

August 14, 2017

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Volume 92, Issue 17

THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

WELCOME

VSTATE

21

hoto courtesy of creative services

Meet the staff: we're going digital!

The Spectator is taking a huge leap from weekly print to all digital production this semester. Through this change we'll better engage you, the student body, in conversations about our campus and the world outside of VSU. We'll be able to bring you news that you'll care about every day of the week faster than we ever could have before. Now, The Spectator will be bringing you stories,

photos and videos every day of the week through our social media, our app and our website. As always, we'll strive to be the voice of the students, and we want to hear what you have to say. Through us, we hope everyone will be able to celebrate the good at VSU and discuss how to fix the bad. You can reach out to us to voice your opinion on any of our platforms, and we'll have series of

people polls both online and on campus that you can participate in. All of this isn't to say we'll be perfect (though we're going to do our best). Because the truth is, we're new at this stuff! Though we've had our website for a while now, we've never used it exclusively. As a staff, we're excited to work on it over the semester and bring you the best content we can.

- Spectator Staff



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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 123 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 experiment
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@bmail.net, and we can talk more!

VSU Students Run Your Ad Here FREE!!

To stu

Hey junior

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To students...

Hey juniors,

You're no longer an underclassman. Junior year is when you start enrolling in upper level courses for your major. These classes can be tough and most of the professors will expect more from you than in some of the core classes. Although you know the campus well and which study habits work and don't work, expect things to be more difficult. The good news is that these courses are tailored to your major, and likely suit your interests. You're already halfway to graduation. At times you might feel discouraged, maybe you've had a bad semester or two and won't graduate with all your friends; just remember that college isn't a race. There are resources you can use to help you if you're struggling with a class. There is the student success center which offers tutoring for a variety of courses and if you email your professor, they will generally be more than willing to meet during their office hours to help answer any questions you may have. The time will fly by and you'll be graduating.

Hey seniors,

This is your last year. It's time to get it together—officially. Senioritis seems so much worse in college than it ever did in high school, but you can't afford to slow down. Even if you've earned some time to relax, you can't take your eyes off the prize. Senior year can be the most difficult to get through. Remember who you were as a freshman or a sophomore and take time out to help underclassmen. It can be easy to go straight to class and do nothing else, but if you see someone who needs help, help them. Above all, take time this semester to reflect on your journey. You've done a lot to get here, and you should be proud!

Hey freshmen,

College is not exactly something that's new, but then again, it is. It's all about how you perceive your situation. College will make or break you and show you who you truly are. Don't wild out just because you're not around your parents, and don't stay in your room and be a shut in because you don't know anybody. Make true friends and bonds that will last forever. Review your past and look at how you can better yourself. Grow because you can't move forward without doing so. Enjoy life and follow your own path. Unlock your full potential whether it lies here or elsewhere. Become the best version of yourself that you can be and encourage others to do the same.

Hey sophomores,

Congratulations! You are no longer a freshman and by now, you probably don't look lost when searching for your classes. You have two more years to go, but do not be discouraged. We're here for you, and we believe in you! As you return to VSU, reflect on the memories you made as a freshman, and think about how you can make this year even better. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it; go to your adviser, the student success center, or your friends. VSU will always accept you with open arms. Don't get stuck in the middle. Just because you aren't an upperclassman yet doesn't mean you can't get involved and hold leadership positions on campus.

CONNECT DIGITALLY TO THE SPECTATOR!
@VSUSPECTATOR
 (follow us!)

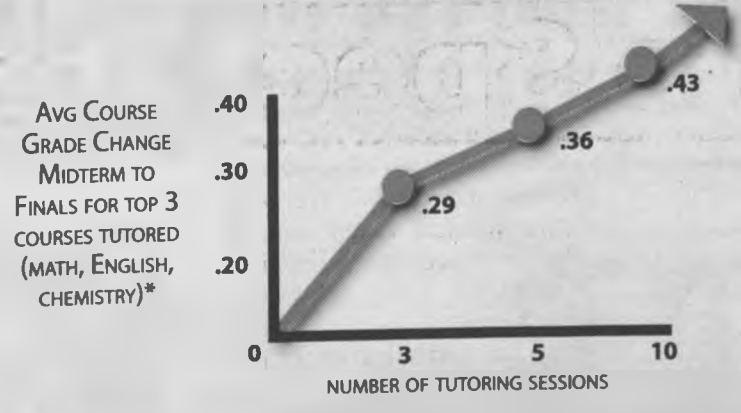
   

You're Invited to the SGA Welcome Back PIZZA PARTY!
MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH AT 7:00PM



Located in the STUDENT UNION BALLROOMS

WORRIED THAT YOUR GPA WILL COST YOU HOPE? WE SAY UP YOURS!!



*GPA INCREASE BASED ON QUALITY POINT AVERAGES DETERMINED AT MIDTERM & FINALS

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www.valdosta.edu/ssc for more information

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B. Benson at
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How to survive dorm rooms

Julie Jernigan
COPY EDITOR
jjernigan@valdosta.edu

Moving away from home and moving in with a stranger can be a little scary. Put aside those feelings because dorm room living can be some of the best times of your life if you let it.

Just follow these six tips in order to survive dorm rooms.

Stay Clean: Unfortunately, not all freshmen are lucky enough to have their own bathroom (I'm looking at you Georgia Hall), so communal bathrooms are inevitable. Rule of thumb: never forget your flip-flops, towel and caddy but especially your flip flops. Nothing can ruin your day more than a bad case of athlete's foot. You've been warned.

Keep Snacks: Even though VSU offers a wide variety of on-campus dining options, none of them are 24 hours. Keep a stock of snacks for those late night cravings or impromptu movie nights. Don't be afraid to get creative with your microwave.

