

ALL

TR

March 6, 2018

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Special Edition

# THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.

# SPRING

# BREAK

# 2018



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Offered Fall 2018

"Each of us is responsible for everything and to every human being."

"What is the truth, but a lie agreed upon."



"Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom."

"Life begins on the other side of despair."

## Existentialism

The study of some of the principal existentialist thinkers such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Heidegger, Simone de Beauvoir, Camus, Beber, and Jaspers.

REL 3400 CRN 81752 or PHIL 3400 CRN 81718  
MW 3:50-4:45, AN 1212

# Who Took Courses In Philosophy & Religious Studies? You Can Too Starting This Summer!

## Philosophy Classes Summer '18

- 50833 PHIL 2010 IA\* Fundamentals of Philosophy Santas 6/06- 6/27 ONLINE
- 50834 PHIL 3100 IA \* Ethics and Health Care James 6/06- 6/27 ONLINE
- 50835 PHIL 3800 A Philosophy, Religion, and Film M-F 2-4:50pm Serran-Pagan 5/10-5/31
- 50836 PHIL 3900 A Philosophy of Happiness M-F 11-1:50 pm Santas 5/10-5/31

## Religious Studies Classes Summer '18

- 50837 REL 2020 IA World Religions 6/6- 6/27 Lovern ONLINE
- 50838 REL 3800 A Philosophy, Religion, and Film M-F 2-4:50pm Serran-Pagan 5/10-5/31
- 51065 REL 4700 A Philosophy of Happiness M-F 11-1:50 pm Santas 5/10-5/31

**Harrison Ford**  
Actor

**Steve Martin**  
Comedian  
& Actor

**Richard Gere**  
Actor

**T.S. Elliot**  
Poet  
& Essayist

**Angela Davis**  
Civil Rights  
Activist

**Lana Del Ray**  
Musician

\*Note: All sections marked IA & IB are ONLINE. For info on how to get started in online courses, go to: [www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning](http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning).



SCAN FOR MORE INFO ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT ON OUR WEBSITE & VIDEO!

**VSU PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

229.333.5949 • ASHLEY HALL • ROOM 1202



<http://qr2.it/Go/2568762>

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For more info

An examination of the religions of the religions of Africa, South America on the tradition

- The
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- PHI
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Offered Fall 2018

~ Santeria ~ Vodun ~ African Religions ~ Wicca ~ Paganism ~ Hawaiian ~  
 ~ Religions of Oceania and the Pacific Islands ~  
 ~ Religions of Central and South America ~  
 ~ Australian Aboriginal and New Zealand ~



### Alternative Religions of the World

An examination of the religions of the world not typically counted among the major world religions. The course will include the religions of Africa, South America, the Pacific and Atlantic islanders, and Wiccan and Neo-Pagan religions. The focus will be on the traditions as they are expressed and experienced by the followers of the religions.

REL 3640. CRN 81736

Online

## Our point of view...

### March: a time to recognize women when history hasn't

Under-representation. Unpaid maternity leave. Gender pay gap. Breast feeding shaming. Cat calling. Domestic violence. Slut shaming. Restrictive reproductive rights. Sexual abuse. Rape. Need we say more? These among countless others are challenges women face every day across the world, and it is why celebrating Women's History Month is so important, especially for addressing under-representation.

Because women's history was unknown in classrooms and to the general public, the Educational Task Force in Sonoma County, California initiated a "Women's History Week" in

1978. Because of word of mouth, many states followed through which lead Congress to declare the whole month of March as Women's History Month.

Every year on March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD) which recognizes the political, social and economic achievements of women, according to IWD's website. This year's theme, #PressforProgress, is a call-to-action to press forward and progress gender equality.

The website calls #PressforProgress, "A strong call to motivate and unite friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive. We can't be complacent."

The day includes talks, rallies, networking events and marches across the world.

Because of the recent #METOO and END IT movements, women are no longer staying silent, but rather speaking up to crush the patriarchy. Women are edging closer toward gender equality, but there's still work to be done.

We as human beings can't sit by and watch as women are made out as villains or made to look incompetent. Just a few months ago, Saudi Arabian women were finally allowed to drive. It's

2018, women are tired of fighting for problems that go unnoticed by men just because they don't have to deal with these issues on a day to day basis.

If a woman does the same work as a man, then she should be paid the same. She is also not "asking for it" when she wants to wear a cute outfit that day. It's not that hard. It's called being a decent human being.

Continuing the fight and celebrating women is the only way to push toward gender equality.

The fight is nearing its climax. We can feel it. Do not be discouraged. Look for the Venus symbol, like the one above this editorial, throughout the issue to see what wouldn't be here without a woman.

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



## SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME TO TAKE A PHILOSOPHY COURSE ONLINE!

50834 PHIL 3100 IA Ethics & Health Care  
 Summer June 6-27 ONLINE

- There are NO PREREQUISITES for either class
- Both classes fit the minor in Philosophy
- PHIL 2010 fulfills area C of the the Core
- PHIL 3100 is great for anyone in Nursing, Pre-Med, Psychology, Social Work, or Marriage & Family Therapy
- VSU, Auburn, Mercer, & Georgia Tech students regularly take this course with Dr. James

For more info, contact [chjames@valdosta.edu](mailto:chjames@valdosta.edu) or [asantas@valdosta.edu](mailto:asantas@valdosta.edu).  
 50876 PHIL 2010 IA FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILOSOPHY  
 6/07-6/28 SUMMER III JUNE ONLINE



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**VSU PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
 (229) 333-5949 • Ashley Hall • Rm 1202



**T.S. Elliot**  
 Poet & Essayist

**Angela Davis**  
 Civil Rights Activist

**Lana Del Ray**  
 Musician



<http://qr2.it/Go/2572186>



Relaxing on the front lawn is another way to have fun while sober.

Kelsey Dickerson/ THE SPECTATOR

# Stay sober this spring break

**Destini Jones**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER  
desjones@valdosta.edu

We all know how spring break is "supposed" to go. For instance, alcohol in one hand and a massive hangover in another. You're supposed to spend the entire break totally wasted to the point where you can't remember anything and find out you did an embarrassing table dance from a YouTube video.

Spring break doesn't have to be this way, though. There are plenty of fun things you and your friends can do this spring break without spending it under the influence.

**Chill at the beach:** The beach offers the perfect setting for a good time out in the sun. Try checking out the local rental shop rather than browsing the bar. If you like the water, you can try jet skiing, paddle boarding and other fun water sports. If you prefer

to stay dry in the sand, bring out the kid in you and try having a sandcastle building competition with your friends. Usually there are volleyball nets put up for those who want to bring out their competitive side. Grab a volleyball and challenge your friends to a set or two.

**Go on a road trip:** Going on a road trip can be adventurous because they can last as long as you want them to. You can drive somewhere only an hour away or travel across a couple of states to experience different cuisines, attractions and people. All you need for a road trip is your friends, a sleeping bag, a car and an adventurous attitude.

**Attend a concert:** Great music and great vibes is essential to a great spring break trip, and a concert has it all. Just go online and with a list of your favorite artists, start browsing for tickets. Plenty

of music artists use the summer to put on shows, and you can find one in any genre. You can even be spontaneous and choose an artist you've never listened to and give you and your friends a nice surprise.

**Find amusement parks:** The United States has over 150 amusement parks. Pick one and take your friends on an adventure. You can even add the amusement park as a stop on your epic road trip. Travel to Six Flags, Wild Adventures, Disney World, Busch Gardens or Universal Studios. Pick as many as you and your friends can afford. Just have a good time.

Alcohol isn't the only way to have fun on spring break. There are plenty of other things that you can do without sipping on an alcoholic mixed drink. Take the challenge and live this spring break sober and stay safe.

