

VALPARAISO  UNIVERSITY
CHRIST COLLEGE

CHRIST COLLEGE LIVES:

FAITH AND WORK, LOVE AND LIFE



FREDRICK BARTON '70, EDITOR

CHAIR, CHRIST COLLEGE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Christ College Lives: Faith and Work, Love and Life

**Introductory Remarks: CC Homecoming Celebration
Saturday, September 30, 2017, 5:30 pm
Fredrick Barton '70**

I find it fitting to be stepping in front of this audience after being introduced by Dean Margaret Franson. It was she, after all, who assigned me the task of standing here at this moment. And that is fitting, too, because, as everyone who graduated from Christ College since 1991 knows first hand, Dean Franson is the engine that pulls the C.C. train. Our esteemed deans may have provided the broad vision, but Margaret Franson supervised the details. And this Golden Anniversary celebration of our founding, like so much about Christ College, has been a Margaret Franson project. I stand here now as one of her details.

I frankly don't recall whose idea it was as part of our anniversary celebration to solicit short biographies from our alumni. But once the idea was agreed to, Margaret volunteered me to edit the submissions into a compendium, which I hope you have had the chance to peruse or will take the chance to read through once the final edition is available. My own reading of these biographies has proven an exquisite pleasure. We C.C. alums have been up to *some* stuff the last half century, and our compendium is a forthright indication of outstanding individual achievement indicative of amazing programmatic success. I am incredibly pleased to have my own biography nestled among all of these others. I am confident every grad who reads the compendium will come away feeling proud. As my wife Joyce will affirm, over and over again as I made my first read through, I paused to exclaim, "Wow, I went through the same program as this person. And that person. And the next person. And the person after that." To paraphrase Queen, "We have, we have, rocked it."

Our compendium includes approximately 400 biographies, and though I am not a trained pollster, I think this current number represents a more than adequate representative sample of what Christ College graduates have been doing since they collected their diplomas. Examining the list of entries yields a

number of observations. First of all, though we are not everywhere, we are certainly all over the place. In addition to our fellow alums living and working abroad in Albania, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, we are residing in Washington, D.C., and forty of the fifty states. A little fewer than fifty percent of us reside in the Midwest while slightly over half of us settled elsewhere across the U.S. and abroad. Together, about twenty-five percent of our alums live along the east and west coasts. Where we need more settlement is in the South. In my own state of Louisiana I am joined by only two other alums, and I can testify this makes Christ College reading group discussions very short.

But whether plentiful or few, we are a force to be reckoned with wherever we land. And that's because, we are pursuing lives of such distinction. Our presence in the professions is astonishing. Our life-long devotion to education is a salient feature of what we have been up to. Among our respondents, seventy-one of us are college professors and thirty-six of us are secondary or elementary teachers. And while that group ministers to the mind, other groups take care of body and soul: twenty-three of us are doctors, twenty-three more of us are pastors, and eight of us are deaconesses. Handling our legal matters are our forty-six attorneys. Making stuff work are our twenty-one engineers. We are founding our own companies and playing leadership roles in various businesses. We are producing art, making films, writing novels and composing books of poetry. And, man, are we making music.

Commandeering our professoriate, we could clearly open our own small university, offering courses in almost every discipline in the Liberal Arts and Sciences and in Business, Engineering and Nursing as well. Our Christ College Alumni University would be especially strong in English with ten professors and Theology with nine. Our medical professors and law professors could offer graduate professional education. We have academic leaders ready to helm our university with experienced higher education administrators in academic counseling, financial aid, fund raising, alumni coordination, human resources, and public relations. We have veteran deans and provosts, too; we even have our own university president.

Heck, we could start our own town to house our own university. We'll need schools, and we've got the teachers for them and two headmasters to lead them. We'll want churches, and we have clergy in abundance. If we build our homes, schools and office buildings from scratch, we have architects to design them and construction engineers to erect them. We have accountants to prepare our tax returns and keep our finances in order, bankers to make sure our money is secure, and curators to plan the exhibitions at our museum, including work by our own artists. Our doctors and nurses will staff our hospital and clinics, and their work will be coordinated by the sizeable cadre of us who hold health care managerial positions. Our newspaper will be staffed by our contingent of journalists and editors and laid out by our graphic designers. Our libraries, which will contain the work of our many, many authors, will be overseen by our half dozen librarians. We have a pharmacist to run our drug store and physical therapists to assist with our aches and pains. We have actors for our theater, game designers for our home entertainment centers and web designers to improve our websites. We'll have a beautiful park in our town, which will be overseen by our park ranger. Baseball will be played in our park, and for that we will need a licensed umpire. Thank goodness we've got one. We've got a basketball referee for our community gym, too, and another experienced ref for soccer matches. When one of our churches needs a new pipe organ, we have just the person to build it. We won't have crime problems, of course, and we have an F.B.I. agent to make sure it stays that way. We will enjoy great agreement about the shared life in our town, but we will need democratically elected officials, and our two campaign managers will handle the mutually respectful candidates for each position. Should we ever need advocacy to nations abroad, our two foreign service officers will represent our interests. With so little or no conflict to resolve, I am not sure what our three judges will do, but I am confident they will preside over their courts with great wisdom and honor. We won't have mental or social problems, so our several psychologists and social workers will commute to other towns to do their good work in the service of others, something we are quite good at.

But with all these accomplished people doing important work in so many areas, I admit to being envious of one particular group of our alums: and that's those of us who identify themselves as

consultants. I have never been able to grasp what exactly it is that consultants do, but I gather they are well paid to do it and infrequently if ever have to live with the consequences of their recommendations. They often travel and stay in very nice hotels which, along with their first-class meals, they put on expense accounts. One can't help liking that. Emmy-winning actor and Oscar nominee Don Cheadle, who starred as consultant-firm chief executive Marty Kaan on the television comedy *House of Lies*, defined consulting as "a business that allows you to come into someone else's company where you requisition the C.E.O.'s watch and then charge him a lot of money to tell him the time." Good work if you can arrange it, and eight of our number have. Good for them. They won't be able to spend much time in our town, but their taxes will help support our university, schools, libraries and park. If any of our consultants are in attendance tonight, please see me afterwards; I could use some consulting on how I can get into your line of work.

Most of our alums have done and are doing good work, and many of them, very many actually, are doing well, while doing their good work. But I want to quote one of our number I look forward to knowing in our town who describes his post Christ College life with typical and becoming modesty. From what I can tell, this individual is having a career that is no doubt widely envied in his community. But he understates his accomplishments and writes about himself that he "doesn't view his job as a ticket to fame or fortune but truly loves what he does and looks forward to work every day." I think he speaks for the lucky many among our number, and I am sure you will agree with me that it doesn't get any better than that.

As a last requirement of our town, we have among our fellow alums, one who provides a particularly valuable service. Is my old friend Fritz Wehrenberg in attendance tonight? (It's a Saturday night, so he is probably at work.) Fritz graduated from Valpo and Christ College in 1971, attended the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and spent thirty-eight years as a parish pastor and a campus chaplain before retiring in 2013. He was restless in retirement, however, and eager to find work, he says, that would allow him to remain involved with the spirit. So today he serves his community in Ames,

Iowa, as the part-time manager of Cyclone Liquors. And I think many of us can acknowledge the value of Fritz's current work.

It goes without saying, of course, that life is not restricted to work. And even though Christ College alums are incredibly distinguished professionally, they also live richly rounded lives. They obviously make extensive time for romance since most that submitted their biographies included reports therein about their marriages. To a really remarkable degree, Christ College graduates marry each other. About twenty percent of those who submitted their bios. And with or without C.C. spouses, our graduates bear children in whom they evince immense pride, often rushing through the details of their own careers in order to list the accomplishments of their daughters and sons, many of whom they proudly note followed Mom or Dad or often both to study in Christ College.

We are an active lot. Graduate after graduate reported on their dedication to running and cycling, among other physical activities that included skiing, sailing, swimming, tennis and softball. Of particular note to this observer was the number of our alums who are dedicated practitioners of Ultimate Frisbee, three of whom coach the sport and one who operates a business selling Ultimate Frisbee practice and game gear. Back in my day we thought the Frisbee would soon go the way of the Hula Hoop. Another investment chance missed. First Frisbee and then Microsoft. No wonder at my advanced age I am still teaching. Among non-physical activities, reading (often in connection with a Christ College reading group) and travel were each mentioned in scores of bio submissions.

We are also a faithful lot. I have already mentioned how many of us are clergy. In addition very, very many of our lay grads are active in their churches as congregational officers, elders, vestryman and deacons. And I think maybe a majority of us sing in our church choirs. So with all the talented singers among our number, I am glad we have so many pastors and therefore so many churches in our town. We need the multiple choir lofts to provide enough seats for all those eager to lift their voices in song. And I mention this choral talent and devotion with particular awe since, when I tried out for my church choir as

a teenager, I was told by our music director that, while I was welcome to join the group, to wear the robe during worship I would need to agree to be a mouther only.

I think it important to note that our works for the common good are not limited to those performed in the sanctuaries of our faiths. Graduates of an honors program that dares to call itself *Christ College*, we are so very many of us following the example of Jesus by feeding the hungry and housing the poor. Significant numbers of our fellow alums leave Valpo not first to head to graduate school or dive into the work force but instead to spend a year in voluntary service to the needy. When Christ College was young it was common for our graduates to join the Peace Corps or serve in V.I.S.T.A. (Volunteers in Service to America) or work as Prince of Peace Volunteers abroad or in America's struggling inner cities. Young alums still join the Peace Corps or the Lutheran Volunteer Corps or Catholic Charities while throughout our lives many, many of us work for Meals on Wheels, staff food banks and volunteer at congregational food pantries. When disasters strike and people need help, Christ College alums show up to lend a hand: in New Orleans after Katrina, in New Jersey after Sandy, in our own communities when refugees from parts of the world torn apart by famine and violence come among us in need of shelter and clothing for a chance to survive. We are educational, legal, medical, scientific and business leaders of the very first rank. But the contributions we make when we give of ourselves, as we do so often, are still more impressive than the accomplishments we list on our dazzling vitas. I was amazed over and over again as I read the listed career achievements of my fellow alums. But I was stirred at a deeper level yet when I saw what my fellows were up to when no one was keeping professional score.

I am proud to be a Christ College graduate but some of my professors will tell you that they remain surprised by that development. Unlike most of our alums I was an aggravating rather than dependable student. I was frequently late with papers, and I took an embarrassing number of incompletes. I note these flaws because I stand before you as Christ College National Council Chair making up an incomplete as we celebrate our Golden Anniversary not in the more traditional fiftieth year but in the fifty-first. Those who studied in C.C.'s predecessor Directed Studies Program would say we are even

older than that. But wherever we date ourselves as having begun, we have been around for more than a half century, and we are still going strong.

Like those who came before them, recent C.C. grads are in law school, medical school, business school, engineering and Ph.D. programs, and the seminary. They are studying at Harvard, Berkeley, Chicago, Michigan, and other top-tier universities. They are serving in Americorps, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and the Young Adults in Global Mission. They are at the blackboard in classrooms of Teach for America. They are in Europe on Fulbright Fellowships. Into our second half century, our tradition of undergraduate scholarly achievement and a devotion to the virtue of service endures.

So that's my report about the state of Christ College at fifty plus. The tradition continues at full force. Christ College is alive and very well – in the classrooms of Mueller Hall and in the offices of our gifted and devoted faculty, in the Freshman Production and in the Debates, in senior seminars and in the discussions our students undertake in the Commons and in their dorm rooms. And as our alumni biographies compendium so clearly illustrates, Christ College lives on after graduation. It lives on in the skills we take away, in a disciplined manner of thinking, in a practiced ability to communicate. It lives on in the work we alums do and the service unto others that we render. It lives on in marriages, in children, in sustained friendships first formed in Valpo snow and warmed thereafter for a lifetime. That's the message we all know and we all share. Christ College lives in the lives we lead. As it first did when we were Valpo students, Christ College lives in us.

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CHRIST COLLEGE LIVES
A Compendium of Alumni Biographies

Reillie Acks - 2013

Global Public Health Officer, Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization
Geneva, Switzerland

Reillie Acks graduated from Valparaiso University with degrees in Economics, Mathematics, and French. After not having the chance to study abroad during her undergraduate degree, she moved to France shortly after graduation to work as a "fille au pair" for one year. The next year she moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to complete a Master's Degree in International Development at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. There she built on her interdisciplinary background by studying international economics, gender and development, and the interactions between gender and health. She currently works at G.A.V.I. (Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization), a global alliance between the Swiss Secretariat, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the American Centers for Disease Control. At G.A.V.I. she works with various partners in accelerating sustainable and equitable coverage of vaccines around the world.

Karl Aho - 2007

Philosophy Instructor, Tarleton State University
Stephenville, Texas

Christ College helps students cultivate a love of interdisciplinarity. For Karl Aho, this love led to the study of two philosophical traditions: the continental tradition at Boston College and the analytic tradition at Baylor University (where he was part of the Lilly Graduate Fellows program). However, Karl's chief interests remains in the history of philosophy. His current research project focuses on Kierkegaard, whom he first read in Christ College, and he regularly teaches texts by Plato, Aristotle, and Machiavelli. He is particularly proud of a chapter on Mark Noll's reading of William James that will appear in *Christian Faith and University Life: Stewards of the Academy* (forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) alongside a chapter by Mark Schwehn. Karl and his wife Karen (an advancement officer) work at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Caitlyn Alario - 2017

Creative Writing Graduate Student, Sarah Lawrence College
Bronxville, New York

Caitlyn Alario graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Classics and Humanities. While at Valpo, she was a member of Eta Sigma Phi. She is now a graduate student at Sarah Lawrence College pursuing an M.F.A. in Creative Writing.

Travis Alber - 1996

Web and App Designer, Publicis LifeBrands Medicus
New York, New York

After Valpo, Travis earned an M.A. in Interactive Multimedia. Working in design and technology has taken her to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Krakow, Buenos Aires and New York City. The love of learning she cultivated in Christ College has carried her through the myriad, fast-paced changes in tech over the last twenty years. It contributed to her running her own startup and her becoming a contributing writer and speaker in areas of tech innovation, women in tech, and product design. She's currently Vice President for User Experience at Publicis LifeBrands Medicus, an agency that designs tools and websites for healthcare targeted at doctors and patients. She's also the proud mother of Emerson, aged 3.

Ellen (Albers) Vance - 1969

Development Director (Retired) and Church Volunteer
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo with a B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry, Ellen married James Vance and worked in an endocrinology research lab at Veterans Hospital on the campus of I.U.P.U.I. She worked four years before stopping to raise her children. Her first son, James Thomas, died in 1975. She had two more children, Michael and Jennifer. She returned to work in 1983 at the Anatomy Department of Indiana University Medical School, Indianapolis, where she worked as a cell culture technician in a research lab. In 1988, she changed careers and became the first Development Director at Lutheran High School of Indianapolis. After a successful capital campaign, she worked in fundraising for two years representing the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (L.A.M.P.) and then for Lutheran Child and Family Services of Indiana. In subsequent years she worked as a fundraising consultant before retiring in 1999 for health reasons. She spent many years as a volunteer in various leadership positions at Calvary Lutheran Church and she continues to lead a small group Bible study. She has three grandchildren who keep her very busy and bless her life.

Elizabeth (Allen) Richardson - 1999

English Teacher, Heritage High School
Saginaw, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Elizabeth married Andy Richardson (C.C. '97) in the Chapel of the Resurrection and moved to Saginaw to teach high school English at the same high school as Andy. She is now in her 19th year of teaching English there and has taught every grade level, a women's literature course, a teen lit course, Advanced Placement Literature, and International Baccalaureate Literature. Christ College inspired many aspects of her teaching, including the use of one pagers (her students dread them but thank her later) and a Humanity Symposium that she runs every year. Elizabeth has also earned a Master's in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. She and her husband were blessed with sons, James (2005) and Camden (2009).

Sylvia Amsler - 1996

Lecturer, University of Arkansas Little Rock
Little Rock, Arkansas

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Sylvia Amsler worked as a zookeeper for a few years before undertaking the study of Biological Anthropology at the University of Michigan where her research has focused on primate behavioral ecology, and, more specifically, the territorial behavior of wild chimpanzees. She lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, with her husband and two children, who are both in elementary school. Parenting is her primary occupation, but she also teaches undergraduate anthropology courses at the University of Arkansas Little Rock.

Keith Anderko - 2007

Union Organizer and Administrator, Union Privilege
Silver Spring, Maryland

Upon graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Political Science and Rhetoric, an individualized major, Keith T.W. Anderko worked as a field organizer for John Edwards' campaign for president in Iowa and Nevada. In 2008, he became a union organizer for the California Nurses Association and helped more than 5,000 registered nurses to form unions and bargain contracts in Nevada, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and Florida. Keith continues his work in the labor movement today as a liaison between Union Privilege, a nonprofit consumer benefits organization founded by the A.F.L.-C.I.O., and twenty-five international labor unions. This spring, he will complete an M.A. in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University in Washington, DC. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife Amanda, and two children, Daphne and Jude.

Gail (Anderson) Renaldo Ludwig - 1971

Writer/Teacher/Public Relations Officer (Retired), Portage Adult Education/ *Michigan City News-Dispatch* / Michigan City Alternative School
Chesterton, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Gail Ludwig earned an M.A. from Northern Illinois University. She married, had two children, and began writing as a correspondent for the *Michigan City News-Dispatch*, continuing for twenty years. She researched, wrote and presented local history programs for the Duneland Folk Festival. Later, she worked at the alternative school for seven years while teaching English classes and serving as student recruiter for Portage Adult Education. She was leader of an Aid Association for Lutherans Branch for ten years, served on the church council and as an adult Sunday School leader. She received the Athena Award from the Duneland Chamber of Commerce and a Paul Harris Fellow award from the Chesterton Rotary. Widowed in 2000, Gail has remarried and has three grandchildren. She belongs to A.A.U.W. and Tri Kappa.

Charles Andrews - 2001

English Professor, Whitworth University
Spokane, Washington

Charles (Casey) Andrews graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology, English and Humanities. He completed an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English at Loyola University Chicago in 2007, and during the academic year 2007-2008, served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities and English in Christ College. He is currently Associate Professor of English at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, where he teaches courses in modern British, Irish, and postcolonial literatures as well as film studies. His research focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to peace studies and literary analysis. His wife Liv Larson Andrews (C.C. 2002) is pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Spokane, and they have two boys, Arlo (7) and Robin (2).

Christine Antrobus - 2010

Corporate Controller, Van Rooy Properties
Indianapolis, Indiana

Upon graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Accounting, Christine Antrobus was offered a job at a small public accounting firm in Mattoon, Illinois. While working there, she made it through all four sections of the C.P.A. exam the first time through, passing the final section in November of 2010. After working in public accounting for three years, she was offered a position as Staff Accountant at Van Rooy Properties, an apartment property management company in Indianapolis. She is now the Corporate Controller and received an award for Outstanding Achievement in December, 2016. She volunteers at Gleaner's Food Bank and at St. Luke's Methodist Church where she helps at the church bookstore and participates in events with the young professional group.

Laura (Avery) Gundel - 1967

Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Berkeley, California

Lara Avery Gundel entered Christ College as a pre-med student and graduated in 1967 as an independent thinker, tinkerer, future multidisciplinary research scientist and world citizen. She went straight from Valparaiso to the Berkeley campus of the University of California to pursue a doctorate in physical chemistry, followed by post-doctoral work in London, England. Her career as a staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory includes research in atmospheric chemistry, inventing tools for environmental monitoring (such as sensor networks), understanding how complex mixtures of pollutants affect human health, and mentoring young investigators and students. She is a leader of the California Consortium on the Health Effects of Thirdhand Tobacco Smoke. She is a faculty affiliate of the Berkeley Sensor and Actuator Center at U.C. Berkeley and leads a multidisciplinary group that focuses on development and validation of sensors for airborne particles. She is married and lives near her family members in Berkeley.

Charles Bachman - 1974

Commercial Litigator (Retired)
New Orleans, Louisiana

After forty years of practicing law in New York City, Charles Bachman reports being “blessedly and lazily retired in the Big Easy.”

Henry Nate Bachman - 1993

Physicist, Schlumberger, Ltd.
Sugar Land, Texas

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B. S. in Physics, Henry N. (Nate) Bachman completed a M.S. and a Ph.D. in Physics at Northwestern University, followed by a three-year research associate position at Harvard University. From 2011 to 2013, he and his family lived in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (eastern coast), where Nate held a research position with Schlumberger Ltd., an oilfield services technology company. Nate is currently working as Principal Physicist and Project Manager at Schlumberger in Houston. He is married to Sarah Moscicki Bachman (C.C. 1993) and they have two daughters, Beth (17) and Abby (14). Nate continues to enjoy singing and playing piano and organ, which were prominent activities while at V.U.. A fond memory from Christ College days was co-leading the Holden Evening Prayer in Mueller Hall Commons with Sarah and their contemporary Joe Bognar (current chair of the V.U. Music Department).

Elizabeth Baden - 2004

Health Science Policy Analyst, National Institutes of Health
Silver Spring, Maryland

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Biochemistry, Elizabeth Baden earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in 2009. Yielding to a desire to have a broader impact in biomedical research and explore a newfound interest in public policy, Elizabeth pursued and was awarded a year-long fellowship in Washington, D.C., by the American Chemical Society as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (A.A.A.S.) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship program. After a year in the office of Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, Elizabeth took her policy skills to the Executive Branch, working as a health science policy analyst at the National Institutes of Health (N.I.H.). Initially serving in the Office of Autism Research Coordination, she now works on N.I.H.-wide issues within the Office of Science Policy in the Office of the N.I.H. Director. She is married to Matt Fuehrmeyer (C.C. 2004) and they have a daughter, Hannah (age 1).

Brittany Barkus - 2017

Education Missionary, Young Adults in Global Mission (E.L.C.A.)
Cairns, Australia

Brittany Barkus graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Elementary Education and minors in Chemistry and Theology. She is currently serving in Australia in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Young Adults in Global Mission program and will conclude her year of service with the program in August 2018. She hopes to pursue a career in teaching and particularly enjoys working with children in literacy and science. Brittany is also a deaconess student with the Lutheran Deaconess Association and is excited to live out her call to serve as a deaconess and a teacher.

Richard Barnes - 1983

Executive Director, New York State Catholic Conference
Albany, New York

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Rick Barnes attended Albany Law School and earned a J.D. in 1986. Rick remained in Albany to become a government affairs lobbyist. He has been with the New York State Conference of Catholic Bishops for twenty-eight years, first as Legislative Counsel and, since 2001, as Executive Director. Rick and his wife Sheila celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this year, and have two college kids, Will and Maggie.

Libbi Bartelt Johnson - 2008

Mentoring Coordinator, University of Cambridge, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Since Fall 2015, Libbi Bartelt Johnson has been coordinating the pilot mentoring programme for postdoctoral researchers at the University of Cambridge.

Fredrick Barton – 1970

Writer in Residence and University Research Professor, University of New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

After graduating from Valpo with a B.A. in History and English, Rick Barton taught Social Studies and coached basketball at Lutheran High South in St. Louis for two years while he resisted the Vietnam draft. He earned an M.A. (1973) and a C.Phil. (1975) in Early American History at U.C.L.A. and an M.F.A. in Fiction Writing at the University of Iowa in 1979, after which he joined the English faculty at the University of New Orleans. The founding director of U.N.O.'s Creative Writing Workshop and then Dean of Liberal Arts, Rick led U.N.O.'s academic recovery as Provost and Chief Academic Officer in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. For twenty-eight years, Rick was also the film critic at the New Orleans weekly *Gambit*. He is the author or editor of ten books, including the volume of essays *Rowing to Sweden*; the anthology of short fiction *Monday Nights*; the libretto for the jazz opera *Ash Wednesday*; and the novels *In the Wake of the Flagship*, *The El Cholo Feeling Passes*, *Courting Pandemonium*, *With Extreme Prejudice* and *A House Divided*, which won the William Faulkner Prize. Rick's many other awards include a Louisiana Arts Prize in fiction; the Stephen T. Victory Award, the Louisiana Bar Association's prize for writing about legal issues; the New Orleans Press Club's annual criticism prize eleven times; and the Press Club's highest honor, the Alex Waller Memorial Award. Valparaiso University recognized Rick's career achievements with an honorary doctorate in 2009. He is a member of PEN and the Author's Guild and serves as chair of Valparaiso's Christ College National Council. He and his life partner, Joyce Dombourian, a New Orleans attorney (retired), are avid travelers throughout the U.S. (Alaska and Hawaii included), Central and South America, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Their visited countries list now stands at fifty-six.

Mark Bartusch - 1986

Professor of Theology and Ordained Minister (E.L.C.A.), Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

Mark Bartusch was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from Valparaiso University with a double major in Theology and Greek. He earned an M.Div. at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1990, serving an internship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Wisconsin, and then accepting a call to be Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portage, Wisconsin. In 1988, he married Dawn Jeglum (V.U. 1987). They have two children, Joshua and Claire. Mark returned to Chicago and to L.S.T.C. in 1994 and completed a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies: Old Testament in 2001. He began teaching in the Department of Theology at Valpo in 2000, where he has been active in faculty governance. Mark assumed the duties of chair of the Theology Department in July, 2017. He is also involved in the Valpo Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, where he serves as treasurer. He participates regularly in the worship life of a local congregation and the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus, and serves as a pulpit supply pastor (preacher) in the northwest Indiana region. In addition, he has served on the admissions committee of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

David Beagley - 2003

Pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center,
Ames, Iowa

After graduating from Valparaiso University with honors in American Studies and minors in Music and Humanities, David Beagley attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was active in the St. Louis Christ College Alumni Reading groups. He earned an M.Div. in 2007. Since graduating, David has served as Associate Pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center in Ames, Iowa. He has been active within Iowa District West and currently heads up the Kapfer Symposium on Preaching. He plays first violin in the Central Iowa Symphony. He also has served on the S&R Committee of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, and enjoys his trips back to Valpo for committee meetings and to see his brother, Jon, who currently serves as a professor in Valpo's Math Department. David is married to Liz (Engler) Beagley with whom he has two daughters, Evelyn and Lydia.

Ellen (Behl) Trier - 1967

C.P.A. (Retired)
Dover, Delaware

Ellen (Behl) Trier graduated from Valpo with majors in Mathematics and English and a minor in Secondary Education. After earning an M.A. in English literature at Case Western Reserve University, her Ph.D. dissertation was interrupted by marriage to Stan Trier (V.U. 1966), the birth of their first son, and Stan's transfer to Hong Kong. Ellen's greatest joy was spending time with her three sons, especially helping the boys find and develop their special talents. After moving to Dover, Delaware, Ellen earned a B.S. in Accounting at Wesley College and worked as a C.P.A. Now retired, she is a very active Master Gardener Volunteer Educator. She is involved with Special Olympics with her son Derek, who has Down Syndrome. He lives at home and volunteers for Meals on Wheels. Stephen is a computer and electrical engineer, and holds multiple patents. Nathan is a composer and a high school music teacher. Ellen and Stan have been married for forty-nine years and have three grandchildren.

Chris Bekemeier – 1978

Climate Activist, Non-profit Administrator
Portland, Oregon

After graduating from Valparaiso University and attending graduate school, Chris Bekemeier launched a career in college student services which subsequently morphed into non-profit administration. Following excellent stints as Staff Coordinator for Holden Village in Washington State and Executive Director/Development Director for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Washington, D.C. , she finally made her way back “home” to the Pacific Northwest. She worked for Lutheran Community Services Northwest in Portland, Oregon, for several years. She finally left the world of Lutheran employment, working as Assistant Director of Our United Villages (O.U.V.), a non-profit organization, earning its revenue via donations of “used building materials.” After ten years with O.U.V., Chris decided to take a vacation from non-profit work. Since then, she has focused most of her unpaid time on volunteer work on behalf of her Portland church, Central Lutheran, where she has served in many roles including Church Council Chair beginning in 2018. She is also an activist on behalf of Climate Justice. Recently, she accepted a part-time position at Whole Foods Market in her immediate neighborhood – an opportunity to connect with community, observe another slice of life, and leave work behind at day’s end. Chris currently lives in Portland with David, her husband of twenty-eight years and son Noah (age 22), who is a recent graduate of Pacific Lutheran University. Gail and David’s son Sam (age 25) is a thriving engineer in Seattle.

Sarah Benczik - 2007

Management Consultant – U.S. Federal Government, Deloitte Consulting, L.L.P.
Alexandria, Virginia

After graduating from Valpo, Sarah Benczik continued to follow her passion for public service and spent three years in Syracuse, New York, earning a Master of Public Administration Degree from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, a Certificate of Advanced Study in Security Studies, and a J.D. from the Syracuse University College of Law. During graduate school she had the honor of working for the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York and for the U.S. Department of Defense Office of General Counsel in the legal honors program. After graduating from Syracuse *magna cum laude* and Order of the Coif in 2010, she joined Deloitte Consulting's federal practice based in Washington, D.C. Sarah is currently a Senior Manager at Deloitte, where she advises government leaders on people-focused strategies that improve agencies' performance and the services they offer to the American public. In addition to leading Deloitte teams that support government transformation and serving clients, Sarah contributes to Deloitte's thought leadership on cyber security workforce challenges and federal organization design, regularly serves as a facilitator for government strategy and human capital innovation working sessions, and actively supports Deloitte's on-campus recruiting for candidates with advanced degrees in public policy and administration. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for (and is an alumna of) Destination Imagination, an international nonprofit that teaches students the creative process through a hands-on, team-focused learning experience that fosters students' creativity, courage, and curiosity. Sarah continues to be grateful for the strong foundation of life-long friends, intellectual rigor and curiosity, appreciation for authenticity, and dedication to leading and serving society that she built while at Valparaiso and Christ College in particular.

Katie Benjamin - 2007

Theology Graduate Student, Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Theology, English and Humanities, Katie Benjamin took her engagement with an honors seminar on the "Hermeneutics of Hospitality" to the next level by seeking employment within the hospitality industry: she waited tables and tended bar at a fabulously laid-back restaurant in St. Pete Beach, Florida. She harbored plans for graduate study in theology but first moved to the state of Washington to live and work at Holden Village. Words of a visiting lecturer at Valparaiso, however, continued to echo in the alpine wilderness; stirred by a vivid memory of Will Willimon, former Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, standing in the Chapel of the Resurrection and declaring, "Sometimes, Methodists need to smack Lutherans" she caved and enrolled at Duke Divinity School to begin getting smacked around by Methodists. She has now finished an M.T.S. and is enrolled in the Th.D. program with an emphasis in the history and theology of the European Reformations. She reports that her "very long and laborious dissertation is due to be defended really, no really, any day now. Like this semester. Probably."

James Beres - 1978

Attorney, State Public Defender
Burlington, Iowa

After graduating from Valparaiso University, James Beres entered the Law School at the University of Iowa and earned a J.D. in 1981. He served as Hardin County Attorney from 1981-94. He maintained a private law practice from 1995-2002. In 2002, he joined the office of the State Public Defender in Burlington, Iowa, where he continues to serve.

Steve Beste - 1977

English Instructor, Anoka-Ramsey Community College
St. Paul, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Steve Beste earned an M.A. in English in 1980 at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He held several jobs in computer writing, programming, and managing, and then became an English Instructor at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in the Twin Cities, starting in 1996 at the Cambridge campus. He has taught at the main Coon Rapids campus since 2002. Steve has won several teaching awards and begins phased retirement in the fall of 2018. He's married to Anita Wittmann (C.C. 1976) and has three daughters, Lena, Claire, and Meg, and one grandchild, Charlotte, named after his mother, Charlotte (Hauser) Beste (V.U. 1954).

Kathleen Betterman - 1975

High School Math and German Teacher (Retired), Naperville Central High School
Chicago, Illinois

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Kathleen Betterman began teaching German and Math at the Rich Township High Schools in Chicago's south suburbs. After two years she moved to Mt. Pulaski High in central Illinois. She then completed two M.A. degrees at Indiana University, Bloomington (German and WEST). In 1985 she returned to the Chicago suburbs, teaching for one year each at Deerfield High and Wheeling High before settling in for twenty-five years at Naperville Central High School. During her time in Naperville she became very active in the American Association of Teachers of German and led the student exchange with a college-preparatory high school in Solingen, Germany, traveling there with students sixteen times. She also spent a year as a Fulbright exchange teacher in Guestrow (MV), Germany. Kathleen retired in 2012 but still does substitute teaching at the University of Chicago Lab School. She also studies French and piano and travels as much as possible.

Nancy (Betuker) Joyce - 1993

Development and Training, Duke School
Durham, North Carolina

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Nancy Betuker Joyce worked at a mental health clinic in Chicago for several years. She then joined Blackbaud, the nonprofit fundraising and management training company, where she did consulting all over the country. She now works at an independent school and hopes to visit Valpo again sometime. She credits Valpo and Christ College with showing her the benefit of always marching to your own drum beat.

Yvonne (Bichsel) Truhon - 1980

Museum Educator, Old Salem Museums and Gardens
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Classics and a minor in Drama, Yvonne Bichsel Truhon has worked in a wide array of fields, proving what Dr. John Helms used to tell his students as they journeyed through the intricacies of Greek grammar at eight in the morning on a freezing Midwestern day: "If you can learn Greek, you can learn anything." Yvonne has been a baker (and cake decorator), a typist (for a newspaper, which covers a lot more than just typing letters for the boss), a graphic artist (which includes correcting grammar and spelling errors) and a costume shop coordinator for a community theatre; she is currently a museum educator at Old Salem Museums and Gardens in Winston-Salem. Born in Valparaiso, Yvonne is the daughter of the Rev. Dr. M. Alfred Bichsel (V.U. 1965, honorary); "Bix" was Professor of Music at V.U. from 1943 to 1960. In addition, he initiated, at Valpo and later in Rochester, New York, the Advent-Christmas Choral Vespers service. At the time of his departure in 1960 to chair the Church Music Department at the Eastman School of Music, he was also Director of Music at the Chapel of the Resurrection. Yvonne's mother, Jean Nehring Bichsel, was very active in the V.U. Guild, so it was predictable that Yvonne would return to her roots and attend Valpo. Yvonne met her husband, Dr. Stephen A. Truhon (who teaches psychology at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee), through a mutual love of theatre; both were participants in an "Ibsen Marathon" directing class project. Yvonne has taken part in nearly all aspects of the dramatic arts, including several onstage roles at Kroencke Hall when it was V.U.'s theatre (Marsyas in *Philemon*, Antonia in *Man of La Mancha*, Peep-Bo in *The Mikado*, to name a few). Yvonne has operated a follow spot for numerous shows, designed costumes for *Wait Until Dark* and *Dial M for Murder*, and been props master for *Equus*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Little Women*, among many others. A lover of all God's creatures, Yvonne has adopted quite a few stray cats, and later rescued the occasional bird or chipmunk from the jaws of those same felines. She enjoys traveling (in the U.S. and abroad), reading, listening to N.P.R., gardening, cooking, and dabbling in iPhone app creation with the Swift programming language. Yvonne is immensely grateful for the writing and critical thinking skills fostered by her C.C. professors during her time at Valparaiso.

Kristin (Bierlein) Keltner - 1993

Attorney, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Kristin Keltner worked for a non-profit for two years as a development officer. She then entered Maurer School of Law at Indiana University, Bloomington and earned J.D. in 1998. She worked as a defense litigator in Indianapolis for the national boutique labor and employment law firm, Ogletree Deakins, for fourteen years. During that time, she made shareholder and then managing shareholder of the Indianapolis office. In 2012, she left the firm to go in-house with one of her clients, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance. In 2016, she was named the company's Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, a position she holds today. Kristin and her husband, Steve (V.U. 1992), live in Indianapolis with their son, Gabe (14), and daughter, Caroline (12).

Lisa (Boehm) Rice - 1998

Executive Assistant, Fortune Brands Home & Security, Inc.
Libertyville, Illinois

After graduating from Valpo with majors in English and German, Lisa Rice moved to Germany with a Fulbright Fellowship to study German literature. She lived in Germany for a few years, working in recruiting and marketing. She currently work as an executive assistant, supporting the C.E.O. and C.F.O. at Fortune Brands Home & Security. She lives in the northern suburbs of Chicago with her husband, Steve. She is currently President of the Valparaiso University Alumni Association.

Eric Bohnet - 1990

Attorney, Eric C. Bohnet, Attorney at Law
Indianapolis, Indiana

Eric Bohnet lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Rachel and their five children. After graduating from Valpo, he earned a J.D. from Indiana University Law School in Bloomington. He practiced law for several firms in Texas, Terre Haute and Indianapolis before opening his own practice in 2006. His law practice is currently focused on appellate litigation and Social Security disability. On the side he helps coach the Indianapolis Crimson Knights home school football team.

Chris W. Bonneau - 1997

Political Science Professor, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Political Science, Theology and Humanities, Chris Bonneau went on to earn an M.A. in Political Science from Ball State University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 2002. He has been a professor at the University of Pittsburgh since that time. His award-winning research is on state judicial elections and has resulted in three books, two edited books, and numerous scholarly articles. Additionally, Chris is one of the founding members of the Pitt Prison Education Project and teaches Inside-Out classes (combining undergraduates and incarcerated individuals) inside of correctional institutions. His passion for baseball has led Chris to become an NCAA baseball umpire (Divisions I, II, and III) for the past decade, and his passion for Bruce Springsteen has propelled Chris to attend twenty-one Springsteen concerts across five states. He currently lives in Pittsburgh (the city, not the suburbs, he asserts) with his wife Heather and son Robinson.

Christopher Born - 1998

Professor of Japanese Literature, Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Christopher Born entered the East Asian Studies Program at Washington University St. Louis completing an M.A. in 2003. He worked in the area of educational technology at Concordia Seminary. And in 2010, he entered the Ph.D. program in Japanese literature at Washington University. He is currently finishing his doctoral dissertation while teaching Japanese language and literature at Bowdoin College as a visiting professor.

Mark Bouman - 1978

Geographer, The Field Museum
Oak Park, Illinois

Mark Bouman never quite got over the V.U. Geomorphology Field trips that led from the Kankakee River to the Dunes and that introduced generations of students to the Calumet Region. Just this week, as Chicago Region Program Director in the Field Museum's Keller Science Action Center, he led a team that submitted a feasibility study to the National Park Service to create a Calumet National Heritage Area. Mark landed at the Field Museum after twenty-seven years of Professoring at Chicago State University and earning an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota. Mark's wife, Mary Jane Keitel, also works at the Field Museum. Son Will is a Sox fan but is otherwise a lovely human being. His brother Jack roots for the Cubs.

Meridith Brand - 1993

Education (Performance Assessment), Iowa Testing Programs, University of Iowa
Salem, Oregon

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Meridith Brand worked in the Chicago suburbs first with Marianjoy Rehabilitation Center where she wrote training manuals for at-home caregiving (until the grant funding the project ran out). She was then employed at Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center as a catering/convention salesperson. She earned an M.A. in English from Miami University in Ohio. In 1998 Meridith married Mike Chasar (C.C. 1993). After teaching composition classes at Miami for a few years, she moved to Florida to be work as Public Relations Manager at the Salvador Dali Museum of Art in St. Petersburg. Though she was inspired by the art, Meridith didn't care for the gigantic bugs or the general population's apathy about quality education. So, still recovering from the trauma of Election 2000 and hanging chads, she relocated to Iowa City where she worked with ACT, Inc., and then, later, the Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa to develop large-scale writing exams and to manage both these companies' Performance Assessment Divisions. Meridith still works with I.T.P., though as a telecommuter since she moved to Oregon in 2009.

Kurth Brashear - 1994

Attorney and Higher Education Administrator, Concordia University, Nebraska
Seward, Nebraska

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and History, Kurth Brashear moved to Chicago to determine what he should do with his life while having fun living in Lakeview. After a year in banking, it became clear his path lay elsewhere. He returned to his home state of Nebraska to attend the University of Nebraska College of Law and earned a J.D. in 1998. He then entered private practice in Omaha, focusing on corporate law, particularly nonprofit and religious corporations, real estate, estate planning, and political subdivisions. After fourteen years, Kurth felt God made it clear that Kurth was to serve Him in another way and called him to Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, where he is now Vice President for Institutional Advancement and General Counsel. He has been active in all three congregations he has been a member of since Valparaiso and has served on a number of boards of directors, including the Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Seward. He feels blessed to have married the love of his life, Jessica, in 2006, with whom he has three children, each currently under the age of ten. Kurth states that he enjoys tremendously his life in an idyllic town.

Abigail Bray - 2017

Law Student, University of South Carolina School of Law
Columbia, South Carolina

Abigail Bray graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Humanities. While at Valpo she was a member of Pi Beta Phi, Alpha Phi Omega, Pi Sigma Alpha, College Democrats, and Women's Choir. She studied in Cambridge, England, during the fall semester of 2015. She is currently attending the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Mark Bremer - 1971

Attorney, Shands, Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum, L.L.P.
St. Louis, Missouri

Mark Bremer enrolled in Christ College's first freshman class (1966-7) and graduated with a major in Mathematics. An avid amateur astronomer since childhood, Mark took the astronomy class at Valpo. Now, decades later, he is the designated St. Louis-area astronomer responsible for making a high resolution video of the sun's inner corona during the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. He is doing this as a participant in the Citizen CATE nationwide solar research project. He hopes that by the time you read this there will have been clear skies in St. Louis on that date! For his regular job, Mark is, and has been since graduating from Valpo Law School in 1975, actively engaged in the full-time practice of law as a commercial litigator. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Law School's first annual Alumni Achievement Award, for his work in litigating and ultimately settling the St. Louis School Desegregation Case. Mark is past Chairman of the Law School's Board of Visitors and is currently serving on the Law School's National Council. Mark is currently President of the St. Louis Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, and has just been nominated to serve on the Missouri Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Mark, a good Lutheran boy, married Ingrid, a good Catholic girl, which makes him blissfully ecumenical. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Johanna (Brinkley) Tomlinson - 2008

Stay-at-Home Mom
Fairfax, Iowa

After graduating from Valpo with English and Humanities majors, Johanna Brinkley Tomlinson attended the University of Iowa and in 2014 earned a Ph.D. in English, specializing in nineteenth-century British and children's literature. Currently, Johanna spends her days adventuring with her three children and seeing classic works of children's literature through their eyes. She is active in her church's Early Childhood Ministry team and frequently leads hikes for her local chapter of Hike It Baby. Johanna is married to Brandon Tomlinson (C.C. 2008). They are the parents of Margaret (5), Abram (3), and Eleanor (1).

