Hello and welcome back to the start of another exciting year at Valpo Law! Let me start by introducing myself. I am Associate Dean Janoski-Haehlen (or Dean JH for short) and I am Dean Persyn’s successor in the law library. I am really excited about starting my first year at Valpo Law and I look forward to meeting each and every student as the year progresses. My former institution was the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, where I served as the Associate Director of the Law Library (for those of you who are not familiar with Northern Kentucky it is right across the Ohio River from Cincinnati). I also taught legal research, advanced legal research, coached moot court teams and served as the faculty advisor to many student organizations, including the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity. I am a graduate of the Chase College of Law and the University of Kentucky (which makes me a huge basketball fan) and a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. I have practiced law off and on in Kentucky through pro bono work and law clinics, but my true calling is and always has been working in a library which is why I became a law librarian. If you want to know more about being a law librarian, stop by my office sometime and we can chat.

I have spent most of my life in Kentucky but I was actually born in Northern Indiana so it’s good to be back. I am passionate about libraries, the law, and technology, among other things, and I hope to continue the law library’s tradition of providing excellent service to the law school community. Those of you who are 1Ls will see me in the Legal Research class this semester as I will be helping with the class periodically. I also hope to get involved with as many law school functions and activities as possible, so if you need a faculty member to lend a helping hand, please call on me. If you are ever in need of assistance in the law library, please feel free to stop by as my door will always be open for questions (or even complaints). Now let me tell you about some of the changes that will occur in the law library over the next year or so. First, in addition to Dean Persyn, there were four other retirements this past summer, so there will be some new faces around the library in addition to mine. Second, I think you will all be happy to hear that plans are in the works to replace some of the tables and chairs in the library that have seen better days. In the next few months, I will be soliciting student input on the kinds of seating and study spaces that will be added to the library. Also, some items and shelving in the library will be moving, so if you think you know where something is but suddenly cannot find it, check Galileo or ask a librarian. Third, the computers and technology in the library will be upgraded throughout the year to provide better access to our electronic databases and catalog. And some of our electronic databases will be available off campus through the use of our proxy server. This will be helpful if you are studying or working on an assignment off campus and suddenly have the need to use HeinOnline or Legaltrac because you will now be able to log-in remotely. And finally, the library will be hiring research assistants later this year for a new faculty research assistance program. This pool of faculty research assistants will handle research projects from all members of the faculty and will be supervised by a law librarian. So stay tuned for further news from the law library and if you have any ideas for the library, feel free to email me or stop by my office. Have a great start of the semester!

Dean Janoski-Haehlen can be reached at emily.janoskihaehlen@valpo.edu.

WELCOME, VICTORIA RYAN

Please help the Career Planning Center staff welcome, Victoria Ryan, Esq. as the Sr. Director of Operations. Vicki joined the team on August 6, 2012. Vicki’s primary responsibilities are to manage the CPC’s day-to-day operations, oversee the staff, and assist alumni and students with identifying appropriate resources for their job search.

Since 2006, Vicki has worked for Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida (formerly in Ann Arbor, Michigan). Vicki’s most recent professional role was Director of Career Services wherein she developed externship opportunities; the pro bono and judicial clerkship programs; and designed, implemented and maintained the school’s employment-related services. For the first ten years of her career, Vicki practiced insurance defense litigation with a focus on medical malpractice and automobile negligence. She then developed her own successful probate and estate planning practice before working in the field of law school career services. Vicki’s educational credentials include a B.A. in Political Science from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Paralegal Certificate from Mount Saint Joseph College in Cincinnati, Ohio and a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in Cincinnati Ohio. She is happy to return to the Midwest and looks forward to meeting the faculty, staff and students of Valparaiso University Law School.

Please stop by the Career Planning Center, Suite 131 and extend a welcome to Vicki. We look forward to seeing you this semester.

Christine Corral can be reached at christine.corral@valpo.edu.
Ten Ways Law Students Can Be More Persuasive in Interviews

By: Victoria Ryan • Sr. Director of Operations
Career Planning Center

Lots of our students have or will be participating in interviews this semester. The Career Planning Staff wants to share some terrific interview strategies from the article Ten Ways Law Students Can Be More Persuasive in Interviews. The article was written by Lisa Abrams, the Director of Career Services at the University of Chicago Law School and was published in the August 2012 NALP Bulletin. Students at Valparaiso will want to take these strategies to heart when preparing for interviews.

1. Thoroughly and thoughtfully research the organization. It’s not enough to simply review an employer’s website the night before an interview. Review news articles about the employer. Nexus and Bloomberg can be helpful, as can The Wall Street Journal and legal news sites. Take your research one step further by talking to students and alumni who have worked for the organization. For example, if you’re interviewing for a summer associate position, talk to 3Ls about what they enjoyed about their summer at the firm. If you are interviewing for a judicial externship, talk to students or young alumni who have worked for the judge with whom you are interviewing. During your interview, you’ll be able to mention the fact that you’ve taken time to talk with these persons, sharing the positive reports you’ve heard and talking about how this makes you even more interested in the organization. This networking based research will demonstrate your resourcefulness, your interpersonal communication skills, and your credible interest in the organization.

2. You MUST be able to answer the question “Why did you go to law school?” In coached interview sessions, we often find that this is the hardest of all questions for students to answer, perhaps because they feel prepared to answer it because they went through the law school application process and wrote essays about the topic. Don’t fall into this trap. Know exactly how you’re going to answer this question, and make sure that you develop a thesis statement that answers the question (“I came to law school because…”) rather than a long, roundabout story of how you came to your decision. Then, go one step further, implementing a persuasive strategy by talking about how your reasons for coming to law school link up with your interest in this organization, or talking about why you are glad you did come to law school — and give examples of what you’re enjoying about the law school experience.