# What to do before leaving your dorm room for spring break

- Take trash out
- Dispose of perishable foods
- Turn off all electronics and lights
- Close windows and blinds
- Clean room
- Lock doors



# SPRING BREAK BOUND?

Take a test drive in the the **DUI Simulator** so you know the effects of drunk and distracted driving!

Receive destination and other vital info

# DUI Simulator

## March 9, 2018 10am-4pm

Located in the pedestrian walkway, across from the Library/Student Union



More li  
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www.val

BE 9

before  
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spring

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s and blinds

# WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

# SAM

Be a little squirrely

More likely to date  
a millionaire.



**1 in 1,511**

Being a victim  
of a violent crime  
on campus.

**1 in 215**

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



Safety Awareness Mascot

@Vstate\_SAM

## BE SMART. BE SAFE. BE SENSIBLE.

Sources: The Book of Odds and the Office of Postsecondary Education.

**BREAK**  
**?**

he the  
know the  
cted driving!

Receive  
destination  
and other  
vital info

**m**

nt Union

# Spring break travel on a plate



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 hot wings combos are a must, 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.

One of Big Nick's most popular dishes is the pulled pork plate with homemade BBQ sauce.



BBQ Eel is just an example of the nigiri and sashimi rolls Cup Works has to choose from.

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.



Besides the rooftop, Steel Magnolia's also has sidewalk seating..

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 sister restaurant, 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.



Birdie's Market offers more than coffee, they also serve vegan-friendly sweet potato fajitas.

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 Magnolia's. 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.



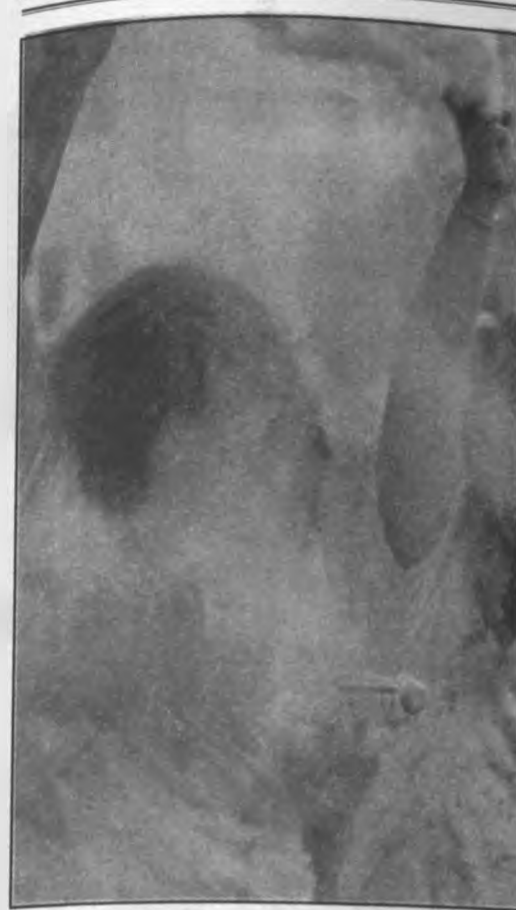
At La Jalisco, you can buy tacos individually, with the choice of steak, shrimp, el pastor, chicken and more.

At **La Jalisco**, you can enjoy authentic Central American culture and cuisine. Tamales, tacos, tacotes, tostadas, sopes are all served with your choice of protein. Fresh guacamole can be an appetizer, and each taco is served with cilantro and homemade salsa verde. After eating, you can shop around for some of your favorite Central American provisions and finish with homemade tres leche.



Salty Snapper's vegetable pasta covered in Parmesan.

**Salty Snapper** has 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 got to take your girl here, and no doubt you're both leaving with leftovers.



## Holi

A day of color, laughs, and is a traditional holiday celebration for Hindus and Sikhs. The festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of good over bad.

Students of various ethnic backgrounds, and origins gathered on Quad on March 1 to celebrate a multicultural festival with a variety of color chalks which symbolize love, belonging, and welcome in the spring season.

Photos by Taylor Sutherland

## Stay in V

**Destini Jones**  
STAFF WRITER  
desjones@valdosta.edu

Not every student has the privilege and means to have the classic spring break at the beach, overseas or on a luxury vacation. Some students choose to work over spring break to earn extra cash or are stuck in Valdosta for some other reason.

If you are stuck in Valdosta for this spring break, don't worry, we have the perfect staycation guide for you. We have gathered a list of fun places in and around Valdosta that are under \$30.

**Valdosta Wake Compound** - If you're obsessed with water sports but can't make it to the beach, the Valdosta Wake Compound is perfect. It is located off Old Clyattville Road which is only a 12-minute drive from campus. It offers two different cables, one for beginner to intermediate boarders and one for advanced to professional boarders. It's opened every day of the week and even offers a skatepark.

TICKETS - 1 hour (\$20), 2 hours (\$25)  
RENTALS - Board for 2 hours (\$10), Board all day (\$15)

**Reed Bingham** - If you love the part of nature State Park spot for spring minutes away from Bingham is a sanctuary that offers fishing, hiking, paddle boarding. Reed Bingham has an abundant wildlife lake.

PARKING RENTALS

**Jac's Lane** and local bowling off Connell Road. A 15-minute drive from town to bowl, have a competition on your significant other. Lanes is the price - \$7

**Madison Bingham Park** - If you're looking for a spring, you'll find an unforgettable experience at Madison State Park. Florida, 38 miles from Valdosta. The best thing about it is that all you need is a nose and a pair of goggles. It is so popular for swimming. It is so

### Other places to try...

**Tandoor Fine Indian Cuisine**  
3008 James Rd,  
Valdosta, GA 31601

**Thai Chang**  
5913 Bemiss Rd,  
Valdosta, GA 31605

**Diggidee's**  
118 Northside Dr Suite  
A, Valdosta, GA 31602

**The Bistro**  
132 N Ashley St, Valdosta, GA 31601

**Burritos Mexican Grill**  
104 E Northside Dr, Valdosta, GA 31602

**Wild Wok**  
914 Baytree Rd, Valdosta, GA 31602

**Guilio's Greek & Italian Restaurant**  
105 E Ann St, Valdosta, GA 31601

**Friend's Grille and Bar**  
3338-B Country Club Road, Valdosta, GA 31605

**Empananda's and More**  
402C Northside Dr, Valdosta, GA 31602

Guide created and photos taken by Veronica You and Hunter Terrell

# SMITTY'S

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Valdosta, GA

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Lunch Special \$6.99

Over 200 Items Daily!

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229-293-0642

# plate

ou say sushi? What Bulgogi, Bokeum or familiar, Hibachi? **Cup**s offers different styles rean dishes that sup- ply have health bene- lowered insulin levels eutral fats. You can ry the notorious kim- imbop and mandu. one is a bit further from us, but they have a -thru too.

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d, Valdosta, GA 31605

ta, GA 31602

ronica You and Hunter Terrell ♀

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**Buffet in Town**  
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 9.99  
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**Items Daily!**  
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## Holi Festival

A day of color, laughs, and fun; Holi is a traditional holiday celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. The festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of good over bad.

Students of various ethnicities, backgrounds, and origins gathered on Palms Quad on March 1 to celebrate the sociocultural festival with a wide range of color chinks which symbolize a mark of love, belonging, and welcoming the spring season.

Photos by Taylor Sutherland. ♀



## Stay in Valdosta for spring break

♀ **Destini Jones**  
 STAFF WRITER  
 desjones@valdosta.edu

Not every student has the privilege and means to have the classic spring break at the beach, overseas or on a luxury vacation. Some students choose to work over spring break to earn extra cash or are stuck in Valdosta for some other reason.

