ROWE & THOMPSON WIN 24th SWYGERT MOOT COURT COMPETITION

BY: MARK FOCO • STAFF WRITER

The final argument for the Luther M. Swygert Memorial Moot Court Competition took place on Wednesday, November 7th in the DuBuisson Recital Hall. The petitioners, J.R. Wydra and Brittany Boatman, and the respondents, Janelle Thompson and Katlyn Rowe, argued First Amendment free speech issues in correlation with specialty automobile license plates. Each team argued in front of a three judge panel, comprised of the Honorable Frank H. Easterbrook, the Honorable Jon E. DeGuilio, and the Honorable Denise K. LaRue.

"In a Moot Court competition like this," said Judge Easterbrook during his closing remarks, "it is the job of the judge... to find some questions that will rattle the advocates. And in effort to see how they do when rattled."

Judge Easterbrook did just that as he asked flustering questions to each participant throughout the evening. Rowe and Thompson satisfied Judge Easterbrook’s challenge as they were named the Competition’s winning team; especially Rowe who was awarded the Best Oralist. Before the final argument officially began, Thompson was awarded Best Brief submitted for the Competition.

Every autumn, the Valparaiso University Law Moot Court Society competes in the Swygert Memorial Moot Court Competition, and every year the competition involves a hypothetical First Amendment Issue spawned from contemporary events. In its 24th year, the Swygert issue was modeled after Wooley v. Maynard, a 1977 Supreme Court case where the Court held that a state could not require its citizens to display its state motto on automobile license plates because the plates offended that citizen’s morality.

The hypothetical litigation involved specialty license plates in New Union, a fictitious state. The conflict arose when Ms. Stone was denied an application for a specialty license plate that depicted an image of the Statue of Liberty, and at the bottom was inscribed “Xenophobia is Unfair.” Ms. Stone’s license plate request was in retaliation to the specialty license plate “America for Americans” which she viewed as an anti-immigration message. Stone alleged that the state statute allowing specialty plates was unconstitutional because the plates offended that citizen’s morality.

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Valparaiso University School of Law

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VALPO FEATURED IN ESPN 24 HOUR BASKETBALL MARATHON

BY: JOEL McCLELLAN • STAFF WRITER

When ESPN comes knocking, you better answer - even if the game starts at 7 a.m. The Valparaiso men’s basketball team was selected to host the fifth game of the ESPN College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon against Northern Illinois at the ARC. The game was broadcasted on ESPN at 7 a.m. This early tip time solicited an exciting atmosphere for the game. Students and faculty were treated to a free hot breakfast from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. in the Hilltop Gym. Non-students were charged $5 for the buffet style breakfast. In addition, the school partnered with McDonald’s and gave away bright neon green t-shirts to the first 1,000 fans. Having a game broadcasted live on ESPN is great for any program, but I can honestly say I have never ordered a coffee at halftime at a sporting event.

The student section was in full force. Crusader head coach Bryce Drew concurred and said, “they kind of woke me up this morning - they were really excited for the game, and it showed. No question our players fed off their energy. We really enjoyed playing in that atmosphere.”

Valparaiso did a great job in creating an exciting atmosphere for the game. Students and faculty were treated to a free hot breakfast from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. in the Hilltop Gym. Non-students were charged $5 for the buffet style breakfast. In addition, the school partnered with McDonald’s and gave away bright neon green t-shirts to the first 1,000 fans. Having a game broadcasted live on ESPN is great for any program, but I can honestly say I have never ordered a coffee at halftime at a sporting event.

Photo by: JEFF LANGE

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JOEL is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
Why is networking important?
- The hidden job market accounts for 60% to 80% of jobs.
  - Many legal employers cannot afford to advertise and prefer to hire by word of mouth, i.e., either people they know or people who are referred to them.
  - Most law students find jobs either through networking or through self-initiated contact with employers (targeted mailing).
- Beyond finding your first legal job, building and maintaining a strong network will help you learn about promising opportunities later in your career.
- In the future, networking can help you generate business (either directly or through attorney referrals) and will also introduce you to attorneys who may be able to assist you with various legal practice issues (especially true for solo practitioners).

What is networking?
- Networking is a process for obtaining information on strategies for achieving your career goals, advice, and referrals without asking for a job.
- It’s about getting to know people and sharing information.
- Networking will help you learn about promising opportunities later in your career.
- Networking goals:
  - To meet someone who will either refer you to a potential employer or ultimately hire you for a position; and/or
  - To build strategic relationships that will help you build your career in the future or generate business.

Do you harbor any aversions to networking?
Career Planning Offices at law schools across the nation hear the same common excuses from students every year.

I don’t want to look stupid.
- Nobody expects law students to know a lot about the practice of law. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. In fact, it shows curiosity, motivation, and enthusiasm.

I’m afraid of rejection.
- Rejection is just part of the process that you have to deal with.
- Go into it expecting some rejection. Be resilient and patient; take the negative responses in stride and move on.

Networking seems so fake to me, like I’m using people to get ahead.
- What is so fake about asking for and sharing information? Most experienced attorneys are happy to help out newcomers to the law because they have been in your shoes before.
- Think you have nothing to offer or share with them? Think again; people will be interested to hear insights about you and your school or other interesting experiences you have had.

I’m busy with school and don’t have time to network.
- Just devote a little bit of time to networking – things that are important in life are worth making time for. Just like finding time to exercise, it will pay off.
- On a related note, include networking events as part of your budget. We recommend that you set aside $100 - $150 a year to cover bar association fees and event cover charges.

I’m shy and am uncomfortable talking to strangers.
- The best networkers do not necessarily have outgoing personalities.
- The best networkers are people who are good listeners and who enjoy connecting with others.

