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Staton out.

But who is coming in?

See Page 4



Turn this issue over to see the list of the Spring 2016 graduates!

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20,000 parking tickets.

How many do you have?

See Page 5

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Blazers spring into scrimmage game

See Page 14

Announcements

Karaoke Night

Natural High is hosting a karaoke night tonight from 7-9 p.m. in the Powell Hall Auditorium

Adulthood is hard

Come to the Student Union Theater on Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. to watch how Japan depicts the struggle of college life.

Real Talk

XM is hosting an event tonight for students to gather and give encouragement to one another and discuss biblical principles. Real Talk is from 8-10 p.m. in Bailey Science Auditorium #1011.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email Editor-in-Chief Jordan Barela at jlbarela@valdosta.edu to have your event featured.

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• Algebra 9am-10am 10am-11am 12:30pm-1:30pm (Algebra/Math Modeling) 2pm-3pm	• BIOL 1030 1pm-2pm 4pm-5pm	• BIOL 1107 1pm-2pm 1:30pm-2:30pm	• BIOL 1108 2pm - 3pm	• BIOL 3200 3pm- 4pm	• Calculus II 12:30pm-1:30pm	• CHEM 1152 10:30am-11:30am 1:30pm-2:30pm
	• CHEM 1200 3pm-5pm	• French 12pm-1pm 1pm-2pm 2pm-3pm 3pm-4pm 4pm-5pm	• GEOL 1121 11am - noon 5pm-6pm	• Math Modeling 11am-noon 12:30pm- 1:30pm (Algebra/Math Modeling) 1pm-2pm	• Pre-Algebra Noon-1pm	• SOCI 1101 11am-noon 2pm-3pm 3pm-4pm
	• CHEM 3401 4pm-5pm				• Statistics 12:30pm-1:30pm	• Trigonometry 11:30am-12:30pm

Final Exam Study Sessions Wed, May 4th

• Algebra 9am -10am (Algebra/Math Modeling) 1pm - 2pm (Algebra/Math Modeling) 2pm - 3pm	• BIOL 1107 9am - 10am 1pm - 2pm	• CHEM 1211/1212/3402 <i>(depending on need)</i> 11am - Noon 3pm - 4pm 4pm - 5pm	• GEOL 1121 5pm-6pm
• Math Modeling 9am - 10am (Algebra/Math Modeling) 11am - Noon Noon - 1pm 1pm - 2pm 1pm - 2pm (Algebra/Math Modeling)	• Pre-Algebra Noon - 1pm	• Statistics 10am - 11am	• Trigonometry 10am -11am 2pm - 3pm

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Health Tip of the week

The VSU Student Health Center would like students to know “healthy students are better learners”.

Interim President Cecil Staton leaving Valdosta after serving one year

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Wednesday afternoon, Interim President Cecil Staton announced that he would be leaving Valdosta State and taking over the position of chancellor at East Carolina University.

According to the East Carolina press release, Staton will start his duties as chancellor on July 1. This will be exactly one year after Staton took over the position of interim president of VSU back in 2015.

“This announcement is bittersweet for many reasons. While I am grateful for the opportunity I will have to lead East Carolina, I am sad that I will be leaving Valdosta State at the end of June,” Staton said. “I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish because of the wonderful people at VSU. Although we have had to make often difficult decisions, I am hopeful that what we have

done will provide a strong foundation for VSU to build upon in future years.”

During his year at VSU, Staton has made many changes and contributions to the school’s community.

Staton began the school year by laying off 31 faculty and staff members and launching the “VSYOU” campaign that was designed to increase recruitment for the VSU campus.

From student and faculty and reactions starting off the semester with these two big changes was seen as necessary by some and as overstepping boundaries by others, considering the position was intended to be temporary.

In the second semester of the school year, he changed the schedule for graduation, which led to students protesting on social media and praise from some members of the VSU community.

The interim president also opened up VSU’s campus to two public figures in 2016. At the end of February, presidential

candidate Donald Trump came to campus and this event was attended by thousands of people and protested by multiple student organizations. In early April, rapper 2 Chainz was brought to campus for the annual spring concert and the event brought complaints from Valdosta citizens, but was enjoyed by many students.

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, it was unclear if Staton would serve as VSU’s Interim President for more than a year, but it is now clear that Staton was searching for jobs outside of Valdosta State as early as the fall of 2015.

Staton applied to be the president of the University of New Orleans in November, but it is unclear how many other jobs he applied for before receiving the nomination for Chancellor of East Carolina University.

Valdosta State students have taken to Twitter and other social media platforms to express their opinions on Staton leaving and heading north. Similar to the



Tatyana Phelps/THE SPECTATOR

Dr. Cecil Staton gave the State of the University address last Friday. However, he did not mention that he will not be returning for the upcoming school year.

alterations Staton made at VSU, his exit from the university is also stirring up mixed feelings.

“I’m fine with it because I feel like there wasn’t a real connection between him and the student body, so it will be better to get a new president who is more equipped and willing to listen to the students,” said Desmond

Jackson, junior marketing major.

Emily Millan, sophomore dental hygiene major said, “He is going to a better job offer, so he should go for it.”

According to the Board of Regents press release, Chancellor Hank Huckaby will be naming another interim president for VSU in the near future.

Bachelor’s degree: Is it the new high school diploma?

Tatyana Phelps
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The bachelor’s degree has become the new high school diploma. It is the new base line standard degree that someone has to obtain to qualify to enter the work force. This gives students the conception that they can’t just stop after obtaining their undergraduate degree.

