

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall students and their family

Summer 2008



Freshman Move-In

When can I move in?

Wednesday, August 13, 2008 is Valdosta State University's freshmen move in day! We have divided the day into two time slots based on your hall and floor assignments. They are:

8 am - 11 am: Hopper Hall - 1st and 2nd floor*
Langdale Hall - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floor*
Patterson Hall - all residents

11 am - 2 pm: Hopper Hall - 3rd and 4th floor*
Langdale Hall - 4th and 5th floor*
Brown Hall - all residents
Lowndes Hall - all residents

**The first number of your room assignment indicates your floor assignment.*

Where are the unloading zones?

Langdale Hall and Hopper Hall residents will use designated areas off of Oak Street.

Lowndes Hall residents will use the Fine Arts parking lot, located on W. Brookwood Drive.

Patterson and Brown residents will use the main entrance to campus off of Patterson Street.

What do I do once my vehicle has been unloaded?

To make move in day as efficient as possible, we ask that once all belongings have been unloaded that parents move their vehicle immediately to the Oak Street parking deck. Shuttle buses will continuously run from the Oak Street parking deck to main campus for your convenience. Students will need to park in the Sustella St. deck and may leave their vehicles there overnight.

Will anyone be there to help my student move in?

Yes! We have numerous students and members of student organizations who are excited to help you and your student make a smooth transition into Valdosta State University's residence halls! Don't be surprised if the volunteers take everything and you barely break a sweat.

Will my student have anything to do after move in?

Yes! The Office of Housing and Residence Life has activities planned for your child on the evening of August 13. At 5 p.m. all new residents will meet with the Resident Assistant on their floor for a brief introduction to campus. They will also meet their hall mates at that time. The meeting will be followed by a cookout and lawn activities hosted by the Residence Hall Association. There will also be activities every day leading up to the first day of classes. This is part of the university-wide Fall Explosion programming series.

● ● ● ● **Upperclassman Move-In** ● ● ● ●

Friday, August 15, 2008 at 9 a.m. all residents of Centennial, Converse and Reade halls may move in.

Where are the unloading zones?

Centennial Hall will use Centennial circle, street side parking off of Sustella Avenue, and Sustella Street parking deck.

Converse Hall will use the Hopper turnaround.

Reade Hall will use the area between the Bailey Science Center and Powell Hall.

See you in August!

Fall Assignment & Roommate Information

To view your housing assignment and roommate information, please follow these steps:

Click or copy and paste the following link in your browser:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/eas/sis/>

Click on: Login. Enter your User ID name and PIN

Click on: Student and Financial Aid

Click on: View Housing Application/Assignment

Select Term: Fall 2008

If your application has been accepted and you do not have an assignment, please check back later for your room assignment information. Accessing this information should make it easier for students to speak with their roommates before school starts to decide who is bringing the TV, DVD and other room essentials.

Room Swap/Change Request and Consolidation Policy Explained

If for some reason you are unhappy with your assignment, applications for a room change request will be available at the front desk area beginning the first week of classes but room changes will not take place until after Sept 2, 2008. You may pick up a room change request application at any of the residence hall desks or from your Hall Director and return it as directed.

If after the room change process, you do not have a roommate, then you may be required to consolidate with another resident in the same situation. Lists of students in your building who also need roommates will be available. See your handbook for specific policies.

Returning students should be aware that, due to cancellations, if your room/apartment was not completely filled, then you may have been moved elsewhere in your assigned building.

Information about Renter's Insurance for Residents

Every year college students lose millions of dollars worth of property. Valdosta State University does not insure any personal items of students that live on campus. Therefore, it is important to learn how to protect your personal property in the residence halls. Students are often covered under their parents' homeowner's insurance policy.

Renter's insurance is available to any resident who is not protected by his or her parents' insurance. Policies provide coverage for many items commonly found in residence halls such as clothing, computers, school supplies, and electronic devices (when items are stolen or destroyed by fire). Without coverage, theft or damage to personal property could present substantial financial loss for residents.

