Fall 2002

Valpo Lawyer: Fall 2002

Valparaiso University School of Law

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Fulfilling a Legacy
purpose of the school

The law school graduate entering the practice should not only have received a systematic training in legal modes of thinking, but he should also have acquired a very considerable acquaintance with the fundamental principles and rules of law.

It is therefore the purpose of this school to teach law both as a science and an art; to afford the greatest amount of training and the greatest amount of knowledge possible in the length of time spent in residence; in a word, to teach students both to know and to apply the law.

Department of Law
Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana
1908-1909
Fulfilling a Legacy
Donna Welter is the Law Clinic's leading benefactor.

This Musician Also Knows The Legal Score
Suzann Young-Davids celebrates a lifelong commitment to learning.

Serving a Higher Power
Valpo Law alumni combine faith commitment with legal career.
Graduates on the Bench

Many of Valpo Law's graduates are making a significant impact on society as interpreters of the law. They are appointed or elected and come to these positions with solid legal training, superior research and writing ability, and with a "judicial temperament" and "people skills". Through their acts of public service they bring honor to the VALPARAISO SCHOOL OF LAW community and reflect well on the education and skills they received while at Valpo Law. Congratulations on reaching the pinnacle of the profession and being role models for all of us.

Did we miss you? Please let us know if you have been elected or appointed to a judgeship, and we will be sure to add you to future "luminary lists." You can reach us by phone at 888.825.7652 or email at lawalumni@valpo.edu.

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We've Set the Date

In 2004 the Valparaiso University School of Law celebrates 125 years of excellence in legal education. We will be recognizing this milestone throughout the 2003-2004 academic year with special lectures and events, ending the anniversary year with a weekend of events in Chicago, including a 125th Anniversary Gala at the Field Museum on May 1, 2004. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

We have established the 125th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee under the leadership of Chair, Clare Nuechterlein '79, and Vice Chair, Glenn Vician '77. Members are: Jon Abernathy '83, Associate Dean Bruce Berner '67, Mark Bremer '75, Vicki Battle-Cashwell '99, Timothy Duerr '77B, Sharon King '57, Al Morrison '62, Kenneth Roeh '52, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Science, John Ruff, Dean of Christ College, Mark Schwehn, Heike Spahn '95, Mick Story '02, Herb Stride '57, Mike Swygert '67, Glenn Tabor '58, Professor Linda Whitton '86, Dean Jay Conison, Associate Dean Curt Cichowski '81, Marilyn Otis, Francie Thomas, Lisa Todd and Joan White.

Associate Dean Bruce Berner and Mike Swygert are in the process of researching and writing the history of the law school. If you have information, memorabilia or suggestions for our anniversary, please contact Joan White, Director of Development at 1.888.825.7652 or (219) 465-7851 or Joan.White@valpo.edu.

Pictured l to R: Clare Nuechterlein and Joan White
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Valpo Law Faculty Profile

Name: Ruth Vance

Children: Katelyn Holub

Pet: "Ginger" a shih-tzu

Birthplace: Detroit, Michigan

Education: 1979 B.A. Olivet College, Olivet, MI; double major in mathematics and music; 1982 J.D. VU School of Law

Most marked characteristic: I talk to, and yes even answer, myself aloud.

Favorite memory: Getting to lick the ice cream off the dasher when my dad made homemade ice cream.

Favorite film: October Sky

Last book read: The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Favorite dish: Banana pudding with vanilla wafers

Greatest experience: Stopping by American Legacy on Lincolnway for one wonderful chocolate truffle.

Idea of perfect happiness: A day spent gardening in my flower beds, a late afternoon spent reading and watching the ducks from my four-seasons room, and a family dinner prepared by my daughter, who is a talented cook.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue: Punctuality. American society is too time-conscious. We value “doing” more than “being.”

Comment on Valparaiso University School of Law: Valpo Law is special to me because of its feeling of community among the faculty, staff, and students. Valpo Law fosters both a learning and a caring environment.

Why you teach: Teaching law gives me the opportunity to see the light bulb go on in a student’s mind, and to, hopefully, positively influence the legal profession. What an awesome experience and responsibility!

Professor Blomquist married Teresa J. Faherty on October 12 in a wedding in Oak Park, Illinois and reception at the Cliffdwellers in the Borg Warner Building (22nd floor) in Chicago. His son, Drew, was "best man" and his daughter, Courtney, participated in the bridal party. Teresa Faherty is an associate attorney with the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block (specializing in ERISA Pension Law).

Professor **Sy Moskowitz** taught Comparative Family Law in Cambridge, England during July 2002. He was the keynote speaker at a Symposium on Elder Abuse held at the Loyola (L.A.) Law School on April 26, 2002. His most recent publications include: Rediscovering Discovery: State Procedural Rules and the Level Playing Field, 54 RUTGERS L. REV. (forthcoming Fall 2002); Adult Children and Indigent Parents: Intergenerational Responsibilities in International Perspective, 86 MARQUETTE L. REV (forthcoming Fall 2002).

Professor **Mary Persyn** attended the American Association of Law Libraries meeting in Orlando. She is a member of the Governance Task Force of the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA).

In June, Prof. Vance, along with Prof. **Barb Schmidt**, attended an ADR Workshop sponsored by Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education. The small workshop included mediators, arbitrators, practitioners, academicians, legislators, and judges, who were invited to assist the Indiana Supreme Court in identifying issues that have arisen under Indiana's ADR Rules and possible changes and solutions.

Professor Ruth Vance attended the Legal Writing Institute National Conference in Knoxville in May. She serves on the Association of Legal Writing Directors Committee to adopt the ALWD Citation Manual. As a result of her committee work, the Indiana Supreme Court is considering whether to adopt the ALWD Citation Manual as an approved citation format for use in Indiana courts.

In December, Professor Linda Whitton will present to the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Trusts and Estates Acts on the results of the national study and survey that she has conducted on durable power of attorney practice and legislative reform. She is also addressing the Supervisory Council of the ABA Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law on this topic in November.

We welcome your comments. Please address correspondence to The Valpo Lawyer Magazine at:

VU School of Law
Valpo Lawyer Magazine
Wesemann Hall
Valparaiso, IN 46383-6493
E-mail: Marilyn.Otis@valpo.edu

2002 Winner of the Distinguished Faculty Award

Professor Rosalie Levinson '73 is the 2002 winner of the Distinguished Faculty Award, given in honor of Jack Hiller by the Mabel Burchard Fischer Foundation.

"Rosalie is a gifted teacher, a productive and influential scholar and lecturer, an exceptionally able administrator and, above all, a source of moral and personal inspiration to us all. As an alumna, she embodies our claim to produce not only good lawyers, but good people. As a teacher, she is a model for students of what it means to be a professional, one who selflessly serves the interests of clients, students, society and the profession. As a colleague, she embodies the highest virtues and inspires us to serve students and the school as fully as she does she."

— Dean Jay Conison
DONNA WELTER IS THE LAW CLINIC'S LEADING BENEFACTOR. HERE'S WHY:

THE FRONT OFFICE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF VALPARAISO IS GRACED BY TALL CEILINGS AND WIDE WINDOWS THAT FACE THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE. BEHIND A MASSIVE DESK, DONNA WELTER SITS SURROUNDED BY MEMORIES AND MEMORABILIA. THERE IS A PORCELAIN LAMP IN THE SHAPE OF THE BANK WITH "STATE BANK" WRITTEN ABOVE ITS DOORS. THAT WAS THE NAME OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK WHEN IT WAS FIRST BUILT IN 1889. HANGING FROM A CHAIN AROUND HER NECK IS AN ANTIQUE WATCH FOB THAT BELONGED TO HER UNCLE AND DATES FROM THE TIME HE SPENT AT THE UNIVERSITY. HER EYES SPARKLE AS SHE WEAVES THE INTERTWINING STORIES THAT LED HER TO THIS CITY, THIS OFFICE, AND HER ROLE AS THE LEADING BENEFACTOR OF THE LAW CLINIC.
Donna's father Alfred P. Draper, and her uncle Floyd S. Draper came to the School of Law from Fulton, New York, a farming community. Valparaiso was a long way from home, but at the time the university had the reputation of being, in Donna's words, "the poor man's Harvard."

