

Winter 2010

## Winter 2010

Valparaiso University Guild

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# Being an International Lutheran University

One of the vision statements that emerged from the current strategic planning process relates to internationalization stating, "Valparaiso University will be acclaimed for the vitality of its international programs, which empower both U.S. and international students to lead and thrive in a global community."

The University received such acclaim when it was the recipient of the 2008 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. This award recognizes innovative efforts by higher education institutions that prepare students for an interconnected world.

It is a point of distinction for a school of Valparaiso University's size and location to attract students from all across the globe. This effort started through the University's Lutheran connections and has expanded through administrators initiating partnerships with institutions and officials from China, India, Germany, Kazakhstan, the list goes on.

A new partnership with Concordia College—New York, announced in November 2009, brings together the two institutions to create a Center for Global and Professional Studies. This Center will develop collaborative programs and facilitate international study and faculty development on both campuses.

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*Brian Westrick,  
Holly Singh, and  
Moiz Ali at the VISA  
Graduation Dinner  
December 2009.*

# GUILD BULLETIN

WINTER 2010 • Volume 81 | Issue 2

# With One Voice

by Linda Deal



The Guild has always been a geographically diverse organization with members from all over the United States and, at times, from other countries. Likewise, the student body at Valparaiso University has come from across

the country and there has been an international student presence as well. The international segment of the student population continues to increase, with seven percent of the student body this fall calling other countries their home. Valparaiso University has recently been recognized among academic institutions for its emphasis on internationalization, and the University intends to raise this profile.

As the premier organization on campus that supports students, the Guild has to ask itself, what are we doing to support *all* students, including international students? And how might we enhance the international flavor of Valparaiso University through vehicles such as our Guild Campus Gift Grants? In years past we have supported student trips and projects around the world, and this year is no different with grants awarded to projects in Nicaragua and Tanzania. The Guild has always reached out to students to make them feel more at home at Valpo. How might we support for students coming from across the globe?

As we press forward in support of all students at Valparaiso University, the Board will consider new ways we can intentionally include international students in this support and meaningfully enhance their experience while at Valpo. Please contact any board member with your ideas about how the Guild can help raise the University's international profile. We value your creativity and enthusiasm on behalf of Valpo students! 💡

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

An art exhibit which showcases the work of **Thomas H. Kapsalis** will be on display through March 20 at the Brauer Museum of Art. Visit [valpo.edu/artmuseum](http://valpo.edu/artmuseum) for information.

It is preferred that **Guild scholarship applications** are received by January 15. Students need only apply once to be considered for all scholarships that they are eligible. The form is online at [valpo.edu/guild/forms](http://valpo.edu/guild/forms).

The University welcomes Darron C. Farha from Pittsburgh State University in Kansas. He joined Valpo as the **University's first general counsel** this fall.

**Student athletes** at Valparaiso University continue to distinguish themselves academically. An NCAA study showed that Valpo's student athletes had a graduation success rate of 96 percent, higher than many peer universities.

The **School of Law** is offering expanded continuing education courses with a focus on essential skills to meet the needs of the changing legal profession. Classes to be taught include "How to Conduct Legal Research on the Web."

The Chorale, Bach Choir and the Symphony Orchestra will perform the monumental **St. Matthew Passion** on Saturday, March 20. This will be the fourth performance of the Chorale Series. Visit [valpo.edu/music](http://valpo.edu/music) to learn more. 💡

## *Being an International Lutheran University...Continued from Page 1*

Along with having international students study abroad at Valpo, the University thought it would be a great opportunity for local families to gain a multi-cultural experience. Valpo extends hospitality to the 345 students attending Valpo from abroad through organizations such as Friendship Families. This program is an opportunity for local families to adopt foreign students.

"For many international students this is the first time leaving their home country. In essence, Valparaiso University facilitates their first cross-cultural experience," said Julie Maddox, Director of Study Abroad Programs.

Many students who attend Valpo from abroad find community by being involved in student organizations. The Valparaiso International Student Association (VISA) hosts popular events such as the International Dinner and the International Food Bazaar in an effort to highlight the diversity of cultures represented on campus. Holly Singh, Director of International Studies, sees Valpo fostering connections all across the world.