3. To show you’re a valuable candidate, be able to identify your strongest skills (at least three) and give up to three examples of each from your educational experience or work history. Interviewers generally don’t ask you to name your top three skills and to give three examples of each, but by knowing this information cold and having it available in a mental outline, you’ll be able to build specific examples of value to interviewers. For example, “Writing is one of my strongest skills. As a history major, I loved the extensive research and writing involved in developing my senior thesis, and I’ve enjoyed the challenge of my legal research and writing class. Now I’m looking forward to gaining more practical legal research and writing experience by working with your lawyers.”

4. Be able to tell the firm, government agency, or public interest organization what you think is special about them. One of the most common complaints of interviewers is that they find most candidates are unable to articulate why they are interested in their particular organization. Law is a service profession, and legal employers want to hire people who are truly engaged in what they do. What about the employer do you value? Its mission? The type of work done at their office?

5. Show your ability to advocate by communicating why you want this job. Employer feedback indicates that students lose out on opportunities because they seem ambivalent or unsure or just not “hungry.” When we relay this to students, they tell us, “But I wouldn’t go on the interview if I didn’t want the job.” Yet in this market, just applying for a job or showing up for an interview isn’t enough to persuade an employer to give you serious consideration. Students must be able to explain why they want to be an extern or a summer associate with a particular employer. And students who are 3Ls must prove that they are a wise investment by showing that they are eager to pursue this opportunity and look forward to contributing from day one.

6. Demonstrate the high quality of your work product by giving examples of on-the-job accomplishments and relating anecdotes about work habits or characteristics employers have praised. Draw examples from both paid and volunteer experiences, offering specific examples of situations in which you’ve demonstrated work traits such as efficiency, follow through, initiative, and ownership.

7. Carefully plan the questions that you want to ask during the interview. One thing you can count on is that an interviewer will ask you (often at the end of an interview but sometimes at the beginning), “What questions do you have for me?” Have at least three questions in mind in advance of the interview. Carefully planned questions communicate your intellectual curiosity and show your sincere interest in the organization and the work you would do for them. The questions should be engaging for the interviewer to answer and should not be questions that can readily be answered by the employer’s website or through cursory research.

8. Anticipate the questions you are most likely to be asked and plan in advance how you plan to answer them. It’s a given that you’ll be asked questions such as “Tell me about yourself!” or, if you’re interviewing in a city that doesn’t appear on your résumé, “What makes you interested in working in this city?” If there is an area of questioning you’re dreading (a gap in your résumé, grades weaker than you would like), know what your persuasive strategy is going to be to address questions about this area. The confidence you gain from knowing exactly how you’re going to answer the toughest questions will increase your confidence throughout the entire interview, even if the dreaded question is never asked. And, if it is asked, your thoughtful answer will show your advocacy skills.

9. Practice your answers out loud. The goal is not to memorize your answers but rather to readily access a mind map of your persuasive points when you’re under stress. Practicing out loud makes you much more likely to remember your examples, stories, and anecdotes. Repeatedly hearing yourself relate the persuasive points will lodge them in your long-term memory, and you’ll be able to insert bits and pieces of the points at appropriate times throughout the interview. Hearing in your own voice your carefully planned answers will make you feel more sincere and comfortable — and thus make you even more persuasive.

10. Seek the advice of your career services office. You can never get enough feedback; interview skills can always be developed further. Try out your persuasive strategies in a session with a career services professional. Take advantage of the interview coaching or mock interview programs offered by your career services office, student and alumni groups, and local bar associations.

Victoria Ryan can be reached at victoria.ryan@valpo.edu.
JACK RYAN: ONE MAN’S DIVORCE THAT GAVE RISE TO AMERICA’S MARRIAGE WITH BARACK OBAMA

BY: JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN • STAFF WRITER

Before Barack Obama could ever dream of taking office as President of the United States, before he was ever considered to give the keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention that ultimately ignited his political stardom—there was a man by the name of Jack Ryan. No, this Jack Ryan was not the famed protagonist found in a John Clancy novel—this Jack Ryan was real. Though real, Jack Ryan’s life was seemingly perfect—a life many thought could only exist in a fictional novel.

Jack Ryan was a rare Republican rising star in the state of Illinois—a political paradoxe. After graduating from Dartmouth at the top of his class and obtaining both an MBA and JD from Harvard, Ryan was hired by Goldman Sachs and became partner shortly after. Goldman’s initial public offering in 1999 resulted in Ryan’s net worth skyrocketing to reportedly $96 million. Not only were his educational and vocational accomplishments impressive, he also married Jeri Zimmermann, an attractive actress best known for her roles in the television series Boston Public and, most recently, ABC’s Body of Proof. Ryan seemed to have it all. He was young, handsome, and had the financial means to support his entire campaign. If that was not enough, Ryan notoriously retired from his lucrative job in the financial sector to lead a more noble life as a Chicago public school teacher.

The Illinois GOP had Ryan pegged as the successor to Republican U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald, a political nonconformist retiring after two terms in office. As for Ryan’s competition, there were a litany of potential candidates—one of which being a relatively unknown State Senator by the name of Barack Obama. Winning their respective primaries, Ryan and Obama began what inevitably would become one of the most significant Senatorial elections that few people, past or present, seem to acknowledge. Preliminary polls indicated that this would be a political dog fight. Initially Obama had been favored by 15 to 20 percent, however the gap began decreasing as Ryan’s campaign garnered more support. But just as the Illinois GOP and Ryan were gaining political momentum, the unimaginable occurred.