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TICKETS - 1 hour (\$20), 2 hours (\$25)  
 RENTALS - Board for 2 hours (\$10), Board all day (\$15)

**Reed Bingham State Park** - If you love the outdoors and being a part of nature, then Reed Bingham State Park should be your hangout spot for spring break. Located 35 minutes away in Adel, GA, Reed Bingham is a beautiful 1,613-acre sanctuary that offers camping, fishing, hiking, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and sightseeing. Reed Bingham is known for its abundant wildlife and 375-acre lake.

PARKING - \$5  
 RENTALS - varies

**Jac's Lanes** - Valdosta's cozy and local bowling alley, located off Connell Road, is only a 5-minute drive from campus. If you like to bowl, have a friendly bowling competition or have a date with your significant other, then Jac's Lanes is the place to do it.

PRICE - \$7.25 per person

**Madison Blue Spring State Park** - If you've never been to a spring, you're missing out on an unforgettable luxury. Madison State Park is located in Lee, Florida, 38 minutes from campus. The best thing about this spring is that all you need is your bathing suit and a nose for adventure. It is popular for swimming and cave diving. It is scenic and creates

the perfect view, while you are picnicking, paddling and enjoying the local wildlife.  
 PARKING - \$5

**Grand Bay Wildlife** - Located 15 minutes from Valdosta's main campus off Knight Academy Road, Grand Bay is one of city's most prized possessions. It is 8,497 acres composed of upland pine and hardwood forest with cypress/gum wetlands. The area is used for hunting, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, camping, sightseeing and hiking.

PRICE - free  
 Rentals - varies

**Valdosta Stadium Cinemas** - You can never go wrong with a good movie, fresh popcorn, your favorite candy and a large cup of soda. There are plenty of movies hitting the big screen this spring, so take a chance and see something new. The theater is located right off Baytree Road, less than two miles from campus.

TICKETS - \$8.25-\$11.25

Being stuck in Valdosta isn't like a trip to the Bahamas, Paris or even Panama City, but with the right planning you can make this spring break a dream staycation.



Photo by Daria Dunning/THE SPECTATOR

Reed Bingham State Park is located 35 miles away from Valdosta. It offers multiple activities to enjoy for a spring break adventure.



**GO BLAZERS!**

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Photo courtesy of Emma Folmer.

Even if you still end up with homework over spring break, you can still enjoy the beach while staying productive.

# Don't stress before the break

**Savannah Oliver**  
ASSISTANT CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR  
snoliver@valdosta.edu

Because spring break is a little over a week away, all students can think about is warm beaches, sun tanning and relaxation, but there's still some work to do before hitting the waves. This is one of the hardest times for students to stay motivated and keep working. Here are 10 ways to stay on top of things before spring break.

1. Organization: Keeping papers, books and assignments organized can make life so much easier. When everything is in the right place, it can open the mind for new ideas. This is a simple step that leads to smooth sailing when it comes to studying and doing homework.

2. Rest: No one can function academically on only a couple hours of sleep. No matter how much work there is, it is important to get a proper amount of rest each night. Plan your days out ahead of time, so you know what you need to do each day. Cramming until 4 a.m. is never the way to go.

3. Treat Yourself: There is nothing wrong with being pampered after finishing a long assignment or taking a hard test. Having something to look forward to can provide the strength to push through and finish everything you need to get done. Just remember to do this sparingly and only reward yourself if you truly deserve it.

4. Set Goals: There is nothing more satisfying than marking the last thing off the check list. By keeping a list of goals, you know exactly what you need to get done. You will be proud of yourself at the end of the day when achieving these goals. It will be worth it.

5. Stay Healthy: Eating right and staying fit will not only help you stay focused on your work,

but will also give you the energy you need to complete those long and daunting assignments.

6. Inspiration: Not every waking moment of your life needs to be devoted to your studies. To replenish those creative juices, take a break, go on a walk or enjoy the fresh air. As the weather is starting to warm outside, study outside.

7. Procrastination: Excuses will never get you anywhere. The more you wait, the harder the assignment will be. The best way to fight procrastination is to just do it. Once you finish it, you will be so relieved.

8. Support: Your friends are most likely going through the same situation you are when it comes to school. Vent to them and help each other stay focused. Study together if you are able to. It always helps when someone can understand what you are going through.

9. Routine: If you study at about the same time every day, a routine will develop. You won't even have to think twice about it. This will make you dread it less and actually start doing it more.

10. Positivity: Always keep a positive attitude when it comes to your school work. Approaching things this way will help you stay determined, focused and motivated to do the best you can, especially for the next couple of weeks.

VSU's History Professor, Dr. Rickman, said, "To me, the key to academic success is for students to plan out specific times each day that they will devote to reading and studying for each of their classes."

As these last two weeks before spring break come to a close, try to stay focused. Like I said, it is only two more weeks. You can do it, and if you need any help, the Student Success Center is a great option.

# Avoid a beach trip this spring break

**Jacorey Moon**  
STAFF WRITER  
jxmoon@valdosta.edu

It's spring break, and your friends are going to Panama City, Miami or that other beach in Florida that everybody goes to. You're just not feeling it, though. What do you do? Here are some alternatives to ensure that your spring break is lit.

Go north: Instead of going south for spring break, go north. If you don't mind the cold, then try going to New York, Philadelphia or Chicago for the break. These cities are cheap to fly to during spring break because people are going to the beach.

Music festivals: With it now being springtime, music festivals are starting to come back over the horizon. There are several festivals that are taking place before the summer. Go see your favorite band or artists and live in the moment.

Road trips: Road trips can be

a bonding moment for any group of close friends. Pick a vehicle, a location and let the fun begin. Road trips, depending on how far the destination is, can be a fun experience for any college student looking to get away for the week.

Picnics: If you don't want to leave your local community but want to do something fun or romantic, then a picnic may be an option. Pack a blanket, a picnic basket filled with your favorite foods, a Bluetooth speaker for ambiance and some friends or that special someone to enjoy a great lunch or dinner.

Record store trip: Most college students enjoy music. If you're a person that loves listening or collecting vinyl LPs, going to a record store may be your ideal getaway. Spending hours in a record store is an adventure in itself because you can find out about artists that you never knew, and you could find an album that you've been listening to your whole life on vinyl. The gamble

of luck is one of the coolest fun things about the record store.

Just relax: If you're having a stressful semester and looking for a breather, de-stress. Organizing your life, sleeping, taking an aroma therapy bath or simply stopping to smell the roses could be essential to you at this point in the semester. There are many ways to de-stress. Just find the ones that help you to relax.

Movie marathon: Maybe you love to watch movies but haven't had the time to watch any new ones because of classes. Well, here's your chance. There are several services that college students can use to get discounts. Also certain companies have a rewards system, so the more movies you watch, the more you get discounts to see other movies.

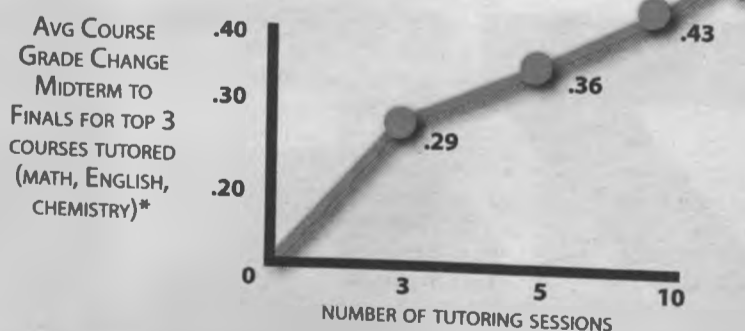
Spring Break is right around the corner, and what you choose to do with it is your decision. Keep in mind that there are more options than just going to a beach during the week.



Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR

A trip to Dahlenoga, Georgia at the Three Sisters Mountain can be a great alternative to a beach trip.

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



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## VSU STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

MON-THURS 9 am - 7 pm	FRIDAY 9 am - 3 pm	SATURDAY Closed	SUNDAY 3 pm - 7 pm
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[www.valdosta.edu/ssc](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc)  
for more information

229-333-7570  
Located in Langdale Residence Hall

**CORE STRENGTH** **MAJOR SUCCESS**

# Where do

## VSU CAMPUS MAP INDEX

1 First Connections	23 Deans Office & Student Post
2 Learning Resources Center	24 PC Computer Lab
3 Athletics Center	25 Pre-Army Bldg - COA
4 Student Services	26 Registrar & Career Center
5 Student Center	27 Security Office
6 Student Center	28 Student Union
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16 Student Center	38 Student Union
17 Student Center	39 Student Union
18 Student Center	40 Student Union
19 Student Center	41 Student Union
20 Student Center	42 Student Union

Map courtesy of VSU; Graphic by Bethany Davis/THE SPECTATOR  
Based on a campus safety survey randomly distributed to students.

# OPINION: VSU & Emergencies must

**Taylor Sutherland**  
STAFF WRITER  
tmsutherland@valdosta.edu

Due to the recent school shooting at Parkland High School in Parkland, Texas, gun control conversations sparked across the nation. Faculty, staff, students and parents across America can't help but prepare for the unexpected. Though gun control has been a topic of discussion since incidents such as Sandy Hook, I can't help but wonder the state of our "great country."

As a junior college student, I shouldn't have to worry about whether or not open carry means "open season" on campus. I shouldn't have to worry about the safety of my younger siblings at school or if an angry student will open fire in one of my mother's middle school classrooms.

Director of VSU Public Safety, Alan Rowe, assures public safety is always a forefront issue even in his day-to-day. He attends trainings for incidents like school shootings, and though you would hope nothing of sorts would occur at VSU, it's better to be safe than do nothing at all.

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of luck is one of the coolest yet fun things about the record store. Just relax: If you're having a stressful semester and looking for a breather, de-stress. Organizing your life, sleeping, taking an aroma therapy bath or simply stopping to smell the roses could be essential to you at this point in the semester. There are many ways to de-stress. Just find the ones that help you to relax.

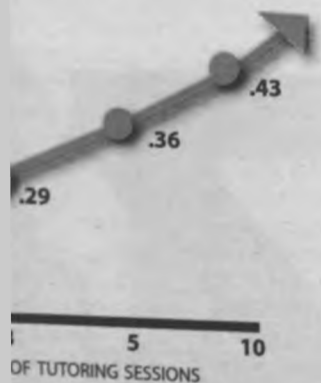
Movie marathon: Maybe you love to watch movies but haven't had the time to watch any new ones because of classes. Well, here's your chance. There are several services that college students can use to get discounts. Also, certain companies have a rewards system, so the more movies you watch, the more you get discounts to see other movies.

Spring Break is right around the corner, and what you choose to do with it is your decision. Keep in mind that there are more options than just going to a beach during the week.



Kelsey Dickerson/THE SPECTATOR  
be a great alternative to a beach trip.

YOUR GPA  
YOU HOPE?  
YOURS!!



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Located in Langdale Residence Hall  
MAJOR SUCCESS

# Where do students feel safe on campus?

### VSU CAMPUS MAP INDEX

- 1. Administration
- 2. Academic Affairs
- 3. Athletics
- 4. Bookstore
- 5. Business Administration
- 6. Career Center
- 7. Center for Community Engagement
- 8. Center for Health, Behavior & Society
- 9. Center for Leadership
- 10. Center for Student Leadership & Development
- 11. Center for Writing & Communication
- 12. Child Development Center
- 13. College of Business
- 14. College of Education
- 15. College of Health & Human Services
- 16. College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- 17. College of Nursing
- 18. College of Public Health
- 19. College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
- 20. College of Theology
- 21. Counseling Center
- 22. Dean's Office
- 23. Diversity Center
- 24. Environmental Studies
- 25. Financial Aid
- 26. Food Service
- 27. Fraternity & Sorority Center
- 28. Gender Equity Center
- 29. Greek Life
- 30. Health & Wellness Center
- 31. Housing
- 32. Information Technology
- 33. International Student Center
- 34. Intranet
- 35. Judicial Services
- 36. Library
- 37. Life Sciences Center
- 38. Life Sciences Building
- 39. Life Sciences Center
- 40. Life Sciences Center
- 41. Life Sciences Center
- 42. Life Sciences Center
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- 47. Life Sciences Center
- 48. Life Sciences Center
- 49. Life Sciences Center
- 50. Life Sciences Center



In a recent campus safety survey, The Spectator asked 50 students where they felt most and least safe on campus and why. Of the people who answered, most felt safest in the main areas of campus around the library or in their dorm rooms. Most felt unsafe around the parking lots and on the outskirts of campus, where lighting is often dim.

Jenny Sorto, a freshman nursing major, said that Sustella and Oak Street decks were the least safe places on campus. "There's always less people, it's isolated," Sorto said. Some people, like Obediah

Hall, a second year Master's of public education student, said they don't feel unsafe anywhere on campus. Ally Cahal, a sophomore undecided major, credited that feeling to university police. "I trust UPD and VSU to keep us safe," Cahal said. Most students seemed to agree that VSU feels safe during the day. Nighttime, though, is another story. Lighting on the outskirts of campus has been a recurring theme in students safety concerns.

VSU's new Blazer Safe Ride may provide some security, but dark walkways continue to pop up in student complaints.

**Where she feels most safe:** the library  
**Why:** "There are scanners, and there are more spots like bookshelves to hide."  
**Where she feels least safe:** the parking lot  
**Why:** "Everyone is in a hurry. Everyone drives too quickly."



Calista Flores, freshman nursing major

**Where he feels most safe:** Centennial  
**Why:** "Not much activity happens there, but I always get a good atmosphere."  
**Where he feels least safe:** Nowhere in particular  
**Why:** "I feel fairly safe on campus. (There are) no problems."



Princeton Rondall, freshman computer science major

**Where she feels most safe:** her dorm room  
**Why:** "Because no one can enter unless I let them in."  
**Where she feels least safe:** the parking lot at night  
**Why:** "Because anything could happen, it's dark and there aren't many people out depending on what time you're in the parking lot."



Destiny Singleton, sophomore biology major

**Where he feels most safe:** north campus  
**Why:** "Because the buildings are new and north campus areas have South Georgia Medical Center."  
**Where he feels least safe:** The Student Rec Center  
**Why:** "because all that's in the place is the gym and dorms."



Sanghoon Jo, junior health science major

**Where he feels most safe:** his dorm  
**Why:** "I have a lock on my door."  
**Where he feels least safe:** Sustella parking deck  
**Why:** "It's poorly lit."



Cole Smith, freshman early childhood education major

Map courtesy of VSU. Graphic by Bethany Davis/THE SPECTATOR. Based on a campus safety survey randomly distributed to 50 students on campus.

## OPINION: VSU & Rowe prepared Emergencies must be taken seriously

Taylor Sutherland  
STAFF WRITER  
tsutherland@valdosta.edu

Due to the recent school shooting at Parkland High School in Parkland, Florida, gun control conversations sparked across the nation. Faculty, staff, students and parents across America can't help but prepare for the unexpected. Though gun control has been a topic of discussion since incidents such as Sandy Hook, I can't help but wonder the state of our "great country."

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"Our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is reviewed locally and at the Board of Regents office in Atlanta annually," Rowe said. "However, after each activation of the plan, such as Hurricane Irma, we have debriefing sessions to make additional changes and reviews."