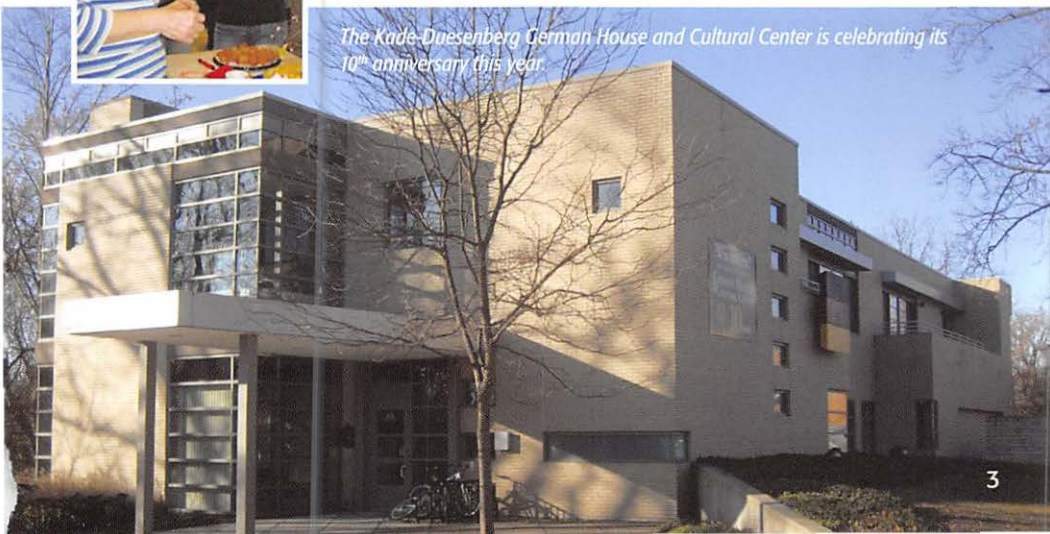
The greatest number of international students (58%) are pursuing degrees in the Graduate and Law Schools. Beginning this fall, the University started offering an international living community at 807 Mound.

Guild members has supported the University's preparation of students to thrive in a global community through its Guild Campus Gift grant funding for service learning programs through the College of Nursing and the Education Department as well as the student organization Engineers Without Borders. ⚡



*Valpo students who live in the German House make a commitment to speak German while in the facility.*

*The Kade-Driesenberg German House and Cultural Center is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.*



*International students represent  
46 countries.*

*Valpo teaches 8 different  
language courses.*

*234 students earned credit through  
a study abroad experience last  
year. Learn more at:  
[valpo.edu/international/](http://valpo.edu/international/)*

# Student Outreach Increases Guild Awareness

By Katie Davis

"This is so neat!" Guild volunteers pleasantly surprised students walking through the Union November 9–13. The first **Guild Week** was planned to celebrate and support students in the days leading up to a stressful time of the year.

**VU Guild is ALL for you!** At the beginning of the week, students received an ALL laundry detergent package in their mailbox to encourage them to stop by the Guild table.

Each day a new activity fostered excitement and education about the Guild. On Wednesday, 100 Stay Healthy Kits were handed out to keep students well during cold season. A hunt on Thursday created campus excitement. Sarah Albers, Marie Daboub, Krystle Dove and Tayler Grashel found hidden Guild smiley "Thingamewants" (stressballs), and they received gift cards to Noodles



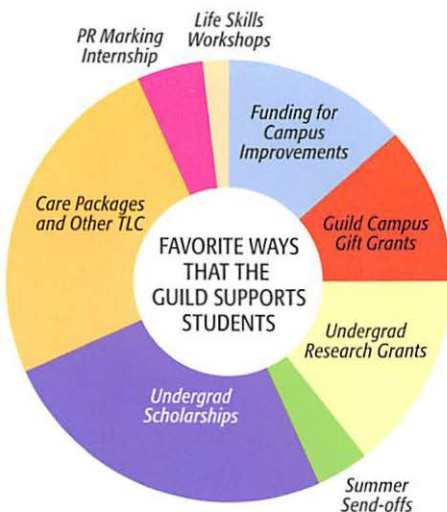
*Students at the Guild table sign up for their chance to win the raffle.*

& Company. All students who stopped by the table received a free stressball to encourage them through midterm exams.