"I learned how to make every dessert in a mug," Martina Strickland, a senior accounting

major said. "I also kept a stack of granola bars for the mornings I couldn't make it to the dining hall for breakfast."

Be sure to put your name on your snacks or designate which ones are shareable to avoid a conflict with your roommate.

Expect Noise: You can hear everything in dorm rooms due to their paper thin walls. You may have a neighbor who likes to blast music all night or one who likes to talk loud when they're on the phone. Invest in some earplugs to get a good night's rest because knocking on the wall usually never gets anywhere.

"I had neighbors who blasted rap music all day long," Noah Bryant, a junior psychology major said. "I honestly should have bought ear plugs way sooner than I did."

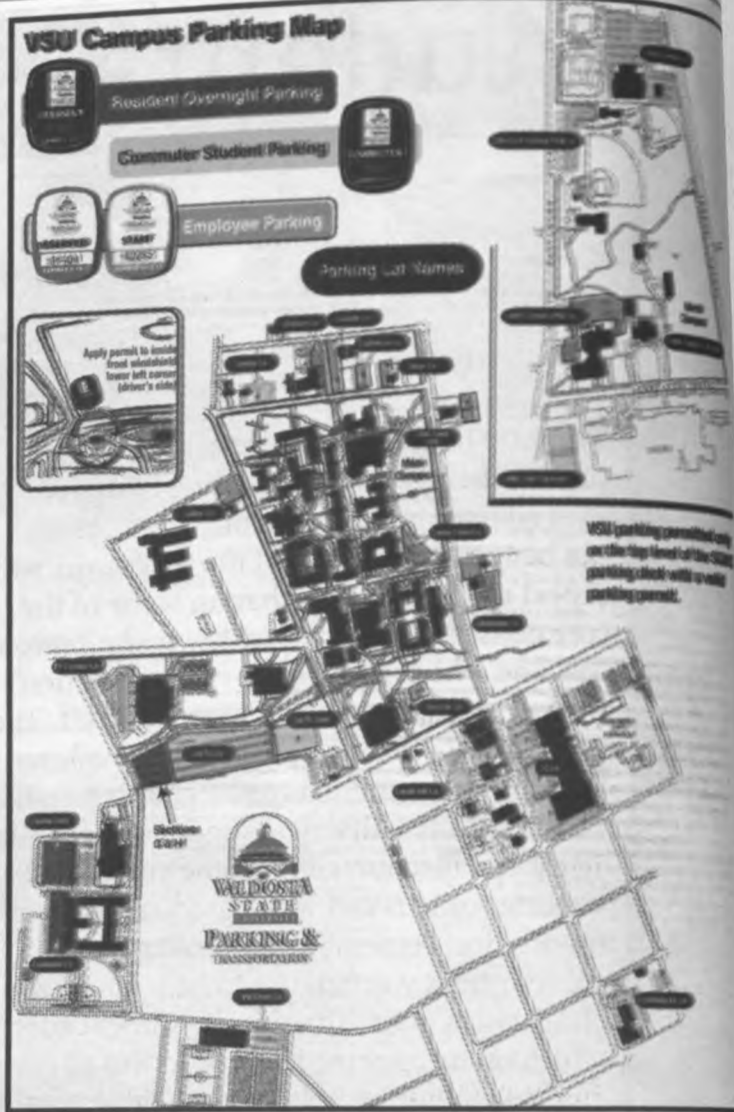
Don't be Afraid to be Assertive: Don't leave passive aggressive notes to your roommate because all you're leaving is tension. If something is bothering you, don't be afraid to speak up; otherwise, you're in for a rough year. Address your habits early on and come to a compromise because no two people are the same.

Laundry over Vending Machines: I know that bag of salt and vinegar chips may look good at the time, but what's better? Having clean clothes for the week or satisfying a craving? I know it's hard, but I'm saving you from having to go commando. You'll thank me later. Side tip: Don't put off your laundry until Sunday because you'll be lucky if you find an open machine.

Be Ready for Fire Alarms: Whether it's 3 a.m. or p.m., those heart attack inducing beeps can interrupt sleeping, showering and studying. They can ring from an actual fire, but most of the time it's someone who doesn't know how to microwave popcorn. Remember to put on shoes or a change of clothes.

"Be conscious of what you're wearing," Kenzie Bowen, Georgia Hall Resident Assistant said. "You never know who's going to be out there or how long you'll be out there. I always grab a blanket."

It might be tempting to ignore the alarm and stay in your warm, comfy bed, but it's better to be safe than sorry.



VSU's beloved omelet chef

Preyah James
DISTRIBUTION EDITOR
psjames@valdosta.edu

There's a rising star on VSU's campus.

Wilma and her omelets have attracted campus-wide fame from students and staff alike. Her warm personality and great food have made Miss Wilma one of Palm's Dining's most known and loved employees.

Originally from the Philippines, Wilma has been employed with VSU dining for 11 years. She began working in 2006 when Sodexo became the university's official food service provider. Since then, VSU has seen several food service providers come and go, but she has remained.

Wilma attributes her longstanding career to her love for her job, as well as the students she interacts with. "I love the kids who

come here," she said. "I consider them all like my children."

The secret to Miss Wilma's omelets isn't a special spice or technique. "I love to cook; it's my passion," she said. "I make food here the same way I do at home. I always add love."

Students notice it too.