Identify your network
- Personal Contacts—family, friends, coworkers (including former), church/synagogue/mosque, doctor, hairdresser, people at the health club. Let everyone know that you are in law school!
- Professors – faculty and adjunct professors can help you learn more about an area of interest and can help introduce you to practitioners.
- Career Panel Speakers – stick around after the presentation to speak with them.
- Bar Associations – section meetings/luncheons, social and volunteer events, etc.
- Mentors and Alumni.
- Internship and Externships.
- Online – LinkedIn and Facebook (be mindful of your online image).

Networking in Social Settings

Before the Event:
- Create small goals for yourself, e.g., to meet three new people, to learn about a specific practice area, or to investigate the market in a certain city.
- Dress appropriately.
- If you feel nervous, find a friend to attend with you.
- Keep current on news and events.
- Be prepared to answer questions about the law school.
- Bring your student business cards.
- Prepare your introduction: “Hi, I’m Jenny Smith. I’m a second year student at Valparaiso University Law School.”

During the Event:
- Survey the room and grab something to drink/eat before navigating the room. Carry your beverage in your left hand so it is easier to shake hands with people.
- Breaking into a conversation:
  - Avoid approaching two people who look as though they are having an intense conversation
  - Approach groups of 3-4 who look like they are having fun.
  - Stand nearby, smile, and wait for the appropriate time to join the conversation.
- When you are being approached, be open to others. When you see someone on the periphery step back and include them. See if others can help make introductions for you at the event.
- Conversation starters:
  - Smile.
  - Introduce yourself.
  - Extend your hand.
  - Allow the other person to introduce himself/herself and listen to the name.
- Open with something about the organization, the venue, the food, etc. - Such as: “this is my first time at a Trial Law Section meeting, how about you?”
- Avoid negative comments or complaints.
- Carrying on the conversation: Ask appropriate questions, such as, ...continued on page 5
FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

FINALS STRESSING YOU OUT? THE LIBRARY IS HERE TO HELP!

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE FINALS WEEK IN THE LIBRARY AND I AM SURE STRESS LEVELS ARE ALREADY HIGH. THE LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY STAFF ARE HERE TO HELP WITH ANY STUDYING NEEDS YOU MIGHT HAVE DURING THIS STRESSFUL TIME. IF YOU NEED A STUDY AID, DON'T FORGET TO LOOK TO THE WEST STUDY AIDS.

FROM THE DEAN'S CORNER

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

BY: MARK ADAMS • VICE DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

-Mark Twain

STUDYING ABROAD PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR GLOBAL AWARENESS, ENHANCE THEIR ACADEMIC LEARNING, EXPERIENCE PERSONAL GROWTH, ADVANCE THEIR CAREERS, GAIN AN APPRECIATION FOR AND UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER CULTURES, AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND THE ABILITY TO LIVE AND WORK EFFECTIVELY IN ANOTHER CULTURE.

Valparaiso law students can enhance their worldview of the law by spending a summer semester studying in either the International Human Rights Program in Chile and Argentina (June 1 - June 30), or the Cambridge Program in London and Cambridge (June 4 - July 30).

Students in the International Human Rights Program in Chile and Argentina examine legal, historical, and cultural approaches to human rights, focusing on Chile and Argentina. Both nations have recently emerged from periods of significant human rights abuse, and both countries grapple with the need to protect human rights while addressing significant social issues. This unique program offers students immersion in a foreign legal system and a comparative perspective on pressing questions of human rights. In addition, students will have the opportunity to interact with law students in both countries. In summer 2013, Dean Adams will teach International Human Rights: Latin America. This course examines issues in international human rights law and policy and focuses on the law, history, and cultures of Chile and Argentina in relationship to these issues. During lectures by distinguished professors, judges, and human rights advocates, students are introduced to comparative constitutionalism, the transition to democracy and reconciliation, rights of indigenous peoples, and the judicial systems of each country. In addition to classroom lectures, students will visit Constitutional, Supreme, and criminal courts; meet with human rights organizations; and visit government institutions such as the Chilean Congress. In addition, Professor Levinson will teach Comparative Gender Equality.

The Cambridge Program begins with the course Legal London taught by Professor Gaffney. This course provides a basic introduction to the process of lawmaking in Parliamentary government and the adjudication of civil and criminal cases in England, both at the trial and appellate levels.

The course includes guest lectures and visits to important legal and government institutions. After exploring the legal and cultural offerings of London for a week, students then spend four weeks in Cambridge. In summer 2013, Professor Wright will teach International Financial Regulation, and Professor Moskowitz will teach Comparative Family Law.

If you are interested in either program, please attend an upcoming information session or contact Julie Foster, Director of International and Graduate Programs, with your questions.

Dean Adams can be reached at mark.adams@valpo.edu
WASEEMA ALI
Undergraduate school: Purdue University-Indianapolis
Hometown: Skokie, IL
State Bar you are taking: IL/IN
If you could do this all over again, would you? Probably not
Favorite memory of Valpo? Moot Court! (IMC and Moot Court)
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Administrative Law & Ethics
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Working as an Assistant Attorney in Wisconsin
If you could do this all over again, would you? Absolutely! But as a part-time student I would have found a faster way to do it. 4 and 1/2 years is a long time in school!
Favorite memory of Valpo? I have lots of good memories from the 4 and 1/2 years... but I think graduation day will be the best memory!
What class do you think has been the most valuable? The trio of Administrative Law Classes (Admin Law, Environmental Law, and Immigration Law) will prove the most valuable although most of the classes I took will have value at some point.
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Running a golf course in the summer and practicing law in the winters.
What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? Honestly, they do not know anything about me because I have struggled making good relationships.

JEFFERY JONES
Undergraduate school: Indiana Institute of Technology (Indiana Tech)
Hometown: Currently, Warsaw, IN
State Bar you are taking: Indiana
If you could do this all over again, would you? Definitely!
Favorite memory of Valpo? Professor Berner coming to class dressed as an old lady
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Remedies with Prof Lind
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Working as an attorney in Warsaw, IN
What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? I was born and raised in California and miss In-N-Out!

