SUMMER STUDY IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA

BY: HEIDI A. DUNCAN * GUEST WRITER

This past June, eleven Valparaiso law students and two from other schools crossed into the southern hemisphere for a month-long exploration into Chilean and Argentine law and culture, accompanied by Professor Elizabeth Bruch and Valparaiso’s Professor Alan White. The two-course program delved into national human rights issues and land reform systems in both countries, and other countries explored in the course, in addition to the role the international community and international courts played in resolving national accountability and pursuing resolutions that actuated justice.

For the duration of the program, students spent eight days along the coastal mountain communities of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso, Chile and the remainder of the time in Argentina. The sights, tastes, music, and historical richness of the communities are deeply nestled within a naval-based area affected in varying degrees by the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. The University of Vina del Mar law school invited internationally renowned Judge Juan Guzmán to present a film documenting his investigation that ultimately led to the criminal prosecution of Pinochet. In addition, visits to an area winery, Chilean constitutional and appellate courts, home stays with local families, fresh seafood, and hospitable Chilean law students warmed up the visiting students before they went deeper within the country for several days of tours and study at the University of the Andes in Santiago, Chile.

Buenos Aires, Argentina revealed a sophisticated and fast-paced metropolis, filled with tourists, tango, shopping, opulent food, art, and museums, yet the country has been healing from a tumultuous political history. Students examined the circumstances surrounding and in the government’s systematic detention, torture, and murder against “subversives.” Students visited sites of clandestine detention centers and witnessed the weekly march of las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, with protesters still demanding answers of what happened to their missing relatives. Argentine Supreme Court Justice Elena Highton met with Valparaiso’s law students and others from Pontifica Catholic University of Argentina, answering questions in her chambers. To further explain Argentina law and present legal issues, several Argentine professors lectured throughout the two-week stay in Buenos Aires, including Professors Riviera and LeGarre, who are frequent visiting professors in Valparaiso, Indiana. Time not spent in lectures, on tours, or studying was spent attempting to take advantage of the possibilities available in Buenos Aires. A Saturday spent at Professor LeGarre’s ranch entailed seeing 96,000 chickens, horseback riding, soccer, and giant slabs of beef. Throughout the two weeks, many students traveled to Uruguay for a day, a few took polo lessons, and others explored the Eva Peron museum or went to the theatre. Most students even attempted tango following a lesson, although none were able to keep up with the tango professional of the group. The Argentine students welcomed the U.S. students as warmly as the Vina del Mar students had done, and likewise establishing many friendships that will long outlast the duration of the trip.

Despite the cruel reality of the history of political development in Chile and Argentina, there is the potential for resolution of the history of the European cities to yield adventures far beyond this brief recounting of our experiences. My advice is to book your next vacation in Chili and Argentina, and allow yourself to be immersed in an unforgettable adventure.

Heidi can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

GOOD IDEA: EARN SIX CREDITS WHILE WATCHING SPAIN WIN THE WORLD CUP FROM MADRID

BY: BRADLEY TURFLINGER • STAFF WRITER

Valparaiso University School of Law offers great opportunities to study abroad in either South America or Cambridge. Certainly, both of these opportunities are nothing less than a fantastic way to grow as a lawyer and as a person. What many students may not know is that there are countless other ABA approved study-abroad programs put on by law schools all over the country in which law students from any school can participate. Israel, France, Italy, Mexico, Poland, China, and Russia are just a few of the possible locations where students can earn credits towards their law degrees (check org/legaled/studyabroad/ foreign.html for a full list of programs). Last July, I studied in Madrid, Spain through one such program offered by William and Mary Law School.

The potential reasons for choosing to use another school’s program are numerous. Maybe you have family in Germany, or you want to practice your Chinese, or you want to see Venice while it is still around. From a more professional angle, maybe the program you are interested in offers classes for the area in which you want to practice. Scheduling conflicts with Valparaiso’s South America program led me to William and Mary. For Ls who want to be on Law on Review, Valparaiso’s South America trip takes place at the same time...
THE CAREER PLANNING CENTER WELCOMES YOU BACK!

**By: Christine Corral ✦ CPC Executive Director**

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the new academic year and a new recruiting season. I am pleased to report that the CPC is now fully staffed and is even more committed to delivering high-quality, personal service to our students.

By now, most 2L and 3L students have received a personal telephone call from a CPC staff member. The purpose of these calls has been to have direct contact with each student to ensure they were prepared for the 2010-2011 recruiting season, specifically to update Strategy recruiting profiles, job search documents, and answer any recruiting-related questions. If you have not received your call yet, know that one is coming. Our goal is to have the personal calls completed by mid-September.

To further assist our 2L and 3L students in preparing for the 2010-2011 recruiting season, the CPC staff has planned specific orientations for these groups. The schedule for these orientations along with a brief outline of their content follows:

2L ORIENTATION: SEPTEMBER 15TH - 11:40AM - 12:30PM (Stride Courthouse)

Be sure to attend this career planning information session tailored specifically for second-year law students. Topics discussed during this interactive session will include utilizing Strategy in your job search, experiential education opportunities, career conferences that you do not want to miss, and important information regarding the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam and bar examination. A 2L Career Strategy Timeline will be provided to those that attend this session.

3L ORIENTATION: SEPTEMBER 15TH - 10:10-10:50AM (Pelzer)

Be sure to attend this career planning information session tailored specifically for third-year law students. General information during this interactive session will include utilizing Strategy in your job search, experiential education opportunities, career conferences that you do not want to miss, and important information regarding the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam and bar examination. A 3L Career Strategy Timeline will be provided to those that attend this session.

The CPC team encourages your participation in these informative sessions to help give you a competitive advantage in the marketplace. You may register for these orientation sessions via Strategy (http://myinterfase.com/valpolaw/students).

Upon completion of the personal telephone calls to 2L and 3L students in mid-September, the CPC staff will begin a round of personal telephone calls to 1L students. These telephone calls will carry a similar message, making a personal connection and will follow-up on many of the career planning activities during pre-orientation and orientation in which 1Ls have been engaged. We hope your Strategy recruiting profiles and initial job search documents will be completed as you begin scheduling your 1L career-advising appointments.

The CPC team will be visiting 1L Legal Research classes on Friday, October 22 to review the job search documents assignment with an emphasis on cover letters and resumes.

One of many other updates that I am excited to share is the creation of CPC Atrium Days as suggested by the members of the CPC Student Advisory Committee. A CPC staff member and a CPC Student Advisory Committee member will team together to manage a table in the atrium twice each month. During a CPC Atrium Day, students are encouraged to visit General questions about any CPC programs and services as well as to receive an updated calendar of recruiting and networking activities. The September 2010 Atrium Days are September 7th and September 22 (10:50-11:30am). We hope to see you there!

Should you have any questions about your job search or need assistance with your Strategy account, please contact the Career Planning Center staff at (219) 465-7814 or careerplanning.law@valpo.edu.

SPAIN: Continued from page 1...

time as the case comment competition. While you can still write your comment in South America, the ability to write a quality comment may be diminished.

Obviously, many classes offered in these programs deal with international law. The classes I took in Madrid — The E.U. Legal System, European Human Rights Law, and Comparative Civil and Constitutional Law— exemplify the international flavor of classes taken abroad. The professors in

most programs are also exceptional and may be another reason to take a specific program. My experience offered an advisor to the drafting of the E.U. Constitution, another who advises the Spanish Parliament, and yet another advisor for the Spanish Prime Minister. In the same vein, programs often offer trips to government institutions. My program took me to the Spanish Senate and the Spanish Constitutional Court.

