

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall students and their family

Summer 2009



FRESHMAN MOVE-IN

WHEN IS MOVE IN?

Wednesday, August 12 and **Thursday, August 13, 2009**, are Valdosta State University's freshmen move in days! We have divided the days into time slots based on your hall and floor assignments. They are:

August 12

- 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Patterson Hall – All floors
- 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.** Georgia Hall – 1st, 3rd, and 5th floors*
Reade Hall – All floors
Hopper Hall – All freshman residents
- 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** Georgia Hall – 2nd, 4th, and 6th floors*

August 13

- 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.** Langdale Hall – 1st, 3rd, and 5th floors*
Lowndes Hall – All floors
- 12p.m. - 3 p.m.** Brown Hall - All residents
Langdale Hall – 2nd and 4th floors*

*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.

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

- Georgia Hall** residents will use Georgia Avenue and unload curbside.

WHAT DO I DO ONCE MY VEHICLE HAS BEEN UNLOADED?

To make move in day as efficient as possible, you should move your vehicle immediately to the Oak Street Parking Deck once all your belongings have been unloaded. Shuttle buses will continuously run from the Oak Street Parking Deck to main campus for your convenience.

WILL ANYONE BE THERE TO HELP US MOVE IN?

Yes! We have numerous students and student organizations that 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 student 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. Students will also meet their hallmates at that time. The meeting will be followed by a cookout and lawn activities hosted by the Residence Hall Association. Students can expect to enjoy "Fall Explosion" activities every day leading up to the first day of classes.



UPPERCLASSMAN MOVE-IN

WHEN IS MOVE IN?

Friday, August 14, 2009 at 9 a.m. all residents of Centennial, Converse, and Hopper halls may move in.

WHERE ARE THE UNLOADING ZONES?

- **Centennial Hall residents** will use Centennial circle, street side parking off of Sustella Avenue, and Sustella Street parking deck.
- **Converse Hall residents** will use the Hopper turnaround.
- **Hopper Hall residents** will use designated areas off of Oak Street.

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 & Financial Aid
- » Click on: View Housing Application/Assignment
- » Select Term: Fall 2009

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, refrigerator, and other room essentials.

ROOM SWAP/CHANGE REQUEST AND CONSOLIDATION POLICY EXPLAINED

If for some reason you are unhappy with your room assignment, applications for a room change request will be available at the front desk area of your residence hall. We will begin accepting room change request forms the first week of classes, but room changes will not take place until after August 31, 2009.

If you do not have a roommate after the room change process, 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.

BASIC 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. 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, so be sure check your 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 including clothing, computers, school supplies, and electronic devices.

VSU has information about (but does not sponsor) two companies that provide insurance for students' 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 which 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>

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.

HALL CHANGES

Langdale Hall C wing (rooms numbered _01 - _19) will be closing this spring for renovations. Students living in these rooms will be notified with more details prior to move-in. Please note that you will be reassigned a new room and/or roommate for the spring semester.



TRADITIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS



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

CLOSE

RE-OPEN

Thanksgiving

November 24 @ 5 p.m.*

November 29 @ 10 a.m.

Winter Holiday

December 12 @ 10 a.m.

January 7 @ 10 a.m.

Spring Break

March 13 @ 10 a.m.

March 21 @ 10 a.m.

Plan ahead and make arrangements for transportation and a place to stay during these breaks.

*Please see your RHD if you need to stay late due to a Tuesday night class.

APARTMENT STYLE RESIDENCE HALLS DO NOT CLOSE (Converse and Centennial)



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.**



DINING & MEAL PLANS

DINING UPDATES

Valdosta State University and Sodexo Campus Services firmly believe that today's hardworking student should be rewarded with a dining program 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 2009 - SPRING 2010 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

\$1,615 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

\$1,615 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

\$1,615 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.

\$875 Blazer Bucks

\$875 per semester

This plan offers a declining balance of \$875 per semester to students officially ranked as a sophomore and above, with the flexibility and convenience of eating at any dining location on campus.

\$475 Blazer Bucks

\$475 per semester

This plan offers a declining balance of \$475 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 are "Dining Dollars" that are reserved for purchases at any dining location. They're 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 Blazer Bucks balance. Any unused Blazer Bucks will be forfeited at the end of the semester.

SIGNING UP FOR A MEAL PLAN

There are several ways to sign up for a meal plan. See options below. Any students living in a residence hall who does not register for a meal plan **BEFORE** move-in day will **AUTOMATICALLY** be assigned The Blazer Plus/Unlimited Plan.

Option 1. Sign up for a meal plan using Banner.

Option 2. Sign up for a meal plan at the VSU 1Card office.

