Valparaiso Law School bids farewell to its December graduates, as they embark on their journey as new attorneys.

The commencement ceremony is on Sunday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Resurrection.


Meet some of your graduating class on page 6.
By: Benjamin Fink • Staff Writer

NASA is testing its first life science experiment in deep space. The space administration recently announced plans to start gardening on the moon, intending to grow cress, turnips, and basil. Plants will be grown in canisters that provide seeds with enough air, water, and nutrients for the seeds to germinate and grow.

Whether this experiment is successful depends on several variables. The vegetables will need to survive the surface temperatures on the moon, which can vary from 150° to -150° Fahrenheit. They will have to adapt to the moon’s gravity, which is 1/6th that of the Earth.

The plants will also have to survive in the harsh radiation of deep space. The canisters containing the seeds will be launched in 2015. This container will have internal cameras attached to monitor the plant’s progress. After 14 days, scientists will know whether the plants can sprout in the moon’s gravity and radiation environment.

Survival to 60 days will show that the plants can reproduce on the moon, and after 180 days, the effects of the radiation on subsequent plants will be demonstrated.

If these plants can grow and thrive in a deep-space environment, then the hopes of long-term human presence on the moon, and even Mars, increases dramatically. This experiment is the first step towards human inhabitation on the moon, which many have dismissed as a dream that wouldn’t be realized in their lifetime. For more information on this experiment, see http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/cct/office/cif/2013/lunar_plant.html

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

Law Student Misconduct, 1893 Edition

By: Samuel Henderson • Staff Writer

September 23, 1893, was one of the more storied afternoons in the history of Valpo Law (then the Northern Indiana Law School). At 3:30 PM, two masked bandits armed with revolvers burst into the office of the Northern Indiana Normal School, demanding that the secretaries open the safe.

The robbers were Claire and Frank Robinson, sons of a physician in Versailles, Indiana. Frank was enrolled in Valpo Law at the time, and Claire was planning to enroll (perhaps once he had obtained enough money). The brothers planned to flee on bicycles and dispose of their disguises at a safe distance, so that they could continue their studies at the law school with no suspicion.

Secretary Emma Jones, it seems, was in no mood to be robbed that day. One of the brothers unwisely fired a shot to scare her; she struck him in response, and the noise quickly alerted the rest of the campus. Without having even laid eyes on the money they sought, the brothers were obliged to flee on foot, pursued down the railroad tracks by a mob of 500 students. The students hurled stones at the robbers, who fired back with their revolvers.

As fate would have it, a peach farmer Nathan Howe was just then traveling down the road to town, atop his load of peaches. When he found himself being shot at, he grabbed his rifle and fired back, killing Frank Robinson instantly. A second shot left Claire grievously injured as well, and the race was over. Although defended by one of the region’s most prominent attorneys (Edgar Crumpacker), he was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to three years in prison.

Howe’s peaches were sold at auction, netting over $1,000 for him. Claire Robinson, too, enjoyed some of the perks of fame. When the case went to trial in November, the Chicago Inter-Ocean reported that “the prisoner is a nice looking fellow and was the recipient of half a dozen bouquets.”

Valpo Law in this period prided itself on providing an exceptionally affordable legal education, with tuition rates less than half of what other schools were charging. The Robinson brothers’ robbery perhaps exposes the flaw in this approach: by marketing yourself to those without enough money for law school, you are likely to attract people who truly do not have enough money for law school.

Samuel is a 2L and can be reached at vuslforum@gmail.com.
Building a Free, Mobile Law Library

This past October, Apple CEO Tim Cook took the stage at San Francisco and event announced that more than one million apps are now available in the App Store. As impressive as this milestone was, in some ways, the announcement had already reached the million-app milestone back in July.

Among these million apps are several free apps of interest to lawyers and, in particular, legal researchers. This column highlights a few of the free apps which are now available.