"Daddy was a member of Sigma Delta Kappa, the legal fraternity," she says proudly, "While the fraternity no longer exists on campus, there are chapters in other parts of the country.

Uncle Floyd graduated in 1915. Donna believes his watch fob was inscribed with a 1916 date, long since worn off. "Daddy graduated in 1922. In those days the law was a two-year degree, with no undergraduate school, and they turned out some very fine lawyers." Floyd and Alfred, as Draper and Draper, set up a legal practice in the burgeoning city of Gary, Indiana. Floyd specialized in criminal practice while Alfred handled the corporate side.

Valpo Law also played a role on her husband's side of the family. Her father-in-law, William H. Welter, came to Valparaiso from Blue Earth, Minnesota and graduated in 1908. He passed away before Donna met her husband. The only story she tells about her father-in-law has to do with rhubarb pie. "He came to the university and rhubarb pie was on the menu. He never heard of it before, so he ordered it. All it took was one bite. He said "This is just pie plant." He had eaten 'pie plant' all his life. Calling it 'rhubarb' didn't make it taste any better."

Donna knew a lot more about her mother-in-law, Maud Clodfelter.

Maud and her future husband met at the university and she graduated from the School of Nursing. "She became Superintendent of the Christian Hospital here. Maud made William H. Welter wait eight years before they got married. There were things she wanted to do and places she wanted to go before she settled down." One of the places she went was a New York dock in April of 1912, where she tended to the medical needs of the survivors from the Titanic.

When they finally married, Donna's in-laws moved to Gary and William H. used his knowledge of the law to go into business. As a general contractor, he built a lot of the apartment buildings that began to spring up around the city.

Donna also grew up in Gary. She went to Lew Wallace High School. William J. Welter went to the
cross-town rival Horace Mann. She attended William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri and later transferred to Butler in Indianapolis, as an elementary education major. She returned to Gary and met William J. Welter on a blind date in 1946. “We met in November of 1946 and got married in May of 1947.”

“William was in the automobile business,” she said, “He had Lincoln/Mercury, then he went to Ford. We moved to South Bend for awhile and he was a Pontiac dealer.” In the early seventies, she sensed that a change was brewing in their lives. “One day he put our house on the market and I asked him what was going on. He said he always wanted to have a bank. He was 57-years old! No one could have been more surprised than me.”

Welter found a group of investors and, after looking at a number of different banks, set his sights on First National Bank in downtown Valparaiso.

Her support of the Legal Clinic and the annual benefit is Donna’s way of giving back to the community where she helped build not only a business, but also a home and a family.

After the last of the James Gang robberies, banks were built to be stronger and safer, to offer more protection for depositor’s valuables and the bank’s cash on hand. The original architecture of the First National Bank reflects that trend. While the bank has done significant remodeling and built additions over the years, they have tried to retain the character of the original structure.

Heritage Hall: Reflecting VU History

While it stands as both a symbol and a repository for some unique chapters in VU history, Heritage Hall actually received its name from a 19th century music faculty member. In 1882, Professor Richard Heritage became proprietor of the building that was, at the time, a dormitory.

The original three-story building was constructed in 1875. Students could get room and board for $1.40 per week. Fire destroyed the third floor in 1879. A flat sloping roof was installed above the second floor and the front of the building was finished to look much as at does today.

During World War I, the building became a barracks for local soldiers to use. After the war, it became a rehabilitation center for returning veterans, complete with a machine shop. In 1925, one of the first efforts of the new Lutheran administration was to transform the building into a library. One of the major tasks was ridding the building of machine shop grease. In 1959, with the transfer of the main library collection to Moellerling Library, Heritage Hall was remodeled for offices and classrooms.

It has been the home of the Legal Clinic for 15 years.
Until recently the original bank vault door, which can now be seen from the lobby, was covered by a wall. The vault could only be entered through the teller line. Now the vault door is exposed. Donna likes the sense of history and longevity the vault door adds to the bank’s character.

She also likes the safe tucked into the wall in the front corner of her office. The safe has been part of the bank since it was built in 1889. The front of the safe is a mottled green and gray, but the manufacturer’s name is clear: Hall’s Safe and Lock Company, Cincinnati and Chicago. There are two hand-painted pastoral scenes on the front of the safe. “Somebody wanted to paint the front of that safe and fix it up.” There was clear disapproval in Donna’s voice. “I said absolutely not. Sometimes I think people should appreciate things the way they used to be.”

William Welter eventually became the majority shareholder of the bank. He passed away in 1991. Today, William and Donna’s sons direct the day-to-day business of the bank. Chuck Welter is the CEO, and Wayne is the Executive Vice President. Donna is the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors.

Her association with the Law Clinic began in 1996 after that year’s benefit (see sidebar.) With a tilt of her head, she explains her motivations. “I feel that my family has been very successful and I believe the foundation for that success stemmed from the Valparaiso University School of Law.” She and her sons have also made a commitment to help with the renovation of Heritage Hall, the Clinic’s home. Her support of the Legal Clinic and the annual benefit is Donna’s way of giving back to the community where she helped to build not only a business, but also a home and a family.

“The Clinic can provide legal help to people who can’t afford it.” She looks at her father-in-law’s graduation picture and the worn leather program beneath it in the oval frame. “These are worthy people who sometimes just need a hand to get over this bump in their lives and move on to better things.”

### Legal Clinic Serves Those in Need

Free legal service for those in need, a practical solution for reducing court room congestion and an opportunity to provide real-world experience for law students make the Legal Clinic an invaluable asset to the community, the local courts and the School of Law. The Clinic typically serves 700 clients a year. Up to 45 third-year law students handle the Clinic’s cases each semester.

With direction from the Clinic’s Supervising Attorneys, students handle criminal cases and civil cases. They may be appointed Guardians Ad Litem to represent children in litigation in the Gary courts. They also represent Pro Se clients in mediations that take place outside the courtroom. These mediations, through Small Claims Courts in Valparaiso and Portage, usually result in an out-of-court settlement and, in turn, significantly reduce the number of cases that go to trial.

“This is a real situation with a real client,” says Marcia Gienapp, one of the Clinic’s Supervising Attorneys. “Students learn how to file papers, earn the respect of other lawyers and reflect on their cases.”
Stepping Into the Spotlight

Marcia Gienapp first met Donna Welter (see cover story) two years ago immediately after the performance of the annual Legal Clinic Benefit. This was Marcia's first year as play director and she was eager for some positive response from the Clinic's number one benefactor.

"I went up to Donna and introduced myself and asked her how she enjoyed the show," Marcia remembers. "Donna said, 'I just about got up and walked out!' Naturally, I was horrified. So I asked her what the problem was and she said 'I didn't think Bruce Berner was in it this year and so I just about got up and walked out.'" Bruce made a late first appearance in that year's production. Since then, Marcia has made sure to secure his talents for the annual event.

Marcia came to the director's chair after a long involvement in the community theater guild. In 1998 she appeared on stage for the Legal Clinic Benefit in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

"Our previous director graduated that same year," she explained. "After that, Bruce (Berner) drafted me for the director's job." After three years in that position, she is handing the director's chair over to someone else. But she is still part of the production team currently involved in the pre-planning process for the 7th annual benefit, scheduled for February 28, 2003. The production team has decided to stage the musical, "Bye Bye Birdie."