This belief tends to belittle a bachelor’s degree and even make students feel as though the hard work they’ve done over the course of four (or more) years has gotten them nowhere. People usually further their education after their undergraduate

studies for a few different reasons. First, of course, a master’s degree usually results in a higher paycheck. Second, certain jobs may actually require a master’s or a doctorate degree. Third, a graduate degree offers more jobs opportunities. Lastly, someone may want to expand his or her knowledge on a subject they studied in undergrad or in a new area altogether if he or she wishes to change careers.

However, although a graduate degree will more than likely ensure a higher salary and looks good on paper, it doesn’t always mean someone will have a better job or even get their dream job.

“A lot of people go after a degree and think there will be magic in

it,” said Norm Meshiry, master career counselor and owner of Career Insights, in a Monster article.

Some people tend to associate a graduate degree with someone being more qualified for a job or even with having more experience. However, experience comes from work and internships, not a degree.

“Master’s degrees in general are not enough to move the needle for anyone charting a new path in life,” said Rosemary Guzman Hook, certified career coach and executive recruiter at Hook The Talent, Inc., told U.S. News Money. “There must be experience, practicums, internships or something that demonstrates the

individual has more than just theoretical knowledge.” Hook adds that once a person has experience, a master’s degree can open more doors than a bachelor’s degree would.

However, the career world is changing and even some entry level jobs are starting to require more than a bachelor’s degree, depending on the career field. “Many entry level jobs today now require a master’s and virtually all senior managements and senior professional positions require a master’s,” Brian Kelley, chief information officer at Portage County Information Technology Services, said in a U.S. News Money article.

Although a master’s degree is

highly valued, some jobs are only looking for a bachelor’s degree, along with a bit of experience. However, this still does not answer the question, “Is it absolutely necessary to go to graduate school?”

Of course, people who aspire to be doctors, dentists, professors, and some other careers are required to get at least a master’s degree, and sometimes even a doctorate degree.

When it all comes down to it, the truth is, it is not always necessary to go to graduate school. The decision to go to graduate school depends on each individual’s choice of career path.

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NEWS



Courtesy of Google Images

This school year, 24,002 parking tickets have been issued to VSU students, faculty and staff.

Parking tickets on the decline at VSU

Numbers show that less tickets have been issued in the past three years

**Kenzie Kesselring,
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Parking is a pain. It's a pain for students. It's a pain for teachers. It's a pain for everyone.

The cost of a parking ticket \$15 and the cost of an extended parking ticket \$20. The number of parking tickets for VSU students in one year is over 20,000.

According to Jill Ferrell, VSU's Director of Parking and Transportation, for the 2013 to 2014 school year, about 29 thousand tickets were given out. In the 2014 to 2015 school year, a little over 26 thousand tickets were distributed.

For the current academic year, the total number of tickets is over 24,000. As of publication date, the number of tickets for the 2015-2016 academic year is 24,002.

Ferrell attributes the decline in tickets between the academic years to the decline in enroll-

ment, staff reduction and increase in students following parking guidelines.

According to the data provided, the most tickets come from main campus and the least ticked spot is the Nevins lot. However, many of the tickets come from the timed parking spots on campus.

On main campus alone, there are about 100 timed parking spots. In total, for both main campus and north campus there are 143 timed spots.

According to Ferrell, the prominent reason for parking tickets falls under the no permit violation. According to the VSU website all motor vehicles must properly display a current parking permit to park on campus at all times, Monday through Friday and open parking on campus begins after 5:30 pm with a valid parking permit.

Ferrell says there are no new parking regulations that students should be aware of and that students should always purchase and display a valid parking permit.

Students should also always park in the correct designated parking areas.

Although the parking regulations on campus stay consistent from semester to semester, some students who park on campus do not agree with parking regulations.

Many students feel that there isn't enough parking and that overnight parking should be expanded forward into Oak parking lot.

"Our parking is trash," said Cierra Lowe, freshman exercise physiology major. "If we had a better parking situation, ticketing wouldn't be as bad."

However, not all students dislike the parking situation at VSU. "Ticketing makes people move their cars, so that's not bad," said Leslie Crosby, freshman biology major.

Even though parking is a pain, it is necessary, and it does not look like VSU will be making changes to their parking system any time soon.

VSU Fishing Club qualifies to go to championship tournament

Kelsey Dickerson

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A team from the VSU bass fishing club is headed to finals after a close weekend of qualifying.

Senior criminal justice major Cody Clearly, the club's secretary, and freshman marketing major Max Gresham, the club's vice president, will travel to the 2017 Fishing League Worldwide championship after qualifying at the 2016 FLW College Open in Gilbertsville, Kentucky, the first weekend of April.

Finishing 11th with a 15 team cut-off, Gresham says that the pair is excited to have qualified. "The tournament had 202 boats in it total so the field was huge. The weather was rainy and windy and very hard to fish in but we stuck with our pattern and it worked!" Clearly said.

"We didn't think we had enough weight the second day to make it at first, but with every angler crossing the stage failing to top our weight we got more and more excited," Gresham said. "Competition was extremely tight. We only made the 15th place cut by just a couple pounds."

Though the details of the 2017 championship have yet to be revealed, Gresham says the team will gather as much information as they can about the location and build a practice plan based on what they find out.

Fishing club president Landon Tucker said that joining the club starts with a conversation and then a few trial-run fishing outings with members of the club to test the potential member's ability.

According to Gresham, he became friends with someone on the team before school started last fall and though he began with a different partner, he said, "After a few tournaments I felt like my fishing style fits better with Cody as a partner."

Clearly said that he heard about the team through social media and has been a part of the club for one year in May.

The club has sent two other teams to championship with qualifications for the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship in both 2014 and 2015, but no VSU team has qualified for an FLW championship before.