The active shooter or hostile

intruder is not a new concept. What has changed is the general public's access to news and information.

"Stopping or effectively responding to an active shooter will be a collective event, not solely the role of law enforcement," Rowe said. "The more the public is aware of these events occurring and knowing how or when to report concerns is how we hopefully prevent tragedy."

Students Marquesia Barron, a junior English major, believes gun control and the constant occurrence of mass shootings is a topic that will keep building up until it comes to a head.

"It's bubbling up," Barron said. "I hope nothing happens here at VSU or anywhere else for that matter; however, the fact that you never know what can happen is still possible."

So, the controversial question is do people kill people, or do guns kill people?

A gun is only a tool that you choose on whether or not to use it. As a person, that defines your moral character. No one can make you murder 20 elementary school children or nine church goers in bible study.

VSU alumni Ashley Butts believes the amendment itself should be amended.

"Realistically, how can you control who owns a gun and who does not," Butts said. "You can have mental health checks, but who's to say someone who purchased a gun 50 years ago is

going to get it registered after they have had it for so long."

Personally, I feel as though we will never have gun control. There may always be that fear of one day someone saying the wrong thing to the right person. In today's society, you never know who you're dealing with.

However, I also do not believe it is an excuse to allow mass murderers to be labeled as "misunderstood" or "troubled."

In my opinion, it's the same excuse that is given to those who operate mass shootings. Just because he or she may have been adopted or had a bad day does not mean they should be given less of a repercussion.

For VSU however, there is an active shooter plan and training in place.

"The active shooter or hostile intruder plan is part of VSU's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan," Rowe said. "While an active shooter is often the most newsworthy event, we must prepare for all types of emergencies such as severe weather, bomb threats, hazardous materials release, tornados and even earthquakes. The administration at VSU has been outstanding in its support of our planning mission."

As far as VSU Police is concerned, VSU is in their hands. It is our job as students to report any suspicious activity and utilize simple amenities such as the VSU's Counseling Center as early precautions to dangerous situations.

Photos, quotes and summary by Kelsey Dickerson, Editor-in-Chief



Photo by Darla Dunning/THE SPECTATOR

Fifteen minutes before swimming remember to apply sunscreen for skin care protection.

### Protect your skin from the sun

**Kaitlyn Baich**  
STAFF WRITER  
kbaich@valdosta.edu

Spring break is just around the corner and so are the ultraviolet (UV) rays. Spring break is mostly associated with no school, tanning and the beach. Well, that's how the movies portray it anyway, but it's important to avoid the harsh sunlight by applying sunscreen when tanning.

About 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers are caused by exposure to UV rays. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, wearing sunscreen is one of the major ways to prevent skin cancer no matter race, gender or age. Even on cloudy days, the UV rays can penetrate your skin. The need for sunscreen also goes up in snow, sand and water.

Sunscreen must also be applied according to bottle instructions, but the AAD recommends every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

Sunscreen is not the only way to prevent skin cancer, though. The AAD also advises people to take actions such as to seek shade, wear protective clothing, avoid tanning beds and to check for anything that changes in their skin as well as itching and bleeding.

The FDA regulates all sunscreen to ensure the safety for all skin types. Apply a solid coat all over the parts of the body that will be exposed to the sun and apply it 15 minutes before going outside.

The recommended amount of Sun Protection Factor (SPF) is at least fifteen. If you know you will be swimming or sweating, it is recommended to buy a waterproof formula and a nonirritating formula for the face. The list is endless. There are many different types of sunscreen for anyone's specific skin type.

Applying sunscreen can be annoying at times, especially if you want to tan, but this will prevent skin cancer, early skin wrinkling, skin darkening and discoloration.

Offered Fall 2018

"Knowledge is in the end based on acknowledgement."

"Each of us is responsible for everything and to every human being."

"Everything has been figured out, except how to live."

"A great artist is always before his time or behind it."



### History of Late Modern Philosophy

Prerequisite: PHIL 2010 or consent of the instructor.

A historical survey of philosophy of the late modern period, ranging from the 19th to the 20th centuries A.C.E.

PHIL 3090: CRN 81715

MW 2:00-3:15, AH 1212

## The VSU Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies encourages you to take these courses Fall 2018!

### • Fall '18 Philosophy Course Offerings •

#### PHIL 2010 Fundamentals of Philosophy

- 81707 A MWF 10:00 AM- 10:50 AM James
- 81708 B TR 12:30 - 1:45 PM Harmon
- 81709 IA 8/13-12/03 Online Santas
- 81710 IB 8/13-12/03 Online Santas
- 81715 PHIL 3090 A History Late Modern Philosophy MW 2:00-3:15 PM Lovem
- 81716 PHIL 3230 A Philosophy of Mind TR 12:30- 1:45 PM Peace
- 81717 PHIL 3300 A Philosophy of Religion TR 2:00-3:15 PM Serran-Pagan
- 81718 PHIL 3400 A Existentialism MW 3:30-4:45 PM Lovem
- 81719 PHIL 3430 A American Philosophy TR 11:00 AM- 12:15 PM Santas
- 81720 PHIL 3630 IA Native American ONLINE Lovem
- 81722 PHIL 3801 A Philosophical Themes in Film TR 2:00-3:15 PM Santas
- 81723 PHIL 4120 A Ethics and Public Policy TR 11:00 AM- 12:15 PM James

### No Prerequisite For Any Class Listed!!

\* Note: All sections Marked IA & IB are Online. For Info On How To Get Started In Online Courses, Go To: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning>

#### PHIL 2020 Principles of Logic & Argumentation

- 81711 A TR 9:30-10:45 AM James
- 82452 AA TR 9:30 - 0:45 AM Reserved for FLC Students
- 81712 B TR 3:30-4:45 PM James
- 81713 C TR 2:00-3:15 PM Harmon
- 81714 IA ONLINE Hackett

#### REL 2020 World Religions

- 81724 A MW 2:00-3:15 PM Serran-Pagan
- 81725 B MW 3:30-4:45 PM Serran-Pagan
- 81726 C MWF 3:30-4:45 PM Downing
- 81727 D TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM Turley
- 81728 IA 8/13-12/03 Online Johnson

### • Fall '18 Religious Course Offerings •

- 81729 REL 3300 A Philosophy of Religion TR 2-3:15 PM Serran-Pagan
- 81730 REL 3300 IA New Testament 8/13-12/03 Online Johnson
- 81731 REL 3380 A Sacred Texts: Hebrew Bible TR 9:30-10:45 AM Downing
- 81732 REL 3400 A Existentialism MW 3:30-4:45 PM Lovem
- 81733 REL 3504 IA Archaeology of Ancient Israel 8/13- 12/03 Online Downing
- 81734 REL 3520 A Islam TR 12:30- 1:45 PM Serran-Pagan
- 81735 REL 3630 IA Native American Women 08/13-12/03 Online Lovem
- 81736 REL 3640 IA All Religions of the World 08/13-12/03 Online Lovem

VSU Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies • Ashley Hall • 229.333.5949



The VSU Mass Choir stood-in as one step

## 'Roots'

**Lenah Allen**  
STAFF WRITER  
lrallen@valdosta.edu

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, the Collegiate Men of VSU collaborated with the Mu Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and NAACP to host the 2nd annual Roots scholarship dinner.

This event took place in the Magnolia room in the University Center and allowed attendees a chance to win a \$100 scholarship and an ATM voucher. The winner was determined by pulling tickets that were purchased by attendees

## PHILOSOPHY



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FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT DR.

**VSU PHILO**  
**ASHLEY**



The VSU Mass Choir stood-in as one step to the conclusion of the 2nd Annual Roots scholarship dinner.

