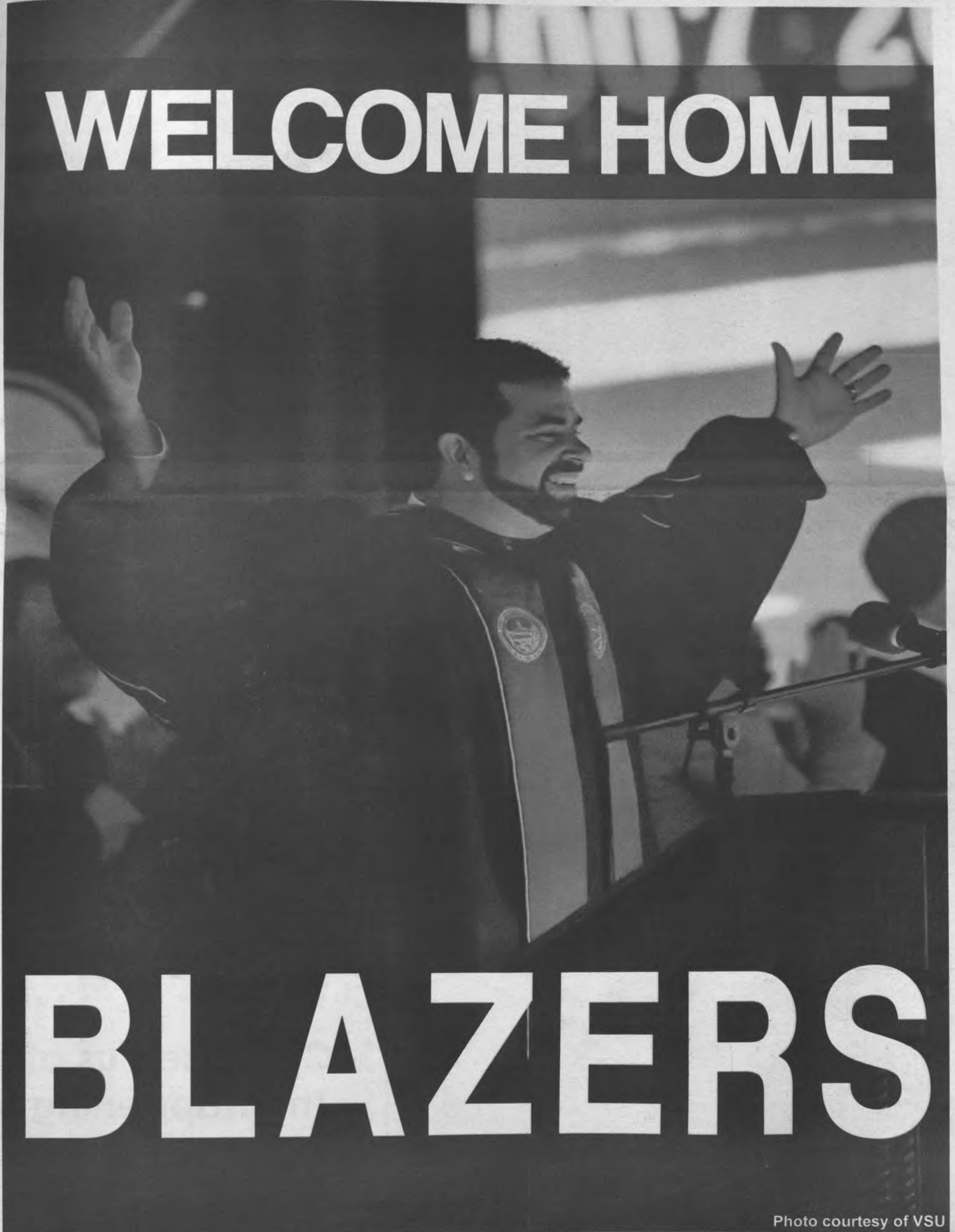


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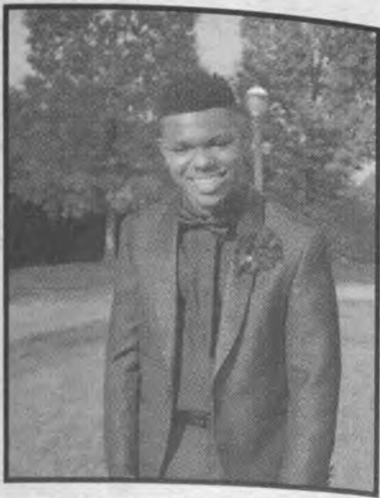
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APRIL 24, 2018

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Sophomore
journalism major



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TO THE STUDENTS:

Dear freshmen,

Congratulations! Welcome to VSU class of '22. You're now embarking on one of the greatest adventures in life. This is the place where you'll learn more about yourself hoping to have molded you into a better human being by the end of your college experience. Don't be afraid to meet new people, experience new things and to change. Power through your difficulties, organize your priorities and succeed. Take advantage of all opportunities that are present for you. In the end, you're here to learn and get a degree with the hopes of getting a career. GO ahead and enjoy your own personal process.

Dear sophomores,

You're not a freshman anymore, but you still have a little ways to go until graduation. Now either you're ready to cruise and finish your original plan of study, or you might be ready to change your mind. Don't be afraid to make changes, and do what you think is best for you. Time is fleeting, and wasting it on something that you don't want to do, is not the best idea. You might lose some of the friends that you made during freshman year. Don't let that side track you. Stay focused on why you're here.