Then, of course, there are the food and spirits, music, smells, sights, history, cathedrals—temples-mosques, and proximity to other cities and countries that all coalesce into a unique and life-affirming encounter with the world. For one month, I regularly had siesta by the pool. I ate caramelized goat cheese, onion, and tomato tapas. I experienced world-class jazz, dive-bar flamenco, and roof-top club music. On weekends, I went to Retiro Park (Madrid’s Central Park) and watched people row boats in front of a gigantic column monument to a former monarch. I saw Goya’s “Saturn Eating His Children” and Bosch’s “Garden of Earthly Delights” (along with works by Raphael, Rembrandt, etc.) at the Prado museum, and Picasso’s “Guernica” at the Reina Sophia. I took a day trip to see Roman Aqueducts and eat roasted snacking pig in Segovia. Other adventures took me to Toledo (home of “El Greco”) and the century old walled city of Avila (home to St. Teresa).

And what is left after a study-abroad; what is the take-away? I earned six credits, took hundreds of beautiful pictures and made many friends from law schools all over the country. I now have a Spanish flag I wore like a cape in an endless sea of red (250,000 people) as I watched Spain win the World Cup. I bridged the divide between the intangible and tangible by walking in the formerly abstract (to me) palace from where Isabella and Ferdinand ruled; I have a familiarity (as concrete as a memory can be) with the Royal Palace that fills my mind when I think about Columbus seeking financing for his venture/crusade. I know

in detail how fascinating the European Union is — it rivals the United States in its idealism, lack of historical precedent, and provocative nature (what is sovereignty?). More than anything, I am inspired to make certain this in not a “once in a lifetime” experience; the world is big, people are beautiful and creative in ways that cannot simply be read about, and I will not be content to coast through the rest of my life on the fumes of this past summer. But, studying abroad is a start — a start this writer encourages all law students to consider.

Bradley is a 3L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
The Valparaiso University School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association. As an accredited school, we must comply with the ABA Standards for Approval (http://www.abanet.org/legaled/standards/standards.html). These Standards deal with fundamental subjects important to ensure law school quality, including faculty, library, financial resources, curriculum, and facilities. The Standards are currently undergoing a comprehensive review and there are likely to be changes adopted within the next two years. I wish to describe some of the changes that are being considered, but before doing so, I will first explain how law school accreditation is overseen.

The Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is the part of the ABA with authority over accreditation. That authority comes from the United States Department of Education and legally it must reside in the Section, not the ABA as a whole. The governing body of the Section is the Council, and it is the Council that has ultimate authority for promulgating accreditation criteria. Another committee, the Standards Review Committee, is charged with drafting and proposing Standards for Council consideration. A third committee, the Accreditation Committee, is responsible for enforcing the Standards and does this by, among other things, evaluating each law school every seven years. (I am currently the Chair of this committee.) We were last evaluated in 2006 and came through the process very well.

At this time, the Standards Review Committee is considering drafts of possible changes in the Standards. This review process is very transparent, meetings are open, and you can see the various drafts of proposed changes at http://www.abanet.org/legaled/committees/comstandards.html.

One set of possible changes under consideration deal with curriculum. The centerpiece of these revisions would require that: “A law school shall identify, define, and disseminate each of the learning outcomes it seeks for its graduating students and for its program of legal education... The learning outcomes shall include competency as an entry-level practitioner...” And that: “A law school shall offer a curriculum that is designed to produce graduates who have attained competency in the learning outcomes identified [above].”

These revisions would involve a shift in the curricular requirements for law schools. They would move the Standards from emphasizing specific subjects or types of subjects that must be taught to requiring outcomes—competencies that the program of education must be designed to develop. It is too early to say whether these changes will be adopted or precisely what impact they would have on curriculum.

Another set of proposed changes relate to consumer information. There is a strong view among the ABA committees which oversee accreditation that students and prospective students should be provided with full and accurate information to allow them to make the best decisions possible about what law school to attend (or whether to attend law school at all). Specific proposals have not yet been put forward, although they should be soon. It is widely agreed that the Standards should give more attention to information law schools provide students.

Yet another set of possible changes relate to law school admissions. One of the most interesting proposals would eliminate the requirement that every applicant to law school take an admissions test. If this change is adopted, then, although a law school could require applicants to take the LSAT, it would not have to do so. The rationales for this proposed change are that the LSAT is not necessary for schools being able to assess the likelihood of an applicant’s succeeding in the program; that the LSAT has an adverse impact on law school diversity; and that the LSAT is widely misused.

There are many other proposals under consideration. They are motivated by the goals of ensuring that law schools provide a sound program of legal education; they continue to have the flexibility to adapt to changes in the legal profession, the legal environment, and the economy; and that students and prospective students are properly and fairly served. I hope you will continue to follow developments as the various proposals are refined and debated, and as some of them are adopted and implemented.

Dean Conison can be reached at Jay.conison@valpo.edu.

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

By: MARY Persyn • ASSOCIATE DEAN & PROFESSOR OF LAW

Best wishes for a productive academic year! Following are several pieces of information that you might find of interest.

1) We have changed the Law Library policy on food. We are allowing food in the Library. In exchange, we ask you to PLEASE let us know if something spills, so that it can be cleaned up as soon as possible. We still request that you have your drinks in sturdy closed containers — cans, bottles, cups with lids — in order to limit the amount of spillage. Please also clean up after yourselves. Use the waste baskets for your trash. I have requested recycling containers and larger trash cans for the Library, but we are still waiting on their arrival.

2) If you haven’t met our newest librarian, Sarah Glassmeyer, stop by her office in Room 262 and say hello. You can also contact her via email at sarah.glassmeyer@valpo.edu, or on Twitter, LinkedIn, or other social media. All her contact information is on the wall outside her office door and on her website.

3) We have added two major legal information databases to the Law Library. The first is from the Bureau of National Affairs and the second is from Commerce Clearing House.

a) The Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) database contains all of the 104 titles published by BNA. The subjects include professional responsibility, health care, banking, tax, family law, chemical regulations, and the Supreme Court. In addition to reading the full text of these publications online, you can sign up for daily or weekly electronic headlines or alerts. The frequency depends on how often the title is published. For example, Family Law Reporter is issued weekly, but Daily Report for Executives comes out daily.

You might be particularly interested in signing up for Supreme Court Today, which keeps you up-to-date on the happenings at the U.S. Supreme Court.

To see the list of all BNA publications, research particular topics, or sign up for e-newsletters, go to http://www.valpo.edu/law/library/bna.php.

b) The other new subscription is Intelliconnect from Commerce Clearing House, which is a database of federal and state tax materials. Its coverage is broader than what is available on Lexis or Westlaw. Currently, you need a password to access Intelliconnect. If you are interested in searching this product, contact one of the librarians for a password.

Please feel free to contact one of the librarians if you have questions. You can find our contact information at http://www.valpo.edu/law/library/info/directory.php.
By: Michael Barnett, Amy Hyndman & Rich Mitchell • Guest Writers

During the first week back to school, our classes were temporarily interrupted by our attendance at Lavender Law. Lavender Law is a conference organized by the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Bar Association (NLGBT), an affiliate of the American Bar Association. The annual conference celebrates diversity in the law.