VSU has information about (but does not sponsor) two companies that provide insurance for a student's personal property. National Student Services, Inc. offers a Student Personal Property Plan and coverage for both on and off campus housing. CSI Insurance Agency, Inc. offers the Student Personal Property Protector Plus program and it covers your property worldwide for 12 months.

Insurance policies have limitations and restrictions, so be sure to read each policy carefully. Links to each agency are provided below.

Helpful Web sites for finding renter's insurance:

National Student Services, Inc. <http://nssinc.com>

CSI Ins. Agency, Inc. <http://www.collegestudentinsurance.com>

Cancellation Policy

Upperclassmen, if you decide to move off campus during the spring, you may cancel the contract by paying 50 percent of the remaining value of the contract and forfeiting the deposit. For example, if you decide to move to an off-campus apartment for spring semester, the \$300 deposit will NOT be refunded and you will be charged 50 percent of the spring semester housing fee. If you reside in the apartments, you will be required to buy out the summer portion of your contract as well. (Note: you may not apply to buy out of your contract if you have not met the commitment of the freshman residency program).

Cable TV Service in the Residence Halls

Remember you have already paid for basic cable service in your residence hall room. The Housing and Residence Life Office operates a Movie Channel that provides students with information about campus events and shows recent movie releases. Please visit <http://services.valdosta.edu/housing/movieinfo.aspx> for more details.

TRADITIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

All residence halls will close/re-open as follows for holidays:

CLOSE

Thanksgiving

November 25 @ 5 p.m.

Winter Holiday

December 13 @ noon

Spring Break

March 14 @ 10 a.m.

RE-OPEN

November 30 @ 10 a.m.

January 8 @ 10 a.m.

March 22 @ 10 a.m.

NOTE: APARTMENT STYLE RESIDENCE HALLS DO NOT CLOSE

Mail and Packages

Each on-campus resident is assigned a mailbox. Refer to the information listed to access your VSU box number and combination. Centennial residents will get their mail in the hall; the rest of the campus will get their mail in Hopper Hall.



VSU BOX ADDRESS

Students should make sure that their mail is addressed as follows:

Student's Name

VSU Box _____

Valdosta State University

Valdosta, GA 31698

VSU BOX # AND COMBINATION ACCESS

- Go to <http://www.valdosta.edu>
- Click on: Registration and Advising
- Click on: Login (Enter your user ID = student identification number and PIN = 6 digit birthday -- month, day, and year)
- Click on: Student and Financial Aid
- View Housing Information
- Choose Term
- Box Assignment and Combination can be viewed on this screen.
- Note: Combinations will not be available until the beginning of the semester.



Information on...

Dining & Meal Plans

Dining Updates

Valdosta State University and Sodexo Campus Services firmly believe that today's hard working student should be rewarded with a dining service that makes eating on campus palate-pleasing, healthy and entertaining. With 12 dining locations in eight buildings, there's always a place to grab a bite to eat no matter where students are on campus. A VSU meal plan gives students the freedom to make their own dining decisions. Students may choose from several meal plans to best suit their eating habits and lifestyle.

Fall 2008 Traditional Meal Plans

All students living on campus are required to purchase a meal plan as part of their housing contract. "Meals" must be used at one of the resident dining facilities, Palms or Hopper; both are "All-You-Care-To-Eat" facilities.

The Blazer Plus with \$125 Blazer Bucks

\$1,565 per semester

This plan is the closest thing to having your own kitchen and offers UNLIMITED access to the resident dining facilities, Palms and Hopper, for all meals and snacks. It also includes \$125 in Blazer Bucks to use at any of our retail locations, or to purchase additional meals for friends and family.