SAHAR MAJEED
Undergraduate School: Law School at Baghdad University
Hometown: Iraq, Baghdad
State Bar you are taking: Indiana
If you could do this all over again, would you? Yes, sure I would do it.
Favorite memory of Valpo? Making a new relationship with many international students and with older people from America.
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Criminal law
What do you see yourself doing in five years? I have done many things, such as graduate from law school in my country and having a job in my school, and get married and have children then get scholarship from my county. I am here for my LL.M. and ready to graduate. What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? Honestly, they do not know anything about me because I have struggled making good relationships.

RICK AMRHEIN
Undergraduate school: Eastern Illinois University (additional graduate schools include: Baylor University & Rutgers University)
Hometown: Valparaiso, IN
State Bar you are taking: Indiana
If you could do this all over again, would you? Depends on the job I have at the time.
Favorite memory of Valpo? The first time I appeared before a judge in court.
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Criminal Clinic
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Assisting individuals with disabilities on a pro bono basis.
What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? Law will be my fourth career.

LORI JAMES
Undergraduate school: Saint Joseph’s College
Hometown: Cutler, IN
State Bar you are taking: Indiana
If you could do this all over again, would you? Yes, I have always wanted to be a lawyer!
Favorite memory of Valpo? Pizza Friday
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Civil Clinic
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Hopefully working in a small town doing general practice in a small firm.
What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? I love to pole-vault.

WILLIAM (BILL) SCHALLIOI
Undergraduate school: The Purdue University-West Lafayette
Hometown: Mishawaka, IN
State Bar you are taking: Indiana Bar
If you could do this all over again, would you? Absolutely! But as a part-time student I would have found a faster way to do it. 4 and 1/2 years is a long time in school!
Favorite memory of Valpo? I have lots of good memories from the 4 and 1/2 years... but I think graduation day will be the best memory!
What class do you think has been the most valuable? The trio of Administrative Law Classes (Admin Law, Environmental Law, and Immigration Law) will prove the most valuable although most of the classes I took will have value at some point.
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Running a golf course in the summer and practicing law in the winters.
What is one thing your classmates don't know about you? Before Law School I worked as a Union Carpenter.

SARAH ALI
Undergraduate school: University of Illinois at Chicago
Hometown: Steger, IL
State Bar you are taking: Illinois
If you could do this all over again, would you? Yes, I think graduation was the best memory.
Favorite memory of Valpo? The whole reason I came to law school was because of the line from the cartoon movie Madagascar - Alex the Lion asks Mellman the Giraffe what he will do next and he replies “Maybe I should go to law school.”

MEGAN BARBARA
Undergraduate school: University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Hometown: Kaukauna, WI
State Bar you are taking: Illinois
If you could do this all over again, would you? Yes. I have really enjoyed law school, mostly because I am a huge nerd and bookworm.
What class do you think has been the most valuable? Evidence. But only with Vandycock. Only the nuts and bolts and funny stories to coincide with each rule.
What do you see yourself doing in five years? Working as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Wisconsin
What is one thing your classmates don’t know about you? I have a cousin with the exact same birthday as me. Well, technically I stole his birthday. There were no other cousins born in between us either.

OTHER DECEMBER 2012 LAW GRADUATES NOT LISTED:

LUAY ALKADI
RICHARD ALKADI
NADIA CHIVERS
YUE LI
NAJMADDA MUBHAMAD
HEMIN QADIR
JOSHUA RINGER
ANNE TENDER

Class of 2012
Hold: The time this issue hits the stands, final exams for my courses, here are two tips that helped me through law school:

1. Plan Out Your Response. Given the time crunch, it may be tempting to begin writing immediately. However, taking the time to read the question carefully, and then planning and outlining your response is usually time well-spent. This approach will help you organize your thoughts, spot and address all the issues, and draft clear, concise answers.

2. Remember CREAC or IRAC. The “Conclusion, Rule, Explanation, Application, Conclusion” or “Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion” formulas are usually the most effective approaches. While spotting the issues is important, you should state the rule of law, explain the rule, apply it to the specific fact pattern presented and then analyze and resolve each issue. Of course, you must include a conclusion summarizing each argument and explaining how you arrived at your conclusion. If there is no clear answer, you may want to highlight several alternative conclusions and explain why each conclusion is logical.

Wise Words from Professor Susan Stuart:

I teach legal writing, remedies, and trusts & estates.

1. On multiple-choice exams, you often don’t have a “right” answer option, just a “best” answer option, but read all the options before you choose.

2. On essay exams, identify the issues then write a list of legal principles on the cover of your bluebook to tick off. Sometimes those principles will help you spot new issues to address.

Wise Words from Professor Robert Blumginst:

I teach torts, environmental law, and national security.

1. Keep the big picture in mind.
2. Don’t pull all-nighters
3. Read the questions carefully and answers carefully!

Networking Tips and Strategies... continued from page 2

“Have you been active in the organization?” or “What have you heard about the speakers?”

- Make a graceful exit. There is always a point where the conversation loses steam, so have your exit line prepared. Wait until YOU have finished making a comment, then follow by extending your hand and saying something similar to:
  - It was so nice meeting you, Bob. I’d love to continue our conversation another time. Do you have any business cards on you? (offer your card)
  - Thanks for all of your advice. It was really great speaking with you, and I’d love to follow up. Exchange cards.
  - Nice chatting with you, Lisa. I’m going to get something to eat, but I’d love to stay in touch. Exchange cards.

- After the Event:
  - Write useful information on the back of the business cards collected, i.e., event, date, and something about your conversation to trigger your memory.

Informational Interviewing

- An informational interview is an informal meeting arranged in advance for the purpose of seeking advice from an experienced professional about a specific career path.
- You can generate informational interviews through networking, but informational interviewing can also create more networking leads.
- Make initial contact via U.S. Mail (recommended) or via e-mail, not by phone.
- Do not confuse a letter requesting an informational meeting with a cover letter.
  - Include the following in the letter:
    - Who you are.
    - How you got their name (perhaps you met them at an event, someone referred you to them, you researched them online, or you saw a news article about them).
    - The purpose of the letter – remember, the purpose is to seek information, not to land a job.
    - Meeting Time/Place – always suggest their office first, but be flexible. Try not to take up more than 30 minutes of their time unless they allow otherwise. It’s fine if they would rather meet for coffee or lunch, but be prepared to pay and don’t expect them to be generous just because you are a student.

