

Community

"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 see our game and watch our guys play and feel like they know us on a personal level." Johnson and Kodet are just a few of the players who wanted to give a message for the kids that are and those who are facing the same disorders all over the world. Come out and have fun for a while 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 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

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

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Special Edition

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GRADUATION 2018



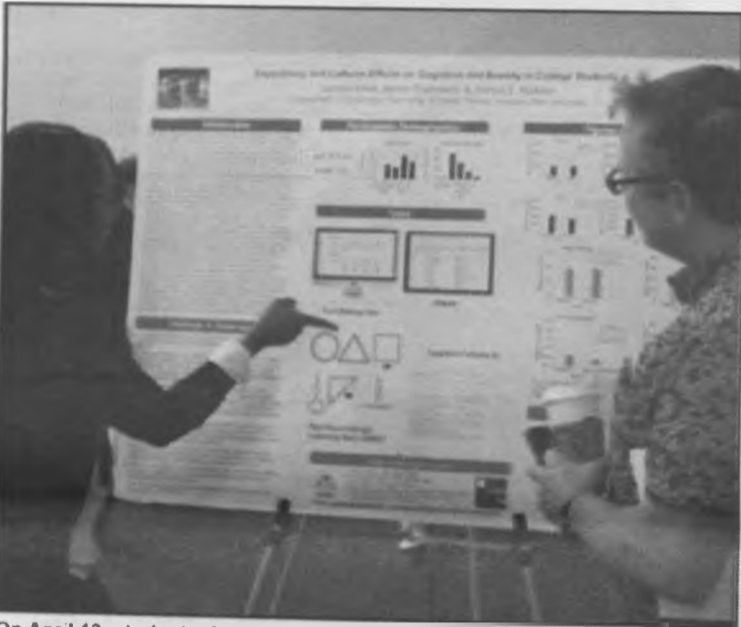
Undergrad Research Symposium takes over VSU



The Undergrad Research Symposium was originally only held for the College of Arts and Sciences, but after year 17, it opened up to all colleges.



On April 10, students discussed whether or not the House would support a third gender option. The research topic was presented by senior sociology and anthropology major Travis Edwards, and followed by a debate.



On April 13, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed an award show which was followed by the poster presentation. This event allowed attendees the opportunity to walk around the Student Union Ballrooms to view each undergrad's poster.

From April 10-13, VSU students showcased the results of their undergraduate research that some had worked on for two years.

The 24th annual VSU Undergraduate Research Council Program Symposium showcased various research projects through panel discussions, paper sessions, 3-minute research videos, and the poster session.

Research topics varied from pop culture in the media to creating a portable air pollution sensor.

Monday through Wednesday, the symposium was limited to the Student Union Theater, but on Thursday, it spread to the ballrooms where the poster presentation was held.



Mass Media Majors, Avery Wright, Tamera Sanders, and Eboni Register showcased their research on how the Pixar film Zootopia relates to diversity and social issues such as women in the workplace and equality.



While the attendees viewed the poster presentation, food was served. The already busy ballrooms were crowded even more with long lines of students, faculty and staff waiting to be served.



Throughout the Symposium students gathered to discuss their projects with their peers.

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VSU



Some students took a different approach to their research by building models like this portable air pollution sensor along with their board presentation.

Senior

Graduation is finally here. These past four years have been my new journey as an aspiring journalist.

VSU has used these four years to chew me up and spit me out. The good and the ugly, I have grown into someone that I am proud of.

I started out as an art major, picking something that my passion for art had its limits. I decided to switch to journalism.

I have always been an avid reader, and writing was my outlet. Once I made the decision to get into the program, I discovered that I may have finally found my niche.

For that I have to thank Dr. Pat Miller, the kind and encouraging professor who made the transition into this new field of study an enthusiastic and enriching teaching methods of journalism was off to a good start.

With this program, came great friends: Kelsey, most of all Darla Dunning, who I met in my freshman year and stayed with for four years straight.

Through this combination of friends, colleagues, and experiences in anything and everything has surpassed what I could have imagined mentioned above.

I give special thanks to my mother, father and siblings. I was a choice but soon became supportive after seeing me realize just how great I can be if I put my heart into it.

It has been an honor to serve as the Campus Life editor for the Game magazine. These two jobs have been major accomplishments.

My journey continues on with moving back to Valdosta. It is not as clear now, but I look forward to exploring the possibilities.

Whatever happens, happens, but I'm glad my journey at VSU was truly.

Alex Dunn, Campus Life editor.

My time at The Spectator began when my advisor, a former circulation manager, or "the paper girl," The Spectator was even in my mind "was a minor role." Prior to this, I loved writing, and was a contributor to VSU's Student Spectator.

For my purposes. But I was a student with no purpose, no direction, eventually get my degree. I knew that I wanted to work for The Spectator.

After The Spectator took an unexpected turn and I was given the new role as the Special Projects Editor, I was more "involved" at The Spectator, attending meetings, interviewing peers and even contributing stories to The Spectator.

And I truly stepped out of my shell and became a professional during this transition from a printed publication to a digital one of the skills that I know now. I've met many hardworking contributors to The Spectator and I'd like to thank them.

I believe that I would still be that girl who sat at my desk more than my competitors. So thank you to everyone who has helped me grow a half inch-taller and find my purpose.

As graduation approaches I want to welcome the new class to VSU.

Veronica You, Special Projects Editor.

When I started as the new social media editor, I knew there were a lot of things I didn't know, but of those things, I knew that this was uncharted territory for myself but I was up for it.

The growth I've experienced in the past three years has been comfortable. It pushed me more than anything else.

After showing potential as a reporter, Dr. Miller gave me those boxes around campus with the goal of dawn every Thursday thrown on my head.

From there I met Julia Rodriguez. I became the opinion editor. From there I got to work with Kelsey Dickerson, EIC, is definitely the nicest person I've met.

Darla Dunning is the funniest and most determined person I've met and then found her way into content management.

Alex, Justin, Bryce, Veronica, Julie, Michael, and I helped me along the way.

From sitting at my desk in tears on layout to seeing my work in print, there is nothing I would trade for the experience.

It's with this that I say goodbye and move on to my next endeavor.

Hunter Terrell, Social Media Editor.

Seniors say goodbye...



third gender option. The research topic and followed by a debate.



Tamera Sanders, and Eboni Register the Pixar film Zootopia relates to diversity in the workplace and equality.



ents gathered to discuss their projects



approach to their research by building mod- n sensor along with their board presenta-

Graduation is finally here. These past four years have flown by, and all of a sudden, I am poised for my new journey as an aspiring journalist.

VSU has used these four years to chew me up and spit me back out again. But, through all the good, bad and the ugly, I have grown into someone that feels just a half inch taller as Dr. Miller would say.

I started out as an art major, picking something I was familiar with and enjoyed. But it became clear that my passion for art had its limits. I decided to pursue another passion of mine: writing.