14 Meal Plan with \$225 Blazer Bucks

\$1,565 per semester

This plan is designed for those who want to eat 14 meals per week at the resident dining facilities, Palms or Hopper, and use their Blazer Bucks to supplement snacks and other meals throughout the day. This plan includes \$225 in Blazer Bucks to use at any of our retail locations or to purchase additional meals for friends and family.

10 Meal Plan with \$370 Blazer Bucks

\$1,565 per semester

This plan is designed for those who only want to eat 10 meals throughout the week at the resident dining facilities, Palms and Hopper, and use Blazer Bucks to supplement snacks and other meals throughout the day. This plan includes \$370 in Blazer Bucks to be used at any of our retail locations or to purchase additional meals at the dining center for friends and family.

\$850 A La Carte

\$850 per semester

This plan offers a declining balance of \$850 per semester to students officially ranked as a sophomore and above, with the flexibility and convenience of eating at any dining location on campus.

\$450 A La Carte

\$450 per semester

This plan offers a declining balance of \$450 per semester to students residing ONLY at Centennial or Converse Hall, with the flexibility and convenience of eating at any dining location on campus.

Blazer Bucks

Blazer Bucks can only be used to make purchases at dining locations. They are designed to give you the flexibility to dine at any of our eateries or to make a purchase at our two on-campus convenient stores, without carrying cash. Each time you make a purchase, the amount is automatically deducted from your VSU 1Card. Any unused Blazer Bucks will be forfeited at the end of each semester.

How to obtain a meal plan:

You MUST register for your meal plan online during class registration. Students in the residence halls who do not register for a meal plan will automatically be assigned The Blazer Plus/Unlimited Plan.

Important Tips:

- Any meal plan changes following online registration may only be made at the Meal Plan Office.
- Meal plan changes will NOT be allowed after the first day of classes, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008.
- Additional Blazer Bucks may be added at any time at the Meal Plan Office.

For more information, contact the Meal Plan Office at (229) 333-5988 or visit our Web site at:

<http://services.valdosta.edu/dining/>

Contact Information:	Office Hours:
<p><i>Meal Plan Office</i> <i>Palms Dining Center</i> <i>Phone: (229) 333-5988</i> <i>Fax: (229) 333-2147</i> <i>Email: mealplans@valdosta.edu</i> <i>Website: http://services.valdosta.edu/dining/</i></p>	<p><i>Mon – Thurs</i> <i>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Friday</i> <i>8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</i></p>



What to Bring

There are several items students may want to bring for their rooms. Each student will be responsible for providing his/her own blankets, bedspreads, linens and towels. Students have access to laundry facilities in the residence halls. The following items are additional suggestions generated by students who have lived on campus:

- **Flashlight and batteries - in case of power outage (candles are prohibited)**
- **Alarm clock and/or clock radio**
- **Personal hygiene items**
- **Shower caddy & shower shoes**
- **Pens, pencils, paper, notebooks for academic work**
- **Posters and room decorations**
- **Stereo and/or radio**
- **Ipod / Mp3 player**
- **Small Television - basic cable is installed in each room.**
- **Telephone – local phone service is provided in each room. Cordless phones must be 900MHz or 5.8 GHz**
- **Small microwave - great for popcorn and reheating pizza**
- **Compact refrigerator - max. 5 cubic feet**
- **Plastic cups, plates, eating utensils**
- **Dish pan, cloth, towel, and dishwashing liquid**
- **Personal cleaning supplies - cleaners, sponges, broom or vacuum. (Students are responsible for cleaning their rooms, including kitchens and bathrooms in the apartments).**
- **Desk lamp**
- **Laundry bag, detergent**
- **Sewing kit**
- **Hangers**
- **Wastebasket**
- **Can opener**
- **Surge Protector (UL 1449 rated)**
- **Rug - 9x12 is a good size for most rooms**
- **Window curtains - Blinds are provided. Curtains must be hung with tension rods. Windows vary slightly in size depending on the building. We advise you wait to purchase your curtains until after you arrive.**