Dear juniors,

You're almost there. One more year to go. It's another year to progress and grow as a person. By now, you're most likely ready to start your upper level courses. As class rigor starts to become tougher, don't fold under the pressure. Keep striving and pushing just like you did last year and the year before. It's also time to think about gaining experience and building your resume. Continue to use the resources that VSU offers. This year will fly by and before you know it, you'll be a senior.

Dear seniors,

You made it. You're almost there! There are just a few months standing between you and your degree. Congratulations! Hopefully VSU was a pleasant and fulfilling time for you. Now that you have your degree, are you ready for a career? For adulting? Enjoy your well wishes and your newfound sense of achievement and go out there and accomplish your dreams.



Halim Faisal, LCSW
Social Worker, Waycross, Georgia

- Took courses like PHIL 2010 in Philosophy & Phenomenology.
- Says these courses helped him in his career because it is important to understand other people's beliefs, experiences, and lives.
- Philosophy helps him communicate productively with his clients.

What Can Philosophy & Religious Studies Do For Your Career?

Joel Grimes, Vice President
VP of North American and Caribbean Sales,
Mobileum

- Took PHIL 2020 Logic.
- Says it was one of the most important courses for his career in information systems and marketing.
- Started him in computer programming language and orderly critical thinking.
- Gave him real insight into how people think.



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VSU, New agreement students m

Prince Robinson Jr
SPORTS EDITOR
parobinson@valdosta.edu

On Wednesday Aug. 8, VSU President Richard Carvajal announced the partnership of Valdosta State and Wild Adventure Theme Park. The announcement was made during a joint press conference in the Student Union of VSU.

"The truest magic of [VSU] does not happen on our historic West Hall front lawn or the student union. It happens in the classroom," Carvajal said. "All Blazers fully understand how much out of campus experience compliments what happens in the classroom."

The off-campus experience came even clearer when Vince Miller, vice president of Student Affairs, opened the big surprise. The surprise shocked the entire Student Union rotunda.

VSU students, who live on campus, were gifted with a complimentary Blazer pass to Wild Adventures. The pass is good from Sunday to Friday during the operating times of the theme park. However, the pass does not cover for parking.

Also, those students can upgrade to the Blazer Plus pass, if they would like. The upgrade is an additional \$29 which will include Saturday access to the park and free parking.

VSU & Provident



VSU Philosophy Major Class of 2012, now with the firm of Seta, Martin & Trivett LLC, in Lawrenceville, Georgia



VSU Philosophy Major Class of 2012, now with the Georgia Legal Services Project in Albany, Georgia



VSU Philosophy and Religious Studies Major Class of 2013, completed the JD degree at Florida Coastal School of Law

Check our upcoming

VSU, Wild Adventures join forces

New agreement will offer students multiple benefits

Prince Robinson Jr.
Sports Editor
pr Robinson@valdosta.edu

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Also, those students can upgrade to the Blazer Plus pass, if they would like. The upgrade is an additional \$29 which will include Saturday access to the park and free parking.

For off-campus students, their benefits are the same as on-campus students, with only one difference. The Blazer pass will cost them \$49, which is a deeply discounted rate, according to Miller.

If they would like to upgrade to the Blazer Plus pass, it will cost an additional \$20. All passes can be picked up at the University Center.

Molly Deese, vice president and general manager at Wild Adventures, took the podium following President Carvajal to deliver her announcement.

"We are excited that in addition to announcing a new program to bring discounted season passes to VSU students, we are also bringing the Blazer Nation to our guests," Deese said. "I am very pleased to introduce the Blazer Blast Off."

In the spring of 2019, a famous Wild Adventures ride, the Firecracker, will be rebranded as the Blazer Blast Off and will sport the VSU logo, graphics and color scheme.

"We are bringing Blazer nation to our guests at Wild Adventures," Deese announced. "Soon, students will be seeing the VSU logo around the park, and that is not just on signs. They will be seen in our merchandise shops and on a ride."

VSU's signature thrill wide will be a double action space tower as



Photo courtesy of VSU
Dr. Vince Miller, vice president of student affairs, discusses the new agreement between VSU and Wild Adventures theme Park at a press conference in the Student Union Rotunda on Wednesday Aug. 8. The new joint venture will allow VSU students who live on campus to receive a free season pass to Wild Adventures and students that live off campus to receive a discounted season pass.

guests will be propelled up and down in a matter of one to two seconds at speeds up to 35 mph. After taking the riders upward, it thrusts them downward at a high velocity.

"When you look at the ride, it

fits the theme of Blazers," Deese said. "You get in the ride, and you are seated, and it is just thrilling. You take the thrill and go straight to the top. You can make the analogy that it's what happens here at VSU. You start here and then you

skyrocket.

The big day from two of south Georgia's treasure will now be cemented from years and years to come.

VSU Philosophy & Religious Studies

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Preparing Students for a Career as a Lawyer



Brittany Bell Turner

VSU Philosophy Major Class of 2012, now with the firm of Speed, Seta, Martin & Trivett LLC, in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Brittany Bell Turner

"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

VSU Philosophy Major Class of 2012, now with the Georgia Legal Services Project in Albany, Georgia.