I have always been an avid reader, and writing never seemed to be a hindrance to me during classes. Once I made the decision to get into the program and started those first few journalism classes, I discovered that I may have finally found my niche in the VSU community.

For that I have to thank Dr. Pat Miller, the kind of adviser every student should hope to get. She made the transition into this new field of study a smooth and clairvoyant one. Then, paired with the enthusiastic and enriching teaching methods of Dr. Ted Geltner and Cindy Montgomery, my career in journalism was off to a good start.

With this program, came great friends: Kelsey, Robert, Hunter, Julie, Juston, Veronica, Bryce and most of all Darla Dunning, who I met in my freshman year and have shared this journalism journey with for four years straight.

Through this combination of friends, colleges and teachers, my skills have grown. My knowledge in anything and everything has surpassed what I even thought I could learn, and it's all thanks to those mentioned above.

I give special thanks to my mother, father and younger sister who were skeptical at first with my choice but soon became supportive after seeing the passion I have for this career. They helped me realize just how great I can be if I put my heart and mind to something.

It has been an honor to serve as the Campus Life editor for The Spectator and senior intern at In the Game magazine. These two jobs have been major influences in my rising journalism career.

My journey continues on with moving back to the Atlanta area, my original home. The way may not be clear now, but I look forward to exploring the vast opportunities that great city can offer me.

Whatever happens, happens, but I'm glad my journey started at VSU.

Yours truly,

Alex Dunn, Campus Life editor.

My time at The Spectator began when my adviser, Dr. Pat Miller offered me a position as the circulations manager, or "the paper girl." The pay was miniscule but I jumped at the opportunity, even if it in my mind "was a minor role." Prior to working for The Spectator I already knew that I loved writing, and was a contributor to VSU's OnTap magazine as well as writing for leisurely purposes. But I was a student with no purpose, attending classes just so I could make the grade and eventually get my degree. I knew that I wanted to be a writer, but had no direction. It wasn't until after The Spectator took an unexpected turn and became a predominately digital publication and I was given the new role as the Special Projects Manager did I find my direction. I was forced to be more "involved" at The Spectator, attending meetings twice a week and pitching story ideas to my peers and even contributing stories to The Spectator. It was then that something clicked within me and I truly stepped out of my shell and became who I am today. While I have faced many challenges during this transition from a printed publication to a digital one, I would never have learned some of the skills that I know now. I've met many hard working individuals, from fellow editors to all the contributors to The Spectator and I'd like to thank you all for the good (and bad) times. Without you I believe that I would still be that girl who sat in the back of the class, standing a half-inch shorter than my competitors. So thank you to everyone I've encountered during my time at The Spectator, for helping me grow a half inch-taller and finding my confidence as both a writer and editor. As graduation approaches I want to welcome the newest editors and to keep kicking butt.

Veronica You, Special Projects Manager

When I started as the new social media editor last fall, I had zero idea what to expect. There were a lot of things I didn't know, but of three things I was positive - I knew that I was terrified, that this was uncharted territory for myself but also that I loved to write.

The growth I've experienced in the past three years working at The Spectator has never been comfortable. It pushed me more than anything I've ever done before.

After showing potential as a reporter, Dr. Miller brought me on as the distribution manager. You know all those boxes around campus with the newspapers in them? I would wake up at the crack of dawn every Thursday thrown on my headphones and march around campus dropping them off.

From there I met Julia Rodriguez. I became her assistant and then took over her position as opinions editor. From there I got to work with some of the greatest people I've ever known.

Kelsey Dickerson, EIC, is definitely the nicest boss I will ever have.

Darla Dunning is the funniest and most determined human being ever. She started out as my assistant and then found her way into content editor.

Alex, Juston, Bryce, Veronica, Julie, Michaela, Kyle, Gabe, (some graduated some not) all helped me along the way.

From sitting at my desk in tears on layout night to late-night trips to Starbucks with fellow editors, there is nothing I would trade for the experiences I've had here.

It's with this that I say goodbye and move forward into new adventures, experiences and creative endeavors.

Hunter Terrell, Social Media Editor



Pictured are graduating seniors Kelsey Dickerson (bottom right), Veronica You (top right), Hunter Terrell (top middle), Alex Dunn (top middle), Darla Dunning (top left) with future Editor-in-Chief and Content Editor Juston Lewis (top) and Julie Jernigan (bottom left). Photo courtesy of Ted Geltner



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I came to school undecided about where I wanted my life to go. I wasn't even sure I wanted to stay at VSU past freshman year. With my first semester drawing to a close, I declared a major, then changed it, then changed back. My parents wanted me to go in to nursing, but I knew it wasn't for me. I liked English.

That January my current adviser, Dr. Miller, sent me an email that would set me on the path to where I am now, graduating with a B.A. in English as the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper.

Looking back on the three years I've spent at VSU, there are quite a few people I have to recognize for helping me get to where I am now. I worked as an assistant and as an editor with two different editorial staffs at The Spectator, and what I learned with them before becoming the EIC will stick with me forever.

Meeting people who genuinely care about the things that you do is very rare, and I will always cherish the late nights we spent together when The Spectator was still in weekly production. Though I don't (and won't ever) miss working until 2 or 3 a.m., I will miss the people and the friendships I made.

To the staff this year—well, you know how I feel. We rode out one of the biggest changes in the history of The Spectator, and we made it work. Though I wasn't sure how well we would all mesh at first, I couldn't have picked a better group of people to surround myself with.

Those of you that will be here next year: Juston, Julie, Preyah, Bryce, Bethany, Prince, Jacorey, Taylor, Savannah, Robert; I expect you'll be even better than we are now. You're more than capable.

Still, I'm not sure what all I really had to do with our success as a newspaper. I couldn't be where I am with our advisers. Dr. Miller and Ted pushed me and all the other seniors to be the best we could be every time we set foot on campus. They gave me opportunity after opportunity to show what I could do.

I'm leaving campus much better off than I was coming on. No matter how much changed or stayed the same from freshman year, I've met some of my favorite people and done some of the most amazing things. I left the country for the first time, I won awards for my hard work, I did research with my classmates and I got to speak at open house to a lot of students who may be just like I was—unsure of where they're going.

Though I'm starting a new chapter in my life and I'm still not exactly sure where I'm going to end up, I have a much better idea of where I'm headed. I've got the friends and the skills to get there, too.

Kelsey Dickerson, Editor-in-Chief

I always knew I wanted to be a writer, but I never would have imagined where this journey would take me.

I have lived in Valdosta for 22 years of my life and I was ready to leave the city once I graduated from Lowndes High School. However, I changed my mind once I stepped foot onto Valdosta State University's campus during a tour.

When I enrolled at VSU, I was undecided for two years until I met Dr. Pat Miller who introduced me to journalism. It was exactly what I wanted to do, and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. She showed me how to get out of "student mode" and become the journalist that was hiding inside of me.

I came to The Spectator one night as a sophomore and it opened my eyes to what it would be like to work in the journalism field. I started off as the assistant opinions editor for Hunter Terrell who later became one of my best friends. She taught me how to create pages and write opinion stories.

