

October 31, 2017

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Special Edition

# THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

## VSU ignites for homecoming 2017

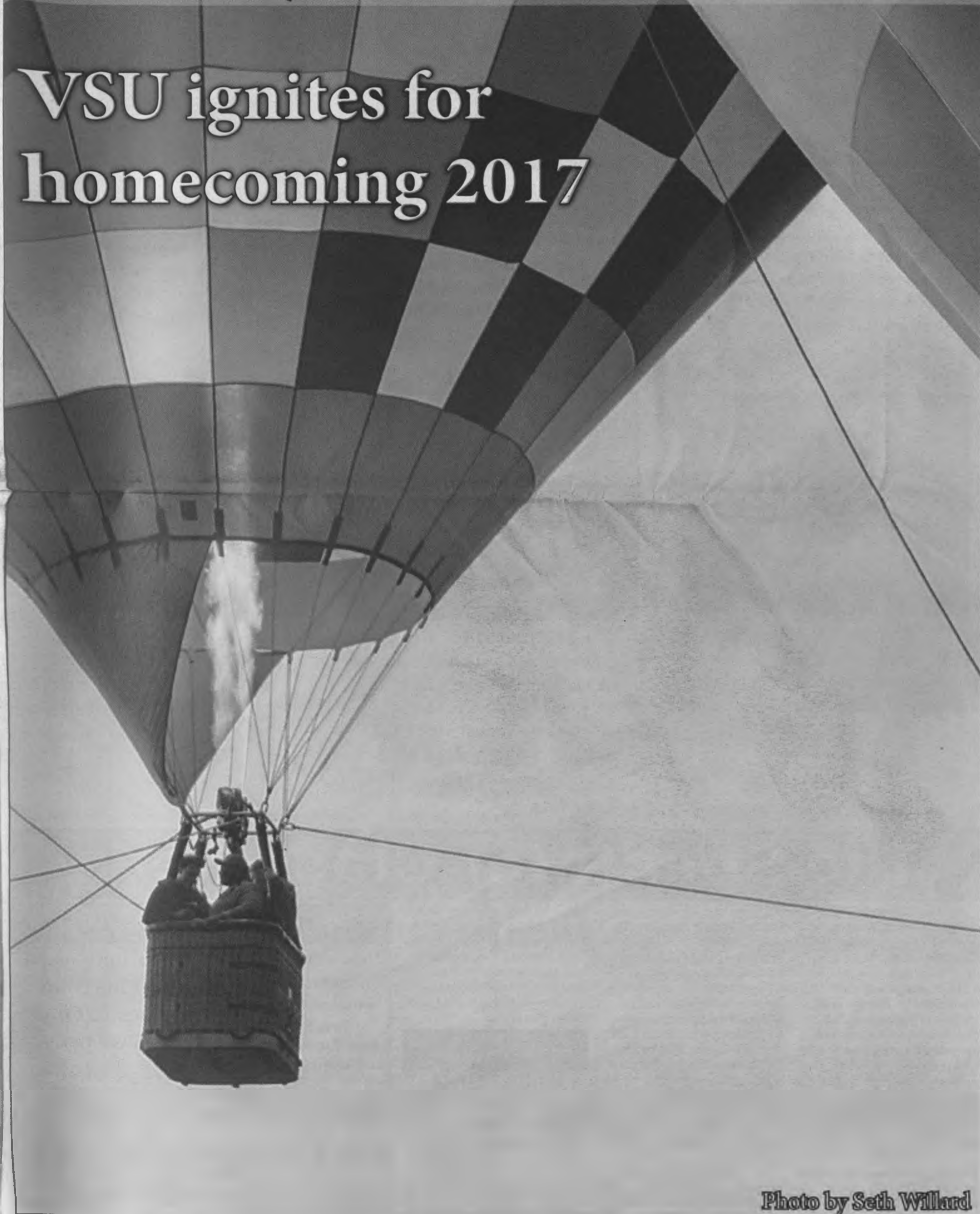


Photo by Seth Willard

#SPECTATOR



# Voice of the students

What is your favorite part about Homecoming week?



"I enjoy going to football games, and getting cool prizes and free stuff so I'm looking forward to tailgating and the homecoming activities," Alexxa Abraham, freshman middle grades education major said.



"The best thing about homecoming is the football game, that's just about it. Since I'm a football player that's all I care about," Dmitriy Burns, freshman criminal justice major.



"Well it's my first year so I'm looking forward to see what VSU has to offer for homecoming," Kameron Middleton, freshman psychology major said. "I'm sure it'll enjoy it."



"My favorite part about homecoming is being able to interact with different people doing different activities," Jacquelyn Walton, senior accounting major said.



"I'm a big football fan so of course my favorite part about homecoming is the football game," Christian Ebhote, junior industrial engineering major said. "Go blazers!"



"I like how everyone gets together and celebrates the university and the tradition of the school," Maggie Badagliacca, freshman undecided.

Quotes and photos by Bryce Ethridge and Tylaise Christopher

## The Spectator Classifieds

The Spectator prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$18.50 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$18.50 for up to 40 words.

Ads should be sent to The Spectator or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, a week prior. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed or paid via Mastercard, Visa, Discover or

electronic check online through Richard Rhett Parker, Advertising Manager. Email Rhett Parker at spec\_advertising@valdosta.edu to pay online.

Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Students must also submit their VSU Student ID number. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary.

The Spectator address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698. Our email address is spec\_advertising@valdosta.edu.

The Spectator reserves the right to reject any classified ad. All ads are subject to standard

editing procedures. The Spectator is not responsible for mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds include: For Sale, For Rent, Sublease, Wanted, Roommate Services, Personnels, ISO and Employment.

### Employment

**Scientist Hiring!**  
Need Research Assistant for time travel expirement  
SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY!!

Send applications to timetraveler@gmail.com

### Wanted

**Professional Wrestler** looking to buy cheap, wooden tables that break easily. Extra furniture (especially steel folding chairs) a bonus.

Please contact "This Is" Howie DeWitt at 867-5309 with offers.

### Musicians

**Jazz Enthusiast** seeking fellow musicians for jam sessions.

Contact Barry B. Benson at bboyjazzman@gmail.net and we can talk more!

**VSU Students Run Your Ad Here FREE!!**

# WHAT A

Chances of being a sophomore named Frank.



1 in 1,221

www.valdosta.edu/sam

# BE SMART.

Sources: Social Security Administration



ents  
coming week?



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and photos by Bryce Ehrhage and Tylaise Christopher

# Classifieds

Wrestler  
buy cheap  
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one (specially  
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fact "This is"  
at 867-5309  
offers.

**Musicians**  
Jazz Enthusiast  
seeking fellow  
musicians for jam  
sessions.  
Contact Barry B. Benson at  
bboyjazzman@gmail.net,  
and we can talk

# WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

# SAM

Be a little squirrely

Chances of being a sophomore named Frank.



1 in 1,221



1 in 1,511

Being a victim of a violent crime on campus.



Safety Awareness Mascot

@Vstate\_SAM

[www.valdosta.edu/sam](http://www.valdosta.edu/sam)

# BE SMART. BE SAFE. BE SENSIBLE.

Sources: Social Security Administration, Popular Baby Names, and National Center for Education Statistics.





The investiture carnival was open to VSU students, faculty and staff as well as the community. An array of food and entertainment was provided, including food trucks and hot air balloons.

**Kaitlyn Biach**  
Staff Writer  
kbiach@valdosta.edu

On Oct. 26 2017, Valdosta State University hosted a "Community Celebration" to kick off the two-day installation of Dr. Richard Carvajal as VSU's 10th president.

VSU hired two hot air balloons from Balloons Over Georgia, a company out of Forsyth, Georgia, to take carnival goers up over the festivities.

Food was provided by food trucks from Hibachi Express and Kona Ice. VSU catering also set up a table for guests to buy barbecue sandwiches and chips. Drinks were free of charge.

Even when the night had just started Cameron Taylor, a sophomore finance major said that the night was going to be a fun time.

"It's a nice turn out and it seems like a lot of fun," Taylor said.

Aakash Patel, a junior criminal justice major, sees that Dr. Carvajal wants more student involvement.

"I personally believe he is going to be holding a lot more events,"

Patel said, "It would be good to get all the students involved. I don't think he is going to lay low. I think he is going to come in right off the bat and start getting stuff done."

Around 8 p.m., 'The Blazin' Brigade came onto the front lawn with VSU cheerleaders, the Red Hots and Blaze. The band played stand songs and cheered to rile up the crowd.

Fireworks and flares brought the crowd's attention to the stage, where President Carvajal thanked everyone for attending the festival. Afterward, President Carvajal walked through the festival to greet members of the community.

Michael Matthews, a junior finance major, also sees that Dr. Carvajal cares for the Valdosta State community.

"I expect more events because this event shows that Dr. Carvajal is dedicated to student involvement," Matthews said. "We have hot air balloons, and free items like food, so I believe he cares about students and their involvement."

## VSU celebrates 10th president with investiture carnival

Photos by Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR



Students color complementary shirts and coloring books, created and designed by VSU alumni and current students.



Hot air balloons took carnival goers up for a look out over the front lawn throughout the night.



Students play corn hole, one of the many games offered by student organizations who volunteered to make booths for the carnival.

## VSU discusses academic appeals

**Bryce Ethridge**  
News Editor  
bethridge@valdosta.edu

On Thursday Oct. 19 at the Faculty Senate meeting, Associate Provost Sheri Gravett announced that VSU is changing the way students appeal academic suspension.

Gravett said that the current process involved too many steps, making the appeal process seem more tedious than necessary.

"What will happen is... they (students on suspension) will only go to one place," Gravett said.

The process to appeal has been changed to an online form that students will be able to access through the Registrar's page on the VSU website. Students will be able to add supporting documents such as an appeal letter or a note from a parent to help plead their case.

Gravett said that this form will be reviewed and assessed by a centralized suspension appeals committee made up of associate and assistant deans.

"I think that this is going to be a process that will help students and will allow us to develop a consis-

tent approach." Gravett said.

Upon assessment of the appeal, the committee will determine the student's progress and if of common conditions. Gravett said that VSU will provide this information to future students if they are receiving academic suspension.

Gravett said that she talked to Assistant Provost for Student Affairs, Students Daryl Lovins about the new process.

The new process will take effect in December for students on academic suspension until the beginning of the next semester, Jan. 7, to appeal forms.

"The reason they are doing this is so that the committee can work with them. It's a good time to go to an advisor for appropriate advice," Gravett said.

She also said that she will be adding students of additional suspension next to the ones that are suspended at the beginning of the year.

Internal Auditor brought up Ethics Week, an event last

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## Homecoming

October 30th - November 1st

**Monday 7:00pm-10:00pm**  
**Casino Night @ Student Union**  
Game Tables, Slot Machines,  
Music & More!  
Plus \$5,000 worth of prizes to win!  
Presented by Campus Activities Board  
\*Sheet Sign Competition 8am-4pm

**Tuesday 8:00am-2:00pm**  
**Masquerade Mystery Mission**  
Student Life Office  
10:00am-5:00pm  
**Grad Finale @ Bookstore**  
Seniors should attend to prepare for graduation  
7:00pm-9:00pm

**Who Done It?**  
**Murder Mystery Party @**  
UC Magnolia Room  
Presented by the Assoc. of Graduate Students  
\*Sidewalk Chalk Judged 6am-4pm  
\*HC Court Voting Round 1  
on Blazerlink ALL DAY



# VSU discusses changes to academic appeal process

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News Editor  
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"I think that this is going to be a process that will help students and allow us to develop a consis-

tent approach," Gravett said.

Upon assessment of the appeal, the committee will track the student's progress and take note of common conditions seen in students under academic suspension. Gravett said that VSU will use this information to adapt and help future students if they're at risk of receiving academic suspension.

Gravett said that she has already talked to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Daryl Lowe about bringing the new process up with SGA.

The new process will go into effect in December. It will give students on academic suspension until the beginning of the spring semester, Jan. 7, to submit their appeal forms.

"The reason they're doing this is so that the committee can meet, work with them, that they have time to go to an adviser, and get advised appropriately," Gravett said.

She also said that this alleviates students of additional burdens next to the ones they already face at the beginning of the school year.

Internal Auditor Heidi Cox brought up Ethics Awareness Week, an event lasting from Nov.