What to Leave Home

The following items are prohibited in residence halls:

- **Firearms, knives, air guns, martial arts weapons, or weapons of any kind**
- **Candles, incense or any item that produces or has an open flame**
- **Cooking devices, including, but not limited to, broilers, toaster ovens, electric skillets, hot plates, hot pots, and George Foreman grill**
- **Room heating devices with exposed heating coils**
- **2.4 GHz Cordless phones**
- **Wireless routers**
- **Gasoline powered items, such as motorcycles, mopeds, or parts thereof**
- **Flammable and/or combustible items**
- **Fireworks, smoke bombs, sparklers, etc.**
- **Contact Paper**
- **Duct Tape**
- **Extension cords**
- **Chemicals**
- **Light dimmers, ceiling fans, or any other device that interferes with the electricity of the room**
- **Weight lifting apparatus, such as barbells**
- **Animals or pets except fish and service animals (The University reserves the right to limit the size of aquariums)**
- **Waterbeds and water furniture**
- **Refrigerators, except as previously defined**

NOTE: The preceding list is not all-inclusive. Any item that is a threat to public safety may be removed. The University will continually monitor all areas through staff visits and unannounced inspections by university staff. The presence of prohibited items will be documented. Students will be required to remove those items from the premises and may be subject to disciplinary action as well as monetary fines.

VSU Centennial Celebration (2006-2013)

The calendar of student activities for fall 2008 contains several annual Centennial events soon to be VSU traditions, as well as an exciting football season primed to bring VSU its third Football National Championship. Key dates to put on your calendar now include:

- **August 18:** First Day of Class
- **August 23:** Centennial Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by Campus Wellness, and our Opening Football home game: VSU vs. Fort Valley State
- **September 19-20:** Parent's Weekend
- **October 17:** Homecoming Parade and Centennial Concert on West Hall front Lawn
- **October 18:** Homecoming: VSU vs. Harding



//// What's the best thing about living in the residence halls at VSU?

Automatic membership to the VSU Residence Hall Association (RHA), and giving residents a voice in the way halls are run.

//// What is Residence Hall Association (RHA)?

RHA is a student led organization dedicated to making the on-campus living experience for residents one to remember. RHA is composed of seven hall councils, one per hall (Centennial and Converse are combined.), and the RHA Executive Board, which coordinates all of the individual hall councils. RHA also acts as a governing body that proposes changes to improve the living experience for residents to the Housing and Residence Life Office.

//// What is Hall Council?

Hall Council consists of an executive branch (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary), and a legislative branch (all of the residents in the hall). The purpose of hall council is to encourage residents to get involved in the halls and ultimately

on campus. Each Hall Council has funds and ideas for using money to benefit residents. Some methods used to encourage residents are planned and executed fun programs in individual halls and/or combined programs with other halls on campus.





/// Accomplishments and Goals

In fall 2006, we successfully hosted G.R.O.T.H. (Georgia Residence Hall Organization Together for Helping), a statewide leadership conference for Hall Council members. Nontalie Morrow, vice president of RHA, communications coordinator, and president of NRHH, won the First Year Experience Award at the regional level. She was also nominated to win the same award at the national level in May 2008.

/// Important Dates

- Wed. Aug. 13 - Move In Day Party 6-10 p.m.*
- Tues. Aug. 19 - Speech Day (Reade, Centennial, Converse) at 6:30 p.m.*
- Wed. Aug. 20 - Speech Day (Brown, Patterson, Lowndes) at 6 p.m. (Langdale, Hopper) at 7 p.m.*
- Thur. Aug. 21st - Election Day (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) for every hall Election Day Party from 7-9 p.m.*



If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail RHA President, Chad Freeman, at rcfreeman@valdosta.edu.