Option 3. Print & sign the appropriate contract(s) posted on the Meal Plan website at: <http://services.valdosta.edu/dining/mealplans.aspx> & fax it to (229) 293-6222.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- The deadline to make changes to your meal plan is Friday, August 21, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. and can only be made by the Meal Plan Office.
- Meal plans can only be used by the student whose name appears on the contract.
- Meal plans are activated on the student's VSU 1Card which must be presented at the time of purchase.

For more information, contact the Meal Plan Office, located at 1204 N Patterson Street, at the VSU 1Card Office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Meal Plan Office

VSU 1Card Office

Phone: (229) 333-5988

Fax: (229) 333-2147

Email: mealplans@valdosta.edu

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



What to Bring

Students may want to bring several items for their rooms. Each student will be responsible for providing his/her own bedding needs 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 (Except in GA Hall)– 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. 3.8 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 suites/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**
- **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 2009 contains several annual Centennial events soon to be VSU traditions and an exciting football season primed to bring VSU its third Football National Championship. Key dates to put on your calendar include:

August 17: First Day of Class

September 11-12: Parent's Weekend

August 22: Centennial Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by Campus Wellness

October 17: Football Homecoming game vs. Henderson State

August 29: Opening Football home game: VSU vs. Newberry



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

Automatic membership to the VSU Residence Hall Association (RHA) and having a voice in the way halls are governed.

//// 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 eight 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 voting body (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 to host programs to benefit residents. To involve students in campus

life, Hall Councils throw fun programs in individual halls and combined programs with other halls on campus. Students also have opportunities to attend state, regional and national conferences, where residents can interact with hall council members from other colleges and universities.





//// **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, National 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. In 2009, our RHA won RHA Building Block of the Year award at the regional level. Chad Freeman, former RHA president, received a national silver pin from SAACURH director E.J. Walicki and RHA member Anne Palnau won the First Year Experience award at GRHO statewide level.

//// **Important RHA Dates**

Thurs. Aug. 13: Move In Day Party 6 - 10 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 14 to Mon. Aug 17: Campaigning for Elections

Tues. Aug. 18: Speech Day (Upperclassmen halls at 6:30 p.m.)

Wed. Aug. 19: Speech Day (Freshmen halls)

*Thurs. Aug. 20: 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 the RHA President, Justin Whitfield, at jrwhitfield@valdosta.edu.



//// **Attention Freshmen Students**

If you plan to move in on Wednesday, Aug. 12 or Thursday, Aug. 13 — **Freshman Move-in Days** — please note that you and your hall mates will meet with your Resident Assistant (RA) on your floor the evening of August 13 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!



ROOM DECORATING CONTEST



The Office of Housing and Residence Life is sponsoring VSU's annual Room Decorating Contest!!!! Find your inner interior decorator and use your skills to transform your room! You will be judged on factors such as: originality, organization, & style. Spice up your space and make it **BLAZIN'**!

Judging is scheduled to take place toward the end of September. We are looking for a male and female winner from each hall and two grand prize campus winners! Some of this year's prizes include a **mStation iPod dock**, **Dirt Devil Kone**, and an **Xbox 360**!

This year's special category: VSU PRIDE — deck out your room in Blazer gear and black & red to show your VSU pride! Can you show enough school spirit to win?

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Show your room to prospective students for the entire academic year, especially on Visitation Days.
2. Allow pictures taken of your room to be included in promotional pictures for Housing publications (website, brochures, etc.)
3. Have **NO** illegal possessions (i.e. drug paraphernalia, substances, etc.) in your room.
4. Have no prior housing/university infractions or disciplinary sanction.

GOOD LUCK AND MAY THE BEST ROOM WIN!



**VALDOSTA
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**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 \$50 per year. Go to www.valdosta.edu/prc and click on the Parents & Families Association link for further information.

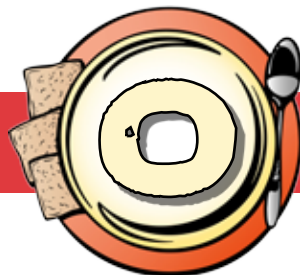
Fall Explosion

Fall Explosion is a series of planned events that take place from move-in day through 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 announces this unique opportunity for on-campus residents.

Through this program initiative, students may invite a professor or other faculty member to lunch at no cost to the faculty member. (The student will need to use his or her own meal plan to cover his or her own meal). This luncheon program will stimulate learning and interaction outside of the classroom setting. During lunch, students and faculty can get to know each other better and discuss various topics such as class assignments, study groups, the development of the professor's academic career, and other common interests (hobbies, passions, etc.)

For more information, or to obtain a meal ticket for your esteemed professor, please call or visit the Housing Office located in Powell Hall.

Spring Fling 2009



MOVE IN DAY MOTIONS!

Georgia Hall residents will need to unload curbside on Georgia Ave.