13-15, and revealed that the ethics awards will be presented to people around campus to show what ethics means to VSU.

"We're really going to be celebrating the spirit of VSU," Cox said. "We're going to kind of take spirit in terms of stewardship, prevention, inspiration, integrity, responsibility, and trust."

Cox said that they will be bringing up a proposal for the awards with the Faculty Senate, as well as SGA. All faculty and students are allowed to nominate any other student or faculty member.

"We're going to have a criteria, and we want you to tell someone's story," Cox said.

Cox said that VSU wants to hear stories of the nominees committing acts that would make them unsung heroes.

"There are stories of people doing things we never hear about, but we want to let them know that we appreciate them," Cox said.

Anyone who receives the ethics award will obtain a certificate and be highlighted and have their story posted on VSU's website.

"These are the stories we want broadcast out this year," Cox said.



Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Daryl Lowe poses with Vice President Vincent Miller and SGA sen. Chris Thompson

## Dean Lowe embraces student development

**Taylor Sutherland**  
Staff Writer  
tmsutherland@valdosta.edu

A little over two months ago, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Daryl Lowe arrived at VSU, but before that Lowe lived his life following his passion student development.

His love for student development led him to become assistant dean of students at Tennessee State University and associate dean of students at Kentucky State University.

After reading VSU's website that said "11,000 individual voices," Lowe knew he wanted to work at a university that cared about its students.

"That really spoke to me because that demonstrates how VSU has an invested interest in every single student," Lowe said.

As the dean of students, Lowe acts as an advocate for all students, which he takes pride in every day.

"Each issue that affects the

students I handle," Lowe said.

From various committees and departments like student life, student conduct and residence life, Lowe supervises each one.

"If a student needs help with drawing from class or just wants to talk, my job is to remove the barrier and have the students walk across that stage in four years," Lowe said.

So far, Lowe's favorite characteristic about VSU include aspects that only the students can bring.

"I was on the yard yesterday and I saw students having a 'The Campaign' so that men could have them for interviews," Lowe said.

Lowe admires that VSU students are very vocal and aware of issues around campus. He also notices that they are always finding ways to give back to the community.

Lowe said his door is always open. Students can email him or visit his office on the second floor of the Student Union in the Student Affairs office.

## Other vestiture

Photos by Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR



and designed by VSU alumni and current stu-



organizations who volunteered to make booths

**Need a place to vent?  
Submit your  
Opinion and Raves online at  
www.vsuspectator.com!**

# Homecoming

October 30th - November 4th

**Monday 7:00pm-10:00pm**  
**Casino Night @ Student Union**  
Game Tables, Slot Machines,  
Music & More!  
Plus \$5,000 worth of prizes to win!  
Presented by Campus Activities Board  
\*Sheet Sign Competition 8am-4pm

**Tuesday 8:00am-2:00pm**  
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UC Magnolia Room  
Presented by the Assoc. of Graduate Students  
\*Sidewalk Chalk Judged 6am-4pm  
\*HC Court Voting Round 1  
on Blazerlink ALL DAY

**Wednesday 11:00am-3:00pm**  
**Cook-out and Mask Making**  
@ Palms Quad  
Presented by Student Life  
10:00am-5:00pm  
**Grad Finale @ Bookstore**  
Seniors should attend to prepare for graduation  
6:00pm-8:00pm

**Thursday 7:00pm**  
**Student Union Ballrooms**  
Face & Sugar Skull Painting  
And Student Performances  
Presented by Student Diversity  
and Inclusion  
\*Poster Contest @ Student Union 8am-4pm

**7:00pm**  
**Glow in the Dark Pep Rally**  
PE Complex  
\*Lip Sync Competition  
Presentaion of HC Court  
\*HC Court Voting Round 2 on  
Blazerlink ALL DAY

**Friday 8:00pm**  
**Float Workshop Party**  
Oak Street Parking Lot  
Food, Music, Fun, and Float  
Decorating Materials

**Saturday 11:00am**  
**Parade Around Campus**  
Oak St. -> GA Ave. ->  
Patterson St. -> Brookwood Dr.  
\*Parade Float Competition  
12:00pm  
**Blazergate @ UC**  
\*Tailgate Tent Decorating Contest  
3:00pm  
**Football Game**  
**Bazemore Hyder Stadium**  
7:00pm  
**Stepshow @ PE Complex**  
Presented by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc





President Carvajal presents SGA president Mays Mapp and Fire Pit creator Colleen Ravennigh with class rings awarded by the Alumni Association



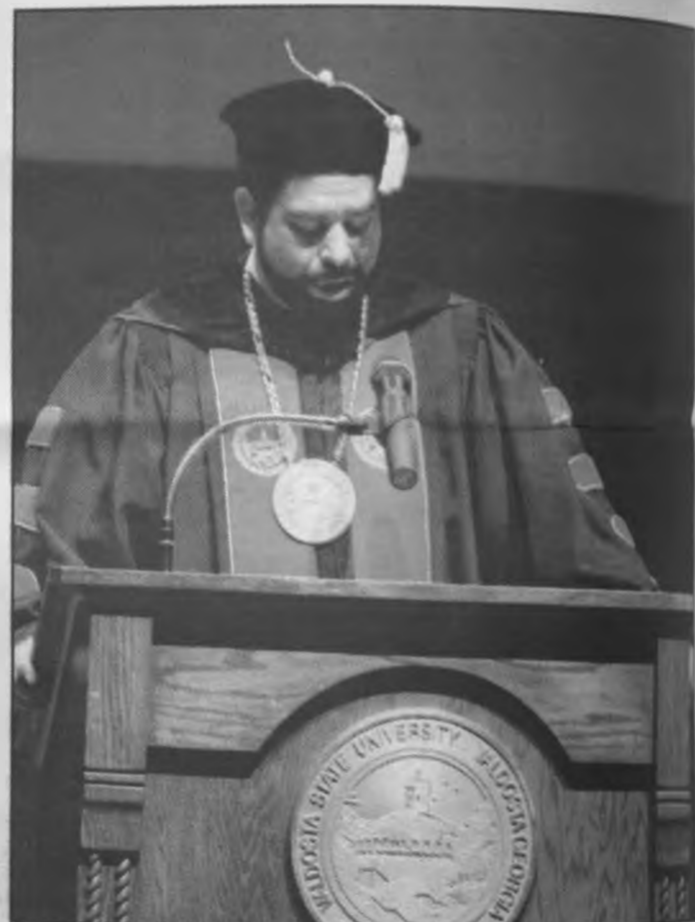
The VSU Mass Choir sings "This is The Moment" before the call to service.



Alumni Association President Jim Tunison presents President Carvajal and his wife, Dr. Cheryl Carvajal with honorary class rings that had been dipped in VSU's fountain, courtesy of the Alumni Association.

# Presidential installation ceremony

Photos by Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR



President Richard Carvajal gives his installation address at the installation ceremony on Oct. 27 at 11 a.m.

# Students disap

Jada Dukes  
STAFF WRITER  
jdukes@valdosta.edu

With graduation right around the corner, seniors are making sure to dot the I's and cross the T's before it's time to walk across the stage.

A crucial part of this process is filling out the graduation application that includes a fee of \$25 which does not cover the cost of a cap and a gown.

While some seniors are all set to graduate, others say the \$25 fee is the only thing stopping them. Senior interdisciplinary studies major, Jarfaith Jones, said she is in the process of applying for graduation but because she hasn't been able to get the money for the application fee, she has not been able to submit her application to graduate in the spring.

"I feel that it is unfair to have to pay the \$25 fee just to graduate," Jones said. "I think it should

be free because we already get charged enough fees throughout college."

According to the VSU website, the estimated cost of attendance for two semesters including housing is \$16,336 for in-state students and \$29,818 for out of state students.

Students often have to take loans to pay these costs and end up over \$10,000 in debt after graduate.

"I feel that because of tuition and the extra fees that we've already paid, I think it should be included in that," Ciara James, a senior communications major said.

James also said students who have been paying tuition costs for four years should not have to pay an application fee when they already have to worry about paying that money back to debt collectors.

The fee, according to the registrar's office, has been the same

# Debunking a con

Kaitlyn Baich  
STAFF WRITER  
kbaich@valdosta.edu

A myth has been circulating around college campuses that states if your college or university is burned down, all current students graduate with a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Vincent Miller, president of Student Affairs said this myth is simply not true.

"The college experience is most certainly tied to the physical structure of the building, but as we know, changing education, online courses and distance learning has

made earning a college degree more flexible from anywhere," Miller said.

"If the campus was to burn, we would likely seek alternate ways and locations to instruct courses including facilities that might be for rent to continue teaching classes," Miller said. "VSU is a part of a larger higher education system in Georgia, and we share resources from anywhere possible. Maybe we would share class space with another college in the area or even use local school buildings until we could rebuild."

After Hurricane Katrina, Tulane University suffered an extensive

**STUDENT UNION (3rd floor)**

# Benefits & Wellness Fair

**NOV 1st, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM**

**Health Screenings & Flu Shots start @ 8:30 AM**

FREE blood pressure, BMI, glucose/cholesterol, and more!

\*FREE flu shots for faculty/staff/retirees (photo ID and insurance card needed). \$10 for students.

**FREE manicures, FREE massages, 50+ exhibitors!**

## VSU Centralized Advising

**Freshman Registration Opens November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**See Your Advisor!**

The University Center  
Mon-Thurs 8-5:30pm • Fri 8-3pm  
229-245-4378

# VSU Graduate School

**When:**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2017**  
10am - 5pm

**Where:**  
**Valdosta State University**  
Student Union Bookstore  
(1st Floor)

Visit [www.valdosta.edu/gradsc](http://www.valdosta.edu/gradsc)





call to service.

# Confidential Installation Ceremony

Photos by Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR



gives his installation address at the installation 9 a.m.

## Centralized Advising



Man Registration  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Your Advisor!

University Center  
8-5:30pm • Fri 8-3pm  
229-245-4378

# Students disapprove of graduation fees

**Jada Duker**  
Staff Writer  
jduk@valdosta.edu

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A crucial part of this process is filling out the graduation application, which includes a fee of \$25. This fee does not cover the cost of a cap and gown.

While some seniors are all set to graduate, others say the \$25 fee is the only thing stopping them. Jarfaith Jones, said she is in the process of applying for graduation but because she hasn't been able to get the money for the application fee, she has not been able to submit her application to graduate in the spring.

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Students often have to take out loans to pay these costs and end up over \$10,000 in debt after they graduate.

"I feel that because of tuition and the extra fees that we've already paid, I think it should be included in that," Ciara James, a senior communications major, said.

James also said students who have been paying tuition costs for four years should not have to pay an application fee when they already have to worry about paying that money back to debt collectors.

The fee, according to the registrar's office, has been the same for



Students graduating at the May 2017 graduation high-five Blaze as they walk to receive their diplomas.

almost 30 years and is used to pay for diploma supplies, mailing materials, diploma covers and honor medallions. It's kind of hard to believe that these expenses cannot be covered without charging the graduates.

As a soon to be graduate, who is over \$20,000 into debt, I can't help but to agree with my fellow students.

Graduation is supposed to be a joyous occasion in which all seniors can share their great ac-

complishments with their loved ones.

Instead, for some college students these fees create a stressful environment for those of us who just don't have the funds to apply.

# Debunking a common college misconception

**Kaitlyn Baich**  
Staff Writer  
kbaich@valdosta.edu

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Vincent Miller, president of Student Affairs said this myth is simply not true.

The college experience is most certainly tied to the physical structure of the building, but as we change education, online courses and distance learning has

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"If the campus was to burn, we would likely seek alternate ways and locations to instruct courses, including facilities that might be for rent to continue teaching classes," Miller said. "VSU is also a part of a larger higher education system in Georgia, and we share resources from anywhere possible. Maybe we would share class space with another college in the area or even use local school buildings until we could rebuild."

After Hurricane Katrina, Tulane University suffered an extensive

amount of damage. The university's president at the time, Scott Cowen, announced that classes would be cancelled for the entire rest of the fall semester.

It would be safe to assume, under most conditions, VSU would close for the amount of time it would take for the university to get back to working levels or find another alternative for students to receive the education everybody pays for.

It is doubtful that anybody would want his or her college campus to burn down or suffer through any natural disasters.