/// Attention Freshmen Students

If you plan to move in on Wednesday, Aug. 13 — Freshman move-in day — please note that you and your hall mates will meet with your Resident Assistant (RA) on your floor that evening at 5:00 p.m. Your RA will give a brief overview of upcoming activities and discuss a few important rules. Then, you will walk over to the first planned activity sponsored by RHA (Residence Hall Association), Move-in day cookout, at 6:00 p.m. on the VSU front lawn. We encourage you to participate! This is the time to start getting to know other new Blazers!



Reslife Bucks Program

How the Program Works

Reslife Bucks is designed to help encourage residents to attend RA/RHA programming. The Reslife Bucks programs allow residents to collect bucks(fun money) to be used at the end of the semester auctions to obtain cool prizes. Residents can also use their money in the online Reslife Bucks Store. Below are the types of programs in which residents can earn bucks.

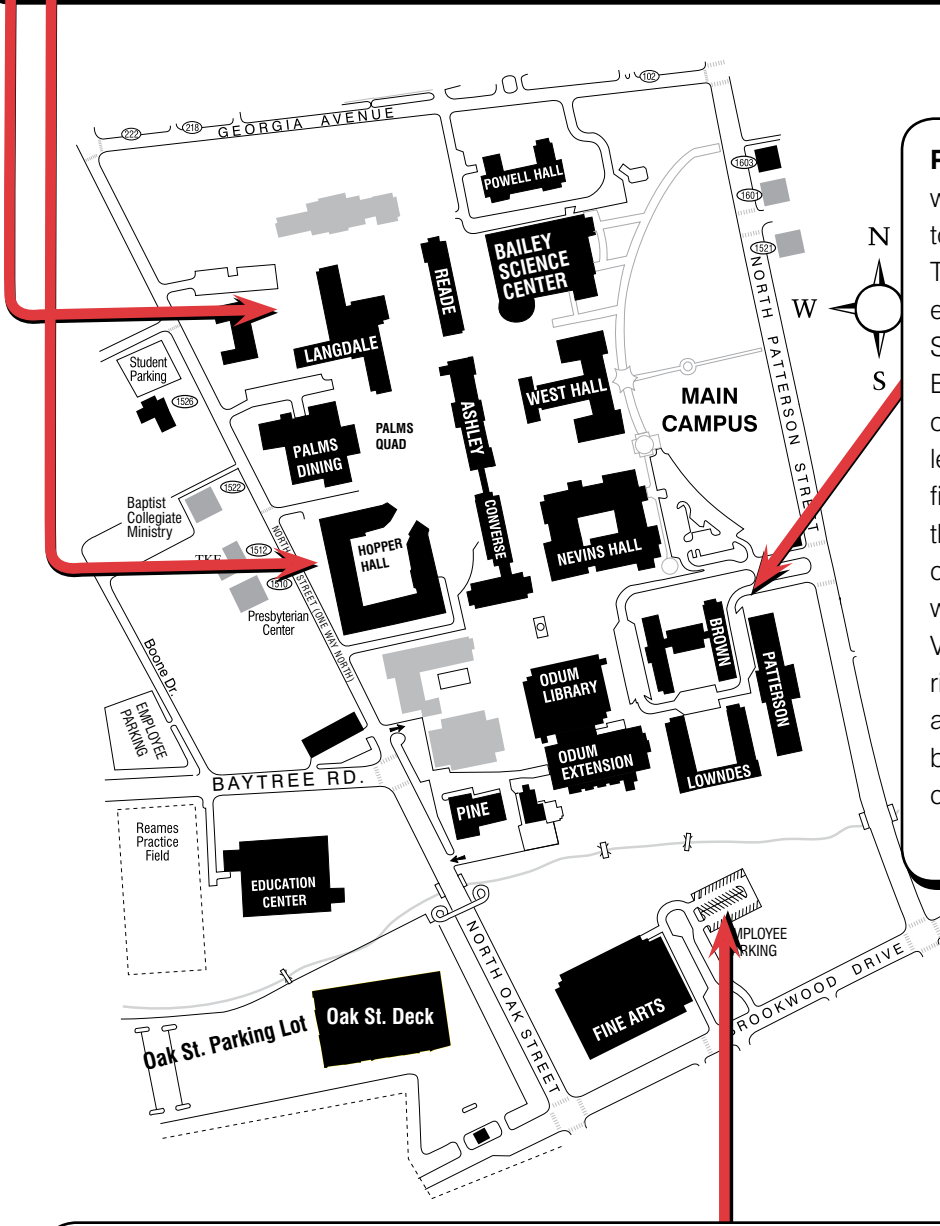
Program Type	Earnable Bucks
<i>Floor Community</i>	\$10
<i>Hall Community</i>	\$20
<i>Campus Community</i>	\$30
<i>Personal Enrichment</i>	\$40
<i>Learning About Others</i>	\$50
<i>Service to Community</i>	\$100
<i>Apartment</i>	\$300