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

VSU Philosophy and Religious Studies Major Class of 2013, completed the JD degree at Florida Coastal School of Law.

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 Robbins
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
State of Florida



Jeremy K. Baker
VSU Philosophy Major 2007
Asst. Southern District Attorney
Valdosta, Georgia

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Iconic lawn stands test of time

Taylor Sutherland
PHOTO EDITOR
tmsutherland@valdosta.edu

On every college campus, there is one location that brings students together. No matter their race, sexuality or religion, each campus has a beacon for students, faculty, staff and the community to gather and enjoy putting aside any differences they may face.

At VSU, our beacon is the front lawn. Since the school's opening in 1913, the front lawn has been a space to clear your head, meet with friends and enjoy experiences you never thought you would have the opportunity to try.

Students like Junior History Major, Aaron Brown, enjoy the lawn the most for its relaxing ambiance and the colorful fountain lights.

"I enjoy being on the lawn," Brown said. "Doing homework out in the evening with friends is less stressful compared to the

library with a lot of people around you. Sunday afternoons I'll play ultimate frisbee on the front lawn, and if I can't sleep, I'll go out there at 2 or 3 a.m. The front lawn is one of my favorite spots on campus."

Junior Health Science Major, Anesha Barrett, uses the lawn to study, hang with friends and get some fresh air.

"It gives a whole new vibe to studying, and it's open space so you aren't stuck in your room or in a study room," Barret said. "I enjoy more on the front lawn."

The front lawn hosts some of the most influential events of the school year such as the fall semester kickoff, The Happening, which invites student organizations and community businesses to come together, network and enjoy a few hours out of the day to show what each has to offer.

The lawn also hosts events like March Mayhem and occasional concert nights to remind the com-

munity when things get a little overwhelming. There is always room for a little fun and laughter.

For incoming students, the front lawn is the place where your college experience begins. For the graduating class, it's the place you make your last mark and set out into the world. We gather for pictures, pray and understanding when nothing else makes sense.

Grounds Supervisor Monica Haynes knows the beauty of every outdoor nook and cranny.

"The front lawn is certainly a landmark around Valdosta and is the appropriate space to allow the beauty of West Hall to stand out," Haynes said. In times of nice weather, you may see people from the community, as well as students, walking their dogs, throwing Frisbees, playing sports, laying out and having their lunch or studying.

Grounds Horticulturist Bobby Flowers takes care of the mowing and maintenance in order to keep the lawn green all year making sure it is seeded with rye grass for the winter, and the mowing continues year-round.

Junior Computer Information Systems Major Garrett Castleman sees the pros and cons in the front lawn.

"While it might be a good place to study and sunbathe, no one is there really to keep the peace," Castleman said. "The school does sponsored events there as well as people have their pets on the lawn."

Castleman believes the main issue with the front lawn is that no one picks up after their pets, and the lawn may be too free-for-all.



Photo by Julie Jermigan/THE SPECTATOR

The VSU front lawn in 2018 (top) and the 1930s (bottom). The front lawn is a staple spot for students to study, hold events, and play sports.



Photo courtesy of VSU Archives

Though there are pros and cons to the campus hang out spot, most are in agreement that without the lawn, VSU would not be the school it is today. The lawn unifies the campus and the community making Valdosta, and more

specifically VSU, a place where everyone, no matter their differences, can come and relax.



Photo courtesy of VSU Archives

The VSU front lawn and West Hall in the 1970s.

Do You Know That Philosophy Majors Were Top Earners in 2016?

Philosophy majors were projected to be the top-paid Bachelor's degree graduates in 2016, according to results of NACE's Winter 2016 Salary Survey.

| Academic Major | Mean | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Philosophy | \$49,000 | \$43,000 | \$48,000 | \$55,000 |
| Visual & Performing Arts | \$47,600 | \$42,000 | \$46,000 | \$50,000 |
| History | \$46,286 | \$40,000 | \$46,000 | \$50,500 |
| Foreign Language & Literature | \$46,083 | \$40,000 | \$43,250 | \$50,000 |
| English Language & Literature | \$45,438 | \$40,250 | \$43,500 | \$48,000 |
| Liberal Arts/General Studies | \$45,063 | \$40,000 | \$45,000 | \$50,250 |

Source: Winter 2016 Salary Survey, National Association of Colleges and Employers

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Universities

Prince Robinson
SPORTS EDITOR
PAROBINSON@valdosta.edu

Imagine it's Monday morning, and you look out of your dorm window to a beautiful wintry snowstorm. Your eyes are still crusty, your body is trapped in the comfort of your twin-sized bed and class just seems miles away. This is the battle students face in those early mornings of college.

As college students, attending class is imperative. The mental battle of waking up bright and early and attending classes all day just seems too much for some students. This forces some students to skip classes all together.

Students may skip class for a variety of reasons that include disinterest in the class, rebellion, illness, tiredness or commitment to other activities.

If students do not like the subject being taught or feel they already know the course's content, then they may see no need to attend class. Students who find a class too difficult or who have too many extracurricular activities or work, may also skip class.

According to the most recent

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generous,
warm-hearted,
cheerful,
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Universities should offer alternatives to skipping class

Prince Robinson
SPORTS EDITOR
PROB@valdosta.edu

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According to the most recent



Students often skip classes when pressure gets too high.