All throughout the week, students had a chance to enter a drawing for two \$25 gift cards to TGI Fridays. The winners, Rebecca Richmond and Jazmine Reyes, were delighted to have their names drawn from the 172 students who entered.

As a finale to the week, students were surveyed on their favorite way that the Guild supports students. Care packages and undergraduate scholarships were the top two choices out of the one hundred students surveyed.

In addition to Guild Week, Life Skills Workshops are another new initiative allowing the Guild to directly support students. Fall semester's workshop, "Keeping the Peace: Tips on Conflict Resolution," took place on September 16. More than 60 students attended the CORE approved event. ✨



## MEET A MEMBER



### Gretchen (Koehler) Stoepelwerth

- > Home: Houston, Texas
- > Family: Husband, Hank ('54), Children – Matt, Paul, Martha ('84), Susan ('86)
- > Valpo Connection: 1955 graduate
- > Guild History: Active in several locations since 1980s



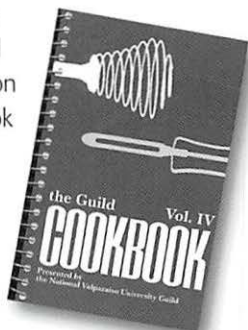
*Seeking a fresh start, Gretchen explored colleges away from home and chose Valpo. She explains, “all my friends went to UW Madison and I wanted to go somewhere away from all the people I had grown up with.”*

*As a student, Gretchen was involved with Alpha Phi Delta and the Beacon. She fondly remembers how the class of '55 was the first to have elementary education as a four year major. She said, “My B.S. in Elem. Ed. prepared me well for over twenty years of teaching.” She also recalls that her senior banquet took place at the “not quite done” Student Union.*

*Joining the Guild was an easy decision as her mom had been a member in Wisconsin and Gretchen has “always loved Valpo.” Gretchen supports the Guild because she feels “it is a place to have a say and there are so many worthwhile projects.” She really enjoys that the Guild gives out goodie bags, and supports many students through scholarships. Gretchen is a breast cancer survivor and loves being a part of a book group as well as near the grandkids in Houston. 💡*

## Best of the Best Guild Cookbook

Volunteers are being recruited for a fifth edition Guild Cookbook featuring the “best of the best” recipes from the first four volumes.



Specifically, everyone is encouraged to share what recipes they have enjoyed most over the years.

New recipes may also be submitted. Organizers of the project are most interested in recipes that serve one or two, vegetarian dishes, and regional recipes. Men are encouraged to share their favorites, too!

As with past volumes, each recipe will need to be tested. The committee is also hoping to find Guild supporters willing to help keep cost—such as printing—low.

It is anticipated that this edition will be available in 2011—in time for celebrating the Guild's 80th anniversary.

A form to use to submit recipes is available on the Guild's web page ([valpo.edu/guild/assets/pdf/cookbook\\_promo.pdf](http://valpo.edu/guild/assets/pdf/cookbook_promo.pdf)). Please contact the committee at [guild.cookbook@valpo.edu](mailto:guild.cookbook@valpo.edu) to volunteer or make suggestions. 💡

# 2009 Guild Campus Gift Grant Recipients

By Katie Davis

*A Balancing Act: Students take a break during last year's Engineers Without Borders trip to Kenya.*

This year, the Guild allocated **\$17,912** to help fund projects that benefit Valpo students.

Every Wednesday night, nearly 150 students gather in the Gloria Christi

Chapel to clap, sing and praise together. For students, Celebrate! Worship Service is a chance to see friends and spiritually connect through music. Junior Katy Thomay commented, "It's a great stress reliever during the middle of the week."

The student led service is one of the 2009 Guild Campus Grant recipients. Celebrate! received \$912 to purchase a new acoustic guitar and sound equipment. Sound worker, Elliott Stephenson pointed to the sound cables that were purchased from the Guild's gift, "we don't need a lot to make a great experience, but it all helps."

The 2009 Guild Campus Gift Grant Recipients illustrate how the Guild's generous support can be far reaching. This year, the Guild allocated

\$17,912 to help fund projects that benefit Valpo students.