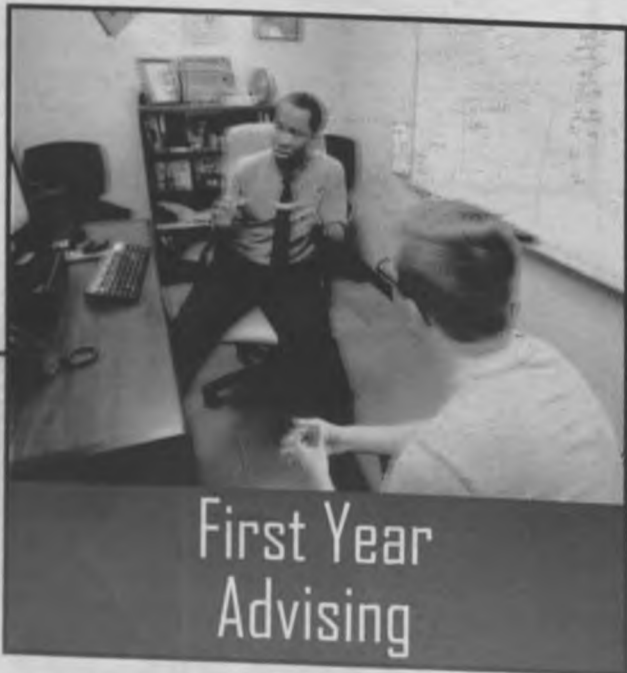
"She's a delightful person and a great cook. Palm's wouldn't be the same without her," D'Andre Thomas, a senior criminal justice major, said.

When she's not whipping up her famous omelets in Palm's, Miss Wilma spends quality time at home with her husband.

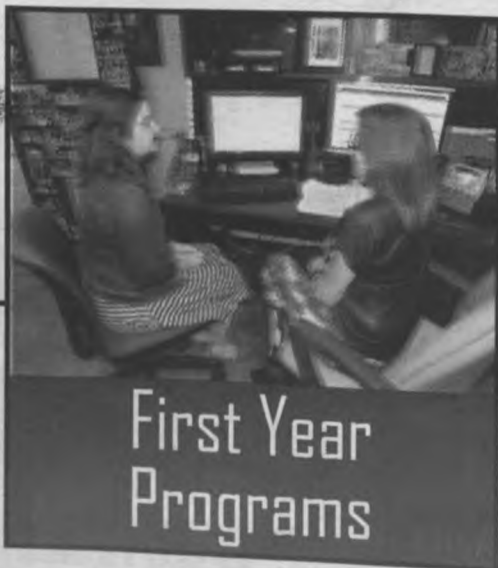
Be sure to visit Miss Wilma at her brand new omelet station in Palm's Dining Hall.

"I don't always stand in line, but when I do, it's Wilma's line," Caryn Vandergriff, a senior philosophy and political science major.

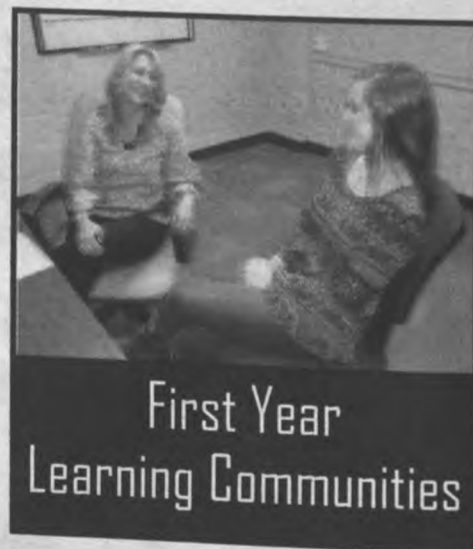
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Fri 8-3 pm
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FALL EXPLOSION

Monday, August 7

CPC Sorority Recruitment Kick-Off
Student Union Ballrooms 5pm Student/Greek Life

Tuesday, August 8

CPC Sorority Day of Service
Second Harvest All Day Student/Greek Life

Wednesday, August 9

CPC Sorority Recruitment Begins
Nevens Hall TBA Student/Greek Life

Thursday, August 10

Freshmen Move-In
University Center Res Life
Target Shopping Spree
Valdosta Target 8-11pm Res Life

Friday, August 11

New Student Convocation
PE Complex 9:00am
Academic College Meetings
Colleges Immediately Following Convocation

Housing Floor Meetings

Residence Halls 5pm Res Life
Class Photo
Front Lawn 6:15pm
Fall Explosion Kick-Off
Front Lawn 6-9pm Student Life/Engage Campus Ministries

Saturday, August 12

CPC Sorority Bid Day
Front Lawn 11:45am Student/Greek Life
Game of Thrones
Campus Rec 12-5pm Media Arts Geniuses
Rock the Rec
Campus Rec 7-10pm Campus Recreation

Sunday, August 13

Find Your Classroom
Academic Class Rooms 3-5pm Student Success Center
Sundaes on Sunday
Residence Hall Lobbies 8-9pm Res Life
Screen on the Green
Front Lawn 9pm Student Life/CAB

Monday, August 14

Doughnuts with the President
Various Locations 8-10am President's Office
Snow Cones
VSU Bookstore 1-4pm Campus Rec
Bookstore Mania
VSU Bookstore 3-8pm Auxiliary Services
Welcome Back Pizza Party
Student Union Ballrooms 7pm SGA

Tuesday, August 15

Two Scoops of Friendship
Pedestrian Mall 3-5pm Res Life & CAB
Genesis (Night of Praise & Worship)
Student Union Ballrooms 7pm Diversity & Inclusion

Wednesday, August 16

Part-Time Job Fair
Student Union Ballrooms 10-2pm Career Services
Greek Explosion
Palms Quad 3-5pm Student/Greek Life
Getting to Know You S'more 6-8pm Res Life

Thursday, August 17

Dine and Rally w/ the Blazers
Blazer Grill 7-9pm Auxiliary Services Student Life/Fire Pit

Friday, August 18

Student Organization Leadership Training
Student Union 3-6pm Student Life
Game Night
Odum Library 4-8pm Odum Library

Saturday, August 19

Paddle the River
Alapahoochee River 9am Campus Rec/CORE
Day at the Beach
Jacksonville Beach 9am Campus Rec/CORE