In addition to her teaching, Marcia is one of the Clinic's Supervising Attorneys and has been serving at the Clinic for seventeen years. So, what is it like to be the one in charge when the curtain goes up? "It gets to be a full time job, because of limited rehearsal space and time." The production typically includes students, faculty and local attorneys, who have other commitments. "Usually the best time for us to practice is Saturday morning." But practice is always a challenge, due to available space. "We've rehearsed in the lobby of Heritage Hall, in classrooms, in the Union, in the choir room, anywhere we could find available space."

But clearly, as Marcia looks ahead to the big night at the end of February, it's all worth it. "You have first, second and third year students, attorneys, faculty, all working together. It's absolutely wonderful to see what happens in the course of putting a show together. Everyone is getting to know one another, and doing it to support a program they want to support."

The 2003 production will feature the skills of a second-year law student who was a professional choreographer. Marcia is always on the lookout for additional talent. "Last year we had five local attorneys in the production. We're hoping to have even more attorneys and alumni on our stage this year."

If you're interested in making your curtain call at the annual benefit, contact Marcia at 465-7904.
Suzann Young-Davids spent nearly a lifetime with her arms wrapped around one of the oldest musical instruments known to humankind, the harp. As an educator at a number of distinguished universities and a musician for a variety of well-known ballet and opera companies and symphony orchestras, she pursued a passion that was born when she was still in elementary school. But she also had another passion, one that drives her to this very day: the desire to learn. At the age of 60, Suzann enrolled at the Valparaiso University School of Law.

"My father owned two land title companies, which I inherited," she explained. Her eyes tell you that she is always thinking ahead. Like any good musician she has made a habit of thinking about the next page of the score. "I knew a lot about the land title business, but I didn’t know property law. I felt I had no credibility dealing with customers, the community and our employees." So she took the LSAT, applied to the School of Law and was accepted within a week of her application. As a part time student, she maintained her business and family in Elkhart four days a week and stayed in Valparaiso at an efficiency apartment the other three days to go to classes. She finished her degree in 4 1/2 years.

She graduated in 1995 on her 65th birthday, "And suddenly, I had credibility!" She continued to operate the business for three more years with the help of her husband Donald, who is also an attorney, and her oldest son. She has since sold the business, but has no regrets about law school. "I am a lifelong student. I enjoy learning. The first semester is always difficult for law students, and it was for me. But after that, it was sheer pleasure. I took every course in property law that was offered."

This lifelong student of the harp said she came to her instrument by accident. She learned piano as a young girl and a music teacher in her community approached her father about getting her to play the harp. "My father said he did not want to buy a harp, and the music teacher said he wouldn’t have to. The schools already owned harps. So I started playing when I was 11 or 12, basically to make everybody happy,” Suzann attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music for her B.M. in Piano and Harp Performance. She moved on to State University of Iowa, where she met her husband, and earned her M.A. and M.F.A. in Harp Performance. Her career could have gone in a different direction. She was one of the few women admitted to Med School in 1959. Soon after she became pregnant with her first child and received a letter "unadmitting me. Title VII (laws against discrimination because of age, sex or ethnicity) didn’t happen until 1964. There was nothing I could do at the time, so I moved on.”

She has since played and taught all over this country, and conducted Master Classes in places like Thailand, Germany and Costa Rica. She also was on tour with Barry Manilow and Frank Sinatra. "It was just 2 or 3
also knows the Legal Score

weeks, where I filled in for somebody else. It was very different from a classical performance. First of all you were on stage with those famous performers and it was very exciting. But mostly they want glissandos. She steps over to one of her instruments, a beautiful gold harp that was originally made in the 30's. Her fingers glide over the strings creating that sound we might associate with the appearance of angels, "It's an easy trick," she smiles. "One of the first things you teach harp students."

While she still does both, these days she teaches more than she performs. "Last year I had about 40 students. This year I have 35. I see about 25 students a week." Her most influential teacher was Alice Chalifoux. "Alice has been with the Cleveland Symphony for 43 years and is still teaching harp at (the age of) 95. She broke her hip recently and continued to teach her students at the rehab center. They don't usually allow that sort of thing, but they made an exception for Alice."

Suzann was 27 when she married, but she knows that waiting was a good idea. "I've had great support from my husband all through my career and, in turn, I supported him." Suzann credits her success to a good marriage and great genes. "My father lived to be 96. I have aunts who lived to be over 100."

As a lawyer, a teacher, a performer, a wife and a mother, does Suzann have time for anything else? "I do have my frivolous side." Suzann may have a different notion of "frivolous" than the rest of us. She trained for, and participated in, a triathlon last spring. "While I was in law school I gained a few pounds, along with a few aches and pains. So I went to the fitness center, got a personal trainer and started to work out." Suzann had always been a good swimmer, and used to be a Red Cross swimming and CPR instructor. "The triathlon was 20 minutes in the pool, 25 minutes on the bike and then 20 minutes on the treadmill. I won the gold in the women's over sixty-five category, but I was the only one competing." She laughs. "But I also competed in the women's 55-65 category with eight others, and won the bronze."

She claims it was her last triathlon, but she said that with a smile.
SERVING A HIGHER POWER

VALPO LAW ALUMNI COMBINE FAITH COMMITMENT WITH LEGAL CAREER

FROM THE HISTORICAL BEGINNINGS OF UNIVERSITY life, faith and the law have been intertwined. The earliest universities were born out of the cathedral schools in twelfth-century Europe and the earliest university congregations assembled within those churches. These institutions combined a rapidly expanding field of knowledge in medicine, law and scholastics within a religious context. In fact, universities in every age were founded and developed in response to the major religious, social, and economic needs of their time.
Marie Failing er and faith seriously and were required to act properly and honestly. Those types of disasters driven by unethical decisions simply would not happen.

"Religious liberty is **under an onslaught. It is not politically correct to acknowledge faith.**"

For more than 30 years, the firm David started with his brother-in-law, Martin Wegman, has served a number of private and public corporations as well as charitable organizations. They have represented the Ohio District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, for most of that time, as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and a number of local Lutheran schools and organizations. It was the firm's pro bono work with a local school case that led to their involvement in Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris, identified by many as "the most important Supreme Court decision concerning the separation of Church and State in decades."

Mr. Hessler explains: "The state of Ohio started a pilot program because the city of Cleveland public school performance was so dreadful. Poverty-level students had no choice but to attend the poorest schools. The state gave vouchers to parents who could use them to send their children to better public and private schools. A large majority of this money went to parochial schools because they provided a better education."

Various interest groups challenged the practice, including the NEA and various teacher groups.

"On behalf of the local Lutheran schools, we joined the Catholic Archdiocese, we became partners in this case. The Supreme Court issued a 5 to 4 ruling upholding the program. The key to the program is that the vouchers went to parents who then made the choice, not the state. The money went to the parents; the parents chose the best education possible, which happened to be at the local parochial schools. The state was not involved, so it was not a church/state issue."

Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris enabled him to work with his son, Nathan Hessler '95 on a landmark case. But more than that, it gave David another opportunity to put his commitment to Christian service into action.

"Religious liberty is under an onslaught. It is not politically correct to acknowledge faith. I think it's an important part of a person's stewardship responsibility to advance, promote and defend your religion. We (lawyers) are in a position to do all of these things."