The unimaginable can come in various forms: adultery (John Edwards), bribery (Rod Blagojevich), or even Twitter (Anthony Weiner). In the case of Jack Ryan, it came in the form of divorce. In fact, it was a divorce that had already been finalized in 1999, five years prior. Consequently, a custody battle ensued. During the course of litigation, details regarding Ryan’s personal life were disclosed in court. In these disclosures, Ryan’s ex-wife Jeri alleged that during the course of their marriage, Ryan allegedly took her to sex clubs in Paris and New York. Jeri further claimed that Ryan pressured her to have sex with him in front of strangers attending those clubs.

Both Ryan and his ex-wife argued against public disclosure of the court records, as it would not be in the best interests of their child. However, counsel representing the Chicago Tribune and WLS-Channel 7 pressured the court to release the records. The Judge presiding over the case ultimately determined that portions of the record, including those most damaging to Ryan, should be released to the public. This decision resulted in a catastrophic political meltdown for both the GOP and Ryan. Ryan’s once flawless reputation had suffered irreparable damage, forcing him to withdraw from the election on June 25, 2004. As for the GOP—they now had to find a new candidate to challenge Obama, with only five months remaining until the election.

The GOP decided to bring in Alan Keyes—an African-American, far-right conservative who had an uncanny propensity to express unsavory political opinions. So outrageous were his claims and accusations that Chicago media outlets scrutinized him at nearly every turn. Specifically, he fiercely supported outright bans on abortion and gay marriage, stating both are demonstrative of a “seriously defective moral culture.” Although Keyes’ strategy undoubtedly garnered support from far right conservatives, successful Illinois Republican candidates in the past had generally positioned themselves closer to the middle of the political spectrum.

Nearly one month after Ryan exited the race, Obama was chosen to give the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Boston. His popularity thereafter intensified within the Democratic community nationwide, as Obama completely dismantled Keyes in the November election—winning by a record margin of 70% to 27%. Four years later, Obama found himself in Washington D.C. giving the Inaugural address in front of six million citizens.

Looking back on Obama’s path to presidency, the speed at which he rose to political heights is unprecedented. After losing by a near 2-1 margin in a Democratic primary for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000, Obama instead found himself becoming President of the United States eight years later.

While it’s impossible to know what might have happened had Jack Ryan’s divorce records been sealed—one cannot help but wonder: “What if?” What if Jack Ryan’s camp continued to build on its momentum and overtake Obama’s lead in the polls, and Obama was to lose the 2004 Senatorial election? Would Hillary Clinton have run away with the 2008 Democratic Presidential primary in 2008? Would the nation have seen its first female President of the United States rather than its first African-American male? It’s a bit of a stretch, but Obama losing the 2004 Senate race would have certainly postponed his political ascent—even potentially causing it to stall. Nevertheless, Obama easily won the election that catalyzed his popularity in 2004—all thanks to the divorce of a man named Jack Ryan.

Jonathan Zimmerman is a 2L and can be reached via e-mail: vuslforum@gmail.com.
First and foremost, welcome back! Unless you’re new to the law school, in which case, just welcome to Valparaiso! The hallowed halls of Wesemann are once again full of students and faculty ready to learn and teach.

But that’s not the only thing students here at Valparaiso do. There are over 40 student organizations, all of which are looking forward to having you as their newest member. Joining an organization is a great way to get more involved and for you to meet like-minded people.

We here at The Forum think that it is important that each of the student organizations get a chance to tell you what they are all about. If you would like to learn more about an organization, contact the organization’s representative or check out their bulletin board in the main hallway, which will soon be updated. In the meantime, check out the organizations on the following pages.

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THE FORUM

We here at The Forum believe that we would be schmucks and/or putzes if we did not take advantage of our overwhelming editorial power and tell you about what we do here at the paper before we tell you about any other group.

The Forum is starting its 42nd volume with this issue, and the winds of change are blowing through The Forum office. We have a new staff, new format, new website, and are excited to offer new opportunities for the student body to express themselves.

Whether you have an idea for a column you’ve always wanted to write, always wanted to work behind the scenes on a publication, or just feel the urge to say words like “scoop,” “exclusive,” and “hold the presses,” The Forum has a place for you. You can write about anything from food reviews to sports and anything in-between. You can write only one article or you can write an article in every issue, which is also known as a column. We are looking for writers, editors and graphic designers to join our team in producing the Valparaiso University School of Law newspaper.

Join the group that will help you make a difference and leave a lasting mark on your law school career. The Forum has a total circulation of approximately 5,000, and is distributed to law school alumni and judges in the surrounding area. Inform the community about things that matter to you and open up a world of opportunity.

If you have any questions, stop by The Forum office across from the SBA office, or email the executive board at vusforum@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Forum Executive Board includes:

Editor in Chief: Sarah Peterlin
Assistant Editor in Chief: Joel McClellan
Managing Editor: Michelle Prasad
Executive Editor: Carolyn Thiess

The forum is now available online at: www.vusforum.org

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FEDERALIST SOCIETY

Founded in 1982, the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians dedicated to reforming the current legal order. The law students that founded the Society aimed to create a forum for debate in which diverse legal viewpoints and perspectives could be heard.

We are committed to the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to determine what the law is, not what it should be. There are about 25,000 members of the Federalist Society nationwide in its Lawyers, Students, and Faculty Divisions. The Lawyers Division includes chapters in about sixty cities as well as fifteen practice groups, which cover specific areas of the law.

There are ample opportunities for you to get involved with the VUSL Student Chapter. We invite you to bring your ideas, contacts, and issues and join us as we engage the law community in debate and the open exchange of ideas. Our chapter plans to organize many speeches and debates as well as numerous social events. We are looking forward to hosting Alan Gura and an exciting slate of speakers, panel members, and debaters on issues that are important to today’s legal and political communities.