Photo courtesy of Pexels

survey by Class120 of USA Today, which came out in 2015, the average college student skips 240 classes by the time he or she graduates.

For students at an in-state, public university, this adds up to \$7,200 of wasted tuition money over the course of four years and \$24,960 for students at private schools.

Also, according to the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES), the average student begins class around 9 a.m. Furthermore, the average college student goes to bed at 1 a.m.

The 1 a.m. time frame is due to the drastic number of students attending parties, late night work shifts or studying in the middle of the night.

However, it is the choice and right of the student to do whatever they please, and sometimes unplugging themselves from a classroom is one of them.

"Sometimes college is overwhelming, and a break is needed," McKenzie Mckie, a sophomore mass media major, said. "We go to class every day, not back to back, but the classes are so content

heavy it could feel like the weight of the world is on our back."

It's college. Classes are designed to be rigorous. However, the content is massive, so sometimes students feel it's in their best interest to finish up on that six-page essay rather than going to class.

But there may be alternatives to this problem.

"Stream the classes online for the students enrolled in them," Kennedy Etheridge, a sophomore nursing major, said. "Making the classes hybrid. Set mandatory times a student must come to class and a set number of times a student can stream. It will help in my opinion."

And with college assignments, there are college problems. Mckie added that VSU should offer more rest and relaxation programs for students that may be depressed or suffering from anxiety.

In the long run, students do gain fatigue from their school work and part-time jobs. Therefore, schools should implement alternatives, so students can get the content without having to go to class.



Photo by Julie Jermigan/THE SPECTATOR and the 1930s (bottom). The front lawn is a playground, hold events, and play sports.



Photo courtesy of VSU Archives

specifically VSU, a place where everyone, no matter their differences, can come and relax.

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| Median | 75th Percentile |
|--------|-----------------|
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| 100 | \$50,000 |
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| 100 | \$45,000 |
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humorous

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self-centered
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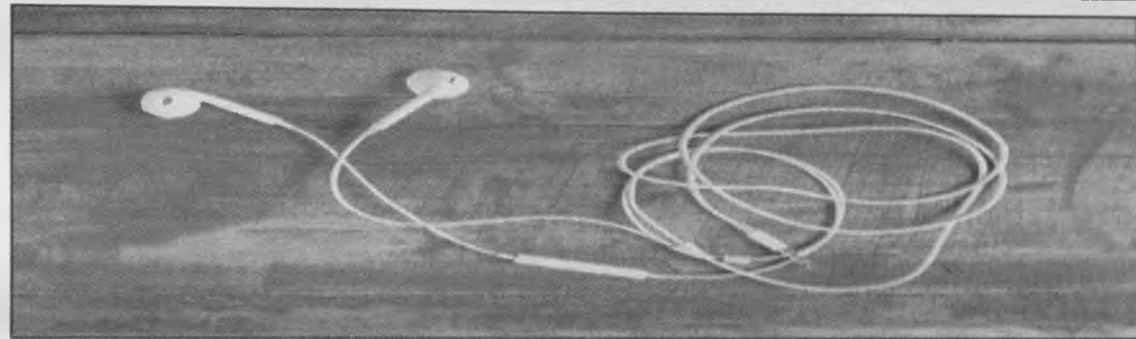
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Summer music in review:

Jacorey Moon
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
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With the nature and overall workings of the music industry remaining undetermined, the way that music is being released has become even more of an enigma. Over the course of the summer, music projects have been released in a matter that has taken over the music industry. Spontaneously. Nevertheless, this summer received some unprecedented releases.

"EVERYTHING IS LOVE"

There were rumors swarming around on social media claiming that Beyoncé and Jay-Z were releasing a joint album. Some fans were shocked, disgusted or thrilled about the long awaited album. The couple released the album under the pseudonym "THE CARTERS" on June 16 after a concert in London. The album starts off with what could be considered a romantic love story that reconvenes where Beyoncé left off on 'LEMONADE.' On this track, Jay-Z talks about how much he loves and appreciates his wife. This leads straight into the lead single of the album entitled, "APES**T." With the help of Quavo, from Migos, Beyoncé and Jay-Z took this song to the next level. Explaining why they are at the top of the industry food chain and why they do what they do, a confident yet unbelieving Beyoncé exclaims during the chorus of the track: "I can't believe we made it." This prompts the listener to believe that anything is possible. The transitions, messages and tones of this album are what

make it the best. The listener gets to understand the overwhelming amount of love and appreciation that they have for one another. It is a riveting closure album to a storytelling trilogy.

"NASTY"

The female rap game has been in shambles during the past few years with social media influencers becoming the new "talent" of the industry. Weeding through the posers and actual talents, Rico Nasty has stuck out like a sore thumb. Being a ruthless, cutthroat, no nonsense female rapper, Rico Nasty dropped her first official album "Nasty" on June 15. Rico brings a sense of rage and rock to almost every song that she creates. Her rapping style of yelling and screaming the lyrics adds a unique and refreshing touch to the work and female rap overall. One of the first songs that she promoted for the project was "RAGE," which is an interesting take on how anger can make an interesting rap track. Nevertheless, Rico Nasty is reaping the benefits of what her first project has done for her reputation.

"ASTROWORLD"

Travis Scott has been popular in the media for his recent child with Kylie Jenner, and his music took a backseat. That was until his recent release "ASTROWORLD" which was released on Aug. 3. From the start, this album comes off as one of Scott's most honorable attempts to push mumble rap forward. "ASTROWORLD" does have a sense of wanderlust and carelessness that fits in with today's evolving era of rap.