Mark Bruns - 1985

Chemist, Molecular Biologist, Consultant, Waters Corporation and Other Technology Companies
Portland, Oregon

From a Ph.D. in Chemistry to a career in strategy in high tech and biotech, life after Valparaiso and Christ College has been rich and rewarding for Mark Bruns. His career has taken him around the country and around the world, from the West Coast to the Midwest to the East Coast and back again, to his current home in Portland, Oregon, to which he retreated after many years in the rat race of Boston. He states that with his husband, he is hitting the reset button on life as he explores new opportunities to direct his passions and new dimensions in his life. Whereas he feels that he has broadly served himself while working to try to make a difference in the lives of others, now he focuses on choices where his impact is more direct and immediate. He asks where he can serve others in meaningful ways and how he can benefit from the insights of others.

Jennifer (Buhrow) Tamburrino - 1987

Public Relations Volunteer, Artist, Stay-at Home Mom
West Dundee, Illinois

Jennifer Buhrow Tamburrino has lived in West Dundee, Illinois, as long as she lived in her childhood hometown of East Dundee, just a quick trip over the Fox River. Jennifer volunteers as a public relations board member with a community 501 (c) 3 charity to honor local student/athletes and at a local art gallery as a happy artist. Currently seeking new opportunities, she was a stay-at-home parent for Maria (Roosevelt University 2014 and All-American athlete in basketball), Victoria (V.U. 2017 and varsity letter winner in cross country and track), and Elizabeth, an eighth-grader. Jennifer is married to Al Tamburrino (V.U. 1986), a middle school principal. As Jennifer and Al traveled to their children's games and meets, they have visited eleven state capitols. Jennifer finds peace poles around the U.S., including the one in Valparaiso on Lincolnway. She yearns for peace to prevail on Earth.

Cheryl (Bunnett) Schrader - 1984

President, Wright State University
Beavercreek, Ohio

Cheryl B. Schrader, Ph.D., is the seventh president of Wright State University and the first woman to lead the university in its fifty-year history. She took office July 1, 2017. Prior to joining Wright State, Cheryl served as Chancellor of Missouri University of Science and Technology and Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Engineering at Boise State University. Cheryl received an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. An accomplished electrical engineer, Cheryl's research background is in the area of systems and control. She has received several best paper awards, written more than 100 publications, and delivered more than 100 presentations and keynote addresses. Her grant and contract funding exceeds \$11 million. Cheryl is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from the White House; the Hewlett-Packard/Harriett B. Rigas Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (I.E.E.E.) Education Society; the Idaho Women Making History Award; and the WebCT Exemplary Online Course Award. She was named one of Valparaiso University's 150 Most Influential People in 2009 and received its Alumni Achievement Award in 2011. Cheryl received the 2013 Distinguished Educator Award from the Electrical and Computer Engineering division of the American Society for Engineering Education (A.S.E.E.) and was named an A.S.E.E. Fellow in 2017 for her outstanding contributions to the field. She was also named an I.E.E.E. Fellow in 2014 in recognition of her leadership and contributions in engineering education. Cheryl's husband, Jeff Schrader (V.U. 1984) served for many years in the legal profession. The couple has a son, Andrew (C.C. 2014), who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, and a daughter, Ella, who is in elementary school.

Mary (Burce) Warlick - 1979

U.S. Foreign Service Officer, Washington, D.C.
Arlington, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Humanities, Mary Burce Warlick attended The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University where she received an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy. After working for a U.S. refugee resettlement agency in the Philippines for a year, she joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1983 and since then has served in a variety of diplomatic assignments in the Philippines, Bangladesh, Germany, Russia, Serbia, and Australia, as well as at the State Department in Washington, D.C. She spent over ten years working on issues in Russia and Eastern Europe, including serving as Office Director for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova from 1998-2000, as Economic Minister-Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 2001-2004, as Office Director for Russian Affairs from 2004-2007, as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia at the National Security Council from 2007-2008, and as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy and Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Policy from 2008-2009. She then served as U.S. Ambassador to Serbia from 2010-2012, as U.S. Consul General in Melbourne, Australia, from 2012-2014, and she is now serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources. Mary's husband, James B. Warlick, Jr., who is a graduate of Stanford University and Oxford University, also served as a U.S. diplomat from 1985-2016, including as U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria during the same period that Mary was Ambassador to Serbia. Mary and James have three grown children: Jamie, Jason, and Jordan. Jamie served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an Infantry Officer for four years following his graduation from Yale University and is now pursuing an M.B.A. at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania; Jason worked as a middle school math teacher in the Bronx with Teach for America for two years following his graduation from Georgetown University and now works as a consultant for Deloitte in Washington, D.C.; and daughter, Jordan, who graduated from the University of Southern California in 2016, now works for the U.S. Congressional Committee for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ben Burnett - 2014

Medical Student, Loyola University Chicago
Waukegan, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Ben Burnett spent a year in Granada, Nicaragua, working for Soccer Without Borders, an international non-profit using sport as a vehicle for change in young girls' lives. Since returning to the U.S., he has been working in the healthcare field, most recently as health educator and AmeriCorps member at Erie Family Health Center in Waukegan, Illinois. He is currently a medical student at the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago

Daniel Burow - 2015

Geography Teaching Assistant, University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

Danny Burow graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Meteorology. In May 2017, he received an M.S. in Geography from the University of North Dakota. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Tennessee, where he has accepted the Tennessee Fellowship for Graduate Excellence and works as a teaching assistant. Danny's research focuses on the impacts of tornadoes and snowstorms on society and the landscape.

Jennifer (Butz) Forness - 2007

Music Teacher, Self-employed
Frankfurt, Germany

Jennifer Butz Forness studied music education at Valparaiso and worked in public schools in New Jersey for eight years. She taught choir, music history, musical theater, and conducted an extra-curricular choir and handbell choir, in addition to being the music director for four musicals. She completed her Master of Music in Music Education at Boston University. Jennifer is currently the early music teacher at a bilingual preschool in Frankfurt, Germany. She also teaches an early music program through Music Together. She enjoys playing her horn with a local concert band and church brass choir and is busy improving her German. She lives in Frankfurt, Germany with her husband Philip Forness (C.C. 2007) and their two daughters, Felicity (5) and Leonora (1).

Kelly Bylica - 2010

Ph.D. Candidate, Western University
London, Ontario, Canada

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Music Education, Kelly Bylica pursued a career as an elementary and middle school music teacher. Returning to her hometown of Chicago, she directed musical theater productions and taught choral and general music for several years in the city and suburbs. While teaching, Kelly also pursued a Master's Degree in Music Education from Northwestern University, graduating with departmental honors in 2014. In the Fall of 2016, she moved to London, Ontario, to pursue a Ph.D. at Western University with a focus on social justice and music education. Her work has been presented in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Portugal and Guatemala.

Dane Callstrom - 2012

Pharmacy I.T. Consultant, Cerner Corporation
Prairie Village, Kansas

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a Marketing major and Theatre minor, Dane Callstrom returned home to Kansas City and began his career as a Pharmacy I.T. consultant for Cerner Corporation, where he continues to work today. In his five years at Cerner, where he is now a senior manager, Dane has designed and implemented pharmacy Electronic Health Record software in well over 100 hospitals and health care organizations throughout the United States. In addition to his health care career, Dane keeps up with his musical hobbies. He has worked as a church and wedding pianist and occasionally gets hired to write and produce comedic music videos--an opportunity that presented itself after gaining some short-lived local fame from his YouTube videos. He is currently living in a suburb of Kansas City with his wife and high school sweetheart, Michelle.

Pamela (Carey) Sieving -1970

Consultant, Biomedical Information
Bethesda, Maryland

Pam Carey married Paul Sieving (C.C. 1970) six months after graduation from Valparaiso University. She completed an M.A. in English Literature and Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin Madison and an M.S. in Library Science at Southern Connecticut State University. Pam worked as a librarian at the Yale graduate library, the University of Illinois Chicago Circle, the Kirkland & Ellis law firm in Chicago, the University of Michigan graduate library, and for fifteen years as Director of Library Services at the University of Michigan's Ophthalmology Department, before moving to the National Institutes of Health library in 2001. She "retired" from N.I.H. at the end of 2014, and since then has been a consultant to the international ophthalmology and vision community, speaking and teaching nationally and internationally, particularly on projects involving information resources and services in developing countries. Pam is currently President of the Cogan Ophthalmic History Society and has been active in several U.S. and international library associations; she is certified at the 'distinguished' level of the Academy of Health Information Professionals. She was active for many years in the Valpo Guild, including a term as National Vice President, and currently serves on the Christ College National Council. Pam and Paul have two sons, Ted, an attorney and C.O.O. of Work Evolution Laboratories in Long Beach, California, and Matt, an attorney with Bloom Energy, in Sunnyvale, California. Matt is married to Lia Izenberg, director of the College Persistence Office of the KIPP Foundation. Pam enjoys cooking and baking. She and Paul both volunteer in food pantries of Lutheran congregations in D.C. They enjoy travel, as is appropriate to pioneers at the Valpo Reutlingen Center; have the typical stacks of yet-to-read books scattered around their home; and continue to ponder, with several other Valpo graduates in their D.C. congregation, the role of the church in our increasingly complex society. They also enjoy participating in the D.C. Christ College reading group.

Tamara (Carnahan) Weaver - 2006

Attorney, Office of the Indiana Attorney General
Zionsville, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Political Science, Tamara Weaver pursued a law degree at the Valparaiso University School of Law. While attending law school, she had the coveted opportunity to argue in front of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia at the annual Swygert Moot Court Competition. Tamara is now a Deputy Attorney General with the Office of the Indiana Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division. There she litigates cases protecting Hoosiers from a wide range of frauds and deception including home improvement scammers, businesses engaged in fraud, and multi-state anti-trust matters. Tamara serves on the board of the Zionsville Tri Kappa, promoting charity, culture, and education in Boone County. In her free time, she attends the C.C. Alumni Reading Group in Indianapolis with an outstanding group of alumni. She lives with her husband, Mark, and their two daughters, Madeline and Hannah, in Zionsville, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis.

Chris Castellanet - 2011

Certified Clinical Perfusionist, Denver V.A. Eastern Colorado Health Care System
Denver, Colorado

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Chris Castellanet pursued an M.S. at Rush University in Chicago and graduated in 2014 with a degree in Perfusion Technology. Later that year he sat for a clinical exam and became a Certified Clinical Perfusionist in early 2015. As a perfusionist he operates the heart/lung machine and puts patients on cardiopulmonary bypass for coronary bypass surgeries, valvular replacement surgeries, and aortic aneurysm and dissection repairs. He also runs autologous blood salvage machines for orthopedic and vascular surgeries, and has also been utilized in peritoneal anti-cancer procedures. Chris' resume also includes kidney, liver, lung, and heart transplants, as well as mechanical ventricular assist device implants. Finally, he operates intra aortic balloon pumps and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation devices for life-saving cardiac and pulmonary support. He currently resides in Denver with his fiancée and their son Theo, who is a very furry four-year-old Australian Shepherd. When he is not in the operating room he keeps up with his love of recreational sports, including soccer, softball, and ultimate frisbee.

Matt Cavin - 2008

Senior Consultant, Deloitte Consulting New Zealand
Auckland, New Zealand

Matt Cavin graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S.B.A. (International Business), and a B.A. (Economics, Mandarin Chinese). He went on to earn his M.B.A. (Finance, Entrepreneurship) from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in December 2015. Matt has worked as a sales executive for Intermedix EMSystems, a strategy consultant for Deloitte Consulting, a venture capital associate with Hyde Park Venture Partners, and a program leader for TechStars, a leading startup accelerator in Chicago. He married fellow alum Becca Crocker (C.C. 2008) in 2013, and they had baby Felicity in 2016. They recently moved to the City of Sails - Auckland, New Zealand, where Matt is a management consultant in Deloitte's New Zealand firm. He, Becca, and Felicity are learning to sail, loving the South Pacific lifestyle, and enjoying hosting frequent overseas visitors.

Mandy Chalk - 2010

Academic Advisor, Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in History and Political Science, Mandy Chalk worked at Ivy Tech Community College for three and a half years in Career Services. During this time, she completed her Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University South Bend. In July 2015, she accepted a position at Purdue University, where she currently works. Mandy is an academic advisor in Exploratory Studies assisting undecided freshman and sophomore students. During her time at Valpo, Mandy was a member of V.U. Ballroom; she continues to ballroom dance socially.

Mike Chasar - 1993

English Professor, Willamette University
Salem, Oregon

Mike Chasar has spent a lot of time writing. After graduating from Valparaiso University, he worked in the secondary market mortgage lending industry, used the office copier to make 'zines on the sly, wrote poetry at the office and at home, and moonlighted as a newspaper columnist in the western suburbs of Chicago. He then earned an M.A. in Creative Writing at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, after which he taught writing part time, advised students in the University Honors Program, wrote book reviews for the *Dayton Daily News*, continued to write poetry, and married Meridith Brand (C.C. 1993). Seeking sunnier climes, Mike and Meridith moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, to work at the Salvador Dali Museum, where Mike surreptitiously wrote more poetry, book reviews, and essays on company time. Eventually, realizing that the writing wouldn't quit him, he went back to school at the University of Iowa, where he earned a Ph.D. in English, published over fifty editorial poems in the local newspaper, and completed a verse biography of Rolf Grossman (C.C. 1983, imaginary). In 2009, Meridith and Mike moved to Salem, Oregon, where they now reside with their two cats, Athens and Bella. Currently an Associate Professor of English at Willamette University, Mike is the author of *Everyday Reading: Poetry and Popular Culture in Modern America* (Columbia University Press, 2012), the co-editor of *Poetry after Cultural Studies* (University of Iowa Press, 2011), the author of numerous articles on the intersection of poetry and popular culture, and the one-time house poet of a national wholesale insurance company. A 2015 Library of Congress Kluge Fellow and a 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, he is completing his next book, tentatively titled *Beyond the Book? Poetry and New Media in Modern America*. He likes traveling, baseball, gardening, and making Chinese food.

Matthew Christian - 1994

Associate Vice President for Research and Chief of Staff, St. Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Matthew Christian earned an M.B.A. from the University of Illinois Chicago and an M.A. in Religion from Yale Divinity School. While at Illinois, he started OrthoAccel Technologies, a biotech company that sells the orthodontic device AcceleDent. In 2006, he was recruited to the University of Chicago where he served as Associate Dean, Assistant Vice President and Associate Provost. In 2016, he became Associate Vice President for Research and Chief of Staff at Saint Louis University, one of the nation's top Jesuit research universities. In addition to his work in research oversight, he plays key roles in university-wide strategic planning, institutional research, and in developing initiatives to better serve minority groups. He has served as President, Vice-President and Treasurer of Augustana Lutheran Church in Chicago, Vice-Chair of the Board for the of Blue Gargoyle (an adult literacy non-profit), and a founding Board member of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals. Matthew is married and has three children.

Rachel (Christiansen) Taube - 2007

Community Education Project Director, Missouri Institute of Mental Health at the University of Missouri St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Rachel Christiansen Taube, Master of Social Work, is Project Director for Mental Health First Aid in Missouri where she oversees the strategic implementation of the program around the state. Rachel Taube earned her B.S.W. from Valpo and her M.S.W. from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University St. Louis. Rachel worked in the higher education and domestic violence fields before beginning her work in program evaluation and management at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health at the University of Missouri St. Louis.

Gerald Cleaver - 1985

Physics Professor, Baylor University
Hewitt, Texas

Gerald Cleaver graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Physics and Mathematics. Gerald went on to earn a Ph.D. in string theory and early universe cosmology from Caltech in 1993. He is Professor and Graduate Program Director of the Department of Physics at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and has chaired the graduate committees of ten Ph.D. and M.S. students. He heads the Early Universe Cosmology and String Theory Division of Baylor's Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics and Engineering Research. Gerald has authored over ninety peer-reviewed physics journal articles and conference proceedings. He is co-author of an elementary particle physics textbook, referee for nine physics journals, and member of the international advisory board of the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society. He is a member of four IQ and numerous science honor societies. Gerald's interests include flying radio-controlled model airplanes, SCUBA, small boat sailing, and Tae Kwon Do. He and his wife Lisa have three children.

Abbigail (Clindaniel) Rohmiller - 2010

Attorney, Dudas Law
Richmond, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in History and Spanish, Abby Clindaniel attended the University of South Dakota where she graduated in 2013 with a J.D. and an M.A. in History. While at the University of South Dakota, she met her husband Dan Rohmiller. Abby and Dan moved to Richmond, Indiana, in the summer of 2013. Abby is currently an associate attorney in a small, general practice law firm, focusing primarily on family law. Abby is a 2015 graduate of the Indiana State Bar Association (I.S.B.A.) Leadership Development Academy, and currently serves on that planning committee. She also serves on the I.S.B.A. Family and Juvenile Law Section Council. Abby and Dan live in Richmond with their one-year-old son, Lucas.

Netha Cloeter – 2006

Director of Education and Social Engagement, Plains Art Museum
Fargo, North Dakota

Netha Cloeter has migrated throughout the Great Plains since graduating from Valpo with a B.A. in English and Art History in 2006. She taught art and English and coached J.V. volleyball at Todd County High School in Mission, South Dakota, from 2006-09. She returned to school and earned an M.A. in Art History from the University of Oklahoma in 2012, where she focused on intersections of geopolitics and contemporary Indigenous aesthetics. In 2013 she moved to Fargo, North Dakota, and perhaps surprisingly (see: winter) remains in Fargo to this day. Netha managed the art gallery and permanent collection at North Dakota State University from 2013-15, and she currently works as Director of Education and Social Engagement at Plains Art Museum in downtown Fargo. She is married to Jeff Holth of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and gave birth to a son, Auden Lorenz Holth, in May 2017.

Dennis Collins - 1966

Math Professor (Retired), University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez
Winamac, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Dennis Collins did graduate work at Yale and subsequently received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1975. During his career he taught at Michigan State University, the University of New Orleans, Valparaiso University and the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez from which he retired in 2009. After retirement he relocated to Winamac, Indiana. Dennis' book *Conflict in History: Measuring Symmetry, Thermodynamic Modeling and Other Work* was published in 2011, and he started the Blog *The Quantum History Institute* in 2016. He has served as Treasurer and President (2003) of the Mayaguez Chapter of the Sigma Xi Research Society. He was honored with a *Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award* in 2017. This past summer he gave a short talk, "Peace Movement Paradox" at the Math Association of America Mathfest in Chicago, Illinois. Dennis married his wife Barbara in 1979; they have a son Glenn who was born in 1987.

Ryan Connelly - 2015

Research Associate, Stony Brook University
Smithtown, New York

Ryan Connelly is a working on an M.S. in Atmospheric Science at Stony Brook University.

Matthew Cook - 2010

Policy Researcher, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Washington, D.C.

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology and Ancient Greek, Matt Cook logically spent the next three years in Japan teaching English while butchering Japanese on a daily basis. He followed that up by getting a Master of Public Policy Degree at Georgetown University. Now, he researches state and local fiscal health at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C. He also continues, without success, his quest to read more books than he buys.

Paul Cook - 1994

Nursing Professor, University of Colorado
Westminster, Colorado

Paul Cook is Associate Professor at the University of Colorado College of Nursing, where he studies health behavior change interventions for problems like medication adherence, chronic disease management, and health promotion. After graduating from Valparaiso University, he earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Temple University, and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Public Psychology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. He then worked for five years in managed care organizations, with an eventual role as Director of Research and Acting Corporate Quality Improvement Director for the Specialty Companies Division of Centene Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2005 he returned to the University of Colorado as a faculty member in nursing, where he found a natural home for his interest in how to help people change their behavior to improve their health. He has been the principal investigator on grants totaling over \$2 million from the National Institutes of Health, the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration, and Merck & Co., Inc., and a funded collaborator on other grants from C.D.C., S.A.M.H.S.A., A.H.R.Q., and the Colorado Health Foundation. He married fellow alum Lisa Miller (C.C. 1996) in 1999; they live in the Denver area with their two wonderful children, Ruth (12) and Julia (7), and a miniature poodle.

Scott Cook - 1973

School Psychologist, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada
Musician and Entrepreneur
Las Vegas, Nevada, NV

After graduating with majors in Psychology and Sociology, Scott Cook obtained a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, while volunteering at and training staff at a crisis intervention center and experimenting with communal farm living. He then became a gypsy for a year and a half, traveling about Europe and Asia, studying Dharma with a Tibetan Lama in McLeod Ganj, playing flute in the Taj Mahal (and elsewhere), traveling across the caravan paths of northern Afghanistan, attending exorcisms in Sri Lanka where he studied Kandian drum, and broadened his concepts of fellowship and ecumenism. He returned to the United States to "play rock star" keyboardist for three years of touring the U.S. and Canada, followed by six years of entrepreneurial work and three later years as a musician in Las Vegas. Scott obtained an Ed.S. in School Psychology and practiced for twenty-four years in the Clark County School District in the Las Vegas area, where, among diverse responsibilities, he helped establish and offer consultation and assessment for a program for highly gifted students. He was involved in national and state school psychologist associations. His wife Rika is a native of Japan, and has been an elementary teacher in Las Vegas for twenty-eight years; their son Kota is currently a college sophomore in the honors program at the University of Nevada-Reno and studying abroad at Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan. Scott retired last fall and took a three-month trip to six Asian countries, which included revisiting the site where Buddha attained enlightenment, hiking to see Mount Everest, hanging out with Shiva Sadhus along the Ganges, most actively celebrating Happy Holi in Kathmandu, watching the sun rise over Angkor Wat and visiting with his son Kota for Sakura blossoming. Scott's current interests include musical composition and recording, photography, biking, hiking, playing Petanque, and yes, travel.

Bryn Cooley - 2016

Writing Consultant, George Washington University Writing Center
Graduate Assistant, Department of Philosophy, George Washington University
Arlington, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English, History and Humanities, Bryn Cooley went on to complete Historic Deerfield's Summer Fellowship Program and published a seventy-page paper in their Memorial Libraries. Her master's program in Museum Studies began in the fall of 2016 at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Since then she has held internships at Tudor Place Historic House & Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Senate Office of the Senate Curator, and the Diplomatic Reception Rooms at Blair House. She currently works as a writing consultant in GW's Writing Center and as a graduate assistant in the Philosophy Department.

Becca (Crocker) Cavin - 2008

Senior Intellectual Property Attorney, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare
Auckland, New Zealand

Becca Crocker Cavin graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. She went on to earn a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in December 2010. She married fellow alum Matt Cavin (C.C. 2008) in 2013, and they welcomed the birth of their daughter, Felicity, in 2016. After six years as a Chicago-based patent litigation and patent prosecution associate at the international law firm of K&L Gates, Becca accepted a Senior I.P. Counsel position with the industry-leading medical device company Fisher & Paykel Healthcare. The only catch was their offices were on the other side of the planet! Becca, Matt, and Felicity moved to Auckland, New Zealand, in 2017, where they are enjoying being near the beach, and learning about all things Kiwi, such as “tramping the bush” (hiking the countryside).

Stefanie (Croll) Kilcullen - 1984

Kindergarten Teacher, Grace Lutheran School
San Mateo, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Stephanie Croll Kilcullen studied abroad for a year in Paris through Valparaiso's program with Central College. Shortly after returning to the United States, she worked in New York City for several international corporations, including Solid State Logic, distributors of audio mixing consoles for recording studios and the film industry, Morgan Stanley, and C.A.L.F.P (a joint venture of Credit Agricole and Lazard Freres). She married, moved to the San Francisco Peninsula and has three children. Her daughter is a junior honors student at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York; her elder son is a freshman Christ College student at Valpo; and her younger son is a high school junior. After several years as a stay-at-home mom, Stefanie now teaches kindergarten at Grace Lutheran Day School in San Mateo, California.

Robert Croninger - 1973

Associate Professor of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership , University of Maryland
Columbia, Maryland

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Robert Croninger attended the College of William and Mary, where he earned an M.A. in Sociology in 1976. He then spent a year in Mexico City teaching English at the American English Institute and Instituto Whitman. In 1977 he returned to the United States and was hired as a research assistant for the Programs for Educational Opportunity, a federally-funded desegregation assistance center, located at the University of Michigan. He became the senior research associate in 1979 and the associate director for the program in 1988. In 1997 he graduated from the University of Michigan's doctoral program in educational studies and was hired as an assistant professor of education policy and leadership at the University of Maryland. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership at the University of Maryland, where he teaches courses in education policy, research design, and statistics. He also served as the associate chair and director of graduate education in the Department of Education Policy Studies and his current department for nearly ten years. Robert and his wife Ruth Vriend have two children, Nicholas (26) and Rachel (29).

Emily Curosh - 2015

Law Student, University of Notre Dame
Hammond, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Emily Curosh entered law school at the University of Notre Dame. She is now a senior and will be graduating in the spring of 2018. She interned for the Office of the United States Attorney in Hammond, Indiana, in 2016, and at a law firm this past summer.

David Cyze -2013

Computer Programmer, InformaticsIQ
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University in English and Humanities, David began pursuing a master's in education from St. Xavier University. A year into the program, he joined E.P.I.K. (English Program in Korea) which led to his teaching English in South Korea until 2015. He returned to the United States with a newfound love for language learning and began to develop computer programs to assist himself in this endeavor. He fell in love with computer programming, joined a coding boot camp, and found a job as a full-time programmer at InformaticsIQ. There, he develops software and strategy that enables organizations to take advantage of big data. He will complete his master's program in 2018 and is currently writing a book on the intersection of education and technology as a part of his master's thesis.

Erin (Dalpini) Strybis - 2008

Associate Editor of *Living Lutheran*, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valpo, Erin Dalpini Strybis, pursued a career in nonprofit communications. A former features editor for *The Torch*, Erin loved writing and, over the years, worked to find a position that merged her love of reading and writing with a desire to inspire others in their faith. Today she works as Associate Editor of *Living Lutheran*, the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Erin is married to fellow Valpo alum Jay Strybis (V.U. 2008), an engineer and founder of One Robotics Company. In January 2017 Erin and Jay welcomed their first son, Jack, into the world. Both Erin and Jay are active members of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

Jason Davis – 2011

General Forecaster, National Weather Service Birmingham Forecast Office
Pelham, Alabama

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Meteorology, Jason Davis continued his studies at North Carolina State University. He graduated from N.C. State with a master's degree in Atmosphere Science in 2013, successfully defending a master's thesis titled *Radar Climatology of Tornadoic and Non-tornadoic Vortices in High Shear, Low CAPE Environments*. Next, he moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to work as a forecast meteorologist. He then moved to the Birmingham, Alabama, area in 2014 to work at his current place of employment at the National Weather Service's Birmingham Weather Forecast Office. He began there as a meteorologist intern and is now a general forecaster.

Brooke (Davisson) Robinson - 2010

Music Educator, Crown Point Community School Corporation
Crown Point, Indiana

Brooke Robinson is in her sixth year of teaching, and her third year as a K-5 Elementary Music Educator for Crown Point Community School Corporation.

Michelle (Decker) Keller - 1993

Homemaker, Freelance Web Manager, Self Employed
Orlando, Florida

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Political Science and Economics, Michelle Keller entered a career in social work. She worked as a case manager with abused and neglected children on the south side of Chicago. After several years in that position, she worked as the intake coordinator for a residential program for abused and neglected children. Michelle left that career to return to school full time. She graduated from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2002 with an M.A. in Religion. While attending seminary, Michelle worked as Adult Ministries Director for a church in the Chicago suburbs. Michelle married Justin Keller in November of 2003. She then began working as Assistant Registrar at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. In 2006, she and Justin moved to Staten Island, New York, where Justin accepted a call to pastor a church. Abigail Lynn Keller was born in March, 2007, in New York. The Kellers relocated in 2010 to a pastorate in Richmond, Virginia. Katharine Grace Keller was born there in February of 2011. In addition to raising Abby and Katie, Michelle was actively involved in both children's and women's ministry in both of Justin's churches. In 2013, the Kellers relocated to the Philadelphia area where Justin began teaching full time at a classical Christian school. Michelle began working part-time as a virtual assistant for an executive recruiter in addition to working part-time at the school. In 2015, the school closed, and the Kellers relocated once again to Austin, Texas. Michelle began teaching pre-school, and substitute teaching at the classical Christian school. Subsequently, Michelle joined a former colleague and artist to create and manage her website and online store. In 2017, the Kellers relocated once again when Justin accepted a theology and rhetoric teaching position at the Geneva School in Orlando, Florida. Michelle continues to manage their home, and looks forward to becoming involved in a new church and school in Orlando. Abby will be starting the fifth grade, and Katie will be starting the first grade. Both girls are involved in piano, swimming, and soccer. Michelle currently does freelance work in website management and writes for an art blog.

Peter DeMik - 1997

Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church
Laurel, Maryland

Peter DeMik and Michelle (Manke) DeMik were married at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University in July of 1997. They are the parents of Allison (14), Matthew (12) and Nathan (7). After graduating from Valpo, Peter attended Concordia Seminary St. Louis. He received a call to serve first as Associate Pastor, then later as Senior Pastor, of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Laurel, Maryland, where he still serves. Peter leads a servant event for high-school students from around the country every summer in the Appalachian region of western Maryland. He completed his first marathon in 2016.

Hilda Demuth-Lutze - 1982

English Teacher, Chesterton (Indiana) High School
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Hilda Demuth-Lutze attended graduate school at Penn State and then found her way back to Valpo, where she met and married Mark P. Lutze (V.U. M.A.L.S. 1985). She has taught for thirty years in the English department at Chesterton High School. When she and Mark are not fighting the good fight in public education, they enjoy looking after the sheep on Hil-Mar Farm and trying to keep up with their children Katrina, Elena (C.C. 2015), and Matthew. Hilda also writes historical fiction. She is the author of *Kingdom of the Birds*, a novel set during the Reformation, and co-author with her sister Emily Demuth Ishida (C.C. 1985) of three more books for young readers: *Plank Road Summer*, *Plank Road Winter*, and *Hattie's War*.

Andrew Denecke - 2014

Trauma Counseling, LiveFree Counseling, P.L.L.C.
Morris, Colorado

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology and Humanities, Andrew Denecke completed a year of Americorps service with the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. He was then accepted into the Master of Arts in International Disaster Psychology program at the University of Denver. In fulfillment of his internship requirements, Andrew spent the summer of 2016 in the villages surrounding Mzuzu, Malawi, working at St. John of God Hospitaller Services. He collaborated with local counselors on the understandings of psychological trauma and assisted with group therapy for elderly service users and vulnerable street children. After completing his degree in June 2017, Andrew spent several months designing and building a Tiny House on Wheels with the help of his family in Wisconsin. He has since found work opportunities in trauma counseling in the Denver area and hopes to serve Valpo's Phi Kappa Psi fraternity in an alumni capacity.

Clinton Desmond - 1998

Music Professor, Dakota Wesleyan University
Mitchell, South Dakota

After Clinton Desmond received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Valparaiso University, he earned a Master of Music Degree from Illinois State University and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Michigan State University. Currently, he is Director of Choral Activities, Associate Professor of Music, and chairman for the Ron and Sheilah Gates Department of Music at Dakota Wesleyan University. At D.W.U., he conducts the Dakota Wesleyan Choir, The Highlanders, The Singing Scotchmen, and teaches voice, music theory, music history, conducting, and courses in the vocal music education curriculum. He has taught junior high and high school choir, directed several church music programs, and has sung leading roles in opera and musical theatre. He debuted the role of Doctor Higgins in the 2005 world premiere performance and recording of Nancy Van de Vate's "Where the Cross Is Made" and sang the role of Jean Valjean in Dakota Wesleyan's production of Les Misérables. He also collaborates with his wife, pianist Erin (Stinson) Desmond on a yearly vocal recital. Their last recital, titled "Nothing Like You've Ever Known," focused on lesser-known selections by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. Since joining the D.W.U. faculty in 2010, Clint has made teaching his passion and has dedicated himself to the growth and development of the Music Department. Ensembles under his direction embark on yearly concert tours and have been invited to perform for the South Dakota American Choral Directors Association and the South Dakota Music Educators Association. Clint has been awarded the university's Presidential Award for Outstanding Service in 2012 and the prestigious Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence in 2017.

Diane (Dolan) Bahn - 1975

Team Coordinator, Presenter, Coach, Coach Trainer, PLI Leadership Essentials
Cypress (Houston), Texas

After completing her Valpo degree in biology, Diane married David Bahn and worked while Dave attended Concordia Theological Seminary. During this time, Diane's interest in music was re-kindled, leading her to serve as a church organist, choir director, and director of worship and music for twenty-five years. Having been involved in PLI as a participant with Dave and then as a women's mentor/coach, she became Director of the Partner (wives) Program of PLI in 2006, later moving into a leadership role with PLI Leadership Essentials and as a coach and coach trainer. In 2014 she completed her M.A.L.S. through Concordia University, Chicago. She also sings in her church choir and helps facilitate an adult Bible study. The Bahns have four married sons and nine delightful grandchildren. To God be the glory!

Genevieve Dornemann - 2017

Production Apprentice, Imagination Stage
Bethesda, Maryland

Genevieve Dornemann graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Theatre and a minor in Theology. She is also a deaconess student with the Lutheran Deaconess Association. While at Valpo, she was a part of Activating Community Through Service, Alpha Psi Omega, and the chapel sanctuary team. She is now a production apprentice at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Maryland.

Philip Deters -1966

Attorney (Retired)
Honolulu, Hawaii

Philip Deters retired in 2013 as Deputy Counsel to the Maryland Department of Planning and Counsel to the Maryland Historical Trust/State Historic Preservation Office. He lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, and volunteers for the Historic Hawaii Foundation and Judicial History Center, and does Hawaii historic research.

Jeremiah Dost - 2007

Game Developer, Bungie, Inc.
Monroe, Washington

Jeremiah Dost graduated from Valpo with a B.A. in History (with Honors) and spent the first three years after graduation living and teaching English in South Korea on a Fulbright Scholarship. He returned to the states to earn a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Washington in 2012 where he met his wife Amy. While at U.W., he also served as live-in sexton at Chapel on the Avenue, a Lutheran student ministry center. While waiting to hear back on employment with the federal government/admission to Ph.D. programs (economies being what they are), he held various jobs in the Seattle area, including car salesman (which he did not fancy), stone feature installer (think granite countertops and the like), and—most excitingly—game content editor for NCSOFT's Aion. After marrying Amy in 2013, he returned to academic study at the University of Southern California for a Ph.D. in Political Science, but he missed working in the game industry so much that he left the program after a year and returned to NCSOFT in Aliso Viejo, California, as a localization analyst. He moved back to Seattle in 2014 to work at Bungie, Inc (creators of Halo and Destiny) as a technical content manager. He's found a home at Bungie and currently serves as a production engineer, smoothing out content creator workflows, mentoring a couple of reports, and learning as much as he can about software development on the side. In his spare time, he works on pet tech projects around the house, plays basketball, and has recently taken up fly fishing. He is also active in his small group at church and will occasionally help run the sound board.

Christine (Drager) Kurth - 1992

Attorney, T-Mobile
Warrington, Virginia

After graduation, Christine Drager Kurth, entered Valparaiso University's School of Law and earned a J.D. in 1995. Since then, she has leveraged her valuable Valparaiso and Christ College education to explore a rewarding and interesting career path. She clerked for U.S. Judge James K. Singleton, U.S. District Court of Alaska; worked as a trial attorney for the NLRB; served as a U.S. Senate staffer on three different senate committees (Energy, Appropriations and Commerce); and was ultimately elevated to Staff Director for the Senate Commerce Committee. She also worked at the Federal Communications Commission. Upon leaving the federal government, she was hired by T-Mobile, a dynamic and innovative wireless company. Currently, she works in T-Mobile's Government Affairs Office and uses her strong Valpo values to find creative ways to advocate for T-Mobile. More important, she is married to her loving husband, Tim Kurth, and they joyfully raise their twin boys together.

Don Driscoll - 1982

Vice President/Chief Claims Officer, R.L.I. Insurance Company
Peoria, Illinois

After graduating from Valpo, Don attended the University of Illinois law school in Champaign from 1982-85. While clerking for the Illinois Appellate Court, he succeeded in marrying the love of his life, Sharon Franklin (North Park University 1981). They moved to Milwaukee in 1987 where Don worked at the Michael, Best & Friedrich law firm. In 1991, he was hired by Travelers Insurance in Hartford, Connecticut, to handle large-exposure liability claims. After five years in New England, the call of the Midwest grew too strong, and Don returned to Illinois in 1996 to join the up-and-coming RLI Insurance Company based in Peoria. Don is still in Peoria twenty-one years later and continues to enjoy the five-minute commute, family-focused community and deep ties to friends and coworkers that have developed over the years. Don and Sharon regularly escape to their Chicago condo to visit family and friends and to enjoy Chicago's restaurants, museums and other cultural opportunities. They have three wonderful sons: David, a Classics professor at the University of California Davis who married the lovely Ludi Chow in 2016; Bo, a software engineer at U.S. Gypsum in Chicago; and Thomas, a sophomore in the engineering program at the University of Illinois. They also have a beloved Keeshond appropriately named Sassy.

Paula Droege - 1985

Philosophy Professor, Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pennsylvania

After graduating as a philosophy major from Valparaiso University, Paula Droege wandered the world a bit and eventually ended up as a philosophy professor at Pennsylvania State University with research interest in consciousness theory and feminism. She married a fellow C.C. alum, Jon Brockopp, in 1990; they have a son, Noah, who is currently a Penn State freshman. Jon is a professor of Islamic Studies, also at Penn State.

Katherine (Dueringer) Goodman - 1997

Assistant Professor in Human-Centered Design and Researcher of Higher Education,
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado

Kate Dueringer Goodman is an assistant professor at University of Colorado Denver at Inworks, teaching Human-Centered Design. In 2015, she earned a Ph.D. in Technology, Media and Society from the ATLAS Institute in the College of Engineering at Colorado University Boulder. Her research focuses on transformational educational experiences, using both cognitive science and learning sciences approaches. She lives in the Denver suburbs with her husband of twenty years, Randy Goodman, and their three children. Kate and Randy are active volunteers at the kids' school and in both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Erica Duguid - 2002

Macromolecular Crystallographer, IMCA-CAT
Woodridge, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Erica Duguid earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Chicago and later worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She also learned how to play the carillon – a musical instrument in the form of 100 tons of bronze bells – and gave weekly recitals. Now she works on the campus of Argonne National Laboratory where she uses X-rays given off by electrons traveling near the speed of light to determine the atomic structure of the large molecules that make up our bodies. She is married to Andrew Scaife with whom she has two young children.

Christi (Dunklau) Gaertner - 1997

Spanish Teacher and Recruitment Coordinator, Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School
Brighton, Michigan

Shortly after graduating from Valparaiso University, Christi Dunklau married fellow alum Evan Gaertner (C.C. 1997). They moved to St. Louis where Christi taught Spanish at a public middle school and then later at the Lutheran High School of St. Charles County. Evan completed his M.Div. at Concordia Seminary in 2001. They then moved to the Niagara Falls, New York, where Christi again taught Spanish in a public middle school until the birth of their son, Henry, in 2003. That year Christi also completed her Master of Science degree at SUNY Buffalo. Lucas was born in 2005. In 2008 the Gaertners moved to Brighton, Michigan, where Evan is the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Soon after their move to Brighton, Christi began teaching Spanish to students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Shepherd of the Lakes (S.O.T.L.) Lutheran School. She also serves as the Recruitment Coordinator of S.O.T.L. Since Christi took the position, the school has increased enrollment each year. Christi spends her free time going to her kids' sporting events, watching dumb reality TV, and volunteering at church and school.

Karen (Dunmire) Barnett - 1992

Author, Self-employed
Albany, Oregon

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Karen Dunmire Barnett earned an M.S. in Geosciences from Oregon State University, where she also met her husband Steve. Karen worked in outdoor education for several years, including positions at Mount Rainier National Park and Oregon's Silver Falls State Park before becoming a professional writer and stay-at-home mom. She now writes inspirational fiction and has published five historical novels. She was named Writer of Promise in 2013 by Oregon Christian Writers and Writer of the Year in 2016 by the prestigious Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference. Her latest novel is, *The Road to Paradise*, released in June, 2017, with WaterBrook & Multnomah, imprints of Penguin Random House. Karen lives in Oregon with Steve and their two teenagers, Andrew and Bethany.

Jonathan Eaton - 2009

Cultural Heritage and Human Rights, Cultural Heritage Without Borders
Tirana, Albania

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in History and Humanities, Jonathan Eaton relocated to Albania under a Fulbright grant in 2009-2010 to pursue research focused on addressing traumatic memory through the “re-signification” of heritage sites, particularly in Albania. His work drew upon comparative studies from other post-Socialist, post-colonial and post-conflict situations. After earning an M.A. in Anthropology at the University of Toronto, he returned to Albania and has been working for the non-governmental organization Cultural Heritage without Borders since 2012. There, he has been involved with projects involving heritage interpretation, dialogues on difficult pasts, “first aid” for cultural heritage affected by conflict and disaster and the development of a regional museum network. Jonathan's recent research interests have focused on addressing difficult pasts through the conservation, interpretation and adaptive reuse of heritage sites, in ways that support long-term peacebuilding.

Michelle Eckert - 2007

Marketing and Communications Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valpo with a B.A. in Studio Art, Michelle Eckert moved to Philadelphia to serve two years as a full-time AmeriCorps member at YouthBuild Charter School. In addition to tutoring, mentoring, and coordinating student projects and internships, she taught a service-learning class that revolved around arts-related nonprofits in Philadelphia. After a stint with the U.S. Census Bureau, Michelle now works at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. Her role includes graphic design, event photography, web design, and more. She is active in Penn’s Lutheran campus ministry and still designs and carves a Paschal candle every year, using skills developed in the sacristy at the Chapel of the Resurrection. She is married to fellow alum Benjamin (Gaulke) Eckert (C.C. 2007).

Joshua Eckhardt - 1998

English Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso, Joshua Eckhardt earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in sixteenth-seventeenth-century English literature at the University of Illinois. He is on the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has authored the book *Manuscript Verse Collectors* (Oxford, 2009) and co-edited a collection of essays, *Manuscript Miscellanies* (Ashgate, 2014). In all his research, and in most of his courses, he focuses on collections of texts that people made in the early modern period, whether in single volumes, commercial book shops, or libraries. He is married to Sarah Luecke (C.C. 1999). The two try to raise three boys—Silas, Ira, and Levi—in Church Hill North.