Tucker says the club started about six years ago and participates in four different fishing tours: the B.A.S.S. College Series, the FLW College Fishing tournaments, the Association of Collegiate Anglers (ACA) Tournaments, and the Fishlife Tour.

The club will be headed to Durant, Oklahoma, in June to participate in the three day long B.A.S.S. Wild Card tournament.

To prepare for the competition Tucker said, "We'll be practicing for three days for it, putting in 12 hour days on the water."

Out with Chartwells, in with Aramark

Julia Rodriguez

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Chartwells, the contracted food provider at VSU, lost the bid to resign a contract. Next year's possible food provider is Aramark.

Aramark is a business dating back to the 1930s when peanuts were sold out of the back of a young man's old Dodge in Los Angeles. His name was Davre Davidson, the man who helped build the foundation for what is today Aramark. The business claims to be dedicated to providing excellent service and enriching the lives of their customers.

There is "No signed contract yet but we are very close to getting all the final approvals," Philip D. Allen, Executive Assistant to the President and Vice-President for External Affairs, said. "The changeover will happen on May 8."

Those previously employed by Chartwells have been encouraged to look for employment from Aramark.

"Aramark met Wednesday, April 20, with Chartwells' line employees to discuss the process

by which any of them may apply to and then be considered for positions Aramark will need to fill," says Allen.

According to VSU's "Guide for Doing Business with the Purchasing Services Office of Valdosta State University" the VSU Purchasing Services Office objectives are to ensure the company they do business with will positively represent the university, provide the greatest value with consideration to all requirements and will treat all campus customers and suppliers equally, among other qualities.

VSU is required to follow procedures and regulations by offices of the state and federal governments including: The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Department of Administrative Services State Purchasing Office Regulations.

The guide further elaborates on the circumstances allowing for the contract to be terminated, such as the business providing unsatisfactory performance or failure to perform as a whole with reference to the terms of one or more contracts.

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NEWS

Greek Week's canned food drive 'Canstruction' raises more than a thousand cans

Jordan Barela
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Canned food is not just for eating anymore.

As part of the annual Greek Week, sororities and fraternities competed in an event called "Canstruction."

The event was held on the Pedestrian Mall, in front of Odum Library last Wednesday. During the event, Greeks utilized cans to create structures. There were a total of six teams. Each team represented a particular country. As part of the theme, countries represented were Egypt, Italy, Greece, Brazil, Australia and Jamaica. The volunteers and hosts for each event represented the United States. Each team was given three hours to complete the building of their structures.

"We decided to have the theme of Greek Week as countries this year so that our Greek students could learn about other cultures and showcase them on campus," Connor Hughson, Interfraternity Council graduate assistant, said.

After the event, the canned food was donated to Second Harvest. Over 1,000 cans were donated.

"The primary goal of most of the organizations is to give back to the community," Hughson said. 'Canstruction' was a great opportunity during the week for our Greeks to help others while fostering awareness on the VSU campus of all the positive work they do."

Held in the spring, Greek Week is not only an annual celebration of Greek Life, but also a competition. Each fraternity and sorority from the College Panhellenic Council, National PanHellenic Council, and the Interfraternity Council competed in this year's Greek Week. Each individual Greek organization also has a large community service project, according to Hughson.

Along with "Canstruction," other events included chariot races, softball, canoe battleship, and trivia, among others. According to Hughson, the events somewhat change each year.

"Greek Week is an opportunity for the Greeks on campus to celebrate all the positive things about being Greek," Hughson said. "It fosters pride not only within the individual organizations but among the community as a whole."

Two VSU students start new organization that plans to bring spirit to the university

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VSU is about to get a lot hotter. Starting this August, VSU's newest student organization, The Fire Pit, will be igniting the campus with Blazer pride in attempts to encourage more students to attend football games and support the national title-winning Blazer football team.

Students Colleen Kavanaugh and Jacquelin Marrero are leading the organization and will work with advisor Sterlin Sanders to best serve the students of VSU. The Fire Pit will be funded by advancement donations and will not come from student fees.

"We don't want to increase any student fees, we only want to increase student fun," said Kavanaugh.

The goal of The Fire Pit is to increase attendance at football games in a controlled environment, according to Kavanaugh. The current plan is to have a DJ playing music as students enter the game and be welcomed with a spirit item and face paint to show their Blazer pride.

Marrero and Kavanaugh also hope to give students a gift donated from the community when leaving the game.

"We want the students to feel valued and like they are missing out if they don't come to the game," said Kavanaugh.

A big change in the football schedule for the upcoming season is the time of the football games. According to the VSU football schedule, all games except for homecoming will be at 7 p.m. instead of during the afternoon.

Similar to last season, Student Life will continue to host tailgates before the football games, and The Fire Pit plans to be involved in those as well.

"The Fire Pit will welcome students and alumni as they enter the tailgate and go around to each booth and interact with the students there," said Kavanaugh.

The Fire Pit will also be enlisting the help of other organizations on campus to paint sheet signs, decorate the sidewalks of campus with chalk, and participate in the "All In" campaign.

The "All In" campaign will consist of all organizations

involved hosting a party on the front lawn the night before the first game in hopes of exciting the VSU community for the football game the following day, according to Kavanaugh.

"The more the student body comes together on one issue, the better," said Kavanaugh.

Following Wednesday's announcement that VSU will have a new interim president for the 2016-2017 school year, The Fire Pit does not anticipate any issues arising that could affect the startup of the new Blazer spirit organization.

The Fire Pit is looking for dedicated and spirited students to join them for the 2016 football season.

"We are looking for students that have good GPAs, are full time students, in good standing with the VSU code of conduct, they're proud to be a Blazer, and they are ready to make a difference and be a part of something bigger than themselves," said Kavanaugh.