The student organization, Engineers Without Borders, was awarded \$5,000 to support an educational spring break trip to Maseara, Tanzania. A group of ten interdisciplinary students will help repair the town's canal and promote education for safe water drinking. Finance Chair, Rachel Howell remarked, "It gives students the opportunity to use skills learned in school in a real world and humanitarian setting." For many of the student travelers, this will be a unique occasion to experience African culture and make life-long friends.

Another group of Valpo students will be traveling to Bluefields and Managua, Nicaragua with a \$1,500 gift from the Guild. Students will teach and prepare lessons in Spanish at a bilingual school and an orphanage. "The primary focus is on literacy, teaching, and service learning in diverse settings," stated Dr. Del Gillispie, assistant professor in education and biology. For previous

participants, the experience was a chance "to be a part of the solution" and learn how to incorporate language, culture, family, and community values into instruction.

New campus improvements will also be funded by the Guild grants. Chapel attendees will notice a new chime during Sunday worship services. The Guild granted \$2,000 to refurbish the five-octave handbells in the Chapel of the Resurrection. The renovation will make songs more appealing to the congregation or audience. The addition comes as the Chapel celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"We are enjoying the great look and sound," stated Andrew Robinson, student co-director of one of the University's hand bell choirs. Being a part of the hand bell choirs has been a rewarding opportunity for students, and with the Guild's support "we look forward to the concerts we will have this semester and in the years to come," said Robinson.

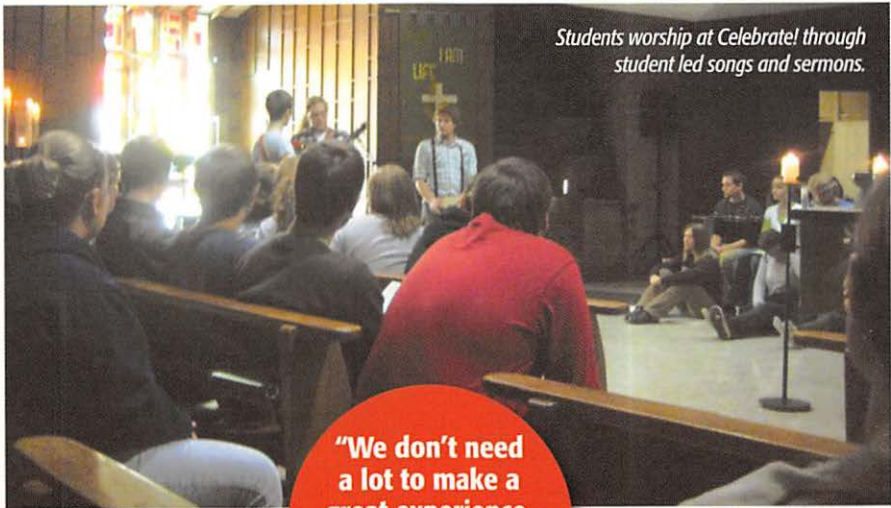
Grants will also give Valpo a new edge in recruiting prospective students.

*Continued on Page 8*



*Students connected with local residents on the Engineers Without Borders trip to Kenya.*





*Students worship at Celebrate! through student led songs and sermons.*

**"We don't need a lot to make a great experience, but it all helps."**

*Elliott Stephenson*

*Continued from Page 7*

A \$5,000 gift will update the welcome desk in Kretzman Hall. Barb Lieske, Valpo Admission Network Director, explained that the goal is to create "a warm, welcoming lobby with new wood furniture." The new welcoming area will feature two display monitors to highlight staff members, showcase Valpo trivia and welcome expected visitors. Lieske pointed out that the digital upgrade will let our visitors know that "we look forward to their visit, while sharing information that our current students and staff would benefit from learning." The changes to Kretzmann Hall are expected to take place in Summer 2010.

Meanwhile, the Education Department is looking forward to a technology upgrade, which is estimated to take place before winter break. The Guild presented

the Department with \$3,500 to install wireless access points in Miller Hall. Currently only two classrooms in the building have technology in them for teaching and presentations. Ruth Johnston, instructor in education, expressed that the improvement "will open up new opportunities for all to learn how technology can be used." The request was made after research-based recommendations illustrated the importance of creating 21st Century classrooms with tech-savvy teachers and students.