Although it was a decent effort, it was overall just...an effort.

"SCORPION"

Another Drake album means another chance for blatant disregard of a culture that you're not exclusively apart of. Drake's latest album, "Scorpion" was released on June 29. Some of the tracks are nice and some are barely listenable. Although Drake exudes emotion and jumps on the bandwagon of feminism, he still seems to miss the mark musically and lyrically. On some tracks it seems as if Drake wants to make a point, but on others it seems that he doesn't really have a point. If that's not enough, the album is very long. A two volume, 25-song album is too much. Through the midst of it, Drake had a couple of strong showstoppers such as the social media proclaimed song of the summer, "In My Feelings." Pulling from New Orleans bounce culture, Drake proves to be one of the sounds that kids and social media seems to love.

"HIVE MIND"

The Internet has been making moves in the R&B era since 2011. "Hive Mind" is the bands fourth studio release and best album to date. Touching on many topics and being relatable to the recent shifts in society, The Internet provides a great soundtrack for going through the motions. The groove and funky sound of "Hive Mind" is—debatably— what's missing in today's R&B. "Hive Mind" is one of the best R&B albums of 2018 released so far.

Bryce's delicious picks: where to eat in Valdosta

Created by Bryce Etheridge, News Editor, bjetheridge@valdosta.edu

Whether you're returning to Valdosta for the umpteenth time or coming for the first time, you already know that food is essential to a good time. With on-campus restaurants like Chick-fil-A and Moe's, you're probably thinking "I'll never get tired of this," but you will, and you'll need some back-up options for when taste buds are craving something more than VSU can offer.

Great Quick Bites: These restaurants are places you go when you need something quick and on-the-go. They are the definition of fast food without losing quality, and without further ado, here they are:

Zacadoo's: First on the list and first in my heart in terms of fast food is Zacadoo's. This place has a plethora of food like chili dogs, burgers and even breakfast cups. From 6 to 11 a.m., they provide breakfast food. After that, they serve from their lunch menu. The best thing about Zacadoo's is its inexpensive menu. They have a good quantity of food and allow Flex as payment. The best item on the menu is the chicken tender dinner. It's filled with five (or eight if you get a large) delicious chicken tenders, crispy fries (with the option of getting extra), slaw or mac and cheese with Texas Toast and special sauce. It's absolutely perfect.

Hip Hop Fish and Chicken: What more can I say other than it's honestly a top contender for best "Quick Bites" option on the list. The Chicago-styled eatery's options are literally in its name, but the best option is the fish and chicken combo. With this, you get the option of combining two items, choosing between its numerous types of fish (grouper, tilapia, catfish nuggets, etc.), chicken (tenders, breast, wings, gizzards) or other seafood (shrimp, butterfly shrimp, clams, etc.) with a side of fries, bread and a drink. All of that is just \$9.69. They have two locations in Valdosta: One on N. Ashley Street and another on S. Patterson Street.



Everyone knows Zacadoos by its iconic drive-through.

Photo courtesy of Zacadoos



Above: 2PC grilled tilapia dinner

Photo courtesy of Hip Hop Fish and Chicken



Above: Pulled pork platter from Big Nick's on Baytree.

Hunter Terrell/THE SPECTATOR

Sit Down or To-Go: The restaurants shown in this category are ones that give you the option to get something savory to-go or sit in and enjoy a bite with friends in a warm and entertaining atmosphere.

Big Nick's: There's no possible way you can leave Valdosta without trying Big Nick's. It literally sits right off Baytree waving at your stomach as you pass it going to VSU. It sits in the cut waiting for you to come in, so it can never let go. Big Nick's may come second in terms of barbecue places in Valdosta, but it's definitely better when you need to save money. Walking in, the restaurant practically slaps you with its delicious smells of ribs, pulled pork, chicken and custom made dirty rice. They give quick service on to-go orders (at least when they're not busy), but as an added bonus to sitting customers, Big Nick's hosts entertainment like live jazz and even karaoke nights. The owner, Big Nick himself, will even come out to greet customers. The best part about the place though is a little slice of heaven: their half and half red velvet/key lime cake, a melt-in-your-mouth dessert that'll put your taste buds in a coma from its sugary goodness. Make sure you tell Nick to thank his mom for it and the other pastries when you see him. They also take Flex.

Five Guys: Five guys making one burger may sound a bit excessive but once you go inside, you'll see the well-oiled machine that Five Guys really is. This might be the perfect burger place if you want to clog up your arteries with a food binge. Although it may be on the expensive side (a burger, large drink, and medium fries is around \$15; \$4 more for a milkshake), you won't regret it. Their burgers are cooked to a crisp juicy perfection and the restaurant allows you to put on as many toppings as you want free of charge. They carry a Coke Freestyle machine too, so you already know this meal is about to go crazy on your taste buds. The best part, though is the fries, especially with Cajun seasoning. The best fries aren't at Checkers, McDonald's or Chick-Fil-A. They're at Five Guys. Don't @ me. I don't need to explain. Just try them for yourself and you'll see.