If interested in joining The Fire Pit, email Kavanaugh at ckavanaugh@valdosta.edu.

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OPINIONS

Are new, stricter voter ID laws more protective or restrictive?

Our point of view...

What we want in a new president

On June 30, the president's chair at Valdosta State will be vacant. Again.

On Wednesday, Interim President Cecil Staton was appointed as the new chancellor of East Carolina University. Until June 30, Dr. Staton will still serve as the Interim President of VSU. We at The Spectator want to congratulate Dr. Staton on his great news and wish him nothing but the best.

According to a statement released by the Board of Regents, a new interim will be named, followed by a presidential search committee.

With a new interim forthcoming and new president in the future, we want the perspective president to know a few things.

A president is not just a figure head; a president is responsible for the overall well-being of this institution. We at The Spectator want a new president who understands this.

We want a president who does not hide behind a politician guise.

We want to know that the President's door (or email) is always open.

We want a president who takes the student's voice into account.

Since the specifics of graduation ceremonies were changed earlier this year, VSU was hit with a wave of backlash. Many students felt that Dr. Staton did not consider their input during this drastic change.

Students are the lifeblood of VSU. Once that lifeblood stagnates, VSU will cease to be.

Thus, we hope the new president guarantees to make sure that students' voices are heard.

Dr. Staton made it a point to communicate with us at The Spectator. We want to build upon this relationship with the new president. Why? Because we serve as the voice of the students.

The most important thing that we want from our perspective president is that she or he show the vision for this university. Show what you have planned for this university. Do not have the VSU community in the dark; show them every step of the way.

The strongest force the president can have is the supportive community behind her or him.

While there has been backlash through his presidency, there have been accomplishments with Dr. Staton at the helm. Though Dr. Staton has stepped into controversy in some areas of his presidency, he appears to have made those choices for the advancements of VSU. Whatever you say about Dr. Staton, you can't deny that he aimed big.

While we understand that the president of VSU cannot fix every problem, we know that this position comes with great power. A power to change the direction of this university.

Our next president will be the fifth president since 2011. We want a president who will commit to this university.

With open arms, we at The Spectator welcome our new president... whoever it turns out to be.

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Being forced to get a Voter ID limits the amount of votes and access that people with lower income have to the voting process.

A report from the Huffington Post suggests that eight of the 16 states that have held primaries had strict voting laws since 2010.

Democratic turnout was 285 percent worse in states with new voter ID laws. The same post shows that voting restrictions are the reason that Democratic turnout has dropped 37 percent in those eight states with the laws intact but only thirteen percent in the states without new voter restrictions.

Democratic support was down 50 percent in Texas in 2008 and support for the Republican Party increased 180 percent.

Could these numbers support the majorities who have taken the proper steps to gain voter ID rights or are people with less opportunity or money not being included?

The new voter ID laws and registrations could possibly pose a threat to the Constitution. Democracy is about the public's input, but these laws keep some people from participating.

Applying to carry a gun is easier than voting in some states.

With these new laws, voting turnouts only show that certain people are able to vote. A study by the University of California, San Diego, showed a change in minority votes before and after strict voter ID laws.

Specific voter suppression is becoming a real thing in 2016. Voting is developing into a rich man's game by winning states through contributions. There are

certain states where school ID's are not even accepted.

Applying to carry a gun is easier than voting in some states.

Voting laws are changing the way voters vote and preventing the proper representation of the public.

One Issue, Two sides

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Georgia is one of nine states with strict voter laws that require photo ID.

If the voter doesn't have the required ID, he or she has to vote on a provisional ballot, and then has three days to return and show proper ID for the vote to count.

According to Nasal.org, Accepted photo ID includes one of the following: Georgia's driver's license, even if expired; ID card issued by the state or federal government; free voter ID card issued by the state or county; US passport; valid employee ID card containing a photo from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the US government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state; valid US military ID card; or valid tribal photo ID.

The law is considered strict, because if the voter does not have an ID they must vote on a provisional ballot and take additional steps after the election to present acceptable ID. However, almost everyone has some form of photo

ID, so this law is not as restricting as some may think.

Also, the voter ID card issued by the state or county, depending on where you live, is free; so, if you have a birth certificate, all you have to do is go to your local registers office website and fill out a form.

NCSL.org claims that as of 2016, 33 states have laws requesting or requiring some form of ID at the polls.

The other 17 states use proof, such as signatures, to verify voter identification.

Forging a signature would be a lot simpler than forging a photo ID and a voter ID.

NCSL.org assures that most states with strict voter ID requirements make exceptions for people who have religious objections to being photographed, are indigent, have a reasonable impediment, do not have a photo ID as a result of a recent natural disaster, and people who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking and have a confidential listing.

Georgia, unfortunately, has no exceptions.

Strict laws are enforced for the purpose of preventing voter im-

Strict laws are enforced for the purpose of preventing voter impersonation

personation and to increase public confidence in the election process says NCSL.org.

Considering you can obtain a voter ID card for free and a five year Georgia ID card for \$20, the strict voter ID law only makes the voting process easier for election administrators and isn't an extreme cost burden for voters.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.



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A good-bye from our seniors

Lessons learned at VSU

From the moment I set foot on this campus four years ago, I have constantly been learning lessons. I have learned expensive educational lessons, social lessons that were learned while having a good time, and hard lessons that were not fun to learn, but extremely necessary.

As I prepare to leave Valdosta, I am finding that every lesson I have learned in the past four years is irreplaceable and so very valuable. Being the hard-headed person I am, I wish I could say I learned all of these lessons on my own, but that is far from the truth.