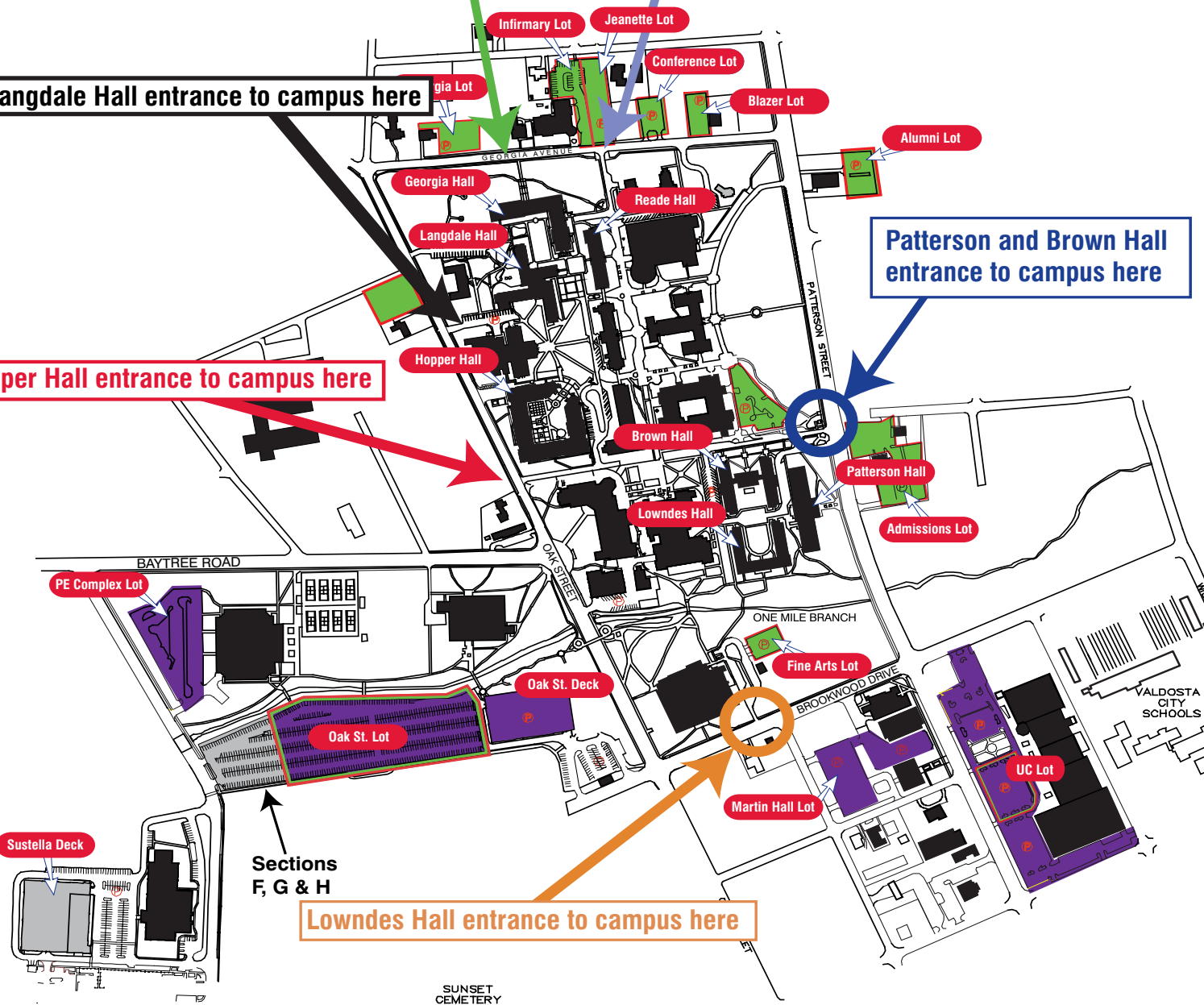
Reade Hall entrance to campus here

Langdale Hall entrance to campus here

Patterson and Brown Hall entrance to campus here

Hopper Hall entrance to campus here

Lowndes Hall entrance to campus here





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 for a parking permit added into your fees. After adding the permit charge to your fees, you must then log into our web portal to submit your vehicle information to receive your permit (permits are available for sale at the beginning of July). You may do this electronically at www.vsuparking.com. Fall parking permits, which are valid the entire year, cost \$50. Each student will be charged a \$100 parking facility fee and a \$20.00 transportation fee, each semester; parking permit fee is a separate charge.

You may also obtain your parking permit in our office, 1st Level – Sustella Avenue Parking Deck. Monday - Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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



Friday - September 11, 2009

Saturday - September 12, 2009

***For more information, call
The Office of Student Life***

Phone: (229) 333-5674 or visit

Web: www.valdosta.edu/parentsweekend