This year the Guild was able to fund six grants. The Guild seeks to expand the grant program and can do so through generous support of the Guild Endowment Fund. Applications for the 2010 Guild Campus Gift grants will be available in Spring 2010. ✦

# Best Buddies, A Friend to Last a Lifetime

By Erin Gleason

For several years, Valpo students have participated in Best Buddies, an organization that connects intellectually disabled people from the community with students. Students and their buddies take part in group events such as hay rides, bowling or movie nights, and parties.

Claire Brackmann, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences said, "Best buddies is a way to make a new friend, by doing the things that I already enjoy doing. As a part of Best Buddies, I am required to talk to my buddy once a week and hang out with them twice a month. My buddy and I go out for lunch, watch movies and attend sporting events."



*Friendships are built through the Best Buddies program when students participate in fun events such as bowling games and hayrides.*



Best Buddies was founded in 1989 and has grown to have participants in 1,400 schools. It provides a way for students to advocate for the respect, rights and friendship of those in the community with intellectual disabilities. This year, 11 students participate and volunteer one to two hours per week. At Valparaiso University, the program is directed by Kristyna Hix, a senior from the College of Arts and Sciences. She explained, "My favorite activity had to be when we went to the VU men's basketball game. After the game, we got to meet the team and buddies were able to get their posters signed and talk to the players. Their faces were in permanent smiles after that!" 🌟

Agnus Day is a weekly cartoon drawn by Pastor James Wetzstein, based on the Gospel lesson for Sunday's service at the Chapel of the Resurrection. The following cartoon is based on the University's motto, "In Thy Light, We See Light" (Psalm 36:9). Wetzstein is an associate pastor at Valpo. To view more of his comics visit [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org).

THIS LIGHT THAT BELONGS TO GOD...



[www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)

IT'S DIVINE WISDOM BORNE ON GOD'S COMPASSIONATE GRACE FOR US.



"IN THY LIGHT, WE SEE LIGHT"

SO IT'S NOT REAL LIGHT THEN.



HOW MUCH MORE REAL DO YOU WANT IT?



PSALM 36:9

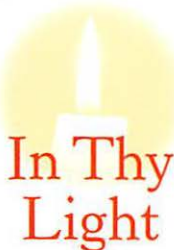
WETZSTEIN © 11.11.10

## “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

Ephesians 4:23 NASB

The buzz begins as the first day of spring semester approaches. It starts slowly with athletes running on the campus of VU (yes, even in the snow). Groups of students begin browsing the bookstore. The excitement builds and by the first day of classes something close to pandemonium sets in. The campus awakens from its former tranquility. It's a new semester and a new beginning.

Many people consider the new year their chance for a new beginning—making resolutions to change . . . you know the list. I have always felt the same way about the beginning of a new semester—time



to try something novel, accomplish something difficult and improve myself. Spiritual goals usually run the gamut from “read my Bible every day” to “faithfully attend church.” Sometimes those goals are just as hard as “losing those last ten pounds.”

Better to stop at this time and ponder my relationship with God and how it needs to take priority in my life. Whether my life is tranquil or filled with pandemonium, he needs to renew my mind and be my focus. I need to be ready when the serenity is over and the uproar begins. ✦

*Diane Zuber, the Guild's summer intern and an adult scholar, is the author of this devotion. She lives in Portage, IN and works in the Office of Admission.*

## Creativity and Innovation Web Conference



“Developing an environment that promotes **creativity and innovation** requires a strategic decision by a company’s leaders. Making such a commitment can create an enduring strategic advantage that will provide benefits far exceeding the cost,” said Dr. Doug Tougaw, Richardson professor of engineering.

Tougaw will present a lecture titled “Creating an Environment that Promotes Creativity and Innovation” via the web on **Sunday, January 31 at 4 pm (CST)**. The lecture provides 10 key actions that anyone can use to promote creativity and innovation in their professional and personal lives.

Since 1996, Tougaw has taught in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He received the Alumni Association’s 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award, which recognizes and encourages excellence in the art of teaching. His specialty is research related to quantum electronics. He is nationally-recognized for his scholarship on ethics and emerging technology.