Susan (Eckhardt) Lawrence - 1975

Home School Teacher and Family Caregiver
Preston, Connecticut

Susan Lawrence graduated from Valparaiso University in three and a half years with majors in Chemistry and Humanities. She then spent six months traveling around ten countries in Europe. She became a registered medical technologist to earn money for graduate school. She has a Master's in International Management and speaks French, Spanish, and German. She has held several jobs in cutting-edge medical research sales, including DNA and peptide synthesizers. One of her clients, Barbara McClintock, won a Nobel prize. She also helped Ph.D.s design their experiments. She retired from these endeavors to homeschool her son who eventually graduated third in his class from his Science and Technology Magnet School, earned the Eagle Scout Award, and graduated with honors from college. During this time she also was an unpaid caregiver for her father (cancer), mother (Alzheimers), sister (migranes), friend (prostate cancer), and son (cancer). Having now run out of non-paying customers, she works as a building teacher at a public school, teaching where needed in kindergarten through fifth grades. She has just the one son. Her husband is a retired Naval officer and nuclear systems engineer.

Katie Effertz - 2014

Higher Education Administrator, University of Wisconsin Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. Spanish and a minor in Psychology, Katie Effertz chose to attend Western Illinois University to pursue an M.S. in College Student Personnel. While at W.I.U., she was able to follow her passion for traveling through work with the Study Abroad Office that included multiple trips overseas. Upon graduation from W.I.U., Katie moved to the University of Wisconsin Madison to work at the School of Education where she plans and runs summer camps for local and international gifted and talented high-school and middle-school students. In her free time, Katie has become an avid runner and enjoys exploring the many parks and lakes in the Madison area.

Sarah (Eggers) Unsicker - 1999

Missouri State Representative
Shrewsbury, Missouri

After graduating from Valpo, Sarah Eggers Unsicker worked as a computer programmer before she went to Washington University Law School, where she earned a J.D. in 2005. Sarah had a law practice focused on family and education law. She ran for the Missouri House of Representatives in 2016, and currently serves as a representative for parts of St. Louis County, Missouri. Sarah lives with her husband, Tom Unsicker (V.U. 1999), and her two sons.

Laura (Ehlen) Norris - 2012

Running Coach, Freelance Writer, Small Business Owner, Self-employed
Bothell, Washington

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Theology, Laura Ehlen Norris earned an M.A. in Theological Studies at the University of Dayton. Combining her love of writing and research with a desire to help others, she launched her own business as a running coach. She works with runners of all ages and abilities and helps them lead fit lives and achieve their goals. In addition to coaching, Laura authors the website *This Runner's Recipes* and contributes to multiple blogs, including *Runkeeper*, *Rainier Fruit*, *Women's Running*, and more. Laura is married to Ryan Norris (C.C. 2011) and lives in the Seattle area with their two rescue dogs. In her leisure time, she enjoys running marathons, hiking, traveling, and volunteering at her parish.

Jennifer (Engelhardt) Schoenfeldt -2002

Math Teacher, Park Hill South High School
Kansas City, Missouri

Jennifer Engelhardt Schoenfeldt graduated from Valpo with a B.S. in Mathematics and Secondary Education. She received her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Missouri Kansas City in 2007. Over the last sixteen years she has taught in three different high schools, sharing her love of math with well over 1,500 students. She has served on curriculum committees and organized professional development opportunities for her students and colleagues and in the wider education community. She has also served as department chair. She has sponsored the Math Club, Quiz Bowl competitions, and the Robotics team. Most of Jennifer's adult life has been spent in Kansas City, but after marrying Chip Schoenfeldt in the spring of 2015 (on Pi Day, of course!) they moved to North Sioux City, South Dakota, for two years. In the spring of 2017, an opportunity opened that allowed them to return to Kansas City where they happily reside with their dog Murray. Outside of the classroom, Jennifer has been active for nine seasons in a semi-professional choir, the Festival Singers of Kansas City. During the holidays Jennifer works with the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. She has been an active church musician at several Lutheran churches in the Kansas City and Sioux City areas.

Christa (Eichberger) Markgraff - 1992

Vice President of Operations, Nicor Gas Company
McHenry, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Civil Engineering, Christa Markgraff began her career at Nicor Gas Company. Over the past twenty-five years, she has held positions in operations, construction, engineering, technical compliance, customer development and project management. She currently serves as Vice President of Operations where she is responsible for day-to-day operations of a utility that meets the energy needs of more than 2.2 million natural gas customers. Additionally, she earned a Master's Degree in business from the University of Notre Dame in 2013. She serves currently as board chair for Voices for Illinois Children, an independent advocacy organization that champions strong public policies and investments for all children in the state of Illinois. She is also President Elect of the Chicago chapter of the Women's Energy Network. Christa and her husband have a daughter (18) in her freshman year at the University of Illinois, and a son (16) in his junior year in high school.

Andrew Ellison - 1997

Headmaster and Corporate Vice President, Great Hearts Charter Schools
Phoenix, Arizona

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Andrew Ellison moved to Arizona and began a career as a secondary school teacher of Latin, German, Drama, Literature, and Philosophy. He and wife Laura (an Arizona native and 1996 graduate of the University of San Francisco's Ignatius Institute) married in 2001. In 2002 he became the founding headmaster of Veritas Preparatory Academy in Phoenix, a classical middle and high school and the first of what was to become the Great Hearts network of K-12 charter schools, which today serves more than 12,000 students in Arizona and Texas. He became the company's Vice President of Upper Schools (in Arizona) in 2015. Andrew became a Roman Catholic in 2005, and he currently serves on the parish pastoral council and sings together with his wife and eldest son in the polyphonic Latin choir at church. He also sits on the board of directors of Helios: A Modern Renaissance, an early music vocal ensemble based in Phoenix. He and his wife have six children, spanning pre-school to high school.

Kara (Felde) Koschmann - 2007

Nursing Professor, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, St. Catherine University
Woodbury, Minnesota

Following her graduation from Valparaiso University with a B.S.N., Kara Felde Koschmann moved to St. Louis, Missouri, with her husband, Mark Koschmann (C.C. 2007). She worked as an R.N. in pediatric hematology/oncology and bone marrow transplant while going back to school at Saint Louis University for an M.S.N. After graduating from S.L.U. in 2009, she became certified as a pediatric nurse practitioner and worked for the St. Louis County Department of Health providing primary care for underserved children in North County, St. Louis. In 2015, her husband received a call to serve as a Theology Professor at Concordia University, St. Paul, and they moved to Minnesota where Kara started teaching at St. Catherine University in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Nursing at the University of Minnesota where she was recently selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future Nursing Scholar. Kara and Mark enjoy juggling work with family and find ample time to explore the beauty of Minnesota with their three children, Isaiah (6), Ellie (3), and Naomi (1 month).

Paula (Fields) Fogelberg - 1967

Clinical Social Work, Private Practice
Brentwood, Tennessee

After graduating from Valpo, Paula Fields Fogelberg continued her life's passion with a career in social work. She did graduate study at Indiana University and completed an M.S.W. at the University of Tennessee. She worked in healthcare, oncology, hospice, and community mental health before going into clinical private practice twenty-eight years ago. She and her husband Harold Fogelberg just celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have two children, Darcy Copeland, married to their great son-in-law David, and Todd Fogelberg, married to his wonderful wife, Sara. Paula and Harold are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren, ranging in age from 14 to 19, each with his or her own terrific story. Paula and Harold have lived in the Nashville, Tennessee, area for the last forty-seven years. Harold is retired from a banking career and now heads the Ethics Center at Belmont University School of Business.

Edward Fink - 1980

Communications Professor and College Dean, California State University Fullerton
Fullerton, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Theatre, Edward Fink worked for the Boy Scouts of America in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He entered graduate school at Indiana University Bloomington in 1985 and earned an M.A. in Telecommunications in 1988 and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications in 1993. While still A.B.D. in 1990, he joined the Communications faculty at California State University Fullerton. In 2001, the Radio-TV-Film area within that department became its own department, which he chaired until 2013. That year, he became Director of the Faculty Development Center. In 2014 he became Interim Associate Dean in the College of Communications. In 2017 he became that college's Acting Dean, the position he currently holds. Edward married in 1996 and has two children.

Bart Finzel - 1981

Economics Professor, Vice Chancellor and Dean, University of Minnesota Morris
Morris, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. (with Honors) in Economics, Bart Finzel earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University. Currently, Bart is Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean at the University of Minnesota Morris (U.M.M.) where he has worked since 1989. While at U.M.M., Bart has served as Director of the Center for Small Towns, as Director of the Honors Program, and as Coordinator of the Economics and Management Discipline. He has been recognized by the University of Minnesota as a Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Social Sciences. His research and teaching interests include labor economics, labor relations, comparative economics systems, and the economics of employee participation. Bart married his wife Sally in 1986. A Cornell alum, Sally owns Morning Sky Greenery, a native plant nursery that sells product throughout the upper Midwest. Bart and Sally have three children: Raymond (V.U. alum, 2014), Mitchell, and Augusta.

Ginny (Fleck) Adams - 1966

Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Aberdeen, South Dakota

After many years in data processing and motherhood, Ginny Fleck Adams went to seminary. Twenty-five years ago she was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is married to another minister and they are currently doing interim ministry in the United Church of Christ. She is almost ready to retire in a log cabin in Michigan.

Jenna Fleming - 2017

Medical Student, University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jenna Fleming graduated from Valparaiso University in 2017 with majors in Biology and Chemistry and a minor in Theology. While at Valpo, Jenna was a member of the pre-medical arts club, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Kappa Delta Sorority, Student Alumni Association, Mortar Board Honor Society, Christ College Student Advisory Board, and Panhellenic Executive Council. She also studied abroad three separate times, volunteered in the local community, and was employed by the Chemistry Department and the Office of Admissions. She is currently a medical student at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Victoria Flood - 1992

Director for Mission Support, E.L.C.A. - Chicago, Illinois
Des Plaines, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Victoria Flood earned an M.A. in Public Administration/Public Policy from the University of Wisconsin Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs in 1994. Victoria started her career in 1994 as a Legislative Analyst for the Legislative Audit Bureau, State of Wisconsin. She then became Associate Director for Evaluation for the Evangelical Lutheran Church where she conducted and oversaw evaluation work related to a wide array of national and international programs implemented by the E.L.C.A.. Victoria then served as Program Director for Evaluation for the E.L.C.A. until 2016. She is currently the Director for Mission Support for the E.L.C.A. in Chicago. Victoria and her husband, Rod Boriack, have two grown children, Katy and Jon, and two grandchildren, Ayden and Zoe.

John Foos - 1988

Technology Program Manager, Gogo, L.L.C.
Winfield, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Computer Engineering, John Foos pursued a career in the wireless telephony industry. He held engineering and management positions with Motorola and Nokia Siemens. He recently moved into the aviation and satcom industry, where he works as a Senior Program Manager with Gogo, a world leader in in-flight connectivity and entertainment. John serves on the board and is a fellow of the C.S. Lewis Institute in Chicago. He and his wife Cristi serve the special needs community in various ways in the community and through their church. They have three school aged children, Devon, Pierson and Catherine.

Lynn (Fraedrich) Aho - 1977

College Faculty and Dean of Instruction, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Baraga, Michigan

After graduating from Valpo, Lynn Aho pursued graduate studies in Communication at Michigan State University, where she completed an M.A. in 1980 and a Ph.D. in 1985. During this time, she was an active member of University Lutheran Church in East Lansing. She and Robert Aho met as members of the church choir and married in July, 1980. Rob, a wildlife research biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was integrally involved in a major project to re-establish a self-sustaining moose population in Michigan's Upper Peninsula by translocating moose from Ontario, Canada. In 1985, the couple moved to Baraga County, where he led on-going moose monitoring and served as a habitat biologist. Their son, Karl, (C.C. 2007) was born in 1985 and daughter, Anne, in 1989. Lynn worked as an adjunct instructor for Gogebic Community College, Suomi College (now Finlandia University) and the newly-revitalized tribal college of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Lynn works full-time at Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (K.B.O.C.C.) in faculty and administrative roles, most recently as Dean of Instruction (the chief academic officer). A highlight of her work at K.B.O.C.C. was serving as institutional principal investigator in the Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools project, a coalition effort of seven tribal colleges and universities and three federal agencies, and a co-author of the Health Is Life in Balance curriculum. Lynn was a leading participant in K.B.O.C.C.'s accreditation process from application through candidacy to initial accreditation in 2013 and first re-accreditation in 2017. She completed training to become a Higher Learning Commission Peer Reviewer in 2015 and has participated in one site review with another scheduled later this year. In the community, Lynn has served on the board of the county's women's shelter and she and Rob have continued to be active congregation members and to sing in both church and community choirs. Their son Karl and daughter-in-law Karen live in Stephenville, Texas, and work at Tarleton State University. Daughter Anne is a photograph archivist for the State Historical Society of Missouri, and she and her husband Stephen Cox live in Columbia. In October, 2016, Lynn and Rob began a new chapter when Anne and Stephen were blessed with a delightful daughter, Cora. Now they are looking forward to new ventures and adventures.

Robert Franck - 1986

Pastor, Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Duluth, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso and teaching engineering there for one year, Robert Franck attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He served his vicarage in Boston and graduated with an M.Div. in 1991. Rob was ordained and installed at a church in Alma, Arkansas. After four years Rob took a call to Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota, where he has served since 1995, first as Associate and Campus Pastor, and now as the Sole Pastor with Campus Ministry responsibilities. Rob is married to Gayle (Davis) Franck (V.U. 1987); they have nine children, one of whom is married, and one grandchild. In addition to raising their own children, Rob and Gayle provide foster care for infants in their home.

Kathryn (Franzen) Wood - 1971

Senior Project Director, Center for Survey Research, University of Virginia
Gordonsville, Virginia

Kathryn Franzen Wood received both a Master's Degree in Sociology and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. Not surprisingly, her specialty is the sociology of religion. She teaches in the Department of Sociology as well as in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program at U.V.A. For more than twenty years she has also served as Senior Project Director for U.V.A.'s Center for Survey Research. She is married to Houston Wood, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at U.V.A. She has two daughters, Kimberly Miller Van Driel and Elisabeth Miller Joyce, and two step-daughters, Andrea Wood Grattan and Heather Wood Harrison.

Jessica (Freburg) Gordon - 2007

English Teacher, Stay-at-Home Mom
Plymouth, Indiana

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Jessica Freburg Gordon utilized her degree in English and Secondary Education as an English teacher at Plymouth (Indiana) High School. She taught grades nine and eleven for five years and was involved beyond the school day as an Academic Super Bowl coach and the sponsor of a girls' club. In 2008, she married mechanical engineering grad Nate Gordon (V.U. 2006). Upon having their first child, Jacob, in 2012, Jessica decided to stay home to raise children. Their daughter, Paige, was born in 2016. Jessica does some part-time work at home; she owns an Etsy shop, Eastwood Eclectic, and is also a consultant with Usborne Books and More. She volunteers through a church mentoring program at the local elementary school. Nate works as an engineering manager at Zimmer-Biomet in Warsaw, Indiana.

Gregory French - 1973

Attorney in Elder and Special Needs Law, Law Office of Gregory S. French
Cincinnati, Ohio

After managing and serving as Executive Director of legal aid programs for the elderly and disabled for twenty-one years, Gregory opened his own office twenty years ago dedicated exclusively to helping older and disabled persons and special needs children. Gregory is Past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (N.A.E.L.A.) and chaired its Professionalism and Ethics Committee for twelve years during which period it developed both the First and Second Editions of the Aspirational Standards for the Practice of Elder Law and Special Needs Law. When Gregory isn't working, he loves rock 'n roll concerts (both cutting edge and classic), sports (he has season tickets for Notre Dame football), and sailing (he has sailed the Great Lakes, the Atlantic from Maine to Florida, the northern and southern coasts of California, and from Acapulco to Baha). Gregory is married to Dianne Gebhardt (V.U. 1976), like Gregory, a former Editor of the Torch who, after thirty-five years as a newspaper reporter and editor, now teaches journalism, news writing, and communications at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Gregory and Dianne celebrated their fortieth anniversary in September and have three children. Their older daughter is a Senior Tax Manager in the Silicon Valley office of K.P.M.G. where she does tax work for global high-tech companies; she just presented Gregory and Dianne with their first grandchild last Thanksgiving. Their younger daughter taught fourth grade for two years in Thailand. She is now starting her third year teaching second graders in Ho Chi Minh City; she is engaged to be married next July. Their son manages the tap room for a brewery in the historic center of Cincinnati whose operations he has expanded to include yoga, trivia, and special events such Major League Baseball's All-Star Game celebrations.

Kirk Freudenburg - 1982

Classics Professor, Yale University
Hamden, Connecticut

Kirk Freudenburg married Judi (Bosch), just days before their graduation from Valparaiso. Their daughter, Annah, graduated with an English major from Kalamazoo College in June, and their son, Paul, received a B.A. in Architecture from Yale in 2015. After graduating from Valpo, Kirk went to Washington University St. Louis where he received an M.A. in Classics, specializing in Roman poetry. He then completed a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. For the last twenty-eight years he has been a classics professor at Kent State, Ohio State, the University of Illinois and Yale University where he is in his twelfth year and was recently named the Brooks and Suzanne Ragen Professor. Last year he stepped down as chairman of the department, after a busy four-year stint, in order to get back to teaching and writing. Besides teaching, researching, and writing, Kirk enjoys running, hiking and rock-climbing. Being somewhat stubborn, he still does his own painting, plumbing, and (some) electrical work, and he enjoys gardening with his wife, Judi-- she is a Master Gardener, and makes things look beautiful, while he grows vegetables and chases after squirrels. Kirk and Judi also like to travel, especially to Rome, where Kirk, Judi, and the kids lived from 2001-2002. On occasion Kirk teaches in Yale's Directed Studies program (a local version of Valpo's Christ College), he lectures widely in the field of Classics, and he is a regular faculty leader on study trips sponsored by Yale Educational Travel.

Robert Freund - 1989

C.E.O., St. Louis Regional Health Commission
St. Louis, Missouri

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Political Science, Robert Freund, Jr., pursued a career in health care policy and administration. After obtaining an M.B.A./M.H.A. from Washington University, Robert spent his twenties and early thirties traveling the United States as an E & Y management consultant to the health care industry. In 2002, Robert became the first C.E.O. of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, a quasi-governmental non-profit established to fund and coordinate health care services for low-income residents in the St. Louis region. Currently, the R.H.C.'s Gateway to Better Health initiative serves approximately 30,000 people in poverty each year. Robert and the R.H.C. have launched several other successful health care non-profits over the past fifteen years, which enables him to spend many early mornings and evenings in board meetings for various funders and charitable entities in St. Louis. Robert is a graduate of the Eisenhower Fellowship Program (China), the Coro Fellowship Program, and Leadership St. Louis. He is married to Holly (Harris) Freund (V.U. 1990). Their two sons (Trey and Andrew) are in their teens and keep their parents very active.

Ruth (Fuchs) Doty - 1970

Pastor
Allentown, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Ruth Doty earned an M.S. from Purdue University in 1971 and graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in 2004. Christ College's emphasis on interdisciplinary work has encouraged Ruth to follow many twists in life's journey and to engage in a variety of opportunities for ministry. Graduating with a major that included Sociology, Psychology and Theology, she trained to become a Marriage and Family Therapist. These skills led her to serve in mental health settings as well as to assist in rehabilitation of church professionals. While awaiting a call after graduating from the Philadelphia seminary, Ruth coordinated Lutheran Disaster Response in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for nine years. She now serves as part-time pastor for a small congregation. Ruth considers the gift of extended family to be among her greatest blessings and opportunities for growth. Immediate members now include husband, Rick (V.U. 1968), two sons, their wives and three grandsons. Relationships formed as a result of trips to Saxony and Tanzania help her appreciate membership in the wider family of God. Ruth is thankful for opportunities to help develop a shelter for victims of domestic violence, an adult literacy program, a program where church youth from Pennsylvania rehab houses for folks in rural Maine, and Camp Noah response teams. She also counts it a privilege to serve on the Christ College National Council.

Matt Fuehrmeyer - 2004

Director of Research and Strategic Communications, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
Silver Spring, Maryland

Following graduation from Valparaiso University with a degree in Political Science, Matt Fuehrmeyer packed his bags and started a career in campaign research. He started on Tom Daschle's 2004 campaign in South Dakota, and after that found his way to Washington and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (where he caught the campaign bug in the first place as an intern through the Lutheran College Washington Semester). In the years that followed, Matt worked in Minnesota for Senator Al Franken's 2008 campaign (and stuck around for the recount); went to Nevada for Senator Harry Reid's against-all-odds 2010 re-election campaign; came back to Washington and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee for the 2012 elections; went back to Minnesota to work for Senator Franken's 2014 re-election campaign; and now works as Director of Research and Strategic Communications at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. (At two and a half years, it's the longest he's held a job since graduation, which continues to confuse and stress out his family.) Somewhere in there he married Dr. Elizabeth Baden (C.C. 2004), and she's put up with his fast-paced and at times nomadic career since 2008. They have a daughter, Hannah, and live in Maryland, where Matt is learning how to cook and has re-learned how to mow a lawn after more than a decade of apartment living.

Evan Gaertner - 1997

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Michigan
Brighton, Michigan

Evan Gaertner married Christi Dunklau Gaertner (C.C. 1997) after graduating from Valparaiso. He recalls during freshman year that they made sure to write into the freshman production a make out scene as they watched the world end. The couple moved to St. Louis after graduating from Valpo where Evan completed his divinity studies at Concordia Seminary, and Christi taught Spanish. They followed God's call for Evan to become the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, New York, where he found a patient congregation that helped him continually learn what it means to be a pastor. They had two children, Henry and Lucas, while living in western New York. The mitt of Michigan is now home. Evan is now the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg, Michigan. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Seminary. He teaches some classes at Concordia University Ann Arbor. He plays and coaches soccer and regularly competes in running and triathlon races. He and Christi enjoy discovering life illuminated by the promises of God's Word.

Mark Gaertner - 1966

Pastor (Retired)
Coldwater, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Philosophy and Political Science, Mark Gaertner went to Concordia Senior College to take language training in preparation for attending Concordia Seminary St. Louis. He married his wife Kathy and had three sons, Peter, Andrew and Evan (Andrew and Evan were Christ College graduates). After being ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1971 he served in a variety of ministry settings. He was first called to a two-point parish in the farming community of Shawano, Wisconsin, followed by seven years serving a town/gown congregation in River Falls, Wisconsin. In 1982 he began a two-year residency in chaplaincy training at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. After a year as a chaplain at Lutheran Hospital in Ft Wayne, he served as a chaplain/counselor at Parkside, an addiction treatment center in St Louis. In 1991 he was called to a mega-congregation (Trinity in Mt. Clemens, Michigan) where he met his wife, Susan. In 2001 Mark was called to Clear Lake Lutheran in Fremont, Indiana, where he served until retiring in 2010. Mark and Susan spend six months of the year at their lake place in Michigan and six months at their condo in Cape Coral, Florida. Between them, Susan and Mark have five children (one deceased), eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They both enjoy lake living, dancing, reading, traveling, bocce ball and being grandparents.

Amanda Gartman - 2010

Graphic Designer, meat & potatoes, inc.
Los Angeles, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University in 2010, Amanda Gartman earned an M.F.A. in Graphic Design from CalArts in 2013. She spent the next few years working in the fashion industry. She is currently a designer at meat and potatoes, inc., a small creative agency in Los Angeles.

Benjamin (Gaulke) Eckert - 2007

Park Ranger, Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Benjamin Eckert graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in English, History and Humanities. A year after graduation, he moved to Philadelphia and started working educational jobs at museums, primarily the Franklin Institute (a science museum) and several historic houses, furthering a long-standing interest in education outside of the traditional academic classroom. This ultimately led him to join the National Park Service. For the past five years, Benjamin has worked as a park ranger at Independence National Historical Park, a unit of the N.P.S. that encompasses the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall (where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were debated and signed), and several other historic sites in the Old City neighborhood of downtown Philadelphia. Being able to work for the Park Service at the most important historic site in the country and greeting visitors from around the world is a privilege and an adventure. Benjamin is also very active at his church, University Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, where he serves as the chair of the worship committee. He is also a board member of the nonprofit, Feast Incarnate, which provides weekly meals to the homeless community and those affected by H.I.V./A.I.D.S. He has been married for the past seven years to Michelle Eckert (C.C. 2007).

Aaron Gebauer - 1995

Mechanical Engineer
Oakland, California

Aaron Gebauer's career as a mechanical engineer has allowed him opportunities to design a wide variety of machines, devices and equipment. And he thrives on the creative challenge! Aaron met his wife, Megan, swing dancing almost eighteen years ago in St. Paul, Minnesota, after which they developed a mutual enthusiasm for cooking, gardening, and travel, especially to Italy. They moved to California with their cats in 2015 and enjoy all that Oakland and the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area have to offer. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys building and making in his workshop and also tinkering to gradually restore a 1963 Vespa scooter.

Hilary Gebauer - 2001

Dietitian Nutritionist, Water's Edge Counseling and Healing Center
St. Paul, Minnesota

After graduating from Valpo, Hilary Gebauer completed a year of service with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Minneapolis. She was hired by her volunteer placement site to serve as the organization's first Development Director and Communications Manager. After almost three years in this role, she turned to the grant-making side of philanthropy and worked with the Lutheran Community Foundation (now In Faith Foundation) before returning to graduate school in 2007. She earned a Master of Public Health Nutrition and is credentialed as a registered and licensed dietitian nutritionist. She has worked in both public health and clinical settings, specializing in eating disorder treatment. In 2013 Hilary married Marc Katz, and they live in St. Paul with their daughter Nora.

Candace Genest - 1999

Neuropsychology, Children's Health
Plano, Texas

After meeting her future husband (a.k.a., the guy with a map), Charles Johnson (V.U. 1998, 1999) while looking for internet access somewhere between Mueller Hall and Schnabel, Candace Genest spent many days and many nights studying Theater, Latin, Classic Literature, and Psychology. She subsequently completed a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Along the way, she married the map guy and has two beautiful children who yearn for the mountains and beaches of California. In her spare time, she is tutoring Honors Algebra II, acting as an eighth-grade executive coach, and enjoying the completely nonsensical world through the eyes of a three year old. She earns her keep by playing (that is, completing assessments with kids), talking to parents about the challenges of raising kids with developmental challenges, and helping people with the cognitive and emotional challenges of difficult life changes (including life after T.B.I., living with a diagnosis of severe developmental disability, and learning how to manage A.D.H.D.).

Emily German - 2011

Music Director, Teacher, Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
Alexandria, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Emily German worked as Director of Parish Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chesterton, Indiana, for an additional year before pursuing a Master of Arts in Religion from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. She completed about two-thirds of this degree before accepting a Director of Parish Music and Music Teacher position at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Alexandria, Virginia. After four years of teaching classroom music (pre-K to eighth grade) and directing music at the church, she is looking forward to a reconfiguration of her position this coming academic year as Kantor, primarily playing organ, directing choirs, and overseeing music planning at both the church and the growing school. In the meantime, she is working creatively to finish the six remaining courses for her M.A.R. degree. One of her favorite recent activities has been singing the last two seasons with the Cathedral Choral Society at the National Cathedral in D.C. This past winter she accepted with the pleasure the invitation to serve on the Cathedral's search committee for a new music director after the passing of the late, legendary J. Reilly Lewis in June of 2016.

Stacy Gherardi - 2005

Social Work Professor, New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico

After graduating from Valpo, Stacy taught fourth grade in Chicago before earning a Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Illinois Chicago in 2008. She married fellow Valpo graduate Jeff Dolecek that year, and they lived in Chicago until 2016 where Jeff acted and worked as a teacher and Stacy worked as a school social worker. They welcomed their first child, Archer, in 2014. In 2016, Stacy completed a Ph.D. in Policy Studies in Urban Education from U.I.C.; that summer they moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where Stacy currently works as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at New Mexico State University and Jeff performs on stages across the state. Stacy and Jeff are expecting their second child around the 2017 holidays.

Elaine (Gibbons) LaToza - 1974

Software Developer (Retired)
Redmond, Washington

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Physics, Elaine Gibbons LaToza did two years of graduate work in Applied Math at North Carolina State University. She then pursued a career as a software developer, working for *Time*, Santa Fe, Lucent (Bell Labs), and several smaller companies. She married Kenneth LaToza (V.U. 1975) and took a few years out to be a full-time mom to their sons Paul and Thomas (now Professor of Software Engineering at George Mason University). Retired, she enjoys reading, genealogical research, and volunteer work at her church.

Nate Gilbertson -1995

Public Transportation Professional, M.T.A. Metro-North Railroad
Norwalk, Connecticut

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Art History and Humanities, Nate Gilbertson became a construction laborer in northern California and Montana, then managed a bar in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and eventually ended up living and working in New York City where he earned a Masters in Urban Planning from N.Y.U.'s Wagner School of Public Service. Nate is currently the Director of Corporate Compliance and Strategic Initiatives at Metro-North Railroad, a commuter railroad serving the northern suburbs of the New York City region from Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan. Working out of the EVP's office, he runs a team responsible for identifying and implementing strategic business improvements. He was married in 2001 to his wife Kerry, who is a social worker and special education teacher. They have two children, Rhianna (14) and Quinn (11) both of whom spend countless hours training and competing for the Zeus Swim Team, a non-profit club team where Nate currently serves as President of the Board.

Carl Gilmore - 1992

Instructor and Administrator, Joliet (Illinois) Junior College
Plainfield, Illinois

Carl F. Gilmore's greatest achievements since graduation from Valparaiso University have been his eighteen years (and counting) of marriage to Jennifer and their parenting of three sons: Benjamin, Jonathan, and Nicholas. After earning a B.A. at in Communications, Carl worked in theatre administration for several years before eventually returning to school and earning an M.A. in Liberal Studies at North Central College in 2003, with concentrations in literature and film. He has continued to dabble in performing at several community theatres; he also occasionally competes in mud runs and mid-distance racing. Professionally, he has shifted to education and has been an adjunct English faculty member and administrator at Joliet Junior College for over fifteen years. He and his family are members of Community United Methodist Church in Naperville, where he has served in several leadership capacities. He is also currently President of the Plainfield Public Library District Board of Trustees.

Dana (Goble) Sutcliffe - 2011

Foreign Service Specialist, United States Department of State
Managua, Nicaragua

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in International Business and a B.A. in Spanish, Dana Sutcliffe was eager to live abroad, and moved to Lima, Peru, to work for an international travel agency. Once she had made the requisite visit to Machu Picchu and explored other places in Peru and the region, she decided to return stateside and began working at private equity firms in Chicago. Though her work as an executive assistant, event planner, and project coordinator was thrilling, the travel bug was still biting. In 2016, she joined the State Department and moved to Managua, Nicaragua, for her first assignment. She is married to Hartley Sutcliffe, whom she met during her sophomore year study abroad program in Puebla, Mexico.

Mollie (Goings) Amundson – 2008

Library Media Specialist, Range View Elementary School
Windsor, Colorado

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Elementary Education and Spanish, Mollie Goings Amundson taught third and fourth grade for four years in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Studying at the University of Colorado Denver, she also completed an M.A. in Information and Learning Technologies with a focus in Teacher Librarian Leadership. Upon completion of her graduate degree, she secured employment as an elementary school librarian in northern Colorado. She also works in Children's and Teen Services at a local public library, where she assists with summer bilingual programs and the BookCycle mobile library. Mollie married Joshua Amundson in June 2015, and they welcomed their first child, Joel Martin Amundson, in November 2017.

Denise Gorss - 1998

Web Editor, Loyola Press
Lyons, Illinois

Denise Gorss works as Web Editor at Loyola Press in Chicago, where she has worked in several capacities since 1999. She earned an M.A. in English from DePaul University when she was still the Exhibits Coordinator at the curriculum and trade publishing company. Denise serves her local parish as a certified catechist in the faith formation program. She has traveled on a number of pilgrimages, from Italy to Israel to Turkey. Her most recent pilgrimage was walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, an ancient pilgrim route through Spain.

Rob Greanias - 1992

Technology Communication, RJG Consulting
Los Altos, California

After graduating from the Valparaiso University's College of Engineering, Rob Greanias returned to his home area in central Illinois to earn a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He then headed west to California, where he has been ever since. Rob is currently busy running his own technical communications consulting practice, enjoying family time with his wife (Margaret) and three children (Katie, Jack, and Alex), and designing board games. He remains distantly active with the Valparaiso community, assisting the alumni outreach network at local high school college fairs and trying to sneak in campus visits when travel lands him in the Chicago area.

Kathy (Green) Olah - 1982

Editor, Iowa Senate
Des Moines, Iowa

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Kathy Green Olah spent a year at Notre Dame earning a Master's Degree in Theology. There she met Joel Olah, who left seminary to marry Kathy. Together they became Lutheran missionaries in Liberia, West Africa, for three years at Phebe Hospital. As the civil war there intensified, they had to leave. They resided for a while in Red Wing, Minnesota. They now have a home in Des Moines, Iowa, and regard it the best place they've ever lived. Kathy has worked over twenty years for the Iowa Legislature as an editor for the Senate. Recent project for fun: creating a card game about Des Moines: a memory game with photos of local landmarks and works of art. The Memorable Game is a fundraiser for the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry and is sold in local shops.

Jesse Greenhagen - 2017

Mechanical Engineering Ph.D. Student, University of Minnesota
Waverly, Minnesota

Jesse Greenhagen is attending the University of Minnesota to pursue a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. While at Valparaiso, he was involved in different campus ministries and engaged in engineering societies such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Valpo Robotics. He enjoyed sculpting snow creations for the various snow competitions hosted by Christ College.

Tony Grichnik - 1992

Artificial Intelligence/Analytics, Caterpillar, Inc.
Eureka, Illinois

Tony Grichnik brings together diverse people, technologies, and points of view to discover solutions that are greater than the sum of their parts. After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Tony completed the New Entrepreneurs Program at the University of Chicago, and later the Supply Chain Executive Program at M.I.T.'s Center for Transportation and Logistics. He is currently Caterpillar's Visiting Scientist to Bradley University's Intelligent Systems Laboratory, and teaches in Bradley's Master's program in Computer Science. Tony was also recently named an Honorary Professor at Brunel University in London. In his professional life, his artificial intelligence work at Caterpillar has produced forty U.S. patents and over 100 international patents in a wide range of fields including manufacturing quality, supply chain modeling, signal analysis, pattern recognition, medical diagnostics, and virtual sensing. These technologies are used in the development and production of every current Caterpillar engine and transmission as well as the design of their global supply network. Several other patents support Caterpillar's Healthy Balance® employee wellness program. Outside Caterpillar, Tony and Heather (Hoyer) Grichnik (C.C. 1991) were two of three founders of smartenergy, ltd., a start-up company developing wind energy for home heating and cogeneration. They teach applied theology to high-school and college students through Redeemer Lutheran Church in Peoria, Illinois, where Tony has served as an elder, vice president, and president of the congregation. Tony and Heather have also been coaches for the Eureka, Illinois, Digital Hornets - a four-time award-winning team in the US FIRST Robotics' LEGO® League program for middle school students - and they are the founders of Eureka High School's Combat Robotics Program.

Allison Grischow - 2015

Actor and Teaching Artist, House Call Music, Emerald City Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Lifeline Theatre
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a majors in Music and Theatre, Allison Grischow went on to pursue a career as an artist. Allison now works as an actor and teaching artist in Chicago. She teaches private voice and piano lessons and teaches with various theatre companies throughout Chicago including Lifeline Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, and Emerald City Theatre. Allison recently studied music improvisation with the Second City Music Conservatory and loves creating musicals and rhymes on the spot. Allison also enjoys honing her physical theatre abilities by training in circus and aerial arts. You may occasionally find her swinging from a trapeze or lyra. Allison is a founding member of the Impostor's Theatre Company. When not telling or creating stories for the stage, she may be found meeting animals or learning a new musical instrument.

Greg Grossart - 1996

Actuarial Consultant, Mercer
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Mathematics and Physics, Greg Grossart began working for Mercer (global human resources consulting company). He continues to work for Mercer's Wealth Business today as an Actuarial Consultant specializing in defined benefit pension plans and postretirement healthcare plans. He is married to Elizabeth (Tatro) Grossart, (C.C. 1997). Outside of work, Greg leads a small group at church, volunteers on two boards, and enjoys attending concerts and playing outside as much as possible (adventure racing, cycling, running, cross country skiing, and snowboarding). He is also glad to be a part of the Indianapolis Christ College Reading Group.

Jeffery Grumley - 1977

Counseling and Consulting, The Grumley Group: Mental Health Services
Rockford, Illinois

Kate (Guidera) West - 2013

Editor, Navigant Consulting
Morrison, Colorado

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Classics, Kate Guidera West followed what she thought was a call to teach. Her position teaching high school English and U.S. History in Michigan City, Indiana, was fulfilling and formative, but it ultimately was not the right path (although it did lead to a Master's of Education at Valpo in 2015). Kate took off for Colorado and the Denver Publishing Institute, where she fell in love with the mountains and got a job as an editor for the research firm, Navigant, working in the energy sector. In 2016, she was a semifinalist for the company's Business Plan Competition, and a nominee for the company's Going the Extra Mile Award. She is married to Matt West (C.C. 2014), and they both enjoy competitive Ultimate Frisbee (how they met at Valpo!), as well as skiing and hiking in the Rocky Mountains.

Krysta Gumbiner – 2011

Attorney, Dinsmore & Shohl L.L.P.
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Krysta Gumbiner attended Notre Dame Law School. Krysta chose N.D.L.S. because of its similarities to Christ College, including shared values and community. After law school, Krysta entered into private practice as a commercial litigator, focusing on environmental law and fidelity and surety bond cases. Krysta had the privilege of representing Gary Chicago International Airport in its runway expansion and worked for plaintiffs on the highly publicized DuPont C8 case, obtaining a tremendous victory against DuPont. In her four years of practice, Krysta has had a special opportunity since being appointed by federal judges in the Southern District of Indiana and the Northern District of Illinois to represent inmates on a pro bono basis. Currently, Krysta represents a severely mentally ill inmate, whose condition has worsened due to abuse and prolonged segregation. Outside of work, Krysta plays beach volleyball during the summer, attends Soul City Church in the West Loop, and travels as often as possible.

Peter Haas - 1979

Management Professor, San Jose State University
San Jose, California

Peter Haas is Director of the Graduate Transportation Management Program for the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University (S.J.S.U.). He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science (Public Policy and Public Administration) from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 1985. A former Director of the S.J.S.U. Master of Public Administration program, he has consulted at every level of government and for nonprofit agencies. He has authored numerous reports and other publications covering a variety of public-policy-related topics and is co-author of the texts "Applied Policy Research: Concepts and Cases" and "Projecting Politics: Political Messages in American Movies" (both in second editions). He received a Senior Specialist grant from the Fulbright Foundation to teach and study in Latvia in 2003. He is also a professor in the School of Global Innovation and Leadership at S.J.S.U..

Randy Hackbarth - 1971

Software Engineer(Retired), Avaya Labs, Sustainable Software, L.L.C.
Math Instructor, Waubensee Community College
Western Springs, Illinois

Randy Hackbarth graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Mathematics, a minor in Physics and an accidental minor in History thanks to Christ College. He spent a semester abroad at Valpo's Reutlingen program. After a summer and fall at home in central Wisconsin farming and building pole barns, in January 1972 Randy undertook graduate study in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin Madison. After graduate school, he worked as a high-school teacher at a private school in the Cleveland area and at another in Duluth, Minnesota. Randy loved teaching (and still does), but he decided to return to U.W. Madison to earn a second Master's Degree – this time in Computer Science. In 1981 he began work in software engineering at AT&T- Bell Laboratories where he enjoyed working on several projects: the development of one of the world's largest and best central office electronic telecommunications switches (a.k.a, the 5ESS Switch); a technology transfer program between Bell Labs research and AT&T development teams; and co-founding the AT&T (Internal) Software Symposium. He then started a (short-lived) software engineering company funded by Lucent Technologies (an AT&T spin-off). He led a small software engineering team in Avaya Labs (a spin-off of Lucent) responsible for improving the state of software in Avaya. He retired from Avaya Labs at the end of 2015. In retirement he has returned to teaching as a part-time math instructor at a local community college where he feels blessed to work with a diverse cohort of students. In addition, with several colleagues, he has started Sustainable Software, L.L.C., a software engineering consulting company. (He reports that this is the best of times, however, because the company is currently unencumbered with customers!). Randy is a member of two professional organizations, I.E.E.E. and A.C.M., a coauthor of four patents, and a co-author of several professional articles, most recently a paper on measuring quality from the customer perspective, published in *I.E.E.E. Software* in July 2016. Randy and his wife Nancy Long (V.U. 1971) met in the Dau-Kreinherder cafeteria at their fifteen-year Valpo reunion. They are blessed with two daughters now young adults. Margaret was born when they were living in New Jersey, and Molly was adopted from Hunan Province in China. When their daughters were younger and played soccer, Randy became a certified soccer referee (something that he thinks everyone should do!) and served for many years on the local AYSO Region 300 soccer board. Randy and Nancy are members of Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange, Illinois. Randy served on the church council for six years and also on many committees. Nancy has led a refugee support team (on which Randy also serves) at Grace for the past five years. In partnership with the RefugeeOne agency, the church supports a new refugee family each year as they acclimate to Chicago. Randy has found it a very moving experience to help prepare a home for and support for these families on their journey. Also, for the past ten years, Nancy and Randy have been volunteering onsite for a local program (called BEDS PLUS) that aids the homeless in the western suburbs of Chicago. Over the coming years Randy and Nancy hope to work a little less, travel more, and find more opportunities to contribute to their community.

Heather (Hall) Lewis - 2003

Financial Aid Administrator, University of Portland
Portland, Oregon

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Heather Hall Lewis moved to Portland, Oregon, for a job at the University of Portland. She earned a Master's in Student Affairs and Higher Education from Indiana State University in 2006. She earned a Doctorate in Educational Foundations and Leadership with an emphasis in higher education administration from George Fox University in 2012. She has worked for the University of Portland for thirteen years, most of that time in the Financial Aid Office. She has been married to, Chris Lewis for eleven years. They have one son, Daniel (4), who is the love and light of their lives.

Jason Hallman - 2006

Automotive Engineer, Toyota Motor North America
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Jason Hallman graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and went on to complete a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University. While at Marquette he was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for his work in traumatic injury biomechanics. He went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Neurosurgery, following which he took a position at the Toyota Technical Center, the Research and Development Headquarters for Toyota Motor North America, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. At Toyota he is responsible for advanced development of future crash safety technologies as well as university research projects funded through the Toyota Collaborative Safety Research Center. He serves as Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Transportation Safety* and sits on committees for the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine and the Ohio State University Injury Biomechanics Symposium. He's also served on the Board of Elders for St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, where he and his wife Kristin (V.U. 2007) regularly volunteer. Together they have two boys, Everett (born 2011) and Owen (born 2013), who are their greatest joys in life.

Elizabeth Hanson - 2007

Technical Writer, Applied Systems, Inc.
Midlothian, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Art and a minor in French, Liz Hanson completed a Ph.D. in English at Loyola University Chicago, where her dissertation *Making Something out of Nothing: Asexuality and Narrative* was the 2013 Dissertation of the Year in the Humanities. Liz now works as a technical writer for Applied Systems, an insurance software provider in University Park, Illinois. She is active in the choir, vestry, and search committee at her church.