Fastcase. Self-described as “The Smarter Alternative for Legal Research,” Fastcase is one of the heavy hitters in the world of legal research not named “Westlaw,” “Lexis,” or “Bloomberg Law.” The platform contains an expansive collection of federal and state primary authorities and access is free to members of many state bar associations, including Illinois. Now, much of the Fastcase collection is available for free through the Fastcase app. The coverage is not quite as extensive as what is included in the desktop version, but it is still impressive. Specifically, the app allows you to search a body of case law which includes federal appellate and district court, state court, and bankruptcy court decisions, as well as search or browse the United States Code and state codes. (iOS and Android)

The Congressional Record. Presented by the Library of Congress, this app includes every daily edition of the Congressional Record dating back to 1994. A great resource for current awareness and, possibly, researching legislative intent. (iOS only)

ISCOTUSnow. Created by the Chicago-Kent College of Law, this app is an excellent U.S. Supreme Court current awareness tool. It contains news stories and weekly roundups for the current term, and for those looking for specific information relating to a case, the app contains the opinions and recorded oral arguments of cases from 2012 and 2013. (iOS only)

LawStack. LawStack contains the full-text of the United States Constitution, the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Federal Rules of Evidence. It functions as a ready reference tool for researchers needing quick access to one or more of these items. (iOS only)

Nolo’s Plain English Law Dictionary. Black’s Law Dictionary is the unquestioned leader when it comes to finding a legal definition. Unfortunately, it also costs a pretty penny on mobile devices, currently ringing in at $54.99 for both Android and Apple devices. Nolo’s Plain English Law Dictionary is a free alternative which, although not as comprehensive as Black’s, contains a large collection of helpful definitions. (iOS and Android)

OpenRegs. This app is particularly useful for students or practitioners involved in regulatory work. Essentially, it is mobile version of the Federal Register containing recently published final regulations, as well as (1) regulations for which the comment period has just opened and (2) regulations for which the comment period will soon be closing. A nice feature of the app is that it allows you to browse regulations by issuing agency. (iOS only)

U.S.C. Containing all 51 titles of the United States Code, this app is barebones but very useful for researching federal code references in cases or pleadings. (iOS only)

U.S. Constitution: Analysis and Interpretation. An annotated version of the U.S. Constitution prepared by attorneys of the Congressional Research Service. This is an excellent resource for researchers investigating constitutional issues or those interested in constitutional law, generally. (iOS only)

Bloomberg BNA’s Court Directory. This app costs $9.99 so it did not make the cut, but it provides a lot of bang for your buck. It includes verified contact information for court clerks in every state and federal jurisdiction, as well as the ability to retrieve directions to each court. An incredibly helpful resource for law clerks and attorneys, alike. (iOS only)

These are just a sampling of the numerous free apps available. There are some amazing apps available at a cost for both legal research and general law practice. If you are interested in learning read the blogs at iphonejd.com and thedroidlawyer.com, or, you could take Technology in Law (shameless plug).
WORLD NEWS

The Great Green Wall of China

GOBI DESERT - Over the past three decades China has been building the Great Green Wall - a 2,800-mile system of forestry. The project was implemented in 1978 to reduce the expansion of the Gobi desert. The desertification affects over 400 million people. It causes sandstorms that whip dust eastward towards Beijing, similar to the Great Dustbowl of the 1930s. People suffer respiratory ailments, crops are destroyed, and machinery clogs.

The green wall is still under construction, and costs billions to fund. Scientists built the green wall by fencing off an area and planting seeds from planes and by hand. The project has been successful as there were over 140,000 hectares of desert when construction began. Today, there are 40,000 hectares.

POLAND - Pianist Slawomir Zubrzycki revealed a musical renaissance last month, called the viola organista. Leonardo da Vinci sketched the elaborate instrument over 500 years ago, but it was never created until recently. The instrument was played before an audience for its first time last month in Krakow, Poland.

As NPR notes, the original blueprints suggested that the viola organista was a cross between a cello and a harpsichord, where music rang from spinning wheels of horsehair along the strings.