I met my adviser for The Spectator, Dr. Ted Geltner, who showed me the exciting opportunities I could have in the journalism field. Another big thanks goes to Cindy Montgomery who I was always excited to see every Monday night for class.

The previous editor-in-chief Gabe Burns took me under his wing. I couldn't thank him enough for teaching me how to become a better writer, copy editor, and showing me that it is possible to achieve your dreams in the journalism field. Like Gabe, I am also writing my final goodbye on deadline.

After being the assistant opinions editor, I became the content editor where I worked alongside the editor-in-chief Kelsey Dickerson. Kelsey, thank you for everything. I couldn't thank you enough for staying up till two in the morning with me while we worked on stories, attending events and interviews for The Spectator, interviewing Waka Flocka, and most importantly, being a great friend.

There are so many people that I have met within the program: Veronica, Robert, Julie, Bethany, Juston, Preyah, and Bryce. However, one person that I met on the first day of college and has been with me since day one of taking journalism classes is Alex Dunn. I am so thankful that I got to meet her and become her best friend.

As a journalism major, I had the opportunity to work at the City of Valdosta Public Information Office where I worked under Sementha Mathews who made me grow as a journalist and as a person.

This journey as a writer took me to Los Angeles, California to meet amazing journalists, Athens, Georgia to network with college journalists during the summer and to Athens, Georgia again with The Spectator staff where we won seven awards, and now it will take me to Washington, D.C. this summer to work with the Washington Times as a reporter for the nationwide desk. I am excited for this new opportunity and what it will entail.

I give special thanks to my mom and dad who have always been there for me and have watched me grow as a journalist. I couldn't thank them enough and I am truly thankful to have them in my life.

As I step away from working at The Spectator, I know it will be left in good hands with our upcoming editor-in-chief Juston Lewis. He is extremely organized, a great leader, and will be able to handle anything that comes his way.

Everything happens for a reason. And I am so thankful that I chose VSU and my major in journalism. I cannot wait to see where this journey will take me, and I am so thankful for everything that has happened during my four years at VSU.

Darla Dunning, Content Editor



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Content Editor

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

VSU to receive BlazeVIEW updates

Prince Robinson Jr.
STAFF WRITER
parobinson@valdosta.edu

This summer, VSU students will be greeted with a new look and feel to BlazeVIEW, VSU's online learning management system. VSU's eLearning department and the University System of Georgia have decided that it is VSU's turn to receive the makeover.

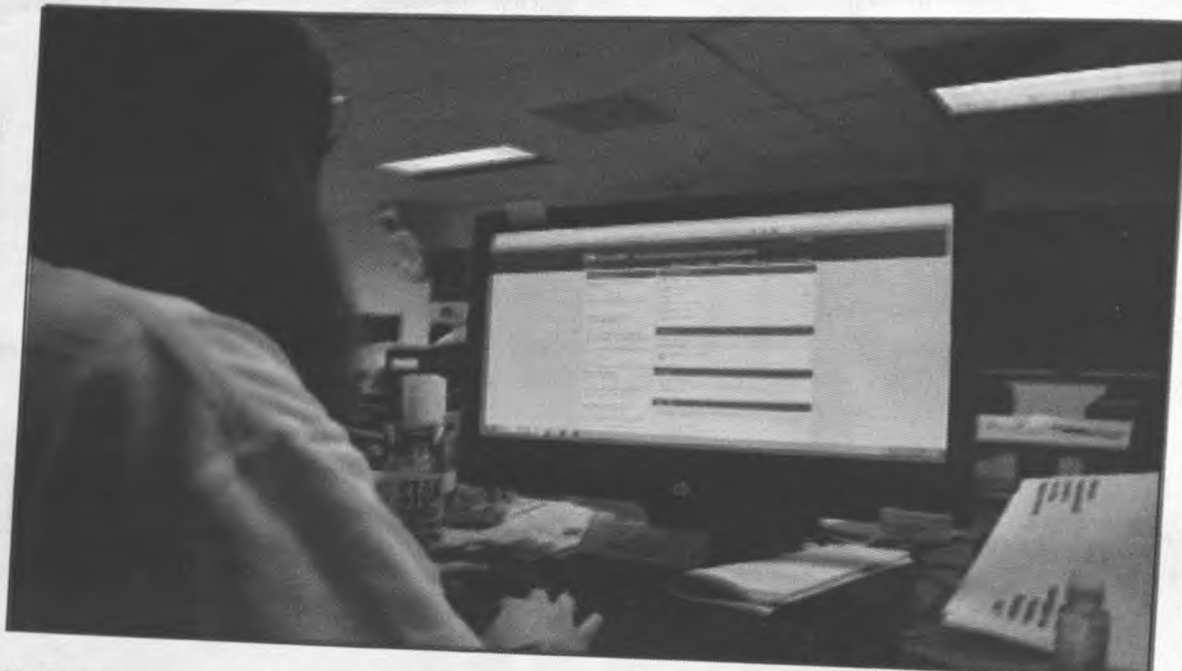
Starting May 7, the update will go into effect. BlazeVIEW D2L Brightspace and GoView Brightspace D2L will transition to Daylight, a new visual cosmetic and design upgrade to VSU's online learning system.

Brightspace D2L is the software manufacturer of the USG online learning systems of the 28 public institutions in the state of Georgia.

Philip Bishop, senior online instructional designer at VSU, describes the upcoming update as "user friendly." Like any new update, the purpose is not to confuse the user. Bishop confirmed that BlazeVIEW will have minor tweaks.

"The product is going to stay the same while adding a different color scheme," Bishop said. "Navigating will be slightly different, but it will resemble icons that are used in the current model."

Using BlazeVIEW should not be any more difficult with the new update. It features the same functionality, sign-in process



Bryce Ethridge/ THE SPECTATOR

The Blazeview updates will take place May 7, 2018. The update will include a new color scheme and design, more elaborate photos and a new navigation system for announcements.

and course content as the version students use today.

Students will not need to add, remove or change any content during the transition.

The eLearning department shared a video that presents several of the new features that will be part of Daylight, including a new interface with elaborate photos, a new way for students to navigate the announcements from various courses, a new color scheme and course content process.

Daylight also makes BlazeVIEW compatible to smaller devices. If

a student logs on to BlazeVIEW from a smartphone, tablet or anything other than a computer, it will adjust to the size of his or her screen.

"It was not the most user friendly," Bishop, referring to the current model, said. "The update will incorporate a more responsive design."

On the smaller devices, students will use the "hamburger icon," located in the top left corner of the site, to open the main menu which shows them announcements, a message portal, the library and

more. A screen reader feature will be added to the smaller devices and computers for users with low vision, hard of hearing or uses a wheel chair.

According to Brightspace D2L, the feature is of ADA (Association of Disabilities Act) compliance and accessibility which makes the software useful to all users.

One student feels that BlazeVIEW is unreliable at times and is awaiting the new update.