Kari (Hanson) Kleven - 1989

Clinical Social Worker, Washburn Center for Children
Minneapolis, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in International Economics and Cultural Affairs and Humanities, Kari Hanson Kleven spent two and a half years in Honduras with the Peace Corps. She was inspired by the hospitality of the Hondurans who received her into their homes, and she returned to Minnesota to get a Master's Degree in Social Work. She now has a career she loves doing home-based parent-child therapy with mostly Spanish speaking families in Minneapolis. She married an old friend from high school, Tom Kleven, who is a family doctor in St. Paul. They have a daughter, Anna, who will be a freshman at Macalester College this fall, and a son, Sam, who will be a senior at South High in Minneapolis. Kari is active in their urban church (Holy Trinity Lutheran) and their Community Supported Agriculture farm. She loves to swim in the city lakes, Nordic ski and get out into the wilderness with friends and family whenever she can. She appreciates the way that Christ College nurtured and valued an intellectual and emotional curiosity about the world that she cherishes within herself and tries to share with others to this day.

Jeff Harder - 1975

Attorney, Jackson Walker, L.L.P.
The Woodlands, Texas

Jeff Harder married his college sweetheart, Pam Johnson, a Valpo nursing student whom he met on registration day freshman year. Jeff and Pam married before his senior year after Pam received her Associate Degree in Nursing at Prairie State Junior College, and he decided to graduate in three and a half years and passed up playing his senior year of football at V.U. Jeff worked at Inland Steel all that fall on weekends and then full time in the spring to save money for law school, and he and Pam moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in the summer of 1975 for Jeff to attend the University of Illinois College of Law. After earning his J.D. in May 1978, Jeff has worked for Exxon, for Amoco's legal department, and for the independent oil company, Mitchell Energy. He and Pam have lived in The Woodlands, a Houston suburb, for thirty-three years. They've raised three sons, Eric, Justin and Jon, all of whom are married now and reside far away, so they travel quite a bit to see their four grandchildren. Jeff's practice with Jackson Walker, L.L.P., focuses on early stage technology companies in all industries with a significant amount of involvement with biotech and software companies.

Ann (Harding) Ashmon - 1994

Communications Officer, Concordia University Irvine
Rancho Santa Margarita, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Ann Harding Ashmon taught Freshman Composition at two institutions and then began working as an academic advisor. Sustaining a career in university administration, she has worked in alumni relations, fundraising, and public relations. She is currently working in the Marketing and Communications Department of Concordia University Irvine, a Lutheran university with an environment that feels very similar to Valpo's! Ann's husband is a professor and university administrator. They have been blessed with two children. Ann has stayed connected with Valpo through the Christian Women's Conference, serving on the planning committee for five conferences, and through the V.U. Guild, serving as a board member for one term. Christ College deepened Ann's love of learning so much so that her entire career has been spent in higher education.

Margaret Harkness - 1976

Program and Policy Specialist, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
Chicago, Illinois

Margaret Harkness earned an M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis from Western Michigan University. She worked at Illinois Masonic Medical Center as a Behavior Analyst doing in-home therapy and consulting to schools and programs. She subsequently served as a Behavior Analyst at Howe Developmental Center. Since 2000, she has been with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, having shifted to policy work. She manages grant projects and sits on many state policy councils and workgroups. She was instrumental in Illinois's passing and now implementing an Employment First Law so that employment becomes a first option for services. She returned to visit Cambridge where she studied as an undergraduate (C14) and traveled in Europe having caught the backpack bug. Following in family footsteps, she got her pilot's license. She is currently on the Board of Trustees at St. Paul's Bible Church. For fun, she participates in the C.C. reading group in downtown Chicago.

Magen Hauser - 2017

Psychology Graduate Student, University of Denver
Denver, Colorado

Magen Hauser graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Music. While at V.U. she was a member of the Symphony Orchestra (flute), Sigma Alpha Iota, Building Tomorrow, Working Across Vocations Everywhere through Service (WAVES), St. T's Praise Band, and Dance Ensemble; and she was also a 2017 CAPS Fellow. She is currently attending the University of Denver to pursue a Master's Degree in International Disaster Psychology.

Hannah Heagy - 2015

Teaching Certification Candidate, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Hannah Heagy moved to Madrid, Spain, where she completed a Master's Degree in Teaching at the Universidad de Alcala and taught at a bilingual elementary school in Coslada, a suburb of Madrid. While living in Spain, Hannah enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and became very involved in running. During her time in Spain she ran a number of 10k races and two half marathons. In the summer of 2017, Hannah moved back to her hometown of Pittsburgh to attend the University of Pittsburgh for a teaching certification. She hopes to pursue a career teaching German and Spanish.

Stephen Healey - 2007

Inventory Analyst, Sears Holdings Corporation
Highland, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo with a degree in Meteorology and Mathematics, Stephen Healey first briefly pursued a career in education through the LEAPs Program, teaching Math and Science at Luther High School South in Chicago. Afterwards, he worked in management for CVS Health. Most recently, he accepted a position in May 2017 with Sears Holdings Corporation, in charge of replenishment for all Sears bedding. Stephen is pursuing an M.B.A. at Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, set to graduate in June 2018. He became active with young adult ministry in the Diocese of Gary, first as a participant in 2014 and then part of the leadership body in 2015. It was through this ministry that he met Kathryn (Gaines) Healey; the two married in October 2016. Stephen and Kathryn look forward to introducing their son or daughter, due to enter the world in early September, at homecoming.

Thomas Hecht - 1969

Chair, Verseon Corporation
Larkspur, California

The Chemistry and Math education Thomas received at Valpo was the key stepping stone to earning a PhD at Caltech where he created a model of the chemistry of smog formation. Christ College helped broaden his sense of curiosity, which has been a life-long asset. Thomas worked most of his career at Chevron where he held more than 20 different technical and commercial positions in 33 years in California, Texas, Australia and Korea. He retired from Chevron in 2008 and have since joined Verseon Corporation, a pharmaceutical drug development company, as Chairman. Thomas's wife and he lead a surgical mission to Guatemala each year with Faith in Practice. They are active participants in a small Napa Valley winery named Adastra. They enjoy organic gardening, share an interest in metaphysics and care deeply about finding a solution to the violence and intolerance that have taken over our country.

Jeffrey Held - 1996

Music Teacher and Administrator, Concordia University Irvine
Tustin, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Music and a minor in Humanities, Jeffrey Held accepted a position as Band director at Orange Lutheran High School in southern California. After teaching there for nine years, serving as Department Chair, directing bands, handbells, and jazz ensembles, Jeffrey accepted a similar position at Concordia University Irvine in 2005. He has taught there ever since. Currently, he serves as Assistant Dean in the School of Arts and Sciences (overseeing the Arts Division), Conductor of the Concordia Wind Orchestra and Sinfonietta, and Instructor in Music Education and Music Appreciation classes (classroom and online). He and his wife Holly have two children, Sam (ninth grade) and Amy (eighth grade). They are members at Light of Christ Lutheran Church. Jeffrey has also had the privilege of serving on the national Board of Directors for Lutheran Summer Music Academy for the past ten years. He remains mindful of and thankful for the outstanding preparation he received as a student in Christ College.

Rachel (Hessler) Lyons - 2010

Attorney, Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg
Cleveland, Ohio

Rachel Hessler Lyons graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Humanities. She went on to law school at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, earning a J.D. with honors in 2013. She currently works in civil litigation as an associate attorney at Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg, in Cleveland, Ohio, and enjoys practicing law alongside quite a few other Valpo alumni at her firm. Rachel married fellow alum Joshua Lyons (C.C. 2010) in 2011, and they are expecting their first child in October, 2017.

Kathryn "Kit" (Hill) LaMar – 1969

Mehlville, MO

Kathryn married 1970 Valpo graduate David Ernest Bodenstab from 1970 to 1981, and later married again and was known as Kathryn Hill Smith from 1981 to 2000 to her late spouse. She has been married to her current spouse since 2003 to the present. Kathryn retired in 2002 after a career on mainframe computers. She began her career in Washington, DC, working for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as a Computer Specialist Trainee (everybody has to start somewhere). After getting married and moving to St. Louis, Kathryn got a job at Ralston Purina. After 10 years there, she moved on to Mercantile Bank. Eighteen years later, after a buyout of that bank, she moved on to Edward Jones. Kathryn worked in mainframe system support in her St. Louis jobs, beginning in operations support and moving to Systems Support, installing and maintaining system software. At the bank she also started supporting mainframe network hardware and software. Kathryn got her first CRT terminal at Ralston Purina and her first PC connected to the mainframe at Mercantile Bank along with my first remote computer (a 30+ pound device which connected to a dial-up line thru a built-in modem). Along the way, she got PCs at home, starting with a Tandy system with a big floppy disk and moving on up to the desktop, tablet, and smartphone she currently uses. Kathryn has been active in the churches she's joined, mostly in music (singing and playing piano, organ, and handbells, with a few other instruments thrown in for good measure), but also in worship planning, VBS leadership, leading music with the children in the day care center, and directing musicals for youth. She used her computer knowledge to begin the PowerPoint worship system used at church. In the early 2000s, I joined the new Prayer Shawl Ministry and have created at least 80 knit or crocheted shawls, for members, friends, family, and wherever someone might need one. She has also filled in at the church office as needed, building bulletins, newsletters, and other member correspondence. Upon retiring, Kathryn joined community handbell choirs and found out how much fun that can be (even though she still gets nervous just before concerts). She also began volunteering in libraries at several elementary schools. After being in St. Louis for 47 years and in the same house for almost 44 years, Kathryn is getting ready to move to Ohio. Her son, the Reverend Doctor Eric L. Bodenstab, lives in Sandusky, Ohio, where he serves Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA). He and his wife Erin have a daughter, Althea Grace 'Thea', who will be a year old at the end of 2017 and she is planning to be an active grandma there. Once in Ohio Kathryn looks forward to finding a new church and getting involved in music and volunteering at church and in the area.

Kristi (Hipple) Pavelich - 1996

Campaign Manager, Stay-at-home Mom, School Clerk, Substitute Teacher
Lake Orion, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Political Science and Public Relations, Kristi Hipple Pavelich began her career as a campaign manager for two Michigan State House of Representatives candidates. After the election, she accepted a job as a legislative assistant in the Michigan State Capitol office of a state representative. Her job duties were varied, including answering constituent concerns, interacting with lobbyists and legislative affairs directors for state departments, writing press releases, researching pending legislation and proposing state law, and following a bill from inception to approval. Her career continued in the office of two other state representatives and the Senate Majority Floor Leader. Unfortunately, after suffering a stroke at the age of twenty-seven, she was forced to leave this career and eventually began a new venture as a stay-at-home mom. She has recently been able to rejoin the work force, serving as clerk for an elementary school and as a substitute teacher. She has been married to Tom Pavelich for twenty years and they have three sons, Michael (13), Daniel (11) and David (9). The journey since Christ College has been winding, with many unanticipated twists, but remains a journey filled with love, adventure and, most important, life.

Stephen Hitchcock - 1971

Writer, Editor, and Project Manager, Bread for the World, Washington, D.C.
Albany, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Steve Hitchcock attended Concordia Seminary St. Louis. He received a Master of Divinity from Christ-Seminary Seminex. He then worked in communications and development for the seminary. He returned to Valparaiso University in 1976 and worked for Lutheran Human Relations, then a university affiliate organization. For twenty-two years, he served as president of Mal Warwick & Associates, a consulting firm in Berkeley, California. Since 2008, he's worked with Washington, D.C.-based Bread for the World, the collective Christian voice for an end to hunger. In 2012, he helped establish, at Valpo's Brauer Museum, the collection of international Christian art in honor of Ed and Marie Schroeder. With fellow alum Ronald Neustadt (C.C. 1970), Steve edited *Gift and Promise: The Augsburg Confession and the Heart of Christian Theology*, published by Fortress Press in 2016. Janice (Nelson) Hitchcock (V.U. 1971) continues to survive her marriage to Steve. Their two children, Rachel and Nathan, reflect the best qualities of their mother.

Kelly (Hodgson) Kline – 1993

Pediatrician, Gundersen Health System
Tomah, Wisconsin

After majoring in Biology and Chemistry at Valparaiso, Kelly Hodgson Kline graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in 1997 and completed her pediatric residency at the Michigan State program at Helen C. DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A rural general pediatrician with the Gundersen Health System, she also is a clinical adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at U.W.S.M.P.H.'s Academy for Rural Medicine and teaches third- and fourth-year medical students. Kelly is the 2016 recipient of the University of Wisconsin's Sigurd Sivertson Medical Education Award. She has been active as a youth soccer coach. She has previously served as her church's executive committee and currently is a member on the board of directors for the local youth swim club in Tomah. Kelly is married to fellow U.W.S.M.P.H. alum Robb Kline. They have two school-age daughters, Madeleine and Lauren.

Melissa (Hoeman) Carlberg - 2005

Communications Officer, Nebraska Medicine
Omaha, Nebraska

Melissa Hoeman Carlberg, a Springfield, Missouri native, graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in Meteorology. She then moved to Lubbock, Texas, where she worked as an on-air meteorologist for two years. Her career in weather took her to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and finally brought her to Omaha, Nebraska, in 2009. In 2013, she switched paths and took a job at a public relations firm. She has worked at Nebraska Medicine in the Marketing Department for three years. She's heavily involved in the Omaha community, serving through a variety of boards and organizations including the Nebraska chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, Junior League of Omaha, The Literacy Center for the Midlands and Friends of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration. She is married to Zach Carlberg and has a twelve-year-old stepdaughter, Zoey.

Benjamin Hoemann - 2016

Medical Student, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
New York City, New York

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Biochemistry, Ben Hoemann began studying medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. During his time at P&S, he joined the College's Football Rugby Team and Bard Hall Players, a theatre group composed of Ph.D., nursing, public health, and medical students. He performed as a cast member in the Bard Hall Players' performances of *Cabaret* and Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, and performed as Deputy Governor Danforth in *The Crucible*. Ben also serves as the co-chair of the Cardiovascular Medicine Interest Group at P&S, and spent his first summer conducting research in cardiothoracic surgery. He spends his free time playing organ and studying Spanish and French. He was chosen to give the student address at Valparaiso University's 2016 Spring Commencement.

Alex Hoffmeyer - 2013

Pastor, L.C.M.S.
St. Louis, Missouri

Alex Hoffmeyer is currently a concluding student at Concordia Seminary St. Louis and is awaiting a call to serve the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in a congregation somewhere in the United States. He has been able to utilize the critical thinking skills he developed during his time as a Christ College student to wrestle with, analyze, and uphold the doctrines of the L.C.M.S. All in all, he is thankful for his Christ College experience and looks forward to updating his bio to reflect where he will serve God and His Church.

Tyler Holle - 2013

Healthcare Technology, Epic
Madison, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Spanish and International Business, Tyler Holle moved from his southwest suburban Chicago home to Madison, Wisconsin, to work for Epic, one of the world's premier healthcare technology companies. At Epic, Tyler tests and implements wireless infusion pump integration with the electronic medical record, and has traveled to over thirty hospitals in three countries to support Epic installations. Tyler is also one of Epic's leading Spanish translators, ensuring quality translation of all patient-facing healthcare materials.

Keith Holste - 1970

Co-Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves, Missouri,
Co-Administrator, Lutheran School of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Keith Holste entered Concordia Seminary St. Louis, in the M. Div. program. He "transferred" to Christ Seminary-Seminex and graduated from Christ Seminary-Seminex/Lutheran School of Theology of Chicago in 1974 after which he was ordained and called to the pastorate at Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Fullerton, Nebraska. In 1980, he transferred to membership in the American Lutheran Church and to a two-point call in Hartington, Nebraska. In 1990 he accepted a two-point parish in Spring Valley, Wisconsin, and Keith's wife Penny (C.C. 1971), whom he married in 1971, entered Luther Seminary St. Paul. Keith served on the faculty of Northwest Wisconsin Synod Lay School of Theology. In 2002, Keith and Penny were named co-pastors at Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves (St. Louis), Missouri. For the last ten years Keith and Penny have also served as co-administrators of the Lutheran School of Theology St. Louis. They are the parents of Mary Holste, married to Erik Hanberg of Tacoma, Washington; Martin Holste, married to Amy Gregg Holste of Madison, Wisconsin; and John Holste, married to Dani Pizzella of St. Louis. Keith and Penny are grandparents to Hannah, Simon, Ezra, Ivy, and Violet. Keith regards his cherished time at Valpo and Christ College as a pivotal point in his life for intellectual, spiritual, and social/political development.

Jillian Holtzer - 2017

Junior Accountant in Accounts Payable, Blue River PetCare
Griffith, Indiana

Jillian Holtzer graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Accounting. While at Valpo she was an active member of Delta Sigma Pi, the coed business fraternity. She currently works at Blue River PetCare as a Junior Accountant in Accounts Payable and has enrolled at Ball State to pursue an M.A in Executive Development for Public Service.

Sara Holub - 2003

Vocal Music Teacher, Green Bay Preble High School
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Sara Holub graduated from Valparaiso University with a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. She works as Choral Director at Green Bay Preble High School. She is a National Board certified educator and a winner of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Outstanding Young Educator Award. Sara currently serves on the board of Wisconsin Choral Directors Association and is past president of Wisconsin Firearms Owners, where she is also a current board member. Sara's lifetime love of learning, fostered by her time in Christ College, allowed her to advance to the semi-finals of the 2017 Jeopardy Teachers Tournament.

Natalie (Holz) Warden - 1995

Instructional Coach, Sacred Heart Schools
Chicago, Illinois

Natalie Holz Warden spent her first year after graduation from Valparaiso University in Washington, D.C., with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. After moving to Chicago, she served on the board of Lutheran Volunteer Corps for six years while working in communications, then pursued two Master's Degrees in education and certification as a reading specialist. After thirteen years of teaching and coaching for Chicago Public Schools, she now works for Sacred Heart Schools as an instructional coach. She also works as a professional singer, most often with Bella Voce Chamber Choir. She and her two sons travel as much as possible, including to Cambodia to volunteer with Crossing Cambodia, an organization serving the street children of Battambang, and road trips to earn Junior Ranger badges at as many national parks as possible.

Branden Hookway - 1993

Architecture Professor and Cultural Theorist, Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Branden Hookway earned a Master of Architecture Degree from Rice University. For the next several years, he worked in architecture and design in Houston, Toronto, and New York City, while also teaching and writing (*Pandemonium: The Rise of Predatory Locales in the Postwar World* was published by Princeton Architecture Press in 1999). He returned to school to earn a Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture from Princeton University. A modified version of his dissertation was published as *Interface* by M.I.T. Press in 2014. Since 2005, he has been teaching at Cornell University in the Department of Architecture as well as the Department of Design and Environmental Analysis and the Information Science Department. His writing on culture, design, media, and technology has appeared as book chapters, journal essays, and magazine articles, and he's currently working on a book on the cockpit as a prototype for new media as well as a collaborative installation project with his spouse, Maria Park, who teaches at Cornell in the Department of Art. They live in Ithaca, New York, with their two children, Lucy and Joseph.

Theodore Hopkins - 2007

Theology Professor, Concordia University Ann Arbor
Milan, Michigan

After living in Saint Louis for eight years, where Theodore Hopkins and his wife Beth had their two children, Thomas and Emma, the family moved to the area of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 2015. While in St. Louis, Theodore was ordained in 2013 and began to teach Theology at Lutheran High School South and serve as Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. Since the move to Ann Arbor, he has served for two years as Assistant Professor of Theology at Concordia University Ann Arbor, during which time he completed a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Concordia Seminary.

Judy Hoshek - 1971
Deaconess (Retired)

Judy Hoshek served as a parish deaconess for twenty-two years in one congregation and then as an assistant to the bishop(s) in the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the E.L.C.A. for twenty-three years. In the 1970s-80s Judy and her husband, Nick Dobrinich, resettled seven Cambodian refugees.

Nanette (Howard) Dost - 1982
Supervisor/Deaconess, Stephen Ministries
Saint Louis, Missouri

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Theology and Spanish, Nanette Howard Dost was consecrated as a Deaconess following her internship in St. Louis in 1983. She served as Deaconess/Teacher at several Lutheran schools: high school, preschool, and grade school, teaching a wide range of subjects from Biology to Spanish in southern California, Portland, Oregon, and Winona, Minnesota. Nanette is married to Rev. Timothy Dost (V.U. 1981). Their son Jeremiah (C.C. 2007) is a production engineer at Bungie, Inc., and their daughter Rachel is a librarian. For the past fifteen years, Nanette has worked for Stephen Ministries St. Louis where she supervises the customer service team and helps lead the organization. She also leads the Stephen Ministry at her home church. A Stephen Ministries book she helped review is based on the wisdom of thousands of cancer survivors and medical professionals. Titled *Cancer—Now What?* the book is a support guide through the medical, emotional, relational and spiritual challenges that people face after a cancer diagnosis.

Heather (Hoyer) Grichnik - 1991
Electrical Engineer, Caterpillar, Inc.
Eureka, Illinois

Heather Hoyer Grichnik first applied her Valpo Electrical Engineering degree as a distribution engineer for Central Illinois Light Company. She was active in the spin-out of its telecommunications subsidiary, which constructed the first all-fiber network in Peoria, Illinois. Heather, husband Tony Grichnik (C.C. 1992) and classmate Christian Sabotta (V.U. 1992) co-founded smartenergy, ltd., a wind energy company focused on residential heating. Heather is currently the facility project engineer responsible for the electric utility infrastructure at Caterpillar's research headquarters. She has provided volunteer leadership in local sections of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Society of Women Engineers and Corvette Club. Heather and Tony have coached FIRST Lego League teams and chartered a combat robotics club at the local high school. They are active in their church, where they have each served as officers and where Heather has developed children's lessons that combine science demonstrations and Bible study. Heather and Tony are proud parents to current Christ College student Andy and high school senior Peter.

Michael Hron - 1967

Attorney (Retired), Sidley Austin, L.L.P.
Scottsdale, Arizona

Michael Hron graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Political Science. He received his J.D. from Columbia University. After working at a mid-sized Chicago law firm, he joined the Corporate and Securities Group at Sidley Austin, L.L.P. Beginning in 1979, he also served as principal outside counsel to the Telephone and Data Systems and played a major role in the growth of its largest subsidiary, United States Cellular Corp. In 2002 he retired from Sidley Austin and moved to Scottsdale, Ariz. He is now a private investor, while he maintains his avid interests in fishing, hunting, golf, and international travel. He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Linnea Hruska - 2003

Technical Specialist, Michael Baker International
Libertyville, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Linnea Hruska earned an M.A. in Geography from Western Michigan University in 2005. Since that time she has worked as a F.E.M.A. contractor for different companies in the Chicago area. Her work focuses on floodplain management (a great fit for someone with two degrees in geography).

Quinn (Huebner) Christensen - 2013

Finance/Banking, The Peoples Community Bank
Mineral Point, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Finance, Quinn Huebner Christensen moved back to southwest Wisconsin for a position as Assistant Vice President of Operations at The Peoples Community Bank of Mazomanie, Wisconsin, where he also oversees the Information Technology Department. Church music has always been important to Quinn, and in 2015 he became Director of Music Ministries at Grace Lutheran Church, E.L.C.A. in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, where he plays the pipe organ for weekly services. In 2016, Quinn married Michael Christensen of Audubon, Iowa, and purchased a historic bungalow in Mineral Point. When he's not at work or on the organ bench, you can find Quinn undertaking many home improvement projects with Mike, restoring their home to it's Craftsmen-style roots.

Karen Husby - 1973

Intentional Interim Pastor, Indiana Kentucky Synod, E.L.C.A.
Evansville, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in History and Humanities, Karen Husby was one of the first women students at Christ Seminary-Seminex, after the walk-out from Concordia Seminary. In 1981, she was the fifth woman ordained in the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. She served two years as a chaplain resident in St. Louis and Omaha hospitals. After moving to Minneapolis, she spent a year as a Lutheran Volunteer, working with the homeless and with battered women, and three years supporting volunteer counselors at a crisis phone line. Alongside that job, she served part-time with a Minneapolis parish and was the A.E.L.C. representative in the planning process for urban ministries in Minneapolis/St. Paul, as the E.L.C.A. was being formed. After a pastorate in Detroit, Michigan, she came to Evansville, Indiana, as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. For more than twenty years, she has been under call from the Indiana Kentucky Synod, E.L.C.A., as Intentional Interim Pastor, helping congregations in transition. Karen is single, and has been active with Patchwork Central, Inc., a faith-based community in near-downtown Evansville, specializing in arts-based afterschool and summer programs for children.

Mark Ilten - 1972

Attorney, Anderson O'Brien Law Office
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

After seven years in Valpo (culminating in a J.D. in 1975), Mark Ilten judged it was time to get out of town! A circuitous route led to a law license in Missouri, and then to a second license in Wisconsin where he started work as a general practitioner with a four-person firm in Stevens Point. He met Donna Sieck (Concordia Seward Teachers College, 1975) at church in Stevens Point. They were married in her hometown, Beatrice, Nebraska, in 1977. Mark has three children, all now grown. One is a Valpo grad; the other two graduated from the University of Chicago and M.I.T. All are educators, researchers, and brass musicians (as a hobby) like their father, and amazingly, all still play their instruments. Donna died from colon cancer in 1996, which left a huge family void. After another ten years Mark became an empty nester. Along the way he got involved in a variety of causes, a few professional, one environmental, some philanthropic, and two musical, however, none political! He met Karen Heikkila (University of Minnesota, 1978) in 2005 on e-Harmony, and they married in her church in Bloomington, Minnesota, in 2006. Mark is almost completely retired from the practice of law but still enjoys playing in the local city band, a true piece of Americana in central Wisconsin. He has also directed the church bell choir for the past fifteen years and is now teaching youngsters in the church day school how to ring bells as well. Karen and Mark are looking forward to some travels abroad to places they've always wanted to go, visits with children and grandchildren, and staying involved with their church and community.

Anna (Isaacson) Lindell - 2011

Psychology Professor, University of Wisconsin Whitewater
Milton, Wisconsin

Anna Isaacson Lindell graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology and Sociology. Following graduation, she married fellow alum Tom Lindell (V.U. 2011) and pursued her doctorate in developmental psychology at the University of Missouri. Her research focused on the development of sibling and parent-child relationships across adolescence and emerging adulthood, with a particular focus on how these relationships may promote healthy emotional adjustment and the transition to adult roles. Anna earned an M.A. in 2013, and a Ph.D. in 2017. Anna is now a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Anna and Tom welcomed the birth of their daughter, Nora June, in November, 2015.

Christine (Jacobs) Jung - 1985

Actuary, AXA
Buffalo Grove, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Business Administration, Chris Jacobs Jung pursued a career as a Life/Health actuary. She married William Jung, and they have three sons, William, Jason, and Patrick, who are triplets. Her son, William, attends Valpo currently (C.C. 2019). Chris and family attend St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Chris loves reading and conducting genealogical research in her spare time.

Kenneth Jacobsen - 1966

FBI Supervising Special Agent (Retired)
Senior Vice President and Director for Worldwide Anti-Piracy (Retired), M.P.A.A.
Investigative Consultant, K.A. Jacobsen and Associates
Tarzana, California

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Kenneth Jacobsen earned a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1969. He was accepted into the FBI as a Special Agent and spent over twenty-five years investigating mostly criminal matters. After a nine-month assignment in Salt Lake City, he was transferred to Los Angeles where he worked until his retirement as a Supervisory Special Agent in 1994. He left the FBI on a Friday and went to work at the Motion Picture Association of America the following Monday. In 2004 he retired from the M.P.A.A. as Senior Vice President and Director for Worldwide Anti-Piracy. He immediately started his own business providing consulting and investigative services in the entertainment industry. He and Becky, his wife of thirty-four years, have three children, four grandchildren (another due in August) and one great-grandchild.

Joyce (Jacobson) Burnette – 1989

Economics Professor, Wabash College
Crawfordsville, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University Joyce Jacobson Burnette pursued graduate studies in economics at Northwestern University, and earned a Ph.D. in 1994. After visiting positions at Loyola Chicago and Valparaiso, she accepted a tenure-track position at Wabash College. Her research field is economic history, and in 2008 she published *Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain*. Her work has also involved archival research on English agricultural laborers. Joyce married Patrick Burnette (C.C. 1988) in 1989, and had a son, Rand, in 1999. Joyce's community activities include leadership positions in Christ Lutheran Church of Crawfordsville, the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and the Montgomery County Democratic Party.

Matthew Janke - 2017

Electrical Engineer, Texas Instruments
Dallas, Texas

Matthew Janke graduated from Valparaiso University with a B. S. in Electrical Engineering. While at Valpo, Matthew was involved with Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, TEDxValparaisoUniversity, and the Intramural Advisory Council. Matthew joined Texas Instruments in June 2017 as a Technical Sales Engineer.

Patrick Jansen - 2016

Theatrical Composition and Film Scoring, Self-Employed
Crown Point, Indiana

Patrick Jansen graduated with a major in Music (guitar performance). He studied sound design at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. After a year, he left and spent a month in New York working as a freelance theatrical composer and content designer and worked on productions of *Animal* at Atlantic Stage 2 and *Marvin's Room* on Broadway at American Airlines Theater. Upon returning from New York, he has decided to pursue his life-long love of aviation and is currently training for Officer Candidacy School for the United States Marine Corps, where he hopes to become a U.S. Marine Corps Pilot.

Angela (Janssen) Keenan - 1996

A.C.P.E. Certified Educator/Chaplaincy, Carolinas HealthCare System
Charlotte, North Carolina

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Angela Janssen Keenan earned an M.Div. at the University of Chicago. She worked for a few years in Chicago at the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (S.C.U.P.E.), a theological education/urban ministry nonprofit. She moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where she discovered Clinical Pastoral Education and quickly realized she had found her vocation in chaplaincy and clinical education. She is now a deacon in the E.L.C.A., a certified A.C.P.E. educator, and Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte. She is married to Patrick Keenan, who is a mathematician. They have two sons, Henry (10) and Nathan (8)

Daniel Jarratt - 2007

Data Scientist in Education Technology, Infinite Campus
Falcon Heights, Minnesota

Daniel Jarratt is a data scientist at Infinite Campus, a student information system for thousands of K-12 school districts. He builds machine learning-based education technology and enjoys sports analytics. Daniel built a school dropout early warning system for the Kentucky Department of Education and is working on personalized education products for Infinite Campus' eight million students in forty-five states. Daniel graduated from Valpo with majors in Television/Radio Production and Humanities and a minor in German. He spent the spring of 2005 in Reutlingen, Germany. After graduation, he married Andrea Cook, and they traveled back to Reutlingen where for a year Daniel interned in the International Office. Subsequently, Daniel worked as an admissions counselor for the V.U. Admissions Office. When Andrea entered graduate school near Chicago, Daniel became a National Merit Scholarship Corporation staff member in Evanston. The University of South Carolina hired Andrea, and the family moved to Columbia. Daniel had enjoyed his work in higher education enrollment management and had met families struggling to discover relevant and affordable universities. He envisioned a College Recommender as a college search decision support system, so he spent the first year in Columbia programming this software. He sold College Recommender to a tech startup and became the company's technical product manager. The White House Education Datapalooza highlighted Daniel's software in 2012 and again in the 2013 keynote. This work also won an industry association's Top 10 in the 2012 Innovation Incubator Award competition, and was a winner of the College Knowledge Challenge funded by Facebook and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Daniel was profiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education. After his daughter Eleanor was born in 2013, the Jarratts moved to the Twin Cities where Daniel earned an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota with a research focus on recommender systems. He interned at Google and consulted for ed-tech companies building recommender systems. After graduation, Daniel joined Infinite Campus as a software engineer and then as a data scientist.

Sue (Jenny) Ehr - 1982

Head of Legal, U.K. & Europe Westpac Banking Corporation
London, United Kingdom

Sue Jenny Ehr is Legal Counsel for Kleinwort Benson Bank Limited in London. Her former positions include: Director of Traded Products Legal at UBS; Senior Attorney at Lehman Brothers; Research Attorney at Stanford University; and Instructor at Maryland University College. She earned a B.A degree with majors in Economics, English and French from Valparaiso University, and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1985. She holds the D.E.A. from the Universite de Strasbourg, France. She is fluent in French and Spanish. She is a published writer. Sue is married with two children, Jennifer, who attended C.C. for a year before entering Oxford, and Claire, who will graduate from C.C. in 2019. Sue is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Brad Jessen - 1998

Director of Major Gifts, Denver Rescue Mission
Arvada, Colorado

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Public Relations and History, Brad moved to Denver and began his career as an intern at a local P.R. firm. Soon after, he joined the nonprofit sector as a development professional and over the past twenty years has raised millions of dollars to advance the missions of several organizations. Currently serving as the Director of Major Gifts at Denver Rescue Mission, a Christian homeless service provider, Brad leads a team charged with raising more than five million dollars annually. Earlier in his career, he served in development positions at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School in Jacksonville, Florida, at Colorado Academy, at Regis University in Denver (where he earned a Master's Degree in nonprofit management), and at Valparaiso University. Brad is married to Jessica (Davis) Jessen (V.U. 1999), and they have three daughters: Ainsley (11), Lorelei (8), and Eloise (4). He also serves on his church's worship team as a vocalist, captains his recreation league tennis team, and enjoys exploring Colorado's mountains.

Heather (Jerry) Tewes - 2011

Biostatistician, Celerion, Inc.
Lincoln, Nebraska

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Heather Jerry Tewes earned an M.S. in Biostatistics from the University of Minnesota in 2013. She then worked for a year with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a Health Data Coordinator. For the past three years, she has worked for Celerion, Inc. in Lincoln, Nebraska, as both an S.A.S. Data Analyst and Biostatistician. Heather is married to fellow alum Jacob Tewes (C.C. 2011); their son, Lewis, was born in October of 2016.

Gregory Johnson - 1984

Attorney, Bryan Cave, L.L.P.
Overland Park, Kansas

Following graduation from Valparaiso University with majors in Political Science and Humanities, Greg Johnson earned a J.D. from the University of Virginia in 1987. During law school, he and Lisa Ulrich (C.C. 1983) were married (they recently celebrated their thirtieth anniversary). Greg and Lisa moved to Texas where Greg practiced business law using real books and typewriters and fax machines until the internet and email came along. In 1995, they moved to Kansas City where Greg became a partner with the Bryan Cave, L.L.P., law firm, helping clients with securities, mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance matters. Greg and Lisa have two daughters, Erica (attending law school at the University of Virginia) and Meredith (attending college at the University of Iowa). Happily, both kids have inherited the love of literature, history and art that Greg and Lisa enjoyed at Christ College and during the Cambridge semester abroad program.

Hannah (Johnson) Graham - 2010

Physician, Presence Medical Group Chicago
Des Plaines, ILLINOIS

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Chemistry and minors in Biology and Humanities, Hannah Johnson Graham attended Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Her research focused on the memorial service many medical schools hold for their cadavers at the end of anatomy lab, work for which she was awarded Honors in Bioethics upon graduation from Loyola in 2014. She then undertook a residency in Family Medicine during which her research focused on alternative visit types, or different ways for physicians to interact with their patients outside of traditional one-on-one office settings. Hannah now practices with the Presence Medical Group in Chicago. Her husband, Bo Graham, is an L.C.M.S. pastor, and she enjoys partnering with him in ministry both at their church and in their community. They have a one-and-a-half-year old and are excited to welcome the newest addition to their family in December 2017.

Liane (Joshua) Olsen - 2009

Intelligence Officer, Department of Defense, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Alexandria, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Liane Joshua Olsen moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and began working for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. During her seven years with the agency, she has analyzed military force structures and vulnerabilities to support U.S. national security strategies. She has travelled throughout the U.S., as well as to Europe and Asia, to support the warfighters and national policymakers, analyzing and reporting on imminent and future threats. Additionally, she led an Intelligence Community-wide forum for missile analysts for three years, fostering analytic exchanges between agencies to deepen knowledge and expand the tradecraft. In 2015, she married Matthew Olsen (V.U. 2009) and moved to Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, for one year. They now live in the Washington, D.C., area.

Krista (Jutzi) Kotur - 1977

Professional Services Consultant, National Information Solutions Cooperative
St. Louis, Missouri

Krista helps rural electric cooperatives use engineering models and meter data to improve distribution system performance. Prior to this, she reviewed structural loads on utility poles and managed distribution system inspections for Ameren, Missouri. In her thirty-four years at Ameren, Krista applied her critical thinking and debate skills to: explain nuclear power through tours and lectures, address concerns about electric and magnetic fields from powerlines, promote electrical technologies for treating water and wastewater, and plan power-line and substation projects for central and northern Missouri. She's a past director of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers and a senior member of I.E.E.E. She serves St. Louis County as an election judge. Krista has been married to Donald Kotur for thirty-five years. Their daughter Kelsey Murdoch (Cincinnati, Boston) is an Albertsons Safeway Supply Chain Leader for P&G, and son, Kevin, is a production editor for Andrews McMeel Publishing in Kansas City.

Jukka Kääriäinen - 1996

Missionary Theologian, Professor of Theology, China Lutheran Seminary, Taiwan
Hsinchu, Taiwan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jukka Kääriäinen enrolled at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, where he earned an M.Div. in 2000. Upon graduating from the seminary, he moved to New York City to serve in Chinese-speaking ministries in Queens and Brooklyn. In 2005, after a stint as an assistant pastor at a Long Island parish, during which period he married Laura (V.U. 2004), Jukka enrolled in Fordham University's Ph.D. program in Theology. After completing his coursework and comprehensive exams, he returned to full-time ministry in 2008, serving as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Princeton, New Jersey, and Lutheran chaplain at Princeton University while finishing his dissertation. Upon graduating in May, 2011, he accepted a position at China Lutheran Seminary (C.L.S.) and moved with his family to Taiwan. Since November, 2011, he has served as Missionary Theological Educator and Assistant Professor at C.L.S., teaching a variety of courses in systematic theology, Luther's theology, the Lutheran Confessions, and homiletics. He looks forward to becoming director of C.L.S.'s graduate program of Luther studies later in 2017. In addition to authoring *Mission Shaped by Promise: Lutheran Missiology Confronts the Challenge of Religious Pluralism* in 2012, Jukka has contributed chapters and articles to various theological publications, including *Lutheran Forum*, *Dialog*, *Gift and Promise: the Augsburg Confession and the Heart of Christian Theology*, *The Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Traditions*, and Chinese theological journals. He resides in Hsinchu, Taiwan, with his wife Laura, two girls, a dog, two hamsters, and five fish.

Erica (Kaufman) West - 2000

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri

Erica Kaufman West attended medical school at Georgetown University and did her residency and fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She worked for Southern Illinois Healthcare, a nonprofit in Carbondale, Illinois, for five years. She then moved to St. Louis with her husband Rick and two children, Eleanor (3) and Ricky (16 months) to start as an assistant professor at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. There she teaches medical students, residents and fellows about various aspects of clinical infectious diseases. She enjoys seeing patients, and has clinics specializing in H.I.V. and Hepatitis C.

Bonnie (Keane) DelGobbo - 2009

Attorney, Baker & Hostetler, L.L.P.
Oak Park, ILLINOIS

Bonnie Keane DelGobbo received a B.A. in American Studies and Spanish at Valpo and then a J.D. from Washington University St. Louis Law School. She is an attorney at Baker & Hostetler, L.L.P., in Chicago and focuses on representing companies involved in class actions and collective actions.

Patrick Keifert - 1973

Professor of Theology, Luther Seminary
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Patrick Keifert, his wife Jeanette, and their daughter Sandra, moved to St. Louis where Patrick studied first at Concordia Seminary and helped found Christ Seminary-Seminex. After internship at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and his last year at Seminex, he studied with Hans Georg Gadamer at the University of Heidelberg on a Fulbright Fellowship. Upon his return to the states he completed Ph.D. work at the University of Chicago Divinity School under the supervision of Paul Ricoeur (Philosophy) and David Tracy (Theology). After his ordination in 1978, he served parishes in the Chicago area, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Washington, and Wyoming. He then accepted a position in Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul where he still teaches. He has been a guest professor at the University of Tuebingen, Germany, and the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, and for over two decades Adjunct Professor of Law at the Hamline University School of Law, serving on the editorial staff of the *Journal of Law and Religion*. In 1991 he was founding President and Director of Research at Church Innovations Institute that does research and consulting on four continents and with over sixty denominations.

Jessica Kerber - 2003

Religious Sister, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A few years after graduating from Valparaiso University, Jessica Kerber discerned her vocation as a religious Sister and entered the community of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ministry and formation have led her to different countries and experiences and to continued reflection on the needs of the people of God. This, of course, leads to many possibilities, and she is currently involved in campus ministry and spiritual direction. She is also an adjunct theology teacher.

Mark Kerins - 2000

Film Professor, Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

While studying to be a scientist at Valparaiso University, Mark Kerins stumbled onto his true passion through the interdisciplinary courses in Christ College: watching, making, and writing about movies. This interest led to an honors thesis on film soundtracks, the creation of a feature-length movie shot entirely at V.U. during his senior year, and a change in career plans. After graduating with majors in Chemistry and Mathematics, Mark continued his schooling in the Radio/TV/Film Department at Northwestern University where he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. Upon graduation he was hired to teach filmmaking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he's been ever since. Aside from teaching, he makes his own films (shorts, music videos, and a feature that have played at festivals across the U.S. and internationally). He also writes about surround sound, home theater, and Michael Bay (not all at the same time). His publications include his award-winning 2010 book *Beyond Dolby*. He is married to Jessica (Amrozowicz) Kerins (C.C. 2000) and currently lives with her and their five-year-old twins Ben and Rory on SMU's campus, where he serves as the Faculty-in-Residence for Morrison-McGinnis Hall.

Zachary King - 2010

Research Analyst in Advancement, Valparaiso University
Dyer, Indiana

After a formative experience with Christ College's "Word and Image" class, Zachary King set his sights on graduate school. In the fall of 2010, he relocated to Iowa City to attend the University of Iowa as a Ph.D. candidate in English. There he worked on the Walt Whitman Archive, tutored in the Writing Center, and taught courses in rhetoric, composition, literature surveys, and one very special course on the history of the superhero genre. His dissertation explored the intersection of contemporary American literature and, of all things, superhero comics, and proposed the existence of a new genre called "comic book realism." Degree in hand, Zachary returned to Valpo as a research analyst in the advancement office, where he works to connect and engage alumni, while managing portfolios of major gift prospects.