Upon graduation, Peter Hessler '78 joined his older brother's firm. But in his decision to pursue the law, there was much to consider: "In our house, the responsibility to Christian service went without saying," Peter said. "My father was a Lutheran pastor. My grandfather on my mother's side was a Lutheran pastor. Two uncles were also Lutheran pastors." There were certain expectations in a family that raised four boys. "My oldest brother is in the

Modern times witnessed a decisive attempt to separate the church and the law. The movement apart of the two disciplines came out of attempts to suggest that the practice of law was a science. **Marie Failing er '76** is a Professor of Law at Hamline University where, among other duties, she teaches courses in Law and Religion and is co-editor of the "Journal of Law and Religion." She explains that about twenty-five years ago the two disciplines came into conversation once again with each other after more than a century of being considered, at least in American culture, as having very little in common. "A number of people in Law School and Divinity School at Harvard (and other universities) talked about the confluence of Law and Theology, that there was a loss of understanding between the two disciplines. They formed a Council on Religion and Law and included a number of people who came together in the initial attempts to reintegrate the two disciplines."

The disciplines, she explains, have a lot to learn from one another. "Islam, Christianity and Judaism are very legal cultures, with much wisdom and many religious traditions concerning justice, mercy, textual interpretation, even the nature of what is fair."

It is no coincidence that as graduates from a university that places value on a student's spiritual as well as academic life, so many alumni have combined a faith commitment with their legal career. The School of Law offers a variety of courses related to the subject of Law and Religion, which provide valuable depth to the profession. "(These studies) help lawyers to understand the religious beliefs of their clients and others, so they can better perceive how and why people of very different beliefs will respond to the same situation, which is critical in the resolution of conflict. Otherwise, particularly in inter-cultural disputes, people fight past each other, and never really get to the core of their misunderstandings," Ms. Failing er said, explaining the practical side of the curriculum. There is also the more spiritual side to this course of study. "When lawyers are able to integrate faith and work it is beneficial to others as well as themselves, because they are able to live integrated lives for the sake of others—those faith commitments and professional commitments can both be part of their public life."

The paths that Valpo Law grads' careers have taken in the pursuit of God's work on earth are as divergent as their beliefs. But they all share a collective commitment, which supersedes individual theologues: they make their faith a priority.

**David Hessler '68** stresses the importance of putting faith first. "One would hope if people who take religion and faith seriously and were required to act properly and honestly were in charge of Enron and WorldCom and the others, those types of disasters driven by unethical decisions simply would not happen."

"Islam, Christianity and Judaism are **very legal cultures**, with **much wisdom** affect the law..."
teaching ministry. David is the second brother and he went into law. After the first two brothers did not go into the ministry, it felt like one of the other two would have to. Thankfully, my brother Bill decided to pursue the ministry, which took the pressure off me so that I could pursue the law.

At the firm, Peter is primary legal counsel to the Missouri Synod's Ohio District. He provides consultation services to congregations, schools, and professional church workers and represents the district in a variety of legal matters. "I've been blessed to be placed in a situation where I have the privilege and responsibility to serve God's church as I am able."

He recently had the opportunity to come to the aid of his own church, which suffered a major fire a little over a year ago. As Chairman of the Church Council of his congregation, his legal skills are helping to rebuild the church and its elementary school of 400 students. The work is hard and the stress is high. "You have an opportunity in a situation like that," he said. "An opportunity and an ordeal." He acknowledges the inspiration and strength he felt in the immediate aftermath of this tragedy. "There was almost a euphoria among the congregation. The fire was a rallying point, and the feeling was 'The ministry will continue, the church is not a building, the result of this is that we will become stronger, not weaker.'"

He credits his family, his faith and his education for giving him the ability and the desire to juggle all his personal and professional duties. When he was growing up, "The importance of lay people as leaders of the church was emphasized. This is what gives VU such a unique strength, the equipping of lay people for life service to the church 'in whatever field' that fulfills such a critical need."

Bill Thorne '49 was raised in the Disciples of Christ Church and joined the Methodist Church 54 years ago. His wife of 53 years was raised Methodist. A founding member of Thorne/Grodnik, who specialized in business law, Bill kept his profession separate from his church work. He always had a strong personal commitment to higher education and found ways to support that particular ministry. He has held a number of different positions within the United Methodist Church, including extensive work with the Wesley Foundation Student Ministry at Purdue University and Ball State University.

"Within any denomination, tensions between conservative and liberal elements of the ministry exist, especially on campus," Mr. Thorne said. "Kids come from varied backgrounds and have their first opportunity (to be) away from home. They are in a climate of seeking their own personal faith and can be easily led astray. It was our responsibility to be the liaison between the church at home and the campus ministry."

He also serves as a Trustee of the United Methodist Seminary, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, one of thirteen free standing United Methodist seminaries in the United States. While he rarely used his legal skills as a Methodist layman, there came a time when his own congregation needed his professional skills. In the midst of building their third major physical plant, their contractor went bankrupt and they had to find another builder, work out all the legal issues and still get the job done. Naturally, Bill was happy to help. "The legal profession has a strong, ethical dynamic. When I add to that the spiritual dimensions of my faith, the results are synergistic."

"The legal profession has a strong, ethical dynamic. When I add to that the spiritual dimensions of my faith, the results are synergistic."

His wife, Elizabeth, has a BS degree from Purdue University and an MS degree in Nutrition from Columbia University, and taught at Valparaiso University for two years. He stresses: "...it has not just been my commitment to faith and the church, but hers, too."

Of all their accomplishments, they are most proud that their four adult children are active participants in their chosen faiths.

Tom Nelson '73 also underwent a change of faith. He was raised a Unitarian. But after serving in the Peace Corps in Iran, he converted to Islam. For Tom, this "leap of faith" was not a huge one. "Islam is just rigorous Unitarianism," he quipped.

Tom's areas of expertise are the laws concerning electric utilities and the licensing of hydroelectric plants. Right now he is doing a lot of work on behalf of the Yakauna Nation, the largest Native American tribe in the state of Washington where he practices. They hired him to provide legal services related to the re-licensing of a hydroelectric plant located on lands the Nation ceded to the United States by treaty, as well as the development and implementation of a tribal electric distribution company to serve retail electric utility customers on the reservation.

Tom also spends a lot of time providing legal aid to those who share his Muslim faith. As he explains, "There are two groups of Muslims: the first are immigrants and the children of immigrants. These are people largely of Middle Eastern descent. The legal difficulties they encounter often have to do with the clashing of cultures."

"The other group is African Americans who initially came to Islam through the Nation of Islam. These people are first and second generation Muslims who abandoned the racist teachings of the Nation of Islam to follow the path of Malcolm X, who embraced traditional Islam after serving the Nation for several years. They have different kinds of problems, including racial discrimination and problems often associated with being on the lower end of the economic scale. This group is largely unserved (by our legal system)."

Peter Hessler

Bill Thorne

Tom Nelson
Why does he do the work he does? It's certainly not for the money, "I don't think I've ever been paid for this area of my work," he said. "Lack of understanding is the key problem and I can help because I can be a bridge. I understand the limitations of the system, which can for these people be intimidating."

Tom recently joined the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a non-denominational group of international activists devoted to using nonviolent direct action in the West Bank and Gaza. Tom has made three trips to Palestine to participate in non-violent demonstrations and otherwise to assist the Palestinians. "These are classic, Dr. Martin Luther King-style demonstrations," he said, "but we get hassled a lot." Tom returned to Bethlehem on September 16, and has since been in Ramallah and Nablus.

At home, he is engaged in dialogues with local Jewish congregations concerning the situation in Israel and Palestine. "We're not making significant progress, but we are talking, we're trying."