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STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

The 2012-2013 Student Bar Association is looking to establish a fresh and welcoming attitude for the 2012-2013 school year. The SBA office will be open M-F, 9-5PM as we hope this will provided students an opportunity to come in and meet the SBA representatives as well ask question, voice any student concerns or contribute any ideas that can improve the entire student body’s experience at Valpo.

The SBA meets weekly and hosts events such as VU Day of Caring, Cardozo Cup, Law Week, Barrister’s Ball and more. During our weekly meetings, the SBA plans special events, discusses student organization functions, provides resources to students and addresses student concerns. Please feel free to say hi when you see us in the hallway or stop by during office hours.

The Student Bar Association Executive Officers include:

President- Darnell DeCausey
Darnell.DeCausey@valpo.edu

Vice President- Christa Leggette
Christa.Leggette@valpo.edu

Secretary- Deron Carrington
Deron.Carrington@valpo.edu

Treasurer- Sylviane Elessie
Sylviane.Elessie@valpo.edu

Special Events Coordinator- Ashley Murray
Ashley.Murray@valpo.edu

Student Organizations Administrator- Sara Koppenaal
Sara.Koppenaal@valpo.edu

ABA Representative- Valerie Johnson
Valerie.Johnson@valpo.edu

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BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY

Business Law Society (BLS) is an active member of the Valparaiso University School of Law. The purpose of the organization is to acquire, develop, obtain, and apply knowledge in the areas of business and law. Besides partnering with the Career Planning Center and other law school organizations for etiquette/professional events, BLS hosts a major philanthropic event, Catwalk for the Cure, during the spring semester. Catwalk for the Cure is a charity fashion show in which law school students plan, organize, model, and fundraise for a good cause.

Membership is open to any Valparaiso University School of Law student who is interested in the business and legal fields. For those interested in membership or interested in learning more about BLS, you can either show up to one of our meetings (dates, times, & locations will be publicized throughout the law school) or contact the President, Chris Hammer, via email at chris.hammer@valpo.edu.

The members of BLS wish the best of luck to all of our fellow colleagues on the year ahead.
MILITARY VETERANS LAW ASSOCIATION

The Military Veterans Law Association (MVLA) is a group open to all, veterans and non-veterans. The group focuses on raising awareness of veterans issues including post traumatic stress disorder and filing claims with the Veteran’s Administration. Also, many of our members have applied to be claims agents with the VA as a way to serve the veteran community. Our group is able to assist with students wishing to pursue a VA certification. Moreover, our group strives to provide support and community for veterans returning home from combat and assist in any way possible. This year we have many exciting events planned including a panel focusing on veterans in higher education coming up in September. Additionally, we are co-sponsoring a 5K with proceeds going to place shelter animals with veterans, and looking to volunteer at a homeless veterans shelter in Gary, IN. If you have any additional questions or would like more information please contact president Katie Genther at Katherine.Genther@valpo.edu.

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

The Christian Legal Society is an interdenominational group of Christian law students seeking to “do justice with the love of God.” Members meet on a weekly basis to eat, pray, and study scripture together. In addition to the regular meetings,CLS will host a variety of social events, public lectures, and service opportunities. There will also be weekly chapel break prayer time every Friday in room 118 of the library.

This semester, our regular meetings will be held every Wednesday at 6:30 in the Stride Courtroom (room 148). The focus of our Bible study will be the Old Testament book of Job, and we will be exploring the question of why bad things happen to good people. Devotional books will be provided for all who attend. Refreshments will be provided as well. There are no membership dues. All are welcome and encouraged to join us.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY

The Valparaiso Environmental Law Society (VELS) is an organization of student activists who are interested in the intersection of environmental law and social justice.

Programs this year will include a 5k hike at the Indiana Dunes (September), the annual Silent Auction (October), a trivia night with an environmental speaker (February), movie night, networking events, and a Sustainability Panel (April). Each meeting will focus on a specific environmental issue with an impact on the NWI and Chicago area. Topics this fall will include Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NWI, CAFO’s, and Clean Water.

Please contact one of the E-board members if you are interested. You can email Laura.bair@valpo.edu or benjamin.fink@valpo.edu with any ideas or suggestions.

LAMBDA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Lambda is the law school’s LGBTQ student organization, which welcomes all law students and community members. Each year Lambda hosts several awareness events that generally coincide with national days of action within the LGBTQ community. Those include Coming Out Day & No Bullying Day (October), AIDS Awareness Day (November), and the National Day of Silence (April). Lambda also puts on Sharp Look for the Young Lawyer (September 27, with BESLA and CPC). This year, Lambda is committed to fostering a community of allies working to build tolerance, respect, and understanding in Valparaiso. Above all, Lambda seeks to create a safe environment where all students feel welcome and comfortable. If you have any questions, contact Kathryn Hamann, Miguel Heras, or Nicole Schroeder.

PHI ALPHA DELTA

The mission of Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) Law Fraternity, Halleck Chapter is to advance integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community.

Academic programs this year will include “How to Outline” with Themis (October), “How to Study for Finals” (November), and a Q & A on the MPRE (January). Professional events will include a Pro-bono panel (October), Etiquette Dinner (February), and Study Breaks (Fall/Spring). PAD will also be sponsoring several Alumni Networking events during the semester. Thanks to the great response last year with the PAD Annual Adopt-a-Family Philanthropic Event, we hope to increase the number of families we help this year. We plan to introduce two new philanthropic projects- a Pen Pal program with CASA and a TOM’s for kids project.

PAD initiation is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2012. The $80 dues ($60 for members of PAD during undergrad) to internationals can be paid online via www.pad.org or by check during chapel break to an E-board member 9/6-9/20. Chapter dues are $20 for the 1L class, $10 for the 2L class, and no Chapter dues for the 3L class.