- Before the meeting, prepare questions in advance:
  - What motivated you to become a family law attorney?
  - How did you obtain your first job? Can you describe your career path?
  - What do you think is the best advice you’ve received from a professor?
  - What advice would you have for someone trying to break into the field of your specialization?
  - What advice would you offer to a first-year law student?

- After the meeting, thank them and take notes:
  - Keep a networking notebook/log.
  - Maintain a networking notebook/log.
  - After meeting someone at an event, consider a friendly e-mail to let them know how much you enjoyed meeting them.
  - Always send a thank you note after an informational interview or to anyone who refers you to a potential job lead.
  - Stay connected by apprising people of your status from time to time.
  - Develop strong relationships with your classmates during school and stay in touch after graduation.

- Become a member of the Official Valparaiso Law Alumni Group on LinkedIn.

Victoria Ryan can be reached at victoria.ryan@valpo.edu

Wise Words from Professor Rebecca Huss:

I teach business associations, and mergers & acquisitions.

In my opinion, there is no substitute for daily preparation but if you are not where you want to be on the front I would recommend the following for study tips. Review (and take as if it was an exam) old exams on reserve. Try to put the material covered in the same type of logical order. Don’t become overwhelmed with the material - break it down into sections and take it step by step. Try to be healthy during exam period - get enough sleep if possible.

After the exam don’t talk with your classmates regarding coverage - it will probably just freak you out. Take a breath and focus on the next one.

After you receive your grades, if they are not what you expected, don’t get discouraged. Use a disappointing grade as an opportunity. Next semester review the exam and talk with the professor if you are having difficulty figuring out where you went wrong. If you find out that you consistently are weak in one area of test taking (e.g. multiple choice or essay) work on strategies to improve. Hit the ground running next semester - there is no substitute for daily preparation. Good luck!

Michelle is a 2L and can be reached at vestiforum@gmail.com
By: Richard Stith  • Professor of Law

Good people are often mystified at the offense taken by many Christians to the salutation “Happy Holidays!” After all, they reason, the word “holidays” includes everyone, instead of excluding anyone, so what’s the problem?

My short response would be that, to the ears of many of us, “Happy Holidays” actually silences all faiths rather than welcoming any of them. In order to explain my point, let’s go back and see what the problem was with “Merry Christmas,” our culture’s traditional December greeting.

As far back as I can remember, Christmas was named and celebrated by people of varied faiths and of no faith at all. No doubt many just liked the bright lights or the tradition of giving associated with Christmas, but some surely recognized the irreplaceable gift of Christmas itself to world civilization, in terms not only of art and music but of the radical dignity of the humblest birth.

Unfortunately, some contemporary cultural engineers think that Christmas is tainted by its religious origin and that the best or only way to accommodate the many religions found in today’s America is to reduce them all to their lowest common elements. Since every religion celebrates its religious origin and that the best or only way to accommodate the many religions found in today’s multicultural world, we can give one another much more than any other holiday.

As a Christian about to marry a Hindu, she is also comfortable wishing her in-laws-to-be a “Happy Diwali.” Nor does she take offense when in their exuberance they wish her a “Happy Diwali.” In a multicultural world, we can give one another much joy by sharing our feasts.

By contrast, just repeating “Happy Holidays” is an empty and boring way to live together. It’s size-fits-all noncultural expression. In rightly rejecting domination by one religion, it rejects the content of all religions. That’s why “Happy Holidays” hurts the feelings of many Christians, while “Happy Diwali” (or “Happy Hanukkah” or “Happy Eid”) does not. “Happy Diwali” gives, while “Happy Holidays” takes away.

Those who have trouble seeing this point might consider how many of us would feel irked if there were pressure to substitute “Happy Holiday” for “Happy Valentine’s Day,” on the ground that St. Valentine was a Christian. Wouldn’t that change be felt widely to be a loss, a flattening? People might even gradually become less likely to give candy or flowers; after all, we don’t do so to commemorate most of what we call “holidays.”

Indeed, the merchants who switch to “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas” may be cutting their own throats. Christmas calls for the giving of presents far more than any other holiday. Once we have been trained not to think about “Christmas” presents anymore, our felt need to purchase them may slowly disappear.

Prof. Stith can be reached at richard.stith@gmail.com
The results of the election, which concluded a month ago, pleased slightly over half of the voters, and disappointed slightly under half of the voters. That's law school takeaways is that despite so much money spent, and despite the massive problems facing the country, nothing substantive changed at the national level. The Democrats retained the White House, they slightly increased their lead in the Senate and the Republicans maintained control of the House.

The biggest surprise, in my opinion, is how well the Democrats did in the Senate. They won nearly every competitive seat, and prevailed in several states which should have been shoe-ins for the Republican running, such as the races in Indiana, Missouri, and North Dakota. This is even better for them when you consider that they had to defend more than twice as many seats this year than Republicans (which is due to the Democrats' strong showing in 2006).

Aside from my disappointment at the overall results, the next largest disappointment is how small and petty the election seemed. When one considers the problems with the US economy, the growing national debt, and unstable Middle East, it was very disheartening to see the campaign fighting over issues such as free birth control, tax returns, and smears over Romney's stewardship at Bain Capital. It reinforces the conventional political wisdom that negative campaigning works at precisely the wrong time in our history. That is not to excuse Mitt Romney from not engaging the President more forcefully and specifically on the issues, to chide the President for pandering so close to the election, and to make his case why he would be a better President for the entire country (instead of telling rich donors that President Obama has 47% of the vote locked up).