Providing free legal services to his faith community is also a priority for Ken Skolnik '92. When he is not working on his family's business, Ken donates his time to "The Ark," an organization that provides social services for qualified persons in the Chicago Jewish community. He's been volunteering there since he graduated and has won several awards from the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation for distinguished service. He recently helped two holocaust survivors deal with another member of the co-op where they were living who was giving them trouble.

While he was at the School of Law, Ken helped found the local chapter of the Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA). "All the other law schools I applied to had a JLSA chapter, but VU didn't. I felt it was important to help attract other Jewish students to the School of Law." The local chapter was an instant success. "At the time we had almost complete participation from all the Jewish law students on campus." Among other activities, the JLSA held an annual Hanukkah party and brought in guest speakers. The end of the nineties was a dormant period for the on-campus chapter. But recently, when students expressed an interest in revitalizing the local organization, Ken was asked to help and he was happy to do it.

Skolnik sees historical and philosophical connections between modern law and the tenets of his religion. "Judaism is the source of a lot of jurisprudence," he said. The law's origins can be found in the Talmud, which he continues to study. "The Talmud is the chronicle of the interpretation of Jewish law. It is a living document, a living body of work, it is constantly changing, constantly evolving, constantly being added to. The Talmud evolves and so does the law by which we are governed." But for Ken Skolnik, the connection between the two remains inviolate. "My study has taught me that the law is in fact designed to follow the moral guidelines of my faith."

How does he apply those moral guidelines? "We are all familiar with situations where people did something legal, but morally they should not be allowed to get away with it. You have to follow your morals. The rules of your faith give you background for the direction you must take."

Len Pranschke '75 has been a Missouri Synod Lutheran his entire life. His uncles, father and grandfather were all professional church workers. But he would probably say that Providence had a hand in building a practice that would serve his church.

After graduation, he was engaged by a large St. Louis law firm working for the Missouri Synod. "Like other law students I applied to a firm where I knew some VU alumni were working (Philip Draheim '62U, '64L). I fell into a law firm and discovered a particular area of practice, as happens to a lot of lawyers. I was hired by a firm that served my church. I have often thought, was this an accident or a coincidence? But I have a personal belief that lay people have a calling, and this was my calling."

In 1982, Pranschke started his own firm. Today his practice is almost exclusive to non-profit organizations.

Along with serving a variety of charitable organizations, they are Outside General Counsel for the Missouri Synod. There are 6,200 congregations in the Synod, which is an international organization. Len's firm provides advice and direction on all manner of transactions, including first amendment issues. Len described their first amendment work: "We constantly monitor Supreme Court and appellate court cases to determine if there are issues related to the Synod schools, churches and organizations. We may join in an Amicus Brief and get involved with other denominations to present the position clearly expressed by the Synod.

We address sanctity of life issues, in particular, abortion cases in which the Synod has expressed a position. Or, the Synod may be a defendant in a particular case. If there is a dispute with a professional church worker, a minister either an ordained pastor or a teacher we present a first amendment argument that it is a case between a church and a minister and as such, the government has a lack of jurisdiction over the case. We also handle discrimination cases: on age, sex, race or sexual orientation."

The demands of a practice that serves such a large and far-flung clientele is more than offset by its rewards. "This is more than ordinary lawyering. I'm practicing my vocation to help a good cause."

Deborah Renay Hawkins '80 pursued a calling that she first heard early in her academic career. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's in Educational Psychology, she came to the School of Law. "It became apparent to me very early on that there is a direct correlation between poor school performance and juvenile delinquency. So I thought and prayed to discover the way to use my gifts, talents, experience and
Valpo Lawyer
feature

Desire to help. Since I saw Special Ed issues in Abuse and Neglect, Status Offense, and Delinquency cases, I was guided to do Special Ed-related work for children and youth who are incarcerated in juvenile or adult facilities. In her work, Deborah goes to places where children do not have a voice. “Children and youth who are incarcerated don’t have anyone to speak up for them in most instances. If they can’t, for instance, read, they certainly can’t get themselves out of their problematic situation. I work to ensure that the government does its part in providing incarcerated children and youth with the education that they are entitled to by law. Most importantly I conduct my practice with the thought in mind that all of God’s children have a purpose in life which does not entail a life of crime.”

“Faith is a liberty we take for granted. We have to realize that unless you exercise your liberty, you’re going to lose it.”

Deborah Hawkins decided on her career path before she came to the Valparaiso School of Law. But her time on campus only reinforced her decision. “During my stay there, I was in a work-study program with another student who was an undergrad. During his stay at VU, he murdered someone. He was prosecuted and given a hefty sentence. Having that isolated incident happen while I was a student there, really solidified the notion of asking the Lord to help me use my gifts in the practice of Law in Special Ed, to make a difference in the lives of children and youth.”

She readily acknowledges that obtaining her law degree was hard work. “There was so much to study and so much to do: Chapel provided an opportunity for me to have a place to come face to face with the Lord. I would enter the front of the chapel before going to class and ask the Lord to give me the strength to do my work and not become misguided. I would pray and walk to the Law School, full of confidence. I could not have done that at a secular school. I really love Valpo for that.

“Even though I was not Lutheran, VU opened its doors to me and I felt very welcomed. I came as a Catholic and left a much broader person.” Deborah relies heavily on her faith to her daily practice. “It is an expensive endeavor to take on clients who may not have the ability to pay. I pray over my files, ask God for direction, and I ask for the power and comfort of the Holy Spirit and then I move forward by faith. Both of my children are now in college and I intend to use my extra time to go full force carrying on the responsibility God has equipped me for.”

David Allen ’77 ably sums up the mission of so many who choose to serve the Lord and the Law. “My profession is my ministry.” In 1980, he went to work for Van Kampen Merritt. Since 1984, he has worked directly for the Van Kampen family, overseeing the family businesses and investments.

The Van Kampens are Christian believers and David has been able to help with the family’s involvement in Christian ministries as well as their various businesses.

They have one of the largest existing privately held collections of manuscripts and Bibles. They also support a wide number of mission organizations and efforts and helped to start two churches in Chicago’s western Suburbs and in Grand Haven, Michigan. David is also involved in a number of ministries at his own church.

One ministry that is particularly dear to his heart is his participation in the Christian Legal Society (CLS). The CLS is a national non-denominational membership organization of attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, working in association with others, to follow Jesus’ command “to do justice with the love of God.”

“I got involved first semester in law school,” David explains. “I found a tear-off phone number on a bulletin board on campus and dialed a number in Oak Park, Illinois.” By the end of his second year in law school, he helped start a chapter at VU School of Law. Four years ago he became the President Elect of the National Organization of the CLS. “This is a six-year commitment in which you are President elect for 2 years, President for 2 and then Past President for 2.” His term as President will be completed November, 2002.

Naturally, David is pleased to see that the current CLS chapter at the School of Law is very active. “I have met some really sharp Christian young people ready to serve Christ through the law. We want to be good disciples, living as He did, ministering as He did, and that’s how we go about practicing law.”

A personal ministry, like a law practice, takes constant work. “I hope and pray the way I go about my business is affected by my Christianity.”

David explained, “There are plenty of times I fail. I struggle with everything just like everyone else does. It’s a continual renewal process as we try to minister to others in the name of Christ.”

Others, too, reflect on their ongoing commitment to the Lord and the Law. Tom Nelson said: “My faith is not dogmatic or insistent. It is an evolving thing.”

David Hessler adds: “Faith is a liberty we take for granted. We have to realize that unless you exercise your liberty, you’re going to lose it.”