STUDENT ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) is a student group focusing on animal issues ranging from domestic pets to farm animals. The group focuses on the rights of animals and bringing awareness to animal issues such as abuse, neglect and cruelty. We promote responsible pet ownership by supporting low-cost vaccination clinics and low-cost spay and neuter. Additionally, we encourage volunteer work at the Kibble Kitchen, the Porter County Animal Shelter and fundraising for these organizations. This year we have several events planned including a panel of animal law attorneys, a dog park day and co-sponsoring a 5K with proceeds going to helping place shelter pets with returning combat veterans.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about SALDF please contact president Katie Genther at Katherine.Genther@valpo.edu.

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

In 1980, during the first annual Black Music Association Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a group of prominent African-American attorneys determined that there was a need for a support organization to help individuals survive in a competitive marketplace. This led to the development of the Black Entertainment Lawyers Association (BELA); later on that year.

One of the founding members was the late David McCoy Franklin, a pioneering entertainment attorney who had represented such talents as Donny Hathaway, Louis Gossett, Jr. and Richard Pryor. As African-Americans began to make inroads into sports representation, the name of the organization was changed to the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA) in 1986.

BESLA’s membership consists of a diverse mixture of law students, practicing lawyers, accountants, agents, managers, and business executives in the music, sports, television, film, literary, new media, and government regulation industries. Today, the organization boasts over six hundred members, which include individuals who hold posts at major corporations and representatives of name talent.

The Valparaiso University chapter of BESLA operates with a mission to provide platforms for the continued development of students looking to get into the sports and entertainment industries. We fulfill our mission by tapping into that national network of attorneys while attending BESLA’s annual conference on entertainment and sports representation. The student organization’s campus events aim to prepare students to interact with practitioners and executives while networking for scholarships and internship opportunities.
LATINO LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Latino Law Student Association (LLSA) is to represent Latino law student interests to the law school and university. To provide mentoring and community service opportunities to its members, encourage recruitment of qualified Latino applicants, assist in retention of Latino students, promote student unity, and pursue justice for the legal issues affecting the Latino community.

Every year, LLSA co-hosts the Valparaiso IL Welcome Dinner. This year's theme is "Cultural Diversity in the Law Creates Equality in our Justice System." LLSA will have the privilege to honor San Diego, California Attorney, Gregory Vega, J.D. 1980.

Throughout the academic year, LLSA hosts the very popular Fiesta del Sol where faculty, students, and community get together to share, celebrate, and enjoy Latino culture and art. Dia de Los Muertos and Hispanic Heritage Month (September) are also full of great activities that further share the Latino culture with the Valpo community.

Most importantly, LLSA is an all-inclusive academic organization that seeks to shed light on important Latino issues. Everyone is welcomed to join and learn about Latino issues within our community.

E-Board:
- Cecilia Lopez, President
- Maria Blumenfeld, Vice-President
- Aaron Lopez, Treasurer
- Anna Aguilar, Secretary
- Andrew Ramirez, Chair of Student Affairs

RUNNING & FITNESS

Need some motivation to work out? Join the Running & Fitness Club! This is the fitness group for students of all fitness levels. This year we'll have a group just for beginners! We'll help you to train for our annual 5K Ambulance Chase. We'll also have a routine ready for a body circuit that we can do as a group. Join us and relieve your stress from law school!

Contact Zachary Schmidt for more information: zachary.schmidt@valpo.edu

TAX LAW SOCIETY

The Tax Law Society's focus is to create awareness about other avenues of employment for fellow students. This semester we will hopefully be hosting the United States Tax Court, so the school can receive an inside glimpse of how taxation can affect potential future employment as well as ones livelihood. Taxation is one of the handful of areas that touches everyone in the country. The Tax Law Society helps to bring understanding to this convoluted area of the law. Beyond the day-to-day benefits of understanding taxation, most lawyers dealing with taxation will receive substantially higher hourly rates.

Within Tax Law Society is what is called VITA or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Each year the Tax Law Society runs the VITA program here at the law school. It is a way for students to attain pro bono hours while assisting people from the community with their tax assessments. This is one of many ways in which the school of law tries to give back to the community. VITA recruitment will begin in the month of November where the Tax Law Society will have informational meetings regarding what is expected.

VALPARAISO UNIV. LAW SCHOOL DEMOCRATS

The Valparaiso University Law School Democrats (VULSD) is a Valparaiso University School of Law student organization, composed of law students who are dedicated to the ideals and goals of the Democratic Party, as well as to the principles of democracy, equality, and justice for all Americans. The VULSD works with Democrats and their allies, both on and off campus, to promote the democratic platform including candidate advocacy, legislation, and ideas. VULSD is open to all members of the campus community and their supporters and encourages free thought within its membership.

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INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY

The International Law Society (ILS) at Valpo Law is a student division of the International Law Students Association (ILSA) and was created with the goal to encourage communication among students and lawyers from different parts of the world in an effort to promote international understanding and cooperation related to the development and promotion of international law, study, and practice. Within the last 10 years alone, major developments in trade and communication have resulted in the need for lawyers to become more globally focused in order to best serve their clients. Additionally, recent policy changes and new relationships with foreign nations increasingly demand today’s lawyers to use their expertise of US domestic law on an international level.

This year, ILS won the 2012 Best International Social Event Award from ILSA. To make this year even better than the last, ILS will be hosting numerous opportunities for law students to learn about other cultures and legal systems in a spirit of critical dialogue and international cooperation. These include a Panel Discussion on global anti-corruption with the co-chairs of the ABA International Anti-Corruption Committee including the Assistant US Attorney from Chicago, an International Etiquette Dinner with BSELA, and a Lecture on the legacy of the UN war crimes tribunals by David Scheffer, the former U.S. Ambassador to the UN and the current director at the Center for International Human Rights at Northwestern University.