"A college degree is earned by



Students walk the VSU campus to attend their daily classes and activities, passing all of the number of classes determined to earn the degree. Miller said, "That's the only way I know to get a degree, regardless of how and where you get it."

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

# VSU Grad Finale Fall 2017

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

## Get An Application Fee Waiver!

When:  
**Tuesday,  
October 31, 2017  
10am - 5pm**

**Wednesday,  
November 1, 2017  
10am - 5pm**

Where:  
**Valdosta State University  
Student Union Bookstore  
(1st Floor)**



EMAIL: GRADSCHOOL@VALDOSTA.EDU  
Call 229-333-5694

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# On-line portal could open up study rooms

**Veronica You**  
Special Projects Manager  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

More than 20 study rooms are available on VSU's campus on the first and third floors of Odum Library. These study rooms are currently on a "first come, first serve" basis. A student can go into an empty room and stay for as long as they want. This can leave other students waiting for a study room to become vacant.

A small study room has four chairs while a large one has eight. With the current system of "first come, first serve basis," one student can enter a large study room alone while leaving other students who may want to study in groups unable to use the larger study rooms.

Blayne Hritz, a freshman pre-nursing major, believes that study rooms should be reserved for groups of students as opposed to just a single student using the room.

"I think being able to reserve a room would be a nice improvement," Hritz said.

"We're working on a way to do

that now," Holt said. "We see that the students love the study rooms and that not being able to reserve them ahead of time is one of the most common complaints we get. We want the students to know they are being heard, and we are working on it."

Being able to have an online portal for students to reserve these study rooms can be helpful. It would cut down on students having to wait for a room or get to the library and realize there are no rooms available.

There could be downsides for reserving rooms, such as the same few students reserving the rooms for multiple hours on end. This could be resolved through limiting the amount of consecutive hours or total hours weekly someone could reserve.

"I think that during midterms and finals week, when the library is open 24 hours, that it should be required to reserve a room," Cromo said. "But during the week, it shouldn't be required to reserve a room."

"Being able to reserve a study room sounds like a good idea," Jared Baer, a sophomore biology major, said. "One time I was looking for a study room, and I couldn't find one anywhere."

Students overall seem to agree that there should be some type of online platform to reserve study rooms ahead of time and they should be reserved for groups and not just single students.

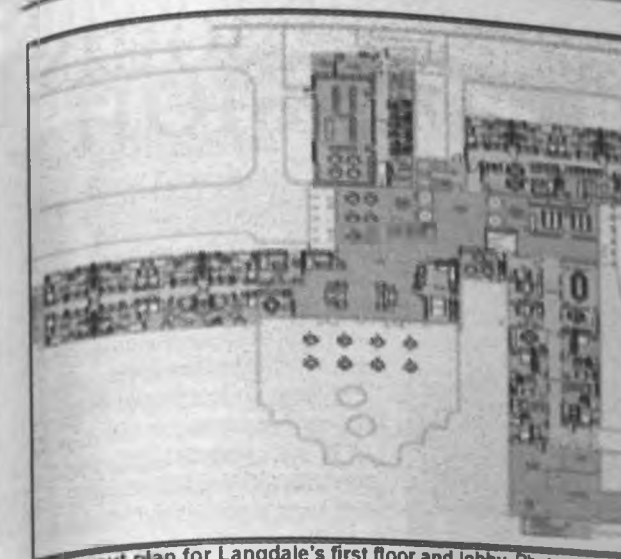
I agree there should be a way to reserve study rooms ahead of



An empty study room, usually overrun by students, awaits for a student to study.

time because some students may live off campus and commute to Odum Library for a study room only to find out there are none available.

Holt hopes that by fall 2018 the new system will be up for reserving study rooms but there is no guarantee.



The layout plan for Langdale's first floor and lobby. Photo courtesy Architects.

# Dr. Chu brings

**Juston Lewis**  
Sports Editor  
justlewis@valdosta.edu

The weekly student government meeting had a special guest, with a special purpose.

Dr. Zhiy Chu, Director of Housing, came to the weekly meeting and discussed plans for Langdale Residence Hall renovations.

The plans are currently tentative but would bring major changes to the living conditions on campus.

Dr. Chu discussed renovating every third room in the building to become a restroom.

With this plan, residents would be allowed to have suite-styled rooms with private restrooms as opposed to the community bathrooms that are currently in place.

Each floor would have a study and lounging area for students to relax in.

In addition, Dr. Chu said he wants to put more windows on each floor and in the entrance in general.

"We want to put more windows so everyone can see what's going on," Dr. Chu said.

When the final renovations are done, the building will feature a kitchen, multipurpose room, computer lab, gaming space, a laundry room and a neutral bathrooms on each floor.

Dr. Chu said they will have more meetings with the students and after getting resident feedback, they will assess the final plan.

The price of the renovations has not been determined yet. The price of the room will be the price of a private or a private suite in hopper or Hall.

Changes on the inside of the residential hall are not the

# VSU renumbers West Hall classrooms

**Bryce Ethridge**  
News Editor  
bjethridge@valdosta.edu

After years of using a three-digit numbering system for West Hall's classrooms, VSU has decided to renumber them in favor of organization.

Plant Operations Director Ray Sable said that the renumbering came about in response to consistency issues.

"In general, we're trying to change the number system across campus so it's all the same," Sable said.

Sable said that VSU wants all buildings to be on the four-digit

number system. They are currently working building by building to get the renumbering finished.

"Some of the other buildings are three-digit and we renovate them or make changes as we go through them," Sable said.

According to Assistant Director of Plant Operations Alan Sanderson, the renumbering will be "drastic," meaning that the new numbers will be totally different.

"What we found in other buildings is that if you have a room on the first floor and it's 1001, then on the second, you'd want that room to be 2001," Sable said.

Sable said that the renumber-

ing process started six months ago. This gave VSU the chance to make sure the classroom numbers were changed in the computer system. Plant operations wanted to make sure that students' class schedules had the correct classroom numbers.

Junior biology major Earlene Jones said that she thinks the renumbering of West Hall is a good idea, but has never had an issue with its previous numbering system herself.

"It's very easy for me to navigate," Jones said. "I've never noticed West Hall to have a weird system so I think it's cool."

Though some students think it's a good idea, others think the idea should be pointed elsewhere.

"I feel like West Hall is self-explanatory," Karah Thompson, junior pre-nursing major, said. "I don't see how people get confused."

Thompson said that the change doesn't really affect her since she's never had a problem finding

her classes in West. She also said she thinks that renumbering efforts should be put toward Nevins Hall since it is more confusing.

According to Sanderson, plant operations plans to have the renumbering done by the end of the week. Sable said they are also working toward renumbering other buildings but have no estimated date for its conclusion.



West Hall's classrooms will be renumbered for organization.

**Offered Spring 2018**

"Looking at the past must only be means of understanding clearly what and who they are so they can more wisely build the future."  
- Paulo Freire

"When asked by an anthropologist what the Indians called America before the white men came, an Indian said simply 'Ours.'  
- Vine Deloria Jr.

"I don't think anybody anywhere can talk about the future of their people or of an organization without talking about education. Whoever controls the education of our children controls our future."  
- Wilma Mankiller

"Five hundred years after Columbus, a more secular version of the same project of colonization continues through patents and intellectual property rights."  
- Vandana Shiva

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**Philosophy courses in Spring 2018**

21406	PHIL 2010 A	Fun
21407	PHIL 2010 B	Fun
21408	PHIL 2010 IA	Fun
21409	PHIL 2010 IB	Fun
21410	PHIL 2020 A	Principles
21411	PHIL 2020 B	Principles
21412	PHIL 2020 C	Principles
21413	PHIL 2020 IA	Principles
21414	PHIL 2030 A	Ethics
21415	PHIL 3080 A	History
21416	PHIL 3130 A	Soc
21417	PHIL 3150 A	Ethics a
21418	PHIL 3210 IA	Ethics a
21419	PHIL 3220 A	Eco
21420	PHIL 3540 A	Post-Colon
21421	PHIL 3620 IA	Ethics
21422	PHIL 4220 A	
21423	PHIL 4800 IA	
21424	PHIL 4920 A	
21425	REL 2010 A	Intr
21426	REL 2020 A	
21427	REL 2020 B	
21428	REL 2020 C	
21429	REL 2020 IA	Arch
21430	REL 3504 IA	
21431	REL 3510 A	Eco
21432	REL 3540 A	Post-Colon
21433	REL 3620 IA	
21434	REL 4700 IA	Reli
21435	REL 4920 A	

Remember, all students need two from a Georgia State

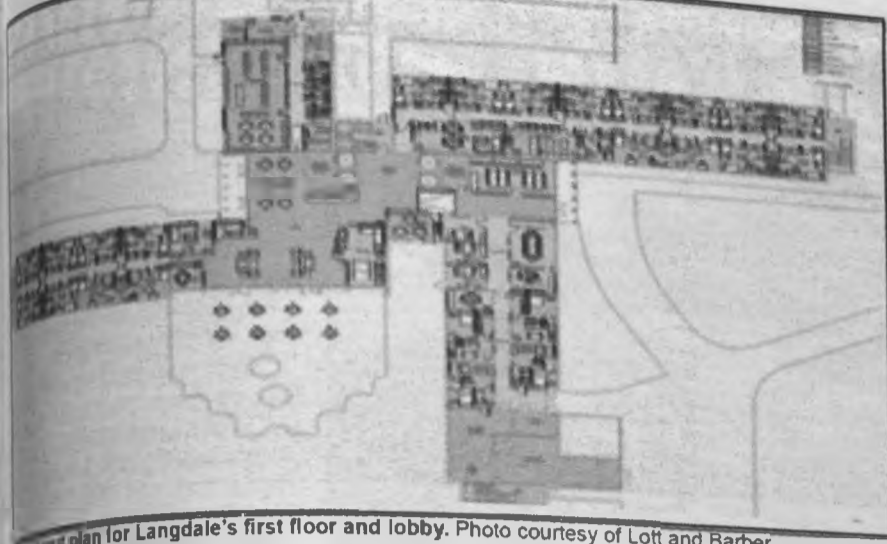
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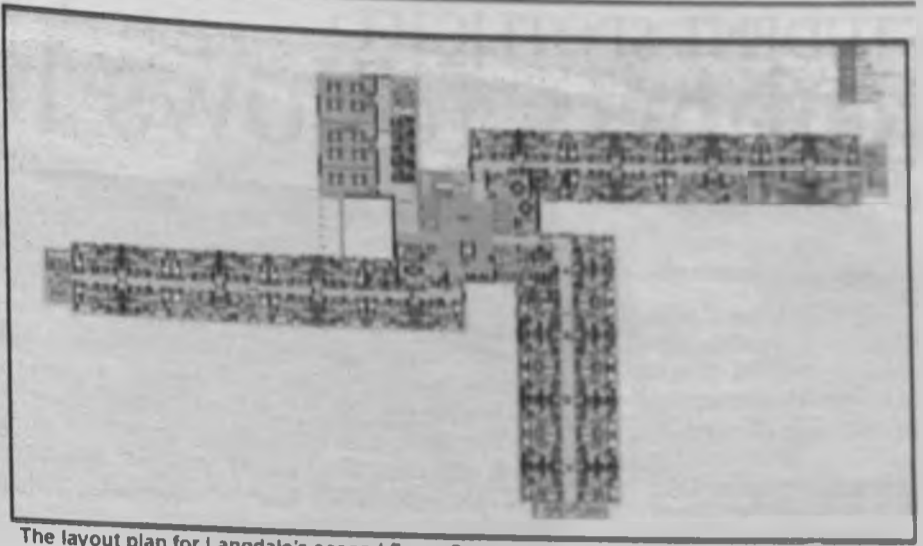
# rooms



Veronica You/THE SPECTATOR  
students, awaits for a student to...  
because some students may...  
off campus and commute to...  
Library for a study room...  
to find out there are none...  
available.  
Holt hopes that by fall 2018 the...  
system will be up for reserv...  
study rooms but there is no...  
guarantee.



The layout plan for Langdale's first floor and lobby. Photo courtesy of Loft and Barber



The layout plan for Langdale's second floor. Communal showers will be replaced by shared in-suit bathrooms. Photo courtesy of Lott and Barber Architects

## Dr. Chu brings renovation plans to SGA

**Juston Lewis**  
Sports Editor  
jlewis@valdosta.edu

The weekly student government meeting had a special guest, with special purpose.