"Our current system is not

"The update will incorporate a more responsive design."

always dependable in times when we need to use it for classes or just to check our grades," Kennedy Etheridge, a freshman nursing major, said. "It should be interesting to see the new look of BlazeVIEW."

Another student is pushing for the update to be simple for current and incoming students to VSU.

"I'm excited because the current model is kind of confusing," McKenzie McKie, a freshman mass media major, said. "The navigation of BlazeVIEW needs to change, so it can be easier for incoming freshman and current VSU students to use."

Starting next week, the eLearning department will give faculty and staff members the opportunity to come into their lab and see the new Daylight update in action.

Also, the department will host "Webinars" for students to see how the new product works.

Editorial: S

This year will end my third year at VSU, but it will be the first year observing the well-oiled machine that the Student Government Association can be.

According to their page on VSU's website, SGA's earliest record starts in 1978, meaning that the organization is at least 39 going on 40, years old. From the average 40-year-old, it's expected for a certain wisdom to have been acquired from their years of experience, but my experience with SGA is one that's seen dysfunction and mistrust before its 2017-2018 run.

During my first year at VSU, SGA lacked presence in comparison to now. As I progressed into my second year, SGA essentially placed their heads in the clouds.

SGA was riddled with strife in its 2016-2017 year. At every meeting, one or multiple students

Should stu

Destini Jones

ASST. SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
desjones@valdosta.edu

It's the season of graduation, which means graduates will be spending tons of money to cover the cost of everything that comes with graduation.

VSU currently requires students to purchase their cap and gown for \$59 from Jostens.com, a company specializing in graduation products, accessories and memorabilia.

But, the cost of a cap and gown isn't the only cost a graduating

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Editorial: SGA takes baby steps toward campus improvement

This year will end my third year at VSU but it will be the first year in which the well-oiled machine of the Student Government Association can be.

According to their page on the website, SGA's earliest record starts in 1978, meaning the organization is at least 39 years old. From the perspective of a 40-year-old, it's expected that someone with that much experience, but my experience with SGA is one that's seen dysfunction and mistrust before.

During my first year at VSU, I lacked presence in comparison to now. As I progressed into my second year, SGA essentially raised their heads in the clouds. SGA was riddled with strife during its 2016-2017 year. At every meeting, one or multiple students

would complain about parking or student offices. Unfortunately for them, these issues were trivial to SGA's internal strife. Spectator news coverage reflected this with headlines like "SGA proposes impeachment" and "Proposed bill stirs controversial conversation in SGA."

The effects of these ordeals caused some SGA members, like former vice president Othellius Cato, to leave immediately and others to finish out the term and never return.

Former SGA senator Silas David said he left because he saw he couldn't impact VSU in a large way like he wanted.

"I wanted to make a larger impact on the university and there's only so much of an impact you can make in student government," David said.

David said that only a small

percentage of SGA's members actually care about making an impact on VSU. He said that this is what stops SGA from being an impactful force.

Current SGA Senator Carrington Lewis said that even on the current SGA senate, there are senators who only want to use the position as a resume builder.

"We definitely need people who are actually going to be active and not just in SGA for alternative reasons like to pledge and to just have a senator title," Lewis said. "I definitely feel like the current senators that we have now are in it for that reason."

During the spring 2018 semester, SGA unveiled the Tiered Parking Model, a potential solution to all students' parking issues. One thing though: David said that SGA didn't help come up with the plan.

SGA did a good job in their

presence on campus this year in comparison to previous years, but it is nowhere near where it could be as a force for change.

Take for instance junior chemistry major Jamia Sanders, who only hears about SGA through her roommate, an SGA senator.

"I can't really tell because, even though she's (her roommate) an SGA senator, I don't know much about what they (SGA) are doing other than the parking," Sanders said.

Sanders is an example of benign-neglect, a term learned in Dr. James LaPlant's conspiracy theory class here at VSU. It means that the government did not intentionally leave something out, but the fact that it happened is still neglectful.

An analogy would be like a child who follows a parent on a walking path. The parent knows

that there's a spot in the road where they could trip but doesn't tell the child because they don't think about it. Then, when the child trips, the parent apologizes for the fact that they didn't think about it.

Benign-neglect is what happens when a government doesn't care enough. If SGA really cares about the student body, then we'll see a change for the better next year.

Lewis said that next year she hopes to see students join SGA to better the campus rather than for personal reasons and I agree.

Overall, SGA has done an "ok" job, but I hope to see SGA do more than just an "ok" job.

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

Should students have to pay for caps and gowns?

Destini Jones

Asst. Special Projects Manager
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It's the season of graduation, which means graduates will be spending tons of money to cover the cost of everything that comes with graduation.

VSU currently requires students to purchase their cap and gown for \$59 from Jostens.com, a company specializing in graduation products, accessories and memorabilia.

But, the cost of a cap and gown is the only cost a graduating

student has to budget for.

Graduation is huge and worth celebrating, but is it worth breaking the bank for? Students are being asked to pay for their cap and gown on top of other fees such as graduation applications, which is \$25 at VSU, general tuition, housing and meal plans.

It isn't fair to ask students to purchase their cap and gown because that money has to come out of a larger budget of graduation attire, graduation photos, grad parties, graduation announcements and other celebratory activities.

I understand that it is up to a

student and their families to spend the excess money on graduation on things that don't seem frivolous, but you only graduate college once (usually).

"I feel as though graduates should not have to pay for their cap and gown," Ahava Peters, junior organizational leadership major, said. "We are already in a lot of debt because we're paying for tuition, housing, and all the other fees that come with being in college. I think our pockets need a break."

Costhelper.com estimated that on average graduates spend

\$300-2,500 or more in total for graduation. Graduation announcements typically cost \$20-\$200 depending on the type of package chosen. Parties vary from \$200-2,000 depending on the number of guests, food budget and party venue. Photo shoots can cost \$100-\$300 depending on the means of acquiring photos and the individual or company chosen to take the photos.

VSU isn't the only Georgia university that has its students pay a mandatory, non-refundable graduation fee, which must be paid by the student to process the

paperwork so they can receive a diploma.

Universities such as University of Georgia (\$58), Georgia State University (\$98), Georgia Southern University (\$32) and Kennesaw State University (\$48) charge students for their cap and gown. All, with the exception of Georgia State, charge their students less than VSU.

"It isn't really that much," Musiteli Mubuso, senior public relations major, said. "Granted I would rather put the money towards something else like my rent."

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."

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Find healthy ways to manage your stress

Veronica You
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
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With summer classes beginning on May 10, students may feel pressure to perform well both in the summer and in the fall. Rebecca K. Smith, associate director of the counseling center, gives students tips to help manage stress and help do their best in the upcoming semesters.

Keeping up with four or five classes can be difficult while maintaining a social life or working part or full time. One may feel stressed out trying to juggle the responsibilities of school and extracurricular activities.

Smith recommends for students to have a good nighttime routine.

"Many students that are stressed don't sleep well," Smith said. "Make sure you go to sleep around the same time each night if possible and also make a routine to help you relax before bed."