Wilma (Kisro) McCarey - 1965

Attorney, A.T.&T.
Oakton, Virginia

After graduating with honors from Valparaiso University with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Business, Willi Kisro married Michael McCarey (a Valpo law graduate) and moved to the Washington, D.C., area. Her first job was as a computer analyst for a government defense contractor for which she received top-secret security clearance. She was the first woman hired as a computer analyst, and she designed a program to computerize company financial records. In 1978 she graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School and was hired into the AT&T legal department. During her twenty-three-year career with AT&T, she litigated cases regarding real estate, employment, regulatory and other matters and rose to the position of Assistant Vice President in charge of legal matters in several states. She served on a special group assigned to handle the many matters related to the 1984 breakup of AT&T. She also served as President and Treasurer of several corporate subsidiaries. In addition to her legal duties, she testified before state legislatures and managed external affairs operations in several states. She is admitted to the bar in several states and before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Fourth Circuits. She was selected for Who's Who in American Law and was nominated by AT&T and elected to the Academy of Women Achievers (this honor was recognized in an article in the New York Times). Willi and Michael have two sons and have remained active in serving various Lutheran congregations over the years. Willi is grateful to Valpo for providing her with such a good start.

Kathryn Kleinhans - 1980

Religion Professor, Wartburg College
Waverly, Iowa

Kit Kleinhans graduated from Valparaiso University in only three years. Her major in Theology, not surprisingly, led her to earn an M.Div. at Christ Seminary - Seminex in St. Louis and then a Ph.D. in Theological Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. She is an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Since 1994, she has been on the religion faculty of Wartburg College, where she holds the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission. Her older son Chris Kleinhans-Schulz is also a C.C. alum (2012).

Mark Knoblauch - 1969

Librarian (Retired), Chicago Public Library
Writer, *Chicago Tribune*, *Booklist*
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Mark Knoblauch earned a Master of Arts in Library Science (A.M.L.S.) degree from the University of Michigan in 1970. He began work at the Chicago Public Library and after twenty-six years was Director of Collection Management. He chaired the staff committee for the dedication of the Harold Washington Library Center. From 1976 through 1991 he was a restaurant critic for the *Chicago Tribune*. He was also in charge of restaurant coverage for WTTW for a year. Mark served as Deputy Director of the Public Library Association 1997-98. He has been a contributor and columnist for *Booklist* since 1988. He has coordinated Christ College's Chicago Loop Reading Group since its inception. He has developed continuing interest in marine biology during twenty-one years of annual vacations on Jamaica's north coast. He is an active member of First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. He is a member of the Christ College Alumni Advisory Board.

Paul Koch - 1999

Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church
Howard Lake, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Paul Koch spent a year with Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Minneapolis and then began studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He received an M.Div. in 2004 and took his first call in the Wannaska Lutheran Parish in northwestern Minnesota. While serving the three congregations of the parish, he found time to write articles for various journals, including *The Cresset*, as well as a series of Advent stories and homilies published as *Advent Adventures*. In 2015, he and his wife Katie, whom he met at seminary, moved the family to Howard Lake, Minnesota, where Paul is serving his second call at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Nicole (Koehler) Busarow - 2008

Music Coordinator, Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Indiana
Choral Assistant, Concordia Lutheran High School
Fort Wayne, Indiana

With a degree in Church Music from Valparaiso University, Nicole Koehler Busarow continued her organ studies by completing a Master's Degree in Sacred Music at the University of Notre Dame. After two years of serving a church and school in St. Joseph, Michigan, as Cantor, Nicole and her husband, Jonathan (C.C. 2008) moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. There she has found many professional opportunities, in addition to starting a family. While caring for her two small sons, Simon and Matthias, and maintaining their family's home, Nicole is the music coordinator at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, Indiana, and the choral assistant at Concordia Lutheran High School. She is also a private piano instructor.

Rebekah Koehn - 2017

Graduate Student in Mechanical Engineering and Biomechanics Research, Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Rebekah Koehn graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Biomedical Engineering. While at Valpo she was involved in the Society of Women Engineers and the Panhellenic Council (through Kappa Delta Sorority). She was President of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Ohio State University where she works with Dr. Rob Siston on dissertation research in the Neuromuscular Biomechanics Laboratory.

Diane Koester - 1970

German Professor and Administrator (Retired), Wells College
Cayuga County, New York

Diane Koester is now retired from a career at Wells College in Aurora, New York, where she taught German and, occasionally, Women's Studies (the introductory course and courses on sexism and language and on dystopian science fiction written by women) and supervised academic advising. When Diane started at Valpo, she had about five potential majors in mind, none of them German, but after taking elementary German in V.U.'s very good German Department, she became hooked on German as a major and spent a year abroad in Germany before graduation. After some more time in Germany on a German Academic Exchange Service (D.A.A.D.) scholarship, she worked in pre-order bibliographic research for Yale University, then achieved her dream job: teaching at a small liberal arts college. She has been heard to credit one of her Christ College courses in religion for assigning a paper that taught her how to think. Diane celebrates her fortieth wedding anniversary this year with Ken Larson (who also taught German at Wells College and did I.T. web-related work). Diane and Ken enjoy their two children, a thirty-year-old son with multiple severe disabilities, and a younger daughter, now finishing her Ph.D. in labor economics at Cornell University.

Kristine (Kolterman) Fox—1985

Homemaker and Volunteer
Ada, Michigan

After graduating from Valpo with a Chemistry major, Kristine Kolterman Fox worked in research as a synthetic organic chemist at Kodak in Rochester, New York, Eastman Pharmaceuticals in Great Valley, Pennsylvania, and the University of Maryland Baltimore where she researched cocaine derivatives. After Kristine married John Fox, they lived on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana for three years and in Madison, Wisconsin, for five years. They have resided in Michigan since 2000. Wherever Kristine lived, she was an active volunteer. She is a member of the University Guild, and has served the Guild as Person-to-Person Chair, Nominating Chair, Michigan Area Director, Christian Women's Conference Speaker Chair and Conference Chair, as well as two terms on the Guild Board of Directors. Kristine has volunteered for many of her children's school events such as leading a Girl Scout troop, coaching Odyssey of the Mind teams, and training Boy Scouts. Currently, she enjoys leading Bible studies at her church, singing in both her church choir and a community choir, and tutoring first graders in reading skills. Her favorite volunteer position involves facilitating the production of thousands of sack suppers and supervising volunteers at Kids' Food Basket. Kristine and John are the parents of Linnea (University of Illinois, Advertising, 2014), Steven (University of Michigan, Chemical Engineering, 2016) and Andrew (University of Michigan, Mechanical Engineering, 2019).

Noel Koontz - 1998

English, Film and Theater Teacher, The Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship
Bloomington, Indiana

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Noel Koontz went to graduate school in English at Indiana University. He worked as a freelance writer and editor for a few years and went back to graduate school at Indiana for literacy education. Currently, he teaches English, film, and theater at The Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship, a project based, public school in Bloomington, Indiana. He serves as a community advisor for the Monroe County Youth Council and on the music committee at First United Church Bloomington. He and his wife Molly Zeller Koontz (C.C. 2007) have three children, Kieran (17), Liam (13), and Aidan (3), with another on the way.

Michael Korba - 1979

Project Manager/Business Development Consultant, MK Consulting Services, Inc.
Streetsboro, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Electrical Engineering, Mike Korba held engineering and management positions with Chrysler, Rockwell Automation, and a variety of N.A.S.A. contractors. While working on N.A.S.A. projects, Mike's project teams flew seventy-five experimental payloads on the Space Shuttle. With the advent of the International Space Station, Mike won over \$250 million in N.A.S.A. contracts to develop two experiment racks in fluids and combustion and a microgravity measurement instrument, all of which are still conducting research in space today. In 2003, when the business he worked for as Vice President for N.A.S.A. projects was acquired by a large aerospace company, he became an independent consultant, helping small businesses win over \$450 million in government contracts. At the same time, Mike assumed the role of caregiver to his wife Laurie, (married in 1983), who is wheelchair-bound with progressive multiple sclerosis (M.S.). Their daughter Amanda Isler (Ithaca College 2009) is a Senior Public Relations coordinator for professional tennis at the United States Tennis Association and their son Andrew (Ohio Northern University 2012) has held positions in Sport Management as Sports Information Director at Hiram College and Basketball Communications Assistant for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Mike has served as Congregational Chairman and as Board Member for the Ohio District Lutheran Church Extension Fund. He has also been involved in three building expansion campaigns for Cleveland-area Lutheran organizations. He advocates for the National M.S. Society to raise funds for research for new disease-modifying therapies to combat M.S..

Mark Koschmann - 2007

Theology Professor and L.C.M.S. Ordained Pastor, Concordia University
St. Paul, Minnesota

Rev. Mark Koschmann joined the faculty at Concordia University St. Paul in the fall of 2015 as the Fiechtner Chair in Christian Outreach and as an Instructor of Theology and Missiology. He leads the mentoring program of the Hoffmann Institute in urban and cross-cultural outreach. Koschmann teaches courses on Christian mission and outreach, world religions, and an urban outreach course, "Faith and Justice in the City." He also teaches courses specifically related to Concordia's Director of Christian Outreach Program. Previously, Koschmann served as mission and outreach pastor at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran, a multi-racial congregation in north county St. Louis. In the aftermath of the crisis in Ferguson, Missouri, he and members of his congregation worked with community leaders, protestors, police, and fellow Christians to bring hope and healing to a bitterly divided city. Koschmann received his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary St. Louis and is completing his doctoral work at Saint Louis University with an emphasis on religion, race, and U.S. urban history. His dissertation research examines how Christian congregations responded to urban and racial strife on Chicago's West Side from the 1950s-1970s.

Jeff Kosman - 1996

Senior Staff Scientist, C.M.C. Biologics
Mill Creek, Washington

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jeff Kosman earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Illinois Champaign- Urbana. His graduate thesis involved the study of the protein structure and enzymatic reactions of high-density lipoproteins (HDLs, or "good cholesterol"). Following post-doctoral work at the University of Connecticut, Department of Biochemistry, studying bacterial sporulation proteins, and at the University of Washington, Department of Urology, studying bladder growth factors, Jeff found a permanent position in the biopharmaceutical industry at C.M.C. Biologics. As a Senior Staff Scientist, he uses his protein purification experience directing the process development of new protein-based pharmaceuticals. These new drugs are eventually scaled up, taken through regulatory review, and released for commercial use. Outside of science, Jeff plays trombone for the Seattle Symphonic Band. He has one son, Ian (12).

Kristine Kovack-Lesh - 2002

Associate Professor of Psychology, Ripon College
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valpo, Kristine Kovack-Lesh attended graduate school at the University of Iowa where she completed a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology in January of 2008. One week after her thesis defense, Kristine began a position in the Department of Psychology at Ripon College where she is currently holds the rank of Associate Professor. She is married to Bob Lesh (V.U. 2002) and they have two children.

David Krause - 1970

Development Professional, Parkland Foundation, Dallas, Texas
Dallas, Texas

Directly after graduating from Valparaiso University, David Krause enrolled at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. Four years later, he participated in the walk-out that created Seminex. After serving Peace Lutheran Church in Tifton, Georgia, for five years, he returned to Seminex under a grant from the Lilly Endowment to receive training as a fundraiser and served there from 1979-1984. He then led a church campaign in preparation for the formation of the E.L.C.A. from 1984-1986. He returned home to Dallas in 1986 and has served the foundations of three major health systems since then: Baylor Health Care System Foundation (1987-1995), Children's Medical Center (1996-2005) and Parkland Hospital Foundation (2005-present). He currently chairs the board of the Lutheran Music Program and sits on the board of the International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section.

Peter Krenzke - 2008

Assistant Professor of Engineering, Taylor University
Hartford City, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (V.I.E.P. German), Peter worked at Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria, Illinois, for about two years, just long enough to meet his wife Christine. Peter earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota where he worked alongside several fellow Valpo alums in the Solar Energy Laboratory. Peter is currently Assistant Professor of Engineering at Taylor University and resides in Hartford City, Indiana, with Christine and their daughters Elise (5), Greta (3), and Hazel (1). They attend Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Muncie, where Peter serves as an elder, a tenor in the choir, and an occasional trumpet player

Kurt Kroenke – 1973

Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Indiana University
Research Scientist at the Regenstrief Medicine and Geriatrics, Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo with a B.S. in Chemistry, Kurt Kroenke attended medical school at Washington University St. Louis which was partly supported by the uniformed services Health Scholarship Program. After earning an M.D. in 1977, Kurt did an internal medicine residency at Triple Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and over a twenty-year period was assigned to three other Army teaching hospitals in Georgia, Texas, and Maryland (the last nine years of which were spent at Walter Reed Army Medical Center). Since 1997, he has been a faculty member at Indiana University School of Medicine where he is currently Professor of Medicine. He runs a Master of Science program in Clinical Research. His own research interests are clinical studies of depression, pain, and anxiety. He and his wife Judy have been married since 1977, and they have three grown children (Christopher, Rachel, and Jonathan) and one granddaughter (Nola). Kurt and Judy enjoy horseback riding and spending time with family.

Jonathan Krutz - 1984

Marketing Professor, Boise State University
Boise, Idaho

Jonathan Krutz teaches and serves as Faculty-In-Residence in the Marketing Department of the Boise State University College of Business and Economics while he completes a Ph.D. in Public Administration. After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jonathan spent two years heading publications and marketing for the national office of Phi Mu Alpha, the nation's largest professional fraternity (music), and five years growing a local agribusiness into the Midwest's largest provider. In 1993, he earned an M.B.A. from the University of Iowa, then spent two years teaching and consulting in Southern Russia before directing a local mediation center and two state end-of-life improvement nonprofits over the next two decades. He was named the 2006 Nonprofit Director of the Year in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has been active with many nonprofit boards, currently serving as President of Stop Predatory Gambling Idaho and on the national board of the Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation. His wife, Kim, an advanced practice nurse, and two children, Carl and Amy, are all also currently working toward degrees at Boise State.

Abby (Lange) Groth - 2010

Assistant Curator of Public Programs, Sheldon Museum of Art
Lincoln, Nebraska

Since graduating from Valpo, Abby Lange Groth has ping-ponged across the Midwest: Nebraska to Illinois to Michigan and back to Nebraska. After a two-year period working at the Center for Liturgical Art in Seward, Nebraska, Abby attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and earned an M.A. in Art History in 2014. After graduating, she taught Art History and History of Design at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan, and worked as the Communications and Marketing Manager at Epiphany Glass, a hot glassblowing studio. In 2016, Abby moved back to Nebraska where she works as Assistant Curator of Public Programs at Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. She sings in three choirs, spends what most would consider "too much time" entertaining her cats, and is really eager to jumpstart the Lincoln C.C. Reading Group if more people would just move to Nebraska already! Abby married Justin Groth in 2013, and they are expecting their first child, a girl, in November 2017.

David Lange - 1981

Civil Engineering Professor, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
Champaign, Illinois

David Lange is a professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois. He earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1991 and has been a Fighting Illini fan ever since. David's research area is construction materials, and he really has to hold back when the topic of concrete structures comes up at cocktail parties. He becomes President of the American Concrete Institute in the spring of 2018, and he is looking forward to a year of hobnobbing with rich and famous concrete experts around the world. On the home front, David is married to Risë (Sloup) Lange (V.U. 1991), and they have three children. They are looking forward to becoming grandparents in the fall of 2017.

Josh Langhoff - 1999

Music Director, The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less, Northfield, Illinois
Contemporary Music Minister, Trinity Lutheran, Des Plaines, Illinois
Round Lake, Illinois

Josh Langhoff graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in music composition and promptly went to work at a Borders bookstore where he toiled through various supervisory positions before bailing to become a stay-at-home dad, two years before the book chain declared bankruptcy. Along the way Josh began to use his musical training, working as a church organist and choir director and writing freelance articles about music. He currently serves as Music Director at the Episcopal Church of St. James the Less in Northfield, Illinois, and as Contemporary Music Minister at Trinity Lutheran in Des Plaines, Illinois. His music writing has appeared in the *Village Voice*, *Pitchfork*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *Minneapolis City Pages*, and the *Cresset*, among other places. He is the founder and principal writer of *NorteñoBlog*, a mostly English-language site devoted to regional Mexican music. He is married to Lea (Dashiell) Langhoff (V.U. 1999), a music teacher; they have two kids and several pets.

Liv Larson Andrews - 2002

Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church

Spokane, Washington

Liv Larson Andrews serves as Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington. She is married to Casey Andrews (2001), and they have two sons, Arlo (7) and Robin (2). She occasionally writes for *Gather* magazine, *Living Lutheran*, and *Sundays and Seasons*, and dreams of hosting a lectionary-based cooking show.

Cana (Laska) Kohn - 2008

Attorney, Grace Legal, L.L.C.
Farmer, KG Dairy, L.L.C.
Ringle, Wisconsin

Cana Laska Kohn's country-hopping during her time at Valparaiso University continued into her tenure as a student at the University of Wisconsin Law School, during which time she traveled to China, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Haiti. After earning a J.D., Cana partnered with Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara, Uganda, to open a Christian law school. When she returned from the mission field, Cana fell in love with a dairy goat farmer and is now married and living in central Wisconsin. She is a trial lawyer by day and a farmer by night.

Rachel Law - 2017

Mechanical Engineer, Zimmer Biomet
Warsaw, Indiana

Rachel Law graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Mechanical Engineering. While at Valpo, Rachel was a member of S.W.E. and the varsity swim team, which she led as elected captain her junior and senior years. She was a mentor for the freshmen engineering class, and graded for freshmen and sophomore level classes. She was also involved in undergraduate research in renewable energy from sophomore year through her senior year. Her immediate plans after graduation include working at Zimmer Biomet and pursuing her goal of becoming a design engineer.

Keelun Lawrence - 2017

Chicago, Illinois

Keelun Lawrence graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Psychology and minor in Sociology. Keelun served on the Honor Council and had memberships in the Student Alumni Association, and Alpha Phi Omega. Keelun is interested in jobs involving criminal advocacy.

Nathan Leaf - 1999

Director of Choral Activities and Associate Teaching Professor, North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

After graduating from Valpo with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, Nathan Leaf pursued a life in choral music, completing an M.M. and D.M.A. in Choral Conducting from the University of Texas Austin. He has sung with two GRAMMY-winning professional choirs, performed across the country and throughout Europe, and toured with the Swedish Men's Choir, Orphei Drängar. He met his wife, Kathryn, singing together at the Oregon Bach Festival, where Nathan performed for eight seasons. Nathan is currently Director of Choral Activities and Associate Teaching Professor at North Carolina State University, Choir Director at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Durham, and Artistic Director of the Concert Singers of Cary. He and Kathryn live in Raleigh with their two children, Alex and Astrid.

Benjamin Leese - 2003

Pastor, Garden of Grace Community of Churches, York Springs and New Oxford, Pennsylvania
Dillsburg, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Ben Leese attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and was ordained in 2007. He is still serving in his first call, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in York Springs, PENNSYLVANIA, although that call has grown to include three other congregations which together compose Garden of Grace Community of Churches. He has written articles for the *Cresset*, *Trinity Seminary Review*, and ornithology journals. He lives in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Abby (also a pastor), and their son, Timothy.

Stephanie (Lehman) Grimoldby - 2008

Freelance Reporter and Editor
Salem, Wisconsin

Shortly after graduating from Valpo, Stephanie (Lehman) Grimoldby put her Journalism and English degrees to good use, landing a job with the *Lake County Journal*, a weekly newspaper in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. She worked alongside fellow Christ College graduate Colin Selbo for three years before the two parted ways – Stephanie for the managing editor position of Shaw Media's three monthly women's lifestyle magazines and Colin for a Teach For America position in Oklahoma. After nearly two years with the magazines, Stephanie moved with her husband, Kevin Grimoldby (V.U. 2007), to Wisconsin after he received a career promotion with Uline Shipping Supplies. Stephanie is now a successful freelance reporter/editor who works from home while taking care of her son Gracin (2). The family is awaiting the arrival of twins in late 2017.

Steven Lehmann - 2009

Venture Capital Fund Manager, University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Steve Lehmann graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. The chaotic years of the Great Recession set him on an equally chaotic early-career trajectory, with stints studying Theology at Oxford, working in steel manufacturing, and advocating for refugees on Capitol Hill. While studying for an M.B.A. at Notre Dame, he discovered the world of startups and venture capital, and he has been building and launching companies since. In 2013, Steve founded Threadies, a startup that manufactures trauma-coping teddy bears in Palestine and delivers them to child refugees around the world. He continues to grow the company with his Valpo roommate Andrew Jones. In addition, he co-manages the University of Chicago Innovation Fund, where he advises and invests in startups arising from the university's research laboratories.

Robin Lehninger - 2011

Attorney, Husch Blackwell, L.L.P.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Robin Lehninger earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School and a Master of Public Policy from U.M.'s Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Robin returned to her hometown of Milwaukee following her admission to the bar and is currently an attorney with Husch Blackwell, L.L.P., where her practice focuses on healthcare law. She also volunteers with various pro bono projects in the greater Milwaukee area. Robin chairs the alumnae advisory board for the Kappa Delta Sorority chapter at Marquette University and is an active member of her church, where she sings in the choir and is a member of the young professionals group.

Elizabeth (Lewis) Blondia - 1992

Humanities Teacher and Department Head, The Leelanau School
Glen Arbor, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Political Science, Elizabeth Lewis Blondia moved to Chicago to pursue a career in publishing. While there, she realized that her heart really belonged in the classroom, so while working full time, she earned a Master's Degree in Education from DePaul University. Elizabeth fell in love with a teacher from northern Michigan before she could complete her student teaching in Chicago. As luck would have it, a teaching position opened at the school where her beloved taught (The Leelanau School - an independent boarding high school for students who learn differently), and she has been there ever since. Elizabeth and her husband live near Glen Arbor, Michigan, with their two children, a dog, a cat, and a frog. She is active at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City, serving as an annual delegate to the Diocesan Convention and teaching Sunday School to middle schoolers.

Kelsey Loden - 2014

Medical Student, Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with Chemistry and German majors and a minor in Humanities, Kelsey Loden began medical school at Indiana University, where she is currently a fourth-year student. She is in the process of applying to combined internal medicine/pediatrics residencies and is unsure where this will take her. She is also interested in the possibility of working as an academic hospitalist. While at Valpo, she traveled to Nicaragua through C.C.'s Schweitzer Travel Fellowship and looks forward to returning in February for a global health and medical Spanish elective. On campus she helps run Spring House Calls, the medical school's largest and longest running service project. She was appointed by the dean to serve on the Teacher-Learner Advocacy Committee, which helps to foster a fair and professional learning environment and monitors student and resident mistreatment reports. In her (somewhat limited) free time she enjoys running and playing tenor saxophone in a band called Dysfunktion Brass.

John Lohrmann - 1974

Superior Court Judge, State of Washington
Walla Walla, Washington

John Lohrmann earned a J.D. from Valparaiso Law School in 1977 and then moved to Walla Walla, Washington, where he practiced law for thirty-one years. In 2008 he was elected Superior Court Judge and is now in his third term. John married Linda Stroschein (V.U. 1974) in 1974. They have four children and eight grandchildren. He is active in his church and currently serves on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Council.

Jennifer (Long) Kendzior - 1993

Attorney, Duane Morris, L.L.P.
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jennifer Long Kendzior earned a J.D. from Valpo Law School in 1996. She has worked with employers of all sizes and in all industries by providing management-side legal advice and counseling and defense litigation related to all types of employee-related issues. She has been an attorney with Duane Morris, L.L.P., in Chicago for eleven years. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Kevin, who is a police officer, and her children, Anna (fifth grade) and Grace (Pre-K). Jennifer chairs the hospitality committee at her church and volunteers at her children's schools. In her free time, wait what is "free time"?

Amanda Love - 2007

Homemaker
Port St. Lucie, Florida

After graduating from Valparaiso with a B.A. in English, Amanda Love went home to Florida and took a job as an admissions counselor at St. Thomas University in Miami. In this position she traveled extensively throughout Florida and the East Coast. In subsequent years Amanda has been happy to use her experience in the admissions field to volunteer for the Valparaiso Admissions Network. After a few years in the administrative side of higher education, Amanda decided to return to school for an M.A. in American Literature at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. While at F.A.U. Amanda worked as a graduate teaching assistant. A job transfer for her husband, Mike Orendorff (V.U. 2007), brought Amanda and Mike to Madison, Wisconsin, then back to south Florida where they now live in Port St. Lucie. Amanda is currently busy raising her two energetic boys, Henry (3) and Rhys (9 months) and (not so) subtly encouraging them to attend Valpo. The family are active members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, where Amanda sings in the choir.

Keith Ludwig - 1987

Software Engineer, Self-Employed
Irvine, California

After two years studying linguistics at Northwestern University, Keith Ludwig realized academic life didn't suit him, so he began a career writing software at Odesta Corporation in Northbrook, Illinois, where he developed database tools for four years. But soon restlessness and Midwest winters drove him to California where he joined E.S.R.I. in Redlands, California, the industry leader in G.I.S. software. The warm climate let him enjoy hiking, swimming, and cycling, including a brief (but painful) foray into mountain biking. He continued with G.I.S. software (at three different companies) until 2015, when a midlife crisis dictated that a change was needed. Over two years he retrained himself in 3D game development and wrote his first mobile app, Yoyo Magic VR, an ultra-realistic 3D yoyo simulation -- soon to be released for iOS devices. Currently he splits his time between Irvine, California, and Valparaiso, Indiana, where he provides support for his dad. In his free time, Keith continues to enjoy hiking and cycling. He is currently training for the Lighthouse Century, a beautiful ride along the California coast. He also recently started writing a sci-fi novel.

Sarah (Luecke) Eckhardt – 1999

Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Richmond, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso where she had majors in English and Fine Art, Sarah Luecke Eckhardt attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History. Her student experience working at the Brauer Art Museum served her well as she went on to work at the University of Illinois' Krannert Art Museum, followed by the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas, before taking her current position as a curator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. She lives in Richmond, Virginia with her husband, Joshua Eckhardt (C.C. 1998) and their three sons, Silas, Ira, and Levi.

Peter Lutze - 1968

Communications Professor, Valparaiso University
Reutlingen, Germany

After graduating from Valpo, Peter Lutze taught English in Japan. He then worked as a wiper on a ship, a railroad switchman, a librarian, a bookseller, a tube saw cutter, a law clerk, a countertop laminator, a waiter in Chinese and Victorian restaurants, a grant writer, a cheese factory cleaner, a newspaper columnist and a video producer. Meanwhile he collected an M.F.A., J.D. and Ph.D. After twenty-three years of teaching at Boise State University, where he directed University Television Productions and co-founded TTVV, Treasure Valley Public Access Television, Peter came to Valpo in 2012 to chair the Communications Dept and direct the Digital and Sports Media graduate programs. He is currently Resident Director of Valpo's Reutlingen Study Center. Peter's son, Isaac, earned an M.A. in TESOL from Valpo and now teaches English in Japan. Peter's son, Solomon, is a video-game programmer in Boston. In September, Peter's first grandchild, Hiro, arrived heroically nine weeks early in Japan.

John MacNeil - 2017

Listings Coordinator, Reverb
Chicago, Illinois

John MacNeil graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Music: Music Industry, with minors in Creative Marketing and Mathematics. While at Valpo, he was principal double bassist in the University Symphony Orchestra, played bass and piano for the Jazz Ensemble, was a member of various small and large ensembles in the Music Department, served as Vice President of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, served as President of the Music Enterprise Student Association, was a member of the College Music Society, worked as a sound designer, composer, and ensemble musician for the Theater Department, worked as a recording technician for the Music Department, worked as a Program Assistant for the Career Center, and performed as a musician in many local theater productions. John is now working as a Listings Coordinator at Reverb in Chicago.

Mark Mahoney - 1975

Attorney
Cincinnati, Ohio

Mark is a Corporate Attorney for a life insurance company.

Marcia (Mainland) Rotunda - 1968

University Attorney (Retired), University of Illinois
Tucson, Arizona

After graduating from Valpo, Marcia Mainland Rotunda went to law school, got married, had two children, Nora and Mark, and spent most of her legal career as an attorney for the University of Illinois. She wandered around in a spiritual wilderness for about forty years, doubting the existence of God. In 2014 she retired to the desert in Arizona, where both of her children live. Soon after she retired, she was in church one Sunday letting her mind wander when BAM! -- out of nowhere she got a clear and specific call from God. "Drat," she thought to herself (or maybe something stronger), "I'm going to have to do this." There was a visiting pastor that Sunday, and he had made a plea for people to volunteer with a group in Tucson that helps people fleeing from murderous regimes in sub-Saharan Africa apply for asylum in the U.S. Marcia felt compelled to volunteer that very day, and ever since then she has spent most of her spare time on asylum work. It is unbelievable to her how brave these people are and how great their trust in God. In spite of the terrible things they have endured, they have faith that God's love, mercy, and justice will prevail. It's hard to argue with that.

Andrew Makowski - 1999

Emergency Physician, St. Joseph's Hospital/Ascension Wisconsin Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Physics and Chemistry, Andrew Makowski earned an M.D. at Loyola University Chicago and completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is an attending physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee where he is in charge of resident education in the Emergency Department. He also works as an independent contractor doing Locum Tenens around the U.S. His research interests include Aerospace Medicine and Bioethics, and he completed a Master's in Bioethics and Health Policy in 2012. He remains an avid runner, traveler, and active member of his church.

Erin Maloney - 2007

Coordinator, Lane Education Service District
Eugene, Oregon

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Erin Mahoney received an M.A. in Linguistics from Ohio University and enrolled in the University of Oregon Ph.D. program in Theoretical Linguistics. She withdrew from that program in 2012, and taught English as a Second Language to international students in Oregon from 2013-2016. In 2016 she began a Master's of Education in Information Technology at Western Oregon University. In December of 2016, she was hired at the Lane Education Service District as Coordinator for Connected Lane County and the Lane S.T.E.M. Hub, two organizations that aim to help students from all backgrounds successfully complete their K-12 education. She still plays ultimate frisbee, and coaches the game for students in grades six through eight. She recalls her ultimate frisbee days at Valpo with pride and zest.

Michelle (Manke) DeMik - 1997

Homemaker, Substitute Teacher
Laurel, Maryland

Michelle Manke DeMik and Peter DeMik were married at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso Univeristy in July of 1997. They are the parents of Allison (14), Matthew (12) and Nathan (7). Michelle has dabbled in substitute teaching and church office work, but mostly she runs a tight ship at home and gets everyone where they need to be at the right time!

Sara (Mar) Casile - 2007

Family Medicine Physician, Washington, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University Sara Mar Casile attended medical school in Texas and then moved to Pittsburgh for a residency in family medicine. She met her husband during residency, so she stayed in Pennsylvania after completing her program. She is now part of a family medicine practice in a suburb of Pittsburgh.

Peter W. Marhenke – 1987

High School Social Studies Teacher, Fresno Unified Schools
Fresno, California

After graduating from Valparaiso with majors in History, Political Science, and Humanities, Peter Marhenke earned an M.A. in American History from the University of Arizona. He started teaching Political Science at the community college level. Peter is currently working for Fresno Unified School District where he teaches Advanced Placement and Honors classes. Peter is married and has two children. His daughter Julia is a high school senior, and his son Christian is a high school sophomore. Peter and his daughter came to Homecoming and the 50th anniversary event for Christ College in October 2017. He is making a thinly veiled effort to send the fifth generation family member through Valparaiso.

Teresita Marsal-Avila - 1983

Immigration Attorney, Marsal-Avila Law Group
Oak Brook, Illinois

Teresita Marsal-Avila graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1986. She worked at the United Nations as a journalist for the Journal of the United Nations from 1986-1987. In 1987, she was admitted to the Illinois Bar. She has been practicing family immigration law since 1988. In 2005, she formed her own legal practice in Chicago's Little Village, a predominantly Mexican neighborhood and offered both legal counsel and employment opportunities. In 2016, she transferred the location of the firm Marsal-Avila Law Group to Oak Brook, Illinois, where she continues to counsel immigrants in these most difficult times. Teresita has served on many boards including, St. Agnes of Bohemia, Little Village Chamber of Commerce and the Fig Factor Foundation. She was featured in a book *Today's Inspired Latina, Life Stories of Success in the Face of Adversity, Volume II*. She is presently a member of the Valparaiso School of Law National Council. She is married to Alfredo Avila, CEO and founder of Atelier Building Group. They live in Oak Brook with their daughter Melissa Avila. They are very proud of Melissa who is a pre-law sophomore in Christ College. In her over thirty years as an attorney Teresita has learned that circumstances can be changed, that the human spirit soars when confronted with obstacles, that God and family come first and that paying it forward is an obligation we all share.

Amanda (Master) Caulfield - 2015

Spanish Teacher
Scranton, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Spanish, Amanda Master spent the past two years in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps through Creighton University. Through this program, Amanda attained a Master of Education while working as a full-time educator. She developed and taught a high school Heritage Spanish and a Foreign Language Spanish curriculum for St Anthony School in Milwaukee. She is recently married to her Valpo sweetheart Dave Caulfield (V.U. 2014) and currently lives in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area.

Ken Maurer - 1969

Researcher and Professor (Retired), RAND Corporation, California State University Long Beach and Concordia University Irvine
Litchfield, New Hampshire

Ken Maurer earned a Ph.D. in Economics from U.C.L.A. and became a researcher in health, education, labor, and population at the RAND Corporation, System Development Corporation, and Abt Associates. He taught at California State University Long Beach and Concordia University Irvine. He was a consultant for two Presidential commissions (food assistance programs and electronic benefit transfers). He was also Director of Research, Information Systems, and Assessment for the Massachusetts Board of Regents. He is married to Lois (Scheele) Maurer. Now retired, he enjoys traveling, spending time with his son, daughter, and granddaughters, and teaching and working on various research projects part time.

Paula Maust - 2009

Music Director, St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Professional Musician, Self-Employed
Music Professor, University of Maryland Baltimore County
Baltimore, Maryland

Praised as “a refined and elegant performer” by the *Boston Musical Intelligencer*, Paula Maust performs extensively as a harpsichordist and organist across the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, and church musician. Her diverse musical career focuses on historical performance practice and combines her distinct interests in performance, pedagogy, and scholarship. Paula is a co-director of Burning River Baroque, a founding member of Musica Spira, and Music Director at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Glen Burnie. She also regularly collaborates with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Baroque Band, and El Fuego Fire. A dedicated educator, she teaches music theory, harpsichord, and organ at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Additionally, she has taught music theory at Towson University and was a music theory and ear training graduate teaching assistant at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Paula was recently awarded the Dean’s D.M.A Fellowship to pursue doctoral studies in harpsichord at the Peabody Institute. She earned M.M. degrees in harpsichord and organ from the Peabody Institute and the Cleveland Institute of Music, respectively. She completed the B.M. Degree in Church Music at Valparaiso University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*.

Linda (Mays) Talbot - 1977

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Sugar Land, Texas

Since graduating from Valparaiso University, Linda Mays Talbot has taught school, served as a substitute teacher, worked in public relations at a regional blood center, and written a column for a local newspaper. She has earned a Master's Degree and is now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Linda has enjoyed volunteering for many years with Interfaith Ministries. She and her husband Charles have three wonderful children, who are married to equally wonderful spouses, and two grandsons. While at Valpo, she studied in the Reutlingen Program, which she loved so much she has traveled back to Germany twice since college. Traveling is her passion. Her dream is to make her 600-acre ranch self-sustainable.

Dan P. McAdams - 1976

Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dan P. McAdams is Chair of the Psychology Department at Northwestern University, where he is also a professor of human development and social policy. He received his doctorate in personality and developmental psychology from Harvard University in 1979. His research focuses on the kinds of stories that adults construct to make sense of their lives and their worlds. Among Dan's scholarly books are *Power, Intimacy, and the Life Story: Personological Inquiries into Identity* (1985) and *The Redemptive Self: Stories Americans Live By* (2006). McAdams received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Valparaiso University in 1988 and an honorary degree (Doctor of Humane Letters) in 2008. He is married to Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer (C.C. 1976). He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Michaela (McCarthy) Groth - 2013

Dean of Instruction, Hope Christian High School
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Communication, Michaela McCarthy Groth was selected from over 50,000 applicants to join Teach for America, a national corps of leaders committed to increasing opportunities for disenfranchised youth. Michaela was placed in Milwaukee, the number one most segregated city per capita. Despite the challenges, Michaela sees opportunity in her students' abilities to impact their community positively. During her time in Teach for America, Michaela completed an M.A. in Education. After three years in the classroom and one year in nonprofit development, Michaela is currently Dean of Instruction at Hope Christian High School. She loves coaching teachers, evaluating student data, and pushing her students to beat the odds through college acceptance and graduation. In her free time, Michaela loves yoga and kickboxing, volunteering at the Humane Society, managing social media and web design at her parents' business, and spoiling her two rescued "fur babies"! Michaela is married to her high school and college sweetheart (and partner in crime) Andrew Groth (V.U. 2014).

Brianne (McClelland) Osburn - 2009

Speech and English Teacher, Southport High School
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University in English and Secondary Education, Brianne McClelland Osburn moved to Indianapolis to begin her teaching career. After four years in the English department at Seccina Memorial High School, she joined the faculty at Southport High School. She currently teaches Speech and English at Southport and coaches the academic team. She also serves as a Eucharistic minister at her parish. She is married to David Osburn and together they have two beautiful daughters, Amelia Grace (3) and Mary Emma (6 months).

Matt McCuen - 2008

Automotive Engineer, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
Royal Oak, Michigan

In a quest to save the planet, Matt McCuen followed his Valparaiso University education by earning an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities where he focused on improved efficiency for internal combustion engines. In 2011, Matt started working for Chrysler Group (now Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He spent the next five years as an engine test engineer at Chrysler developing a new generation V6 engine. In 2015, Matt became Manager of the Airflow & Combustion Engineering Team at Fiat Chrysler, a position he continues to hold. Matt married fellow Valpo and C.C. alum Katie Krueger in 2012, and they now reside together with their dog Milo in Royal Oak, Michigan. Katie and Matt are both active members of their church, and enjoy traveling abroad and to National Parks.

Jolene (McFarlane) Kroboth - 1998

English Teacher
Steinheim an der Murr, Germany

After graduating from Valparaiso with a B.A. in German and Theology, Jolene McFarlane joined Operation Mobilization for a two-year mission in Croatia. Following that, she moved to southern Germany, where she began teaching English. She is married to Alexander Kroboth, whom she met while still at V.U. She is a mom to three children, ages 9, 11, and 13. She has coauthored an English-language New Testament and an English-language Bible, both written for German children (selected stories). She currently leads an English club and co-leads a circus club at the local grade school, and teaches German language courses for the local refugees.

Jodi (Medley) McMahon - 1985

Director of Operations, Server Products, Inc.
Saukville, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jodi Medley McMahon earned an M.S. in Engineering Management. She is employed by Server Products, Inc., as Director of Operations, providing leadership in the production, quality, manufacturing, engineering, purchasing, and shipping functions at the company. She is married to Greg McMahon with whom she has two children, Matthew (21) and Valentina (15). She regards getting to be a mom to these two children by far her greatest accomplishment. In her free time, she volunteers at a national professional society and at the church where she and her family are members. Her years at Valpo allowed her to meet wonderful friends, many of whom she still sees several times each year. The Christ College curriculum helped her become a better critical thinker and thus played a positive role in her career development.

John Messerschmidt - 1978

Financial Consultant, Thrivent Financial
Barrington, Illinois

John Messerschmidt graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Theology and Humanities. He received his first graduate degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and earned an M.B.A. at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. John worked for twenty years as a consultant with MCI, IBM and AT&T in the areas of customer service and sales with Fortune 500 companies. He subsequently became a financial consultant with Thrivent Financial, assisting his clients to be wise with money and to live generous lives. John and his wife, Christine, have three children and reside in Barrington, Illinois. He has served on the Christ College alumni advisory board and the V.U. Alumni Association Board.

Lisa Metzger-Mugg - 1997

Executive Director/Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President and Instructor,
School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology, Philosophy, and Humanities, Lisa Metzger-Mugg earned a Master's Degree in Developmental Psychology at Johns Hopkins University. She later earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Loyola University Chicago. Lisa worked in research and evaluation at the City Colleges of Chicago District Office for eight years and has worked at Northwestern University for the past ten years. In her current role, she is responsible for strategic planning, Board of Trustees committees, communications, and the divisional budget. She teaches at the School of Education and Social Policy and her research interests are college access and outcomes for low-income, first generation, minorities. She teaches Sunday School at her church and has served as an outreach liaison. She also chairs the staff appreciation committee at her kids' school. She married her husband Stephen in 2002 and they have four children: Amelie (8), Anderson (8), Prescott (6), and Ainsley (1).

Laura Meyer - 1986

Director of Sales and Business Strategy, Evolution Software
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, with majors in International Economics and French, Laura Meyer earned an M.A. in Western European Studies from Indiana University. She is now Director of Sales and Business Strategy with Evolution Software. Prior to this position, she was Vice President of Sales, U.S.A., with World of Expats, the first destination for expatriates. Earlier, Laura was Product Director, Retention-Growth, End-User Products with Gartner, Inc., driving change management processes and supporting sales teams with their renewals and growth. Earlier in her career, Laura spent thirteen years in Europe, working as a management consultant with Proudfoot Consulting and Cambridge Technology partners, as well as in financial management and enterprise system implementation roles with the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company. Laura has taught at DePaul University in the Department of Management. In addition, Laura is an intercultural trainer, providing training to European and American executives with major global relocation companies. Laura has lived in six countries (the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, The Netherlands, and Poland), worked in over twenty countries, and speaks German, French, and Dutch. In Chicago, Laura was instrumental in starting the multicultural theatre, Silk Road Rising, and is active in promoting the Old Town Art Fair, the number one Art Fair in the U.S. In 2001 Laura co-founded Chicago Celebrates International Women's Day, an annual luncheon and trade fair that has spawned many other events on March 8. She adores her twin nieces and her nephew and looks forward to their visits every summer!

Heidi Michelsen - 1985

Administrator and Teacher, Praxis Center of Costa Rica
San Jose, Costa Rica

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Heidi Michelsen worked as a deaconess in Michigan and then went to seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. She then moved to El Salvador, where she coordinated the Sister Parish Program of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church. She currently lives in Costa Rica, where she is Founder and Director of The Praxis Center, an organization which carries out academic and service-learning programs with several U.S. universities. As part of that function she directs the Valpo study abroad semester in Costa Rica and teaches courses on Central American history, politics, healthcare and environment. In addition, she plays instruments and sings in a contemporary music band and volunteers at a local Lutheran church ministering to Nicaraguan immigrants.