End of the Semester Auction

April 29, 2008 was the third Reslife Buck Auction. Over 75 residents from across campus showed up with their bucks in hand. We had an array of prizes including: Wii Game Console, 15" LCD Flat Screen TV, Rock Band Game, iPod Nano, laundry baskets, and much, much more. We are excited about the upcoming Fall auction. We hope to see you there!

MOVE IN DAY MOTIONS!

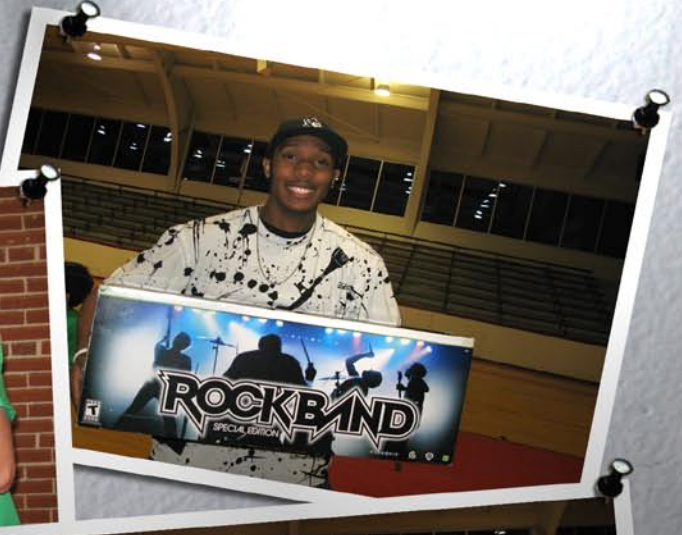
LANGDALE and HOPPER HALLS will be unloading in designated areas off of Oak Street. To arrive go east on Baytree and turn left onto Oak Street and look for signs and Parking Personnel to direct you from there. Please be advised that you will need to unload on the curb immediately, leave someone with your belongings, **MOVE YOUR VEHICLE TO OAK STREET DECK**, ride the bus back to main campus, and then you may check in and begin moving into your rooms. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



PATTERSON and BROWN HALLS will unload near the main entrance to campus off of Patterson Street. To access this entrance please go east on Baytree, turn right on Oak Street, turn left at the first light onto Brookwood, turn left at the first light onto Patterson Street, and then turn left onto campus at the signs and first traffic light. Please be advised that you will need to unload onto the curb immediately, leave someone with your belongings, **MOVE YOUR VEHICLE TO OAK STREET DECK**, ride the bus back to main campus, and then you may check in and begin moving into your rooms. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

LOWNDES HALL will unload in the Fine Arts parking lot. To access this entrance go east on Baytree, turn right on Oak Street, turn left at first light onto Brookwood, and turn left into campus at the signs. Please be advised that you will need to unload onto the curb immediately, leave someone with your belongings, **MOVE YOUR VEHICLE TO OAK STREET DECK**, ride the bus back to main campus, and then you may check in and begin moving into your rooms. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

real life auction





PARENTS & FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Parents and Family Members, Would you like to keep up with what is happening with your college student and at Valdosta State University? Join the Valdosta State University Parents & Families Association. Dues are \$25 per year. Go to www.valdosta.edu/prc for more information and to print an application form.