Date Night Eat

These are the best places to go with your date (or whoever you're trying to impress) to make their mouth explode with flavor. They've developed in an entertaining and

Woodstack Tavern: Woodstack Tavern is without a doubt the best place to go for Smok'n Pig BBQ has nothing but different barbecue sauces to choose from. Multiple meats including brisket, pork, or chicken, Woodstack provides a variety of sides and appetizers using the same quality ingredients. As a bonus, Woodstack takes outdoor dining to another level. Show up outside, you can either choose to sit at a booth with a cover protecting you from the sun or sit in their tent filled with fans. What's even better is that you can enjoy the winter with the help of a heater. If you're craving a cake, get it. Crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside, it's an overload and make you want

Bleu Pub: Do you like fried food? Bleu Pub is right for you. Coming from a multitude of styles, along with live music, drinks, some original, some cover bands, performances almost every night. If you're looking for something to do on at night at the Bleu P

Awesome Tre

The restaurants in this category are ones that give you the option to get something savory to-go or sit in and enjoy a bite with friends in a warm and entertaining atmosphere.

Snopocalypse: I only recall one time I had it once and ate it in a class just to get it. Snopocalypse is a soft-serve ice cream in the middle of the day. That doesn't make sense, or it's wrong. It's amazing. First of all, it's the largest size, "The Snopocalypse" restaurant allows you to choose between stuffed (ice cream in the middle) or separately for a lesser price. If you're being a kid in a candy store, this is your favorite of mine, "The Carniocalypse" size with the flavors candy apple (blue or pink), stuffed and covered in sugar and candy connoisseurs



The Dough-Jo features a number of cool cr

in Valdosta

eady know that food is essential 'I'll never get tired of this," but an VSU can offer.



Photo courtesy of Zacado's



Photo courtesy of Hip Hop Fish and Chicken

The restaurants shown in this category something savory to-go or sit in and entertaining atmosphere.

ou can leave Valdosta without trying ee waving at your stomach as you iting for you to come in, so it can d in terms of barbecue places in Val- need to save money. Walking in, the delicious smells of ribs, pulled pork, y give quick service on to-go orders n added bonus to sitting customers, jazz and even karaoke nights. The e out to greet customers. The best part heaven: their half and half red velvet/ sert that'll put your taste buds in a are you tell Nick to thank his mom for m. They also take Flex.

you'll see the well-oiled machine that with a food binge. Although it may (milkshake), you won't regret it. Their toppings as you want free of charge. on your taste buds. The best part, ald's or Chick-Fil-A. They're at Five

Date Night Eats:

These are the best places to take your significant other (or whoever you're trying to impress) to make their mouth explode with flavor while enveloped in an entertaining atmosphere.

Woodstack Tavern: Woodstack is the absolute and without a doubt best BBQ joint in Valdosta. Smok'n Pig BBQ has nothing on this. With six different barbecue sauces to choose from and multiple meats including brisket, ribs, pulled pork or chicken, Woodstack provides sandwiches, platters and appetizers using their BBQ. As an added bonus, Woodstack takes outside dining experiences to another level. Should you decide to sit outside, you can either choose to sit in a swinging booth with a cover protecting you from the sun or sit in their tent filled with long picnic tables. What's even better is that you can sit out there in the winter with the help of their warmers. The best part, besides choosing the perfect sauce, is the ever-revolving desserts made by a specially-commissioned pastry chef. All of their desserts are wondrous, but if you ever have a chance to try the gooey butter cake, get it. Crunchy on the outside and thick and gooey on the inside, the custard-like dessert will tire your taste buds from a sugar overload and make you want more two hours later. Woodstack is located at 4083 N. Valdosta Rd.



Above: A pulled-pork sandwich from Woodstack Tavern.

Photo courtesy of Woodstack Tavern

Bleu Pub: Do you like friendly staff, a hipster vibe, live musical performances, a bar and great food? Well if you do, then Bleu Pub is right for you. Coming in with 4.4 stars on Google Reviews, Bleu Pub serves up regular, double and triple burgers all in a multitude of styles, along with loaded fries, tomato basil quesadillas - and that's just the start. Being that it's a bar, they serve many drinks, some original, some not. One of the best things about Bleu Pub is the atmosphere. Much like Big Nick's, Bleu Pub has live performances almost every night. Whether it's live music, a drag performance or even some comedy, there's always something going on at night at the Bleu Pub.

Awesome Treats:

The restaurants in this category provide the sugary desserts you'll crave late in the night, but unfortunately they won't be open. It's unfortunate but that's the price for an awesome treat.

Snopocalypse: I only recently discovered this hidden gem and Oh. My. Gosh. I had it once and ate it almost every day after that, even being late to class just to get it. Snopocalypse is a snow cone joint with a twist: They put ice cream in the middle of their snow cones. You may be thinking "What? That doesn't make sense," or that it won't be good, but you wouldn't be more wrong. It's amazing. First of all, the most you'll spend is around \$7 (their largest size, "The Snopocalypse", is a 32 oz. cup) and the least is \$3. The restaurant allows you to choose three flavors for free and charges a dollar for stuffed (ice cream in the middle) and capped (topping), which you can get separately for a lesser price. With over 100 flavors to choose from it's like being a kid in a candy store. What's not to love? I recommend a personal favorite of mine, "The Carnival Threat" (my own name for it). It can be any size with the flavors candy apple, bubble gum (blue or pink) and cotton candy (blue or pink), stuffed and capped with marshmallow topping. It's a treat any sugar and candy connoisseur could love.



