Dear Admitted Physics and Astronomy students:

We are approaching the end of this academic year, and want to use this occasion to highlight some of the accomplishments and plans of our students. You can also see this on-line with pictures at our website: www.physics.valpo.edu under Department News.

1. Student accomplishments:

   a. Lumina awards: Louis Kastens & Sarah Schlobohm (for Juniors with GPA > 3.6)
   b. Armin Manning award(s): Kathy Cooksey & Aaron Reinhard (outstanding senior Physics major)
   c. Outstanding freshman Physics major (2001-02): Brian Bucher
   d. Student-Athlete awards: Kathy Cooksey & Steven Wolf; Kathy was distinguished as the student-athlete with the highest GPA.
   e. Research presentations:
      a. Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference (state-wide)
         Ross Corliss: “A Study of \( K^+ + p \rightarrow \pi^0 + \pi^0 \) in the Crystal Ball Experiment”
         Dan Kenning: “Examining the Light Curve of a Contact Binary Star System”
         Sarah Schlobohm: “A Measurement of the \( K^+ + p \rightarrow \pi^0 + \pi^0 \) Total Cross Section Using the Crystal Ball”
      b. Valparaiso Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship (campus-wide)

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2. Graduating Seniors:

Paul Barajas – a returning student, will return to employment
Aaron Reinhard—University of Michigan, PhD program in Physics
Steven Wolf—Dartmouth College, PhD program in Physics
Dan Kenning—secondary education (student teaching next semester)
Nic George—Indiana University, MS program in Information Science
Kathy Cooksey—Univ. of California, Santa Cruz, PhD program in Astrophysics

3. Senior independent research projects

Kathy Cooksey: "The Formation of Substellar Companions due to Protostellar Disk
Instabilities: Modeling the Effects of the Gravitational Environment"
(Senior Honors Project)
Nic George: “Determining the Size and Shape of an Asteroid”
Dan Kenning: “Studying the Light Curve of the Contact Binary EQ Tau”
Aaron Reinhard: "Shoulder Joint Probe: How Inflating Pig Shoulders Can Improve
Surgery"
Steve Wolf: “The Temperature Dependence of Electrical Resistance in Silicon”

4. Summer research assistantships:

Louis Kastens—Notre Dame
Sarah Schlobohm – VU (Nuclear Physics)
Brian Bucher— VU (Nuclear Physics)
Ross Corliss– VU (Nuclear Physics)
Tim Rogers – VU (Nuclear Physics)
Kara Klinke – VU (Astronomy)
Brad Rush – VU (Astronomy)