Sharon (Middleton) Roney - 2006

Customer Success-Creative Services and Content Marketing, Scribble Technologies, Inc.
San Francisco, California

Rita (Mikulcik) Balgeman -2003

Senior Research Manager, MaritzCX
West Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a majors in Political Science, History, and Secondary Education, Rita Balgeman briefly taught high school Social Studies. Upon realizing that teaching was not her calling, Rita earned an M.A. in Social Science from the University of Chicago. Since then, Rita has worked in the field of market research, helping companies better understand their customers' experiences and improve their organizations in order to better meet their customers' needs. Rita is married to Philip Balgeman (V.U. 2003). They have four sons, ranging from eight years to not yet one, which accounts for all of Rita's "spare" time.

Lisa (Miller) Cook - 1996

Musicologist, Academic Impressions
Westminster, Colorado

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Lisa Miller Cook completed a Master of Music Degree at Colorado State University and then completed a Ph.D. in musicology at the University of Colorado Boulder. She spent several years teaching music courses as an adjunct, and currently does consulting work for the Denver-based company Academic Impressions. She has also been heavily involved with the elementary music program at her children's school, volunteering as accompanist for the choir and both the intermediate and advanced orchestras. She has also directed the school's K-2 apprentice choir for the last two years. Lisa directs the handbell choir at Advent Lutheran, sings in the choir, and substitutes for the regular organist when he is on vacation. She is married to Paul Cook (C.C. 1994), and they have two children, Ruth (12) and Julia (7).

Ryan Miller - 2010

Internist and Hospitalist, HealthPartners, St. Paul, Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Chemistry and Biology, Ryan Miller attended medical school at the University of South Dakota where he earned an M.D. in 2014. He then went on to complete a residency program in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota in 2017. Throughout his training, Ryan was involved in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Open School where he served as Regional Leader for the Midwest, engaging students from numerous healthcare disciplines in improvement science and patient safety. Ryan practices as a hospitalist with HealthPartners in St. Paul, primarily at Regions Hospital. He is married to Elizabeth (Nail) Miller, who unfortunately decided to attend a different Lutheran college, but nonetheless has been successful in her endeavors. Residing in Minneapolis, he enjoys the Minnesota outdoors and is looking forward to new adventures.

Ruth (Moberg Foster) Popkin - 2009

Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Hitterdal, Minnesota
West Fargo, North Dakota

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in History, Ruth Popkin earned an M.Div. with honors in Church History and Luther Studies, from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2013. She was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on July 24, 2014, and currently serves as Pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Hitterdal, Minnesota. Ruth is married to Alexander Popkin, a computer programmer and alumnus of Harvey Mudd College and Vanderbilt University. They are currently expecting their first child (a future Valparaiso Crusader) in November 2017.

Heather (Moebs) Frank - 2000

Project Management, Envision Pharma Group
Wheeling, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Biology, Heather Moebs Frank started a fifteen-year career at Abbott Laboratories/AbbVie, Inc., working for ten years in various scientific and project management roles in the Abbott Diagnostics Division and then for five years as a project manager in the AbbVie Health Economics & Outcomes Research Department. For the past year, she has been working at Envision Pharma Group, a technology company specializing in sophisticated data-management technology solutions for pharmaceutical and life science companies around the world. She is a past president and a current board member of her local Mothers of Multiples club and is active on various committees at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church including the Green Team and children's ministries such as V.B.S.. She is married to fellow alum and Reutlingen study abroad classmate Kurtis Frank (C.C. 1999), and they have four children (born within four years of each other) - Brendan and Malia (twins), Erich and Ellie. Heather does her very best to instill the love of science in each of them!

Brent Moritz - 1995

Associate Professor of Business, Penn State University
State College, Pennsylvania

Brent Moritz graduated from Valparaiso University in Mechanical Engineering and worked in operations and supply chain management. He worked for Parker Hannifin, Eaton and BorgWarner, including international experience working in Mexico, England, and Germany. He also completed an M.B.A. at Case Western Reserve University. In 2010, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and joined the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University, where he was recently tenured as an Associate Professor. He teaches the writing-designated capstone course for supply chain majors. His research investigates how individuals make decisions, applying theory from behavioral economics, psychology and cognitive science to supply chain problems. He lives in State College with his wife Benita and two young daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. The family is looking forward to an upcoming sabbatical year, anticipated for either Germany or Australia.

Sarah (Moscicki) Bachman - 1993

Accountant, H&H Music
Sugar Land, Texas

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Music Enterprises, Sarah Moscicki Bachman worked in fundraising for about twelve years, first in Illinois and later in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her family relocated to the Houston area in 2003. Later, Sarah spent several years home with her two lovely daughters while husband Nate's work required international travel. In 2011, the family moved to Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, where they lived for two years, had many travel adventures, and had the soul-changing experience of living in a Muslim kingdom. The Bachman family returned to Texas in 2013. Sarah is currently working part-time at H&H Music and has returned to college to study for a C.P.A. license. Daughters Elizabeth (17) and Abigail (14) are in high school. Nate (C.C. 1993) is a Principal Physicist at Schlumberger Technologies. Sarah and her family are active members of New Hope Lutheran Church in Missouri City, Texas. Sarah and Nate sing in the choir and have served in various leadership positions. They enjoy music as a family, and are especially proud of their girls' accomplishments on flute and French horn.

Claire Mueller - 2013

English Teacher, Forum Thomanum
Leipzig, Germany

Only a few months after graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Vocal Performance and minors in Humanities and Chemistry, Claire Mueller moved to Leipzig, Germany, a place she had visited twice on tour with the Valparaiso Chorale during her time as a student. Undeterred by her then lack of actual German language abilities, she built upon connections that the University had already made with the local St. Thomas Church and was able to find work teaching English at the Forum Thomanum primary school in Leipzig. She started teaching there after completing a C.E.L.T.A. certification in Berlin at the end of 2013. After a year she took over responsibility for the entire English program and in 2016 began cooperation with the University of Leipzig in the development of the school's new, official language curriculum. Claire sings in a local choir and is currently working on completing a Master's Degree in Teaching English to Young Learners through the University of Freiburg.

Richard E. Mueller - 1970

Senior Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Atonement
Florissant, Missouri

Richard Mueller earned B.A. in History from Valparaiso University and an M.Div. and S.T.M. from Christ Seminary - Seminex. Following seminary, Rick served as managing editor of *Lutheran Perspective*, a bi-weekly national newspaper, while offering staff support services to Partners in Mission, the E.L.I.M. World Hunger Ministry, and Christ Seminary-Seminex. From 1985 to 1990 he was the associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manchester, Missouri. He has served with numerous Lutheran church organizations, including membership on the Board of Regents of Pacific Lutheran University. He is Senior Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Atonement near St. Louis. He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Rachel Mullins - 2015

Director of Practice Improvements, NorthShore Health Centers
Valparaiso, Indiana

Born and raised in northwest Indiana, Rachel graduated from Valparaiso University and planted her roots right in Valparaiso. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Leadership, Rachel pursued a career in the health care field at an organization that she felt truly benefitted the community. She started as a business analyst at a health center, and has now moved up to Director of Practice Improvements. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration through Valparaiso University, and expects to continue her career working in non-profit healthcare organizations that focus on their contribution to the community.

Megan (Murphy) Mertz - 2007

Writer and Editor, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
St. Louis, Missouri

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Art, Megan Murphy Mertz moved to Hangzhou, China, where she taught English to college students. Two years later, she returned to her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, and began a career as a writer and editor. She also met her husband, Jonathan, and the two married in 2011. For the last five years, Megan has worked at The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod headquarters, where she is Managing Editor of *Lutherans Engage the World*, the L.C.M.S. magazine for donors and church workers. Megan has won several awards from the Associated Church Press for her work at the L.C.M.S., and she writes for other publications in her spare time.

Sarah (Mutch) Hinck - 2002

Physical Therapy, Munson Medical Center
Traverse City, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with Biology and Chemistry majors, Sarah Mutch Hinkck earned a clinical doctorate in Physical Therapy at the University of Iowa. In 2005, she married Peter Hinck (C.C. 2004), and they moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she worked in the Transitional Rehabilitation Program at Courage Center focusing primarily on neurological rehabilitation after spinal cord injury and brain injury. Sarah and Peter are the grateful (and sometimes exhausted) parents of two N.I.C.U. grads, Jonah (7) and Greta (4). Sarah and her family now reside in Traverse City, Michigan, where they love exploring the woods and dunes and waters of northwestern Michigan. Sarah works at Munson Medical Center in acute care as well as inpatient rehabilitation. In her "spare time," Sarah enjoys running, biking and hiking. She is trying to love cross country skiing as much as does her spouse. (She also finds it uncomfortable to discuss herself in the third person.) She and Peter are looking forward to the day when C.C. Alumni Reading Groups come to Traverse City!

Laura Nader - 2004

Family Physician
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Chemistry, Laura Nader earned an M.D. at Indiana University School of Medicine. Now, after residency training, she is a practicing Family Physician. Laura enjoys working in an urban underserved clinic as well as spending lots of time teaching and mentoring students from various medical disciplines.

Richard Nehring - 1965

Researcher/Manager, The Rand Corporation
Founder and President, Nehring Associates
Colorado Springs, Colorado

After graduating from Valparaiso with majors in History and Theology, Richard Nehring spent two years at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar where he studied philosophy, politics, and economics. He subsequently did graduate work in political science at Stanford as a Danforth Fellow. Thereafter, Richard embarked on a forty-five-year career in database development for world and national petroleum resource assessment and oil and gas production projections. Fortunately for Richard, since his higher education provided him only a minimal foundation for this career, knowledge in these two subjects was sparse and Richard – to his great astonishment – quickly became recognized as an expert, not by standing on the shoulders of giants, but only by moving a couple of steps up the ladder. Professionally, Richard has been a member and Chair of AAPG’s Committee on Resource Evaluation and an AAPG Distinguished Lecturer. Richard continues to be a member of church councils and committees, despite this participation having occasionally given him visions of the lower middle of God’s backside. He has been married to Brooke Bower since December 1976. They have a daughter Katherine (“Kate”) who is successfully becoming her own person.

Ronald Neustadt - 1970

Parish Pastor (Retired)
Belleville, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Ronald Neustadt earned an M.Div. from Christ Seminary – Seminec and was ordained in 1974. He spent his career in parish ministry and is now retired. He and his wife Debra have two daughters, Martha Neustadt Storie and Katherine Neustadt.

Mike Nevergall - 2005

Gift Planner, Gustavus Adolphus College
Minneapolis, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Mike Nevergall moved to Chicago to pursue his lifelong dream of a career in advertising. But shortly after Hurricane Katrina, he was instead hired to do disaster response coordination for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.) and liked it so much that he stayed for six years. In the process, Mike fell in love with the nonprofit sector and decided to pursue a Master of Nonprofit Administration degree at North Park University in Chicago. During graduate school, Mike served for two years as Director of the E.L.C.A. Fund for Leaders, which provides scholarships for seminary students. After grad school, Mike spent four years with Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South) in Austin, Texas. While there, he completed the Certified Fund Raising Executive (C.F.R.E.) credential. Recently, Mike began a new position as a gift planner for Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. In his free time, Mike enjoys being outdoors and serving on nonprofit boards, and he is currently First Vice President of the V.U. Alumni Association. Mike is married to Rachel (Reinke) Nevergall (C.C. 2004). They have two young children and a dog, and they live in Minneapolis.

Jeffrey Nicholls - 1976

Attorney (Retired)
Anderson, Indiana

Jeffrey Nicholls practiced law in Lafayette, Indiana, from 1979 - 1982 and in Anderson, Indiana, from 1982 -2012. He is now retired. He married Jackie Anderson in June, 1976. They have no children or pets. Jeffrey has traveled around the U.S. and to thirty different countries on four continents. He still likes to travel, read, participate in historical miniature wargaming, do volunteer work for the local library and food pantry, attend live theater, and play clarinet in several local community bands.

Beth (Niggemyer) Doohan - 2009

Corporate Office Manager, Inland Medical Evaluations
Spokane, Washington

After graduating in from Valparaiso University in Youth, Family, Education Ministry and Theology, Beth Niggemeyer Doohan moved to Tacoma, Washington, where she worked in a congregation directing the youth ministry program. During this time she also served as part of a leadership team for Project:U, a United Way group for twenty- and thirty-somethings. After getting sick of the rain, Beth continued her youth ministry career at a church in Bundaberg, Australia, where she also worked as a camp director and presenter for Luther Youth of Queensland and served as Vice President for the local Rotarct Club. Beth has since moved back to the U.S., bringing her Australian husband, Marc, and dog, Hermes, home with her. She is now Corporate Office Manager for Inland Medical Evaluations in Spokane, Washington, where she is actively involved with the company board and multiple external organizations in the Workers Compensation industry in Washington State. In her spare time she plays with her daughter, Penny, born in 2016, works to remodel her 1970's house, and bakes whatever she can with chocolate.

Cameron Nixon - 2017

Graduate Student, Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Cameron Nixon graduated with a major in Meteorology and minors in G.I.S. and Mathematics. While at Valpo, he held jobs in the Harre Union and Meteorology Department, was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Chi Epsilon Pi honor societies and the Valparaiso University Storm Intercept Team; he founded the Valparaiso University Emergency Management Organization.

David Nord - 1969

Professor of Journalism and History, Emeritus, Indiana University Bloomington
Bloomington, Indiana

At Valparaiso Universtiy, Dave Nord majored in History, English, and draft resistance, graduating with a degree in two of the three. (He just missed on English.) In 1969 he did a stint as a V.I.S.T.A. volunteer in Des Moines and then returned to Valparaiso to marry Martha Bringewatt (V.U. 1970). He took a job as a reporter at the *Vidette-Messenger*, arriving just in time to cover some Rotary Club meetings and the burning of Kinsey Hall. In the early 1970s he did graduate work in U.S. History at the University of Minnesota and then worked for the Associated Press in Minnesota and North Dakota, where Martha taught in a one-room school out on the prairie. In the late 1970s, they lived in Madison, Wisconsin, while Dave completed a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. In 1979 he took a faculty position at Indiana University Bloomington. At I.U. he taught journalism and history and, from time to time, served as Associate Editor and Acting Editor of the *Journal of American History*. Since 1979 Dave and Martha have lived contentedly in Bloomington, as have their three children and, more recently, four grandchildren. Though the kids have sometimes left town for a few years, they seem always to come back. Dave's academic field of research has been the history of American journalism and print culture, including the history of 18th-and-19th-century religious publishing and religious reading. Now retired, Dave is still doing history work, including some volunteer research for Spring Mill State Park on the history of river, road, and rail transportation in southern Indiana in the early 19th century.

Laura Nuechterlein - 1989

Anti-Death-Penalty Volunteer with Amnesty International
Seattle, Washington

After graduating from Valpo, Laura Nuechterlein studied Public Policy at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington. In addition to her studies, the highlight of her two years in Bloomington was meeting the nice young Astronomy student (Stan Dyck, University of Kansas 1989) whom she would eventually marry. After finishing an M.P.A. in 1991, Laura moved with Stan to Chicago where Laura spent the next decade as a health policy analyst for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Tired of Chicago's summer heat and humidity and snowy, cold winters, Laura and Stan moved to Seattle with their cats in tow, bought a house, and settled into the Pacific Northwest lifestyle where they could more easily and regularly enjoy hiking and camping. Stan now works as a software programmer. Laura currently spends her time with Amnesty International trying to abolish the death penalty.

Paul Nuechterlein - 1966

Electrical Engineer (Retired)
Columbus, Ohio

Paul Nuechterlein was baptized at St. Lorenz in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and graduated from: Okemos High School, Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Washington University St Louis with an M.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1969. He met his future wife, Virginia (Ginny) Ulrich, (a graduate of Capital University), in a Lutheran singles group; they married in 1971. Ginny worked as a first grade teacher, homemaker and preschool director. Paul designed power supplies in: Columbus, Ohio; Galion, Ohio; Olean, New York; and Rockford, Illinois for: telephone offices, computers, airplanes and LED light bulbs. Paul and Ginny's daughter works for Sylvan in San Jose, California; their son works teaches at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Paul and Ginny have enjoyed singing in church choirs and teaching Sunday school; Paul served as Church Treasurer. Valpo theology courses, especially the New Testament with Ed Schroeder, continue to enrich his enjoyment of Scripture.

Kelly O'Connell - 2000

Education Administrator, Fairfax County Public Schools
Burke, Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Political Science, Kelly pursued a graduate degree in special education from Loyola University Chicago. She taught for four years in northeastern Illinois in a highly impoverished school system prior to moving to northern Virginia and beginning work as an Inclusive Schools Resource Teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools, the tenth largest school system in the nation. After three months in her teaching position, Kelly was promoted to Pyramid Resource Specialist, an administrative position within the county. In 2010, Kelly was chosen to participate in a selective administrative cohort, the F.C.P.S. Accelerated Certification Cohort, a collaboration between Fairfax County Public Schools and the University of Virginia. In the past two years, she has received two separate awards for outstanding service to Fairfax County Public Schools. In April of 2016, she was presented with the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (A.B.C.) Award for supporting staff and students during a significant school crisis. Kelly was also awarded the Fairfax County Public Schools Individual Excellence Award in 2016. This honor recognizes and celebrates one's commitment to serve F.C.P.S. with the highest degree of dedication and professionalism. Beyond the call to professional service, Kelly finds her most humble calling as that of single mother to her daughter, Catherine. Kelly notes that this is by far her most exceptional accomplishment to date.

Joelle (Oetting) Coutu - 1999

Office Manager, Audio Logic Systems
Freelance Theatrical Stage Manager
Plymouth, Minnesota

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Joelle Oetting Coutu spent a year teaching English to Chinese-speaking undergraduate and graduate students at the Wuhan HydroElectric Engineering University in Wuhan, China. Once that year was complete, she moved to Minneapolis to work in theater. Over the past seventeen years since she has been privileged to work in a number of roles at various local theaters. Some of those roles have been: Wardrobe Crew at Hey City Theater, Technical Volunteer Coordinator at Theatre in the Round, and Stage Manager for North Star Opera, Triple Espresso, and the Guthrie Theater. Joelle met her husband, Edward Coutu, a theatrical sound engineer and true "local," at one of the theaters in town. They now have two boys (10 and 8). Currently Joelle splits her time working for a live production and installation company called Audio Logic Systems, freelance stage managing three to four shows a year, and raising her sons. In her spare moments, she runs distance events and practices Krav Maga.

Sarah Olia - 2004

Higher Education Administrator, Harvard Kennedy School
Boston, Massachusetts

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in International Economics and Cultural Affairs, Sarah Olia spent a year teaching English in South Korea. She served as a Peace Corps education volunteer in the Republic of Moldova from 2006 - 2008 with her husband Andrew Johnson (V.U. 2004). Sarah earned a Master of Education Degree from Harvard University in 2010, launching her career in higher education administration. She currently works at Harvard Kennedy School and is in the final stages of completing her Doctor of Education Degree at Northeastern University. Sarah and Andrew are proud parents to Conrad James, born in May of 2016.

Grant Olsen - 1999

Internist/Pediatrician, Schneck Medical Center
Seymour, Indiana

Cynthia (Oppliger) Baker - 1988

Clinical Law Professor, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
Noblesville, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Cynthia Baker earned her J.D. at Valparaiso University School of Law and took a unique route to her current role as the founding Director of the Program on Law and State Government and a Clinical Professor of Law at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. She teaches law students interested in the confluence of law, state government, and governance through courses, externships, and fellowships. She remains a bibliophile and happily and regularly engages in the unauthorized practice of bibliotherapy. She and her husband Tim have three children and live in Noblesville, Indiana. She is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Ellen Orner – 2010

Communications and Outreach Director, University of Tennessee School of Art
Knoxville, Tennessee

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Creative Writing, Ellen Orner waited tables and worked as assistant editor for C.C.'s *The Spillikin*. When she moved to Missoula, Montana, with her now-husband, Jeremy Reed, this little bit of editing experience helped land her the job of writer/editor for the University of Montana Alumni Association. She worked at the same time as a college prep consultant for a start-up company called Hughes Tutoring. Upon moving to Knoxville, Tennessee, for Jeremy's doctoral studies in creative writing, Ellen began working as the administrative specialist for the University Of Tennessee School Of Art. She was soon promoted to Communications and Outreach Director. She also volunteers as staff director for a literary arts nonprofit, the Sundress Academy for the Arts and was the nonfiction editor for *Grist: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. She and Jeremy were married in June 2017 in Ellen's hometown of Gary, Indiana.

Raymond Palasz - 2003

Auditorium Director, Munster High School
Munster, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo, Ray Palasz went to work at Lake Central High School in St. John, Indiana, where he served on the English and Theatre Faculty for twelve years. During that time he rechartered the school's International Thespian Society and directed or oversaw technical aspects for dozens of shows. He also led several shows in competition to the state level. One of those shows was featured at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. Several of his students placed in individual acting, technical, and film competitions, with several qualifying for international competition. In 2016, Ray was appointed the Auditorium Director at Munster High School, where he rechartered its International Thespian Society. He oversees a student-based technical staff and with them hosts dozens of events each year in the school's 1,000+ seat space. Additionally, he produces or directs a five-production season, with students working in a variety of leadership positions, including directing on several of the shows. On August 1, 2017, Ray began a four-year term as Co-Chapter Director for the Indiana Thespians, the state organization for the International Thespian Society and the Educational Theatre Association. Ray married Courtney Palasz in 2015, and in 2106 they welcomed their son, Elias, into the world.

Rebecca Pallmeyer - 1976

United States District Judge, Northern Illinois District
Chicago, Illinois

Rebecca Pallmeyer is a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Following her graduation from Valparaiso University, Rebecca attended the University of Chicago School of Law and earned a J.D. in 1979. After law school she clerked for Judge Rosalie Wahl of the Minnesota Supreme Court, then spent several years doing commercial litigation for a large Chicago law firm. She left this career path to follow a vocation with a greater service orientation and worked for several years with Illinois's State Civil Rights Agency. This resulted in a big pay cut but a big boost in career satisfaction. Rebecca became a U.S. Magistrate Judge in 1991 and in 1998 was appointed to the federal bench, a position she continues to hold. Christ College has had great influence in Rebecca's life. She met Dan McAdams during their freshman year, and they married a year after graduation. Dan is Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University. They have two daughters: Ruth McAdams, who now teaches at Skidmore College, and Amanda Bauer, an I.C.U. nurse at the University of California San Francisco. Rebecca and Dan did not talk either of their children into Valparaiso, but their niece, Alexandra Lucas, is now a C.C. freshman. Rebecca received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Valparaiso University in 2002 and has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the V.U. Alumni Association. Both Rebecca and Dan are members of the Christ College National Council.

Emily Palomaki - 2014

Medical Student, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Springfield, Illinois

Emily Palomaki is currently a fourth-year medical student at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She loved attending Valparaiso University and regards Valpo a fabulous place to live and learn, the place she met her best friends and her fiancée there. Emily finds life a whirlwind, and she is excited about what is to come!

Robert Pampel – 2008

St. Louis, MO

Higher education administration

Saint Louis University Honors Program

During Robert's senior year at Valpo, he was certain about his plans to attend graduate school in the humanities. As first semester wore on, he began to have doubts about this path and (rather halfheartedly) applied to only one program. Not surprisingly, Robert was not accepted, and at the time he had some regrets about not pursuing this path with more vigor. Fortunately, things worked out in a roundabout fashion for him. By some stroke of luck, he was accepted into a program his senior year called the Orr Fellowship, and entrepreneurial fellowship program that placed high-achieving students from the state of Indiana with high-growth entrepreneurial ventures in Indianapolis. Robert's host company was Angie's List, and he was assigned to the Operations team. Here he worked under the Chief Operating Officer, who taught him a great deal about operational thinking. He learned pivot tables, Excel formulas, and the importance of efficiency in a business enterprise. Robert's two years in Indianapolis were incredibly helpful and set the stage for some of his later professional work. After that, he moved to St. Louis with his wife and worked in enrollment management at Webster University, where he simultaneously earned a master's degree in international relations. In four years at Webster, Robert served as an undergraduate admissions counselor, the associate director of international recruitment, and, eventually, the director of undergraduate admissions.

In 2014, he was fortunate to accept a position as Assistant Director of the Honors Program at Saint Louis University. As someone who reveled in his experience in Christ College, he considers the opportunity to work in an honors setting a real blessing. Robert is able to use some of the lessons learned from his business experience to work in an administrative role, while at the same time experience some of the academic culture he thought he left behind. He currently teaches an introductory honors seminar that draws upon many of the themes studied in the Christ College curriculum (e.g., significance, virtue, vocation, etc.). Robert also had the opportunity to develop our curriculum, to advise students on their career plans, and to serve as the Interim Director of the program for the last six months. In June 2017, he earned his doctorate from SLU in education. Robert's dissertation focused on curricular practices within Jesuit universities' honors programs. It is difficult to overstate the influence Christ College has had on his life. It was his introduction to numerous intellectual traditions and the most important academic component of his time at Valpo. Robert says the he certainly would not be working the field he is in now without his experience there, and wouldn't have developed a lifelong love of learning without the intellectual foundation he formed there. Robert lives with his wife, Jill (Lyons '08), and their daughter, Evelyn. His first boss out of college once told him that he felt as if he lived a "charmed" life. He feels similarly as he looks back on the many gifts he has been given, including Valpo, the Orr Fellowship, and his family.

Jason Paradis - 1993

Attorney, Paradis Law Office
Oakes, North Dakota

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jason Paradis attended Valpo Law School and earned a J.D. in 1998. He has practiced law in New York and Minneapolis (both in law firms and in-house), and he currently lives with his wife and three children in a small town in southeastern North Dakota where he has a solo general law practice.

Matthew Parker - 1996

Atmospheric Science Professor, North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Matt Parker earned a B.S. in Meteorology from Valparaiso University and then graduate degrees in Atmospheric Science (M.S. in 1999, Ph.D. in 2002). Since then, he served three years on the faculty at the University of Nebraska followed by twelve years at North Carolina State University, where he is now a full Professor. His research and teaching interests include the dynamics of severe thunderstorms, especially squall lines and tornadoes. He has served in a variety of scientific and coordination roles for various field projects and in editorial roles for several journals. Matt is married to Kerri Brown Parker (V.U. 1996), and they have a five-year-old son, Oliver. Matt tries to find as much time as possible for playing ice hockey, making music, and geeking out about the weather.

Richard Paul - 1970

Attorney, Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton, L.L.P.
San Diego, California

After Valpo Rich Paul followed the Mark Schwehn/Mel Piehl track to Stanford University where he earned a J.D. in 1973. He then joined a large California law firm headquartered in San Diego, eventually becoming a senior partner. Rich took a sabbatical year in 1986 to further explore some of the people and places and ideas described in liberal arts and history lessons at Valpo. In 1998 Rich co-founded his own law firm, now thirty lawyers, specializing in employment and higher education law. Firm clients include universities, research institutes, Fortune 500 companies, and civic, cultural and social service institutions. Since 1996 Rich has taught as an Adjunct Professor of Employment and related topics at University of San Diego Law School, and as a national lecturer on employment related issues. Rich and his wife Rena (B.A. Michigan; M.S. Boston University) have one son, Andrew, who combines outdoor adventure (United Nations work in Nepal; climbing Denali; NOLS) with academic work (M.A. in Peace Studies from U.S.D.). The family has a summer cabin in Glacier Bay, Alaska. Rich's latest adventures include playing in a performing rock band, and travels with Rena to Bhutan and Romania. Rich is a Fellow in the American College of Labor and Employment Lawyers; he has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1986, and he received an Alumni Achievement Award from Valpo in 2005. He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Claire (Peeples) Anzalone - 2003

Colon and Rectal Surgeon, Private Practice/Beaumont Hospitals
Royal Oak, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Claire Peeples Anzalone did a year of work with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She then attended the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. She completed her surgical residency at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and then went to receive a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Florida. She is now in private practice in colon and rectal surgery in Royal Oak.

Steve Peiffle - 1981

Attorney, Bailey, Duskin & Peiffle P.S.
Stanwood, Washington

Steve Peiffle is the principal shareholder of the law firm of Bailey, Duskin & Peiffle in Arlington, Washington, where he has worked since graduating from law school in 1984. He has been the City Attorney for the City of Arlington for approximately twenty-eight years. His Valpo and Christ College years were formative for him (he entered C.C. at age 16). Christ College taught him that hard work was required in order to succeed.

Kim (Penley) Delk - 1982

Theatrical Costumer, Local School and Community Theatres
Bowie, Maryland

After graduation, Kim Penley Delk traveled around Europe before returning home to a career in retail management. In 1990 she married her husband, Dewayne Delk, and then joined the Navy in 1991. During her Navy career, she lived and traveled around the world, eventually settling in the D.C. area, where she currently lives with her husband and three children.

Steve Pera - 1981

Application Developer, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska

Steve Pera was born in Kansas and grew up in Wisconsin and North Carolina. After graduating from Valpo, he went to Christ Seminary - Seminex and finished an M.Div. at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago after an internship in Stadthagen, Germany. He then earned an M.A. in Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin Madison. He worked a series of clerical jobs in Wisconsin and Nebraska, which led him to an interest in databases and user interfaces. He met his wife, Janet Seger, at the E.L.C.A. Lutheran Campus Center in Madison. They are celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary this year. They moved to Omaha when Janet took a faculty position in Physics at Creighton University. Eventually Steve studied applied computer science at Creighton and has been developing databases and internal web applications for the past seventeen years at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Steve and Janet have two children, daughter Sophia Marie (17) and son Eric Nathaniel (15). Steve sings with the MasterSingers, an *a cappella* jazz ensemble, stays active in church music (cello, electric bass, and voice) and dabbles occasionally in community theater.

Katherine Peters - 2006

International Educator, Institute for Central American Development Studies
San José, Costa Rica; St. Louis, Missouri

After graduation, Kat Peters spent two years working as a volunteer in Valparaiso, developing the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Mission Society and promoting connections between Hispanic immigrants and local residents in Valpo. In 2008 she moved to Costa Rica to carry out a one-year internship at the Central American Lutheran Church. That one year turned into nearly nine. During her years of living in Costa Rica, she became Assistant Director at the Institute for Central American Development Studies, completed a Master's Degree in Education (Framingham State University and coursework (thesis pending) for a Master's Degree in Rural Development (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales), married a Costa Rican, bought a house, and had a baby (Matthew, August, 2016). In April of 2017 she and her family moved back to the United States, where they will be undergoing the stages of cultural adjustment for the foreseeable future.

Lara Pudwell – 2003

Mathematics and Statistics Professor, Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Mathematics and Computer Science, Lara Pudwell completed a Ph.D. in Mathematics at Rutgers in 2008. She returned to Valpo as a faculty member that fall. In 2014, Lara won the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member, an award given to two or three faculty members nationwide per year. Lara is the 2017-2018 vice chair and the 2018-2019 chair for the Indiana Section of the Mathematical Association of America. She is passionate about doing research projects with undergraduates, having worked with more than thirty mathematics research students in the past decade; a number of these research students have also been Christ College students. Lara is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Susan (Peters) Rosborough - 1978

Attorney, Allstate Insurance Company
Oak Park, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Home Economics and Humanities, Susan Peters Rosborough earned a J.D. at Duke University School of Law in 1981. Immediately out of law school, she was hired into the Law Department of Allstate Insurance Company, where she has been employed ever since. She currently heads the Benefits, Labor, and Employment practice of Allstate. In 1987, she married Gene Rosborough, who died in 1997. Since graduation, she has been involved with Valpo in a variety of capacities. She served as Alumni Association President. She is host coordinator of the C.C. Reading Group for Chicago-West. She is a member of the Christ College National Council. She has also been a long-time board member for Lutheran Life Communities, a senior living organization. She is a member of First Saint Paul Lutheran Church, where she has held a variety of leadership positions and sings in the choir. Since school, she has have traveled extensively, and she is proud to have served on mission trips to western China, Kenya, and Guatemala through MOST ministries.

Jamie Petitto - 2008

Digital Media Producer, Self Employed
Winthrop, Washington

At Valpo, Jamie Petitto played for the Reserve Soccer Team and traveled the country with Soul Purpose (V.U.'s liturgical drama troupe). She graduated *summa cum laude* with a major in Radio/Television and a minor in Spanish. Jamie spent her final semester of college at the L.A.F.S.C. in Los Angeles, eventually finding work at International Creative Management, one of the largest talent and literary agencies in Hollywood. She then made her way in front of the camera, appearing in numerous commercials as well as on shows like *Modern Family* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*. Simultaneously, Jamie spent five years as a writer, host and eventual Video Producer for the YouTube channel "Gurl," which now boasts over half a million subscribers from around the world. In 2015, Jamie moved to Winthrop, Washington, a middle-of-nowhere mountain town, to be with her fish biologist boyfriend Ryan. They bought their first home together in May of this year, and because Jamie loves attention, she successfully submitted to HGTV's House Hunters. Her episode will air soon! When she isn't working as a campaign manager for a county commissioner candidate, a graphic designer for the *Methow Valley News*, a drone videographer for Methow Blue Sky Real Estate, or a headshot/engagement/baby photographer for her friends, Jamie happily spends her time raising chickens, training for her first marathon, and binge watching late night TV shows on YouTube with Ryan. When she finds time to breathe, she heads to Spain for her V.U. roomie's wedding, or to New Haven, Connecticut, for her V.U. soccer teammate's wedding, or to Seattle to go hiking with her V.U. Theatre Honors Society buddies. At Valpo, you makes friends for life!

Leah Phillippi - 2007

Pediatrician, Children's Medical Group
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Leah Phillippi earned an M.D. at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago and completed pediatrics residency at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She worked as a pediatric hospitalist at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin while earning a Master's Degree in Public Health with a certificate in global health at the University of Wisconsin Madison. She is now working as a general pediatrician in Milwaukee. Leah has continued to enjoy building homes internationally and travels to Potters House International in Guatemala yearly. She also leads a Christ College reading group in Milwaukee.

Brian Piazza - 1986

Surgeon, St. Joseph Physician Network, Regional Medical Center
Plymouth, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Brian Piazza earned an M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Specializing in General Surgery including surgical oncology, pediatric surgery, upper and lower endoscopy, and laparoscopy (cholecystectomy, appendectomy, herniorrhaphy, bowel resection, and Nissen Fundoplication), Brian is currently President-Elect of the Medical Staff at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Plymouth, Indiana. A member of multiple organizations, including Christian Medical Association (formerly C.M.D.S.), Indiana Chapter of American College of Surgeons, Midwest Surgical, Indiana State Medical Society and Marshall County Medical Society, Brian also finds time to serve in his church and community. With wife Annika, he has two children, Benjamin and Annalise. He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Mel Piehl –1968

Senior Research Professor in History and Humanities in Christ College, Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

Mel Piehl received a B.A. from Valparaiso University with majors in History and Philosophy and a Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. His scholarly interests have centered on American intellectual and religious history, with particular attention to American Catholic history and the relations between religion and social thought. Mel's book *Breaking Bread: The Catholic Worker and the Origin of Catholic Radicalism in America* was reviewed in the *New York Times* and widely elsewhere, and was a finalist for the Robert Kennedy National Book Award. A new edition of *Breaking Bread* was published in 2007. He is also co-author of an American history text, *The Brief American Pageant*, and his writings on American Catholicism have appeared in numerous books and journals. Mel joined the Christ College faculty in 1977. In 1990 he served as the co-chair of Valparaiso University's first Martin Luther King Day Observance. He was a Fellow of the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Affairs at St. John's University in Minnesota in 1986-87, and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Dayton in 2001-2002. From 2003-2013 he served as the fourth Dean of Christ College. In 2013-2014 he was the Visiting Scholar in Catholic Studies at Seattle University. He retired from teaching at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 academic year, and is currently Senior Research Professor in History and Humanities in Christ College. Mel is married to Eileen Piehl (V.U. 1967). They have two daughters: Valerie Piehl, an assistant high school principal in Fishers, Indiana, and Stephanie Farrell, an architect in Silver Spring, Maryland, as well as two grandsons, Owen and Eamon Farrell.

David Piehler - 1977

Attorney, Piehler & Strande, S.C.
Wausau, Wisconsin

The day prior to his graduation from Valparaiso University on May 22, 1977, Dave Piehler married Polly (Paula) Harman, whom he met in the C.C. Freshman Program in 1973-74. They've been married for forty years and have two grown sons. Dave attended law school at the University of Wisconsin Madison while working as an Engineer in Training and a law clerk, and also writing and editing for the Wisconsin Law Review. He has practiced law in Wausau, Wisconsin, since 1980. He's also licensed in Wisconsin as a Registered Professional Engineer. He's been legal counsel to the North Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod since 1993 (succeeding his father after his retirement) and has served the synod on national boards and committees. He's volunteered in civic positions for the City of Wausau, including the Airport Committee, the Ethics Board and the Community Development Authority Commission, which he chaired from 2008-2014. His hobbies include aviation, hunting, and puttering at his cabin in the woods. He gets to Valpo a couple of times a year for meetings of the Christ College National Council.

Jennifer Prough – 1991

Associate Professor and Interim Dean of Christ College, Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Psychology and East Asian Studies, Jennifer Prough embarked on many years of graduate study gathering an M.A. in the Social Sciences and Gender Studies and Feminist Theory along the way and culminating in a Ph.D. in Anthropology concentrating on contemporary Japan. During that journey, Jeni married Andrew Richter (C.C. 1990), and they lived in Chicago, New York, Durham, North Carolina, Tokyo, and Memphis. They have a son named Emmett (13) who is a budding thespian and scientist. In 2005 Jeni and Andy returned to Valpo where Andy joined the Physics faculty and Jeni re-entered Christ College as a Visiting Professor, then Assistant Professor and now Associate Professor. In 2011 her first book, *Straight from the Heart: Gender, Intimacy and the Cultural Production of Shojo Manga*, was published by the University of Hawai'i Press. She is currently finishing a manuscript titled *A Brand of History: Heritage and Culture in the Kyoto Tourism Industry*, which examines the ways that tradition, history, and culture are produced, packaged, promoted, and consumed in the Kyoto tourist industry. Outside of Mueller Hall Jeni pursues more tactile than cerebral hobbies including, knitting, biking, and sampling local craft beers with friends. Oh, yes, and she is Dean of Christ College this year and has been disappointed to find that no small wizard lives behind the curtain.

Matthew Provenzano - 2000

Physician, Franciscan Healthcare
Valparaiso, Indiana

Upon graduating from Valparaiso University, Matt Provenzano continued his education in Maryland, Iowa, Cincinnati and eventually settled down right where he started. He is a pediatric ear, nose and throat doctor in the Valparaiso area where he lives with his seven children and wife Shana. When not attending endless sports events or changing diapers, he enjoys reading, pretending that he is making good use out of his Y.M.C.A. membership and working on home projects. On some weekends, he travels to Ohio for Air Force duty as a reservist. He is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Lauren Prusinski - 2013

Graduate Research Assistant, Augusta University
Augusta, Georgia

Immediately following graduation from Valparaiso University with majors in Biochemistry, Chinese & Japanese Studies and Humanities, Lauren Prusinski continued her academic pursuits in a dual-degree M.D.-Ph.D. program at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Having completed the first two years of medical school and two years of her graduate school research, Lauren looks forward to defending her Ph.D. thesis in the spring of 2018. Her dissertation focuses on human uterine myometrial and fibroid stem cells and DNA repair and their implications in fibroid development. At international conferences she has presented papers relating to reproductive health and received several awards for her pre-doctoral work, both international (2017 Society for Reproductive Investigation Best New Investigator Poster Award) and local (2017 Augusta University Graduate Research Day -- Excellence in Research). Lauren plans to graduate (finally) from the program in spring of 2020. In the meantime, Lauren enjoys walking with her high school sweetheart-now-husband, Kegan Fernung, along the Augusta Canal with their "tripawd" dog, Phoebe, powerlifting, and cooking/baking new healthy recipes. Lauren hopes one day to combine her passion for functional wellness with her growing knowledge in medical research to create a vocation that shows people how to optimize their well-being through physical, nutritional, and mental training.

James “J.R.” Radcliffe - 2004

Sports Director, Lake Country Publications and Now Newspapers in Suburban Milwaukee
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Currently, JR Radcliffe serves as Sports Director for Lake Country Publications and Now Newspapers in Suburban Milwaukee, essentially the community arm of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. He doesn't view his job as a ticket to fame or fortune, but he looks forward to work every day and truly loves what he does, telling stories in creative ways. He is married to Liz Unger (V.U. 2004), a Lutheran school teacher in nearby Greendale, and they have two children, Owen (5) and Lydia (3). Occasionally, as a freelancer, JR has the chance to fulfill a lifelong dream, covering the Milwaukee Brewers. He's also covered the Bucks, the Packers and Marquette University basketball.

Gretchen (Radtke) Rasmussen - 1999

Associate Director of Compliance, Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.
Fairfield, Iowa

After graduating with a degree in Music Enterprises, Gretchen Radtke Rasmussen spent two years in Kingston, Jamaica, as a volunteer coordinator with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Board for Mission Services. Following her mission service, Gretchen moved to St. Louis and worked for Lutheran Hour Ministries. She met her husband, Arik Rasmussen, in 2003 and relocated to Fairfield, Iowa. For the last thirteen years, Gretchen has worked for Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer headquartered in Fairfield. She currently serves as Associate Director of Compliance. Gretchen and Arik have been blessed with two boys, Christian (9) and Reece (5). Aside from work and family, Gretchen enjoys volunteering at church and as Iowa East District Treasurer for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Jeremy Reed - 2012

Ph.D. Student in Creative Writing, The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English, Spanish and Humanities, Jeremy Reed went to France and Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage with fellow Valpo graduates Paul Albers, Jake Just (C.C. 2012), Emily Royer (C.C. 2012), and Lauren Zager (C.C. 2012). Jeremy then moved to Western Montana where he received an M.A. in English from the University of Montana in 2014. After a year working as a college prep tutor in Missoula, he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, to pursue a Ph.D. in Creative Writing at the University of Tennessee where he is currently studying poetry. In June 2017, he married Ellen Orner (C.C. 2010).

Andrew Richter - 1990

Physics Professor, Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

Andrew Richter graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Physics. He attended Marquette University and then Northwestern University, spending the entire 1990's as a graduate student, which was lovely. He earned a Ph.D. in Physics in 2000 for using high-intensity x-rays to study how nanomaterials self-assemble. After a post-doc at Argonne National Lab, he spent a year and half as a research fellow at a nanoscience lab in Tsukuba, Japan, having been coerced out of the country by his partner, Jennifer Prough (C.C. 1991), who studies Japanese culture. That was really lovely. He then served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis for three years before joining the Valpo faculty in 2005. He and Jeni have a son (13), who intends to come to Valpo to study Physics and be in Christ College, so they must be doing something right.