The conference was held August 26-28, 2010, at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel and Conference Center. Thursday, the first day of the conference, was a career fair. Here, law students could sit with employers and discuss possible employment opportunities with companies that specifically seek out LGBT law students for employment. Firms, large and small, spoke with the hundreds of law students in attendance at the conference, discussed the various opportunities available within their firms, and described the benefits of working for an openly welcoming firm that actively seeks out LGBT employees.

The second day of the conference was loaded with workshops and sessions on a variety of topics. For example, the morning sessions featured “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and the Transition to Repeal,” “LGBT Pro Bono at the Highest Echelons of Private Practice,” “Intelectual Property Basics and Hot Topics,” and “Policing, Prosecution and Punishment of LGBT People.” A wide range of opportunities were readily available.


The final day of the conference provided many continued opportunities for meeting other LGBT attorneys and general networking. Each night of the conference offered a “meet and great” at a local bar sponsored by a different organization or law firm. All in all, it was an excellent experience for all of us who attended.

We were pleased with the wide array of options to choose from throughout the conference, as well as its exceptional organization. We attended this conference on behalf of Lambda, Valparaiso’s LGBT student organization. If there was a disappointment to be had, it was the apparent “intensity” of the competition between law students. We attributed it to the tight job market, but were expecting better from our LGBT colleagues. Still, after a cocktail or two, most people relaxed and some new friendships were established.

The three of us would like to take this opportunity to recommend conference attendance to all 1L’s who are just beginning their law school careers. Get involved with the organizations here on campus and spend some time reviewing the ABA’s available leadership opportunities as well. You will find financial support for attendance at these conferences, which will not only improve your professional knowledge, but will increase your opportunities to meet others interested in moving the law forward in your particular area of interest. We also would like to express our thanks to the folks at VUSL who made our attendance possible at these events—including, but not limited to, Joe Barufi, Ann Weitgenant, and Dean Adams.

Michael, Amy, and Rich can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

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By: Tim Billlick • Staff Writer

Students from a myriad of different cultures and nationalities filled the Harre Ballroom to help celebrate the twenty-fifth day of Ramadan with the Muslim Student Alliance (MSA). The student group provided delicious food and an open forum for any and all questions relating to Islam.

Open forums were made by the officers of MSA. Waseem Mateen (3L) acts as the group’s treasurer and explained what Ramadan means to him in the form of a familiar acronym, VALPO, which stands for Vigilance, Abstinence, Love, Patience and Observance. For Mateen, these components must be present for the fruitful celebration of Ramadan.

Answering the questions posed by the crowd was Faisal Kutty, assistant professor of law at VUSL. Kutty serves as the advisor for MSA and teaches more classes, including Comparative Law, Islamic Law and International Law among many other classes. Kutty began his speech with an Islamic blessing, promptly followed by an explanation:

“Bismillahi Rahamani Raheem. In the name of God, the most merciful, the most compassionate. I figured I should translate that quickly so people didn’t think I was going to blow up or something.”

This cleared the air of any tension that would have been present that evening. He made certain that no one in the room felt uncomfortable about asking any question at all about Islam or Islamic Law. Kutty’s depth to his answers prevented him from addressing the volume of questions he received, but it was a necessary tradeoff, given the format of the evening. He expressed his frustration with the fact that the entire nation of Islam will always have to answer for the radical acts committed by the overwhelming minority of Muslims on “the fringe” of Islam.

The Sunnah, the sayings and the living habits of the prophet Muhammed, and the Qur’an partially make up the Shari’a, which is essentially the law of Islam. But according to Kutty, the majority of Islamic Law comes from secondary sources, and is therefore open to very dynamic and flexible interpretation. With nearly every question received, he clarified that the Qur’an is not to blame for the horrific acts of some Islamic states. There isn’t even anything written in the Qur’an promoting the use of an Islamic form of government, according to Kutty. “There’s a quote in the Qur’an that essentially says, ‘I made you into nations and tribes to know one another, not to despise one another,’” Kutty said.

Unfortunately, what we know about Islam is fed to us by what the media reports on violence in the Middle East. Kutty cautioned against believing reports on Islamic violence, for those are the acts of states who misinterpret the Qur’an and Islamic Law, not the acts from the Qur’an itself.

For more information on Faisal Kutty’s works and essays, contact his blog at www.faisalkutty.com or his faculty profile on www.valpo.edu/law/faculty/kutty. For more information on joining MSA, talk to Professor Kutty or MSA website at www.valpo.edu/student/msa/about.html.

Tim is a 1L who can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS - WELCOME BACK!

SBA
Hello Valpo Law! After a long, relaxing summer, your Student Bar Association is ready for another great year and is looking forward to many exciting events planned. The first series of events for this year includes VU Day of Caring (September 18), the Cardozo Cup (October 1), and the Halloween Party (October 30). Later in the year, we will feature the Health and Wellness Fair, Law Week, and Barristers.

The SBA is once again making changes this year. We have added a new Executive Board position: the Student Organization Administrator. This position will allow the SBA to fully assist Student Organizations to reach their full potential. The SOA will be the contact person for the Organizations and help them through the complexities of the Law School.

Also, the SBA is transitioning from a party planning student council to that of a pseudo state bar organization where we will primarily work with students to better their time here and also provide them with the necessary tools to be able to find jobs upon graduation (for 3Ls). For the 1Ls and 2Ls, the SBA will provide networking opportunities through support of student organizations’ events and programs so they will have the ability to find jobs later. We also now have the tools we need to be a successful SBA. We have a fun office, a great officer and representative corps, a new website, and a new officer position to work directly with student organizations. Throughout this year, we will be streamlining the process and creating information packets for students and faculty so they can know and see what we have accomplished and where we are going.

The SBA is looking forward to helping every one of you— all you need to do is ask. Your feedback will help us continue to strive for the best. On behalf of the Valpo Law SBA, good luck with everything you do this year and do not hesitate to stop in the SBA office and let us know what we can do for you.

VOX
VOX, Voices for Reproductive Freedom, promotes reproductive choice for women and men. We advocate for comprehensive sexual education in the community to ensure that all have access to resources to make informed choices. This year, we plan to work with Planned Parenthood of Indiana to raise awareness on campus and in the Valparaiso community through a variety of new VOX events. The 2010-2011 events will include a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood, a speaker on campus to discuss the current status of reproductive rights across the United States, and a few other interactive events. VOX’s Executive Board this year comprises of: Nicole Cudiamat, Secretary; Jessica Whittamore, Treasurer; Brittany Heagney, Vice-President; and Heidi Duncan, President. For more information or questions, please contact any member of the E-Board.

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MAST DINNER & PANEL DISCUSSION

By: Michael Barnett, Amy Hyndman & Rich Mitchell • Guest Writers

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PROPERTY LAW SOCIETY

Property Law Society was created to provide an avenue for students interested in Real Property issues to continue their interest within their time at the law school. Student members build fellowship among other interested students. They also provide real property service opportunities within the community, educational opportunities outside of the classroom, and networking opportunities by establishing relationships with attorneys and legal professionals in the region.