Please email us at ILSValpo@gmail.com and Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/ILSValpo for more information.

BLACK LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Valparaiso Chapter of the Black Law Student Association (VBLSA) was established in the early 1970’s as a way to articulate and promote the professional needs of the Black law students at the University. Since its establishment VBLSA has strived to improve the academic, professional and personal development of its members. As we embark on the 2012-2013 school year, VBLSA invites you to take advantage of our programming and community service initiatives.

EQUAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

The Equal Justice Association is an organization at Valparaiso University School of Law that works to promote and educate students on public interest law. Equal Justice Association (EJA) is different from other organizations at Valpo Law. Our main focus is to award grants to students who participate in public interest law during the summer and to encourage others to get involved in the field. EJA provides students with access to employers who practice public interest law with our Meet the Public Interest Sector event and other events hosted throughout the year. It is also our goal to promote interaction with the community through public service activities. It is essential to give back to the community, and EJA, a small organization with a huge impact, works to do just that!

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW ASSOCIATION

The Sports and Entertainment Law Association, also known as "SELA", is an organization that promotes the interest and knowledge of how the law incorporates itself into athletics and many entertainment avenues. As our organization has a dual purpose of promoting both sports and entertainment law, SELA attempts to satisfy both interests by inviting sports and acting agents to come speak to the school. Additionally, SELA will also be inviting an anchor/journalist that has worked for NBC's Today Show for forty years to come and speak.

If you have any questions or wish to join SELA, contact anyone on our E-Board!

INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT

International Moot Court (IMC) is a co-curricular organization in which students submit briefs and participate in oral arguments at various competitions. This year's competitions will take place in various locations in the United States, as well as India, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The topics of the competitions cover a wide range of issues, such as genocide, foreign invasions, international patent law, civil wars, and international pollution. The format of the competitions usually involves teams of four competitors representing two fictitious countries. The briefs and arguments are submitted before a panel of judges, who are usually practicing attorneys, which mimic a real international court, such as the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court.

IMC also recently had its intra-school competition. During the summer between 1L and 2L year, the new incoming members of IMC compete with one another. They first write a brief over the summer and then do oral arguments at the beginning of the fall semester. This year's top brief was written by Colette Reinke, the top finalist was Marina Takagi, and the oralist was Lakshmi Jayanthi.

Next February and March, the IMC teams will be having send-off events which will be open to the entire student body. If any 1-Ls are interested in finding out more, not only are the send-offs a good opportunity to see how advocacy of international law is done, but also questions may be directed to IMC President Michael Licari (Michael.Licari@Valpo.edu) or Secretary Tiffany Houchin (Tiffany.Houchin@Valpo.edu).
IT'S another Presidential election year. For the next two months, we will witness both candidates muddling in order to win (or in the incumbent’s case, remain in) the Oval Office. The predominant issue is, of course, the economy and jobs. While this issue is important, as many Americans are unemployed or underemployed, and the deficit and debt are skyrocketing, there is one topic that seems to have become irrelevant in political discussions: civil liberties. What was once considered an issue worthy of debate is now seemingly unimportant.

After the September 11 attacks, anti-terrorism legislation, such as the Patriot Act and the expansion of current surveillance laws, were implemented. Opposition from civil libertarians, liberals, progressives, and similar groups were initially met with scorn, considering the circumstances that led to these laws. However, as more people became informed of the repercussions of this massive government expansion, opposition to what was being done in the name of “protection of the country” grew. Civil liberties, along with foreign policy, took front and center in national security debate, especially during the 2004 Election season. What the Bush administration established was considered by liberty warriors to be an abomination and among the most un-Constitutional laws of our lifetimes. It seemed the general populace was genuinely interested about issues that affected them on a deeply personal level. In the 2008 election, it appeared that national security and civil liberties would once again be revisited; considering the grandiose levels of Bush Fatigue, the unpopularity of the Iraq War, and the fact that then-Senator Obama’s rival is a war hero. However, in September 2008, the economic crash worsened the recession that began in late 2007, steering the political conversation in a new direction. Obama won handily on November 4, 2008, and the nation was ripe for a change in policy. Many hoped that said change would also include the area of civil rights and civil liberties. However, said hopes would be shattered, as President Obama signed the re-authorization of the Patriot Act, including the controversial surveillance sections; ordered the killing of United States citizens abroad for being suspected of terrorism; and signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which authorizes the indefinite detention of alleged terrorists or those who are suspected of aiding them, including United States citizens. As President Obama manages to outdo George W. Bush on violating civil rights and civil liberties, nobody seems to consider it a controversial issue, unlike when Bush was considered a threat to freedom.

It truly does boggle the mind as to why many are so quiet. I believe such apathy is due to partisanship and the acquiescence of Americans over the years. When the Patriot Act was first passed, there were Republican cries of “National Security!” and “If you have nothing to hide, why are you complaining?!” There were Democratic (and independent) cries of “Civil liberties violations!” Now that Obama is President, with the exception of libertarians, paleo-conservatives, and non-partisan progressives, nobody is calling him out on his doubling down of the Bush years, something that truly defines obscene partisanship. Plus, the fact that few seem to be concerned about how NDAA 2012 can be executed proves how America has, as Benjamin Franklin said, given up liberty for security. America cannot truly be America again without its fundamental freedoms.

Paul is a JL and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com.
The Roman poet Juvenal, thousands of years ago, pondered: "Who watches the watchmen?" The Founding Fathers of the United States came up with an ingenious way to deal with a similar issue, oppressive government, by having three branches of federal government face off against each other, as well as federalism. This adversarial system is seen in the courts that we study here in law school.