Without my sisters, colleagues, parents and teachers I would not have been able to learn, recover from, and teach these same lessons to other people.

I give credit to my Chi Omega sisters for teaching me the importance of sisterhood and leadership.

Without my colleagues at The Specta-

The best teams are filled with diverse individuals who love and respect one another.

tor, I never would have learned that the best teams are filled with diverse individuals who love and respect one another.

If it had not been for my parents, I would not have learned the value of hard work and dedication.

Most importantly, without Dr. Miller telling my classmates and I nearly every day that, "journalists change the world," I would not be where I am today. I would not have gained the confidence to go from this beautiful campus ready to change the world by being the best journalist I can be.

So thank you to everyone who has stuck with me through my time here at Valdosta State, and thank you for everyone who has believed in me, challenged me, and loved me. Good luck to every graduate leaving this campus in a few days and, go Blazers!

-Kenzie Kesselring

Finding journalism at The Spectator

It's hard to believe that my undergraduate journey has already come to an end.

People aren't lying when they say that college will literally be the fastest years of your life. During my college career, I've had some of the best (and the worst) times of my life, but I wouldn't even change the bad experiences for anything else. There are certain things that you can only experience by going to college, and I'm glad that I've been fortunate enough to do that.

If it wasn't for Dr. Pat Miller telling me in spring 2014 to apply for The Spectator's copy editor, I don't know where I would be today.

There are a few things I wish I had done differently during the last four years, but one thing is for sure—if I had to do this all over again, I'd still keep The Spectator as a part of my college career. Actually, if anything, I would've joined the staff sooner.

Journalism has become not only a part of my college career, but it's become a part of my life as a whole. It's become more than just late Wednesday nights in the newsroom. It's become more than just joking around with my

editor-in-chief, Jordan Barela, at least five hours out of the day. It's become more than just covering events with my fellow editors. Journalism has become what I want to do with my life; what I want to do for a living.

I wish I was leaving with more than a two-year experience on staff, but in the past two years as a student journalist, I've learned more than I've learned throughout all 16 years of school. Not only will I leave with a ton of experience under my belt, but I'll also leave with lifelong friends.

Thank you, Ted, for teaching me how to be a real news writer. Thank you, Dr. Miller, for always looking out for me and always pushing me to reach my best potential. Thank you, Aimee, for indirectly giving me life advice through your own life stories. Thank you to all of the editors I've worked with last from fall 2014 to today.

You all have been my support system throughout this journey, and some of you have even become my best friends.

The Spectator has become more than just a weekly routine, more than student assistant job; it has become my family.

-Tatyana Phelps

Passing the reins with a heavy yet hopeful heart

This is probably the hardest thing that I have ever had to write. This is the last issue that I will be serving as the Editor-in-Chief.

When I transferred to VSU and found The Spectator, I had one goal in mind: to become the Editor-in-Chief. I started from the bottom (get it?) and made my way to the top. This newspaper that I have loved since I started out as a writer. This newspaper that I have sacrificed my Wednesday nights for. This newspaper that has given me a coffee addiction.

With that being said, I couldn't have made it this far without the wonderful

editorial staff behind me. I not only had the pleasure of leading this staff, I got to know each of them. Their likes, dislikes, and everything in between. This staff has taught me that the sorority president can be a diehard feminist, the quiet one can have an immense poetic voice that could move mountains, and that talent comes in different shapes, sizes and shades.

To each member of the editorial staff, both past and present, I thank you for giving up your Wednesday nights with me. Thanks for the laughs, endless Starbucks runs, and even the frustrations of working until 2 a.m.

To Tatyana, the wonderful Managing Editor, thank you for being both my left and right hand woman. Thank you for dealing with my out there antics and becoming one of my closest friends.

To Dr. Miller, I want to thank you for seeing talent in me that I didn't even know I had. Thank you for always having the answer that I needed, even if I had to figure it out the hard way. You have helped make my confidence to hone my journalistic craft that "half inch taller." You are truly a one of a kind professor.

To Ted, I want to thank you for your

positivity. Thank you for your guidance and showing me why I love this crazy thing called journalism. You are the light of our newsroom.

To Gabe andayah, good luck next semester. This will be your show now. I can't wait to see what the two of you do next semester and I will wait each Wednesday with anticipation.

The Spectator has been the reason that has kept me going at VSU. I hope to take what this newspaper has taught me into the world. What a journey this has been.

-Jordan Barela

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Techy TIP

Tired of cropping your screenshot pictures? Try the Snipping Tool. It captures a screen shot, or snip, of any object on your screen, and then annotate, saves, or shares the image.

Chariot: the new all female Uber

Julie Jernigan

STAFF WRITER

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Ladies, your Chariot awaits. Earlier this week, a female-only Uber, appropriately named “Chariot,” debuted in Boston.

The founder and former Uber driver Michael Pelletz first found inspiration for his service in the film “Pretty Woman.”

According to the Washington Post, Pelletz said, “I saw something in this movie. I was made to take care of women, to love them, respect them...I was meant to do this.”

After working for Uber for nine months, it shocked Pelletz to hear of all the stories of women getting hit on while trying to get home.

“What if I was a woman? Just one bad apple behind the wheel and those women would not be safe at all. three a.m.

in Boston is a candy store for predators,” his company’s website says.

With Uber and Lyft having increasingly more sexual assaults cases stacking against them, BuzzFeed reports, it’s no wonder why Pelletz wanted to create a service to protect the safety of women.

So, how does Chariot work? Female drivers will pick up women and children under 13, the website says. All drivers will be fingerprinted, and go through background checks with local law enforcement. Drivers will at least earn \$25 per hour, and will have to answer a security question at the beginning of each day to confirm their identity. The app will provide the passengers with a safe word, and the ride cannot begin without the driver confirming the word. The company also allows transgender women to drive and ride. Chariot currently employs 1,000 women drivers.