Sunday, August 20

Laundry Workshops
Res. Hall Laundry Rooms 5-7pm Res Life
All Eyes on Me
Student Union Theater 7pm Student Life/CAB

Monday, August 21

IFC Fraternity Informational
Student Union Theater 6pm Student/Greek Life
Multicultural Mixer
Student Union Ballrooms 7pm Diversity & Inclusion

Tuesday, August 22

Sink the Cabinet
Campus Rec Pool 7pm Campus Rec

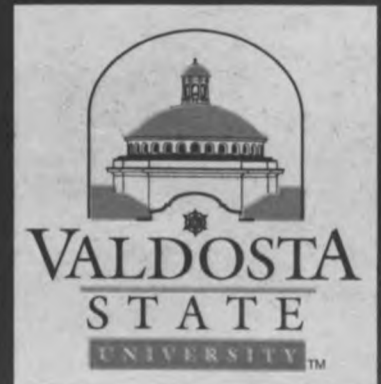
Wednesday, August 23

Mini Golf
Student Union Ballrooms 5-9pm Student Life/CAB
NPHC Informational
Bailey 1011 7pm Student/Greek Life

Thursday, August 24

The Happening
Front Lawn 1-4pm Student Life
Sex Signals
Student Union Theater 7pm Counseling Center

2017



VSU parking permits are only on the top level of the SIGN parking deck with a valid parking permit.

Omelet chef

"I consider all like my children." The secret to Miss Wilma's omelets isn't a special spice or technique. "I love to cook; it's my passion," she said. "I make food the same way I do at home. It always adds love." Students notice it too. "She's a delightful person and a great cook. Palm's wouldn't be the same without her," D'Andre Thomas, a senior criminal justice major, said. When she's not whipping up her famous omelets in Palm's, Miss Wilma spends quality time at home with her husband. Be sure to visit Miss Wilma at the brand new omelet station in Palm's Dining Hall. "I don't always stand in line, but when I do, it's Wilma's line," says Lynn Vandergriff, a senior philosophy and political science major.



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The Spectator's guide on where to eat.

Created by Hunter Terrell, Engagement Editor, h1terrell@valdosta.edu
Layout by Veronica You, Special Projects Manager, vmyou@valdosta.edu

But first, coffee.

Elliano's: Though they are only drive-thru, it's not one you want to pass by. They have signature creations like their Milan Mint Mocha or Cookies & Cream Freezer, tons of espressos and their delicious guilt-free menu including my favorite, sugar-free spiced chai. They open at 6:30 a.m. and stay open until 10 p.m. They run you about the same as Starbuck's cost wise and are conveniently located on Baytree Road.

Birdie's Market/ Grassroots: In the heart of downtown is Grassroots Coffee, or more notably, Birdie's Market. This full service coffee shop sells delicious coffees and espresso straight out of Thomasville. You can choose from French press, traditional espresso, cold brews, ice cream blenders and their breakfast and lunch is crafted by talented chefs who also create the menu at Steel Magnolias. If you ever find yourself downtown, you have to go in Birdie's Market to grab a drink, maybe a bite and even shop around a bit. Instagram: [birdiesmarketvaldosta](https://www.instagram.com/birdiesmarketvaldosta)

Red Owl: Newer to the coffee scene is Red Owl Coffee Co. who crafts with passion and quality. You can purchase Americano, drip coffee, earl grey tea and flavored espresso shots. They are located on North Patterson Street, and you can find them by looking for the cute stringed lights hung up on the patio. Instagram: [redowlcoffee](https://www.instagram.com/redowlcoffee)



Above: Even pups agree, but first, coffee! VeronicaYou/THE SPECTATOR



Above: Pulled pork platter from Big Nick's on Baytree. Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR



Above: An order of wings from Sebastian's Wings. Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Keeping it classy

Bleu Pub: Anything and everything you could put on a burger, they got it. The Black and Bleu (tons of blue cheese), Braveheart (peanut butter and bacon), the Heat (jalapeno cream sauce, sriracha and pepper jack), Dirty Bird (gouda, egg and bacon) are just some of the delicious burgers. You can make it a double or triple and choose between regular fries and sweet potato fries. If you are 21, they have an extensive list of craft beers and IPAs. They are one of the few places that have live music, trivia night and stay open late downtown. The kitchen closes around 1:30 am.

Smokin' Pig BBQ: Good times, good friends and better BBQ. I'm talking brisket, pulled pork, St. Louis style ribs, smoked chicken, pork chops, fried shrimp, cod nuggets, catfish, prime rib, New York strip and amazing "trimmings" to go on the side. It's more food than you can eat in an entire day. If you dine-in you can indulge in the salad and dessert bar.

Big Nick's: Located on Baytree, Big Nick's has been serving Valdosta since May 2015. The restaurant has great BBQ and southern comfort food, outstanding service and amazing deals. The wings combos are a good deal, the gator tail is tender, pork chop dinner is huge, and the shrimp and grits are smooth and savory. They're open until midnight on weekends. IG: [bignicksvaldosta](https://www.instagram.com/bignicksvaldosta)

Sebastian's Wings: This place is a hidden gem! If you're from Atlanta, you will notice that Valdosta doesn't have wing joints on every corner like at home. Sure, you can pay an arm and a leg at Hooter's or Buffalo Wild Wings, or you could go on down to West Hill Ave and place an order for 6, 12 or 20 piece combo in one or two of their 14 flavors. Winnersville Heat is a scorcher, and Gold & Tangy is sweet and smooth. This place is no bigger than a dorm room, but the atmosphere is welcoming and hearing the wings being tossed to perfection just adds to the experience.

GG's Country Kitchen: Home cooking done right! Buttermilk fried chicken, oxtails with rice and peach glazed fried pork chops are just some of the main dishes. Broccoli and cheese casserole and mac and cheese are two sides you have to try! Desserts vary by day, but it's not far from your grandma's apple turnover. Located at 200 N. St Augustine Road.