Michael Rickman - 1984

Attorney, Compliance & Ethics Professional, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Akron, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Political Science and a Business minor, Michael Rickman earned a J.D. from Washington University St. Louis School of Law in 1987. Since February 2013, Michael Rickman has been Vice President, Compliance & Ethics at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Prior to that, his wife Dawn (V.U. 2011, honorary) and Michael lived in Shanghai, China, while he was Goodyear's Associate General Counsel--Asia Pacific. He has been with Goodyear for twenty years, including as Associate General Counsel, North America, for ten years. He has made presentations at conferences on white collar and competition law and compliance and ethics topics. Michael and Dawn have been active members of the Akron community and have held various positions in Lutheran congregations. Michael served on the Akron Blue Ribbon Commission following the 2015 mayoral election, and Dawn has volunteered at the Akron Civic Theatre. Michael is also Past President of the Valparaiso University Alumni Association, which included a stint on the Lutheran University Association Board of Directors. He has also been a member of the C.C. Alumni Advisory Board. Michael broadcasts high school football and boys and girls basketball games for Hudson Community Television.

Alan Rider - 1970

Pastor and Counselor (Retired), Servants of Christ Church, E.L.C.A.
Indianapolis, Indiana

After two years of urban immersion service in Washington D.C., Alan Rider attended Gettysburg Seminary (L.C.A.), did a pastoral internship in the San Francisco Bay Area, and in 1977 was ordained at St. Mark Lutheran Church in suburban D.C. He served there in youth ministry for four years, then launched a new mission at Christ the Servant Lutheran in Reston, Virginia (L.C.A.), and subsequently accepted a call to Trinity International congregation in Frankfurt, Germany. While serving at Trinity, he also embraced a part-time position supporting U.S. and Canadian Lutheran chaplaincy throughout Europe and the Middle East from 1986-92. His chaplaincy support responsibilities involved extensive travel in Central and Eastern Europe before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall, which his family witnessed. In the days after the collapse of Soviet domination, just after the Russian military withdrawal, Alan and his wife Karen were instrumental in the launch of the new International Church of Prague. After returning to the U.S., Alan earned an M.A. in Career/Vocational Counseling and spent a decade based in Lexington, Kentucky, as a counselor, trainer, and college instructor in career development. He returned to parish ministry in 2006 as Pastor at Servants of Christ Church (E.L.C.A.) in Indianapolis from which he retired in 2014. He is currently working in two part-time roles: in private practice as a spiritual-vocational director and as Global Webinar Coordinator for Sage-ing International, an interfaith non-profit promoting conscious spiritual eldering. Alan has conducted twenty-one Luther-Bach-Cranach international study tours in Germany for a variety of groups, the most recent one this past summer, Alan making good use of his Valpo History major. Karen is a church office manager. Two grown sons work in Columbus, Ohio, and Louisville, Kentucky, and Alan and Karen have one granddaughter so far. For the Riders, life is good.

Carolyn Riehl – 1973

Higher Education Faculty, Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, New York

Having no idea what to do with her Humanities degree, (weren't there already plenty of scholarly articles about *Hamlet* and what more could she say?), Carolyn Riehl spent the last term of her senior year in the Urban Studies Program in Chicago, thus having not one but two transformative experiences thanks to Valpo. Eventually, she chased down and married fellow alum Peter Santogade (make that three transformative experiences), and they have roamed the country ever since, living in Madison, Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, Greensboro, North Carolina, and New York City. At some point, Carolyn realized that the discipline of Sociology was quite cool, and specifically that using its analytic tools was just as artful as literary theory and maybe a tad more useful. With a Ph.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University, she's spent her career researching organizational dynamics in education and teaching aspiring school principals and superintendents, policy analysts and budding sociologists, who want to understand where all this inequity comes from. She and Pete have two daughters, wonderful in every way save their disinterest in Christ College (their loss!). She may be the oldest living alum of Christ College who has never used recreational drugs, not even once. But there's still time. It's been a great life. Thanks to Christ College! (By the way, according to the Columbia University Library, 34,027 articles about *Hamlet* have been published since 1973.)

Katherine Rinda - 2016

Engineer, Pratt & Whitney
Glastonbury, Connecticut

Katherine Rinda graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Mechanical Engineering and minors in German and Chemistry. Shortly thereafter, she moved halfway across the country to start her career at Pratt & Whitney, makers of dependable engines. A position in the F135 Sustainment Division has given her the opportunity to travel all over the country, visiting Air Force bases as a Support Equipment Project Engineer. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers.

Jakob Rinderknecht - 2002

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Pastoral Institute, University of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, Texas

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Jakob Rinderknecht spent time at Holden Village, and then at Saint John's University in Minnesota, where he pursued a vocation as a Benedictine monk for several years. After deciding to leave the monastery, and living in Utah for several years, he returned to complete a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Marquette University. He is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Director of the Pastoral Institute at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. His area of specialization is ecumenical and fundamental theology, and he is especially concerned with questions about how different, divided Christianities can sustain dialogue with each other and find consensus. In 2016, his *Mapping the Differentiated Consensus of the Joint Declaration* was published by Palgrave Macmillan. He is currently editing a volume in which several scholars apply approaches drawn from cognitive mapping to theological and religious studies topics. That book will be published by Fortress Press.

Christine Rinne - 1998

German Professor, University of South Alabama
Mobile, Alabama

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in German and I.E.C.A., Christine Rinne earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in German Literature from Indiana University. She then lived in Germany, New Hampshire, and Nevada in a search for a tenure-track job. In 2008, she moved to Mobile where she is currently Associate Professor of German at the University of South Alabama. She also directs the International Studies program and coordinates the Global Engagement Certificate program. She has a daughter, Clara (3).

Sarah Robertson - 2013

Physician
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sarah Robertson just completed her final year of medical school in New Orleans at Ochsner Clinical School and is now beginning her residency. She has been able to do some travelling and has spent a significant amount of time in the South Pacific (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, etc.) in 2014 and 2015, working in rural indigenous clinics as well as metropolitan hospitals.

Andrew Robinson - 2010

Choir Director, Munster High School
Crown Point, Indiana

Andrew Robinson is Choir Director at Munster High School in Munster, Indiana. He oversees a department of six choirs, teaches class piano, and serves as Music Director/Pit Conductor for all yearly musicals. In addition, Andrew is Director of Youth and Children's Music at Christ Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, where he leads all Pre-K through twelfth-grade musical ensembles. Beyond his jobs, Andrew is an active composer and arranger, and he was recently commissioned by several local groups as a vocal performer, accompanist, and actor. Andrew's wife Brooke (C.C. 2010) is an elementary music teacher for Crown Point Community School Corporation.

Connie (Roe) Stampfl - 1983

Emergency Physician (Retired)
Green Bay, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valpo with a major in Chemistry, Connie Roe Stampfl earned an M.D. at the University of Wisconsin and completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware. She married another physician, David Stampfl, whom she met during medical school at a church social event. She practiced Emergency Medicine in Green Bay for ten years, and then retired to be at home with their three children. This proved to be an immense blessing for the entire family, and she discovered the benefit of feeling well rested by sleeping every night. Not working outside the home allowed her to serve on the local public school board for six years, coordinate medical mission trips to Africa, and teach and host women's Bible studies. Her passions remain serving her family and church, studying God's Word, and appreciating the wonder and beauty of creation.

Doug Rogers – 1970

Co-Founder and Director, International Educational Consultants, L.L.C.
Exeter, New Hampshire

For thirty-two years, Doug Rogers, Cowles Professor in the Humanities, served as a teacher and administrator at Phillips Exeter Academy. From 2009 through 2012, Doug was Headmaster at Cheshire Academy, another of America's premier boarding/day schools. Doug holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and Master's Degrees in English and in Education from Colorado State University. Doug has published a number of articles and books, including critical volumes on American novelist and short-story writer, Sherwood Anderson. During Doug's time at Exeter, he taught English, chaired the English Department, created and directed the Stratford Program, and spent seven years as Director of the Phillips Exeter Academy Summer School. Amongst the Academy's most respected Harkness teachers, Doug was a recipient of the Brown Award for Teaching and the Rupert Radford '56 Faculty Fellowship. As Headmaster at Cheshire, Doug traveled extensively on behalf of the school's development and admissions offices. His travel carried him to major cities in China, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Japan. Doug lives in Exeter with Luanne, his wife of thirty-eight years and President of Courville Communities. Their two children are both Exeter graduates. Matt (Stanford 2006; Duke, M.B.A., 2014), works for the Boston Consulting Group. Emily (St. Andrews University 2015) lives and works in London.

Paul Rubio - 2013

Science Librarian, Oak Park Public Library, LAC Group
Oak Park, Illinois

Paul Rubio graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Meteorology and minors in Mathematics and Spanish. In a quest to become a scientific librarian, he earned a Master's Degree in Library and Informational Service at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, in 2016. Currently, he works at two different jobs: in the Materials Services Department at the Oak Park Public Library, serving the community where he grew up, and where he served as a library volunteer during his youth; and for LAC Group on assignment at the downtown Chicago office of NERA Economic Consulting doing content management of project records. Paul has been very involved in various ministries at his home parish, Ascension Roman Catholic Church in Oak Park. He has especially enjoyed teaching religious education for middle school students.

Claire (Rueffer) Schoepp - 2008

Deaconess, Luther Memorial Church of Chicago; St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square;
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Theology, Claire Rueffer Schoepp spent a year in Ft. Collins, Colorado, serving as a Deaconess Intern. After finishing her internship, Claire moved to Chicago where she began working in a dual parish. She earned a Master's Degree in Theology (Biblical Languages and Literature) from Loyola University. She currently works as a Child and Family Minister for Luther Memorial Church of Chicago, as Administrative Assistant at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, and as Operations Coordinator at Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. She also serves on the board of the Lutheran Deaconess Conference as Board Member at Large. Claire and Isaac Schoepp (V.U. 2007) were married in the fall of 2009. They sing together in their church choir and enjoy being patrons of theatre in Chicago.

Amanda (Saler) Archbold - 1998

Certified Genetic Counselor, Akron Children's Hospital
Akron, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Amanda Saler Archbold earned an M.S. in Human Genetics at the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Training Program in 1999. She has been working as a genetic counselor at the Genetic Center at Akron Children's Hospital in Akron, Ohio, since January of 2000. In her position as a genetic counselor, Amanda has worked with preconception, prenatal, pediatric, and adult populations, and has a special interest in the management of patients with inborn errors of metabolism and population-based newborn screening. Amanda currently serves on the Ohio Department of Health Newborn Screening Advisory Council. Amanda married Robert (Chad) Archbold in 2010, and they are the extremely proud parents of their daughter Katie (4).

Larry Saler - 1966

Biology Teacher (Retired)
Olney, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Larry Saler earned a Master of Arts in Teaching at Indiana University in 1968. He taught at I.U. as a Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology for three years and then moved to public school teaching, primarily Biology, along with some Chemistry and Physical Science. He retired in 2001. In 1970, Larry married his wife Beth and they have raised two children, Amanda (C.C. 1998) and Robert (C.C. 2001). Larry has remained active in the Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.) and has served his local congregation in many capacities. He is now on the synodical council. He remains interested in things biological and does extensive yard work and, though currently without pets, enjoyed raising Sheltie dogs for many years.

Robert Saler - 2001

Executive Director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence, Christian Theological Seminary
Indianapolis
Carmel, Indiana

Robert Saler is Executive Director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence and Research Professor of Lutheran Studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He is the author of two scholarly monographs and multiple articles, book chapters, and popular writings. Prior to coming to C.T.S. he served as a pastor in Gary, Indiana. He and his wife Kristen Saler (V.U. 2002) and two children live in Carmel, Indiana.

Peter Santogade - 1974

Gastroenterologist (Retired), Columbia University
New York, New York

After graduating from Valparaiso University, where his love for both science and the arts was confirmed, Peter Santogade earned an M.D. from the University of Wisconsin and a D.M.A. from the University of Michigan. He just retired this year from the gastroenterological faculty at Columbia University. But he has continued to be involved in music as well as biology for almost fifty years, forty-one of which have been shared with his wife Carolyn Riehl (C.C. 1973), whom he met at Valpo and got to know in Christ College. He did some professional singing and choir conducting, but mostly remained an amateur. Peter and Carolyn have two daughters.

Sarah (Sattler) Koch - 1997

High School/ Middle School Science Teacher, Fremont Community Schools
Angola, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Sarah Sattler Koch married Jon Koch (C.C. 1998). Sarah worked at S.R.I. International in Menlo Park, California, as a pharmaceutical chemist in the Biosciences Division. After six years, she and Jon moved to Milwaukee and had three boys. Sarah stayed home with the boys while they were young and worked in the evenings on getting her teaching certification from Marquette University. She taught at Marquette University High School before moving to Indiana where she now teaches at the Fremont Community Schools. She has an integrated physics and chemistry class at the high school and seventh- and eighth-grade classes at the middle school, as well as a project-based learning class.

Robert Scherpelz - 1970

Research Scientist, Health Physics (Retired), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Richland, Washington

After graduating from Valpo with a major in Physics, Bob Scherpelz taught high school Math and Physics in Hamlet/Grovertown, Indiana, for a year. He married Joy Knifton, (C.C. 1971), and they joined the Peace Corps and taught in the British West Indies. Subsequently, Bob earned an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering at Oregon State University. He worked for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Bob for thirty-five years on a variety of radiation protection problems, especially radiation measurements, personal dose assessment, and emergency response. He built an instrument for Chernobyl and worked on dose assessment for workers at Russia's Mayak nuclear plant. Joy spent her career teaching in public schools. Bob and Joy have two sons, both living in Seattle. Jeff is taking time off from software engineering to raise two kids, and Peter is a computational physicist. In retirement, Bob and Joy enjoy traveling, seeing their kids and grandkids, and volunteering in the school district, their church, and other non-profits.

Rick Schiming - 1969

Economics Professor (Retired), Minnesota State University Mankato
Easton, Maryland

After graduating from Valpo with a major in Economics, Rick Schiming received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Ohio State University. While at O.S.U., he met his wife, Trish Hargrove (at a campus demonstration of all places). Rick became an Economics faculty member and taught for thirty-eight years with the last thirty-one at Minnesota State University Mankato. While there, he co-authored a textbook in the principles of economics (from which he still receives some very modest royalties!). Rick and Trish retired in 2012 and moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to be near their daughter and her family. Rick is currently a board member of the Valparaiso University Alumni Association. One fun fact: at a Cleveland Indians Fantasy Camp, Rick got a single off of Hall of Famer Bob Feller.

Jill Schlueter-Kim - 1990

Executive Director, Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana
Highland, Indiana

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Jill Schlueter-Kim served for a year in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Chicago and then as a case worker with Lutheran Social Services. Her interest in social work led to an M.S.W. from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. Jill then worked as a parent counselor at The Cradle, an adoption agency in Chicago, before deciding to spend the next few years staying home to raise daughters Hayley, Zoe and Willa. Serious medical issues for Willa led to a move back home to Indiana. In 2007, Jill founded Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana and continues to serve as its Executive Director. She received the Alumni Community Service Award from the V.U. Alumni Association in 2014. Jill is married to Art Kim (V.U. 1990). Their daughter Hayley is beginning her second year at V.U. in Christ College.

Peter Schmalz - 1969

Director of Process Development, Advanced BioNutrition Corp.
Landenberg, Pennsylvania

Peter Schmalz is currently Director of Process Development for the Advanced BioNutrition Corporation in Columbia, Maryland, which develops technologies for enhanced efficacy of bioactives employed for improved human health and nutrition. He graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and earned an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1972. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Delaware and a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society. Following graduate school he was employed by the DuPont Company for thirty-eight years until his retirement, after which he served in a variety of managerial roles in R&D, engineering consulting, and facility design and construction within DuPont Engineering and in engineering technology and operations management within the DuPont Crop Protection business. He is active in a variety of leadership positions in his local church and has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware. He is currently serving on the Christ College National Council and also previously served on the President's Advisory Board of Valparaiso University. He and his wife, Elly, live in Landenberg, Pennsylvania.

Kati (Schmidt) Woock - 2010

Curatorial Assistant, Denver Art Museum
Denver, Colorado

Upon graduation from Valparaiso University with majors in Graphic Design and Humanities, Kati Schmidt Woock attended the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware. She wrote her thesis on the 1913 Arts & Crafts mansion of Thomas Plant in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. After graduating from Winterthur in 2012 with an M.A., she moved to Culver City, California, to work at the home decor retailer One Kings Lane for a year. In the spring of 2013, she became engaged to Kurt Woock (C.C. 2009). They married later that year and moved to downtown Denver, Colorado. Kati now works as the curatorial assistant for architecture, design, and graphics at the Denver Art Museum. She volunteers for Discover Denver, surveying and researching the 160,000 primary structures in Denver.

Paul Schmidt - 1976

Attorney, Boardman and Clark
Verona, Wisconsin

Paul Schmidt is an attorney at the Boardman and Clark Law Firm in Madison, Wisconsin. He and his wife Christine have three great kids (Ryan, Katelyn, and Sam). Paul and Christine settled in Madison after years migrating around the Midwest. They love the Wisconsin summers (not so much the winters). One of Paul's proudest achievements since graduation was his bronze medal in the 2008 Badger State Games in badminton - there were four entries. He also enjoys connecting with classmates from the past and working with non-profits. His bucket list includes a visit to New Zealand and seeing both his parents reach age 100.

Benjamin A. Schnakenberg - 2000

Partner, High Road Capital Partners
Rye, New York

Ben Schnakenberg graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Political Science and English and a minor in Business. He started his career in finance at LaSalle Bank in Chicago, where he was the top-scoring member of LaSalle's credit analyst program and was selected for early placement in LaSalle's Leveraged Finance Group. After three years in leveraged finance and commercial banking at LaSalle, Ben joined Madison Capital Funding, a subsidiary of New York Life Investment Management, where he provided senior and subordinated debt financing and equity co-investments in support of middle-market buyout transactions and at which time he also obtained the Chartered Financial Analyst certification. Ben then elected to pursue an opportunity at the bank where he had started his career to serve as the chief of staff to the C.E.O. of LaSalle Bank, a top-ten U.S. bank and leading Midwest middle market commercial lender. Ben served in this role through LaSalle's acquisition for \$20 billion by Bank of America and then served as a member of the LaSalle/BofA integration task force, after which he elected to complete an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2009 before returning to investing in smaller, middle-market companies to help them develop and execute transformational growth strategies. Ben joined High Road Capital Partners, a lower-middle market-focused private equity firm, and was named a Partner of High Road in 2013. He has been involved in M&A transactions with cumulative enterprise values in excess of \$550 million and has been profiled as a "Rising Star in Private Equity" by DowJones & Co.'s Private Equity Analyst. Ben and his wife Carla have two young children and live in a suburb of New York City, where Ben enjoys running (full- and half-marathons), sailing and skiing. He is currently training for his first Olympic-distance Triathlon. Ben is Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Rye Presbyterian Church and is Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of Global Glimpse, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that provides transformational leadership and service experiences to underprivileged high-school youth throughout the United States.

Terry Schnell - 1979

Attorney, Mylan
Morgantown, West Virginia

After graduating from Valparaiso with a B.S. in Biology, Terry worked in a laboratory for three years in Joliet, Illinois. He married Kathy Carlson (V.U. 1980) in 1981, and the next year they moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he started law school at the University of Oregon, earning a J.D. 1985. He practiced law with a small environmental services company in Minnesota, then at Westinghouse Electric Corporation and at a law firm in Pittsburgh. In 2001, he took the patent bar exam and became a patent attorney. Three years later, he moved from the law firm in Pittsburgh to Mylan in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he now works on intellectual property issues to help bring generic drugs to market. Terry and Kathy have three married sons and one grandson. They have led worship at their church for several years. Terry plays guitar and sings regularly at Morgantown restaurants. He is an avid backpacker and environmentalist.

Isaac Schoepp - 2007

Theatre Designer, Crew, Actor, Freelance
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Theatre and Humanities, Isaac Schoepp spent a semester aboard a 130-foot brigantine tallship with Sea Education Association, based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He sailed the high seas, conducting oceanographic research and learning about the maritime history of our nation with his fellow classmates. Upon his return to terra firma in the fall of 2007 he began his career in theatre in Chicago, starting as a freelance carpenter, and actor. He soon found a home with the Lookingglass Theatre Company, where he has served as run crew, actor, master carpenter, and rigging designer. His days 'before the mast' came full circle when he designed the rigging for Lookingglass' adaptation of *Moby Dick*, a production for which he won a Joseph Jefferson Award in Artistic Specialization. He is also Associate Artist with the Actors Gymnasium, a school in Evanston, Illinois, closely connected to Lookingglass, and devoted to teaching the circus arts within the context of theatre. Isaac continues to work in theatre around the Chicago, as well as nationally. Since 2011 he has returned to Valpo each fall to helm the Christ College Freshman Drama Workshop and direct the Freshman Production. He married Claire Rueffer (V.U. 2008) in the fall of 2009, and they live in the Lincoln Square neighborhood on the north side of Chicago.

Travis Scholl - 1996

Professor and Writer, Concordia Seminary St. Louis
Saint Louis, Missouri

Following graduation from Valparaiso University, Travis Scholl held church-related jobs for several years before attending Yale Divinity School. Since graduation and ordination, he returned to Saint Louis to write, edit, and teach at Concordia Seminary. He published his first book, *Walking the Labyrinth*, in 2014, and is expecting to complete a Ph.D. in English in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 2018. Travis met his wife Jennifer a couple years after Valpo, and together they are raising two children, Justin and Evan.

Andrew Schrader - 2014

Solar Thermochemist, Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

Andrew Schrader graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Humanitarian Engineering. He continued his studies at Georgia Institute of Technology as a graduate research assistant in the Solar Fuels and Technologies Laboratory. He has published a number of journal articles in the field of solar thermochemistry and proposed his Ph.D. dissertation in May 2017. He is married to Amanda Otey (V.U. 2014).

Allison Schuette - 1993

English Professor, Writer, Documentarian, Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Allison Schuette earned an M.F.A. in Creative Nonfiction at Penn State. She is a writer interested in documenting lives through text, audio, and video in a variety of genres. Her creative work has appeared in *Slag Glass City*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Gulf Coast Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and other journals. In 2014, she was an artist-in-residence at Ragdale, and her work there won the Indianapolis-based Khaos Company Theatre's Dionysian Festival. An Associate Professor in the English Department at Valparaiso University, she also co-directs the Welcome Project, an online, digital story collection used to foster conversations about community life and civic engagement. The Welcome Project's most recent initiative, Flight Paths, explores the history and unfolding of de-urbanization and the fracturing of neighborhoods, communities, and regions in post-industrial America through the specific example of Gary, Indiana. Allison has received two National Endowment for the Humanities grants related to her work on the Welcome Project.

Russ Schumacher - 2001

Atmospheric Science Professor, Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado

At Valparaiso University, Russ Schumacher majored in Meteorology and Humanities. Following Graduation, he entered the graduate program in Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. He received an M.S. in 2003 and a Ph.D. in 2008. He was then a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University. In 2011, he returned to Colorado State to join the faculty and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2016. His research and teaching interests include mesoscale meteorology, extreme precipitation, numerical weather prediction, and societal impacts of weather and climate. During these years, Russ also completed a successful run on the TV quiz show *Jeopardy!*, including winning the Tournament of Champions in 2004 and reaching the semifinals of the Battle of the Decades tournament in 2014. Russ and his wife Andrea have a son, Stanley (4). Russ serves on the Christ College National Council.

Christopher Schunter - 2009

Prospect Research Analyst, Valparaiso University Department of Advancement
Valparaiso, Indiana

Chris Schunter has worked as a research analyst in Advancement at Valpo since 2015. Before that, he worked as an archivist at the Bentley Historical Library on the University of Michigan's campus. He also worked as an archivist for History Associates, a private company. Chris received his Master's Degree in Information Science from the University of Michigan in 2012. He is a member of A.P.R.A., a professional association for researchers in advancement.

Mark Schwehn - 1967

Professor of Humanities in Christ College
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso, Mark Schwehn went to Stanford University where he earned a Ph.D. in History and Humanities in 1977. His dissertation won the Allen Nevins Prize, awarded annually by the Society of American Historians to the most distinguished Ph.D. thesis in the field of American History. While in graduate school, he taught at San Jose State University for two years, hoping to keep his 2-A deferment from the Armed Forces, given his opposition to the Vietnam War. He accepted a teaching position at the University of Chicago in 1975, first as a Harper Fellow (1975-1978) and later as an Assistant Professor in the Committee on General Studies in the Humanities (1978-1983). In 1983 he began teaching in Christ College where he served as Dean from 1990 until 2003. After some time away to write, he became Interim Program Director for the Lilly Fellows Program and resumed teaching duties in Christ College until 2009, when he became Provost of Valparaiso University, a position he held until 2014, after which he again returned to the Christ College faculty. Mark has edited or authored a number of books while on the faculty, including *A William James Renaissance* (Harvard, 1982); *Exiles from Eden* (Oxford, 1993); *Everyone a Teacher* (Notre Dame, 2000); and, with Dorothy Bass, *Leading Lives that Matter* (Eerdmans, 2006). He founded within Christ College the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts and served as Project Director of that program from its inception in 1991 until 2009. He has served on numerous boards for educational organizations such as the Association for Religion in Intellectual life and the *Journal of Liberal Education*. He has been married to Dorothy Bass since 1983 and has written several articles and books with her. He has three children and five grand children.

Peter Schwich - 2007

Pastor, Redeemer Church, Chicago & Park Ridge, Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

After studying history at Valparaiso University, Peter Schwich worked odd jobs for a few years before getting a graduate degree in social sciences, focused on history. He eventually enrolled in seminary at North Park Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree. He will be ordained as a pastor in October 2017. He works as a church planter for Redeemer Church on the northwest side of Chicago. His wife Jade teaches social studies and language arts at Eisenhower Junior High in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

Hannah Scupham - 2013

Graduate Teaching Assistant, English Department, University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and German, Hannah Scupham spent a year abroad in Chemnitz, Germany, as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. Her love of teaching brought her back to the U.S. and to the University of Kansas, where she is completing an M.A. in English Literature. At Kansas, she is a graduate teaching assistant, and she also serves as the co-president for the Student Association of Graduates in English. In the fall of 2017, she will continue her studies at Kansas toward a Ph.D. in nineteenth-century British Literature as a Chancellor's Fellow. Hannah will also continue to represent her Valpo roots as a Lilly Graduate Fellow. When not grading student papers, Hannah enjoys binge-watching Netflix, cross-stitching with friends, and reading trashy novels.

Stephanie Sepiol - 2013

Alumni Engagement Officer, Valparaiso University
Munster, Indiana

Stephanie Sepiol graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Digital Media and Creative Writing. After undergrad, Stephanie completed her Master of Nonprofit Administration Degree at North Park University in Chicago while teaching at HGS Music in Highland, Indiana, and coaching speech for the nationally ranked Munster High School Speech and Debate Team. Stephanie recently returned to Valpo as an Alumni Engagement Officer in July of 2017. In addition to serving as a soloist for Westminster Presbyterian Church of Munster, Stephanie is an active member of the Valparaiso University Bach Choir and the Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Chapter.

Carol Severino - 1971

Rhetoric Professor, University of Iowa
North Liberty, Iowa

Like many Valpo grads of the seventies era, Carol Severino became a caseworker for the Lake County Department of Public Welfare. What an eye-opener! She learned so much about people, politics, and poverty and got the chance to speak Spanish every day. When she became frustrated that she couldn't help people because of the system, she went to graduate school to study applied linguistics and then got a great job in a special program teaching composition at the University of Illinois Chicago. They had a new Ph.D. program there that was free to teachers, so she took advantage. Meanwhile, she met her future husband, they bought a house in Chicago and had a set of twins. When Carol got her doctorate, she landed a job as a faculty member and as Writing Center Director at the University of Iowa where she has been teaching, researching, and writing since 1990. When Carol is not working, she hangs out with her six-year old bilingual granddaughter at her house out in the country on a lake. One of Carol's sons, his wife, and her granddaughter have been attending the local E.L.C.A. church. Carol feels that life is good, and she is grateful to God.

William Sheline - 2011

Jet Engine Designer, Williams International
Detroit, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, William Sheline discovered that his work as an eccentric intellectual was not complete. He moved to a Ph.D. program at Georgia Tech. While there, he began to develop an energy storage system that uses sand to store solar energy. However, before he became too 'piled high and deep' (from the sand of course!), he decided to move to a former research company turned jet engine manufacturing company. He spends his days designing tiny thing-a-ma-jigs strong enough to take the force of a truck's weight and the temperatures of a glass kiln, with machining precision similar to a Swiss watch. If you ask him about the rumors, he'll tell you "I don't care what the townies say: there is no secret government missile facility under the pond! We are privately owned."

Grace Shemwell - 2014

Attorney, Ford, Parshall & Baker
Columbia, Missouri

Grace Shemwell has been involved with the Missouri Juvenile Office and the Court Appointed Special Advocates for neglected and abused children. She has just received a J.D. whereupon, after taking the bar, she will start employment at Ford, Parshall, & Baker in Columbia, Missouri. She has been involved in the Women's Law Association, Student Bar Association, Criminal Law Association, Black Law Student Association, law review, and several other organizations.

Heidi Sherer - 1991

Speech-Language Pathologist, Columbus City Schools
Columbus, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Heidi Sherer earned a Master's Degree in Communication Disorders from Bowling Green State University. She has served as a Speech-Language Pathologist in private practice, hospitals, home health, sheltered work facilities, and school systems. After collaborating in northwest Indiana with a community-based team in LaPorte Schools, and serving typical K-12 caseloads in Porter County Inter-local Schools, Heidi moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 2000 where she has served the largest urban district in the state, Columbus City. She currently facilitates better language skills on classroom-based teams for middle and high school students and at vocational training sites. A member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, she serves as a cantor, usher, and healing team member. She has sung with Columbus Women's Chorus, The Magpie Consort, Trinity Lutheran Seminary Choir, and a variety of other choral and instrumental music collaborations. Heidi continues to write poetry and songs, and has been a member of Song Writers Association of Northern Indiana as well as Folk Alliance International. She shared her home with feline companions Salie and Ray for nearly two decades and presently lives with Lauren and Alexis, two-year-old litter mates she met as a volunteer at local shelter Cat Welfare. She continues to pursue training in spiritual healing through Healing In America's internship program, and she is also interested in animal assisted therapy.

Matthew Sherrier - 2017

Sales Engineer, Keyence Corporation
Boston, Massachusetts

Matthew Sherrier graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. During his time at Valpo he served as the director of TEDx, was the vice president of recruitment for Sigma Phi Epsilon, and was the team leader for his senior design project working with Markiewicz Solar Facility. He works for the Keyence Corporation in Boston as a sales engineer.

Paul A. Sieving - 1970

Director, National Eye Institute, U.S. National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Paul Sieving married Pamela Carey (C.C. 1970), six months after graduation from Valparaiso University. He has an M.S. in Nuclear Physics from Yale University, an M.D. from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in Bioengineering, also from Illinois. His time at Yale also included a year at Yale Law School, which still regards him as being on leave of absence. Following a residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Illinois, he did fellowship training at the University of California San Francisco and at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, finally taking a faculty position at the University of Michigan Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences. In 2001 he was appointed Director of the National Eye Institute at N.I.H, the second director in the now fifty- year history of the N.E.I. His clinical specialty is in inherited retinal degenerations; he is currently conducting one of the first human gene therapy trials, for an X-linked retinal disease, and continues to direct a laboratory as well as managing the N.E.I.'s nearly \$700 million budget, 90% of which supports research programs at universities in the U.S. and internationally. Paul is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, and of the German Academy of Sciences (the Leopoldina) as well as several U.S. and international organizations of ophthalmology and vision researchers, and the D.C. Cosmos Club. He has received several honorary degrees. Paul and Pam have two sons, Ted, an attorney and C.O.O. of Work Evolution Laboratories in Long Beach, California, and Matt, an attorney with Bloom Energy, in Sunnyvale, California. Matt is married to Lia Izenberg, director of the College Persistence Office of the KIPP Foundation. Paul continues to enjoy the occasional woodworking project, honing his fly fishing skills, and contemplating finally mastering the virginal he built during his time at Yale Law (not claiming any relationship between the two).

Kevin Simons - 1995

User Experience Group Manager, Oracle
Dexter, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Kevin Simons continued his study of Psychology at Miami University Ohio where he completed a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Human Factors/Ergonomics. Immediately after graduation, Kevin moved to Cincinnati and took a position as a user experience designer with a CAD/CAM/CAE software company. He later held a similar role for an online legal research provider. It was in Cincinnati that Kevin met his wife, Julie, and they were married in 2003. In 2007, Kevin and Julie moved to the Ann Arbor, Michigan, area, where Kevin began working for an ecommerce platform provider. Kevin and Julie continue to live in the Ann Arbor area with their three daughters, Bethany (11), Madelyn (9) and Lily (4).

David W. Simpson - 1969

Director of Counseling and Clinical Practice, Youth Guidance Chicago
Maywood, Illinois

After graduating from Valpo, David Simpson spent a year in V.I.S.T.A. in Iowa, entered national service as a conscientious objector, and spent a year teaching junior high in inner city Chicago. He earned an M.S.W. from the University of Illinois Chicago in 1977 and a J.D. from Loyola Chicago in 1980. For the past forty-six years, David has worked for Youth Guidance (an innovative non-profit providing counseling and other services inside Chicago public schools) as a clinician and administrator. David's professional interests are in the intersection between social services and education. He has also taught a graduate course in Supervision and Staff Development at the University of Chicago. His interest in international social work has allowed him to travel to many places. David is married to Carrie (Schueler) Simpson (V.U. 1970), a teacher. Their son Joshua (V.U. 2007) is married and works at the Indianapolis Regional Airport. Their daughter Emily (University of Illinois 2012) is a social service worker at Lutheran Life Services in Naples, Florida. David and Carrie have one grandson, Harrison Simpson (age 1). They belong to Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Illinois.

Mladenka (Sitnikoski) Rodriguez - 2013

Attorney, Biesecker, Dutkanych, & Macer, L.L.C.
Crown Point, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Political Science, Mladenka Rodriguez went on to earn a J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and an M.P.A. from I.U.P.U.I.'s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. After graduating in 2017, she began working as an associate attorney at an employment and labor law firm in Indianapolis. She currently works remotely for the firm from Crown Point, Indiana, and is a member of the Indiana State and Indianapolis Bar Associations. She is married to Frank Rodriguez (V.U. 2013).

Christine (Skultety) Bateman - 1999

Vice President of Marketing, Cornish College of the Arts
Seattle, Washington

From age four when she composed the musical tearjerker "Goodbye, McDonaldland, Goodbye" for her stuffed animal audience, Christine Bateman knew she wanted to be an arts marketer. And that's just what she did. Christine has raised the profile of Tony Award-winning theaters like Steppenwolf and Intiman; helped launch the career of drag superstar Jinx Monsoon; landed feature stories in the *New York Times*, *American Theatre*, and more. She has also raised millions for incredible nonprofits like J.D.R.F., Mystic Seaport, and Fred Hutch. In addition to her work with Cornish College of the Arts, Christine is adjunct faculty in the Seattle University M.F.A. Arts Leadership program. She is also just crazy enough to be the volunteer "cookie manager" for more than forty local Girl Scout troops. And at the end of each day, let's be honest: her house is a mess. But her family is awesome, her world is rich, and her life is a beautiful musical.

Patrick Slattery - 2013

Solution Architect, Silverline
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Mathematics and Humanities, Patrick Slattery spent two years in Indianapolis as part of the Orr Entrepreneurial Fellowship. In 2015, he moved to New York City to work at Silverline, a Platinum Salesforce Implementation Partner. He moved back to Chicago in May of 2015 and works remotely for Silverline as a Solution Architect. When he's not at the home office, he can be found performing improv comedy, playing beach volleyball, and practicing the ukulele. He'd love to talk about a trip you've taken recently, your latest tattoo, your favorite HBO show, or your struggle to make this bio sound like it's not part of a dating profile.

Eric Smith - 1984

Electrical Engineer (Retired), I.T.T./Exelis/Harris
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Eric Smith graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and headed to Fort Wayne to start his electrical engineering career with I.T.T. While there he worked on the design of military radios and weather and surveillance satellites and in engineering management. He remained with the company for thirty-two years as it evolved from I.T.T. to Exelis to Harris, from which he retired in 2016. Eric met Debbie Quinby at work, and they married in 1985. They have two children. Aaron is a math teacher in Fort Wayne. Sarah recently completed a Master's Degree in Public Affairs and is seeking employment/adventure. Debbie retired from Exelis and is now a Methodist pastor in Fort Wayne. In retirement Eric enjoys tennis, gardening, working with stained glass, and helping out at church.

Beth (Sneller) Earnest - 2000

Marketing Copywriter, Self-employed
Waukesha, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.A. in Communication, Beth (Sneller) Earnest spent five years as a reporter for the *Daily Herald* in suburban Chicago. She married Mark Earnest (C.C. 1997) in 2005 and moved to the Milwaukee suburbs, where she worked as a media relations specialist at a hospital. Now, she works part time from home as a freelance marketing copywriter, editor and project manager. She and Mark have two sons (8 and 4). They are very active in their church and school community.

Michelle Sopetti - 2015

Student of Physical Therapy, Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University in Biology and Psychology, Michelle entered the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) graduate program at the Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. She has been granted many volunteer opportunities through the D.P.T. program and enjoys working with patients at the I.U. Student Outreach Clinic, a pro bono clinic run by students from multiple health disciplines; M.S. Swim, an aquatic exercise program for patients with Multiple Sclerosis; and Goodwin Exercise, a seated chair exercise class for senior community members. Michelle served at an orphanage in Haiti for one and a half weeks, teaching Bible lessons, English, and dance to more than 100 children. She stays connected to her Valpo classmates and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, sharing graduate and medical school knowledge with V.U. friends that are studying to be Physician Assistants, M.D.s, and D.O.s.

Nick Spagnuolo - 2008

Engineer, General Motors
Wixom, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, where he studied Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Business Administration, Nick Spagnuolo moved to Peoria, Illinois, to work for Caterpillar. There, his career focused on many aspects of their engine development as an embedded software programmer, architect, and requirements manager. He served in a number of leadership positions as part of the Young Professionals of Caterpillar group, spearheading innovation initiatives both within the company and with students in the local area. He also assisted with Caterpillar's recruitment efforts at Valpo, returning to campus many times to conduct student interviews and host seminars on engineering topics. He recently relocated to Wixom, Michigan, to help General Motors launch their new Systems Engineering Department, with responsibility for engine thermal control systems. He's joined by his wife Becky (Westerdale) Spagnuolo, their son Mikey, their cats Baxter and Raja, and their dog Lightning.

Philip Spahn - 1992

Attorney, Sidley Austin L.L.P.
Chicago, Illinois

After earning degrees in American Studies and Political Science from Valparaiso University, Philip Spahn graduated *cum laude* in 1995 from Valparaiso School of Law. Philip is an attorney in the Sidley Austin Chicago office where he represents institutional lenders, banks and corporations in the acquisition, disposition and financing of a variety of properties, including office buildings, shopping centers, multifamily properties, industrial facilities and hotels. His real estate finance practice includes the representation of banks and commercial lenders in connection with loan origination for C.M.B.S., portfolio and mezzanine financings. He also has an active practice representing both tax credit syndicators and investors in transactions involving the purchase and sale of low-income housing tax credits. Philip's wife Heike Cockerill Spahn (V.U. Law 1995), is the Woodcraft Camp Director at the Culver Academies in Culver, Indiana. They are proud parents of daughter Rachel who is a sophomore in high school. Philip serves on the Christ College National Council.

John Spear - 1975

Board Certified Real Estate Lawyer, Bonita Springs, Florida
Bonita Springs, Florida

After graduating from Valparaiso University, John Spear earned a J.D. from the University of Illinois (Champaign) Law School in 1978. He has practiced real estate law since 1982 in Bonita Springs, Florida, where he has been active in community issues, including service as Deputy Mayor of Bonita Springs from 2008-2012. He has been married to his wife Lisa since 1993. He has three grown step-children, Jessica (36), Zack (34) and Joshua (31) and four grandchildren, ranging from ages 2 to 10. John's highlight of the past forty-plus years was November 2, 2016, and the Cubs first World Series title since 1908.

Sara (Spencer) Langworthy - 2006

Writer, Consultant, Speaker, YouTuber, Self-Employed
Saint Paul, Minnesota

After graduating from Valpo, Sara Spencer Langworthy earned a Ph.D. in Child Psychology from the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development where she studied developmental cognitive neuroscience. Sara went on to work for five years with the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium where she did community engagement, science communication, and policy education work. Sara is now a self-employed author, consultant, speaker and YouTube producer. Her award-winning book, *Bridging the Relationship Gap*, addresses how educators can build resilience with children who experience stress and adversity in early life. She is a speaker who enjoys talking about the science of child development, both in-person and on her YouTube channel. Sara is also an organizational advancement consultant and founding partner of The Exchange Loop. In 2008, Sara married Valpo grad Jason Langworthy (V.U. 2005) who works for the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents. She has also been a singer in the National Lutheran Choir for eleven years.

Laura (Springmire) Venstrom - 2007

Elementary School Teacher, Stay-at-Home Mom
Valparaiso, Indiana

After graduating from Valpo with a degree in Elementary Education, Laura taught for two years in Illinois before marrying Luke Venstrom and moving to the Twin Cities. There, she taught English Language Arts for an elementary Chinese Immersion Program for three years before deciding to stay home full time with her children. In 2013, the Venstroms returned to Valparaiso so Luke could join the faculty in the College of Engineering. Laura currently stays home with sons Samuel (born May 2013) and Reid (born July 2015). They are expecting their third child in September of 2017.

Jennifer (Stack) Minor - 1997

Teacher and Church Business Administrator
Fairfax, Virginia

Shortly after graduating from Valparaiso University, Jennifer Stack Minor married her best friend and began their twenty-year (so far) adventure as an active duty Air Force family. The Minors have two beautiful daughters who were born during the family's assignment to Charleston, South Carolina. Jennifer has had the opportunity to teach French in Oklahoma and English in Morocco, to work as a church business administrator in rural Missouri, and to teach middle-school Math in Alabama. The family has just moved (again) to the Washington, D.C., area where Jennifer has taken a part-time position as the office administrator for a preschool. They have lived on both the West and East Coasts of the United States and in the Midwest and the South, as well as in Morocco. Jennifer's time in Christ College really prepared her to live a life full of adventure and learning and she looks forward to what life brings next.