Zubrzycki spent years building the instrument from a rough sketched found in da Vinci’s notebook. In form, the instrument resembles a grand piano. When played, it sounds like listening to an entire string section of an orchestra.

Hangover Free Alcohol

UNIVERSITY KINGDOM - Professor David Nutt unveiled a hangover-free alcohol substitute that is expected to hit the shelves in late 2015. The scientist invented the alcohol substitute, which targets the benefits of drinking alcohol while eliminating the repercussions. Nutt isolated five different chemical compounds found in alcohol. These chemicals relax the brain, and produce inebriation. While consumers feel intoxicated, the surrogate alcohol is less likely to make people aggressive or to cause long-term damage to one’s health.

To sober up, simply take an antidote and be unimpaired within 20 minutes. The alcohol substitute does not yet exist in liquid form, but Professor Nutt has tested the chemical form and assures its practicality. Nutt said that the majority of people who drink do not get addicted. The ones that do are unique. However, research has not shown whether or not Nutt’s product is addictive.

Allegedly over 75 investors from the United States expressed interest in manufacturing the product. Professor Nutt hopes the product will be analogous to electronic cigarettes, by providing the pleasure of drinking without the damage.

NATIONAL NEWS

First Same-Sex Marriage in Illinois

CHICAGO - Vernita Gray and Patricia Ewert were the first same-sex couple to marry in Illinois, seven months before state law legalizing gay marriage takes effect. The court expedited the marriage because Gray is suffering from terminal breast cancer. Gray’s illness spread to her bones and brain, and she may only have days or weeks to live.

If the couple didn’t marry, they would be denied some of the rights acknowledged by married couples. The couple can now access family medical leave and other benefits for survivors of a spouse, and Ewert won’t be forced to pay an estate tax on the property Gray will leave behind.

Amazon Prime Air

UNITED STATES - Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos recently announced on 60 minutes the plan for “octocopters” to deliver packages to customer’s door steps in 30 minutes or less. Amazon says that the project could be introduced in a couple of years, but many obstacles remain in place.

The flight plans will need to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, who has yet to approve any domestic use of drones. Potential customers hoping to patronize the octocopters will most likely have to live within a ten-mile radius from the distribution sites, largely due to the limited 30-minute battery life. The drones currently carry up to five pounds, and severe weather conditions affect their flight paths.

If the FAA approves of Amazon’s octocopters, more opportunities may arise for domestic drones, such as for transporting medical supplies, monitoring wildlife, and firefighting.
Valparaiso Men’s basketball fought a valiant fight against Mercer College, Friday November 29 at the ARC. The crusaders fought into triple over time but fell to the Bears with an impressive 117-108 loss. The entire game was an impressive match up on both sides. The reigning Atlantic Sun regular season champs had already defeated Seton Hall and gave Texas a run for their money earlier in the season. They certainly lived up to all the expectations with this nail biter on Friday.

“... That just set the stage for Dority’s biggest shot of the night to that point, though, as after a miss, freshman Alec Peters fought for the offensive board and kicked it back out to the senior, who drained a 3-pointer while being fouled with 11.9 seconds remaining,” according to the official Valparaiso Athletic Website.

Effortlessly, Dority drains another free throw to give Valpo a 78-77, but the Crusaders put the Bears back at the foul line with 2.1 seconds left to play. After making one free throw, the second was off the backboard, and Capobianco had arguably the most impressive, and heart pounding, shot of the night, by heaving the ball at half court and narrowly missing as the ball hit the rim. This sent the game into overtime.

In the first period of overtime, mercer held an early lead against the Crusaders by constantly keeping their lead of four points several times during the period. Valpo answered every time, however, with rookie Jibril Adekoya draining two with 1:36 to play tying the game at 89. Valpo, after making a rebound while being fouled, and a Mercer making defensive mistake, was able to hit both free throws and give Valpo a 91-89 lead with less than two minutes left in the game.