Getting

Tandoor: Roti? Karahi? If you're a vegetarian, this is also a good option. Cuisine where cooks use traditional conjurations of vegetables.

Cup Works: Can you get a cup of bachi? Cup Works offers the benefits of lowered carbs with bibimbop and mandu too.

I love Bowl Pho: The Vietnamese uses amazing ingredients to knock your socks off. Try Tom Nuong and if you don't love it, try this.



Above: Friend's Grille and Bar. Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Check out our guide



Above: A hand tossed pizza from Mellow Mushroom Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Mama Mia, it's a pizzeria!

Mellow Mushroom: Though I usually don't go for chain restaurants, this is one of the only places that has good pizza and amazing dough. At lunch time, you can get pizza by the slice, and you can make your own creation at any time. Tossed to perfection, they are also the only pizza place to offer gluten free dough. If you dine-in, you can enjoy the superhero theme with Superman flying above and Hulk standing guard at the door. IG: valdosta_mellow

Fabulous Pizza: With beer, good pizza and unbeatable prices, what could be better? Thursday trivia night has dollar slices and dollar Bud Lights with speedy, sufficient service. Grab a slice at Fabulous Pizza and support local business! IG: fabulous_pizza

The Mill: Fresh and hot pizza buffet! They offer a week-day lunch special for \$5.99, and they take flex. The Mill has signature pizzas including Hawaii Five-O, Blazer Buffalo Chicken, The Cheese to my Macaroni, Meat Lover's and Milltown Supreme. Did I mention it was a buffet? They also have arcade games if you're up to it. Not much more can be said.

*Valdosta also has delivery: Domino's, Papa John's, Pizza Hut, Stoner's Pizza, and Pizza Quick.

Getting out of your comfort zone

Tandoor: Roti? Kara dosa? Malai kofta curry? They've got it all, and it is good! If you're a vegetarian, this is also a good option for you. Tandoor specializes in the North Indian Cuisine where cooks typically use rich spices and aromatic herbs to transform intricate conjurations of vegetables, lentils and rice into tasty meals that are fulfilling.

Cup Works: Can you say sushi? What about Bulgogi, Bokeum or more familiar, Hibachi? Cup Works offers different styles of Korean dishes that supposedly have health benefits of lowered insulin levels and neutral fats. You can also try the notorious kimchi, bibimbop and mandu. This one is a bit further from campus, but they have a drive-thru too.

I love Bowl Pho: This is taking microwave ramen to the next level. Like other cuisines, Vietnamese uses ample, spices, herbs, meats and broth that can make any noodle dish knock your socks off. There is Pho Bo Vien, Pho Ga, Pho Tofu, Bun Tom Cha Gio, Bun Tom Nuong and if you never had ca Phe Sua Da (Vietnamese coffee), you have to at least try this.



Above: Pho, a Vietnamese noodle soup that they serve at I love Bowl Pho. Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Date Night

Salty Snapper: They have an exciting atmosphere, great service and the best seafood in Valdosta. The clam chowder is thick, the baked oysters are juicy, the fried platters are plenty, the lobster and dumplings are better than their already good shrimp and grits, and the grilled Scottish salmon will melt in your mouth. You've got to take your girl here, and no doubt you're both leaving with leftovers.

Steel Magnolia's: Voted one of the top places to dine in Georgia, Steel Magnolia's has a menu crafted by hand selected chefs who also partake in Birdie's creations. At Steel's, you can have a rooftop dinner that starts off with pulled pork deviled eggs and creamy burrata, and then dive straight into lemon thyme chicken confit, some awesome Colorado lamb chops or pan seared scallops and pork belly.

Friend's Grille and Bar: Being partners with the Salty Snapper, the food and drink menu here is quite impressive. With its spacious patio, lively bar and open kitchen, excitement is always in the air. Supporting the local community and providers is very important to the owners. Pork, pecans, olive oil, lettuce, cheese, grapes, tomatoes, figs and strawberries are just some of the items being harvested from just a few miles down the road. Start off with spring rolls of the day or a kale salad and then try the slow-braised beef short ribs, pan roasted pork tenderloin or The Burger!



Above: Friend's Grille and Bar features an open kitchen so that guests can see their food being prepared. Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Check out the entire Valdosta food guide at www.vsuspectator.com



Move-in day 2017

For the first time ever, VSU utilized a new move-in day system spanning the entire campus. All students moved in on one day for the first time in several years. According to VSU, about 700 students volunteered to help move-in day go smoothly.

Seth Willard/ THE SPECTATOR



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THE SPECTATOR
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COME SEE
THE HAPPEN



Join the fun for the 26th annual 'The Happening'

Darla Dunning
CONTENT EDITOR
ddunning@valdosta.edu

VSU students will have the chance to explore the career opportunities at VSU and the businesses around the community at The Happening on Aug. 24. The yearly event is in its 26th year and will be held on the VSU front lawn from 1 to 4 p.m.

The information fair will feature VSU departments, local businesses, nonprofits, religious, civic and student organizations who will come together and offer free food samples, products, door prizes and giveaways to stu-

dents who visit their information booths.

Local eateries will offer free food samples. For example, last year Dominoes was on the front lawn giving pizza to students who visited their booth. Also, Plato's Closet, a gently used brand name clothing store, had a prize wheel for students to spin and win coupons to shop at their store.

There will be information booths for students who are seeking a part or full-time job and booths for students interested in activities for serving the Valdosta community.

Trisha Taylor, administrative

assistant with VSU's Office of Student Life, said The Happening is a great experience for freshmen to be introduced to the opportunities on campus.

"If you could choose to only go to one place to find out about VSU and the community and that was your only opportunity to find out, I would go to The Happening because there is so much information and so many different people, organizations, departments all in one place," Taylor said. "It only happens once a year, so if you only had one chance to find about VSU, that is where you would want to go."