The public is welcome to register online at [valpo.edu/union/tickets/](http://valpo.edu/union/tickets/) to attend this web presentation. The cost is \$25 per Internet connection with all proceeds benefiting the Guild Endowment Fund. The Guild Endowment Fund supports the University Guild’s philanthropic efforts to enhance the Valpo student experience. ✦

## MEET A STUDENT



### Blake Edwards

- > Home: Orange, CA
- > Major: Classics and History
- > Grad Year: 2010



Why would you choose Valpo when you live in sunny California? Blake Edwards did just that and responded, "I chose Valparaiso University because of its combination of academic respectability, financial availability and the opportunity to participate in collegiate athletics." Blake was asked to join Christ College and was challenged by the quality curriculum and professors. The experience "would be a way to train my reading, writing, and critical thinking skills," explained Edwards.

Blake's involvement with the swimming and diving team has had an impact on himself and VU. He holds the third fastest 500 freestyle time in school history! Last year, Edwards and his teammates broke 18 school records.

Blake was awarded the VU Guild Cookbook Scholarship along with several other scholarships, and says "the Valpo Guild has truly blessed my time here and therefore the rest of my life." His future plans include attending seminary to eventually become a Lutheran pastor. ✨

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Remember to submit applications for Guild scholarships!*

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### January 31, 2010, 4 pm –

Web Presentation "Creating an Environment that Promotes Creativity and Innovation" presented by: Dr. Doug Tougaw from the College of Engineering. Registration fee is \$25. Contact the Guild office for more details.

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### February 11, 10 am –

Valentine's Care Package Packing and Delivery

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### March 1-14 –

Spring Break

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### March 20, 7 pm –

St. Matthew Passion, Chapel

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### March 25, 1-6 pm –

Grad Finale

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### April 13 –

79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Guild's Founding and Guild Day of Prayer

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### April 25 –

Celebration of Undergraduate Research, on campus

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### April 30 - May 1 –

Guild Board Meeting, Valparaiso, IN

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### May 2, 3 pm –

Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection" Get details from [http://www.valpo.edu/music/performances/choral\\_concert\\_series.php](http://www.valpo.edu/music/performances/choral_concert_series.php)

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### May 4, 10 am –

Finals Care Package Packing and Delivery, Harre Union Ballroom

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### May 16 –

Commencement

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Check [www.valpo.edu/guild/events](http://www.valpo.edu/guild/events) for more event information.



11100 Campus Drive South  
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Valparaiso, IN 46383

*The Guild enhances the student experience while exemplifying the University's ideals of scholarship, freedom and faith.*

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## VALPO SUNDAY

Church Relations provides free materials to promote Valparaiso University in congregations as part of a Valpo or Lutheran Higher Education Sunday. Materials may be downloaded in .pdf form or ordered from [valpo.edu/churchrelations/resources/valposunday.php](http://valpo.edu/churchrelations/resources/valposunday.php). For more information, ask at [church.relations@valpo.edu](mailto:church.relations@valpo.edu) or 1.800.803.7184, ext 25.

## ALUMNI AWARDS

Guild members are encouraged to submit nominations for the 2010 Valparaiso University Alumni Awards. The deadline for receipt of nominations is February 15. Awardees are selected by the Alumni Association in April, with awards given at Homecoming. The nomination form is available online at [valpo.edu/alumni/alumniassociation/awards.php](http://valpo.edu/alumni/alumniassociation/awards.php). Questions may be sent Kellie Fields at [kellie.fields@valpo.edu](mailto:kellie.fields@valpo.edu) or 800.833.6792 ext. 18.

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Guild Facebook Fan Page!*

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Julie Thomas, *Director*  
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Katie Davis, Erin Gleason, Diane Zuber, *Interns*  
K Creative Group, Inc., Chicago, IL, *Design*

The *Guild Bulletin* is published by the Valparaiso University Guild, Inc., Loke Hall  
1100 Campus Drive South, Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Phone: 219-464-5315  
Toll-free: 800-748-4538  
Fax: 219-464-5467  
E-mail: [guild@valpo.edu](mailto:guild@valpo.edu)  
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