Our first meeting will be held Thursday, September 16, during Chapel Break and our first event will be on Saturday, September 18 where on the Day of Caring, we will help Housing Opportunities with property improvements. Additionally, our Annual Charity Golf Outing (4-Man Scramble) will be Saturday, October 9 at Noon at "The Brassie" in Chesterton. Costs per student is $40 and per attorney = $50 - sign ups begin September 20 during Chapel Break or you can contact valppropertylawsociety@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

HLSA

HLSA welcomes you back to school and for the new ILs; we support the wonderful journey you have begun here with us at Valparaiso University School of Law. We are excited to bring you a year full of opportunities to give back to the community and embrace diversity.

The mission of the Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA) is to foster a community built on diversity both on and off the Valparaiso Law School campus. In this endeavor the organization strives to build awareness, break down borders and bring together the diverse community in Valparaiso, Indiana. HLSA does this by bringing attention to academic success and achievement by Latinos in this arena.

One of the main focuses of HLSA is to recognize the Hispanic Culture in our society and the importance that it holds for the people. This awareness allows the Hispanic community to embrace and reflect on the history of Latinos. In doing so, HLSA brings both educational and social events to the campus and community for everyone to enjoy and be a part of. A listing of the upcoming events is listed below. Feel free to contact Priscilla Puente Chacon at priscilla.puente-chacon@valpo.edu with any questions or interest in the organization.

CLS

Greetings! It is with great pleasure and honor that I am writing this article. My name is Wilneda Emmanuel and I am the president of the Christian Legal Society for the 2010-2011 academic year. This year CLS will be celebrating thirty-five years at Valparaiso University School of Law and next year the national chapter of CLS will be celebrating fifty years. The executive board has a lot of activities planned for the current year and we welcome and extend an invitation to everyone to attend our weekly bible studies and events. The weekly bible studies take place every Wednesday from 5-6pm in room 155 (Pelzer).

OUR PURPOSE: Seeking Justice With the Love of God – Luke 11:42-

OUR VISION: A growing nationwide fellowship of Christian lawyers and law students who act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

-Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23-

OUR MISSION: To inspire, encourage, and equip lawyers and law students, both individually and in the community; to proclaim, love and serve Jesus Christ through the study and practice of law, the provision of legal assistance to the poor, and the defense of religious freedom and sanctity of human life.

FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The basics of the Federalist Society: We are an intellectual society geared towards understanding and conserving America’s liberal foundation (life, liberty, property, pursuit of happiness). We believe in the importance of the separation of powers, which includes the important role states play in checking federal power. All across the country, the Federalist Society provides a forum to Information concerning business law courses, programs and information regarding the study of business law and future careers. The Society offers a venue for discussion of relevant and current issues as they arise in the field of business law. Through our events, meetings, and conferences, we not only plan to expound in areas of business law, but plan to grow in areas such as professionalism, networking, and leadership in the business world.

Our organization has dedicated itself to providing extensive benefits to each member each semester, including: (1) Education on various aspects of business and corporate law; and (2) Networking opportunities with transactional and litigation attorneys working within the field of business and corporate law, as well as with corporate counsel and local business persons.

Business Law Society has some exciting and educational events coming up including an etiquette dinner to educate young lawyers on how to eat, drink, and dress professionally, a financial planner who will give advice on planning for your financial future, and a fashion show to learn how to dress for success in the corporate world.

Please contact our President: chelsey.sarason@valpo.edu for more information. We would be more than happy to answer questions or accept suggestions to ensure this year is a success.
H
ere are the current top legal stories from around the corner to around the world:

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has upheld a $20,000 fine against a leader of the movement challenging President Barack Obama's citizenship. The high court on August 16th refused to block a federal judge's October 2009 ruling that required California lawyer and dentist Orly Taitz to pay the $20,000 fine for filing a "frivolous" litigation. The judge said Taitz attempted to misuse the federal courts to push a political agenda. Taitz sued in Georgia federal court on behalf of Army Capt. Connie Rhodes. Rhodes sought to avoid deployment to Iraq by claiming Obama wasn't born in the United States. Justice Samuel Alito on Monday rejected Taitz's second request to block the sanctions. Justice Clarence Thomas had rejected the request earlier. (Associated Press)

Environmental Law

Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, said on September 3rd that the federal agency would be investigating a recent fire on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The recent fire came just five months after the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11 people and spurred the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history. (Associated Press)

Civil Rights Law

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the imam leading plans for an Islamic center near the site of the Sept. 11th attacks, suggested that the fierce challenges to the planned mosque and community center in lower Manhattan could leave many Muslims questioning their place in American political and civil life. He said he became closer to Islam after moving to America, where he had the choice to either follow the faith or drift away. "Like many of our fellow Muslims, we found our faith in America," he said. During his Middle East trip, Rauf generally sidestepped questions over the backlash to the Islamic center location about two blocks from the former site of the World Trade Center towers. But in an interview published Monday in the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper The National, he linked the protests to the U.S. elections in November. Many conservatives have joined the opposition to the center, which is being spearheaded by a newly formed nonprofit organization that includes real estate developers and has named Rauf as one of the directors. "It is important to shift the discussion from a discussion of identity politics," he said. "We have to elevate the discourse because there is more that bonds us ... in terms of mutual responsibility."

A Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday showed 71 percent of New Yorkers want the developers to voluntarily move the project. A similar percentage also said they wanted New York's state attorney general to investigate sources of funding for the project in lower Manhattan. (Associated Press)

Entertainment Law

An appeals court has scheduled a hearing for the lawyers for the father of Michael Jackson to argue that he deserves a role in decisions involving his son's multimillion dollar estate. The Second District Court of Appeals said Thursday that the appeal by Joe Jackson would be heard on October 6th. In November, the elder Jackson challenged a ruling by a state judge that the estate would be run by attorney John Branca and music executive and family friend John McClain. The men had been designated in the singer's 2002 will to administer his estate. The will omitted Joe Jackson in effect denying him any stipend or decision-making authority. "I think it's an important issue for all fathers around the country and around the world that when their child dies they should have a say-so in their child's estate," said attorney Brian Oxman, who represents Joe Jackson. Attorney Howard Weitzman, who represents the estate, said the administrators were meeting all obligations to the beneficiaries named in the will. "As I've said before, Mr. Jackson's appeal is not well taken," Weitzman said.

The singer's estate has earned tens of millions of dollars since the singer's death at age 50 in June 2009. (Associated Press)

THE SITREP

What happens when the cameras stop and the lights fade?

The cessation of US military operations in Iraq, on August 31 brought to a close a seven year ordeal, for the United States, Iraqi civilians died since the commencement of "Shock and Awe" in 2003. After the politicians give their sound bytes, network anchors sign off, and pundits exchange heated and empty words, a post-war reality will set in. Military cuts. They came after the end of the major military campaigns of the 20th century. They will come again renewed in a reality of a week American economy and the need to reallocate money to other sectors of society.

Service members will be released to comply with new manning requirements in each military branch. It is not that they are unfit. Instead, it is the reality of personnel cuts. The highest performers are retained and the rest sent home with a severance check and a "thank you" for a job well done. Those facing separation will attend week-long class to prepare these individuals with the pending transition to civilian life. They will receive training on resume writing and interview skills, but the lingering question is whether it is sufficient.

Because there are service members who have only a high school diploma or GED, but no further civilian education, whether or not they are able to relate their military skills to the civilian sector is essential. Most of their professional skills are limited to their military specialty or rating.

Disabled veterans, suffering from P.T.S.D. or physical disabilities have a stake in the social awareness of veterans in the post OIF/OEF world. Disability benefits do provide compensation to veterans with disabilities, but the higher the benefit, the greater the disability. Although eligible for money, they still have to pay for their health care and other living expenses. Not every veteran lives within driving distance to a VA Hospital. If the disability is severe enough, the veteran is unable to get to the hospital without assistance.