There will also be a vendor who is bringing a gaming trailer which is an enclosed unit where students can play video games.

Along with these fun activities, an emcee will play music from the stage announcing the winners of the giveaways, general information and safety announcements. Students do not need to be at The Happening to win giveaways that they have entered. They will be contacted by the distributor of the prize.

For more information about the vendors who will be participating in The Happening 2017, visit vsuspectator.com.

The Happening Vendors:

To see the full list of vendors, visit vsuspectator.com.

- AT&T
- Battered Women's Shelter dba. The Haven
- Batteries Plus Bulbs
- Behavioral Health Services of South Georgia
- Big Nick's
- Braids Beads and Beauty Salon
- Catholics on Campus/ Newman Center
- Covenant Care
- Dicks Wings and Grill
- Edible Arrangements
- Embellish Hair and Beauty Bar
- Fit Fighters Fitness
- Florida Department of Corrections - Hamilton C.I.
- Funertia
- Hair by BRITTA
- Harry B Anderson
- Western Auto
- Harts Art
- Ice House Gym
- Jersey Mikes
- Jimmy Johns
- Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful
- LifeSouth Community Blood Centers
- Limelight by Alcone
- Living Bridges Ministry
- Master Fix
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Michelle's Beauty Bar
- Association of Graduate Students
- Wesley Foundation
- VSU Wishmakers on Campus
- American Chemical Society (SMACS)
- Beta Alpha Psi-Mu Zeta Chapter
- Blazer Corps of Cadets
- Alpha epsilon Delta (Pre-Med)
- Blazer Pride
- Career Opportunities
- Centralized advising & FirstYear Programs
- Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- Circle K of VSU
- Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority
- Collegiate Women of VSU
- VSU Dance Club
- Delta Phi Delta Dance Fraternity, Inc.
- Elementx Modeling Troupe
- Enactus
- Episcopal College Fellowship
- VSU Film and Video Society
- VSU Football
- Gamma Sigma Gamma

A look back in time at 'The Happening'

VSU has been celebrating what is now known as 'The Happening' for years. These are pictures from years past that showcase the meaning of getting to know the VSU community and the local business surrounding Valdosta.

Photos courtesy of VSU Archives and Special Collections



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Seth Willard/ THE SPECTATOR



Valdosta will catch a glimpse of the solar eclipse Astronomy, physics and geosciences to throw safe viewing party

Kelsey Dickerson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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This month VSU will witness something that hasn't been seen in the continental U.S. since 1979, but we'll have to look carefully.

On Aug. 21, around 1 p.m., the VSU community will be able to view the beginnings of a solar eclipse as the path of totality moves across our surrounding states and through the northeast corner of Georgia. The last time Georgia hosted a total eclipse was in 1970, when the path of totality lie over Savannah.

Eclipses come in "seasons" of about 31 to 37 days every six months. During this time, both solar and lunar eclipses are possible, though according to NASA a solar eclipse only occurs every 18 months. Solar eclipses follow a set path along the earth called the path of totality, where the moon's shadow passes directly over.

Other cities near the path of totality, like Valdosta, will only enjoy a partial eclipse. Though at its maximum, the sun will be

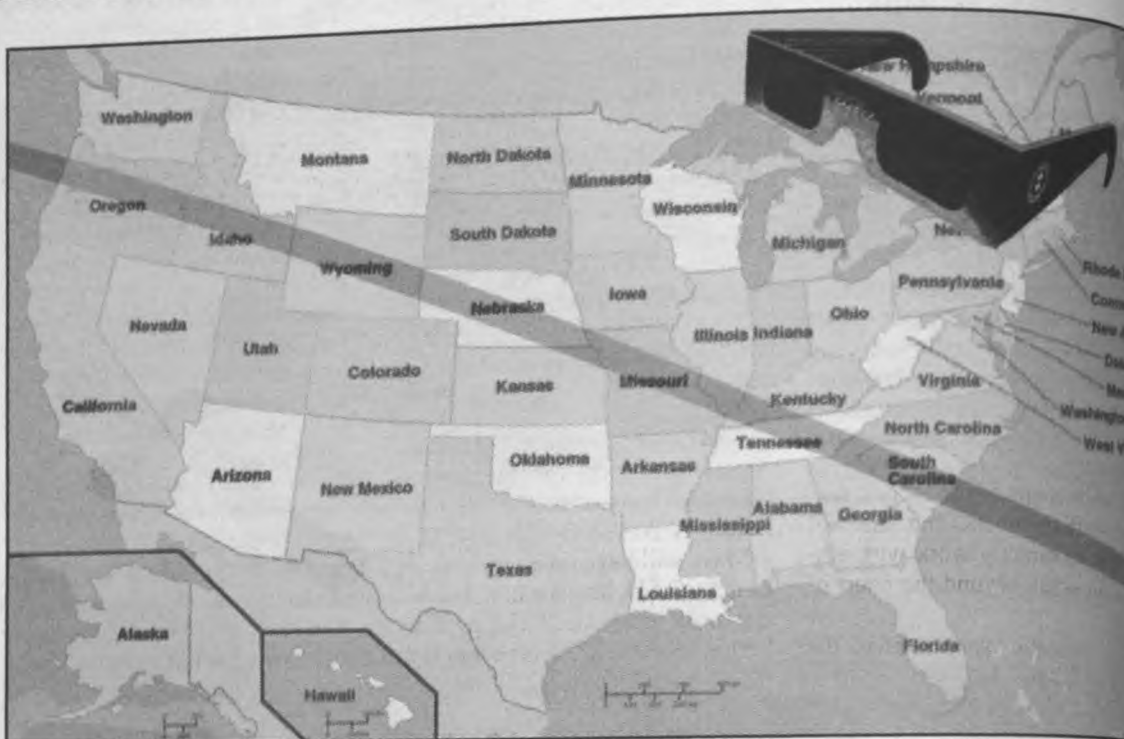
about 90 percent eclipsed. Looking at a partial eclipse can result in blindness, but those in the path of totality may enjoy looking up at the total eclipse without protection, but

In Valdosta, anyone hoping to view the partial eclipse will need to purchase a pair of eclipse glasses from a reputable dealer or use the pin-hole method.