Dr. Zduy Chu, Director of Housing, came to the weekly meeting and discussed plans of Langdale Residence Hall renovations.

The plans are currently tentative but would bring major changes to the living conditions on campus.

Dr. Chu discussed renovating every third room in the building to become a restroom.

With this plan, residents would be allowed to have suite-styled rooms with private restrooms as opposed to the community bathrooms that are currently in place.

Each floor would have a study and lounging area for students to relax in.

In addition, Dr. Chu said he wants to put more windows on each floor and in the entire building in general.

"We want to put more windows in so everyone can see what's happening," Dr. Chu said.

When the final renovations are done, the building will feature a kitchen, multipurpose room, computer lab, gaming space, dining area, laundry rooms and gender neutral bathrooms on each floor.

Dr. Chu said they will have two more meetings with the architect and after getting residential feedback, they will assess the cost of the final plan.

The price of the renovations has not been determined yet but the price of the room will be similar to the price of a private or semi-private suite in hopper or Georgia Hall.

Changes on the inside of the residential hall are not the only

renovations to be made.

Langdale Market would be moved into the location of the Student Success Center, to give more access to residents of surrounding halls to access.

According to Dr. Chu, the plan is to work on the renovations wing by wing while still keeping the building available to prospective residents.

After the presentation SGA continued their meeting by swearing in new senators who had not yet taken the oath of office.

Once the new senators were sworn in, vice president Aisha Johnson presented three senators with awards.

Bob Greenbaum, Carrington Lewis, and Tyler Tucker were selected as the senators of the month for the first three months of the semester.

Johnson said that this was an idea that she has had for a while



Dr. Zduy Chu brought plans for the Langdale Hall renovation to SGA on Monday night.  
Juston Lewis/THE SPECTATOR

and it will become a monthly honor for senators.

The meeting concluded with the senate gaining two new senators. Faith McFadden and Kenneth Swan were both unanimously voted into the senate by the current senators.

With these new additions, SGA has continued their steady increase in quantity.

# rooms

classes in West. She also said she thinks that renumbering efforts should be put toward Nevins Hall since it is more confusing.

According to Sanderson, plan iterations plans to have the renumbering done by the end of the week. Sable said they are so working toward renumbering other buildings but have no estimated date for its conclusion.



Bryce Ethridge/THE SPECTATOR  
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### Philosophy Courses in Spring 2018

Course ID	Course Name	Days/Time	Instructor	Location
21406	PHIL 2010 A	MWF 11:00am-11:50am	Serran-Pagan	WH 150
21407	PHIL 2010 B	MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm	Serran-Pagan	WH 150
21408	PHIL 2010 IA		Santas	ONLINE
21409	PHIL 2010 IB		Santas	ONLINE
21410	PHIL 2020 A	TR 9:30am-10:45am	James	WH 150
21411	PHIL 2020 B	TR 11:00am-12:15pm	James	WH 150
21412	PHIL 2020 C	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Harmon	WH 150
21413	PHIL 2020 IA		Hackett	ONLINE
21414	PHIL 2030 A	TR 11:00am-12:15pm	Santas	AH 1212
21415	PHIL 3000 A	MW 2:00pm-3:15pm	Lovern	AH 1212
21416	PHIL 3130 A	MW 3:30pm-4:45pm	Lovern	AH 1212
21417	PHIL 3150 A	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	James	WH 150
21418	PHIL 3210 IA		James	ONLINE
21419	PHIL 3220 A	TR 11:00am-12:15pm	Harmon	
21420	PHIL 3540 A	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Serran-Pagan	WH 147
21421	PHIL 3620 IA		Lovern	ONLINE
21422	PHIL 4220 A	TR 3:30pm-4:45pm	Peace	WH 150
21423	PHIL 4800 IA		Lovern	ONLINE
21424	PHIL 4920 A	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Santas	AH 1212
21425	REL 2010 A	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Turley	room TPA
21426	REL 2020 A	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Downing	WH 147
21427	REL 2020 B	MWF 10:00am-10:50am	Serran-Pagan	WH 147
21428	REL 2020 C	TR 11:00am-12:15pm	Turley	WH 147
21429	REL 2020 IA		Johnson	ONLINE
21430	REL 3504 IA		Downing	ONLINE
21431	REL 3510 A	TR 9:30am-10:45am	Downing	AH 1212
21432	REL 3540 A	TR 12:30pm-1:45pm	Serran-Pagan	WH 147
21433	REL 3620 IA		Lovern	ONLINE
21434	REL 4700 IA		Lovern	ONLINE
21435	REL 4920 A	TR 2:00pm-3:15pm	Santas	AH 1212

Remember, all students need two upper-level courses numbered 3000 or higher to receive a Bachelor's degree from a Georgia State System university, our PHIL and REL courses are perfect for that!

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Roberts follows his voice, passion

**Hunter Terrell**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR  
hnterrell@valdosta.edu

Stefan Roberts knew music was going to be a part of his life as early as 13 years old. With self-determination and strong support from his family and community, pursuing an education and his passion in music are two aspirations within his reach.

Stefan, or Lang Amaru, is a 20-year-old hip-hop artist from Monticello, Florida.

"Lang is an acronym for Love Ain't No Good, which I developed when I started writing poetry at a young age, and Amaru is in tribute to the late-great Tupac Shakur," Roberts said. "It's his middle name."

He first realized his passion when he started a competition with his cousin.

"I realized that music was my calling when I first started so-called freestyling," Roberts said. "One summer I got on Myspace just to be surprised that my cousin Rob had music of him freestyling rapping on his page. Just having a competitive nature, I laid down four freestyles that same evening. It's like I caught a bug, and I still got it."

But something that started out just for fun, turned into something deeper for Roberts.

"I chose music because it's the only outlet I can go to that ensures



Photo courtesy of Stefan Roberts

Stefan Roberts, also known as Lang Amaru, is a 20-year-old hip-hop artist from Monticello, Florida, who knew music was his passion from a young age.

me that people value what I have to say," Roberts said. "That's kind of how I see rappers: people who identify with the culture that will stand for the test of time and that are natural leaders of their individual community."

Starting at such a young age, you may think Roberts didn't receive much support from people, or more specifically his family, but you can think again.

"My biggest supporter hands down would have to be my Pops," Roberts said. "Since the

beginning, even when I was too scared to tell him about rapping, my dad never has downed my dream. One day he told one of our neighbors about my aspirations, and the neighbor gave his input. The rebuttal consisted of how hip-hop is such a pitiful genre to even want to be a part of, let alone be glamorized by people. I'll never forget how my dad basically replied saying he'd support me no matter what. I'll always respect him for that, and he may not even remember."

Even though his family has never had doubts, Roberts is hit with self-pressure from time to time.

"Two summers ago, I walked away from rapping for about a month," Roberts said. "That was the last time I told myself I couldn't go on anymore. Taking a break to me now is only wasting time. I know my purpose."

Seven years into his personal journey with music, Roberts has accomplished so much.

"My biggest accomplishment so far is getting my latest project

"There's Always Tomorrow" on multiple streaming services," Roberts said. "I can legit tell people to google me now, and I pop up as a legit artist."

But of course, as any artist does, Roberts has his favorites. "My best project would have to be my Freshman job '18 <,'" Roberts said. "My favorite performance would have to be when I was a part of the 'Second Wind Showcase' in Adel this past August. I don't have a specified favorite out of all of my work; that's like picking your favorite kid."

With this just being the beginning, Stefan Roberts or Lang Amaru has a lot to look forward to.

"All I could ever hope for is reaping generational wealth from my passion," Roberts said. "If there's any other way to obtain that status, I'm going to find it; I'm just that determined. The only fear I have is the Man above."

All in all, Roberts has one message: "If you aren't growing exponentially in life, then you're doing something wrong, and whatever it is you love, never lose sight of that end goal. It'll make the journey well worth it."

You can find Lang Amaru's album "There's Always Tomorrow" on GooglePlay, Apple Music and Spotify.

## Homecoming: party without regrets

**Alex Dunn**  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR  
eadunn@valdosta.edu

In college, parties allow students to meet new people and take a breather from classes and work. While having fun is the primary goal, staying safe is also an important factor. Here are some tips to avoid waking up the next morning with regrets:

### Drink responsibly:

We all want to cut loose and have a good time. When it comes to alcohol, there must always be a limit to how much you consume. According to the Better Health Channel, eating a big meal before drinking can slow the absorption of alcohol. Drink in moderation and don't let peer pressure sway you in consuming more than

you're comfortable with. Remember, you don't need to drink to have a good time.

### Watch out for creeps:

Like it or not, there are people at parties who want to take advantage of you. Knowing the signs of someone who has questionable motives can save you from a regretful morning. According to Party Safe, stay close to people you know and trust.

Do not leave your drink unattended and always pour your own. There is a nail polish company called Undercover Colors that can identify common date rape drugs in beverages. According to their website, you paint your nails with the color and when you place it in a verified beverage, the color changes. However, a good rule of thumb would be to never accept a drink from someone you do not

know.

### Make a plan:

Before you go out, decide who will be driving. Plan out how you will get to the party and back safely. According to The Epoch Times, making a time to either regroup or leave can ensure no one is left at the party. Be aware of emergency resources on campus such as blue phones or the campus security number. Always have a backup plan. If your designated driver ends up having even one drink, call a cab or another friend who has not been drinking to take you home.

### Arrive alive:

Do not, under any circumstances, drink and drive. Even one drink can impair you enough to make driving dangerous. According to Party Safe, you are not only

putting yourself at risk, but others as well. If you plan to drink at a party, ensure that you already have someone sober to take you home.

### Be aware of your surroundings:

Be aware of what is going on around you. According to The Epoch Times, don't do anything you don't want on the internet. When it's out there, it's permanent. With the constant evolution of technology, any picture or video taken can appear on social media in a matter of seconds. Also, drinking can cause people to act irrationally and emotionally. Stay away from any fights that may break out on or off the dance floor.

With these tips, you should have a fun and exciting party going experience. Remember to be

responsible and smart about how your night will end up. So, go get dressed up and have a safe and fun night.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Hanging out

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

Erika Bennett is a wife, mother and works full time as the Senior Communications Specialist at South Georgia Medical Center.

Bennett also is the owner of Hang Out Yoga LLC, Valdosta's first and only aerial yoga studio. Bennett graduated from VSU in 2010 with a bachelor's in communication arts and public relations.

Bennett says that she enjoyed her time at VSU and the education that she received set her up to be successful for a career in the communications and public relations fields.

"I still keep in touch with many of my professors and colleagues, who also have successful careers."

### Learn more about

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

Hang Out Yoga, LLC is Valdosta's first and only aerial yoga studio.

Anti-gravity, or aerial yoga is a lesser known form of yoga that combines traditional yoga and Pilates poses with the use of the hammock. The hammocks are made to support 2,000 pounds, meaning there is no weight limit for the classes.

There are a few restrictions for participating which are pregnancy, glaucoma, recent surgery, very high or low blood pressure, vertigo, osteoporosis or bone weakness, carpal tunnel syndrome, recent stroke or hernia.

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# passion

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Hanging out with Erika Bennett from Hang Out Yoga

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

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"I still keep in touch with many of my professors and colleagues, who also have successful careers."

Bennett said.

Bennett says that a memorable moment she had at VSU was being honored with the Department of Speech Communications Academic Excellence Award her senior year.

"It confirmed that my professors noticed and applauded my determination and drive to excel academically," Bennett said. Bennett's advice to current VSU students is to take advantage of internships.

While Bennett was at VSU she interned for her current boss which allowed her to build a relationship with not only her boss but other people within the company.

These relationships built from the internship helped land Bennett her first full-time job and then

helped her transition back to the hospital.

"Internships provide that hands on experience to supplement your education," Bennett said. "So when you graduate, you have more to offer potential employers."

Talking to your adviser is a good way to find out what internship opportunities are available for you.

College may not always be a breeze. Bennett says that the hardest part about college for her was the initial uncertainty of her career path.

"I was unsure of what I wanted to do post-graduation," Bennett said. "Identifying early on the classes that interest you is key. Find what you are passionate about and take it from there."



Photo courtesy of Erika Bennett

Erika Bennett posing in one of the silk hammocks she uses in her classes.