Without sufficient support at home, many of veterans may end up as their post-Vietnam brethren, either struggling with substance abuse problems or amongst the ranks of the homeless. The VA estimates 107,000 veterans are homeless at any night (www.vcwh.org/background.cfm). Around 1/5th of the homeless in the United States are veterans. Shameful statistics considering many of these individuals gave loyal service to their nation.

Without the reminder of war to maintain interest in veterans, reservists and the active duty personnel, will the sensitivity and concern for this group continue? When the cameras stop and the lights fade will the current priority for veterans and their families recede to the social backburner? What can be done to support veterans and to keep the issues that affect them squarely in the public's eye as OIF/OEF fade into the pages of history?

NEXT MONTH: "Lest We Forget, Part I" a look into the issues facing disabled veterans.

Tony is a 2L and can be reached at forum@valpo.edu.
No Go Logo

As a part of an effort to renovate its brand, Valparaiso University has unveiled a new logo this fall that it says will "bring strength and clarity to its identity." If Valparaiso University truly wanted to better represent its core values and character, it should reconsider changing its mascot.

The historical context of the Crusader is not something to be admired or emulated. Starting in 1095, the Crusades were a series of military campaigns by Western Christian Europe to take the Holy Land from the Muslims by force. Lasting for almost 200 years and killing hundreds of thousands, these holy wars displayed hatred or death. Substantial evidence exists indicating that brutality, rape, and cannibalism were not simply do not reflect the mission or vision of this university. Its vision of diversity, inclusion, faith and the formation of virtue is in no way reflected in an icon that draws its historical roots from intolerance, hatred, and violence.

On the contrary, Rudolph, argues that by highlighting one of the darkest hours in the Church's history, the Crusader mascot rests upon the manner in which we uphold core community values.

Defenders of the Crusader mascot contend that changing the mascot would upset tradition. But this is not the first time that Valparaiso University has needed to change its mascot. In 1931, VU selected the Ulhan, a German cavalry unit, as its first mascot. However, the university chose to change the mascot during World War II in order to dissociate themselves with the Nazi cause.

Others argue that the Crusader mascot is important to maintain and celebrate the university's Christian heritage. But the Crusader does exactly the opposite. By highlighting one of the darkest hours in the Church's history, the Crusader mascot emphasizes the wrongs committed by Christians instead of its long history of service to others, virtue, and love.

A mascot may seem trivial to some. Who really cares what cartoon we put on our t-shirts, right? But the mascot is part of the public face of the university. It is an icon that we choose to associate ourselves with because we believe that it has qualities that we admire. The Crusader mascot simply does not reflect the mission or vision of this university. Our university mission statement defines our institution as an educational system "grounded in the Lutheran tradition of scholarship, freedom, and faith. We prepare[m] students to lead and serve in both church and society." We require Zeal, but we also require Honor. Our Honor Code ensures that our community will hold itself and its peers to the highest standards of professionalism and accountability. Fortitude is the final promotion of the foundations of what it means to be a Crusader. By definition, fortitude is "a mental and emotional strength [when] facing difficulty, adversity, danger, or temptation courageously." Education is difficult, requires us to overcome adversity, at times may be dangerous, and often tempts our actions but the Crusader prevails and the process of learning and its tradition lives passes from to each and every student from the day they come to Valparaiso and continuing on as Alumni.

As a University and as a community we are who we portray ourselves to be. We are Crusaders and through the manifestation of our beliefs our university will continue to grow and flourish. There stands to be no reason to abandon the Crusader mascot. We are a community of scholarship, freedom and faith. We are a community of tradition, tolerance and commitment to diversity. We are Crusaders.

Neither do we have a choice and should not be taxed.

What most people do not know is that there is a similar provision in the Code that exempts the fair market rental value of a home if one is a "duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed" to be a minister performing services "in exercise of his ministry." Put simply, clergy may receive nontaxable housing allowances. Knowing this, one would have to ask, could one receive these same benefits if she worked at VU as a law professor but also happened to be an ordained Lutheran minister?

Retired IRS attorney, Michael L. Gompertz, states that so long as the college or university can be considered an "integral agency" of the religious institution, any person holding themselves out as a minister will be able to acquire these tax benefits even if their work is primarily secular in nature. For instance, "Math teachers and basketball coaches at these favored colleges receive tax benefits simply because they happen to be ministers."

Not everyone agrees with this. In Flowers v. United States, the Northern District of Texas held that Texas Christian University (TCU) was not an integral agency of the Christian Church, because the Christian Church cannot force TCU to act on the church's behalf. Many agree with this court's result, but the Service directly opposes it. In Rev. Rul. 70-549, a college is considered an "integral agency" of a church for tax purposes even if the church cannot force the religious college to act on its behalf. Given the fact that the IRS in its revenue ruling basically stated that it would not enforce the provisions of the "integral agency" test in the restrictive manner applied by the Eastern District of Texas, the Flowers opinion is largely disregarded.

The most successful attack on this section of the Code was when IRS argued that Reverend Richard Warren was liable for amounts he excluded from gross income under §107(2) that exceeded the fair rental value of his home. Professor Erwin Chemerinsky attempted to intervene as a party to challenge the constitutionality of this Code provision, but as a "taxpayer with only generalized interests" the court found that he lacked standing under Flast v. Cohen. The Court also never had the opportunity to rule on the constitutionality of § 107, because Congress passed the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act of 2002 before the culmination of the trial which made housing allowances taxable to clergy if they exceeded the fair rental value of the residence.

As a result, IRC § 107 still remains in place today, and is available to any person looking for a tax break. This just goes to prove that the Almighty still looks after the tax preferences of his messengers. How else could such a provision exist when it is clearly a violation of the establishment clause because it provides clergy with special tax benefits, is an impermissible accommodation of religion, and creates excessive entanglement between religion and government?

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PEARLS & POLITICS

BY: JESSICA FABISZAK • COLUMNIST

Peals are considered to be the natural treasures of our world. They are tiny, luminous and rare assets resembling the best of what is hidden from the world. What is even better is that the pearls of our lives are waiting to be discovered. Pearls have fascinated me because we would have ever believed that something so radiant could be created by something with such a rough outer shell like an oyster? Looking around, I have found that many aspects of life can be described similar to that little pearl in the oyster shell. As students and professionals in the law, it is important for each of us to realize that what appears on the outside may not even compare to what is waiting to be discovered on the inside.

Pearls and politics are two gems of our earth that both signify the essence of law in our society. Politics is often represented as the outer layer of our embodiment of law. Many criticize it. Many refuse to take a stand in regard to it. And many wish that the whole realm of it would just go away. Like a pearl, though, politics is an everlasting fortune that cannot be destroyed too easily. The political shell waiting to be cracked open is questioned by those of us with or pursuing a background in law. To crack the barrier outside, we can engrave the potential beauty of the pearl within. Hidden pearls of politics will mean different things to different people and each month will be dedicated to the newly discovered current pearl in our world of pearls.