As is typical in the aftermath of an election, both sides are prone to overexaggeration. Some Democrats are already crowing that the Republican party is dead, while some Republicans are responding that the President does not have a mandate. Both ideas have kernel of truths to them, however. Mitt Romney got walloped by the President with the youngest voters, blacks, Hispanics, single women and those with the least income. To be competitive in the future, the Republican candidate cannot receive only 1/4 of the Hispanic vote, lose younger voters by 30 percent, and lose black voters by more than 90 percent. There are three reasons for Republicans to have hope.

First, because they received such a low percentage from those groups, there is a lot of room to grow, and small gains will have an outsized impact because of how dearly the Democrats rely on those voters (for instance, if the next Republican candidate could split the black vote at 15-80, or cut the Democrats' lead among young voters in half, they would greatly improve their chances of winning). Second, they have a very strong bench of qualified and charismatic candidates that have the potential to be much more effective than Mitt Romney in communicating their ideas and identifying with voters, such as Marco Rubio, Chris Christie, Susana Martinez, Bobby Jindal and even Jeb Bush. On the Democrats' side the only big name that jumps out is Hillary Clinton. Finally, it is too soon to tell whether or not the coalition that elected Barack Obama twice is built around the person or the party. While turnout was lower this year than it was in the past Presidential election, it affected the Democrats more strongly than Republicans.

Just because the Republicans have reasons to hope does not mean that President Obama lacks a mandate. He was clearly the winner on November 6th, winning every state he won four years ago with the exception of Indiana and South Carolina. His win combined with the Democrats expanding their lead in the Senate means that the Affordable Care Act is set in stone. Elsewhere, it gives him leverage in tax and immigration reform. He has made no secret of his desire to raise income taxes on the top bracket, and he can make a credible argument that his re-election in such a dismal economic climate means that he has the public support to do it.

On the other hand, President Obama is one of the only incumbents to be re-elected by a smaller popular and electoral college vote margin in election history, and he might not have the political capital to pass another stimulus-type bill. The continuing Federal policy of quantitative easing undermines arguments that the economy is really recovering and will make a large debt-financed expenditure a hard sell to the cash-strapped public.

The President now will have eight years to “fundamentally transform America,” as he said during the 2008 campaign. I hope that the changes that are brought are mostly for the better.

Steven is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

1L FIRST SEMESTER: MY THOUGHTS

After that, those of us in Professor Carter's class had to prepare for his mid-term, which was dubbed "There were required readings for Orientation!" by him as "The Party." Yes, it was a party all right. Once we "partied," we had to complete our second office memo and our final research projects. Then came the Legal Research final exam. Oh, yes, we got a Thanksgiving break after all of that... only to have to start doing the major preparations for final exams.

There were also so many memories of the class sessions themselves, Professor Carter's Criminal Law class, for example, had so many unforgettable discussions take place. Plus, who else would put on a Halloween skit for the entire class period?! Oh, and let us take a shot of Black Velvet to demonstrate the intoxication defense?! Then, there is Professor Knowles' Civil Procedure class. He provided us with so much information inside and outside of class. Not to mention the unforgettable class session in September, in which some students put on different skits of the landmark personal jurisdiction case Pennoyer v. Neff. And then there is Professor Morris' Contracts class, in which lessons were always provided with dry wit. Professor Cleveland's Legal Writing class is also one worthy of mention. His easy-going style of teaching and demonstrating what he required a well-written legal document, was a tremendous benefit to everyone in his class. Then, there is Legal Research, which sure kept us on our toes and in the library quite often!

What to say about my first semester of 1L year? It was certainly full of work, challenges, and memories. But now it's time to study, take those exams, and enjoy that one month of Christmas Break!

Paul is a 1L and can be reached at vusforum@gmail.com
ADVICE AND ADVANTAGES OF ATTENDING THE ABA-LSD 2012 FALL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BY: KATHERINE A. WALKER • STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, October 20, 2012, I had the opportunity to attend the American Bar Association Law Student Division’s 2012 Fall Leadership Summit in Fort Worth, Texas. One of the greatest aspects of this summit was the access the law students were given to all of the legal professionals speaking or attending this event. Among the great amount of information given to the law students at the Fall Leadership Summit, a few pieces of advice were particularly memorable. The first was each legal professional stated that each law student should consider the following two questions: 1) What type of employment environment/setting would you like to work in? and 2) Who do you want your client to be? It was recommended that if you could readily answer these questions, then you would be able to better target the regions, markets and employment opportunities you should use to obtain your career goals.

We were also informed that a majority of the practical skills needed within the legal profession are learned outside of law school. Based on this advice, we were further advised that you “on the job” experience we obtained during law school would be beneficial when we began to apply for employment after graduation. The final piece of advice that resonated throughout the entire conference was the great emphasis placed on maintaining your personal reputation as a law student. Frequently, the legal professionals reminded us that, even as law students, the best business strategy anyone can have was to maintain and be known for your “good reputation.” These professionals emphasized that law school is the place where you meet and interact with your future colleagues and if you are able to maintain a good reputation with these individuals, then that would open many doors for you at a later date.

Another helpful session at the 2012 Fall Leadership Summit was the small informational break-out on “How to Cope with Student Debt.” As a 3L nearing graduation, this session was reassuring and helpful in understanding the different types and implications of my upcoming student loans and their repayments. This session was aimed at informing law students in attendance about the realities of student debt, dispelling myths regarding student loans, and also providing helpful strategies to stay on top of your debt.

First, we were informed that, currently, the national student loan debt is greater than the nation’s credit card debt. Due to this startling statistics, several of the ABA-LSD governors, including our school’s own 7th Circuit Governor Katrina Castillo, worked rigorously on the 2013 Work-A-Day project focused on “Attacking America’s Debt: Take Control of Student Loans.” This helpful information packet and toolkit provide progressive steps to help students manage their own debt. These 10 Tips for Debt Repayment include: 1) Stop increasing your debt; 2) Record your spending; 3) Categorize your spending; 4) Make a budget based on your spending record; 5) Determine your debt fund amount; 6) Determine how much you owe, to whom, and on what terms; 7) Pay it off; 8) Continue with the process until you eliminate your debt; 9) Don’t give up! and 10) Search additional resources if you are struggling with your debt. For further information regarding for more advice on how to deal with your student loan debt, visit the Work-A-Day webpage at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_students.html.