## Learn more about aerial yoga classes

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

Hang Out Yoga, LLC is Valdosta's first and only aerial yoga studio.

Anti-gravity, or aerial yoga is a lesser known form of yoga that combines traditional yoga and Pilates poses with the use of the hammock. The hammocks are made to support 2,000 pounds, meaning there is no weight limit for the classes.

There are a few restrictions for participating which are pregnancy, glaucoma, recent surgery, very high or low blood pressure, vertigo, osteoporosis or bone weakness, carpal tunnel syndrome, recent stroke or hernia.

The hammock can help assist

alignment and decompress the spine. Spinal decompression therapy is used to help treat back and neck pains, herniated disks and injured spinal nerve roots.

*"The hammocks are made to support up to 2,000 pounds."*

Other benefits of aerial yoga include increased flexibility and strength, improved circulation, improved confidence and reduced stress levels. Aerial yoga can also allow individuals who are less flexible be able to perform poses they might otherwise be unable to do, such as dancer's pose.

"Without the compression of the joints and spine, students can achieve proper posture and alignment through relaxation rather than effort, therefore finding a more balanced and unencumbered expression of each pose," Bennett said.

Hang Out Yoga offers hour-long classes seven days a week. Each class can host up to nine students; private and group sessions are also available.

There are special group classes such as group glow, where the group does aerial yoga under a black light.

Bennett recommends students wear active clothing that covers the armpits and legs with a good fit (nothing too loose). Jewelry must be removed before the class as well. A mat is provided but you can bring your own if preferred. Classes can be booked through the MindBody app.

The studio is located inside Christy Howell Medical Aesthetics at 3308 Country Club Road.



Photo courtesy of Erika Bennett

Students practicing aerial yoga at Hang out Yoga.

# regrets

responsible and smart about how your night will end up. So, go get dressed up and have a safe and fun night.

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# WAZERS!





Erin Turner/THE SPECTATOR

## Slow Cooker BBQ Pulled Chicken

**Erin Turner**  
STAFF WRITER

[epturner@valdosta.edu](mailto:epturner@valdosta.edu)

Being a college student means you don't have a lot of time to spare, especially when it comes to cooking. A slow cooker is a great investment for students who enjoy the taste of a home cooked meal without all the the hassle. Below is a recipe for mouth-watering slow cooker BBQ pulled chicken.

**Ingredients:**  
Slow Cooker  
Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts  
Favourite BBQ Sauce  
Brown Sugar  
Hot Sauce  
\*Texas Toast

**Steps:**  
1. Rinse and score chicken breasts

- using a sharp knife.
- Season chicken breasts with salt and place in slow cooker.
- In a separate bowl, add BBQ sauce, brown sugar and hot sauce together.
- Pour BBQ mixture into slow cooker over chicken breasts.
- Set cooker to HIGH heat. Cover and cook for 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.
- Once finished cooking, remove BBQ covered chicken breasts from cooker and shred with two forks.
- Allow chicken to recover by cooking shredded meat in sauce for 10-15 minutes, to soak up excess sauce.

Side note: I toasted two pieces of Texas Toast and made a sandwich using the pulled chicken!

# Professor honored for teaching award



Photo Courtesy of VSU

Dr. Kenneth Rumstay, professor of physics and astronomy,

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
[vmyou@valdosta.edu](mailto:vmyou@valdosta.edu)

Dr. Kenneth Rumstay, professor of physics and astronomy, received the VSU Presidential Excellence Award for teaching on Aug. 7. This award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate strong commitment to their student's success as well as utilize innovative teaching strategies.

Rumstay has been teaching at VSU since Fall 1984, after graduating his Ph.D. from Ohio State. Rumstay earned his bachelor's from Massachusetts

Institute of Technology in 1975 and his master's from Wesleyan University in 1977.

Rumstay is a member of the American Astronomical Society, The Council on Undergraduate Research, the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy, the Georgia Academy of Science, The Planetary Society, The International Dark Sky Association, the International Planetarium Society, the American Association of University Professors, the Sigma Pi Sigma Honor Society, the Society of Physics Students, and the Southeastern Planetarium Association.

He has published eight peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals.

In his 33 years of teaching at VSU, Rumstay said his most memorable moment at VSU was in January 1987 when the Challenger space shuttle exploded.

"That was a real shock," Rumstay said. "That really sticks in my memory."

Rumstay's advice for VSU students who may be struggling in a course is to talk to your professor and meet them during their office hours.

"Students should come see us during office hours," Rumstay said. "That's why we have them, and that's why we get paid to do that. We really can help. I had a student once who just barely failed an exam, and she did come to see me for help, and she got a low B on the next exam."

Rumstay remained humble after receiving the award.

"I still feel undeserving of the award," he said. "I'm sure there are better teachers at this place than I am. There are even some that have been here longer."

The department of physics, astronomy and geosciences host public planetarium shows each semester. The next one is on Nov. 3. The show lasts between 40 and 50 minutes and occurs at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. There is no cost to attend. However, seating is on a first come first serve basis and there are 47 seats in the planetarium.

# How to have

**Jacorey Moon**  
STAFF WRITER  
[jxmoon@valdosta.edu](mailto:jxmoon@valdosta.edu)

The guy from your physics class that's really cute just asked you on a date. Perhaps the girl you think is really smoking wanted to go out sometime.

Maybe you and your friends just want to have fun, and you guys aren't feeling the bar scene tonight.

Well, here are some alternatives for some spontaneous fun.

Game nights can be considered especially fun but dangerously competitive. Try a vintage game board night. Whether with friends or that special someone, game night is bound to bring out high-strung emotions in people.

What about a picnic? Go to your favorite park and hang out with your friends or that special someone. Prepare food and shoot the breeze.

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Video games can truly test someone's limit when it comes to being stuck at a level or lost altogether.

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Your local superstore chain could be the perfect place to find out what someone thinks is funny and what their decorating tastes are like.

If you go with your friends, an excursion will be a funny one.

In downtown Valdosta, there are some places where you can get hot dogs and other food inexpensively.

These places are convenient next to other vendors and places to sit around and people watch.

Depending on if your group of friends are the vintage type or if you want to show that special someone another side of you, the record store can be an option.

Record stores are the perfect example of getting to know someone's music tastes (if they have any).

Even bringing your friends here can push them to open up their minds to more music genres. Red Door Records in downtown

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Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau



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—Thomas Hobbes

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# honored ing award



Photo Courtesy of VSU

ology in 1975 from Wesleyan 1977. member of the Geological Society, Undergraduate Research in Planetary Science, International Association, the Planetarium Society, Association of Professors, the Sigma Xi Society, and the Planetary Science Society. He has published eight peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals. He is currently teaching at VSU where he was named a Distinguished Professor in 1987 when he was named Distinguished Professor. He has a great sense of humor. "That really sticks out."

Rumstay's advice for VSU students who may be struggling in a course is to talk to your professor and meet them during their office hours. "Students should come see us during office hours," Rumstay said. "That's why we have them, and that's why we get paid to do that. We really can help. I had a student once who just barely failed an exam, and she did come to see me for help, and she got a low B on the next exam."

Rumstay remained humble after receiving the award. "I still feel undeserving of the award," he said. "I'm sure there are better teachers at this place than I am. There are even some that have been here longer."

The department of physics, astronomy and geosciences host a public planetarium show each semester. The next one is on Nov. 3. The show lasts between 40 and 50 minutes and occurs at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. There is no cost to attend. However, seating is on a first come first serve basis and there are 47 seats in the planetarium.

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# How to have fun off campus

**Jacorey Moon**  
STAFF WRITER  
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The guy from your physics class that's really cute just asked you on a date. Perhaps the girl you think is really smoking wanted to go out sometime.

Maybe you and your friends just want to have fun, and you guys aren't feeling the bar scene tonight.

Well, here are some alternatives for some spontaneous fun.

Game nights can be considered especially fun but dangerously competitive. Try a vintage game board night. Whether with friends or that special someone, game night is bound to bring out high-strung emotions in people.

What about a picnic? Go to your favorite park and hang out with your friends or that special someone. Prepare food and shoot the breeze.

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Depending on if your group of friends are the vintage type or if you want to show that special someone another side of you, then the record store can be an option.

Record stores are the perfect example of getting to know someone's music tastes (if they're into vinyls).

Even bringing your friends here can push them to open up their minds to more music genres. Red Door Records in downtown



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

**Coffee shops provide a laid-back atmosphere for dates or hanging out with friends.**

Valdosta would be a good place to start.

Diners are simple and easy. Your local breakfast joint can be a form of these simple and easy diners. With everything on the menu priced relatively low, these chain restaurants can be some of the most fun and relaxed places to take that special someone. Being there with your friend group can turn into one of those, "You remember when..." type of nights.

Coffee shops can be a smooth transition date with that special someone or it can just be a hangout spot for your friends.

If you've seen "Friends," then you get the gist. Most coffee shops are affordable and provide some lounging area where their clientele can enjoy a beverage and some treats.

Going on a date or hanging with friends can be a fun time depending on what the night consists of.

Having fun doesn't have to break the bank and making a great first impression on someone doesn't have to empty your wallet either. Get creative and find your options!

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# Merger takes Spectator in to new age

**Kelsey Dickerson**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
kdickerson@valdosta.edu

The Valdosta Daily Times and The Spectator have reached an agreement that could solve economic problems threatening the award-winning student news organization's more than 20 years of editorial and financial independence.

Diminishing advertising sales in the industry at large have left many organizations struggling and The Spectator selling less than \$80,000 per year. To compound the problem, labor law changes meant the publication could no longer afford a full-time advertising sales manager. Dr. Pat Miller, professor of English and adviser for The Spectator, realized that the business model needed to change.

"One of my jobs is to make sure that students get from The Spectator what is promised, which is an independent student voice," Dr. Miller said. "And to do that, as you know, we have to be able to pay our bills."

Dr. Miller went to the Valdosta Daily Times, where The Spectator already has close ties. According to Dr. Miller, many alumni of The Spectator go on to work at the Valdosta Daily Times. Students have also freelanced with the Valdosta Daily Times while still in school.

Dr. Miller said that both she and Theresa Westberry, the Valdosta Daily Times' advertising director, saw an opportunity in the merger.

"To me it's a win-win situation between The Spectator and VDT because we both had problems

*"One of my jobs is to make sure that students get from The Spectator what is promised."*

that needed solutions," Westberry said.

While The Spectator was in need of a way to expand ad sales and revenue, Westberry was looking to expand her team with interns from VSU.

"It (the merger) is giving me the ability to work with people whose main focus is getting in to advertising or marketing or some sort of media outlet," Westberry said. "It gives them the ability to get real-world situation practice and it gives me ability to go ahead and train and have people readily available when a spot on my team comes open."

Dr. Miller said this was right in line with VSU's new goals.

"One of the things Dr. Carvajal wants is much greater interaction between VSU and the community, so this is going to be one of those elements that says to the VSU community 'what happens at VSU and what happens in the community complement,'" Dr. Miller said.

The "experiment," as Dr. Miller calls it, has rolled out in phases.

The first phase was based in an advertising revenue sharing agreement and the hiring of a part-time ad manager for The Spectator.

Though the merger might continue to be a work in progress, Dr. Miller said she hopes to see other colleges and universities following the model The Spectator and The Valdosta Daily Times are working to create.

In February, Dr. Miller and Westberry plant to give a presentation about the merger at the Georgia College Press Association Better News Paper Competition and will send a proposal to present at the National College Media Association meeting in New York City in March.

"I really feel that no matter what size, rather large or small, the colleges or universities, even, should definitely have a solid relationship with their local advertising or local media outlet whether it be television or newspaper. That should be a pivotal role in training the students at the college or university level," Westberry said.

The merger itself would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of Jim Zachary, Community News Holding's regional editor, Jeff Masters, publisher of the Valdosta Daily Times, or Dr. Vincent Miller, vice president of student affairs at VSU.

"I didn't think this deal was going to go through," Miller said. "We were in the 11th hour and the 59th minute when this deal went through, but the more we have worked with each other, the more the both of us have said this was exactly the right thing to happen."



One of the stolen carts left on the side of the road. Photo courtesy of VSUPD

## Golf cart joyride gone wrong Football players arrested after theft

**Darla Dunning**  
CONTENT EDITOR  
ddunning@valdosta.edu

Two VSU football players were arrested in connection with the theft of two IT golf carts on Oct. 5.