"One can directly view the eclipse by making a pinhole in a small sheet of cardboard, like an index card, and letting the Sun's light pass through it onto a second card." Dr. Kenneth Rumstay, professor of physics and astronomy, said. "The pinhole acts as a tiny lens, focusing the sun's image."

The community may also attend a viewing party held by the department of physics, astronomy and geosciences. According to Dr. Rumstay, attendees will be provided with special glasses and may look through telescopes equipped with solar filters for a magnified view.

"We'll be set up on the sidewalk in front of Odum Library with a few telescopes and nearly



This map features the path of totality of the eclipse. Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons.

two hundred eclipse glasses," Dr. Rumstay said. "With those we'll see the Moon silhouetted in front of the Sun, but even at mid-eclipse the sky won't be noticeably darker."

The department recommends traveling to view the total eclipse, but it could be difficult. During a planetarium show over the eclipse in April of last semester, professor of astronomy Dr. Martha Leake

said that some hotels along the center line were already completely booked. Because the eclipse will fall during the afternoon, Georgia's weather patterns may also block the view.

Campus Carry guidelines what students need to know



VSU students, who are licensed gun holders, can now carry concealed weapons on campus. Seth Williard/THE SPECTATOR

Darla Dunning
CONTENT EDITOR
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On July 1, Georgia House Bill 280 was passed by the House and Senate to authorize the carrying and possession of handguns by Georgia Weapons Carry License Holders in certain buildings or property owned by or leased to public institutions of postsecondary education.

These are the rules to follow when carrying a concealed weapon at certain locations around campus:

According to the Georgia General Assembly Legislature and VSU, concealed weapons are not allowed in any room or space being used for classes in which high school students are enrolled through a dual enrollment program, or through classes related to the 'Move on When Ready Act' or Early College.

Georgia Weapons Carry License holders who wish to carry handguns to class will need to visit the Office of the Registrar with their VSU ID card.

After verifying their enrollment status, the Registrar official will tell them which of their classes, if any, have high school students

enrolled.

Concealed weapons are not allowed in faculty, staff and administrative offices and office suites. Although, this does not include areas outside of these offices including common areas, classrooms, labs and other public campus locations.

Concealed weapons are not allowed in buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or gymnasiums and facilities where intercollegiate games are hosted.

Although, this does not include "tailgating" areas where fans may congregate outside the gates of the sports facility

Concealed weapons are not allowed in residence halls or similar buildings that are being leased by or property owned the University System of Georgia.

These rules only apply to the carrying of handguns which a licensee is licensed to carry, and it only applies to the carrying of handguns which are concealed. Violation of House Bill 280 is a misdemeanor crime, and a licensee who should violate these crimes will face consequences outlined in the VSU Student Code of Conduct.

DID YOU KNOW? According to the Valdosta Daily Times, on March 7, 1970, Valdosta was at the dead center of the "totality track" of another solar eclipse, with visitors from across the country crowding the campus of VSU to see the sun completely vanish for a little while.

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Athletic staff

Keeping up w

Juston Lewis
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Staff changes were not in short supply over the summer. Here's a recap of what you might have missed.

Jennifer Grubbs, former assistant coach for the women's basketball team, transitioned into a new role with Blazer Athletics.

Grubbs accepted the Director of Student-Athlete Development and has been working in that position since July.

Grubbs is one of the longest tenured staff members, and she will be able to directly work with athletes on skills beyond the court field.

Jay Johnson was named the Head Athletic Trainer over the summer. Johnson stepped into the role previously held by Russ Hoff for 20 years.

Hoff is transitioning to become a full-time faculty member in the Department of Health Science within the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Johnson is a graduate of VSU and he was a part of the athletic training staff for the 2004 national championship team.

Johnson brings 10 years of experience as the Head Athletic Trainer to the Athletic Training Department. He took over his new role in July.

Chandler Merckerson will be moving into Grubbs' prior role, as assistant coach for women's basketball.

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SPORTS

Athletic staff does the shuffle Keeping up with Blazer Athletics' hot summer

Juston Lewis
SPORTS EDITOR
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Chandler Merkerson will be moving into Grubbs' prior role, assistant coach for women's basketball.

The Florida native got her coaching start as a graduate assistant with Lincoln Memorial in 2014. Her success led to her earning a full-time position at Truett McConnell during the 2016-2017 season where she helped coach the team to the most wins in program history.

Merkerson's help boost every program she has been at. She will strive to continue that trend at VSU.

Jason Mays, former assistant basketball coach for the men's basketball team, took a position at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Mays will have the same role as he did at VSU, but he will be working with head coach Happy Osborne. Mays and Osborne worked together at Georgetown College in Kentucky prior to his stint at VSU.

Mays helped coach the Blazers to a 26-6 overall record and regular season GSC title in 2017.

It was a homecoming of sorts as former Blazer, Blake Justice, was named as the new assistant coach for men's basketball.

Justice is a member of the 1,000-point club and played with VSU for three seasons. Justice served as a graduate-assistant for the Blazers before having a brief stint playing overseas.

He will be making the transition from the court to the bench as the Blazers enter a rebuilding period. Seven seniors graduated from the men's basketball team including four starters.

The lone starter remaining is Justice's younger brother, Beau.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University

Blake Justice coaches his younger brother, Beau, during a game against North Alabama last season. He'll be the new assistant coach for men's basketball.