Some experts argue whether this service is legal.

Dahlia C. Rudavsky, a partner in a Boston law firm who

specializes in labor law, told the Boston Globe, “There’s nothing wrong with advertising particularly to a female customer base, but if a company goes further and refuses to pick up a man, I think they’d potentially run into legal trouble.”

Pelletz is not concerned with these details.

“I have an amazing lawyer and law team, and they would have never come onboard if they thought anything I was doing was illegal,” Pelletz assured the Washington Post. “If and when we ever do face legal challenge, we will be very prepared. All we are doing is protecting women drivers.”

Many female potential passengers are refusing car services due to safety, and if this new service assures it, then we have a successful company on our hands. Chariot could potentially take off if they handle all the legal jargon thrown their way first.



After angry moviegoers sent in complaints about AMC theaters reversal of its texting ban, the company decided to reinstate the ban.

Photo Courtesy of Flickr

AMC lifts its theater texting ban...then changes its mind

Miles Brown

STAFF WRITER

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Last Friday, AMC scrapped plans to allow theater patrons to text during movies. The AMC CEO Adam Aron decided on this based on the negative response the policy received from critics and moviegoers. The policy was first introduced as a way to attract millennials. However, many moviegoers decided against this measure. One moviegoer Jeremy Conrad, said “Do this and I’ll never go to AMC again.” In a

recent poll conducted by Pew Research Center, 95 percent of Americans polled said it’s not ok to use a smart phone at the movie theater. In response, AMC reinstated the ban.

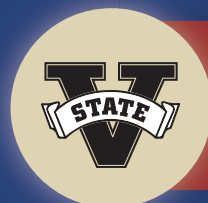
Aron may have thought his company would gain more ticket sales and attract a younger demographic by allowing texting in the theaters. However, he failed to see the repercussions of allowing texting. Many adults and majority of Americans go to the movies to enjoy the theater experience. Cellphones have always distracted and taken the focus away. Many feel it is rude and impolite to text, talk or play

games on the phone, especially when the theater is very dark. Overall, many movie goers would refrain from going to AMC theaters because of this. That is why Aron decided against the new policy. He knew he would lose more customers than he would gain.

The decision was the correct one. If the fact that many people get annoyed by things such as crying babies, loud chewing and bright lights, allowing texting in a movie theater will just add more fuel to the fire.

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(according to IGN)

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2. The Sims 3 (2009)
3. The Sims (2000)
4. The Sims Remake (2003)
5. The Urbz: Sims In The City (2004)

SUDOKU X

*Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x2 box contains every digit from 1 to 6 inclusive.

Good Luck!

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GREEN APPLES by Jeff Harris



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DID YOU KNOW? According to Uberfacts, believing you can be smarter actually makes you smarter.

The Heavy Pets rock Ashley Street Station

Kyle Dawson

PHOTO EDITOR

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One of the hottest and most versatile jam bands in the country was in Valdosta last Friday night as The Heavy Pets took the stage at Ashley Street Station.

The Heavy Pets, who are from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, have been releasing music for about ten years. The band has released three albums and four EPs all while touring the country and hitting big festivals such as Bonnaroo. They are categorized as a jam band, but they're really too diverse to be tied to one genre, which was showcased in their performance last Friday.

The band is comprised of

a lead singer who also plays rhythm guitar, a bassist, a drummer, a lead guitarist and a keyboard and synthesizer player who takes over on lead vocals on some songs.

At the start of their set, The Heavy Pets played some jam band songs complete with long guitar solos and instrumental sequences, but with some reggae and funk influences as if Widespread Panic and Slightly Stoopid came together and formed one band.

Later, the band got even funkier as they played more bass driven songs reminiscent of George Clinton or very early Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Towards the end of the show, The Heavy Pets showed a southern rock side while keeping the jam band theme.

They could have easily passed off as an Allman Brothers cover band, and their guitar solos in this part of the show were very Free Bird-like.

The band looked the part as they took the stage in tie-dye shirts and long hair, and they played to an enthusiastic, near-full room of people from all walks of life for most of the night.

During the show, if listeners closed their eyes, they might think they were at a concert on the beach in the Caribbean, drinking out of a coconut instead of drinking PBR at a dive bar like most of them were doing.

All in all, it was just another night at the always eccentric Ashley Street Station.



The Heavy Pets blew away the crowd at Ashley Street Station on Baytree Rd on Friday night with their unique style of rock music tinged with reggae, jazz and funk influences. A crowd of about 100 people came out to see the band.

Kyle Dawson /THE SPECTATOR



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COLLEGE LIFE

Book Review:

How to leverage your degree

Mayah Cantave
COLLEGE LIFE EDITOR
mcantave@valdosta.edu

Life after college can be nerve-racking. Not knowing whether you'll have a job after college or knowing whether your made the right decision with your degree can stress anyone out. Students spend thousands of dollars for a degree and are unsure of how to use that degree to land the job that they want.

S.A. Eberwein has tons of inside information and tips for how to find a job or career after college. In his book, "Cash Your Investment: How to Leverage Your College Degree into a Great First Job," Eberwein gives you steps and the tools you'll need to survive after graduation.

First, Eberwein discusses how to get in the right mind state for your job search. He states that framing your mind is the most important piece to a job hunt. Eberwein uses an example of his colleague who was afraid to talk to women to show why you

should conquer your mind. Focusing your mind will help you land you the job you want.