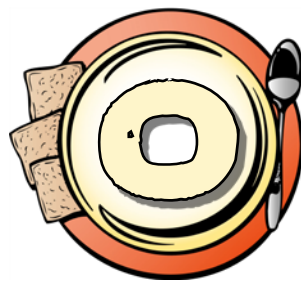
Fall Explosion

Fall Explosion is a series of planned events that take place from move-in day to the end of August. Fall Explosion is a collaborative effort among several VSU departments to aid new students in acclimating to college life and to engage those students in purposeful extra curricular activities. Some event highlights include: "The Happening," cookouts, movies on the lawn, free game room hours, tie-dye, and much, much more.



Birthday Recognition Program

Each month the Office of Housing and Residence Life sends out postcards to recognize the birthdays of our residents. When you receive your card, stop by our office to exchange your card for a candy bar of your choice.



OUT TO LUNCH!

Attention Students! How would you like to have the chance to impress your professor with some great food and stimulating conversation? The Office of Housing and Residence Life, along with Campus Dining Services, proudly announce this unique opportunity for on-campus residents.

The Out to Lunch Program is a new initiative that provides you with the opportunity to invite an instructor, professor, or dean out to lunch at no cost to that faculty member or any additional cost to you (as a student you will need to use your own meal plan to cover your own meal). Our hope is that this program will stimulate learning and interaction outside of the classroom setting. During lunch, you and the faculty member of your choice can get to know each other better and have the opportunity to discuss various topics such as: a class assignment, starting or joining a study group, learning how the faculty member's academic career has developed, or common interests that you may share.

For more information, or to obtain a meal ticket for your esteemed faculty member, please contact Gala Jackson at gjackson@valdosta.edu or stop by the Housing & Residence Life office.

ROOM DECORATING CONTEST



We hope you will participate in the annual Room Decorating Contest sponsored by the Office of Housing and Residence Life! Judging is scheduled to take place towards the end of September, and there will be an abundance of prizes awarded! Last year winners received gift baskets, room accessories and other residence hall room essentials. You will be judged on factors such as originality, organization and style. So, put your skills to the test and enter to win prizes and a whole year of bragging rights!

Please be aware that you are expected to do the following:

- Show your room to prospective students for the entire academic year, especially on visitation days.
- Allow pictures taken of your room to be included in promotional pictures for Housing publications (i.e. Web site, brochures, etc.)
- Have NO illegal possessions (i.e. drug paraphernalia, substances, etc.) in your room.
- Have no prior housing/university infractions or disciplinary sanction.

GOOD LUCK AND MAY THE BEST ROOM WIN!



Office of Housing & Residence Life
Valdosta State University
1500 N Patterson St
Valdosta GA 31698-0400

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 24
Valdosta, GA

How to register for a Parking Permit & Avoid Long Registration Lines

Many of you have probably already attended an orientation session and registered to have the parking permit added into your fees. After adding the permit charge to your fees, you must then complete a vehicle registration form with our department in order to receive your permit. You can do this electronically at www.vsuparking.com. Fall parking permits are \$50 and cover the entire academic year. Each student will be assessed a \$100 parking facility fee to assist with the building of two parking decks. The facility fee and parking permit fee are separate charges.

You may also obtain your parking permit in our office, temporarily located inside the One Card Office, next to the Bursary (1204 N. Patterson St.). Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Our office will move to the Sustella Avenue parking deck once completed.

All visitors to the university should obtain a parking permit at our office before parking a vehicle on campus.



Friday
September 19, 2008
&
Saturday
September 20, 2008