Blazer Rankings			
SPORT	FOOTBALL	VOLLEYBALL	SOCCER
RANKING	No. 2	No. 4	No. 9

Blazer Events / August 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/18	Football	Blazer Stadium	7:00 PM
8/19	Volleyball	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
8/20	Soccer	Blazer Soccer Field	7:00 PM
8/21	Basketball	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
8/22	Baseball	Blazer Baseball Field	7:00 PM
8/23	Softball	Blazer Softball Field	7:00 PM
8/24	Track & Field	Blazer Track	7:00 PM
8/25	Swimming	Blazer Aquatics Center	7:00 PM
8/26	Water Polo	Blazer Aquatics Center	7:00 PM
8/27	Rowing	Blazer Rowing Club	7:00 PM
8/28	Cycling	Blazer Cycling Club	7:00 PM
8/29	Archery	Blazer Archery Club	7:00 PM
8/30	Badminton	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
8/31	Table Tennis	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM

Blazer Events/September 2017

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
9/1	Football	Blazer Stadium	7:00 PM
9/2	Volleyball	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
9/3	Soccer	Blazer Soccer Field	7:00 PM
9/4	Basketball	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
9/5	Baseball	Blazer Baseball Field	7:00 PM
9/6	Softball	Blazer Softball Field	7:00 PM
9/7	Track & Field	Blazer Track	7:00 PM
9/8	Swimming	Blazer Aquatics Center	7:00 PM
9/9	Water Polo	Blazer Aquatics Center	7:00 PM
9/10	Rowing	Blazer Rowing Club	7:00 PM
9/11	Cycling	Blazer Cycling Club	7:00 PM
9/12	Archery	Blazer Archery Club	7:00 PM
9/13	Badminton	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM
9/14	Table Tennis	Blazer Gymnasium	7:00 PM

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SPORTS

Staff predicts the 2017 Blazer of the year

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Blazer of the year - men's

Justin

I'm going off range with my pick for Blazer of the Year. I'm selecting Leo Blay. The tennis star was snubbed last year from the Blazer of the Year rankings despite being voted as the GSC Men's Tennis Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Blay was the best male athlete on VSU's campus last year, and no one talked about him. With all due respect to Jeremiah Hill and Kenny Moore, Blay deserves the same notoriety that they received. This year, I think he gets it.

Jatavius

With the graduation of the NABA All-American Jeremiah Hill, defensive prodigy Josh Lemons and even the clutch sixth man Damian Young, the guard spot is practically begging for a new star. This makes my pick for the Blazer of the Year a piece of cake, Beau Justice. After a stellar performance in his sophomore season shooting 46 percent from the field and 40 percent from the three, it's hard not to pick the man as he can only get better, especially now that he will be looked to as the prime scoring option.

Joshua

My Blazer Player of the Year prediction goes to the reigning football GSC Freshman of the Year, running back Cedric

Hollingshed. Hollingshed stepped onto the scene his freshman year by rushing for 477 yards and seven touchdowns in nine appearances. He landed in the top 10 for rushing yards and touchdowns in the Gulf South Conference last season.

Hollingshed complimented his rushing with 196 receiving yards and a touchdown reception, showing his dual threat capabilities.



Leo Blay is the reigning GSC Men's Tennis Player of the Year.



Beau Justice is the only starter returning for Men's Basketball.



Cedric Hollingshed is the reigning GSC Offensive Freshman of the Year.

Blazer of the year - women's

Justin

There are a lot of different athlete's that could easily run away with this award. The women's basketball team is a shoo-in to place a GSC Player of the Year and numerous first team stars. Softball produces top tier candidates for all-conference rankings every year; however, I'm going off range again. I'm going with Alyssa Curtis, goalie for VSU Soccer. Curtis was an anchor for her team last year. With a full defense returning and new coaching staff, Curtis should flourish this year.

Jatavius

The Blazer of the Year is going to come from the volleyball team. Last year, seniors Susanna Peonia and Antia Rodriguez-Sanchez, put on a show, but the player who stood out the most to me was Tristyn Sells. The Littleton native put her body on the line and played her heart out for the team. For the year, she finished third in kills with 225 only falling behind the two seniors mentioned above. Entering her senior season, the stage is set for her to shine and be honored as Women's Blazer of the Year.

Joshua

It's only right to say a defending champion is my projected Blazer Player of the Year. She finished as a top-ten rebounder and top-five scorer, shot 50 percent from the field and was named First Team All-GSC, First Team All-South Region and the Gulf South Conference Tournament MVP last season.

All while leading the Lady Blazer basketball team to their first GSC title since 1984.

If you haven't guessed it, my pick is Lady Blazers forward Madi Mitchell. Mitchell earned my pick because she displayed huge progression last season. Mitchell improved her points average from 10.3 to 16.6 points per game, doubled her rebounding average and has greatly improved her field goal, free throw and three point percentages. It's only right to predict Mitchell will come back even better this season.



Alyssa Curtis had 114 saves during 15 games for VSU last year.



Tristyn Sells had 225 kills for Volleyball last season.



Madi Mitchell was a first-team All-GSC player last season.

Team of the Year

The Spec Sports Desk has come to the consensus that women's basketball will be the best athletic team this season. The preseason rankings for the volleyball and football teams are both very impressive, and you can never count out softball.

However, it is hard to pick against a reigning champ. Women's basketball will likely repeat as GSC Champs, and they have a strong chance to storm through the Division II Tournament and become National Champs.

This team is returning every starter, every bench player and head coach Carley Kuhns is geared up for her sophomore season.

In Kuhns' first season, she was selected as the GSC Coach of the Year and had two first-team All-GSC selections.

This team was fluid, they enjoyed playing with each other and it showed.



The Lady Blazers are the reigning GSC Champions.

All photos Courtesy of VSU

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