Overall, the 2012 Fall Leadership Summit hosted by the American Bar Association Law Student Division was a successful event that provided ample resources and advice to all law students in attendance, from those in the 1L to the 3L classes. If anyone has any questions regarding the information I provided, please feel free to contact myself at katherine.walker@valpo.edu or visit the American Bar Association Law Student Division homepage for further information.

Katherine is a 3L and can be reached at viruslforum@gmail.com

LAW ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT - FT. WAYNE, IN

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, Valparaiso Law alumni, faculty, students and friends came together for a wonderful evening reception of drinks, food, conversation and connections. We appreciate all who attended and look forward to seeing you and many more at the next alumni event. Check out pictures from the evening below and feel welcome to join us for the next alumni reception on December 6 in Chicago, IL. Please check the alumni page for more photos from the reception.

For more information on Alumni Events please contact Vanessa Verner at 219-465-7802 or vanessa.verner@valpo.edu.

Thank You!

valpo.edu/law/careers/alumni
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aw school is a total institution. It takes
hold of wide-eyed 1Ls, cuts them off from
the rest of the world, tears down their every
assumption, then rebuilds them in its own image.
Professors pick and prod at their students’ brains,
reworking the wiring and removing the baseline
beliefs, with the ultimate goal of reorienting them
to “think like lawyers.” This is an acceptable –
and perhaps necessary – process, but it poses a
particular problem for the Christian student. So
much of what the lawyer is expected to think, the
Christian is expected to shun: The Christian is called
to “seeking justice with the love of God.” The
Christian is expected to shun: The lawyer is expected
to think, the lawyer has a financial incentive to
favor the strong; the Christian is called
how to defend a church once in court. The job of
the lawyer, he explained, is to keep churches out
from court in the first place. This proactive approach
not only avoids conflict, but also necessarily
entails protection society’s weakest members - the
children. According to Mr. Hammar’s research,
the number one reason churches find themselves
embroiled in litigation today is sexual abuse of
minors. The church lawyer can play a vital role in
preventing such unnecessary pain by preemptively
recommending policies to ensure that child abusers
do not find themselves in positions of confidence
in the first place. Mr. Hammar recommended,
among other things, performing criminal reference
checks on all employees who will be in contact
with children, and instituting a “two-adult” rule,
whereby no church employee can be left alone
with a child unless there is another adult present.

Ethical issues were also discussed at length
during the conference’s CLEs. One issue of
interest to me was raised during a session entitled,
“Christians in the Criminal Practice.” One of the
attendees posed an enduring ethical question to
defense attorney Paul Baertschi: How can a lawyer
defend a client in a criminal proceeding if he
suspects that the client, in all likelihood, committed
the act he’s accused of? Mr. Baertschi’s answer
was instructive. A legal plea of “not

is high evidentiary burden. The criminal defense
attorney thus is not lying when he enters a plea of
“not guilty” on behalf of a questionable client. He
is proclaiming a truth that is fundamental to our
democracy: that in order to remove something so
precious a citizen’s liberty, the government must
first present evidence so strong as to remove all
reasonable doubt of his guilt.

Of course, the conference’s CLEs and breakout
sessions were not the only meaningful experiences.
The time spent with lawyers and fellow law
students was of equal importance. One lawyer of
particular note whom I met at the conference was
Mr. Dave Allen – the founder of the Valparaiso
student chapter of the Christian Legal Society.
Mr. Allen was kind enough to take me and the
other two Valparaiso students at the conference
out to dinner. I was able to discuss with him his own
career path – which has alternated between
law and business – and he was able to
offer advice to me as I prepare
to graduate and find my place in the job market.

Since entering law school, I have spent
many a night staring at the ceiling and wondering whether the
duties of a legal career will interfere
with my duties to the God who
commands selflessness. I would be
lying if I said that the conference
removed all doubt from my mind,
but the one thing it did do was give
me hope. Through the conference’s
lectures, my interactions with
Christian attorneys, and late night
conversations with fellow students, I was able see how a law degree
can be used to prevent conflict rather than exacerbate it, to serve the weak
rather than overlook them, and
to proclaim the truth rather than hide it. I came
away with the impression that perhaps thinking
like a lawyer and living like a Christian aren’t as
contradictory as they superficially seem.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend
the conference. It’s easy to lose sight of the purpose
of a legal education when going through the meat
grinder of law school. If Valparaiso University
School of Law is committed to the idea that the
legal profession can be purposeful – that law is a
calling, rather than just a job – then I recommend
continued funding for students who wish to attend
the annual CLS conference in the future.

Austin is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

By: C. AUSTIN ROVENSTINE • VICE PRESIDENT, CLS

PULSE

Dec 4
• Final Examinations Begin

Dec 6
• Alumni Reception (current students invited) 5:30-7:30p/Sidley Austin LLP (Chicago)

Dec 9
• December Commencement 2:30 p/Chapel of the Resurrection

Dec 14
• Final Examinations End

Jan 9
• Spring Semester Begins

Jan 14
• Kimbrough Bar Association Meeting and Reception 6:15- 8:00p/Benson and Atrium

Jan 16
• 1L Career Planning Open House 10a-12:30/ CPC Suite

Jan 21
• Martin Luther King Commemoration

Jan 31
• 3L Career Planning Open House 10a-12:30/ CPC Suite

Do you want your upcoming event to appear in the Pulse? Submit events for the February edition to vuslforum@gmail.com by January 21, 2012.
LSA STUDENTS ATTEND THE NATIONAL LATINO/A LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

BY: CECILIA LOPEZ  •  STAFF WRITER

This year’s National Latino/a Law Student Association Conference was held at UCLA law school in Los Angeles, California. During this time, LLSA board members engaged in advocacy, career, and education panels. The panels provided LLSA e-board members with the opportunity to unite various sectors of the legal profession through workshops, plenary sessions, community service opportunities, and cultural festivities. Further, executive board members had the privilege and opportunity to meet hundreds of law school students, professors, practitioners, judges, speakers, and prominent community leaders from across the country.