In exercising that liberty, there is a universal truth that transcends the parameters of a particular faith practice or law practice and which the School of Law and many of its graduates have taken to heart. “If you have the ability to serve, you serve,” Ken Skolnik concluded. “We all have an obligation to help others.”
He Surrenders to the Passion

If a lawyer is asked to play Pontius Pilate onstage, is it typecasting? Not many attorneys have the first-hand knowledge necessary to answer that question effectively. But Don Schlyer '85 does. As a member of the Family Christian Center in Munster, Indiana, Don participates in the church's annual production of the Passion Play.

This is not your average Sunday School production. "The church is very involved in its theatrical ministry," Don said. "They've been doing the Passion Play for about 15 years." The play used to be staged in a room with seating for 900. But the church recently rebuilt the space, and now has seating for 4,200. "The stage is half the size of a football field. The production has 400-plus actors and as many people behind the scenes making the production work. There are live camels, chariots pulled by real horses, pyrotechnics, a full-sized replica of Herod's temple and a backdrop of the city of Jerusalem." The play runs 3 1/2 to 4 hours with an intermission. "It was a very dramatic, very violent time. The play has lots of action and deals with lots of political issues."

Don became involved in the production after he accompanied two of his clients to auditions. Swept up in the moment, he auditioned and won a role as one of the five high priests. The following year he auditioned for Pontius Pilate, won the role and has been playing him regularly ever since.

With one exception. He wanted the 'big role.' He wanted to play Jesus. But he knew going in that it would be a tough sell. "You have to understand," he explained. "I'm 51, I'm bald, I was about 40 pounds overweight. The guy playing the part was 27, Hispanic, had long hair, was very fit."

Don's mind was made up. For forty days, he fasted, went to the gym, lost the weight and trimmed down. The day of the audition he wore a longhaired wig, sunglasses, and signed in under a different name. About a dozen actors tried out for the part, and as soon as Don opened his mouth they knew exactly who he was. "But I got the understudy part and on Palm Sunday that year, I had the opportunity to play Jesus."

Participating in the play helped Don on his personal faith walk. Days when he should have been preparing for court and was instead rehearsing, he received two record verdicts from the courts. "Not through any ability of mine. I'm not that good a lawyer. I've been very blessed in my work. (Rehearsal) consumes a lot of time. It's a sacrifice. The interesting thing about a sacrifice is the person who gains the most... is the person sacrificing."

In the process of becoming more involved in the Passion Play, Don Schlyer also became more involved in the church. The Family Christian Center is a non-denominational church with a widely diverse congregation. Don feels right at home here among all races, creeds and strata of society. Schlyer and Associates do what they can to help to ensure the church's future growth.

"Every other Monday night we provide free legal counseling for people in the church." Don's firm specializes in personal injury and commercial litigation. If members of the congregation have needs outside their expertise, the firm makes referrals to point them in the right direction. "I don't do this alone. The other lawyers in my firm, who happen to be VU School of Law graduates, donate their time. David Novak '00 is a Catholic and Roger Weitgenant '90 is Lutheran. They're more than happy to help out."

Don returned to the role of Pontius Pilate last Easter season, and is undecided about next year's play. He admits, "I'm not getting any closer to 33. I've gained the weight back. I might just have to stick to Pontius Pilate."

Regardless of the role he plays, Don Schlyer will tell you that bringing the characters in this historical drama alive has a way of transforming the actors as well as the audience.
Recently we contacted all alumni asking for current address information for both home and business, as well as practice area information and professional and personal news. The response was overwhelming! Thank you for taking time to update your records.

Due to the timing of the print deadline for this issue of the magazine, a limited amount of your new information is included in the Class Actions. The summer '03 issue of the magazine will include all other responses.

We enjoy hearing from you. Keep the news coming—and thank you for your participation!

1955
Fred Bardenwerper has a private practice in Milwaukee, WI specializing in the areas of torts/personal injury, family law and bankruptcy. Fred is very active in his practice and finds being a sole practitioner very fulfilling and rewarding. Fred and his wife, Ruth Mary, enjoy their summer home on an inland lake in Wisconsin.

1971

1974
Charles Doyle recently retired from St. Ann of the Dunes Catholic Church in Beverly Shores, IN. Reverend Doyle, a priest, lawyer and longtime death-penalty opponent, received the Michigan City Bar Association's annual Liberty Bell Award titled "Equal Justice under Law."

John Hoehner has been promoted to Director of Global Litigation at Jacobs Engineering in St. Louis, MO. John has been with Jacobs since 1994, working in the area of errors & omission litigation. John will now concentrate in the area and be responsible for overseeing all claims and litigation worldwide.

1976
Ronald Kuker's oldest son Andy, graduated from Purdue University in May, 2002, and is now residing in Austin, TX. His second son Sam, is also attending Purdue and his daughter Rachel, is a junior in high school.

Melvin McWilliams has been elected Vice Chair of the Real Estate and Probate Law Section of the National Bar Association at the annual conference held in San Francisco, CA. Melvin concentrates his practice in the areas of real estate law, employment and labor law, commercial law, municipal law, and related litigation at the Lansing, MI firm of Howard & Litigation.

1978
Paul Lauber is in private practice in Edwardsville, IL. Paul focuses his practice in the areas of business and real estate transactions and estate planning. Lynn ('78U) his wife, works as a counselor at Metro-East Lutheran High School. They have two children; Andrew is a junior at VU and Rachael is a senior in high school.

1979
Barbara Sutherland has joined PMA Insurance Group in Blue Bell, PA as Vice President and general counsel. Barbara has over 20 years of legal and regulatory compliance experience in the insurance industry. She is located in the corporate legal department concentrating in contracts and providing risk management services.

1981
Leslie Reed has retired from the U.S. Marines after 20 years of service. He accepted a position as the Clean Air Act Attorney for the Air Force Legal Services Agency, Environmental Law & Litigation Division in Arlington, VA. Leslie was awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in the Marine Corps' Chief Environmental Compliance Agency.

1983
Stephen Krigbaum has been named Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel for Kraft Foods International, Asia Pacific in Fisherman's Bend, Victoria, Australia.

Steve Buyer has been a member of Congress serving as a U.S. Representative since 1992. Steve is married with two children and resides in Monticello, IN.

1985
Karen Davis recently joined the law firm of Sommer & Barnard in Indianapolis, IN. Karen practiced law for the last sixteen years in state government. In 1998, she was appointed by Secretary Katherine Davis as general counsel of Family and Social Services Administration (the largest state agency) which is responsible for stewardship of a $5 billion budget and has 11,000 employees. She is a member of Sommer and Barnard's health care and life sciences practice group. Karen will focus her practice in the areas of institutional and professional licensing and certification, reimbursement disputes, Health Care Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), practice acquisitions and joint ventures and estate planning.

Alumni—Keep In Touch

We are eager to hear from you and share your news and accomplishments with your fellow alumni and friends. Keeping us informed maintains an important link you have to the School of Law. Please send news to:

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Valparaiso University
School of Law
Wesemann Hall
Valparaiso, IN 46383
E-mail: Marilyn.Otis@valpo.edu
Toll-free: 888.825.7652
Fax: 219.465.7808.

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1986
Robert Dignam is with the Merrillville, IN firm of Spangler, Jennings & Dougherty practicing in the areas of medical malpractice defense and civil rights defense. Robert also is serving as adjunct professor of Personnel Law and Human Resources Management at Purdue University Calumet.

Charles Johnson is with the Gurnee, IL firm of Magna & Johnson concentrating his practice in the areas of local government law and criminal prosecution. Charles also serves on the Village Board of Trustees in Buffalo Grove, IL since 2000.

Michael Lygnos recently moved his private practice to Tampa, FL after practicing in New York for the past 12 years. Mike concentrates his practice in the areas of admiralty law, civil litigation and personal injury.