Nineteen-year-old freshman Torey Jenkins was arrested on the scene by Officer Rebecca Leatherberry. The second offender ran from the scene.

Eighteen-year-old freshman Jaalen Ford was later arrested under warrant in the lobby of Patterson Hall.

Jenkins and Ford were seen traveling northbound on Oak Street. Jenkins was identified as wearing a red ski mask and was pulled over on Moore Street.

According to the police report, Leatherberry asked Jenkins why he and his friend were driving recklessly on city streets and Jenkins said, "We were just having fun."

Per the report, the students found the golf carts by Pound Hall, noticed they were left on and decided to take them for a ride.

Jenkins was transported to the Lowndes County Jail where he was charged with felony theft by

taking.

After his arrest in Patterson Hall, Ford was transported to the police department by Officer Jeffery Eltzroth and placed in to an interview room. Sgt. Michael Browning interviewed Ford. He was then transported to the Lowndes County Jail without incident.

Ford was charged with theft by taking and obstruction of a police officer.

UPD dispatch notified the IT department to verify that the golf carts were IT's. Sterlin Sanders, the IT Director, arrived on scene and identified the golf carts as those belonging to the IT Department.

The golf carts did not sustain any damage.

After their arrest, Jenkins and Ford will not be able to participate in the upcoming football game, or any VSU football activities.

"The individuals have been suspended from the football program until further notice," Herb Reinhard, director of athletics, said.

When asked for comment, Ford declined. The Spectator has not been able to get in touch with Jenkins.



Students listen to their professor during class.

Last month brought Hurricane Irma down on the city which resulted in downed trees and class cancellations. The damage isn't over yet. VSU has offered designated make-up days for classes cancelled during Hurricane Irma. These have been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11 and Sunday, Nov. 12. With fall and Thanksgiving break squeezed together, many professors have a tightly packed syllabus. Students are getting the most out of the semester. Students have lost valuable class time from the semester.

In an email sent to the VSU community on Oct. 10, Dr. Miller described options provided to professors for their missed class days. According to the email, either they could work with students to readjust assignments, schedule additional virtual class sessions, or designate make-up days to conduct any extra sessions.

Miller concluded his email, "Please be advised that the professor's choice of how to make up missed class time may choose a different option - including class meeting date."

We at The Spectator feel that it is imperative that these classes be optional make-up days. We feel that these classes should not suffer academically.

If professors feel it necessary to hold classes, they should provide an on-line option for those with other commitments.

Many students plan out their semester well. Many students live out of town and often have school or pre-paid trips. Also, many students have jobs to pay for their education. Their weekends are their own responsibilities.

Having to attend a mandatory class session could interfere with commitments that cannot be made up.

Professors should be given alternatives for when cancellations result from a major crisis, and they should decide which course of action they want to take. However, they should provide reasonable alternatives, mandated meetings so that each student has a fair academic experience.

Let's band together to ensure that Hurricane Irma does not continue to deal out damage at VSU.

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

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on the side of the road. Photo courtesy of VSUPD

# Golf cart gone wrong

## Drivers arrested after theft

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# Point of view... Saturday classes should not be mandatory



Seth Willard/THE SPECTATOR

listen to their professor during class.

ast month brought Hurricane Irma down on Valdosta. The storm raged in to the city which resulted in downed trees, power lines and class cancellations. The damage isn't over yet. The next limb to be on one of students' most valued days of the week.

VSU has offered designated make-up days for the classes that were cancelled during Hurricane Irma. These alternative class times have been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11 and 18.

With fall and Thanksgiving break squeezed into one semester, professors have a tightly packed syllabus to ensure that students are getting the most out of the semester. Professors and students have lost valuable class time from the cancellation of classes in September.

In an email sent to the VSU community on Sept. 19, Dr. Vincent described options provided to professors to make up for missed class days. According to the email, professors could either they could work with students to readjust class schedules and assignments, schedule additional virtual class sessions, or use the designated make-up days to conduct any extra face-to-face class sessions.

Dr. Vincent concluded his email, "Please be advised that it is your professor's choice of how to make up missed class time and each professor may choose a different option - including the Saturday class meeting date."

At The Spectator feel that it is imperative that these Saturday classes be optional make-up days. We feel that students who miss these classes should not suffer academically.

Professors feel it necessary to hold classes on the weekend, then should provide an on-line option for those students who have other commitments.

Many students plan out their semester well in advance. A majority of students live out of town and often have scheduled family events or pre-paid trips. Also, many students have jobs that are necessary for their education. Their weekends are taken up by work responsibilities.

Having to attend a mandatory class session over the weekend can interfere with commitments that cannot be rescheduled.

Professors should be given alternatives for making up class when cancellations result from a major crisis, and they have the right to decide which course of action they want to take to stay on schedule.

However, they should provide reasonable alternatives for their scheduled meetings so that each student has the opportunity to have a successful academic experience.

Let's band together to ensure that Hurricane Irma does not continue to deal out damage at VSU.

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



The Faculty Senate met in the University Center on Oct. 19. Bryce Ethridge/THE SPECTATOR

# Faculty Senate discusses changes

## Suspension appeal process to be streamlined

**Bryce Ethridge**  
News Editor  
bjethridge@valdosta.edu

On Thursday Oct. 19 at the Faculty Senate meeting, Associate Provost Sheri Gravett announced that VSU is changing the way students appeal academic suspension.

Gravett said that the current process involved too many steps, making the appeal process seem more tedious than necessary.

"What will happen is... they (students on suspension) will only go to one place," Gravett said.

The process to appeal has been changed to an online form that students will be able to access through the Registrar's page on the VSU website. Students will be able to add supporting documents such as an appeal letter or a note from a parent to help plead their case.

Gravett said that this form will be reviewed and assessed by a centralized suspension appeals committee made up of associate and assistant deans.

"I think that this is going to be a process that will help students and will allow us to develop a consistent approach," Gravett said.

Upon assessment of the appeal, the committee will track the student's progress and take note of common conditions seen in students under academic suspension.

Gravett said that VSU will use this information to adapt and help future students if they're in peak of receiving academic suspension.

Gravett said that she has already talked to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Daryl Lowe about bringing the new process up with SGA.

The new process will go into effect in December. It will give students on academic suspension until the beginning of the spring semester, Jan. 7, to submit their appeal forms.

"The reason they're doing this is so that the committee can meet, work with them, that they have time to go to an advisor, and get advised appropriately," Gravett said.

She also said that this alleviates students of additional burdens next to the ones they already face at the beginning of the school year.

Internal Auditor Heidi Cox brought up Ethics Awareness Week, an event lasting from Nov. 13-15, and revealed that the ethics

awards will be presented to people around campus to show what ethics means to VSU.

"We're really going to be celebrating the spirit of VSU," Cox said. "We're going to kind of take spirit in terms of stewardship, prevention, inspiration, integrity, responsibility, and trust."

Cox said that they will be bringing up a proposal for the awards with the Faculty Senate, as well as SGA. All faculty and students are allowed to nominate any other student or faculty member.

"We're going to have a criteria, and we want you to tell someone's story," Cox said.

Cox said that VSU wants to hear stories of the nominees committing acts that would make them unsung heroes.

"There are stories of people doing things we never ever hear about, but we want to let them know that we appreciate them," Cox said.

Anyone who receives the ethics award will obtain a certificate and be highlighted and have their story posted on VSU's website.

"These are the stories we want broadcast out this year," Cox said.

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# Alumni Association is prepared for homecoming

**Taylor Sutherland**  
Staff Writer  
tmsutherland@valdosta.edu

October 30th – November 4th, current VSU students and alumni will come together for this year's masquerade themed homecoming. With student events like casino night, glow in the dark pep rally, and the homecoming football game, this week is sure to be filled with excitement and fun. Alumni however, have a completely different agenda.

Homecoming is always one of the biggest weeks on VSU's campus, however the planning and getting everyone together for the annual event can be very tedious.

Committee Chair of Special Events, Mikki Hudson said preparation and time that goes into making homecoming a success each year is the most time-consuming part.

"We use social media, email and mail outs to inform the alumni of all the events taking place," Hudson said, "Also word of mouth plays a big part in informing people."

With so much going on in one week, the alumni Association has to map out everything in advance. Depending on the events, Secretary of the VSU Alumni Association, Dr. Beverly Richardson-Blake and Treasurer of the VSU Alumni Association, Mike Beverly help keep track how

much needs to be set aside for the budget.

"The Alumni Association's budget is separate from the university's budget, it is generated via private and state funding, and via various fundraising activities," said Dr. Richardson-Blake, "They are sponsored by Chapters of the Association (Atlanta-area, Valdosta, Middle Georgia and Golden Isles) to generate funds for Student Scholarships, to co-sponsor various campus activities, purchase t-shirts and sponsor "new student" activities each fall, and help to provide cash incentives for winners of the Homecoming Parade"

On Monday, there will be a

*"An effort has also been made to encourage as many Alumni members to attend."*

party at Friend's Bar and Grille, Blazers, Barrels and Casks. Friday will include the Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament and then the Distinguished alumni Dinner. The main difference this year is the how the Distinguished Alumni dinner will be setup. The Association and Committee of Special Events have changed the

layout and hope all in attendance will enjoy it.

Due to the number of alumni increasing each year, all are encouraged to stop by the alumni tent to sign in, reconnect, pick up keepsakes/giveaways, update contact information, join the group for lunch and fellowship.

"An effort has also been made to encourage as many Alumni members to attend as possible -- via email blasts, mail-outs, invitation to attend the Alumni Dinner which recognizes outstanding graduates on Friday evening," said Dr. Richardson-Blake, "Due to "word of mouth", campus affiliations such as athletes, sororities & fraternities, clubs, etc. and the work done by the Atlanta Alumni Chapter, there is usually a large number to attend from that area."

Though the alumni association has a different itinerary for homecoming week, alumni members are anxious to work with students to Mentor, etc. There are also a number of businesses owned by alumni, who try to employ currently enrolled students.

Homecoming is the one week blazers from all over can come together and enjoy each other's company and share their memories made here at VSU. The masquerade theme for Fall 2017 will definitely make VSU's homecoming one to remember.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University Flickr  
VSU's mascot Blaze at one of the 2015 homecoming events.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University Flickr  
Students participating in homecoming week during the 2015 homecoming.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University Flickr  
A man showing his Blazer pride in the 2015 homecoming parade.



ABOVE: The original Blaze participates in the 1968



ABOVE: Sorority members of Kappa Delta participate in homecoming festivities of 2007.



ABOVE: The Shriners participate in the 1966 homecoming



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Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University Flickr at one of the 2015 homecoming events.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University Flickr Blazer pride in the 2015 homecoming parade.

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ABOVE: The original Blaze participates in the 1988 homecoming.

# Homecoming through the ages

Throughout VSU and VSC history, the annual homecoming parade has been an opportunity for the study body to design floats for their organizations. These photos represent past homecomings and how VSU students displayed their Blazer pride.

Photos courtesy of VSU Archives



ABOVE: Sorority members of Kappa Delta participate in the annual Homecoming festivities of 2007.



ABOVE: The sophomore class sweet heart participates in the homecoming parade. Photo circa 1957-1961.



ABOVE: The Shriners participate in the 1966 homecoming parade.



ABOVE: The VSC Alumni participate in the 1958 homecoming parade by riding in a float that they designed.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Lauren Fici opens event planning business

**Darla Dunning**  
CONTENT EDITOR  
ddunning@valdosta.edu

Event planning has always been in Lauren Fici's blood. She is the owner of the Marietta-based In An Instant, LLC, a new business that comes out of her love for working with people.

Fici, a 2008 graduate of VSU and member of the Alumni Board, said that her bachelor's degree in Speech Communications and the activities she joined ignited her passion as event planner because she was able to utilize the skills she acquired from attending VSU.

"I absolutely loved the education," Fici said. "I felt that I had a really good connection with my teachers and I learned just a lot in general. One class, in particular, called interviewing... really helped with my speaking, speaking in front of people, and everything that comes to my interview skills."

While attending VSU, Fici was extremely involved with the Wesley Foundation, a VSU campus ministry, where she helped with increasing their social media and setting up events such as orientation and freshmen activities. Fici was also involved in the Baptist Student Union and would be a volleyball referee on occasions for sororities.