Photo courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times

A worker prepares two snowcones at Snopocalypse on South Patterson Street.



Photo courtesy of the Dough-Jo

The Dough-Jo features a number of cool creations, including the ice cream taco shown here.

Dough-Jo: Before 2018, I'd have never put Dough-Jo on the list, but after they came strong with their rolled iced cream, they made it to the #2 dessert spot in Valdosta. At the Dough-Jo, customers have the option of choosing edible cookie dough (without eggs inside), regular ice cream or rolled ice cream as their dessert. Their rolled ice cream is crazy good. It's thick, creamy, delicious and most of all fun. By fun, I mean its toppings. You have Fruity Pebbles, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, marshmallows, Sour Patch Kids, Sour Punch Straws, Airheads Extreme, etc. Since it's early on for their rolled ice cream, the Dough-Jo only has a few options for their rolled ice cream combos, but they allow you to have three free toppings so you can show your unique style.

Fall Explosion 2018

Monday, August 6
CPC KICKOFF
SU Ballrooms, 4-8pm
Sponsored by: Student/Greek Life

Thursday, August 9
FRESHMEN MOVE-IN
University Center, 9am
Sponsored by: Res Life

READY, SET, LIVE
Student Union, 10-4pm
Sponsored by: VSU Bookstore

TARGET SHOPPING EVENT
Valdosta Target Store, 8:30-11pm
Sponsored by: Housing & Res Life

Friday, August 10
NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION
PE Complex, 8:30am

ACADEMIC COLLEGE MEETINGS
Immediately Following
Sponsored by: Colleges

HOUSING FLOOR MEETINGS
Res Halls, 5pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

CLASS PHOTO
Front Lawn, 6:15pm

FALL EXPLOSION KICK-OFF
Front Lawn, 6-9pm
Sponsored by: Student Life/Engage Ministries

Saturday, August 11
CPC BID DAY
Front Lawn, 11:00am
Sponsored by: Student/Greek Life

MINGLE WITH THE BLAZERS
Student Union, 12-4pm
Sponsored by: VSU Bookstore

ROCK THE REC
Campus Rec Center, 7-10pm
Sponsored by: Campus Rec

Sunday, August 12
FIND YOUR CLASSROOMS
Academic Buildings, 3-5pm
Sponsored by: Student Success

SUNDAES ON SUNDAY
Brown/Lowndes/Patterson, 8-9pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

Monday, August 13
SNOW CONES
Student Union, 1-4pm
Sponsored by: Campus Rec

PIZZA NIGHT
SU Ballrooms, 6:30pm
Sponsored by: SGA

Tuesday, August 14
HAPPY HOUR
Res Halls, 2-4pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

STUDENT NIGHT @ THE FIELDHOUSE SCRIMMAGE
Football/FirePit, 6-10pm

Wednesday, August 15
HAPPY HOUR
Res Hall, 2-4pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

CAB NOVELTY EVENT
SU Rotunda, 4:30-6:30pm
Sponsored by: Student Life/CAB

SINK THE CABINET
Campus Rec Center Pool, 7pm
Sponsored by: Campus Rec

Thursday, August 16
PART TIME JOB FAIR
SU Ballrooms, 10-2pm
Sponsored by: Career Opportunities

HAPPY HOUR
Res Halls, 2-4pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

MULTICULTURAL MIXER
SU Ballrooms, 6-8pm
Sponsored by: Diversity & Inclusion

Friday, August 17
STUDENT ORGANIZATION ANNUAL TRAINING
SU Ballrooms, 3-8pm
Sponsored by: Student Life

Know You S'more
Georgia/Langdale Courtyard, 6:30-8:30pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

Saturday, August 18
BEACH TRIP TO JEKYLL ISLAND
Campus Rec Center, 8am
Sponsored by: CORE/Campus Rec

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
Front Lawn, 9pm
Sponsored by: Student Life

Sunday, August 19
STAND UP PADDLEBOARD AT THE WACISSA
Campus Rec Center, 8am
Sponsored by: CORE

SUNDAES ON SUNDAY
Georgia/Langdale/Reade, 8-9pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

Monday, August 20
DONUTS WITH THE PRESIDENT
Various Locations, 8-10pm
Sponsored by: President's Office

KNOCKER BALL TOURNAMENT
Front Lawn, 6-8pm
Sponsored by: Greek Life/Campus Rec

Tuesday, August 21
VSU VOLUNTEERS! FAIR
Palms Quad, 10-2pm
Sponsored by: Volunteer/Leadership

TRIVIA NIGHT
Odum Library 1604, 6-8pm
Sponsored by: Odum Library

Wednesday, August 22
SCOOP OF QUESTIONS
Ped Mall, 1:30-3:30pm
Sponsored by: Res Life

H2O EVENT
Front Lawn, 3-6pm
Sponsored by: Student Life/CAB/Greek Life

HEALTH CENTER TREASURE HUNT
Student Health Center, 5:30-6:30pm
Sponsored by: Student Health

DINE WITH THE BLAZERS
Blazer Grill, 7-9pm
Sponsored by: Football/Aux Services

Thursday, August 23
THE HAPPENING
Front Lawn, 1-4pm
Sponsored by: Student Life

IFC INFORMATIONAL
UC Theater, 6pm
Sponsored by: Student Life/Greek Life

NIGHT OF PRAISE & WORSHIP
SU Ballrooms, 8pm
Sponsored by: Diversity & Inclusion

Friday, August 24
WELCOME BACK CAB NIGHT
SU Ballrooms, 7pm
Sponsored by: Student Life/CAB

Saturday, August 25
MEET THE BLAZERS
Bazemore-Hyder Stadium, 8:30-12noon
Sponsored by: Football

Get Involved with the #BlazerNation.