Bryce Ethridge/ THE SPECTATOR

# 'Roots' caps off Black History Month

**Lenah Allen**  
STAFF WRITER  
+ lralen@valdosta.edu

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, the Collegiate Men of VSU collaborated with the Mu Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and NAACP to host the 2nd annual Roots scholarship dinner. This event took place in the Magnolia room in the University Center and allowed attendees a chance to win a \$100 scholarship and an ATM voucher. The winner was determined by pulling tickets that were purchased by attendees

before the program. The event started off with an introduction by hosts Arlandis Lundy and Jamila Chambers. "I have never emceed before," Chambers said. After the introduction the program proceeded with a series of events that included a solo song performance, a group dance, a prayer and a presentation of the food. The event then took a more serious turn as key note speaker Pastor Adrian Rivers spoke about the issues in the black community. "Yes, we're moving in the right

direction, but we've had a lot of oppression," Rivers said. "We are having a cultural identity crisis." Rivers said that the black community can overturn this issue by coming together as a movement and actually starting something instead of just saying it. "We must find our voice," Rivers said. "We must be the voice." Lundy chimed in and said that we also need to have leadership in creating the movement. "To be a leader is to have influence," Lundy said. The event then went into a discussion session with the panel.

The panel consisted of NAACP Membership Chair Kanya Lewis, Deaf Education Major Nora Brown, SGA Senator D'Layna Jonas, Dean of Students Daryl Lowe, VSU Graduate Student Kylan Norris and African American Studies Professor Caterina Orr. The panel discussed topics that included black authenticity and being black in America. "Black authenticity is being yourself," Jonas said. Lowe shared some of his personal experiences with HBCUs and how they helped him advance to become what he is today. "Likes do not give you applause," Dr. Lowe said. "You applaud yourself by how you live your life."

great it feels to win this scholarship," Andre Neptune, senior, said. "I'm not sure about what I will use the money for." Neptune said he was excited about winning the scholarship and decided to chime in on his solution to racism in America. "I got a little more insight on how to build each other up in a black community and how important HBCUs are," Neptune said. "Now, knowing this, I am going to be more outspoken and try to help out the black community more." Overall, students said they felt like they learned something after leaving. Marjorie Dezormo, a sophomore accounting major said that she found something to take home with her from the program. "I learned a lot about leadership like taking action to be a leader in a black community and not being ashamed of my heritage," Dezormo said. Lundy said that he believed the event to be a success even though he did not acquire the desired attendance.

## PHILOSOPHY OF HAPPINESS



**FILMS INCLUDE:**  
AMERICAN BEAUTY • PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS • BURN AFTER READING • I\_HUCKABEES • LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE • TRUMAN SHOW • STRANGER THAN FICTION • INTO THE WILD • & OTHERS

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**NO TEXTBOOK REQUIRED!**  
SUMMER 2018 CRN50836  
M-F 11-1:50PM 5/10 - 5/31  
**DR. ARI SANTAS**  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- WHAT IS HAPPINESS?
- WHAT IS ITS RELATION TO HUMAN FLOURISHING?
- WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH HUMAN NATURE?

THIS FILM VERSION OF COURSE WILL BE AN IN DEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF HAPPINESS DRAWING FROM DOCUMENTARIES, POPULAR FEATURE FILMS & THE WORK OF CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY, FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE MODERN ERA.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT DR. ARI SANTAS BY E-MAIL: ASANTAS@VALDOSTA.EDU OR BY PHONE

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# A mapped out life: Mapp looks to a bright future

**Bryce Ethridge**  
NEWS EDITOR  
bjethridge@valdosta.edu

Maya Mapp took her place as SGA president over two years ago. Since then she has shown a fiery passion for helping the student body, but before all of this, Mapp's life never went according to plan.

Mapp hails from Milledgeville, Georgia or "Millie Vegas" as she calls it. Here, she lived in a two-parent household with her mother, father and younger sister.

Mapp's life was one you could say was problem free at least until eighth grade.

"I was very, very blessed and fortunate when it comes to finances, but going into my eighth grade or freshman year of high school, my dad lost his job," Mapp said.

Mapp said her father's job loss humbled her family and made her value hard work. It also forced Mapp to mature when she found herself looking for jobs at 14.

"I got my first job when I was 14 and a half," Mapp said. "They let me start working at a skating rink, and I've been working every day since."

In addition to funding her desires, Mapp would use her paycheck to help pay for the private school she and her sister went to, Georgia Military College Preparatory School.

It was an understatement to say that after gaining that job, life became a bit overwhelming. Mapp was already in 4-H club, cheerleading, soccer and was a straight-A student.

Besides it being stressful, Mapp lost sight of her reasons for joining 4-H club and wanted to quit. There was one issue with that, though. Her family always said to never quit anything.

"If you're going to start it, even if you hate it, you're going to finish it because we never quit in our family," Mapp said.

Regardless, Mapp was adamant on leaving 4-H club. When Mapp finally told her mother about her desire, she responded with a few conditions.

"My mom said, 'Okay, this is the deal. If you quit 4-H, then you're quitting everything else, and I'm taking the (bedroom) door off the hinges. There's also no TV,'" Mapp said.

At first, Mapp thought her mother was the meanest woman in the world, but in the end, she thanked her mother and continued participating in 4-H club.

Staying in the club is what molded Mapp into the SGA president she is today. It allowed her to meet the governor, improve her public speaking and gain experiences that shaped her future desire to be in public administration.

Mapp has passion for VSU, but her heart hasn't always been here. When Mapp first came to VSU, she had a plan. After sophomore year she was going to transfer to



Current SGA President Maya Mapp leaves VSU with a degree in political science and philosophy on May 5, 2018.

Courtesy of Valdosta State University

the University of Georgia.

As a freshman, she would use her weekends to either travel to Athens to cheer on the Bulldogs, or to Jacksonville for some beach-filled fun. If she wasn't doing that, she'd scour the campus for every organization she could possibly join.

Mapp's spirit was rowdy, but it was within SGA that gave her a newfound love for VSU.

"VSU kind of snagged me," Mapp said. "I got so involved with SGA and so involved on campus, and my grades were doing well."

Though SGA changed her, it was Interim President Dr. Kelli Brown that inspired her to become SGA's president.

"To see a woman as an interim president, I was just like 'You know what? I can do this,'" Mapp said.

Mapp said that Brown inspired an idea in her. Mapp said that the idea is to empower women not just through her success as SGA president, but also through a senatorial position later in life.

"We see a lot of older male-dominated positions, and I don't see anyone that looks like me, particularly like a minority or female," Mapp said. "If you see someone that looks like you, you kind of think 'Oh, I can do this.'"

SGA Vice President Aisha Johnson, one of Mapp's mentees, said she felt empowered as a woman by Mapp's example in SGA.

"Being across from the office, you see how she gets her work done, how she's at multiple meetings and still focuses for classes," Johnson said. "Each day is an opportunity for you to succeed in some type of way. That's how she is represented. She always gets something done."

Over the course of her two-term presidency, Mapp saw SGA grow from a treacherous point of inadequacy to its now prosperous form, one that she can leave behind with a worry-free conscience.

"She wants to make sure that

this organization is still growing after she leaves, that it's left in a good place and that it's still left in good hands," Sylandi Brown, SGA secretary, said.

Mapp is on track to graduate this May with a bachelor's in philosophy and political science. She will also leave with a minor in African American studies concentrated in public administration.

She plans to attend graduate school but was rejected from one of the first schools she applied to.

Mapp knew that she wouldn't get into every school that she applied to but didn't know how

much rejection could hurt or how it would test her faith.

"Faith is such a big thing, and it's something you can't live without," Mapp said. "There's obviously going to be a better place for me to fit in."

Since then she has been accepted into the University of South Carolina and her former love, UGA.