In addition to these activities, Lauren worked with the VSU

Department of Event Services, which is an event planning office to assist VSU student organizations, departments and external organizations with reserving and renting facilities for on-campus meetings and events.

Through this job, Fici would

*"I always knew I had a heart for people and a heart for organization"*

help with different events such as the President's Tailgate, and the Chili Cook-off where she would greet and direct people.

"I always knew I had a heart for people and a heart for organization," Fici said. "When I helped with Event Services at VSU, I loved being able to meet people. I am extremely outgoing and I felt from that point on that I would love to do something in that field, but I couldn't find any places that would hire in that field doing exactly that."

At first, Fici did not want live on campus, but her parents wanted her to. It was the best experience that she could have received. This is where she met some of her best friends, who were in her wedding.

One experience Fici had while living in Brown Hall was ex-

remely unique.

"Believe it or not, my cousin was three doors down from me, and I didn't know that we were related until talking to her," Fici said. "It turns out we were able to track down our family tree and we are still best friends."

After seven years of working at an insurance company became an event planner when she realized that she needed to do something that would really speak to her creative side. She specializes in weddings, showers or parties, corporate events, decor rentals, consultations and fundraisers.

When Fici opened her business in February 2017, it was really hard to get her foot in the door, but she was dedicated to do just that. She started to network with the Marietta Business Association, and it helped her connect with people who gave her referral networks.

Fici said that she was not nervous to open her own business. Instead, she saw it as a challenge that she wanted to conquer.

"It has been an excitement and a challenge," Fici said. "I love a good challenge, and anything that can push me forward to step out of my comfort zone is always really exciting."

Her business may be new, but she has one memorable event that has been her favorite.

For one event, she had planned a wedding that was in Italy. Fici



Photo courtesy of Lauren Fici

Lauren Fici, owner of In An Instant, LLC, opened her business in February 2017 and has been thriving in the event planning world.

did not actually attend, but scheduled everything from afar.

She was able to meet the vendors through Instagram and email by sending them a timeline of events. The bride of this wedding was also chosen to be on the television show "Say Yes to the Dress."

In order for "Say Yes to the Dress" to film the wedding, Fici had to act as a middle man and contact the venue and vendors for approval to be on television.

As an event planner, every

event is different. For weddings, she will write out a detailed timeline that ranges from seven to 15 pages, which she gives to each vendor addressing their specific responsibilities.

Fici will also help with wedding dress shopping, engagement showers, and will help all the way up to the day of the wedding.

"I just really thrive off of it, and I felt that it was my calling this whole time," she said.

## Events planned by Lauren Fici:



ABOVE: This photo was taken at the Paulding County Airport in Paulding County, Georgia for a styled shoot. RIGHT: This event was held at the Founders Memorial Gardens in Athens, Georgia for a wedding that was held in October 2017. The coordination was created by Lauren's business. Photos: Courtesy of Ruzin Cunningham and In An Instant, LLC.

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# ELI students

**Darla Dunning**  
CONTENT EDITOR  
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International students who want to learn English in the United States have the opportunity to take classes at the VSU English Language Institute (ELI). The VSU ELI, established in 2001, is an intensive English program designed to teach students who do not have a strong background in English.

In order for an international student to get admitted to a university, they have to improve their English by taking classes at the ELI. At the institute, students take grammar, reading, writing and conversation classes.

Currently, the ELI has students from Vietnam, China, Russia, Japan, Korea, Colombia, Honduras and Saudi Arabia. Some students come for a semester or a year for a study abroad program.

David Starling, director of the English Language Institute, established ELI at VSU. Previously, he was a teacher at the University of Alabama and thought ELI would work great at VSU.

"Having international students at VSU makes for a richer classroom experience for our students from the region and exposes them to different viewpoints," Starling said. "I thought that establishing an ELI was a good way to bring in international students."

Starling has been at VSU's ELI for 17 years, and his most memorable moments is when he sees the students that graduated from the ELI doing well as regular students at VSU when they get admitted.

"We have a conversation

partner program to VSU students and so they can make friends. Starling said "They appreciate a change to American students."

Suzuka Mizushima, a student, wants to study VSU, so he can work in America. "My goal is to find a job where I can utilize my English skills, so I can receive a graduate."

"My favorite part is the ELI teachers are very kind people and an ELI student, said are always fun."

Maral Meredova, program coordinator for the ELI, said allows her to connect with students from different countries and help lead them to success.

"The English Language Institute at VSU provides an opportunity to fulfill one, of course, is not the second is more than that," Meredova said. "I am doing what you are about."

Meredova has been teaching English to students from many languages for months and she enjoys making a difference in these students.

"I have students from all over the world who occupy jobs which require English and it is particularly their determination to get jobs like mine, which resulted in

## Questions and

**Darla Dunning**  
CONTENT EDITOR  
ddunning@valdosta.edu

Mikki Hudson, owner of Jessie's Restaurant and Catering, moved all over the south after graduating in 2001, but she returned to Valdosta almost 9 years ago to take the helm at Jessie's.

Q: Who opened Jessie's and how did your journey as a chef lead you to work at Jessie's?

A: Kim and Jerry Newman opened Jessie's 18 years ago, naming it after their daughter, Jes-

sie, also a VSU alumna. She went back to Atlanta to attend culinary school.

Atlanta then was a Disney World area and she wanted to come back. I had owned now for 8 years. I moved the restaurant to a new location a little over a year ago. I changed the name to Jessie's Restaurant and Catering.

Q: On a day-to-day basis, do you as a chef have any special moments?  
A: Well as the chef, I have many special

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# ELI students eager to learn English at VSU

**Darla Dunning**  
CONTENT EDITOR  
ddunning@valdosta.edu

International students who want to learn English in the United States have the opportunity to do so at the VSU English Language Institute (ELI). The ELI, established in 2001, provides intensive English program classes for students who do not have a strong background in

English for an international student who has not been admitted to a university. They have to improve their English by taking classes at the ELI. At the institute, students take classes in reading, writing and speaking.

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"It makes for a richer classroom experience for our students in the region and exposes them to different viewpoints," Starling said. "I thought that establishing ELI was a good way to bring in international students."

Starling has been at VSU's ELI for 16 years, and his most memorable moments is when he sees the students that graduated from the program as well as regular students who were admitted.

"We have a conversation partner program to bring together VSU students and ELI students, so they can make friends and learn English at the same time," Starling said. "They always appreciate a change to speak with American students."

Suzuka Misashi, an ELI student, wants to study English at VSU, so he can obtain a job working in America.

"My goal is to find a job that I can utilize my English skills," said Misashi. "I am studying English, so I can receive a job once I graduate."

"My favorite part about the ELI is the ELI teachers because they are very kind people," Nakai Yuki, an ELI student, said. "My classes are always fun."

Maral Meredova, a short-term program coordinator and instructor for the ELI, said the institute allows her to connect with students from different countries and help lead them to success.

"The English Language Institute at VSU provides me with an opportunity to fulfill two needs, one, of course, is earning a living, but the second is more valuable than that," Meredova said. "It is doing what you are passionate about."

Meredova has been teaching English to speakers of other languages for more than 10 years, and she enjoys making a difference in these students' lives.

"I have students all over the world who occupy a multitude of jobs which require English, and it is particularly because of their determination, courage and jobs like mine, teaching English, which resulted in their success:



Photo courtesy of Wes Sewell Photography

Chris Wise, activities coordinator, hosts a conversation partner class for international students to learn English

doing what they set out to do," Meredova said.

Students taking classes at the ELI have to take a placement test when they enter the program, and then they are placed in a level from one to six.

For example, if a student scores in level two, then they will be in level two grammar, reading, conversation and writing.

The ELI has two terms in a semester, hence the label "intensive English program." The students can complete two levels in one semester.

The main class the ELI likes to

focus on is the "conversation partners" class, which is when VSU native English speakers interact with the international students for a cultural experience.

"We have a conversation partner program to bring together VSU students and ELI students, so they can make friends and learn English at the same time," Starling said. "They always appreciate a chance to speak with American students."

A graduate assistant and English instructor, Brandon Gulnick, explained why he likes teaching students at the ELI.

"I like working for the ELI for the cultural experience. I've been able to experience other cultures from all over the world," Gulnick said. "It's very rewarding. The students are truly dedicated, and they are all very unique. I truly enjoy teaching each and every student that I've come into contact with."

One ELI student explained why he wanted to study English at VSU.

"My future dream isn't working in Japan," Sho Watanabe, a current ELI student, said. "I want to work in the United States of America."



Photo courtesy of Lauren Fici

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ed- event is different. For weddings, she will write out a detailed timeline that ranges from seven to 15 pages, which she gives to each vendor addressing their specific responsibilities.

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"I just really thrive off of it, and I felt that it was my calling this whole time," she said.

## planned uren Fici:



## Questions and answers with chef Mikki Hudson

**Darla Dunning**

CONTENT EDITOR  
ddunning@valdosta.edu

Mikki Hudson, owner of Jessie's Restaurant and Catering, moved all over the south after graduating in 2001, but she returned to Valdosta almost 9 years ago to take the helm at Jessie's. She opened Jessie's and did your journey as a chef at you to work at Jessie's? In Kim and Jerry Newman owned Jessie's 18 years ago, and she took it after their daughter, Jes-

sie, also a VSU Alumni! I worked at Jessie's in college, graduated went back to Atlanta and went to culinary school. Worked around Atlanta then was working at Walt Disney World and Kim called me to come back. I have been the owner now for 8.5 years. When I moved the restaurant to its current location a little over 3 years ago. I changed the name to Jessie's Restaurant and Catering.

**Q:** On a day-to-day basis, what do you do as a chef at Jessie's?

**A:** Well as the chef and owner, I have many responsibilities at

Jessie's. I oversee most everything that goes on day in and out. With help from my kitchen crew I oversee the weekly specials that we run. I help with the daily operations of running a business, hiring, scheduling, payroll, accounting, etc. I also run all the catering events we do.

**Q:** What is your position on the alumni board for VSU and how long have you been on the board and what changes would you like to see made at VSU since you are on the board?

**A:** I have been on the board for

three years, I am on the executive board and chair the special events. My committee's main job is to help with homecoming. Since being on the board, I have really enjoyed interacting with the current president and hope he is here for a long time!

**Q:** What were some of your favorite things about going to VSU?

**A:** I loved the weather and being so close to Florida. I enjoyed the great friends I met and the many memories I have.

**Q:** Outside of Jessie's, what do you like to do?

**A:** I like to support the community by joining different groups and participating with charities. I'm active with the Valdosta Citizen's Fire Academy, Leadership Lowndes and the CVDA. On my off weekends I love going kayaking and hanging out with friends.

**Q:** Does Jessie's do anything for Homecoming? If so, what do you do?

**A:** We are a hole sponsor and breakfast sponsor for the Alumni Golf Tournament. We are catering the Alumni and Presidents tailgate.

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# SPORTS

## VSU soccer keeps progressing

**Prince Robinson Jr.**  
Staff Writer  
parobinson@valdosta.edu

The road to the conference championship won't be easy, but the VSU Blazers Women's soccer squad is still miles ahead of where they were last year.

The 2016 season was not very nice for the Blazers. The team finished the season with a 1-11-5 record, having its only win against Delta State.

Offensively, the team struggled greatly, scoring only 12 goals with just six assists in the entire season.

The Blazers ended last season ranked as the No. 10 team in the Gulf South Conference and completely missed the playoffs. Defeating Spring Hill and Shorter and two-win Delta State saved the Blazers from last place in the conference. Delta State ended the season below VSU because VSU tied five of its opponents.

VSU needed a change at the helm. Rebecca Nolin, the Blazers' previous coach, resigned at the end of the season. The team inserted Stephen Andrew as the new head women's soccer coach.



VSU women's soccer team poses for a photo during 2017's Soccer Senior Weekend.

Andrew brought his winning pedigree and attacking philosophy to VSU, completely changing the culture of the program.

The Falkirk, Scotland native began his U.S. coaching career at Huntingdon College in 2007 and immediately led the Hawks to the Great South Athletic All-Confer-

ence quarterfinals. The success then transitioned to Piedmont, where Andrew notched 136 wins against just 42 losses and eight ties.

Andrew's ideologies of winning have certainly consumed the players, as he illustrated a huge turnaround season.

The Blazers hold a 10-5-2 record for the season, ranking the squad No. 5 in the GSC standings.