As for now, politicians are counting the days until the big elections in November. The duty bestowed upon each of us is to crack our hesitant hearts of resisting involvement and search for the rare pearl that can make a difference in the political world. Pearls are not necessarily only the ones worn around the necks of politician's wives or on female political figures. An absentee ballot is the first pearl to be discovered. These next few months, Americans around the country will be diving into the sea of politics searching for that rare pearl who will be the one they can count upon to focus on their needs as constituents. For those of us interested in the law and those of us already in the world of law, it is our task to help crack the shell of the dirty world of politics to uncover where the remarkable pearls rest. Not having time to vote is no longer an issue. Check out http://www.sec.state.ma.us/election/hovabs.htm to find out more information on the pearl of this month's article: absentee ballots. Take advantage of the natural treasure of your world - go out and vote.

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CONFESSIONS OF A 1L

BY: CAITLIN BROO • COLUMNIST

Hello, allow me to introduce myself. I am the confused person walking with one heavy backpack. I am the scrambling person trying to make it Professor Lind's class on time and yes, I am terrified of being late. I try to look like I know what I am doing but I really don't. I don't get the Long-Arm Statute test. I don't know how to phrase a holding in my case brief. Sometimes, I don't get what I am doing here and I am paranoid about being called on. Mostly, I am just your average, typical, confused, and fabulous 1L.

Here, I have decided to chronicle my first year of misadventure. What does this mean? It means that this lovely column is a confession booth. It is where I hope I can articulate my feelings, and of misadventure. What does this mean? It means I know how to phrase a holding in my case brief. Sometimes, I look like I don't get the Long-Arm Statute test. I don't know what I'm doing here and I am terrified of being late. I am terrified of being late.

Classes were a major surprise. I have never been in a setting where there's not always an answer. The "what if" is beginning to make my head spin. Don't even get me started on Contracts. If I had a clue in this class, then I would probably have one clue. Damage, breaches, restitution formulas, the UCC... Argh! There is so much and there's too little time in the day. Needless to say, I am still waiting for my "ah ha" moment in Contracts. Two weeks into the semester, I am beginning to worry.

Sometimes, I lie awake with the never-ending guilt that I went to bed too early and left too much undone. Currently, I am tied up in knots about writing an outline. I don't even know where to start. When do I need to do it? Where do I need to do it? How do I make one? Most importantly, what is an outline? My fellow 1Ls, if you know, then either you're a liar or you have a lawyer in the family. But, I hold out hope that these mythical study tools will reveal themselves in a golden glow or at least through the kindness of a 2L or 3L...

So, I am overwhelmed and wondering what I got myself into. Do I belong here? I think it is safe to say, I think I do and I hope the rest of my fellow 1Ls feel the same about themselves. But do I miss my old life? Maybe a little. At least I never had to think about things like, when is it ok to breach a contract or whether I can sue a New York company for my car exploding in Oklahoma.

But, I can safely say that it hasn't all been highlighters and laptops at VU Law thus far. I've made a friend or two and discovered a few gems of the Valparaiso Community, like the Blackbird Cafe - they have one heck of a sandwich.

Currently the most elusive thing about law school? The study group. I need one... preferably in Contracts.

Until Next time.

Kate.

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WHAT'S GRINDING DAVE'S GEARS?!

BY: DAVE JOHNSON • COLUMNIST

Salutations my good readers. It's likely that many of you are 1Ls and that shouldn't be a problem for the scope of this article. Sure, I could write about any number of the problems plaguing the 3L class—from our absurd amount of free time to the crazy jobs we've lined up following graduation—but I would hate to alienate a large chunk of my readership. I could also write about how some of you think that the Law Library is some kind of a shouting-contest center or the ideal place to talk to your mother about law school on your cell phone. I'm not going to, of course, but I certainly could. So, for my inaugural column of "What's Grinding Dave's Gears," I have chosen to open about the brand new "Book Rental" policy at the bookstore.

Now, it's been scientifically proven that campus bookstores are just a giant scam. State school, private school, community college... It doesn't matter. I don't think many reasonable people would disagree with me on this. After all, the fact that I can buy a Property Law supplement on Amazon for $6.50 plus shipping (as opposed to $40) strongly implies something fishy is up. Now, I've heard a lot of terms tossed around to describe the average person's bookstore experience. "Emotionally devastating" is good. "Financially crippling" works too. But personally, I think "evil" characterizes the process of charging students $150 for a $15 book quite well. So, imagine my surprise when I found out I didn't have to buy books this year (if I so cunningly chose, at least!).

The bookstore is giving me the option of paying competitive prices to online websites, as opposed to this "rental" policy. On the bright side, I only need to buy another semester of books and I'm free forever from mandated course reading. Hello, Amazon.com!

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SEPTEMBER 2010

BAYARD’S BON APPETIT

By: JOHN BAYARD • Food Critic

Upon beginning my position as the new food critic for The Forum, it is my honor to discuss a necessity that binds us all together no matter what background. That of course is eating. Now granted a person can take any boring form of nutrients and survive, but what course is eating. Now granted a person can take the opinion page. But new school year off in style by reviewing Bistro 157 offers several drink specials including Asian Pear Martini’s, Chocolate Martini’s, Hang Time Chardonnay, and Bouchard Pinot Noir. Sampling the Pinot Noir, I found it refreshing and strong with earth flavors, good for a red wine, but very difficult to pair with any non-beef dish so I’m not quite sure why they didn’t place a Merlot on the drink special menu instead.

On the other hand, the food itself was superb. For an appetizer, the escargot with onion and herb seasoning was delicious and made even better with a little pepper and olive oil. The escargot was tender and not tough and the added tomatoes matched well with flavors of the rest of the dish. If you don’t enjoy eating invertebrates, Bistro 157 offers a variety of appetizers as part of their Eat Wind Down menu including duck pot stickers, smoked salmon pizza, crispy polenta with lemon pepper goat cheese fonduta, and grilled lamb kefta pita.

Upon arriving at the restaurant, I first noticed the service is a bit slow in the beginning of the evening, but as evening continued. For all potential visitors, the staff was pleasant as well as knowledgeable.

The main course was Grouper in a Thai peanut sauce with cilantro and ginger. The visual appeal of the dish matched its taste, which is to say the dish was a sensation to the palate. You could taste all the flavors of the sauce and the taste of the ginger and cilantro paired well with the addition of Puerto Rican rice and asparagus that was also served with the Grouper. Further, the peanut sauce did not in itself overpower the natural flavors of the fish, which sauces often do.

Finally, for dessert I had the Sorbet that included wild berry, citrus melon, and coconut key lime. The dessert was delicious and light, although the coconut key lime was a bit too sweet for me. The total price of the dinner was $41, which makes more of a once in a semester dining experience. However, the specials were all around $5 and the main course by itself was $24. It is perhaps more suitable dinner for a celebration or a romantic evening. Bistro 157 has seasonal outdoor dining with live music acts. In conclusion, Bistro 157 offers fine cuisine and a delightful dining experience. In the Bon Appetite rating, I give it 4.5 out of 5 stars.

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LOONEY LEGAL

By: John Bayard • Executive Editor

For lawyers, blaming the devil and/or God can seem irrelevant in the world of case precedent and hundreds of pages of legal codes. Yet, in the history of the law, courts have often found themselves dealing with such curious problems. What is the proceeding for suing supernatural or divine beings? In my first article of Looney Legal, we will examine actual cases where spiritual forces have been defendants and in some cases even plaintiffs to more earthly legal matters. Jurisdiction issues can be a major pain. After all in the American legal system location can be everything. But finding the right jurisdiction can be difficult, especially if the person you want to sue is the Devil. This was just the problem faced the courts in United States ex rel. Gerald Mayo v. Satan and His Staff, 54 F.R.D. 282 (W.D. Pa. 1971).