While in graduate school, she plans to obtain a graduate assistantship that involves student engagement or student involvement. Mapp wants to mentor other students as a way of giving back

for those who mentored her.

"Her investment is invaluable," Brown said. "Not only as a secretary, but she invests in me as a person to make sure I'm growing spiritually and emotionally."

When Mapp leaves VSU after graduation, she leaves confidently, knowing that her school an organization are in a better place than when she first began. She also leaves confident in herself, knowing how much she's grown.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and I'm thankful for all God has given me," Mapp said.

## Offered Fall 2018

"You talk of the Grand Canyon. I am the Grand Canyon"  
Molly Mulgullo

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

"I do not believe you can heal a human without healing a community. You cannot heal a community without healing your land and your water."  
Winona LaDuke

"Wellness is a matter of balancing the body, mind and spirit with all our relations."  
Dr. Carol Locust

### Native American Women

...ination of the contributions of North and South American Indigenous women in the areas of epistemology, ontology, metaphysics, religion, spirituality, and ethics. The course will include a range of indigenous cultures, such as Iroquoian, Hawaiian, and Pacific and Atlantic islanders and will explore the issues faced by indigenous women in the Western Hemisphere.

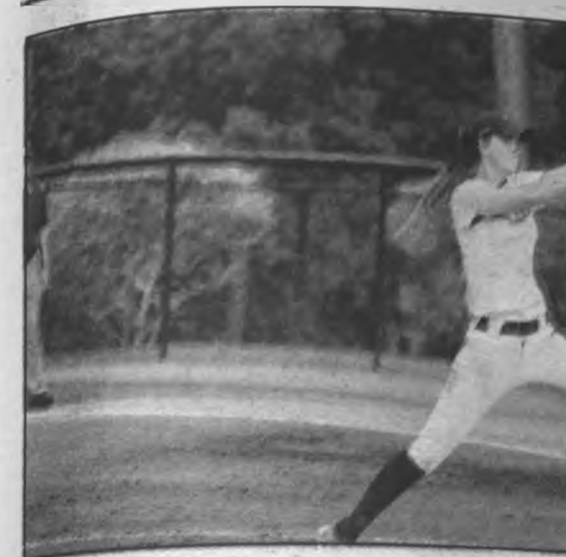
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NAS 3630: CRN 81721 or WGST 3630: CRN 81921

Online



Mapp's office doors are open to any student. Bryce Ethridge/THE SPECTATOR

# Johnson's no-hitter Earns 'Pitcher of the Week'



Kasie Johnson threw the first no-hitter for VSU Softball for the Gulf South Conference.

**Bryce Decker**  
STAFF WRITER  
badecker@valdosta.edu

Kasie Johnson's stunning 3-0 no-hitter was the highlight of a Blazers series victory over Delta State University, and enough to earn the junior from Patterson, Georgia, Gulf South Conference Pitcher of the Week.

Johnson lowered her ERA to 1.12 in the Blazers' first no-hitter of the season on Feb. 24.

The no-no was the middle game of a 2-1 series win for the Blazers, raising the team's record for the season to 14-4.

Game two was electric from the jump. Johnson absolutely demolished DSU's lineup from the beginning and never stopped.

Johnson's seven-inning outing

was radiating p from the circle

Johnson had the game. She pitched in the zone and let the ball in play. The ball backed her up.

"I felt great," Johnson said. "The team the whole defense had my game. It gave me the defence I needed."

The last Blaz throw by Cait Florida Southern 2016.

"We have played Head Coach Th "We hit enough few mistakes, but a no-hitter being easy to win."

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Courtesy of Valdosta State University

for those who mentored her.

"Her investment is invaluable," Brown said. "Not only as a secretary, but she invests in me as a person to make sure I'm growing spiritually and emotionally."

When Mapp leaves VSU after graduation, she leaves confidently, knowing that her school an organization are in a better place than when she first began. She also leaves confident in herself, knowing how much she's grown.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and I'm thankful for all God has given me," Mapp said.

# Johnson's no hitter lifts Blazers Earns 'Pitcher of the Week' Honors



Kasia Johnson threw the first no hitter for VSU Softball since March 15, 2016. She was awarded pitcher of the week for the Gulf South Conference.

**Bryce Decker**  
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Kasia Johnson's stunning 3-0 no-hitter was the highlight of a Blazers series victory over Delta State University, and enough to earn the junior from Patterson, Georgia, Gulf South Conference Pitcher of the Week.

Johnson lowered her ERA to 1.12 in the Blazers' first no-hitter of the season on Feb. 24.

The no-no was the middle game of a 2-1 series win for the Blazers, raising the team's record for the season to 14-4.

Game two was electric from the jump. Johnson absolutely demolished DSU's lineup from the beginning and never stopped.

Johnson's seven-inning outing

was radiating pure dominance from the circle when she was in it.

Johnson had three strikeouts for the game. She pounded the strike zone and let the Statesman put the ball in play. The Blazers' defense backed her up.

"I felt great after the no-hitter," Johnson said. "We played as a team the whole game, and my defense had my back the whole game. It gave me all the confidence I needed."

The last Blazer no-hitter was thrown by Caitlyn Calhoun against Florida Southern on March 15, 2016.

"We have played better today," Head Coach Thomas Macera said. "We hit enough today and had a few mistakes, but when you have a no-hitter being thrown, it's pretty easy to win."

In the top of the seventh, Taylor Hartenbach made a tremendous diving play in centerfield to save the no hitter.

"When Taylor came up with the ball she dove for, I wanted to go hug her right then and there," Johnson said. "Knowing that she laid it all on the line for me made me feel even better about the game, and I knew she had my back like the rest of the girls."

The final score of game two was 3-0.

Game one of the weekend series with the Statesman was a Blazer victory of 6-5.

The pitcher for the Blazers, Kathryn Carter, Avery Lamb and Kameron Coggins did well. The five runs allowed were unearned because the defense had four errors in the game.

The Blazers put up two runs in the third and three runs in the fourth inning.

DSU tied the game up with a five spot in the top of the fifth.

The game was tied after seven innings. The eighth inning started off with catcher Lacey Crandall, who singled to left field. Then, leftfielder Brandy Morgan walked, giving the Blazer's runners on first and second.

Second baseman Danielle Patterson stepped into the box and put the ball in play. The ball found the hole in the second baseman's mitt and continued into right field. Crandall scored easily from second, and Patterson was the hero.

In the third game, Johnson started again, but didn't have the same stuff. She threw very well. Only two runs were given up and only one was earned by the Statesmen.

The Blazers bats didn't show up in the third game. DSU starter Taylor Johnson held the Blazers to two hits and zero runs.

The Blazers also only struck out two times which means they were putting the ball in play, but nothing fell.

The final score of game three was 2-0.

The series win pushed the Blazers to 4-2 against conference opponents.

"The first two games were the best we've played so far this season, but we still have a lot of work to do," Macera said.