The Blazers will begin conference tournament play on Oct. 31 at the home field of the No. 4 seeded team in the GSC. The conference has not yet determined who that team will be.

There is no doubt that the team is sitting in a good spot, considering the offensive juggernaut mentality that the players have

Forward Taylor Snell has placed the ball exactly where it needs to be the entire season. Snell currently ranks No. 2 in the conference in goals with 11 and No. 4 in points with 24.

"I just want to help my team win games any way I can," Snell said.

Though the Blazers are goal-getters, setting teammates up for them has not been an issue either.

Mid-fielder Mallory McDaniel leads the GSC with nine total assists for the season.

"I enjoy putting my teammates in position to attack the goals," McDaniel said.

All the players have adopted Andrew's philosophy and now, they are looking forward to the playoffs.

Their upcoming opponent hasn't been announced yet, but it hasn't stopped the Blazers from preparation.

"We are just trying to keep everyone healthy and take practice slowly," Andrew said.



VSU golf team begins hiatus after Oct. 30 tournament.

## Golf points to season positives

**Bryce Decker**  
Staff Writer  
badecker@valdosta.edu

With just one tournament left in their fall schedule, VSU's golf team has had a disappointing season so far, but can point to several positive developments moving forward.

The team just came back from the 2017 Copperhead Championship in Palm Harbor, Florida, played at the famous Innisbrook Resort.

"Copperhead was awesome. It's a great golf course. Anytime you get to play on a course that the pros play on is a tremendous

honor," Head Coach Jared Purvis said.

After the first day of the tournament, VSU sat in fifth place, a very strong showing.

"We set ourselves up to contend with some of the top teams in the country. The first day we played some good golf, and made very few mistakes," Purvis said. "Unfortunately, when the wind and the rain moved in, we didn't handle it quite like we should."

The team placed in the ninth spot out of 15 teams by the end of the tournament.

The golf team as a whole had a rough time in their last three tournaments.

Sept. 19, the Blazers placed eighth out of 15 at The Griffin at Saint Leo in Florida.

The next week, Sept. 26, the team had another difficult outing and placed fourteenth out of 18 at the Cougar Invitational in Columbus, Georgia.

Despite performing below expectations, Purvis still has high hopes for the team.

The team is continuing to show improvement," he said. As a team, they are going to need to improve some more to move up the ranks.

At the Copperhead, the team would have had to make up seven strokes to just tie Barry College in the eighth spot.

To be at the top of the pack, the team would have had to make up 32 strokes.

In golf, anything can happen, but it's going to take a lot of work to make up 30-plus strokes in a tournament.

One of the bright spots for VSU has been Matt Anderson, a junior from Lakeland, Florida, who finished for the twelfth spot in the tournament.

Anderson is averaging just about par at 72.44 strokes per round, which is the best average on the team.

"I felt very comfortable with the course. I was out there every year watching the professional go play at The Valspar Championship," Anderson said. The Valspar is an annual stop on the Professional Golfers Association Tour.

"A lot of knowledge of a course makes it easier to play," he said.

The golf team has a two-day tournament starting on the Miami Intercollegiate in South Florida. After the team will not play in February.

# VSU's be

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL EDITIONS EDITOR  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

All heroes don't wear capes, or in this case, helmets and pads.

The VSU football equipment team has been working tirelessly this semester to make sure the team is settled in their new gear. The team received new jerseys, pants and cleats this season.

Features of the new Nike jerseys includes more airflow with mesh netting on the neck and sides of the jersey and tighter sleeves.

The new pants are Nike and came from Rutgers University. The cleats came from both the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Rutgers University.

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Taylor Snell, midfielder, goes to pass the ball to an aw

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# VSU's behind-the-scenes heros

**Veronica You**  
SPECIAL EDITIONS EDITOR  
vmyou@valdosta.edu

## essing

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All heroes don't wear capes, in this case, helmets and pads. The VSU football equipment team has been working tirelessly this semester to make sure the team is in their new gear. The team received new jerseys, pants and shorts this season.

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The new pants are Nike and came from Rutgers University.

The cleats came from both the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Rutgers University.

Phillip Chartier, equipment manager and VSU student, says that when choosing new uniforms, the staff focuses on the functionality of the equipment over fashion.

"The team wanted to bring back a gray look because we used to have a gray pant back in the 2000s," Chartier said. "Our older jerseys have a looser sleeve, so we wanted the newer ones to have a tighter sleeve, which is what a lot of the guys want."

New uniforms and cleats weren't the only special gear that was debuted this season. VSU unveiled a special football and helmet during the military game to honor those who have served.

As a tribute to student-athletes, the team enacted GPA decals for the players who have a GPA

above a 3.0 that can be displayed on their helmets.

"Whatever they need for the games, we wash it and dry it and give it right back to them and do it again the next day," Chartier said.

Chartier was one of five people in the nation to be awarded Student Manager of the Week by Managers on a Mission.

Chartier does not work alone when it comes to the responsibilities as equipment manager. Cassie Chartier, junior sociology and anthropology major, Phillip's wife and assistant, helps keep everyone on task, get the uniforms ready, pass out the bags, and ensure that the players have everything that they need.

Quincy Jacobs, a freshman biology major, also helps with

setting-up before the games and ensuring the team has everything they need.

Phillip and Jacobs also run the teams practices during the week.

"Coaches tell us what drills they want run and we're out there spotting the ball for them," Phillip said. "We're a real integral part of the practice."

Jacobs enjoys the personal relationship that he has been able to form with various players.

"Running practices are fun because once you get to know the players, you get to start playing around with them," Jacobs said.

Tuesday through Thursday are team practice days. Friday usually consists of a light practice before the game day on Saturday, and Sunday is for game-day laundry

Cassie said that they can start laundry at 8 a.m. and be done around noon on a typical Sunday.

"Working here has improved my experience at VSU," Jacobs said. "As long as we do what needs to get done, we can play and joke too."

The equipment staff is currently down to only four, but due to class scheduling on some days, the staff number is only two.

Phillip encourages anyone who is interested in working with the VSU football team and getting to know the players to apply for the position in the spring.

Phillip can be contacted by email at [pcchartier@valdosta.edu](mailto:pcchartier@valdosta.edu) or you can follow the equipment page on twitter at [@VSUEquipment](https://twitter.com/VSUEquipment).



Snell, midfielder, goes to pass the ball to an awaiting player. Courtesy of VSU Athletics

## Transfers deliver success

**Briana Salem**  
STAFF WRITER  
basalem@valdosta.edu

Redemption sometimes comes in the most unexpected forms. For these two transfer athletes, VSU has provided a second chance at their first love.

VSU's soccer program has been thriving this year under the new head coach Stephen Andrews. Andrews, who was able to do a little recruiting after arriving to VSU in the spring, brought on junior communication sciences and disorder major transfer Taylor Snell.

Snell previously played at Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia. Snell transferred to VSU after being informed that Armstrong will no longer have athletics programs at their university.

"There are only five schools in

the state that have my major. University of West Georgia (UWG) was one and Valdosta was another," Snell said. "There wasn't a coach that was available to talk to me at UWG, and my coach got me a meeting with the coach here at VSU. From the meeting, it just seemed like the perfect fit."

Since joining the team, Snell has played in all every game this season as a midfielder.

She leads the conference in points, averaging about 1.6 points per game.

"I knew that I wanted to make an impact on the team as soon as I got here and I didn't want to be a disappointment," said Snell. "We had our first week of preseason, and everyone on the team was great."

Snell has made her presence felt throughout the conference. In this game, Snell had two goals against the University of Montevallo. Both goals came in the second half after the team was down 1-0 in the first half. After this performance, she was voted as the Gulf South Conference Player of the Week.

Blazer soccer isn't the only team that has been impacted by

transfer players. Blazer football player De'Sean Blair transferred from the University of Missouri to VSU this season. The junior interdisciplinary studies major plays wide receiver for the VSU football team.

"New coaches came and took over the program at Missouri," Blair said. "After they came in, I felt as if I didn't fit into the program anymore or the new style the new coaches were bringing implementing."

He has found success since joining the VSU football team. Blair, who has only been training with the team since July, has been featured in every game for the Blazers. Although he only has a total of 37 yards, the Blazers are amid another quarterback controversy.

Quarterback Adam Risher was able to connect with Blair for an 18-yard pass into the end zone for his first score with the Blazers against the University of North Alabama.

"It felt great helping the team out with that touchdown," said Blair. "It was my first score in college football so it definitely felt great and I miss doing it."

## n positives

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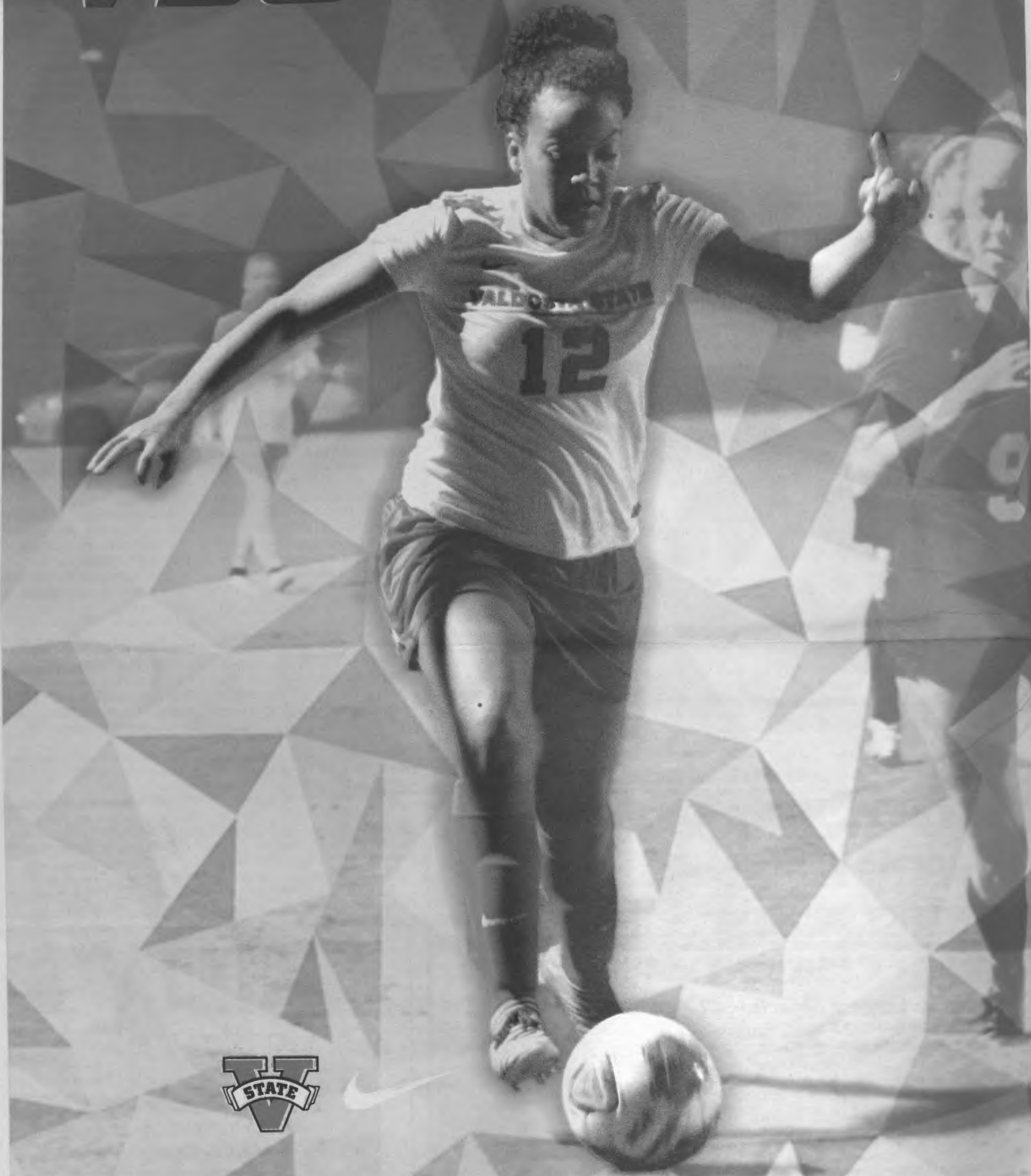
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