Gerald Mayo, after suffering continued hardships from the “Prince of Darkness”, brought suit against Satan for deprivation of his constitutional rights. Mayo, filed a in forma pauperis- that is, he asserted that he would not be able to afford the costs associated with his lawsuit and that therefore they should be waived. U.S. District Court Judge Gerald J. Weber noted that the jurisdiction was unclear since no one had actually sued Satan before. This lack of precedent also brought up another problem, how do you serve papers on the devil? While I applaud the hard work and dedication U.S. Marshalls show towards their duties, personally serving papers in this case would bring a whole new meaning to the term “Going through Hell”. Getting pass Cerberus would be difficult enough. Judge Weber in his opinion noted that there was an unofficial account of a trial in New Hampshire sometime ago where the defendant filed an action of mortgage foreclosure as plaintiff, suggesting that the defendant could in fact be estopped from arguing lack of personal jurisdiction. Of course Judge Weber was referencing the famous short story “The Devil and Daniel Webster”, by Stephen Benet, where a local farmer sells his soul to the devil for seven years of “bad.” When the devil comes to collect his toll, the farmer has a surprise of his own, his lawyer Daniel Webster. Webster argues that his client as an American and has a right to a trial by jury of other Americans. The devil agrees and then selects a jury of the most evil figures from American history with John Hathorne, the infamous judge at the Salem witch trials as judge of the case. Judge Weber in concluding his opinion in the Mayo case, noted that suits against the devil were appropriate for class action lawsuits, but it would difficult for Mayo or any other individual to represent the interest of such an immense class. The Almighty too has had a fair share of lawsuits thrown his way. Nebraska State Senator, Ernie Chambers, filed suit against God seeking an injunction, as an effort to publicize the issue of public access to the court system. The suit was dismissed because God did not have a listed home address at which to be served papers. State Senator Chambers response was that since God knows everything, he would already have notice of the lawsuits. The Nebraska Supreme Court eventually dismissed the case.

Whether such cases enhance or diminish the American legal system is left up to you the reader. Although I do wonder what a Supreme Court decision would be on the case of Good v. Evil. No doubt it would be a 5-4 opinion with Scalia writing the dissent.

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SEPTMBER TRIVIA: (ANSWERS P. 11)

1. NAME THE FIRST NAMES OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE POWER RANGERS.
2. WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF DONALD DUCK’S THREE NEPHEWS AND DAISY’S THREE NIECES?
3. NAME ALL SIX OF THE “THREE STOOGES.”
4. NAME THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE “GHOSTBUSTERS” TEAM.
5. NAME ALL OF ROCKY’S OPPONENTS.
6. NAME ALL THE ACTORS THAT HAVE PLAYED BATMAN IN TELEVISION AND FILM SINCE 1966.
7. WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF THE FOUR PAC-MAN GHOSTS?
9. NAME ALL THE “SNL WEEKEND UPDATE” ANCHORS.
10. NAME THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE “NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK.”
Between all three shows, I was happy to hear my favorite songs ("Greatest Hits," "Under My VooDoo," and "Don't Push"), but was surprised to not hear "Caress Me Down." The band also encored each show with "Scarlet Begonias," "Santeria," and "What I Got," which I thought were excellent choices.

Now, on to the band itself and the venues. Bud and Eric (original members) delivered wonderfully - just as I'd expected - and I was pleasantly surprised to hear the new lead singer, Rome, channel Nowell in a respectful way that I'd expected - and I was pleasantly surprised. Those were out of this world. I had been playing the hell out of 40 Oz to Freedom, Robbin' the Hood, and any other album or import I could get my hands on ever since junior high. I just wanted to see Sublime live because I never had the chance after the original band's lead singer, Nowell, passed away in 1996, just as I began to listen to their music. Sure, I saw Long Beach Dub All Stars at Warped Tour awhile back, and they were great, but that band was technically a spin-off and they had their own style and songs. THIS was an opportunity to finally hear all the Sublime songs I love live.

This may be the time to tell you that not only did I see Sublime with Rome in April, but I also saw them in July when they played at Charter One's Northerly Island Pavilion in Chicago and I also saw them again in July at Mandalay Bay's Hotel Beach in Las Vegas. When a band's your favorite, they're your FAVORITE. I won't waste space rating each show individually because they were all pretty awesome. I will mention a few brief highlights, however. The April show at the Riviera was part of the band's spring tour, so I liked that the set list was different than the two July summer tour shows. Between all three shows, I was happy to hear my favorite songs ("Greatest Hits," "Under My VooDoo," and "Don't Push"), but was surprised to not hear "Caress Me Down." The band also encored each show with "Scarlet Begonias," "Santeria," and "What I Got," which I thought were excellent choices.
ENTERTAINMENT BLENDER: 2010 NEW FALL TV PREVIEW

BY: JOHN STURGEON • COLUMNIST

In just a few short weeks, the fall television season will be underway. Last year produced a wealth of new critical and commercial successes with Glee, Modern Family, Parenthood, and The Good Wife standing out from the pack. This season, the networks are unleashing a plethora of new shows and I am here to tell you which ones are worth your valuable time this semester.

Leading the pack is HBO's titanic blockbuster Boardwalk Empire, created by former Sopranos executive producer Terrence Winter and Academy Award winning director Martin Scorsese. If there is one show that has a chance at taking down three-time defending champion Mad Men in the Best Drama Emmy category next year, this is it. Starring incredible character-actor Steve Buscemi as Nucky Thompson, the corrupt treasurer of Atlantic City, this show delves into the criminal underworld of the 1920s prohibition era that Nucky ran underneath the government's nose. Making his return to television, Michael K. Williams plays Chalky White, the unofficial mayor of the black community in Atlantic City and the head of Nucky's bookie operation.

Williams became famous for his sensational turn in The Wire as gay renegade outlaw Omar Little, one of the most quotable and charismatic characters in television history. Michael Shannon also stars in the show as a prohibition agent. With its collection of fantastic actors and producers, along with a huge budget (the pilot cost around $20 million), Boardwalk Empire will no doubt deliver when it premieres September 19th on HBO.

By far the best new network television show of the fall is FOX's Lone Star. Starring newcomer James Wolk as complex conman Bob Allen, a guy with a wife and a girlfriend who steals money from people by bilking investors of their savings, the show focuses on how long he can lead a double-life and keep the walls from closing in around him. His wife Cat (the gorgeous Adrienne Palicki) is the daughter of Clint Thatcher (Jon Voight), the head of a hugely successful oil company. Clint offers Bob a job at the company not realizing that Bob intends to embezzle money from the family. Bob is conflicted and contemplates starting a new venture where he can keep the two women in his life while doing legitimate work for the oil company.

His mentor and father John, a longtime conman, continuously prods Bob to keep his eyes focused on the price, taking the oil firm down for all it is worth. Having seen the pilot, there are several more surprises that have not been revealed here. Sufficient to say, Wolk is brilliant in the role, making you root for him even when he is a criminal and cheater who has never made an honest dollar in his life. The supporting cast is stellar and the show looks beautiful. Give this show a shot when it premieres September 28th on FOX and you will not be disappointed if you love great drama.