Some ways to get into a nightly routine are to put your electronic devices away at least an hour before you would like to go to sleep.

The blue light that is emitted from electronic devices can be beneficial during the daylight hours because they help boost attention, reaction times and mood, but it can be disruptive at night, according to Harvard Health.

The blue light emitted from our electronic devices suppresses the secretion of melatonin which is a natural hormone produced by the pineal gland that helps your body

know when it's time to sleep and wake up (the circadian rhythm).

Time management is another thing that can help students do well during a busy semester and keep stress levels at bay. School work can accumulate quickly, and some students find themselves falling behind during midterms.

To avoid falling behind, Smith

"Make time for yourself, even if it is only five to ten minutes a day, listen to your favorite songs, stretch, take a walk and reset yourself."

suggests learning how to manage your time well. She suggests that students get into a routine for when and where they study.

"The brain likes habits," Smith said. "If you always study in the middle of the afternoon at the library, the brain will be more likely to focus during that time."

Smith also suggests that students don't study where they sleep, hang out or watch TV as the brain is more likely to get dis-

tracted from the work. You should pick a place that is dedicated to only studying such as Odum Library or somewhere that you can dedicate only to studying.

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed during the semester, remember to take a step back and take time for yourself. Smith suggests that students make time for their friends and family as this can help one decompress and de-stress.

"Talking to someone can really help, especially a friend or family member who understands the stress you're under," Smith said.

Smith also suggests for students to try to make time, even if it is only five to ten minutes a day, to listen to your favorite song(s), stretch, take a walk and reset yourself. If one has the time, going to the gym or exercising is also a great way to decompress.

"A great way to help manage stress and maintain good time management is to have an accountability partner or use apps on your phone to help you focus," Smith said.

VSU's Counseling Center's website offers a Virtual Relaxation room, and there are apps such as 7 Cups that is free for students to use to help manage their stress, relax and talk to others about their problems

Remember to take breaks and make time for yourself throughout the semester.

STRESS CHECKER

Physical

- Appetite Change ___
- Headaches ___
- Tension ___
- Muscle Aches ___
- Restlessness ___

Emotional

- Anxiety ___
- Frustration ___
- Mood Swings ___
- Depression ___
- Easily Discouraged ___
- Fear ___
- Anger ___

Mental

- Forgetfulness ___
- Negative Attitude ___
- Confusion ___
- Spacing Out ___
- Boredom ___
- Lethargy ___
- Worrying ___

Spiritual

- Emptiness ___
- Loss of Meaning ___
- Doubt ___
- Unforgiving ___
- Cynicism ___
- Apathy ___
- Helplessness ___
- Grief ___
- Guilt ___

Social

- Isolation ___
- Intolerance ___
- Resentment ___
- Loneliness ___
- Lashing Out ___
- Hiding ___
- Clamming Up ___
- Lowered Sex Drive ___
- Nagging ___
- Lack of Intimacy ___
- Using People ___
- Distrust ___
- Less Contact With Friends ___

If you've checked a number of these stress signs, visit The Counseling Center for tips to help manage your stress.

Students

Destini Jones
ASSISTANT SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
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With graduation only days away it's time to start planning for graduation weekend. When family comes to visit your college town you want to be able to show them all the family-friendly activities that Valdosta has to offer.

Get out and show-off Valdosta, a place you called home for about 4 years. Plenty of fun places can be located around Valdosta for a day out before or after May 5. Wild Adventures Theme Park

Take gra

Tamera Sanders
STAFF WRITER
tmsanders@valdosta.edu

Graduation season is slowly approaching for many seniors.

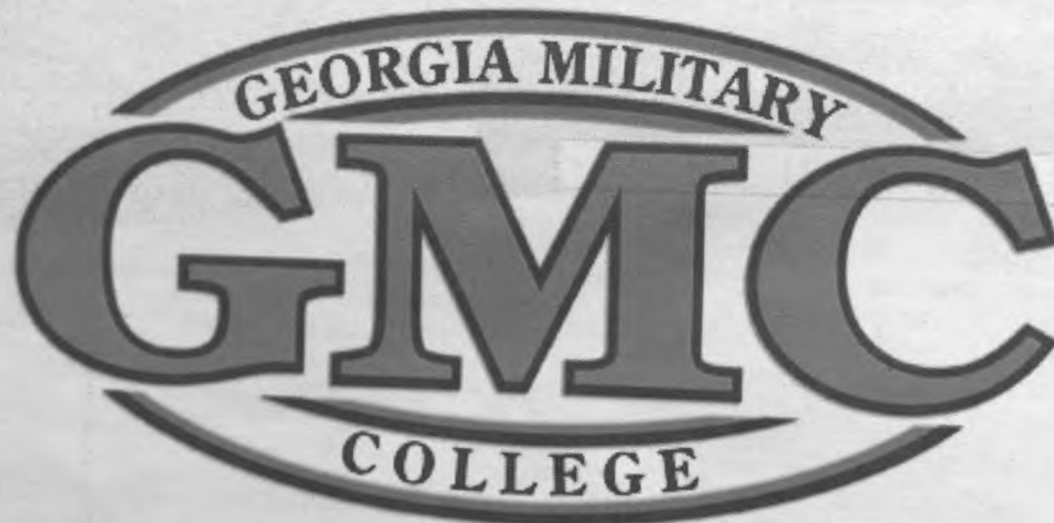
Graduating with a bachelor's degree seemed to not come fast enough. The feeling of finally graduating can be overwhelming for some individuals because it's time to think about the future.

Many don't have an idea about what to do after undergrad but make the time is think about going back to school. Graduate school is an option for everyone.

"VSU has over 60 programs to choose from, ranging from non-degree certificates/endorsements programs to doctoral degrees," Rebecca Petrella Graduate Admissions Manager said.

There are several programs for

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Check out upcoming cou

Ashley Hall, Room

STRESS CHECKER

Spiritual

- Emptiness _____
- Loss of Meaning _____
- Doubt _____
- Unforgiving _____
- Cynicism _____
- Apathy _____
- Helplessness _____
- Grief _____
- Guilt _____

Social

- Isolation _____
- Intolerance _____
- Resentment _____
- Loneliness _____
- Lashing Out _____
- Hiding _____
- Clamming Up _____
- Lowered Sex Drive _____
- Nagging _____
- Lack of Intimacy _____
- Using People _____
- Distrust _____
- Less Contact With Friends _____

Check a number of these stress signs, visit The Center for tips to help manage your stress.

Students decide where to go after graduation

Destini Jones
ASSISTANT SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
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Graduation only days are in full swing. It's time to start planning for graduation weekend. When family comes to visit your college town, you want to be able to show them the family-friendly activities that Valdosta has to offer. Get out and show-off Valdosta, you called home for about 4 years. Plenty of fun places can be located around Valdosta for a day out before or after May 5. Wild Adventures Theme Park

is always a go-to for those that love adventure, animals, roller coasters and guilty-pleasure theme park food such as cotton candy, popcorn and funnel cakes. Wild Adventures also features a water park, Splash Island, for those that want to cool off from the South Georgia heat.