Valpo had control of the ball for the remainder of the first overtime period. After a quick time out to reset the offense, Adekoya passed as Williams failed several free throws giving them the 105-103 lead with less than four minutes to play. Unfortunately, Capobianco fouled out and Mercer out scored Valpo for the rest of the period.

The loss was far from anything to be ashamed of ending the game with 29 of 32 at the foul line (90.6%). The Crusaders hold an 8-4 record for the season. Home games are free to all students with a Valpo student ID.

Kristen is a JL and can be reached at vuslforrum@gmail.com

Death Penalty Faces Further Opposition

By: Ethan Legg • Staff Writer

Sodium Pentobarbital (Pentobarbital), the drug that is commonly used for lethal injections, is rapidly being replaced in the lethal injection cocktail. Pentobarbital is mainly manufactured out of Denmark, a country that currently opposes the modern form of the death penalty. This opposition has caused the country’s pharmaceutical companies to pull the drug from the Danish market and limit sales to foreign countries. With little or no inventory of the drug available, states are being forced to find an alternative. However, States that use these alternative drugs are rapidly facing lawsuits claiming a violation of the Eighth Amendment.

Florida is one of several states using an alternative drug called Midazolam hydrochloride. A recent execution in a Florida correctional facility carried out using Midazolam did not perform as well as projected. The drug needed nearly fourteen minutes to take effect; an execution using sodium pentobarbital only needs seven minutes. The old drug also had a paralytic like effect thus immobilizing the individual receiving the lethal injection. The newer drug allowed for the individual to move and struggle during the execution.

In response to the recent event, many have called for action against Florida for violating the Eighth Amendment. The executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center quoted, “We don’t know if [midazolam] is working or not, everything is a bit of an experiment with a human subject. If this were ordinary medicine, that would not be allowed, but this is the death penalty and that’s how it goes.”

Texas is also facing uproar about their new drug of choice because of it shares similar effects of one that is used to euthanize animals. With the controversy associated with the new drug, it is speculated that Texas tried to access Sodium Pentobarbital by delivering it to a local hospital. However, the hospital had not been in operation since 1986, and there was speculation that the Texas institution had forged documents just to get the drug.

Furthermore, Missouri had planned on using Propofol, one of the drugs that was believed to have contributed to the death of Michael Jackson, to replace the controversial drug. However, it is believed that the Governor stopped the use of the drug several days before a planned execution because of a trial about the controversial drug in Florida.
### J.D. Graduate Student Profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Undergraduate School</th>
<th>Undergraduate Major</th>
<th>Where will you be living after graduation?</th>
<th>What are your plans with your new degree?</th>
<th>What is your favorite memory while at Valparaiso Law?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raquel Burton</td>
<td>South Bend, IN</td>
<td>Ball State, IN</td>
<td>Legal Studies - Public Law</td>
<td>I will continue to live in South Bend.</td>
<td>I will continue to work for my Tribe's casino operations, Four Winds Casinos, in Michigan. I have been the legal affairs administrator for 4.5 years, and after graduation I will be transitioning to The Director of Compliance. Having an ownership interest in the operation obviously gives me an interest in ensuring that we succeed.</td>
<td>Meeting one of my best friends here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessandra Vitale</td>
<td>Arvada, CO</td>
<td>Metropolitan University of Denver, CO</td>
<td>Legal Advocacy &amp; Political Justice</td>
<td>I plan on living in Denver, Colorado.</td>
<td>I want to pursue a career as a criminal defense attorney. I am specifically interested in litigation and public interest because I am passionate about representing those people in need of zealous legal advocacy.</td>
<td>My favorite memory while at Valpo Law was going on the New Orleans Public Defender trip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Rosenberg</td>
<td>Michigan City, IN</td>
<td>Indiana University Bloomington, IN</td>
<td>Political Science &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>I will live in Fishers, IN.</td>
<td>I plan on seeking employment with the State of Indiana. I worked for the state prior to attending law school.</td>
<td>My favorite memory was being accepted to the Post-Conviction Relief Clinic. I was so excited to make a difference and work with real cases. Loved it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hoffman</td>
<td>Munster, IN</td>
<td>Purdue University Calumet, IN</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>I will live in Washington D.C.</td>
<td>I plan on living wherever I get a job.</td>
<td>The study abroad trip to Chile and Argentina that focused on international human rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary Schmidt</td>
<td>Carrollton, IL</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL</td>
<td>Agricultural Business</td>
<td>I will plan on living in Denver, Colorado.</td>
<td>I want to work in the agricultural industry promoting agriculture through policy and law.</td>
<td>My favorite memory was going to the Ferrell Competition in Miami for International Moot Court with Michael Licari, Justin Ezell, and Dan Didech. We brought home 2 trophies, plus Justin and I were top ten oralists!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Koppenaal</td>
<td>Jackson, MO</td>
<td>Southeast Missouri State University, MO</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>I will be living and taking the bar in Missouri to be close to my family. We plan to move to North Carolina in 3-5 years.</td>
<td>I want to pursue a career in Criminal Law because that is my passion. I hope to become a prosecutor and eventually a judge.</td>
<td>My favorite memory is going to the Ferrell Competition in Miami for International Moot Court with Michael Licari, Justin Ezell, and Dan Didech. We brought home 2 trophies, plus Justin and I were top ten oralists!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Easier Said than Drawn
Circular Logic
"Local drivers’ inexprience with roundabouts is causing traffic congestion. I suggest that..."