Another new network show with great potential is ABC's No Ordinary Family, a show that looks like a live action version of Disney's "The Incredibles." Created by Greg Berlanti, who worked on Eli Stone and Dirty Sexy Money previously, the show focuses on a family that acquires superpowers following an accident. The show stars action star Michael Chiklis (The Shield) and Julie Benz (Dexter) as Jim and Stephanie Powell. The Powells have a son and daughter that also gain a specific power as the result of the accident. Romany Malco plays George, the best friend and confidante of Jim who finally finds a passion in helping the Powells use their powers to stop evil around the world. Autumn Reeser (who has been doing great work this season as Arti's friend turned rival on Entourage) is also in the cast as Katie Andrews, a co-worker and friend of Stephanie, who is highly regarded scientist and the Executive Vice President of Research at Global Tech. Berlanti's vision is for the show to blend action, drama, and comedy into a compelling hour each week.

Several guest stars will be coming in to play villains, with the potential of more prominent bad guy to enter the cast in the future. From the previews, the show looks well-shot and the premise should intrigue anybody who likes comic books or fantasy novels and movies. By those who have seen it, Malco's character is the standout in the cast, which should be no surprise for anyone who saw his comedic work on Weeds. While in a tough timeslot opposite of FOX's Glee starting September 28th, this should turn out to be one of the better and most original shows of the fall so long as enough people watch it and give it a chance to grow.

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FORUM FLASHBACK

Welcome to the Forum Flashback, a monthly look back at whatever it is that interests whoever is writing it! This month, your host will continue to take you on a trip back to 1987. It is the height of the 8-bit video gaming era and Nintendo is dominating the market with its Entertainment System. However the NES didn't have a complete domination of the market. Sega had its Master System, and though its sales were weak in the US, in Europe it dominated the market. I'm sure at some point I'll talk about both of these in more detail, however this week I had going for it was that it had the best home versions of arcade games out there, including classics such as: Ms. Pac-Man, Dig Dug, Centipede, Donkey Kong, and (my personal favorite) Joust.

For those of you who have never heard of Joust let me explain the basics. You are a lance-wielding Knight riding on a giant ostrich that can fly. Your job is to defeat the other jousting enemies by running into them with your lance higher than theirs. This actually proves quite difficult, so for the most part you end up just flying over people and dropping your plush, but lethal, bird rear on top of them.

It all sounds ridiculous, but let me tell you, it is extremely addicting. There are several versions of the game on a variety of consoles, but if you want the most authentic experience I recommend getting the Atari 7800 version. However, if some of you young whippersnappers prefer your X-Box’s, a great version is available for X-Box Live Arcade.

And that does it for your monthly dose of the past. Hope you enjoyed looking back, and I hope you get a chance to play some games in between studying and sleeping. And if you don’t have the time, sleeping is over rated; climb onto an ostrich and flap around instead.

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

SEPTEMBER TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. ZACH, TRINI, BILLY, KIMBERLY, AND JASON
2. HUEY, DEWEY, AND LOUIE AND APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE
3. MOE, CURLY, LARRY, HEMP, JOE, CURLY JOE
4. PETER VENKMAN, RAYMOND STANGTZ, EGO SPENGLER, WINTON ZEDDEMORE
5. APOLLO CREED, THUNDERLIPS (HULK HOGAN) JAMES "CLUBBER" LANG, IVAN DRAGO, TOMMY GUNN, AND JANNIK ZARDO
6. ADAM WEST, MICHAEL KEATON, VAL KILMER, GEORGE CLOONEY, CHRISTIAN BALE
7. BLINKY, PINKY, INKY, AND CYLDE
8. MARCI, JAN, CINDY, CAROL, GREG, PETER, BOBBY, MIKE, AND ALICE THE MAID
9. CHEVY CHASE, JANE CURTIN, DAN AKROYD, BILL MURRAY, CHARLES ROCKET, GAIL MATHIUS, BRIAN DOLE-MURRAY, MARY GROSS, CHRISTINE EBERSOLE, BRAD HALL, CHRISTOPHER GUEST, DENNIS MILLER, KEVIN KEALON, NORM MACDONALD, COLIN QUINN, JIMMY FELLON, TINA FAY, AMY POEHLER, AND SETH MEYERS
10. JORDAN AND JONATHON KNIGHT, JOEY MCINTYRE, DONNIE WAHLBERG, AND DANNY WOOD
Weston Bohall - 3L

Hometown: Columbus, IN  
Undergrad School: Indiana State  
Undergrad Major: History Education

When you found out that you got accepted to Valpo, how did you react?  
I was pretty stoked at first, then my excitement diminished when I saw I had to immediately part with an exorbitant sum of money to reserve my seat in the class.

How did your parents react?  
They were happy for me because I got in, and they were overjoyed when they saw I paid the fee to reserve my seat, and did not ask them to come up with the money.

Who is your favorite fictional lawyer and why?  
Jan Schlichtmann from the movie *A Civil Action* starring John Travolta. I liked his character because he sold all of his key possessions (house, law firm, etc.) to finance the litigation of one of the world’s first toxic tort cases. Although Jan is a mythical figure, he is based on a real life individual with the first name Ian who actually graduated from Cornell with Professor Blomquist in 1977. Professor Blomquist wrote a review about *A Civil Action* in the Cornell Chronicle that can be downloaded at www.news.cornell.edu/chronicle/97/4.3.97/Schlichtmann.html.

What’s your ringtone right now?  
Throw Some Ds on It by Soulja Boy.

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini. This book was an excellent book. What's your ringtone right now?  
I don't do ringtones. I'm too grown for that, no offense to others who have them.

If you could change one thing about Valpo Law School, what would it be?  
The law school needs a second law journal. Currently, most law schools have multiple journals.

Cipriano Rodriguez - 2L

Hometown: Gary, IN  
Undergrad School: Purdue University-Calumet  
Undergrad Major: Political Science

When you found out that you got accepted to Valpo, how did you react?  
I was extremely excited. Law School was always my dream.

How did your parents react?  
Actually, both of my parents cried when I showed them my acceptance letter.

Who is your favorite fictional lawyer and why?  
Eugene Young, from the TV series, *The Practice*, is my favorite fictional lawyer. Young is my favorite fictional lawyer because, as a criminal defense attorney, he fights for his clients to the best of his ability, but can acknowledge his objections to the character and actions of some who he defends without jeopardizing his abilities as their lawyer.

What is your elementary school's mascot?  
The Bulldogs.

If you could change one thing about Valpo Law School, what would it be?  
Free parking for the students.

Marlon Smikle - 1L

Hometown: Orlando, FL  
Undergraduate School: Stetson University  
Undergraduate Major: Finance

When you found out that you got accepted to Valpo, how did you react?  
I called my close family and friends and let them know the good news.

How did your parents react?  
My parents congratulated me and let me know how proud of me they were.

Who is your favorite fictional lawyer and why?  
Eugene Young, from the TV series *The Practice*, is my favorite fictional lawyer. Young is my favorite fictional lawyer because, as a criminal defense attorney, he fights for his clients to the best of his ability, but can acknowledge his objections to the character and actions of some who he defends without jeopardizing his abilities as their lawyer.

What is your elementary school's mascot?  
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If you could change one thing about Valpo Law School, what would it be?  
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What's the last book you read that's not law related, and was it any good?  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Volume I* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and it was more than good, it was magnificent - a true paragon of literature.

What was your elementary school's mascot?  
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