Julie Steinbrenner - 2002

Mechanical Engineering Instructor, University of Colorado Boulder
Boulder, Colorado

Julie Steinbrenner's experiences at Valparaiso University have been instrumental in her life and career. While a Valpo student, Julie conducted solar energy research with Professor Robert Palumbo at the Paul Scherrer Institut in Switzerland. In 2007, she was a Chateaubriand Fellow at the CEA in Grenoble, France. She earned an M.S. in 2005 and a Ph.D. in 2011 in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. She currently teaches Mechanical Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she thrives on the pedagogical challenge and on the natural beauty (and bike paths) of Boulder. She and her husband, Greg Rieker, were married in 2013 and have an energetic and verbose three-year-old daughter, Madeline.

Krista Steinke - 1990

Artist and Professor, Department of Visualization, Texas A&M University
Houston, Texas

Krista Steinke received a B.A. from Valparaiso University, a B.F.A. in Studio Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and an M.F.A. in Photography and Digital Imaging from The Maryland Institute, College of Art. Since graduating from Valpo, she has lived in Texas, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Seattle, and Chicago, among other places. Currently, she divides her time between Houston and upstate New York with her husband and two children. She teaches in the Visualization Department at Texas A&M University. Krista fell in love with the photographic medium while a student at Valparaiso. Her first exhibition was in the Christ College Commons. She has gone on to exhibit in museums and galleries across the country, as well as internationally. She has received several awards for her work, including a Pennsylvania Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, a grant from the Puffin Foundation, an Artist Residency at Light Work, and a Promise Award from the Sustainable Arts Foundation. She was recently named a 2017-2018 Howard Foundation Fellow in Photography. Her works are represented in public and private collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Woodmere Museum in Philadelphia, the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Johnson & Johnson Corporation, Fidelity Investments, and Brauer Museum of Art, among others. She is thrilled to be exhibiting her work again at Valpo in the fall of 2018 at the Brauer Museum of Art.

René Steinke – 1986

Novelist and Professor of Creative Writing, Fairleigh Dickinson University
Brooklyn, New York

René Steinke graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in English and Humanities and earned an M.F.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is a novelist and Professor of Creative Writing at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her most recent novel is *Friendswood*, which was shortlisted for the St. Francis Literary Prize, was named one of National Public Radio's Best Books of 2014, was chosen as an Amazon Book of the Month, and was one of *O Magazine's* Fall 2014 "picks." Her previous novel, *Holy Skirts*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her first novel is *The Fires*. René is the recipient of a 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Salon*, *Bookforum*, and in anthologies. She is the former Editor of *The Literary Review*, where she remains as Editor-at-Large. She is currently Director of the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing at F.D.U. She is a member of PEN and the Author's Guild, and she serves on the Christ College National Council. She lives in Brooklyn with her son Porter.

Katelyn Stermer - 2014

Quality Analyst, American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Schaumburg, Illinois

Since graduating from Valparaiso University Katelyn Stermer has biked 4,000 miles across America, from San Francisco to Boston, to raise \$100,000 for Partners in Health's Maternal and Child Health programs in Rwanda. She has completed a one-year David L. Boren Fellowship in Durban, South Africa, become fluent in the language isiZulu, hosted former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the Twenty-First International AIDS Society conference, finished a Master's Degree in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Illinois Chicago, and, started a job as a Quality Research Analyst for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Jamie Stewart - 2007

Pharmacy Student, Purdue College of Pharmacy
Valparaiso, Indiana

Upon graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Political Science, Jamie Stewart focused on raising her family, community involvement, and fitness training. She went on to build a photography business. She is now pursuing her current passion, a career with CVS Health. She is a third-year professional student at the Purdue College of Pharmacy. She serves as an active member of the Iota Chapter of Tri Kappa promoting charity, culture, and education. She also serves as the community service chair within the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, assisting the local county with vaccinations for the homeless and developing a smoking cessation protocol with pharmacists and providers for the state of Indiana. Her partner, Stephen Trapp, is an Indian University graduate and logistics supervisor for NLMK. She is also the mother of three children, Michael, Nathan, and Claire.

Sabrina Stradtner - 2007

Associate Director of Research and Prospect Management , Advancement, Valparaiso University
La Porte, Indiana

Sabrina Stradtner is Associate Director of Research and Prospect Management for Advancement at Valparaiso University. In this role she manages Advancement's prospect research program as well as the constituent records maintenance team. She has held this position since October 2015. She joined Valpo's Advancement staff in 2012 as a research analyst. While a student at Valpo, she was a student aide in the Advancement Department. She is a member of A.P.R.A. and A.P.R.A.-IN. Prior to returning to Valpo, Sabrina was the assistant manager at the Pepperidge Farm Outlet store in Michigan City, Indiana, from 2009 to 2012. From 2007 to 2009 she worked as a genealogy clerk at the Valparaiso Public Library. Sabrina holds a B.A. in History with a minor in Humanities from Valparaiso University and a Master of Library Science from Indiana University Indianapolis. Sabrina is a fifth generation Hoosier farmer and helps run her family's apple orchard, Radke Orchards, south of Michigan City, Indiana. She enjoys gardening, canning, genealogy, and cheering for the Chicago Blackhawks. Sabrina lives in La Porte, Indiana, with her husband Adam (V.U. 2007) and daughter Fiona.

Diana (Stribl) Charnley - 2014

Ph.D. Student in Counselor Education and Supervision, Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Psychology and Sociology and Spanish minors, Diana Stribl Charnley continued on at Valpo for an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She is a proud Kappa Kappa Gamma alum and Phi Sigma Kappa sweetheart, as well as a member of various other honor societies. While studying for her M.A., she was Co-President of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society International. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision at Western Michigan University, where she is also now President of Chi Sigma Iota. In her first year, she has had excellent training and research opportunities and hopes to continue on to graduate and get a tenure-track faculty position at a C.A.C.R.E.P.-accredited program. She also hopes to continue research in the areas of addictions and non-suicidal self-injury and to engage in small amounts of private practice. She continues to maintain close personal and professional ties with peers and faculty at Valpo.

Charles Strietelmeier - 1975

Pastor, Augustana Lutheran Church
Hobart, Indiana

Charles Strietelmeier has been a pastor for thirty-seven years, serving five congregations in Illinois, Florida and Indiana. During that time he earned a D.Min. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He is currently studying for certification as a spiritual director at Loyola University. He has two children: Anne, and Paul (a Valpo grad). He has some experience with community organizing and has published a few poems.

Beth (Stuckmeyer) Millian - 2008

Air Quality and Environmental Consultant, R.P.S. - Chicago
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Meteorology, Beth Stuckmeyer Millian earned an M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Colorado State University. After a summer spent teaching an undergraduate Earth Science course at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida, Beth moved back to Colorado to pursue a career in environmental consulting. While living in Colorado, she developed a love for the outdoors and all things "Colorado", including hiking, camping, and craft beer. She is currently employed as an Air Quality and Environmental Consultant for R.P.S. in Chicago, Illinois, and lives in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, with her husband Patrick (V.U. 2008) and rescue dog Oscar.

Judy (Swanson) Albers - 1988

Learning Strategist, Intrepid Learning
Valparaiso, Indiana

Judy Swanson Albers has been inventing her interdisciplinary career since inventing a major in Human Relations at Valpo. From her home office in Valparaiso and many airplanes, she helps the world's leading companies create fresh, engaging online learning experiences on her firm's award-winning technology platform. Prior to her current Learning Strategist position with Intrepid Learning, Judy served as First Vice President, Learning Technology, at JPMorgan Chase and facilitated Bank One's learning governance council during its three straight years as the top rated bank in the TRAINING Top 100. Her M.S.Ed. in instructional design is from Purdue University. Judy is married to Andrew Albers, (V.U. 1988), and has two children, Caroline (Georgetown 2017) and Michael (Indiana University).

Luke Tegtmeier - 2005

Pipe Organ Builder, Muller Pipe Organ Company
Columbus, Ohio

Luke Tegtmeier graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Church Music and a minor in Humanities. He continued to study Church Music at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He spent ten years in the frozen north as a church musician, the highlight of which was meeting his wife, Kathrine. In 2016 he and Kate moved to Columbus for Luke to start working at a pipe organ building company. Since moving to Columbus, Luke has enjoyed starting a new C.C. Alumni Reading Group to discuss texts and contexts with other C.C. alumni.

Jacob Tewes - 2011

Attorney, Recknor & Associates

LL.M. Candidate in Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law, University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a major in Music, Jacob Tewes volunteered for a year in Costa Rica and then attended the University of Nebraska College of Law. After he graduated in 2015, Jacob and his wife Heather (C.C. 2011) moved to Yankton, South Dakota, and had their first son, Lewis (C.C. 2039). In January of 2017, Jacob returned to Lincoln to pursue an LL.M. in Space, Cyber, and Telecommunications Law at the University of Nebraska. He currently practices law as a solo practitioner and through an association with Recknor & Associates. Jacob has served on the Board of Directors for Missouri Valley Christian Academy and is active as a worship leader at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

Robert Eric Tewes, Jr. – 1986

Director of Worship and Music, Deacon of Word and Service, Grace Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.)
Owner and Executive Chef of Crescendo Exquisite Food and Fine Wines
Albert Lea, Minnesota

Robert Eric Tewes, Jr., earned a Masters in Church Music from Northwestern University and embarked upon his career as a church musician. He has served parishes in Illinois and Minnesota. He is married to Patty Pratt (V.U. 1987), and they have three daughters, Ashley, Camille and Emma. Seventeen years ago he opened a fine dining restaurant. He credits Valpo with giving him the courage to risk, the moral foundation to care, and a career that has prospered beyond his wildest expectation. He is forever grateful to Christ College for his tenacity to question the world and the passion to make his corner of it more just, more hopeful and more authentic. The leadership skills he gained in college have left him forever proud and grateful to dear old Valpo!

Jenna Throw -- 2007

Attorney, Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik & Knight, Ltd.
Portage, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Criminology and Chinese and Japanese Studies, Jenna Throw earned an M.B.A. in 2008, and a J.D. in 2011 each from Valparaiso University. She began working for Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik & Knight, Ltd., as an Associate Attorney in April of 2014. She practices law in the area of municipal defense. Her primary responsibility involves claims of Constitutional violations and claims of discrimination in violation of Title VII under federal law, as well as other state law claims. She represents governmental entities and police officers. In her free time, she enjoys working out, cycling, and playing volleyball at the local Y.M.C.A.

Ben Tiemann - 2017

Federal Taxation Intern, KPMG
Chicago, Illinois

Ben Tierman graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Accounting, Secondary Education and English. While at Valpo he was involved in Sigma Phi Epsilon, the Student Senate, and the Interfraternity Council. He was also a volunteer at the Kankakee Valley Historical Society. In the fall of 2017 he started as a Federal Taxation Intern at KPMG in Chicago.

Cory Tollefson - 2017

Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, Abbvie
Tuscon, Arizona

Cory Tollefson graduated *summa cum laude* from Valparaiso University with a degree in Marketing. While at Valpo, Cory was a part of the Christ College Student Advisory Board, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, TEDx Valparaiso University, and Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honorary. Cory married his wife Erin in June of 2017. He works as a Pharmaceutical Specialist Sales Representative for Abbvie.

Brandon Tomlinson - 2008

Senior Systems Engineer, Rockwell Collins
Fairfax, Iowa

After graduating from Valpo with majors in Mechanical Engineering and Humanities, Brandon Tomlinson joined Rockwell Collins as a Systems Engineer. He has been with Rockwell for nearly nine years and is currently working on international programs as a Senior Systems Engineer. Brandon is also currently working on his Masters Degree at Iowa State University with plans to graduate in December 2017. He is a member of the V.U. Alumni Association Board of Directors, is involved in various ministries through his local church, and enjoys road tripping across the country with his family. Brandon is married to fellow alum Johanna Tomlinson (C.C. 2008). Together they have three children, Margaret (5), Abram (3), and Eleanor (1).

Dawn Trautman - 1990

Actor, Business Owner, Author, Self-Employed
New York, New York

In the spirit of Christ College, Dawn Trautman's interests and occupations are a true Venn Diagram, each area informing the others. She is a professional actor, online business owner, published author of *Urban Nomad U.S.A.*, and leader of the main stage team at the Extravaganza, an annual event for E.L.C.A. Youth and Family ministry professionals. Her Master's Degrees -- one in Youth and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary and a second in Organizational Psychology from New York University -- combine into her company, Big Picture Big Purpose, which provides e-courses and coaching for people who'd like to live more aligned with God's unique calling for their lives. Dawn shares her life with a myriad of interesting people in New York City but travels often to appear in live stage productions and to satisfy an insatiable curiosity. She was most recently in Wisconsin performing in the musical *Church Basement Ladies*, which is about Minnesota Lutherans, a subject with which she is quite familiar.

Kathy (Tubbs) Mitchell - 1982

Assistant County Attorney, Frederick, Maryland
Hagerstown, Maryland

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Kathy Tubbs Mitchell attended the Washington County Hospital Center School of Medical Technology where she earned a Certificate in Medical Technology and where she subsequently worked. In 1988 she earned a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law and then served as a judicial clerk for Robert C. Murphy, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals. In 1989, Kathy joined the firm of Frank, Bernstein, Conaway & Goldman in Baltimore. She married Denis Mitchell in 1990 and in 1991 gave birth to her son, Denis (Denny). In 1992, she began working as in-house counsel for Potomac Edison, a utility located in Hagerstown, Maryland. Her daughter, Kaitlyn (Katie), was born in 1993. In 2004, Kathy became an Assistant County Attorney for Frederick County, Maryland, where she concentrates mainly on administrative and development law. She and Denis live with their children, two cats and a dog in Hagerstown.

Pamela (Tulke) Trevino - 1997

Clinical Risk Management, Patient Safety, and Quality Improvement Director, Arkansas
Children's Hospital
Little Rock, Arkansas

Pam Tulke Trevino's journey after graduating with a nursing degree from Valparaiso University started in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and ended up in Little Rock, Arkansas, with a few detours through Maine and Illinois. She honed her pediatric nursing skills in a big hospital in a small town, during an eight-week athletic summer camp for boys, and at several prestigious children's hospitals as a traveling nurse. Eventually she landed at Arkansas Children's Hospital where she is Clinical Risk Management, Patient Safety, and Quality Improvement Director. She serves as a national subject matter expert on event classification and cause analysis for the Solutions for Patient Safety Collaborative. She loves to travel and cook, and is involved with Children's Ministry at her church. While a traveling nurse, she met her husband, Cris, who is an engineer. Her son, Jesse, is studying languages and is in the V.U. class of 2021

Elizabeth (Tull) Wright - 1999

Human Resources, General Motors
Royal Oak, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Psychology and Music, Elizabeth Tull Wright completed an M.S. in Management at Purdue University, specializing in human resources. She has since been employed at General Motors in Detroit where she has worked in a variety of H.R. positions and currently manages communications and executive services for the global compensation and benefits staff. Liz has a particular interest in educating employees about how to prepare financially for retirement. A retirement and financial education project she led won an Eddy Award from Pensions & Investments and a MarCom award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. Liz remains active in her Sigma Alpha Iota alumnae chapter, is a first soprano and soloist in the Detroit Lutheran Singers and sings at her church, where she also codirects the handbell choir. She is married to Joshua Wright and they have a daughter Virginia (7) and a son Alfred (1).

Alexander Uryga - 2015

Master of Education Candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Alexander Uryga graduated *summa cum laude* with majors in Political Science and History. Immediately after graduation, Alexander was placed at a public affairs and government relations firm in Washington, D.C., as a Calling and Purpose in Society Fellow for the Institute for Leadership and Service. Alexander was also chosen out of hundreds of people across the state of Indiana in 2015 to be one of the youngest participants out of forty people in the Emerging Leaders Project class of 2015-2016, where he had the chance to discuss issues facing our government with local, state, and national officials. From 2016-2017, Alexander worked as Website Analyst and Communications Coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., a global, social justice, nonprofit located in Notre Dame, Indiana, while he served as a Youth Development AmeriCorps Member at the Robinson Community Learning Center in South Bend. Alexander was selected as Indiana's 2016 James Madison Fellow by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. The James Madison Graduate Fellowship is America's most prestigious award in constitutional history and government for secondary teachers. Alexander is the first James Madison Fellow from Valparaiso University and the first Junior Fellow (prospective teacher) in seven years from the state of Indiana. This fellowship will assist him in becoming a social studies teacher. Alexander is currently a Master of Education candidate in the Teacher Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Jill VanDalen - 2000

Attorney, Calpine Corporation
Berkeley, California

Following graduation from Valparaiso University with majors in I.E.C.A. and German, Jill VanDalen earned a J.D. from the University of Michigan. She moved to the San Francisco Bay area to begin her law career in project finance and energy at Thelen Reid & Priest, L.L.P., and later at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, L.L.P. In 2010, she left private practice to work in the legal department at Calpine Corporation, a Houston-based energy company. She is currently Managing Counsel at Calpine. Jill is married to Kevin McCusker (C.C. 2002).

Lindsey VanDerAa - 2017

Volunteer, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls
Chicago, Illinois

Lindsey VanDerAa graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. While at Valpo she was a member of Chamber Concert Band and Sigma Alpha Iota. She is currently in a year of service at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago.

Dirk VanDerDuim - 2001

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
Hubbard, Ohio

Dirk VanDerDuim graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He worked as a camp counselor at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, Ohio, following graduation, and then volunteered through Urban Servant Corps in Denver, Colorado, working half-time at the Samaritan House shelter and half-time coordinating service trips to Denver. Dirk then went to seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology Chicago, where he was also a staff and freelance photographer. He married Jill Wason, also a seminarian, in June 2006, and each completed an M.Div. in 2008. Ordained as an E.L.C.A. pastor in 2009, Dirk is currently in his second call, serving at Grace Lutheran Church in Hubbard, Ohio. He is also a member of his synod's Cross-Cultural Conversations (anti-racism) core team. In 2015, several youth from Grace lovingly pushed Dirk into serving as a mentor for Hubbard High School's First Robotics team 5418, the Sonic Screwdrivers, and he counts this as a true blessing. Having worked with them to build three robots, he is proud of how his kids continue to grow in technical skill, creativity, leadership, and gracious professionalism. Dirk is grateful for the people of so many different ages and backgrounds who have taught him so much in these adventures, and he does his best to pass on the gifts that these folks have shared with him.

Holly Vanderwal - 2008

Marketing Entrepreneur, Cloud Nine Marketing
Greenville, South Carolina

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Spanish and Theology, Holly Vanderwal moved to Madrid, Spain, to complete an M.A. in Spanish at la Universidad de Alcala. She fell in love with the country, became completely immersed in the culture, and ultimately received a C2 D.E.L.E. certificate from the Cervantes Institute, officially recognizing her bilingual ability. After her graduate study in Spanish, she switched career focus and became an account manager at a content marketing agency, later moving on to work at Macmillan Iberia as a primary marketing manager. Meanwhile, she met and married handsome Spaniard and brilliant data scientist, Jorge Andres, and celebrated their wedding with several close V.U. friends in attendance! Six years after her initial move overseas, she came back to the United States with Jorge and took up residence in New York where she worked for Taylor and Francis in the marketing department. Wanting to try something new outside of corporate culture, Holly and Jorge moved to sunny Greenville, South Carolina, where she founded Cloud Nine Marketing in order to collaborate with fellow freelancers and provide essential content marketing services to entrepreneurs and small businesses on a local and global level. Fifty years from now, when C.C. celebrates its 100th anniversary, Holly will be happily retired and back in Spain, spending leisure time with Jorge and sipping lots of Rioja wine.

Loretta M. VanEvery - 1994

Chief, Neurology Service, Richard L. Roudebush V.A. Medical Center
Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology, Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana

After graduation from Valparaiso University Loretta VanEvery attended Indiana University School of Medicine where she earned an M.D. and completed a neurology residency followed by a fellowship in electrophysiology and neuromuscular disease. She has proudly served America's veterans at the Indianapolis V.A. for the last ten years including helping to establish the facility's multidisciplinary A.L.S. clinic. In 2009 she was named Chief of Neurology. Lori is also an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at Indiana University where she specializes in electromyography as well as the diagnosis and treatment of neuropathy and neuromuscular diseases. Prior to joining the V.A., she was a member of a large neurology group with her practice based at St. Vincent Hospital, serving the north side of Indianapolis. Lori is the organizer for the Indy outpost of the C.C. reading group and serves as President of the Congregation Council at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She enjoys traveling, painting, gardening and refurbishing antique furniture. She is a member of the Christ College National Council.

Johnna (Venuto) Georgia - 2011

Non-Profit Program Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
Waunakee, Wisconsin

After graduating from Valparaiso University in 2011, Johnna Venuto Georgia spent a year serving her diaconal internship in Valparaiso, Chile, to complete her Lutheran Deaconess training. After her internship, Johnna was hired as Youth Director at Burke Lutheran Church in Madison and was consecrated as a Deaconess in November of 2012. Two years later, she was hired as a Bilingual Match Support Specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County. She was subsequently promoted and currently serves as the agency's Program Director. In 2016 Johnna married Michael Georgia, who is an actuary, and they live in the suburbs of Madison.

Stephen Volz - 1985

African History and International Studies Professor, Kenyon College
Mount Vernon, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Stephen Volz served in the Peace Corps in Botswana for two years, teaching science at a junior secondary school in the village of Thamaga. He then earned an M.A. in Teaching from Washington University St. Louis and taught Global Studies and other subjects at Martin Luther High School in New York City for seven years. That was followed by graduate school at the University of Wisconsin Madison, where he earned a Ph.D. in History. Since 2004 he has been teaching African History and International Studies at Kenyon College in Ohio. Stephen is very grateful for the foundation provided by Christ College for his life-long vocation of international education.

Kimberly (Waechter) Greiner - 2007

Non-Profit Manager, National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Skokie, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with majors in Marketing and Humanities, Kimberly Waechter Greiner became a staff member in the Educational Services Department at the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in Evanston, Illinois. She attended Northwestern University part-time while continuing her career with N.M.S.C. and earned an M.A. in Liberal Studies in 2011. In 2012, she was named Director of Scholarship Administration and has the privilege of overseeing the administration of the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition in which 1.6 million high school juniors compete for national recognition and about 8,700 monetary awards. Kim is married to Nick Greiner, a Valparaiso native. They live in Skokie, Illinois, with their two daughters, Liliana (4) and Emma (1).

Erika Wagner - 2013

Community Success Team Leader, Shiftgig, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

Erika Wagner graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Public Relations and immediately began working for an international ultimate frisbee apparel company that required her to travel throughout Europe and North America. She could not have predicted how C.C. courses in communication and culture would prepare her so well for months spent in Italy, England, Denmark, Canada, among many other countries. After gaining a lot of experience in a small company, Erika recently took a new job as team leader for the Community Success Department at Shiftgig, a tech company for hospitality workers looking to pick up shifts through an app. Erika currently lives in Chicago and captains an ultimate frisbee club traveling team called Shakedown. She is also co-founder of an events company that recently ran the largest high school ultimate frisbee tournament in the U.S.A. with ninety-four teams.

Faith (Wahlstrom) Mooney - 1977

Teacher and Librarian (Retired)
San Rafael, California

Faith Walstrom Mooney graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in Elementary Education. She added a Master's Degree in Special Education from Buffalo State College. Faith taught in a variety of areas over the years, including kindergarten and parent-cooperative preschool. She founded and directed a church-sponsored preschool. She taught developmentally disabled children and English as a Second Language to adults. Most recently she shifted to part-time library work in the Children's Department at two public libraries. Faith's family includes her husband of nearly forty years, Kevin Mooney, and their three children: Emily, who works in international development and currently resides in Rwanda; Phil, a geologist at Sonoma State University in California and also manager of a professional cycling team; and Paul, who recently completed a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and lives in Denver.

John Wahlstrom - 1977

Physician, St. Paul Allergy & Asthma
St. Paul, Minnesota

John Wahlstrom earned an M.D. at Rush University Chicago and did a Pediatric residency and enjoyed an Allergy/Immunology fellowship at the University of Minnesota. He has practiced allergy medicine with St. Paul Allergy & Asthma. John met his wife JoAnne in St. Paul; their son Scott earned his Master's Degree at the University of Chicago and remained in Chicago as a computer forensics consultant. John and his wife love spending time with their granddaughters. John still sings in a variety of choirs.

Frederick "Fritz" Wehrenberg III - 1971

Lutheran Pastor and Campus Pastor (Retired)
Part-time Manager, Cyclone Liquors,
Ames, Iowa

After Valpo, Fritz Wehrenberg graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology Chicago in 1975 and was ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church of America (now Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). Following three tumultuous years in St. Charles, Missouri, Fritz was called to serve in Berlin, Germany, as the pastor of the American Church. Four years in that walled city shaped for Fritz an awareness and understanding of the world that continues to influence his entire life. Seventeen years in the relatively conservative western suburbs of Chicago provided ample opportunity for him to exercise the knowledge gained in Berlin. Fritz, selected as a Golden Apple Intern at Northwestern University in 1999, left that program to serve in campus ministry: eight years at Iowa State University (Go Clones!), a two year interim stint at the University of Minnesota and finishing the run at Simpson, a small Methodist college. After thirty-eight years in the ministry and a couple of years of retirement, Fritz now manages a small wine store part time in Ames, Iowa. He likes to say that he is still working in the spirit's world. Fritz married Peg Polzin with whom he had a daughter Elowyn (Ellie) born in 1976 (C.O.O. for a growing tech company in St. Louis) and a son Frederick IV (Hal) born in 1979 (working in Zurich, Switzerland, for TeCan). Both children are Valpo grads and have provided the world with insight and wisdom beyond their father. Fritz was the custodial parent when he and Peg divorced in 1986. In 1999, he married Jennie LeGates who, remarkably, continues to put up with him, proving that grace abounds in this broken world.

Josh Weinhold - 2008

Assistant Communications Director, University of Notre Dame
South Bend, Indiana

After graduating with majors in Journalism and Humanities, Josh Weinhold covered politics and government for the daily newspaper in Elkhart, Indiana, a manufacturing community that became the national face of the Great Recession thanks to frequent visits from President Barack Obama. Josh later wrote about Illinois government and legal affairs as a reporter and editor for the Chicago *Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer* magazine. Josh is now combining his journalism experience and love for the liberal arts as Assistant Communications Director for the University of Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters. He oversees news production, social media, and undergraduate recruitment and engagement, continually touting the intrinsic and practical benefits of studying the arts, humanities, and social sciences, a passion that was ignited in Christ College. Josh and his wife, Mallory Lipps Weinhold, have two sons, Bennett and Jack.

Wes Weinhold – 1965

Farmer, Electrician, Self-Employed
Fredonia, Wisconsin

Wes Weinhold earned a B.S. in Physics, Mathematics and Sociology at Valpo where he began his civil rights activism with Paul Luebke at the *Torch*. Wes entered the University of Wisconsin graduate Physics program in the fall of 1965. Soon he became involved with the anti-war movement and organized anti-war demonstrations both on campus and nationally. Responding to the Mifflin Street attacks on students by the police, he led a 10,000-strong march to the state capitol in Madison on Memorial Day, 1969. Moving to Seattle after surpassing draft age, Wes joined the Socialist Workers Party and was active in organizing against the war until it ended. While attending graduate school in Computer Science and in Architecture at the University of Washington, Wes met his wife Peg Cadigan, a writer and teacher. They married in 1982. They had a son Brendan and moved to Wisconsin in 1988. Wes became a farmer and an electrician. He worked to preserve farmland and nature in Washington County and helped youth in their fight against censorship and sex discrimination. Wes is President of the Great Lakes Earth Institute and a dedicated permaculture advocate. He continues to promote socialist revolution mostly through his writings and discussion. Peg writes dystopian novels about global warming, and Brendan is an actor in Los Angeles.

Marcia (Weller) Weinhold - 1968

Mathematics Professor (Emerita), Purdue University Calumet (now Purdue Northwest)
Hammond, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso with majors in Mathematics and Physics, Marcia Weller Weinhold and Gary Weinhold (C.C. 1968) spent three and a half years working with teachers in the Philippines as U.S. Peace Corps volunteers. Returning to Wisconsin afterwards, she earned teaching credentials at the University of Wisconsin Madison while Gary had a coding job in West Bend. Marcia did intern teaching in Minneapolis because, supposedly, pre-Title IX, U.W. could not find a school that would let a woman teach physics. Fortunately she was able to land a position teaching math in West Bend. She and Gary lived in Grandpa Weinhold's farmhouse. Two wonderful daughters later, Gary found other interests, and Marcia finally moved the girls to Kalamazoo and taught at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center for ten years. This was a great opportunity for the girls, and once they were through Kalamazoo College and into graduate school, Marcia earned a Ph.D. in Math Education and moved to Hammond, Indiana, to teach future math teachers at Purdue Northwest. It was an excellent time and place to work in math education! Marcia is retired now and enjoys visiting her daughters and her grandchildren near Seattle and Detroit. Marcia also enjoys being near Valpo!

Janis (Wendt) Risch - 1972

Retired
Agoura Hills, California

After working in the financial services industry for forty years, Janis Wendt Risch retired in early 2017. She is currently working part-time as an Adult Literacy Coordinator for the Los Angeles Public Library. Her love of books has been a constant throughout her life.

Sharon (Werfelmann) Reichel - 1966

Teacher (Retired), Rome, Georgia, City Schools
Silver Spring, Maryland

As a member of the second Directed Studies class, Sharon Werfelmann Reichel graduated with a French major, returned to her home state of California, and completed an in-state lifetime teaching credential, which she never used! An invitation to join the Valpo faculty as an instructor in the Foreign Language Department changed everything. She taught at V.U. for three years, leaving as a bride. The newly-weds spent fourteen years at the University of Mississippi where her husband Charles Reichel was the town/gown Lutheran pastor. Those years saw the birth of three children. Sharon earned an M.A. in French while Charles earned a Ph.D. In 1984 the family of five moved to Rome, Georgia, where Sharon taught at Shorter College, Berry College, and for seventeen years at Rome City Schools. She also earned an Education Specialist Degree. Always singing in symphonic community choruses, Sharon served for forty-five years as her churches' volunteer choir director. She celebrated her seventieth birthday singing with a mass choir at Carnegie Hall. Volunteering in her local communities has been a constant over the years. In 2010 Sharon became a widow and now lives in the D.C. area. Daughter Cara Reichel and her husband are in New York City writing and producing musical theater together. Carsten and his wife are both federal lawyers and parents of Norah (6) and Teddy (5). Carlyn Reichel, also in D.C., was a speechwriter for Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, Joe Biden, and occasionally Barack Obama. She is now the Communication Coordinator for Biden's University of Pennsylvania Political Institute.

Donn Werling - 1967

Environmental Educator (Retired)
Spring Lake, Michigan

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Donn Werling earned an M.S. from Michigan State, an M. Ed. from Loyola Chicago, and a Ph. D. from the University of Michigan. Donn served as director of three nonprofits involved with natural and/or cultural stewardship. He has author of five such books and five C.D. releases of his original songs, two song books and four student (elementary level) musicales, two of which won national awards from national professional associations. Donn also won the Russell Wilson Award from the University of Michigan School of Education. He was the founder of the Motor Cities National Heritage Area, the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association and the Henry Ford Heritage Association. He has had two national articles on his work in *Preservation* magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Vicki (Whoolery) Seeck - 1974

Attorney and Administrative Law Judge (Retired), State of Iowa
Bettendorf, Iowa

After graduation from Valparaiso University, Vicki (Whoolery) Seeck worked for the Department of the Army as a civilian management analyst. Her husband John Seeck encouraged her to go to law school, and she graduated from the University of Iowa with high distinction, law review and Order of the Coif. She was in private practice for twenty years and then took time off to raise two daughters. She returned to the law as an administrative law judge for the State of Iowa. She retired in 2014.

James Wiegel - 1967

Group Facilitator, Institute of Cultural Affairs
Tolleson, Arizona

James Wiegel graduated from Valparaiso University with a major in Economics and minors in Greek, Mathematics and Theology. He was inspired by participation in the Directed Studies/Christ College community and, in particular, by (1) a quote that Paul Heyne shared, "A liberally educated human is one to whom nothing human is strange;" (2) an article by Ray Bradbury, "God on Tomorrow Morning," and (3) a bus ride through St. Louis to represent Valpo in the March on Montgomery. Jim spent the decade after graduation (1967-77) working with the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago in the church renewal movement and another thirty years (1977-2006) on community and human development with the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Between 2006 and 2016 he worked with Partners in Participation, L.L.C., delivering ToP (Technology of Participation) methods to organizations and individuals. Over his fifty-year professional career, Jim served on or led facilitation and training teams in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Spain, The Marshall Islands, The Netherlands, The Palestinian Territory, The Philippines, The United Kingdom, The United States, and Zambia. Currently, he volunteers three days a week at the Tolleson Food Bank. In March of 1971 Jim married Judy MacDonald (University of Massachusetts Amherst). They have three children: Jennifer of Managua, Nicaragua; Dhondiram of Phoenix, Arizona; and Shanker of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Their ten grandchildren range in age from five to twenty-eight. In 2006, Jim and Judy bought a VW camper and make treks from Arizona to Nova Scotia each summer visiting friends and family.

Bethany Wiersma - 2016

English Teacher in Teach for America, I.D.E.A. Frontier College Prep
Brownsville, Texas

Bethany Wiersma is currently serving a two-year commitment with Teach for America as a ninth grade English teacher in Brownsville, Texas, at I.D.E.A. Frontier College Prep, a charter school for students from underserved neighborhoods. The school's mission is for 100% of its students to enter and graduate from college. Bethany received the Prove the Possible Core Value Award from I.D.E.A. for outstanding student achievement and professional growth in her first year of teaching.

Amber Will - 2012

Attorney and Federal Law Clerk, Southern District of West Virginia
Huntington, West Virginia

After graduating from Valpo, Amber Will earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a J.D. from the College of William & Mary in 2016. She currently lives in Huntington, West Virginia, where she clerks for a federal district judge for the Southern District of West Virginia. After the one-year term, she plans on moving to New York City to work at a law firm.

Mark Williamson - 2000

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church
Dodgeville, Wisconsin

Mark Williamson is Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.) in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, a call he began in 2015. Prior to this, he was Associate Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Illinois, for eight years. After graduating from Valpo, he attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota (M.Div. 2005). From 2002-2004 he was Pastoral Resident at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead, Minnesota, part of the Lilly Endowment's Transitions-into-Ministry Program. He was the recipient of Luther Seminary's Graduate Preaching Fellowship for 2005-2006, a year he spent in Mexico City and Central America learning about liberation theology in relation to the Lutheran confessional tradition. He is married to Jennifer Barger Williamson, Development Director for Tutapona, an organization that provides trauma rehabilitation programs for victims of war in Uganda and Northern Iraq. They have two young children, Hope (4) and Iris (2), and can no longer remember what they used to do in their free time.

Sally Wilson - 1970

Psychologist, Private practice
Cleveland, Ohio

After graduating from Valparaiso University in History and Education, Sally Wilson studied Psychology at Purdue and Cornell and assisted Paul Scaer (V.U. 1969) with music and liturgy at his church in Brooklyn, New York. Sally has a Ph.D. in Psychology and has taught at Concordia College in Bronxville, Valpo, Purdue, Kenyon and Kent State and conducted post-doctoral research in biofeedback at the Cleveland V.A. Hospital. Sally has a general private practice in psychology in the Cleveland area and has served as a consultant to Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Greek Orthodox and other churches. She has been an ethics chair and trustee for the Ohio Psychological Association and served as President of the Cleveland Psychological Association and Ohio Women in Psychology. She has served on vestry and in the choir of churches in her area. She is married to Aaron, a physicist and teacher. Her son Joseph has taught chemistry and physical science and is now pursuing graduate work in business.

Amanda (Winters) Main - 2008

Librarian, Fryer Library, The University of Queensland
Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

After Valpo, Amanda Winters Main relocated to Australia to attend Queensland University of Technology on full scholarship. She earned a Master of Information Technology (Library Science). She is now a librarian at Fryer Library, The University of Queensland. She is married to Shannon Main, and they have a one-year-old son, James. Amanda serves as Parish Councillor at church and plays French horn in a local symphonic band.

Anita (Wittmann) Beste - 1976

Pastor (Retired), E.L.C.A. Churches
St. Paul, Minnesota

Anita (Wittmann) Beste majored in English and Theology with no idea that one day she could -- and would -- become a pastor. She has had the privilege of weaving those English and Theology interests as an E.L.C.A. pastor in the Twin Cities for the past twenty-one years. She recently retired, but continues to serve as officiant for weddings, funerals, and baptisms -- especially for those not connected to a faith community. She is also reconnecting with her love of dance by leading Dance for Parkinson's Disease classes. Anita met her husband, Steve Beste (V.U. 1977), on the Valpo's Cambridge foreign semester program and feels lucky to share life's joys and challenges and adventures with him, as well as the gift of three daughters and one grandchild.

Trisha Wladecki - 2012

Ophthalmology Resident, SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital
Syracuse, New York

Trisha Wladecki graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in Biology and Chemistry in the pre-med track. She earned an M.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Trisha is now doing an ophthalmology residency at S.U.N.Y. Upstate Medical University Hospital in Syracuse, New York, which she will complete in 2021.

Drew Wolf - 2004

Health Care Management, Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Woodbury, Minnesota

After graduating from Valpo in 2004, Drew embarked on a career in health care with first Walgreens and now Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

Joshua Wolfgram - 2016

Civil Engineer, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (Federal Highway Administration)
Arlington, Virginia

Upon graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, Joshua Wolfgram attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst to obtain his Master's Degree and further specialize in the field of transportation. His research on intersection safety and environmental sustainability was funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Eisenhower Fellowship, an award that brought him to the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C. Joshua is also looking forward to presenting his research at the 2017 Road Safety and Simulation Conference this October in the Netherlands. He spent this past summer interning with the Federal Highway Administration in northern Virginia and plans to look for full-time work in the D.C. Metro area upon completing his Master's Degree in December. He currently lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife Abigail (Hedlin) Wolfgram, (V.U. 2016) and their adorable beagle terrier Nora Hedlin-Wolfgram.

Joshua Wood - 2008

Senior Process Electrical Engineer, MicroLink Devices, Inc., Niles, Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Computer Engineering, Joshua Wood went to graduate school in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, finishing an M.S. in 2009 and a Ph.D. in 2013. His doctoral dissertation concerned how to grow and fabricate nanomaterials for functional devices. He continued and expanded this work as a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University, determining ways to transition nanomaterials to a technological stage. He finished his postdoc in 2016 and is currently a senior process engineer at a lightweight solar cell company in Niles. A highly unlikely and serendipitous encounter in a Champaign bar allowed Josh to meet his wife, Julia. They now live in Oak Park, just outside of Chicago. He and Julia are the proud parents of two sons, Isaac (born 2015) and Eli (born 2017).

Stephanie (Wood) Eller - 2009

E.S.L. Teacher, Plano C.U.S.D. #88
Earlville, Illinois

After graduating from Valparaiso University, Stephanie Wood Eller taught as a bilingual first- and second-grade teacher in Belvidere, Illinois, for three years. She has been a fourth- grade E.S.L. teacher in Plano, Illinois, for five years. She married Brad Eller in 2014. She completed an M.S. in Education from Northern Illinois University in the spring of 2017.

Kyle Wright - 2000

Associate Athletic Director and Sports Information Director, Indiana University East
Richmond, Indiana

Kyle Wright is the Associate Athletic Director and Sports Information Director at Indiana University East in Richmond, Indiana. Prior to his time at I.U. East, Kyle spent nine years in the newspaper industry, including stops at the Lafayette, Indiana, *Journal and Courier*, the Crestview, Florida, *News Bulletin* and the Pensacola, Florida, *News Journal*. Kyle is the author of the book, *The NBA From Top to Bottom*. He is married to the former Sunshine Durham. Their son, Kyson, was born in 2008.

Kate (Wurster) Kilpatrick - 1995

Project Manager, VWR
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

After graduating from Valpo, Kate Wurster Kilpatrick got an M.S. in Biology at S.U.N.Y. Brockport. She then got a job as a copy writer/editor at WARD'S Science, a science education supply company, located in Rochester, New York. After four years, she moved to Pennsylvania as a technical writer for WARD'S parent company VWR. Throughout the years, Kate has moved from technical writer to editor to project manager. In 2017, she was named NA team lead for the media publications global project management team. Kate married Dan Kilpatrick in 2007, and they live in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Scott Yakimow - 1994

Theology Professor, Concordia University Ann Arbor
Brighton, Michigan

Upon graduation from Valparaiso University, Scott Yakimow worked for Eaton Corporation in Minnesota as an engineer in hydraulics for five years. While working, he also earned a Master of Arts in Islamic Studies from Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 1999. He then quit his profession as an engineer to attend Concordia Seminary in St. Louis along with his wife, Miriam, where he earned a Master of Divinity. He was ordained as a pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 2004 and placed in Nairobi, Kenya, as a missionary overseeing thirty small theological education centers throughout five countries in East Africa and. Scott left Nairobi in 2005 to study Arabic in Fes, Morocco, for a year. He began his doctoral studies in theology at Concordia Seminary but ended up at the University of Virginia Charlottesville. In 2012, he and his burgeoning family left Virginia so that Scott could become an Associate Professor of Theology at Concordia University Portland. He completed his doctorate from Virginia in 2014. Most recently, he began a new call as a Professor of Theology at Concordia University Ann Arbor. He is married to Miriam (Sailer) Yakimow (V.U. 1994) and has five children (Jonathan, Abigail, Jacob, Joelle, and Josiah) ages 16 to 6.

Molly (Zeller) Koontz - 2007

Speech-Language Pathologist, Brown County School Corporation
Bloomington, Indiana

After graduating from Valparaiso University with a degree in Elementary Education, Molly Zeller Koontz attended Indiana University to obtain a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She has worked as a school-based speech-language pathologist for the past seven years and currently works with PreK-sixth grade students in Brown County Schools. Molly volunteers as an advisor for the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter at I.U. and the Board of Christian Education at her church. She is married to Noel Koontz (C.C. 1998); they have three children and a baby due in January.

Gail Zyla – 1985

Medical Writer and Editor
Winchester, Massachusetts

After training at Massachusetts General Hospital as a registered dietitian, Gail Zyla earned a Master's Degree in Nutrition and Communications at Boston University. She has served as senior editor of the *Tufts University Health & Nutrition Letter* and the *Harvard Health Letter*. She has also been a visiting lecturer at the Tufts University. Her articles have also appeared in a wide variety of publications including *Consumer Reports On Health*, *Parenting*, *Arthritis Today*, and *Reader's Digest*, and she has served as a consultant for a number of groups including the American Dietetic Association and the American Cancer Society. In addition, she was co-author of two editions of *Personal Nutrition*, a college-level textbook. Gail has received numerous awards for her work, including the American Dietetic Association Media Excellence Award, and the National Health Information Award. She lives with her husband, Jerry Gulla, and son in Winchester, Massachusetts.