Secondly, chapter 2, "Utilizing a Mentor," is about asking for help. A mentor can share personal experience, expertise and insight on searching for jobs after graduation. "You mentor instills confidence," said Eberwein in regards to why you should obtain a mentor. Your mentor will do more than cheer you on; your mentor will give you perspective, help with resumes and interviews and ensure you have all the tools you could possibly need to succeed.

Thirdly, Eberwein discusses how to plan your attack for your job search. This is the longest chapter of the book, broken down into seven subsections. Eberwein discusses networking and how to use your contacts and connections to help with your search. "Map out a cohesive overall strategy ahead of time, and adhere to it without deviation," said Eberwein.

Fourth, in chapter 4,

"Interview Effectively," Eberwein tells you how to handle your interviews. He discusses how interviewees should do their homework and learn about the job before walking into an interview.

The last chapter, "Craft a Superior Resume," focuses on just that; building your resume. Eberwein explains what needs to go in a resume, things that are unnecessary in a resume, and how to stand out. Eberwein also provide examples of sample resumes to help future graduates as well.

This book is for those who are unsure of their future and need/want to have a leg up on the competition. This book is also for those who need help crafting a plan to get a job after college. It's ok to ask for help, especially if you're trying to land your dream job. Eberwein tells readers to "seize the initiative" and to never settle. S.A. Eberwein gives you the tools needed to "Cash Your Investment."

From class to career: Survival guide to life after college

Meaghan Bitters
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Here are a few tips to make your transition from college to career more efficient:

1. Stop complaining.

A lot of people work long hours and reap little benefits. Get over it; it's life.

Once you accept a job, you'll be there for a while. You can stay with that job forever, get laid off, get fired, or choose to leave, but you must realize that this job is important.

People will treat you like a real adult now, so you need to act like one.

2. Party in moderation.

You can still enjoy a weekday happy hour, just make sure your drinking isn't compromising your career.

You're in the real world now, so if you show up to work the next day smelling like a bar, you might get fired, or at least reprimanded. Gone are the days when it was okay to drink heavily all night and

get a couple of hours of sleep.

Not only can you ruin your career by doing so, but you are also ruining your body.

As you age, you'll feel your body can't handle the amount of alcohol it once could. It might be better to enjoy a quiet Friday night at home after a long, hard week, rather than a night out on the town.

3. Learn to cope with stress.

If you're still looking for a job six months after graduation, it's okay.

If you have a mental breakdown at work in front of all of your new coworkers, it's not okay. Always make sure to take deep breaths as needed, and find a way to deal with stress.

We all react differently to stress, so find something that works for you. You can go for a run or walk, ride your bike, go to the gym, go shopping; as long as you're doing something to release stress in a positive way, you're good.

However, if you get so

stressed you go on a food, alcohol or drug binge, you are not properly handling stress and are actually making the stress worse.

4. Create a healthy lifestyle.

No one wants to age quicker than they have to, so cut out all your toxic habits.

Pick a reasonable time that you can wake up every day, even days when you don't work.

Go to bed at a reasonable time every night. Your body will thank you by holding off on aging if you treat it well, which means getting enough sleep each night.

Drink enough water and learn how to cook. You're officially an adult, which means replenishing the proper nutrients and drinking the amount of water your body needs.

Luckily, we live in the 21st century, so learning how to cook is easier than ever. Just Google easy recipes and start practicing, you'll get the hang of it.

22 life lessons I learned in college

Mayah Cantave
COLLEGE LIFE EDITOR
mcantave@valdosta.edu

Life is unpredictable. You're going to have both good moments and bad.

For 22 years, I've second guessed myself, changed my mind, worried too much and plenty of other things. But with the bad, I remember the good.

Each year I grow, learn, and live my life happier with each passing day. Not everyone has

learned these same lessons. Not everyone will have to learn the exact same lessons. As long as you grow and roll with the punches everything will be okay.

1. You are your own worst enemy.
2. You're stronger than you think.
3. It's okay to outgrow people.
4. Not everyone is going to agree with your decisions and its okay.
5. Be who you want; it's okay

to be different.

6. Don't be a yes person. Never settle. Ever.

7. GPA does not determine your wealth, life or future.

8. Second, third, and even fourth chances are available.

9. End of relationships are not the end of the world.

10. Don't assume anything. People can surprise you. Not everyone is as honest as they seem and not everyone is as deceitful as they seem.

11. You need to make yourself

known or you'll never get anywhere.

12. Sometimes the villain is actually the hero.

13. Compromise is the only thing that makes any relationship work.

14. No one cares about your problems because they have their own.

15. Whatever you're worrying about now will mean nothing in the future.

16. You have to accept things you have no control over.

17. Mediocrity is not an option.

18. You're always going to wish that your weight is the same as the first time you thought you were fat.

19. Pain and hurt is only temporary.

20. Money has a tendency to go away faster than you make it.

21. Happiness is only sleep, a glass of wine and about 3 tacos away.

22. There's no roadmap for being an adult. You make your own path.

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DID YOU KNOW?

On Wednesday, Atlanta Braves catcher A.J. Pierzynski became just the tenth catcher in MLB history to record 2,000 hits during the Braves loss to the Red Sox.

Blazer baseball bounces back against Delta State

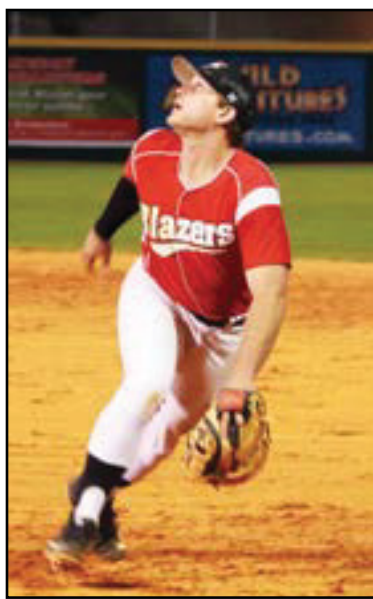
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After getting swept by West Georgia in their last series, the VSU Blazer baseball team looked to get back in the win column against another conference rival in Delta State University.