Adventure-seekers and outdoorsy-types should visit Grand Bay Wildlife, a wildlife refuge with over 5,000 acres comprised of upland pines, cypress-gum wetlands, and hardwood forests. Grand Bay

offers swampy nature walks, a boardwalk and a tower in serene surroundings. Take the family out for a hike, canoeing, kayaking or a relaxing fishing trip after graduation to celebrate the big day.

"There isn't a lot to do down here," Jacl Stanton, a junior chemistry major, said. "But, there's no denying that Valdosta is beautiful. When I graduate I plan to take my family downtown and then somewhere for a family picnic like the camping grounds at Grand Bay."

Jac's Bowling Lanes is the nearest bowling alley to campus and offers affordable rates for customers. The alley plays family-friendly music and is a good environment for kids. Avoid going to Jac's at night because it's small and can get packed on weekends. Instead, opt for an afternoon bowling competition with your family members.

"Since moving to Valdosta for school I've found solace at Ashley Street Station," Musiteli Mubuso, senior public relations major, said. "The music is great

and the owner is really nice. I wouldn't recommend it for kids but my father and I will probably grab a drink or two at the bar after graduation."

Ashley Street Station is a local bar that is good for true fans of live, local music. There's always a band playing and the decor is nothing less than unique. Of course it is a bar, so no kids allowed, but like Mubuso said, it's a great place to grab a drink.

So, think on it and decide what you and your family want to do during graduation weekend.

Take graduate school into consideration

Tamera Sanders
STAFF WRITER
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Graduation season is slowly approaching for many seniors. Graduating with a bachelor's degree seemed to not come fast enough. The feeling of finally graduating can be overwhelming for some individuals because it's time to think about the future. Many don't have an idea about what to do after undergrad but make the time to think about going back to school. Graduate school is an option for everyone.

"VSU has over 60 programs to choose from, ranging from non-degree certificates/endorsements programs to doctoral degrees," Rebecca Petrella, Graduate Admissions Manager, said. There are several programs for

students to further their education. Many students say graduate school is too much right now, four years of undergraduate studies were enough. But, there are those students that knew they wanted to get a graduate degree from day one for very specific reasons.

"I truly enjoy furthering my education and retaining as much information as possible and I felt graduate school would be the best for me," Dahnca Finkley, Senior Mass Media Major, said. "I also wanted to be able to have a Masters under my belt when I am ready to enter the workforce."

While some students want to graduate school because they enjoy learning, others knew before they even entered their undergrad they would continue to further their education.

"Grad school was a choice

I was always going to pursue. My parents instilled in my siblings and I that an education is the key to success," Naomi Chee, Communications Graduate Student, said.

Students are trying to learn as much as they can while they are still in school mode. Valdosta has several applicants for the graduate programs. Although the admission cycle of Fall 18 is still open there is still several applicants.

"The number for Fall 18 isn't finalized yet, but we have 1136 applicants so far," Rebecca Petrella said. "Last year, VSU ended up with 1737 applicants for the Fall and it looks to be on track to have similar numbers this year."

Valdosta wants the numbers for graduate school to continue to increase. Every year the number

gets higher and higher.

"VSU's application peaked in Fall 2015 with 1895 that semester. In years prior to that, the range of applicants tend to be in the 1400 since then, VSU has been in the 1700 range," Rebecca Petrella said.

The growth in the program is showing that more students are attending graduate school in the recent years. Students that are attending graduate school feel it will be beneficial in the long run.

"I do believe it will set me apart from the rest of my peers when applying for a job because I will already have two degrees under my belt while most will only have one," Dahnca Finkley said.

Most employers are leaning more towards individuals that have more than a bachelor's degree. They want some who has

more educational experience.

"I feel that a Masters degree, as an international student, I have somewhat of an upper-hand when applying for jobs," Naomi Chee said. "However, experience is another factor that plays a big role that many of us don't get an opportunity to build while here."

Everyone has the same opportunity as the individuals that have chosen to go to graduate school but it's up to the individual.

"Choosing to do graduate school is ultimately a personal choice. I do encourage it but it's something you must be prepared for, both financially and mentally," Naomi Chee said.

So, the real question is why not attend graduate school?

After all, it could open more doors in the long run. Take it into consideration.

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"Majoring in philosophy helped me to stand out from other applicants for Law School. Philosophy is one of the very few majors that allows you to do that AND have an edge because of the critical thinking and problem solving skills you develop. By majoring in philosophy, I was already accustomed to this way of thinking which made the transition into law school and then into my career much easier."



Alex Lawhorne

"My philosophy major not only allowed me to have interesting classes with engaging professors and passionate fellow students, it prepared me for law school and my career. I am grateful I chose to be a philosophy major and I believe it has helped me to be a better lawyer, citizen, and human being."



David Gregors

"My education in Philosophy and Religious Studies at Valdosta State has been an invaluable asset in my pursuit of a career as an attorney. Anyone interested in pursuing a career in law or any other profession in which complex, abstract, or ethical issues may present themselves would be well advised to begin their pursuit in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Valdosta State University."



John Kuykendall
VSU Philosophy Major 1982
Defense Attorney
Birmingham, Alabama



Jason Johns
VSU Philosophy Major 1999
Partner, Jackson Walker Law Firm,
Houston, Texas



Lance Eric Neff
VSU Philosophy Major 2001
Asst. Attorney General of the
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VSU hosts 'Skin I'm In'

Robert Davison
STAFF WRITER
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Students gathered Wednesday, April 18 in the rotunda of Ashley Hall for an evening of poetry, community and self-expression dubbed, "Skin I'm In."

The event, hosted by the Office for Diversity and Inclusion and Deep Release Poetry Society, featured students sharing poetry on a variety of subjects in an open forum style setting.

Chatari Humphrey, a graduate assistant with the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, said events like these are important because of the opportunity they afford students, especially those who have experienced discrimination.

"It allows students to poetically describe how they've experienced discrimination whether it's body, gender, sexual or racial discrimination," Humphrey said. "They can be able to express that through poetry or music."

Many of the students who attended presented works of poetry to the audience. Their poems covered a variety of subjects, including racial stereotyping, cultural appropriation, unrequited love, systemic racism and gender relations.

The poems were met with applause from the crowd of nearly two dozen students gathered in the rotunda.

One such student, Freshman Gaylyn Farmer, recognized the

importance of the event as she enjoyed the poetry that was shared.

"Discrimination is very serious, and it happens to a lot of people," Farmer said. "Often, it goes unknown."

Farmer understands how communication and expression can help students cope with the effects of discrimination.

"It's good for someone to be able to talk to someone," she said. "Especially like this, poetically, it's a good way for someone to be able to express their feelings."

Along with the students' poetry presentations, the event offered time before and after the poetry reading for attendees to socialize and enjoy refreshments provided by the event's hosts.