The "watchmen" issue is also at play in the important 2012 election. In this case, the "watchmen" are the media and their "fact-checking" units.

By now, if you have been paying attention to the media coverage of the recent Republican convention, you have seen much made of the "lies" that Paul Ryan has supposedly said during his impressive speech. Who are the people that are making these charges? Many are members of the "fact-checking" arm of different media groups. You may even have posted a link to a "fact-checker" on Facebook.

Democrats, eager to push the topic of conversation away from the main issues of the campaign, the economy and jobs, embraced these reports. The so-called "fact checkers" are cited as Holy Scripture on Left-wing websites. This brings us to a conundrum which Juvenal reflected upon: if journalists and "fact checkers" are supposed to "keep the politicians" honest, who makes sure the journalists and "fact-checkers" are being fair and honest in their coverage?

By now you may be wondering why I keep putting fact checkers in parentheses and prefacing its use by "so-called." It is because that I do not think the so-called "fact checkers" have done a very good job on the Paul Ryan convention speech. In fact, I don't think they have done a good job in general. Full disclosure, I am a conservative who voted for Mitt Romney in the Illinois primary, and I believe I can demonstrate that the fact checkers have failed as far as this particular case is concerned, and we need to be skeptical of those who claim to be the final arbiters of truth. I will focus on one of the main "lies" that Paul Ryan is accused of telling and then highlight problems with the most prominent "fact checker," PolitiFact.

The biggest supposed "lie" that Paul Ryan uttered in his speech was that President Obama and the Democrats cut $716 billion from Medicare in order to make Obamacare supposedly deficit neutral. Fact checkers and Democrats argue that nothing was cut from Medicare, that they only "slowed the growth" of compensation to providers (hospitals and doctors) in Medicare, and as such there were no cuts to Medicare.

This sounds suspiciously like a cut to me. If my employer tells me that he is eliminating raises that my co-workers and I were supposed to get over the next few years in order to spend that money redecorating the window offices, that's a cut in one place to fund something else. But don't take it from me, an admitted Romney supporter. Take it from the President himself.

In an interview with Jake Tapper of ABC News in November of 2009, the President replied affirmatively that 1/3 of his health care reform will be paid for by cuts to Medicare. The President also vowed he "meant it" meaning the reform would fact-check a statement like that, you debate it. PolitiFact, one of the main "fact checkers," according to Jon Cassidy at Human Events' (a conservative publication), is far more favorable to Democrats than Republicans. But that's not its only problem, Cassidy notes: it measures opinions also. For instance, it stated that the Democrats' charge that Paul Ryan's plan would end "Medicare as we know it," 2011's "Lie of the year," and that the 2010 "Lie of the year" was the Republicans' charge that Obamacare amounted to a government takeover of health care. Those are opinions to be debated, not a fact to be weighed.

They also get the facts wrong. According to Cassidy, Mitt Romney said that the U.S. Navy is smaller than it's been since 1917, and that the Air Force is older and smaller than 1947, and that PolitiFact rated that as a "Pants-on-fire" lie. However, the experts testifying to the truth of the matter had said that by the measure of the amount of ships in the navy and the number of personnel in the Air Force, Romney's statement was true.

Writing on PolitiFact's 2011 Lie of the Year," James Taranto of the Wall Street Journal wrote that "the claim that 'Republicans voted to end Medicare' is not a simple statement of fact, like '2+2=4'... nor is it a simple false statement of fact, like 'Jacksonville is the capital of Florida.' It is, rather, an assertion that combines elements of fact (Republicans did vote), interpretation ("end Medicare" means different things to different people) and prediction (about how the Ryan plan, if enacted, would work out in practice). That is to say, it is a statement of opinion [Emphasis added]."

As law students, we should be especially in tune with the differences between facts and opinions. The fact is that the Democratic supermajority in Washington cut Medicare by $716 billion. The opinion is whether or not you think those cuts should be permanent.

Juvenal asked: "Who watches the watchmen?" In the United States, in the year 2012, with almost an unlimited array of information at our fingertips, the answer is us. We should be suspicious of those who claim to be able to definitively sort fact from fiction, especially when many of the "facts" they are "proving" are opinions which can only be debated.

Steven is a 2L and can be reached at vus/forum@gmail.com.
Being a 3L is a very new experience where upon in just a few weeks after my LAST first day of school... Ever, I have learned quite a few things since I stepped into this law school as a 1L. I am not talking about all the fascinating aspects of the law that we have all learned from both classroom and work experience. I am talking about true 'what goes around comes around' pearls of wisdom. These pearls of wisdom will most certainly differ with each 3L that you may encounter during your walks to your classes. I believe that despite how “cookie cutter” your law school schedule may appear, each of us as law students has our own unique experience based upon what you choose to do with what has been presented to you during your three years at Valparaiso School of Law.

Let's begin with discussing what I truly find to be the scariest things about law school, final examinations and grades. Or at least, that is what I used to believe was the scariest thing about law school. After my first round of final exams as a 1L and now after completing three additional rounds, I have found that grades are just grades. Now, this does not mean that during those weeks leading up to my final examinations that I am not still truly in a panic and refuse to talk to most law students because I just “don’t want to hear about it.” I do everything in my power to study and prepare for my exams, however, despite my studying; sometimes things just do not turn out as I had hoped. I used to believe that grades were the only thing that employers would look to and when I did not make it to the top of the class in ranks, that I was a failure. I have gone through two years of wanting to just give up from law school and quit. I felt like I was never going to make it in the real world because people would only look at me as a number, the number that made me hate everything else I had accomplished since I began law school.