A NEW ROUND-ABOUT WOULD FIX THAT

Happy Holidays!

Across
1. Nylons
8. Snowstorm
9. Holiday door decor
10. No two are the same
12. Weeks of Kwanzaa
15. Put on a string around the tree
17. Downhill sport
18. Holiday helper
20. Irving Berlin song
21. Aromatic Resin
22. Mazel
23. California’s Santa _ winds
26. Songs
30. Days of Hanukkah
31. Minty cane
32. Secondary color

Down
1. Boiled sugar candy
2. Tree flare
3. Pagan holiday celebrated on the shortest day of the year
4. Primary color
5. Frosty
6. Santa’s snack
7. Wind Chill
11. Seven-branched lamp stand
13. He’s a mean one
14. Placed under the tree
16. Mistletoe
17. Penny pincher
19. Tree topper
21. Santa’s Drink
24. Eggnog spice
25. Sled

27. Strap by which Santa controls his deer
28. Santa’s bag
29. Hibernate

Look for the answer to this puzzle in January’s issue of the Forum.
Germany's Minimum Wage

By: Benjamin Fink • Staff Writer

Countless Americans are struggling to make ends meet on minimum wage, and many are suggesting that we should increase our national minimum wage to help relieve the hardships passed onto the general laborer. While proponents of wage increase argue that increasing wages will also increase the demand for products, business owners who would have to pay their workers more insist that increasing their cost of business would also increase the cost of their products, which could lead to a decline in profits.

Germany, a European economic powerhouse, recently introduced a plan for its first national minimum wage. "Germany, a European economic powerhouse, recently introduced a plan for its first national minimum wage" This will not be the only labor-friendly attempt at compromise in Germany. The Christian Democrats, who recently won the federal election, are still short of enough seats in parliament to form a majority, and have discussed other labor reforms with the Social Democrats such as lowering the retirement age. New labor regulations are likely to be a topic in upcoming American elections, and thus it would be beneficial to keep an eye on the results of Germany’s new economic policies.

According to a Gallup Poll, the amount of people in favor of the death penalty has dropped to 60%. One could believe this has some relation to all of the problems with the inhumanity of the new execution drugs. Though the number seems to be well above majority, it is the lowest percentage approval of the death penalty since 1964 when Texas decommissioned the electric chair "old sparky" for being too cruel.

Ethan is a 2L and can be reached at vuuslforum@gmail.com

Death penalty continued from page 5