Members of the Deep Release Poetry Society gathered in the rotunda of Ashley Hall on April 18. Bryce Etheridge/THE SPECTATOR



Bordes presents her poem during the Skin I'm In event. Bryce Etheridge/THE SPECTATOR

Reconsi

Joe Lawson
CONTRIBUTOR

My name is Joe Lawson, and I am a VSU graduate, class of 2012. I majored in history and received an absolutely stellar education under the tutelage of professors such as Dr. John Dunn, Dr. Tom Aiello and Dr. Barney Rickman - all of whom taught me skills that I use on a daily basis.

I received my bachelor's degree in history and even attempted graduate school, but that wasn't the path for me.

Despite my formal training and total immersion in history for five years, I now work at Amazon's corporate headquarters in Seattle, Washington, and I'm writing this to encourage those that are interested in the tech field but feel they lack the qualifications necessary for a big company to apply anyway.

My path to becoming an Amazonian was one that I never anticipated going down, and, to be completely honest, I'm still kind of surprised that I made it in.

What I want to get across in this article is that you don't necessarily need to have a deep tech background, a plethora of tech experience or to already work at a big tech company in order to have the chance to work in this field.

Here are the top five tips I can offer to anyone considering a career in tech either as a comp-sci major or someone considering technology as a backup field.

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training made t human sector, me. My next to certifica langua no knic behind our mo So, someone that? skills a and lo fields where that w I. Q entry l get int quali comes bugs in video may b report develo It ha try, an with e gigs. A will le of it. can do into th 2. R you do you'll view in that yo betwee regress perform

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m In'



Bryce Etheridge/THE SPECTATOR during the Skin I'm In event.

Reconsider the Technology Sector

Joe Lawson
CONTRIBUTOR

My name is Joe Lawson, and I am a VSU graduate, class of 2012. I received a stellar education under the tutelage of professors such as Dr. John Dunn, Dr. Tom Aiello and Dr. Barney Rickman – all of whom taught me skills that I use on a daily basis.

I received my bachelor's degree in history and even attempted graduate school, but that wasn't my path for me.

Despite my formal training and immersion in history for five years, I now work at Amazon's corporate headquarters in Seattle, Washington, and I'm writing to encourage those that are interested in the tech field but feel they lack the qualifications necessary for a big company to apply anyway.

My path to becoming an Amazonian was one that I never anticipated going down, and, to be completely honest, I'm still kind of surprised that I made it in.

What I want to get across in this article is that you don't necessarily need to have a deep tech background, a plethora of tech experience or to already work at a big tech company in order to have the chance to work in this field.

Here are the top five tips I can offer to anyone considering a career in tech either as a comp-sci major or someone considering technology as a backup field.

Given that my experience at VSU lacked any kind of technical or computer-science related

training and education, when I made the choice to move from the humanities into the technology sector, I had my work cut out for me.

My resume was pitiful with next to no relevant skills or certifications, no programming languages to list in my favor and no knowledge of basic principles behind the technologies that drive our modern world.

So, what to do? How would someone kick open a door like that? I took an inventory of the skills and hobbies that I did have and looked at the various sub-fields of high tech work to see where they would most apply, and that was in Quality Assurance.

1. QA work is the ground floor, entry level field that anyone can get into with little to no prior qualification needed. QA testing comes down to being able to find bugs in software, web pages, apps, video games, whatever the case may be, and then being able to report those bugs to the software developers to fix.

It has a very low barrier of entry, and you can often get started with entry level contract-based gigs. Many of these contract jobs will let you work remotely on top of it. There are things that you can do to help yourself get further into this field as well.

2. Research. The more research you do about QA, the better off you'll be. When you're interviewing, you want to be confident that you know the difference between a smoke test and a regression test, when you would perform ad hoc testing, when it

would be better to set up an automation testing suite and why.

Deepening your knowledge of the field is the first major step towards getting out of contract gigs that pay \$12.50 an hour and into a salaried position at a major tech company.

The average salary for a Quality Assurance Engineer, my current role at Amazon, is roughly \$95,000 per year with benefits for someone fresh off the street with a couple of years' experience.

For comparison, a Quality Assurance Technician, someone that does not utilize the process and theory I wrote about above and is just someone being paid to follow directions on a piece of paper, is \$60,000 per year.

That's a huge difference in pay for what ends up being a few months' worth of research, memorization and practice.

3. Get some certifications on your side. The International Software Testing Qualifications Board offers a foundational level exam that will give you a nice-looking set of credentials to add to your resume when you're applying for QA related jobs. The exams are free, and the ISTQB provides all of the materials you need in order to pass the exams for free on their website.

4. Network. Every job offer I've had has come from LinkedIn and recruiters seeing my profile there, from a friend or a former coworker referring me to their current company. I've been approached by Apple, Microsoft, Dropbox, Google, Facebook and Oculus just in the past year, and all of those



Photo courtesy of Joe Lawson. Joe Lawson is a VSU graduate who works at Amazon's corporate headquarters in Seattle, Washington.

recruiters found me on LinkedIn. Networking and using tools like LinkedIn is invaluable. You can find me on LinkedIn, and I'll accept any connection requests from VSU students just to get you started.

5. Perfect your resume. I guarantee your resume isn't as good as it could be – that goes for everyone. A resume should never be gathering dust. Update it constantly and add any new skills that might even be tangentially related to tech or QA.

Add all of those contracting gigs to your resume until you've gotten a year's worth of hard, tangible experience then start applying at the big companies.

Apply aggressively, send out dozens of applications and in the meantime, keep hustling and building your skillset with those contract gigs. Before you know it, you'll be at a top five tech company doing QA work.

I hope these pointers can help those of you that might be on the fence about whether or not you can even get started in tech.

You don't need to be a top one percent programming superstar to work at Amazon – you just need to have the initiative and drive to get yourself to where you'll be noticed. Once you're there, keep working as hard as you can to stay noticed by the people that matter.

You can read more about my path from VSU history major to Amazonian on the official Amazon Blog: <http://www.amazonianblog.com/2017/03/joe-lawson-my-path-to-becoming-an-amazonian.html>

You can also find me on LinkedIn here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-lawson-75920464/>

Please reach out with any questions or networking requests – I'll always take the time to help out fellow Blazers.

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VSU waves goodbye to three hoop stars

Prince Robinson
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On May 5, VSU's Madi Mitchell, Kenya Samone' Dixon and Taylor Buie will be walking across the stage as their final days as a student athletes wind down. Their accomplishments in the classroom and on the hardwood will not be forgotten as they become alumnae of VSU.

"It is a great place, and I will walk around bragging to anybody that I can to say I graduated from here," Dixon said. "It makes me feel privileged that VSU chose me."

In their swan-song season as Lady Blazers, the trio led the team to a 23-9 record which ranked No. 4 in the Gulf South Conference standings. The Lady Blazers came into the season poised for a repeat after winning the conference championship the previous year, ranking No. 1 in the GSC preseason polls.