## VSU Softball Statistics

Overall Record  
14-4

Conference Record  
4-2

Batting Avg.  
.289

Hits  
137

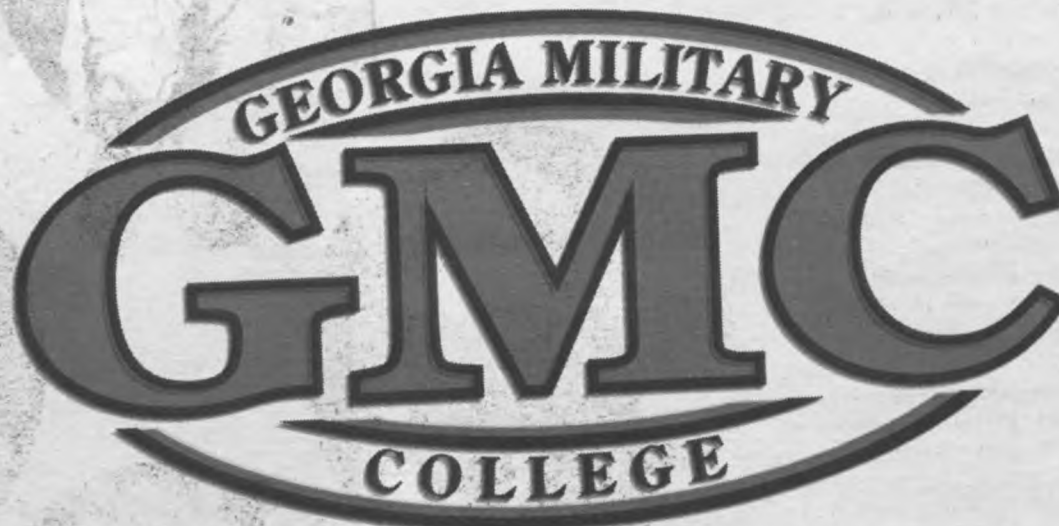
Runs  
98

RBI  
90

Homeruns  
16

ERA  
2.17

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18

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

Chief Wilma Mankiller



"Wellness is a matter of balancing the body, mind and spirit with all our relations."

Dr. Carol Locust

in the areas of epistemology, ontology, and various cultures, such as Alaskan, Hawaiian, and women in the Western Hemisphere.

# Inaugural 'Helfer's Heroes' camp touches community

**Prince Robinson**  
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Tuesday night, the VSU Men's basketball team won their Gulf South Conference Quarterfinal matchup against West Georgia, putting on a sharpshooting performance on the hardwood. Off the court, they seem to have had higher success.

On Feb. 24 at, head coach Mike Helfer and his team hosted boys and girls with special needs from grades 3-12 at the Complex. The event was held in the hopes of a creation of unforgettable memories for all its campers and the people that make up the Blazer basketball program.

"I just thought this would be a cool thing to do during our season because I wanted to reach out to kids that obviously have bigger challenges, bigger battles ahead than trying to win a championship in sports," Helfer said. "It does not even compare."

The program started with about 12 campers shooting around in the Complex with players of the Men's basketball team. After 45 minutes of getting to know the players and coaches, the campers transitioned to the baseline where Helfer directed a series of drills.

Passing, jump-stops, and pivot moves were all taught during the session with Helfer. The series broke off into smaller sessions as each camper chose a player to work out with for the day.

One player was senior Jimmy Kodet being chosen by a participant named Ben, where Kodet was taught him different interior scoring options. Kodet's time with Ben was heartwarming, as he felt highly relatable to the young camper.

"I have always done a lot of



Photo courtesy of Prince Robinson/THE SPECTATOR  
Coach Mike Helfer directs agenda for the Helfer's Heroes basketball camp. The camp features youth with disabilities from grade three to 12.

things with special needs and people with disabilities because I know what it feels like," Kodet said. "I have a learning disability myself, so I know what it feels like to be in that position."

Kodet was not alone, as Junior Tyler Johnson found the event emotional and touching for everyone that was involved.

"It's very humbling, as you get to see a different perspective on life," Johnson, who also works with special needs, said. "These kids are much bigger than basketball."

Parents and the campers were then treated to lunch, pictures with the players and coaches, and a recreation of the starting line-up intro seen at VSU basketball games. The campers were also

given basketballs that were signed by players and coaches.

Tim Parr, father of camper Logan Parr, reflected on his child's social skill and how this event could help in his development.

"Logan does not do much of interactive stuff with other kids, he's more of a loner to himself," Parr, who traveled from Ray City, Georgia said. "This is a good opportunity for him to interact with people over his age."

The opportunity for Parr to see his son work out with the players was life-changing. Other players felt the event was, as Junior Clay Guillozet reflected on having a day with kids who face battles every single day.

"Coming into the camp, they didn't really know much about us. They just knew we played

basketball here," Guillozet said. "Getting to know about the kids and their story was really the biggest thing."

Guillozet then placed himself into their shoes as young kids meeting athletes.

"I always looked up to older role models when I was growing up playing basketball and just life in general," Guillozet said. "Hopefully these kids can kind of take some things from us on how we interacted with them and we can be role models for them as well."

Usually, camps are held over the summer when many sports are in the offseason, such as basketball. It is never too late to become a role model in the life of a child and Helfer felt this was the perfect time to do so.

*"I have a learning disability myself, so I know what it feels like to be in that position."*

"I wanted to do it during the season, when they could build a relationship with our guys today," Helfer said. "Maybe they could come our game and watch our guys play and feel like they know them on a personal level."

Johnson and Kodet are just a few of the players who wanted to leave a message for the kids that came and those who are facing the same disorders all over the world.

"Come out and have fun for a day and just be around a group of good people," Johnson said.

Kodet followed with a message related to sports and overcoming obstacles.

"No matter what the disability is, you can always get better at sports," Kodet said. "Just keep going and don't stop because you are doing great."

Helfer also left a message and described how the event came to be.

"The reason why I called it 'Helfer's Heroes' is that those kids are really the heroes," Helfer said. "What they are overcoming and the challenges they are facing, I am just proud of them for what they are doing so far. In my mind, they are the heroes."

## What's Your Take: NCAA scandals push conversation over compensation

**Gerald Thomas**  
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In the wake of the FBI discovering agents and universities illegally paying NCAA basketball players, a question has been raised if the student-athletes should be paid.

A lot of former prominent college athletes showed displeasure for the NCAA not allowing their players to not be paid. Former University of Michigan Guard, Jalen Rose compared the NCAA to indentured servitude and called for players to boycott the upcoming NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Current Los Angeles Lakers Guard, Lonzo Ball, who played for UCLA stated, "Everybody's getting paid anyway, you might as well make it legal."

While I feel like the players should be paid, I don't feel as it should be on a game-to-game basis, but it should be from advertising and jersey sales. Not paying the players is also reason why they should be allowed to join the NBA after completing high school.

Most counter arguments say that student-athletes receive free education, housing and meal plans. I used to be on this side until I sat down and really thought about it. These players are being used by the NCAA. These guys do not care to go to school. They

choose a major to only pursue it for a semester.

Current 76ers Forward, Ben Simmons, who played college basketball at LSU shared that he never had dreams of playing collegiately and admitted that he stopped going to class after the fall semester when his eligibility was good for the rest of the season. He wanted to go straight to the NBA, but college was his gateway to get there.

The big-name players are being used as recruiting techniques to get more recruits to commit. Recruiters use former player's success to lure in new talent. Just because former players are not physically recruiting others, does not mean that they do not play a pivotal part in the recruiting.

Advertising is a big part. It brings in a lot of revenue for universities and the NCAA. Top players are put on billboards to bring people out to the games but do not get a dime of the money made from these games even though they are the main attraction.

You cannot say that it gets the player in the limelight and brings attention to them. They are going to the NBA in the next draft, I'm sure they are not pressed for more attention. But I know what they are pressed for: The Benjamin's.

When you see fans walking around with jerseys of their favorite college players, there is not a name on it. We all know

whose jersey it is, though. If they are making the NCAA and their school money with their jersey, are they not entitled to get some of the proceeds? If I see someone wearing a number 25 LSU basketball jersey, I'm going to know it's Ben Simmons' jersey. Come on, NCAA, do it the right way and pay these guys.


These players work their whole life to get to this point and finally get to play on a big stage, but I believe if the NBA goes back to allowing high school players to enter the draft after high school, it will spark a trend of players skipping college for the NBA. It, in turn, may reduce the amount of scandals in the NCAA.



Photo courtesy of MGN Online  
A recent NCAA scandal has sent shock waves throughout the nation.



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