1987
Ronald Kurpieries II recently opened a new firm; Ullman & Kurpiereis in Tampa, FL, with his long time friend Kirsten Ullman. His practice will concentrate in the areas of sports labor, antitrust, medical malpractice and nursing home defense litigation.

1988
Jonas Urba has joined the Tampa, FL law firm of Fowler White Boggs Banker as an associate. He will concentrate in the area of workers compensation and trial and appellate practice.

1989
John Daerr has been elected to the management committee of Lock Reynolds LLP of Indianapolis, IN. His practice will concentrate in the areas of tort, insurance and business litigation as well as alternative dispute resolution.

Susan Hartman O'Conner is the staff attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator for Legal Services of South-central Michigan in Battle Creek, MI. In May, she married Rob O'Conner from Manchester, England. They plan on relocating to England in January 2003.

LIVE BAR REVIEW RETURNS

In the Summer of 2003 ICLEF will produce a LIVE Indiana Bar Review course on the campus of Valparaiso University. This course and the Valpo Law faculty will prepare the student to take and pass the 2003 Indiana Bar Examination.

The Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum (ICLEF) is the "legal education arm of the Indiana State Bar Association" and has been providing high-quality continuing legal education to the practicing Indiana Bar for nearly 40 years.

The 2003 faculty consists of: Mark Adams, Director, David Hollenbeck, Alan Morrison, Michael DeBoer, Sy Moskovitz, Claire Nuechterlein, Morris Sunkel, Rosalie Levinson, Bruce Berner, Susan Stuart, Charles Kidd, Thomas Yoder, William O'Connor, and James Stankiewicz.

Tuition: The fee for this course is $1,195.

Frequently Asked Questions about the ICLEF Indiana Bar Review Course:
Q. Are the lectures presented to us LIVE or on Video Tape?
A. The lectures will be presented to you LIVE. Tapes will be made available to “check out” to review missed lectures.

Q. Will course viewing be available via the Internet?
A. Yes. However, this will be considered a “premium service” and an additional fee will be required.

QUESTIONS: Call ICLEF at (317) 637-91002 or contact Mark Adams (219) 465-7869 or email mark.adams@valpo.edu.

Friends can still keep in contact with Susan at susanhartman@yahoo.com.

Lisa Sunderman has recently been promoted to regional counsel to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice in Atlanta, GA. Lisa will supervise legal operations and staff throughout the southeast and provide legal counsel to the Bureau of Prisons regional and institution officials.

1990
Scott Cleveland has been named the director of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition and general counsel for the Mental Health Association in Indiana. The coalition is a broad-based organization focused on creating and taking advantage of opportunities to project a unified voice for addiction issues. Scott has also served as a public defender in juvenile court, sat as a pro tempore judge, and represented municipalities and nonprofit organizations.

1992
Michael Resener is with Physician Business Services in Indianapolis, IN specializing in the areas of healthcare, tax and business. Michael is also retained as counsel with the firm of McMains Foster & Morse. Michael has three children, John born on May 9, 2002, Megan, 6 years old and Peter, 3 years old.

1993
Matthew Fornshell has joined the Cleveland, OH law firm of Kohrman Jackson & Krantz PLL as partner in the firm’s securities and litigation practice group. Matthew’s primary responsibilities include representing individuals and companies in state and federal securities regulatory matters, with emphasis on investment advisor and broker/dealer issues.
Jacqueline Gipson has been appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Northwest.

Randy Wylie is with the Schererville, IN firm of Wieser & Sterba practicing in the areas of civil litigation, estates and probate and criminal defense. Randy was recently approved as legal counsel to the Chair of the Indiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers section.

1994
Steve Brown is with the firm of Early, Lennon, Crocker & Bartosiewicz in Kalamazoo, MI. Steve practices in the areas of corporate, business and employment law. Steve and Jennifer were married in 1996. They have 2 sons, Evans Howard, age 2 and John Thomas, 4 months.

Michael Faehner is the senior associate with the firm of McFarland, Gould, Lyons, Sullivan and Hogan in Clearwater, FL. He practices in the areas of workers’ compensation, labor, personal injury, estate planning and probate law. Michael was recently elected the president of the Clearwater Bar Association. In addition, he represents the Sixth Judicial Circuit on the Florida Bar, Young Lawyers Division, and the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors honored him as the most outstanding board member for this year. He also has the honor of chairing the Sixth Judicial Circuit Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee for the Florida Bar.

Bill Leonard has left the family office supply business of Kramer Leonard of Valparaiso, IN to join the firm of Hoffman Burke & Bozick in Chicago, IL.

Troy Rafferty was married June 3rd to Lynn Ashley Partridge. Troy is with the Florida firm of Levin, Middlebrooks. Troy and Lynn reside in Pensacola, FL.

Suzi Schrader will be a court mediator for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Child Protection Division. In addition, she was recently sworn in as a Board member for the Chicago Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution.

1995
Sherry Faubion just recently relocated to the Minneapolis, MN area. Sherry has accepted a new position as assistant director of the Lower School at the Blake School in Minneapolis.

Michael Graham is practicing with the Chicago, IL firm of McDermott, Will & Emery. He is specializing in the areas of employee benefits and ERISA litigation.

Margaret Loitz has joined 1st Source Bank’s Personal Trust as a trust officer. Margaret has 4 years of trust experience. Previously, she was Assistant Vice President and trust officer at Mercantile National Bank of Indiana and practiced with the firm of Blachly, Tabor Bozik & Hartman in Valparaiso. She recently earned the Certified Retirement Services Professional (CRSP) designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers.

Marjorie Lawyer-Smith is senior Justice Clerk for the Indiana Court of Appeals in Indianapolis, IN. She left private practice after starting a family and returned to the Court of Appeals. Marjorie has two children, Elijah Harrison and Tess Katherine.

Scott Loitz has joined the South Bend, IN firm of Jones Obenchain LLP as an associate attorney. Previously Scott was an associate attorney with the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson in Schererville, IN.

Ashley Rozek was recently married to Robert Howell of Fisher, IN. Ashley is an attorney with the Indianapolis, IN firm of Rocap Witchger & Threlkeld.

1996
J. Aaron Cooke has a private practice in Lafayette, IN. His firm concentrates in the areas of personal injury and plaintiff’s litigation. Aaron and his wife are expecting their first child in February 2003.

John Cowan joined the Ft. Wayne, IN firm of Towkow Cvell Rosenblatt & Johnson last February. John concentrates in the area of general practice with the emphasis in family law, criminal defense and personal injury.

Tina Coffey is currently serving the Illinois Supreme Court as a judicial law clerk for Justice Thomas Kilbride.

Michelle Couch has received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award for 2001 from the NW County Legal Services Project. Michelle is expecting an addition to her family in December of this year. Michelle and her family reside in Idaho Springs, CO.

John DeVoss is with the Hurst, TX firm of Smith & DeVoss. John practices in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury, real estate and civil litigation law. John and his wife, Michelle and daughter, Madison, recently welcomed John Mansfield to the family in August 2002.

Gary Furst practices with the Fort Wayne, IN firm of Barnes & Thornburg. Gary is the father of two children,
(Reprinted from the Post-Tribune)

Judge Mary Harper Receives Award

Porter Circuit Court Judge Mary Harper '75 received the prestigious Marilyn J. Niequist Award for her contributions to Porter County's youth. Harper's 27-year career includes Porter County's first female chief deputy prosecuting attorney, the county's Family Court Project and Project Attend, a co-operative program with schools to provide early intervention for at-risk students.

Harper has vivid memories of seeing abused children return to court as adult defendants. "I ask myself, 'What has to be that messed up in that kid's life for him to follow that path?'" Mary's husband, David Chidester '81, commented, "She's the mother superior of all of Porter County's 50,000 children."