Mitchell and Samone' Dixon were named Preseason All-GSC to begin the year as well. Not only did they begin the year racking up awards, the team found themselves doing activities that were out of the norm for basketball.

"We had a pool workout during preseason, and I found that to be the most interesting thing that I have participated in with the team," Dixon, jokingly, said. "For me, it teaches you to stay out of your head, trust your teammates and trust coach. I cannot swim. It was a lot of water, but I did it."

The season was not a resemblance of last year, but they competed and won two games in the NCAA Division II tournament before losing to Union in the South Region Championship.

Dixon has been a model of consistency for the Lady Blazers throughout her senior campaign as she was named Second Team All-GSC to close out the year.

Mitchell landed among First



The VSU Women's basketball team is losing three stars to graduation. Kenya Samone' Dixon, Madi Mitchell and Taylor Buie will all be graduating on May 5.

Photo courtesy of VSU Athletics

Team All-GSC honorees in recognition of a season in which the senior ranked among the top three scorers in the GSC.

The forward from Warwick, Georgia has been a key cornerstone for the Lady Blazers, eclipsing the 1,000-career point total this past season. Mitchell, who is now a two-time honorable mention All-American with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, ranked among the top three scorers in the GSC.

Her scoring prowess ultimately led to a career finish of 1,387 points, becoming the 12th highest scorer in the history of Lady Blazer basketball. This past season, she averaged 18 points per contest which placed her second in the conference and first for the Lady Blazers.

Reflecting on her years, besides stats, her greatest memory at VSU was winning a conference title during her junior campaign.

"It's like all the hard work you put in just comes with validation," Mitchell said. "It showed us that everything that we did wasn't for nothing."

Dixon, who was on the 2016-2017 championship team, added that the feeling of winning a championship "can't be put into

words."
"I have never won anything of that magnitude...ever," Dixon said. "I have won many things as an individual, but it is so much sweeter when you can win it as a team. For the first couple of days, I was in disbelief."

Accolades and records were broken along the way, but the memories of the season and tutelage from Head Coach Carley Kuhns will be with them forever.

"Outside of basketball, she has taught me that being genuine takes you really far in life," Mitchell said. "Just giving everybody your true self."

Coming from Florida A&M University, Dixon did not know what to expect from the move to VSU. The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, native has cherished the time spent with Kuhns, and she promised during her playing days to give her best effort.

"When I got here, I realized why I love basketball, and this is where I wanted to be and should've been," Dixon said. "I don't mind going out there and giving (Kuhns) everything I can because she is a genuine person, and she makes playing the game fun."

The high effort that Dixon promised was evident in each

game no matter the magnitude. Last season, her combination of strong rebounding and offensive production led to 14 double-doubles which led the team. She led the team with nine rebounds per contest, totaling 291 last season.

In the classroom, Dixon was just as dominant. She was voted to the list of All-Academic honorees after maintaining a 4.0 GPA for both the fall and spring semesters.

She will be graduating with a master's degree in public administration.

Although Dixon and Mitchell were the one-two punch, Buie served as the wild-card for the Lady Blazers. Just like Dixon, Buie was uncertain of how she would mesh with the new team. And, she hadn't built any chemistry with Kuhns.

The ex-Nova Southeastern star solidified herself as a three-point shooter, shooting nearly 40 percent in her freshman year. Coach Kuhns saw those abilities and implemented them into the offense.

"I had just come off of two injuries, and she was always at practice before games telling me to let it fly and shoot the ball," Buie said. "Basically, at the end of the year, my confidence was there,

and it showed in my game."
The confidence she gained was indisputable towards the end of the regular season. On Feb. 22, she scored 24 points and drilled a season-high seven three-pointers against West Florida.

"The game on senior night was for sure my most memorable moment," Buie said. "We had a close game with West Florida who had beat us the first time around. Kayla (Bonilla) drives and passes it to me in the corner, and I hit a dagger three-pointer. The gym was crupied on its most packed night."

Buie ended the season averaging nearly 11 points per game while notching 65 three-pointers that was a team-high for the Lady Blazers.

She is a veteran in the collegiate game as she has played for six years. In those six years she has earned two master's degrees, one in athletic administration and the other in business administration. She will be graduating from VSU with a certificate in public administration.

Even though she only played under Kuhns for one year, she did not hesitate to give high praise.

"Honestly, she is just a really great person, mother figure and a friend," Buie said. "Each and every player can probably say that they've opened up to coach just because she cares about us as an individual."

Mitchell hopes the Lady Blazers keep striving for excellence.

"There is already a standard set here, even before our time it has always been about excellence," Mitchell said. "We want to win championships and I hope the support keeps growing."

Buie was optimistic about the future of Lady Blazer basketball.

"Who knows what could happen because Coach Kuhns played here and came back to coach," Buie said. "I love every player on the team, and I hope everyone has success and goes further than we did."

2018 Sp COMMEN

Friday • M

5:00 PM

The Graduate School
P.E. Complex

Graduates from the Graduate
during their ceremony. Grad
PE complex Mezzanine

Saturday • M

7:00 PM

College of Business

College of Education

College of Nursing &

West Hall Front Lawn

Graduates arrive at 5:30pm
for check-in.

College of the Arts

College of Arts & Sci

West Hall Front Lawn

Graduates arrive at 5:30pm
Lobby for check-in

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

Philosophy & Religious Studies Classes Summer '18

51249 PHIL 2020 A Prin Logic and Argumentation M-F 2-4:50 pm James 5/10-5/31

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

51255 PHIL 4800 A Philosophy of Sex M-F 11-1:35 pm Lovern 6/06-6/27

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

51256 REL 4700 B Philosophy of Sex M-F 11-1:35 pm Lovern 6/06-6/27

*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.

Harrison Ford
Actor

Steve Martin
Comedian
& Actor

Richard Gere
Actor

T.S. Elliot
Poet
& Essayist

Angela Davis
Civil Rights
Activist

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op stars

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2018 Spring COMMENCEMENT

Friday • May 4, 2018

5:00 PM

**The Graduate School
P.E. Complex**

Graduates from the Graduate School will be hooded during their ceremony. Graduates arrive at 3:30 pm on the PE complex Mezzanine

Saturday • May 5, 2018

7:00 PM

**College of Business Administration
College of Education & Human Services
College of Nursing & Health Sciences**

West Hall Front Lawn

Graduates arrive at 5:30pm in the Bailey Science Atrium for check-in.

College of the Arts

College of Arts & Sciences

West Hall Front Lawn

Graduates arrive at 5:30pm in the Nevins Hall Front Lobby for check-in



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Every graduate's name will be announced at this time. You will walk across the stage to shake the President's hand and receive your diploma cover.

Faculty Marshals will be there to direct you, and ensure an efficient lineup process.



Studies?
er!
r '18

T.S. Elliot
Poet
& Essayist

Angela Davis
Civil Rights
Activist

Lana Del Ray
Musician



VIDEO!

STUDIES

http://www.valdosta.edu/commencement