Pearl #1: Do NOT let numbers dictate your preparation, and what I like to call, students who “buy their grades.” On the other hand, path number two is for students who either get stuck with the last scheduling time (haha yes, I have been there!) and for students who pick and choose their courses because they are looking for courses that will truly benefit their legal experience. How you choose to go through law school is a decision only you can make, neither is necessarily better than the other. It is all a matter of personal choice on what you decide will help you make it through. Despite knowing my 3L year would be a bit tougher, I chose to go with classes that my prior employers have suggested and what attorneys have told me you “really should” take during my legal education.

It took nearly two years of law school struggles and panics for me to finally start believing what my mother always told me about how grades are only one piece of what you offer to employers. This advice truly clicked at the end of my summer job as a law clerk at a Chicago firm. During my initial interview, the managing partner asked me how my grades were. I was honest, I replied I was making it through and that grades are not my finest aspects of what I could offer. His response was simply this, “that’s fine! We were all at law school once and understand. Grades can’t do the research and writing during a clerkship, only you can do that.” This was the biggest relief and this response still resonates with me. After that interview, I ended up getting the job offer. Not all firms you may encounter will have the belief that there is more to a law student than grades, trust me, I went through quite a few interviews. But it goes to show you that firms do exist out there that look beyond the number game.

So to all you 1L’s, 2L’s, 3L’s, and alums waiting for your bar results... do not panic! You will make it through law school. You will find legal experiences during your law school summers. And you will find a job after graduation. The time you spend in law school is what I believe are the hardest years of your life, but it is manageable. This column will discuss other “pearls of wisdom” in the future regarding law school, politics, and other life events that arise. Hope exists, just have a little faith... in yourself.

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BY: JOHN HUTCHINSON • STAFF WRITER

We know for a fact democracy is the way forward. So much so, our generous and benevolent presidential predecessor, George W. Bush, helped Iraq and Afghanistan greatly by giving them some. Since 2003, the Arab Spring has turned into the Arab late-Summer-early-Fall. Colonel Gaddafi is pushing up the sand dunes, and Syrian President Assad is grooming himself to be the villain in the next Michael Bay movie. So, how are they all feeling? Happy? Thrilled to have elections? Well, not really.

President Bush once eloquently put “there’s an old saying in Tennessee; I know it’s in Texas, probably in Tennessee; that says, fool me once, shame on; shame on you. Fool me; you can’t get fooled again.” Nashville, TN, September 17, 2002. Well, darn it if the peoples of Egypt, Tunisia, and Afghanistan got fooled again.

In Libya, the temporary Provisional Authority is a year and four months old. In Tunisia, the new government has called up retired military personnel to quell the unrest which has still not subsided. In exciting news, nine months after the revolution Tunisians voted! For an Assembly! new government has called up retired military personnel to quell the unrest which has still not subsided. In exciting news, nine months after the revolution Tunisians voted! For an Assembly! Who are going to write the new constitution! And winners barely try to hide their cheating

Afghan President Hamid Karzai was carefully chosen by NATO countries to head the post-Taliban governance of Afghanistan. So, I’m sure it came as a genuine shock to Karzai, as well as the rest of the world, that the ballots counted at the polling stations protected by his troops were falsified. Hopefully, this next paragraph will wipe the smugness off the faces of continental Europe. Most western democracies are some form of parliamentary democracy. In 2009 general elections Angela Merkel’s party, the CDU/CSU, ‘won.’ Winning means your party forms a government. This happens if your party gets a majority of seats in whatever the main legislative body of the country in question is. In Merkel’s case, she got the majority of seats in the Bundestag (German Parliament). There are 598 seats and 312 seats are needed for a majority. The CDU/CSU got the most number of seats in 2009 with 226 seats. This is 38% of all the seats. The representation quotient gets even lower when you start looking at individual seat races. Voter turnout in Germany is also about 50%. The candidate who wins the seat often wins with a plurality, with more people in his or her own constituency voting for someone else. The CDU/CSU got 33.8% of the total vote. In short, Germany has about 87 million people, with about 14.5 million of them voting for the CDU/CSU. That’s about 18% of all Germans.

Now for a German historical fun fact; in 1933 Hitler’s Nazi Party won with 43.3% of the vote with a voter turnout of 71.6%, beating Angela Merkel’s CDU/CSU with a margin of 11% more of the total votes with 50% more voters from the plebiscite. Elections have come a long way.

John is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com.
From the Editors
to our Loyal Readers....

Dear Alumnus,

The Forum is a publication of the Valparaiso University School of Law. The newspaper you hold in your hand was written and produced by VUSL students. The purpose of The Forum is to provide a place for thoughts and ideas, and also a source of information on happenings at the Law School and beyond.

The newspaper is read by students, faculty and alumni. It is published for the students and sent to alumni as a service to keep them posted on what's going on here at Wesemann Hall. Although The Forum is targeted at students, we enjoy getting feedback from any and all of our readers. You were law students once too, and you may know better than us what we should be writing about.

If you have any suggestions or comments for improving The Forum, we would like to hear them, both the good and the bad. If you enjoy reading The Forum, we would like to know why. We want to open the lines of communication between The Forum and the alumni. We take pride in the work we do here and enjoy the opportunity to send The Forum to you.

During the coming school year The Forum will be sent to as many alumni as possible every month. Unfortunately, The Forum can't be sent to everyone. That means that you might not receive next months edition even though you recieved this months. Yet we want all alumni of the law school to have the opportunity to read and enjoy The Forum. However, it takes about $5 a year to send the paper to an alumnus. The Forum has no intention of instituting a subscription fee, we're just asking that you consider becoming a patron of The Forum.

As long as you continue reading and enjoying The Forum, we will do everything in our power to continue sending it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Peterlin
Editor in Chief

Joel McClellan
Assistant Editor in Chief

Michelle Prasad
Managing Editor

Carolyn Thiess
Executive Editor

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