Attending the annual meeting has also proven to be crucial in maintaining Valparaiso Law School involved in the National Latino/a Law Student Association. For the second consecutive year, Valparaiso Law School will continue to be represented on the national level. Recently, I was elected as Director of Public Relations, proudly representing both NLLSA and Valparaiso LLSA. This opportunity not only affords Valpo law a prominent position within the national organization, but also allows LLSA to bring back valuable information regarding contemporary issues affecting the Latino legal community. As part of the national board, elected officials directly impact decisions made at the national level.

The national conference is customized toward providing careful training sessions that expose, and highlight the advantages and history of Latinos in the legal field. Specifically, the panel on emerging trends of Latino resegregation in secondary and higher education examined the important 1940’s Ninth Circuit case, Mendez v. Westminster, which preceded the famous Brown v. Board of Education. In Mendez, the Court held that segregation of Mexican and Mexican-American students into separate “Mexican schools” was unconstitutional. That panel concluded with Sylvia Mendez, one of the plaintiffs in that case. Ms. Mendez recounted her experience as a child in the Southern California town, and the connection between her case and Brown. This panel not only exposed the hardships that Latinos faced during that time, but also helped us understand the importance of education by demonstrating what our Latino community has achieved. Further, the panel’s discussion on Fisher v. Texas reveals the continued struggle with education. History has shown that the need for a desegregated school system is essential in the advancement of educational opportunities for underrepresented individuals. A study of Latino education has shown that, for every 100 Latino elementary school students only eight will graduate with a bachelor’s degree and only one will graduate with a doctoral degree. In today’s world, it is nearly essential to obtain at least a bachelor’s degree in order to obtain a meaningful career and achieve a sense of success; approximately only 8% of Latino student’s reach this level, showing that there is still much work to be done in order to provide more educational opportunities to Latino students.

Moreover, the conference focuses on expanding opportunities to Latinos in the legal field, while also recognizing the growing Latino network across the country. The panel on how Latinos have used legal tools to fight anti-immigration discrimination in education highlighted the existence of a population of Latinos that have been able to overcome not only discrimination, but have found legal ways of promoting their advancement in the education system. The panel discussed the significance of President Obama’s Executive Order deferring deportation for DREAM eligible individuals. The panelist included Victor Viramontes, the National Senior Counsel at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

The petitioners argued on behalf on the government. J.R. Wydra began the competition and argued that New Union specialty plate messages properly constituted government speech. Brittany Boatman explored the second issue and argued that if the license plates are not government speech then they are part of a limited public forum and that the government was viewpoint neutral when denying Ms. Stone’s application.

Thompson and Rowe followed the respondents, and Thompson began the argument for the winning team. She answered why the specialty license plate program constituted private speech. Rowe completed the respondents’ argument and answered why the government engaged in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment when the government denied their client’s specialty license plate application.

Neither of the four participants made it far past their opening statements before Judge Easterbrook bluntly evaluated their arguments and posed perplexing hypotheticals. Judge LaRue and Judge DeGuilio also challenged the participants, but tended to ask leading questions, whereas Judge Easterbrook’s intimidation extended to the spectators, where murmers and gasps trickled throughout the audience during the arguments.

One such moment occurred five minutes into Thompson’s argument. Judge Easterbrook presented a hypothetical using a commemorative James Madison silver dollar that he brought with him. He asked whether she thought the coin was government or private speech. “The difficulty I see for you,” Judge Easterbrook said to Thompson after distinguishing the coin from her argument, “is no one is compelled or prohibited to display these license plates, so I don’t see how you get the hybrid speech situation here.

However, Judge Easterbrook wasn’t strictly stern throughout the argument. He interspersed humor amid his challenging questions. During Brittany Boatman’s claim, she mentioned other specialty license plates that the government approved, such as organ donor plates. “Oh, of course getting in a car gives them a chance to participate in the organ donor program,” Judge Easterbrook said.

After the competition, Thompson said there was “no way of knowing he would use props,” like when Judge Easterbrook used the coin.

Each of the members on moot court worked vigorously in preparation for their oral arguments but “no amount of forewarning could really prepare anyone to argue before Judge Easterbrook,” said Wydra.

Oral arguments are no simple task. And each of the finalists prepared for moot court while balancing their workloads with other priorities, such as with law review, legal writing TA, and externships. The key to each participant’s success pooled into one factor, a schedule. Each finalist said they made a prearranged schedule, set out their priorities, and accomplished their deadlines.

After the competition concluded, the judges provided feedback, which included admiring the finalist’s hard work. “This is my first trip to Valparaiso and I am so very impressed,” said Judge LaRue. She also mentioned that when she argued her first case in front of the Seventh Circuit, Judge Easterbrook was on her panel. “I feel you,” Judge LaRue said to the participants, as the room laughed.

Judge DeGuilio said he feels oral arguments are the most challenging part of an attorney’s job because you have to predict all likely arguments. “Each of you, I was very impressed with the way you maintained your composure. That’s sometimes half the battle,” said Judge DeGuilio.

Judge Easterbrook commented on the importance of oral advocacy because it allows each advocate to present clarify or further arguments in their briefs. Oral advocacy is “an art form much more than it is a science,” said Judge Easterbrook. Despite the pressure, “each of our four advocates kept their cool. They engaged in a conversation... and they deserve the praise of all the members of the bench for this.

Mark is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to contact LLSA for further information on the NLLSA conference.