Daniel Zlatic has joined the Highland, IN firm of Johnson & Bell LTD as an associate attorney. Dan concentrates his practice in the area of general liability defense litigation. Dan and his wife, Toni (Tratta), have 3 children, Lauren 6 years, Olivia 4 years, and Sarah 3 years old and they reside in Crown Point, IN.

1997

Andrew Saewert is vice president and trust officer for Fifth Third Bank in Holland, MI. His wife, Ilse, ('95) is taking a break from practicing law full time to care for their two children, Ann 3 years old, and 2 month old Reid.

1998

Philip Beth is court counsel with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau, a small island nation in Micronesia.

Jeffrey Graham is with the Indianapolis, IN firm of Sommer Barnard and Ackerson, PC. Jeffrey practices in the areas of commercial law and commercial bankruptcy.


Philip Pulliam is with KPMG LLP in McLean, VA as senior associate concentrating in the areas of state & local tax and mergers & acquisitions. Philip is a member of the firm's Global Energy Group; and the Virginia State Tax Specialist. He was a contributor to Virginia Law to State Tax Notes Today, and assisted with the publication of "State Taxation of Electric, Natural Gas, and Other Public Utilities."

Theodore Roe has joined the firm of Hooper, England & Well LLP in Portland, OR. His firm specializes in representation of banks and financial lending institutions. Theodore's practice will concentrate in the areas of civil and commercial litigation, bankruptcy and the entertainment industry. Theodore also has several clients in the music entertainment industry, with one musical group listed in Canada's top 30.
1999

Robert Coyle has joined the Schererville, IN firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson as an associate. Robert will be working in the asset and risk management section of the firm. Robert has clerked for the Honorable Margaret Robb of the Indiana Court of Appeals since graduation.

Bryan Kemler is in private practice in Boulder, CO practicing in the areas of civil litigation and motor carrier law. He was recently published in the journal Colorado Lawyer, "Collecting Documentary Evidence to Prepare the Heavy Truck Case." March 2002, Pg. 79. Bryan is also the Chairman, Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, Boulder Chapter.

2000

Jewell Harris is an attorney with Hodges & Davis, P.C., in Merrillville, IN. Jewell serves as legal counsel for the Gary Steelheads, an Indiana liability company holding a membership interest in the Continental Basketball Association. Jewell negotiates player contracts, including those going into the National Basketball Association.

David Novak is currently with the Merrillville, IN firm of Schlyer & Associates. His is teaching an American History Course at the Purdue Calumet Campus. David and his wife, Jennifer have one son, Michael, and have recently welcomed a new addition, Jillian Nicole in February.

2001

Melissa Hawk of Fort Wayne, IN has been named an Alumni Achievement Award winner from Lake Michigan College where she graduated in 1995. Melissa is an associate attorney with the law firm of Hunt Suedhoff Kalamaros LLP in Fort Wayne, IN.

Teri Piechocki has accepted a position as staff attorney for Judge William Palmer in the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Daytona Beach, FL. Teri and her family have recently relocated to Florida.

2002

Beth Mercer-Taylor has accepted a position at Kennedy & Gaven in Minneapolis, MN. Her practice will concentrate in the area of public finance. She was also selected as a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota's School of Public Affairs. During the 2002-03 academic year she will participate in four conferences and symposia, work with other fellows on a policy project, and complete a week-long study trip to Washington D.C. where the fellows will meet national policy leaders. This is a competitive fellowship in Minnesota, and as a non-Minnesotan she was very pleased to be selected.

Deceased

The dean, faculty, staff, students and alumni of Valparaiso University School of Law honor the following alumni and friends who have passed away.

1935

Henry Tegge Gieseke, March 25, 2002, Colorado Springs, CO

1952

Raymond W. Kehren, notified August, 2002

1960

Cecil A. Query, August 9, 2001, Bryan, OH

Howard G. Heckner, summer 2001, Legionier, IN

1969

Michael Reese, July 26, 2002, Seattle, WA

1973

Frederick Charles Boynton, June 9, 2002, South Bend, IN

The Alumni Relations team has made it a priority to be more active in reaching out, staying in contact and listening to concerns and suggestions from alumni and friends. We appreciate all your efforts to keep in touch and hope that you will continue to contact us whenever you need our help or have a suggestion to improve alumni programs.

Lawalumni@valpo.edu

VALPO LAW HATS IN MARATHONS

Three marathon runners received Valpo Law hats recently while visiting campus for the National Council meeting on Saturday, September 14. Cornell Boggs '85 and Larry Evans '62 ran in the Chicago Marathon on October 13. Honorary Alumnus Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan will run in the Boston Marathon in April '03.

PHOTO (l to r): Cornell Boggs, Frank Sullivan, Larry Evans
Glenn Tabor Receives Duerr Award

The Duerr Award was established in 1999, named for its first recipient Robert K. Duerr '53. The Duerr Award is presented to graduates whose exemplary personal and professional lifestyles enhance the law school's reputation in their own communities.

Glenn Tabor '58 and wife Patricia '62, reside in Valparaiso, IN, where Glenn practices at Blachly Tabor Bozik & Hartman. Glenn has been an active member of the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association serving as its President in 1989. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association. His fellow lawyers from Northern Indiana elected him to serve on the Indiana Judicial Nominating and Qualifications Committee in 1992. Glenn currently serves on the Indiana Supreme Court Rules Committee that is responsible for the promulgation of the Indiana Rules of Court.

Glenn has served his community by being an active member of his local church congregation and also served as President of Porter-Starke Services, the local mental health organization. He is the founder of the Tabor Institute for Legal Ethics at VU School of Law. The Institute sponsors an annual lecture series and gives scholarships for law students. The Tabor Classroom in the law school is named after the Tabors for their financial commitment to Valpo Law.

Bob Duerr has practiced law in North Tonawanda, NY, for 44 years, including 21 years as an assistant district attorney and 16 years as a city judge. He has served his community through Rotary, Boys Club, the Town Club, the local bar association and St. Mark's Lutheran congregation, and as a volunteer firefighter. Bob and wife Caroline have seven children, all graduates of Valparaiso University.
"Took me 10 years and two wars to get my degrees at VU and VU School of Law. We should all be proud of what Valpo Law has done for us and what it continues to do for us today."

Otis Burrus '52

on his 50th year reunion
Homecoming Weekend 2002
Golden Gavel Society Dinner
Jan. 8
Spring Semester Courses Begin

Jan. 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Feb. 10-15
Law Week
Student Bar Association

Feb. 14
Professional Development Day
Valpo Law Career Services: 1.877.825.7652

Feb. 15
Alumni Association Board Meeting
Wesemann Hall

Feb. 20
Monsanto Lecture; Prof. William H. Rodgers, Jr., University of Washington School of Law, 17th Annual Monsanto Lecture on Tort Reform and Jurisprudence.

Feb. 28
Law Clinic Benefit: 'Bye Bye Birdie' For tickets, contact: Sue Hefner (sue.hefner@valpo.edu)

Mar. 2-16
Spring Break

Mar. 25
Erwin Chemerinsky, the Sidney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics and Political Science, USC School of Law, sponsored by the Multicultural Law Student Association

Apr. 1
Indiana Supreme Court Lecture; Charles Ogletree, the Jesse Climenko Professor at Harvard University School of Law; 4 p.m.

Apr. 24
Tabor Lecture; Prof. Thomas D. Morgan, Oppenheim Professor at the George Washington University Law School; the CLE portion of the lecture will begin at 2:30 PM; the Public lecture will begin at 4:00 PM.

May 18
Graduation

For information on these and other programs, please check our website at: http://www.valpo.edu/law/