Cichowski...he’s fresh! I want him to take me shoppin!
What law school class has the honor of being your thickest casebook of the 2009-2010 school year? Um...I wish I would have pulled a Justin Vining this semester (inside joke)! I guess Land Use.
Do you doodle during class? What! No! I always give my undivided attention to the Professors, professing in front of me?

Jenna Throw-2L

Hometown: Crown Point, IN
Undergraduate School: Valpo
Undergraduate Major: Criminology & East Asian Studies
Family: Parents & younger brother, 20
What's your favorite taco topping? Hot sauce!
What's the farthest place you’ve been from Valpo in the past 6 weeks? Either Chicago, or South Bend—whichever is farther!

Big Spring Break plans coming up? Not really—may go up to Chicago or visit people in Michigan, nothing too thrilling— or warm!
Do you use any websites to follow celebrity gossip? If yes, which? Not really...
What color is your dream car? Black
Would you rather have a super-cold March this year or an unseasonably warm May? Unseasonably warm May!! This snow has got to stop!!
What's your favorite band? The Beatles :
Which Valpo Law professor dresses the most stylishly? I would have to say Prof. Lind
What law school class has the honor of being your thickest casebook of the 2009-2010 school year? Big Binder of Business Associations
Do you doodle during class? No, but that's a good idea!

Michael Bolde-1L

Hometown: Hebron, IN
Undergraduate School: Purdue University Calumet
Family: An amazing wife and world-changer, Tracy and two amazing, little world-changers, Korbin (4) and Asher (almost 3)
What is your favorite taco topping? I love tomatoes and eat them any chance I can, especially on tacos.
What's the farthest place you've been from Valpo in the past 6 weeks? I just went to South Bend to get my taxes done. I know, exciting.

Big Spring Break plans coming up? I have the pleasure of working while in school so I will be doing a lot of that and of course will get caught up on everything else since the appellate brief will be over.

Do you use any websites to follow celebrity gossip? If yes, which? I am not a fan of celebrity gossip. I believe that we are all created for a purpose and to idolize one or many for being a good actor, a good songwriter, etc. is a waste of time and a distraction from achieving my purpose. Furthermore, it is evident that many of these people, despite being rich, are still absent of wealth since they don’t really understand their purpose made apparent by their serving as poor role models to adults and especially to kids.

What is your dream car? I would love to have a 1957 Chevy. I have no idea why that is my car of choice. I have always loved them since being a kid. I am not a big fan of material possessions, but there are, of course exceptions to most things and buying one of these would certainly serve as one of those exceptions.

Would you rather have a super-cold March this year or an unseasonably warm May? Definitely cold; I am always hot and really enjoy the winter and cold weather. I am sure that is not a majority opinion.

What's your favorite band? My favorite band is a Christian band out of Australia called Hillsong and their youth band is called Hillsong United. Their music provides a unique and awesome avenue to worship God.

Which Valpo Law professor dresses the most stylishly? It has to be a woman of course, since they have abundant options to accessorize while we men are confined to the color of our tie. I would have to go with Professor Lind. I think she always looks professional and stylish.

What law school class has the honor of being your thickest casebook of the 2009-2010 school year? Constitutional Law
Do you doodle during class? I have a hard time sitting still and am always doing something, including an occasional doodle.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM HUNTER & ROB

By: S. Hunter Noble & Robert A. Elliott II • Columnists

Forum readers, As I’m sure you’ve noticed, Hunter and Rob’s column has been absent the past two months. The speculation and rumors are in fact true. Yes, they have received incredible writing offers from top tier media outlets after their short stint here at The Forum. Stay calm Forum readers, after 2 months of soul searching and a generous incentive package provided through SBA funding, Hunter and Rob have decided to stay put in the 'Po. With football season officially over, it’s been a stressful and emotional journey for them both over the past month. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers and feel free to welcome them back and/or give them hugs as you see them roaming the halls of justice. They would also like to give special recognition to Professor Nuechterlein for being a loyal and vocal proponent of their literary genius. Stay strong Professor and our loyal followers, the Fried Pigskin Report will be returning next month.

Hunter & Rob are both 2Ls and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.