Download the BazerLink App!



Valdosta State University

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Around 2,800 their bags as



HERE THEY COME



Photo courtesy of VSU



Photo courtesy of VSU

Around 2,800 students unpack their bags as semester kicks off

Clockwise from top: Students receive room keys at the University Center; nearly 700 volunteers assisted with move-in; luggage and other items sit outside a residence; a parent lends a hand as move-in day progresses. The process of moving new students into their residence halls took place all across campus on Thursday.



Photo by Juston Lewis/THE SPECTATOR



Photo courtesy of VSU

Bell looks to use scrimmage as 'test'

Prince Robinson

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The VSU Blazers football team held its first full-pad scrimmage of the year on Aug. 8. Veterans and new-comers alike were not safe from making mistakes at the VSU Fieldhouse.

"For the most part, we had a couple of bobbled snaps on exchanged handoffs," Head Coach Kerwin Bell said. "We are going to make sure we get those corrected for the next scrimmage."

The Blazers also struggled before the snap of the football. A defensive lineman was seen making early jumps on snaps and crossing the line of scrimmage.

In a real game, those would be penalties. Bell and the rest of his coaching staff hope to eliminate those flaws before the season opener against Albany State on Sept. 1.

"We will get them corrected, for sure," Bell said. "For right now, we are still bringing our young kids along. This game is all mental, and these kids will figure it out."

One of those young athletes is true Freshman Signal-Caller



Head Coach Kerwin Bell and players rush the field for the 2017 Albany State game.

Photo courtesy of VSU Athletics

Ivory Durham. The Jacksonville, Florida native tossed four touchdown passes during the scrimmage serving as a bright spot for the Blazers offense.

Durham, who stands at 5'10," was very elusive under pressure and showed off the athletic ability that kept the defense on its heels.

Bell described the defense as 'stout and competitive,' but there

was no answer for the first-year quarterback. In the live situation, Durham shined.

Although his performance on the field spoke volumes, Durham

saw the scrimmage as an opportunity to fine tune his game.

"I was just trying to work on my progression reads and looking at coverages," Durham said, who won a state championship at Raines High School in Jacksonville.

He added that the only difference between his high school days and now is adjusting to the new playbook.

"From high school to college, it is mainly just focusing on grades and the playbook now," Durham said. "Overall, the playbook is different, just different terminology than what I used in high school."

Learning the new playbook and terminology will be a challenge for the new players on the squad. However, Bell remains optimistic that the mastery will come with time.

Bell stated the team has only had 'three or four days of install,' which is the study of playbook in its entirety.

"We are about half way through the playbook, so I just want to see who learns," Bell said. "I want to see who can come out here under the eye [of the staff] in a full live scrimmage and be able to execute at a high level."



THE UNFILTERED



Did You KNOW?

VSU has approximately 11,200 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three U.S. territories and more than 60 countries.



VSU's women's soccer team just completed their fall camp last week.

Photo courtesy of VSU Athletics

Soccer can excel beyond preseason rankings

Juston Lewis

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No sophomore slumps allowed. At least not for VSU soccer Head Coach Stephen Andrew's second year.

One year ago, Andrew took over a team that had only five wins in the previous two seasons. He coached that team to 11 wins and the first Gulf South Conference playoff run in three years.

In Andrew's first season, the Blazers increased VSU's goal scoring by 36 goals from the previous season. The Blazers became a threat in the GSC for the first time in years.

They finished fifth in the GSC during the regular season while advancing into the final four in the conference in post season play.

The Blazers had dynamic outings from players, and it proved true when post season accolades

came rolling in.

Taylor Snell received Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-American honorable mentions becoming the first Blazer to ever gain All-American mention in Blazer soccer history.

Riley Tenant received second team All-Region honors for the Blazers. The forward scored 10 goals during her sophomore campaign which was tied for fifth most goals in the conference.

Both players will be returning to bolster the Blazers attack. Along with the stellar play at the top for the Blazers, they will be returning sophomore goalkeeper Caroline Ember.

Ember started eight games for the Blazers and had 34 saves in more than 700 minutes of play. She played behind senior Alyssa Curtis, but this season Ember will likely take the reins of the Blazer defense.

The Blazers were picked to

finish fifth in the GSC this season. While it is the safe bet to pick that finish I expect more from the team.

Andrew saw much success from his team last season. This season he is able to bring in another new recruiting class to fit his playing tactics and return players that made an impact for the Blazers but can have a larger role this season.

I think season two for Andrew will see the statistics improve even more. I think the Blazers have the potential to lead the conference in goals and assist this year. I would not be surprised if the Blazers have a top three spot in the conference, actually I am expecting it.

In the end only time will tell where the Blazers will finish but if last season was any indicator this season should be a great one.

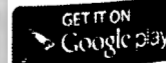
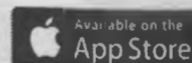
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