The series started last Saturday with Game 1 of an afternoon doubleheader, where the Blazers couldn't get back in the win column. VSU would get out to an early 2-0 lead thanks to a home run from first baseman Jaykob Graham, but the Statesmen used a five-run sixth inning to propel them to the lead, including the go-ahead homer from Ethan Gill.

Delta State would win by a score of 7-2. Starting pitcher Dalton Moats would pick up the win and the complete game for the Statesmen, striking out seven Blazers along the way.

VSU's bad luck continued in Game 2. After three two-run innings in a row, Delta State



Darian Harris/THE SPECTATOR

Tyler York fields a fly ball at Billy Grant Field.

saw themselves with a 6-0 lead going into the fifth inning, which proved to be too much of a deficit for the Blazers, who lost their fifth game in a row, 7-4.

The final game of the series took place Sunday afternoon, and with it came an exciting back and forth matchup. After Delta State

jumped out to a 3-0 lead, VSU would respond in the sixth inning with a three-run home run from third baseman Marcus Sigmon and an RBI single from left fielder Ryan Smith, giving the Blazers a 4-3 lead.

VSU would quickly lose the lead, however, after Delta State tied the score in the bottom of the inning and then took the lead in the seventh inning on a home run from Ben Pickard. The Blazers and Statesmen would both score in the eighth and ninth innings to eventually lead to a 7-7 tie at the end of regulation, forcing extra innings.

In the 10th, shortstop Ryan Slaughter would hit the go-ahead RBI single, scoring catcher Clint Carr. Troy Massaro got the final two outs in the bottom of the inning with two strikeouts and secured the much-needed victory for the Blazers.

Now back in the win column, VSU will look to finish strong in their regular season finale on the road this weekend against the North Alabama Lions.

Softball earns first round bye in GSC tournament

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There was a power surge for VSU as the Blazers beat Delta State 9-3. As an added bonus, West Georgia fell to Shorter 1-0, allowing the Blazers to jump into second place and earn a first-round bye heading into the Gulf South Conference Tournament this week in Florence, Alabama.

With the victory, the Blazers finished the regular season 38-10-2 and 22-9-1 in the GSC. The game consisted of 13 hits and 11 runs scored by the Blazers while allowing just five hits and three runs in the process.

Caitlyn Calhoun offered another great performance with five strikeouts and one walk over seven innings of play. The win boosted her record to 26-4 on the year, earning her a Player of The Week for the sixth time this season. Her 2016 performance resulted in -GSC Pitcher of The Year honors.

Danielle Patterson, Taylor Hartenbach, and Kiley Rusen

each contributed to the onslaught of terror that the Blazers placed on Delta State with multiple hits between each of them. Heather Robinson put the icing on the cake after she homered for the 12th time this season in the fourth inning to net three RBI's. Brandy Morgan and Kelly Gordon also homered in the first and last inning. Morgan's home run accounted for her tenth of the season as just a sophomore.

The Blazers have positioned themselves for a good run at the GSC championship. The tournament will start on April 28, in Florence, Alabama, at the site of the top-ranked North Alabama (46-5, 30-3 GSC). It will only feature the top six teams out of the conference and the Blazers will play the winner of Shorter and West Florida.

Ticket prices will be \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6-17, \$5 for students with a student I.D., and free for children five and under. Tournament passes are available for purchase at \$20.

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SPORTS

COMMENTARY



Darian Harris/THE SPECTATOR

Linebacker David Brown leads the defense in stopping the Red Army during the spring game last Saturday.

Defense shines in the VSU spring game

Carlus Williams

STAFF WRITER

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There was a sense of urgency on Saturday at VSU football's spring game.

This team seems to have what it takes to win it all. On the field it seemed like a battle of two championship-caliber teams. One was the defense, which was relentless and had multiple pick sixes. The secondary was not to be played with. There were two weapons on the defensive side in Kenny Moore and Kenneth Johnson. Both made interceptions and converted them into touchdowns.

The blaze was definitely on as new Head Coach Kerwin Bell's offense stepped foot on the field.

There was a different aroma on the Blazers sideline, one of charisma, grit and the will to succeed. One Blazer threw up and continued to want to play. This type of behavior shows signs of a new mentality; one that wants to bring a championship.

The defense won the scrimmage 47-33, but Bell's offense was impressive. At one point, VSU's offense had scored on three of four possessions before Murphy's pick six. Roland Rivers and his linemen are aiming to go above expectations and get the ball into the hands of Darrell Myers, who could very easily pose a threat to any defense that the Blazers face this year, along with Xay Howard, who posed the Blazers with this thought

provoking question after the Spring Game: How do we want our story to end?

One area of improvement for VSU will be turnovers. When the offense wasn't scoring, it was surrounding the football. The defense was awarded three points for each punt forced, four for a turnover and six for touchdowns. The defense's rampage made the crowd even more excited for opening weekend.

Make no mistake about it, this Blazers team seems ready to take its fourth national title. Under a new coaching staff, and freshly implemented offensive and defensive strategies, let's hope that the boys take the next step.

Football opener: vs Albany State
Saturday, September 3 at 7 pm
Bazemore-Hyder Stadium



Darian Harris/THE SPECTATOR

Head Coach Kerwin Bell addresses the team after last Saturday's spring game.

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Flip the issue over for the list of Spring 2016 graduates.