Cecilia Lopez – President
Maria Blumenfeld – Vice-President
Aaron Lopez – Treasurer
Anna Aguilar – Secretary
Andrew Ramirez – Chair of Student Affairs

Cecilia is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com
I gave a lot of thought to what I wanted to write about this month. I actually wrote an entire article about money, but it is Christmas and it occurred to me that I should write about what it is we are all thinking about at this time of year: PRESENTS. Okay, so I am kidding, obviously.

I think what I love most about the holiday season is that it is always when I take time to reflect on how lucky I am to have my amazing family. I think of: ice skating at Skate on State with my siblings (before Chicago got all fancy and moved it to Millennium Park); Midnight Masses where my Dad and Uncle would fall asleep (and literally snore); watching someone’s eyes light up when you get them that absolutely perfect present, as the Christmas tree lights twinkled and the fire crackled, and the fights--- oh the fights

My point? The thing about family is that the good that comes from family. When it comes to family, no matter the fight, no matter how big the rift, no matter how badly you mess up Christmas, you are always going to be family, and that is a bond that will stand the test of any fight. No matter where you are, no matter what you need, I will always be there for you. Bar nothing.

I truly believe that and know it to be true of my siblings and parents. I can call any of them and know that no matter what I need, they will do their very best to be there for me. There is no Christmas present, no job offer (for those of you graduating like me), no vacation, no amount of money that can compete with the happiness and love that comes from knowing that your family will always have your back. So, this month, because it is Christmas, and because it can be easy to forget sometimes how important family is, remember to cherish your relationship with your family and never forget how truly blessed you are to have them, and they to have you! Merry Christmas!

Sidenote: In case you were wondering: The Ninja Turtles. The Ninja Turtles would absolutely win.

Ashley is a 3L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com

Attention Writers!
The FORUM wants you!
e-mail: vuslforum@gmail.com
STUDENT PROFILES

Joel McClellan - 3L

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN and raised in Richmond, VA
Undergrad School: Virginia Tech. GO HOKIES!
Undergrad Major: BS in Finance

Where are you from and how big is your family?
I was born in Indianapolis, IN and raised in Richmond, VA. I come from a larger family consisting of 2 brothers and 3 sisters. (Julie, Jason, Joni, me (Joel), John, and Joanna). In addition, I have 3 nieces and 3 nephews.

In your opinion, what is your favorite movie that you believe others should make an effort to see? What are your reasons?
Shawshank Redemption because it teaches you to have a positive outlook on life and to always make the best of a bad situation. A close second would be Dumb and Dumber because no matter what type of mood you are in, it will make you laugh out loud.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?
I have enjoyed taking classes with Prof. Wright because he is personable, approachable and genuinely cares about his students. He also brings a lot of real-life experiences to the classroom. Even though he is a Cowboys fan, he means well. Additionally, Prof. Trujillo is another professor I respect. He is very passionate about the subjects he teaches and I love his sense of humor.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso University Law School, what would it be?
I would like the administration to create set tracks that students could take based on their desired practice area. This would allow for students to take all the classes he or she is most interested in and the registrar's office could make sure there are no scheduling conflicts.

When did you first realize you wanted to attend law school?
One day I thought of who I admired most and looked up to and realized they were attorneys. I realized at that point I wanted to attend law school.

James Willyard - 2L

Hometown: New Castle, IN
Undergrad School: Ball State University
Undergrad Major: I majored in Political Science, with a minor in History

Where are you from and how big is your family?
My hometown is New Castle, IN. My family is small: just me, my parents, and our two dogs. But, I have several aunts, uncles, and cousins that live near Valpo and back home.

In your opinion, what television show is the best on TV right now? What are your reasons?
I like Suits on USA. It's completely unrealistic, but it involves aspects of the law that I'm studying, so it makes sense. I also like Glee on FOX. The show has good music and performances, and the characters are so realistic, so you become invested in their situations, even though they aren't real people.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?
Prof. Nuechterlein is my favorite professor here at Valpo. She is so knowledgeable about writing and appellate advocacy. She always makes her students feel confident in their abilities and also has great stories from her appellate advocacy advocacy days.

Garrett Lewis - 1L

Hometown: Granger, Indiana
Undergrad School: Purdue University of West Lafayette. BOILER UP!
Undergrad Major: BS in Management and Marketing

Where are you from and how big is your family?
I live in Granger, Indiana and I have a normal sized family! But more importantly, I have a great relationship with everyone in my family, which I am always thankful for.

In your opinion, what is your favorite movie that you believe others should make an effort to see? What are your reasons?
Everyone should make an effort to see Fight Club at least once in their lives. Not only is it an epic fighting flick, but it also really gets you thinking about who you are, who you're trying to be and what strong influences society has on individual people.

Which professor at Valparaiso Law is your favorite? What are some of the qualities that make him/her a great professor?
I really respect Professor Lind because she is so experienced in her field (as all professors here are), and she also gives me the most "human" sort of friendly vibe. You can talk to her about literally anything, even if it has nothing to do with school or the law. With how she teaches us, it almost feels like she is learning from us just as much as we are from her, which is really hard to find in a teacher or professor.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso University Law School, what would it be?
I would definitely change the tables on the first and second floors at the library. The tables downstairs are so nice and look professional; the tables on the first and second floors have deep scratches and look unprofessional. We should change those tables and chairs and make the entire library look professional.

What is your dream job?
I would love to work with families and children. I think that someone always needs to look out for children, especially when family issues are involved. I also want to help families with anything they need, whether it be wills, divorces, etc.

If you could change one thing about Valparaiso University Law School, what would it be?
I think that a few changes to the library would be awesome. A few more computer stations would be nice, and I think there needs to be some measure taken to prevent books from being "misplaced" for unknown periods of time. Not the easiest changes to make, but I think they are worth looking into for the sake of all students.

When did you first realize you wanted to attend law school?
I have always found great purpose in helping others, and I think that the speeches, research projects, and debates from my high school classes (on top of my law internship experience) have simply solidified my interests in the legal field.