

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall students and their family

Spring 2008

Dear VSU Parent

It is a new year, and once again a new semester has begun at Valdosta State University. The Office of Housing and Residence Life is experiencing many changes, perhaps similar to the growing pains that your student has experienced.

Your student has likely changed quite a bit during the past semester, especially if he or she is a freshman. Maybe your son is sporting a goatee or your daughter has an extra piercing in her ear. Maybe you are noticing the multiple daily phone calls have been reduced to once a day! Your student is likely becoming more at ease with making his or her own decisions. These changes often take time to adjust to, but hopefully they will prove beneficial in the long run.

Coincidentally, our department is undergoing similar transformations. Part of our mission is to house 25 percent of all undergraduate students by the 2014. The university's enrollment is projected to be approximately 16,400 students in 2014, while we are presently at 11,280. To reach the projected enrollment, we must build state-of-the-art residence halls to house at least 4,000 students.

The office is proud to announce that this year the university is offering more accommodations and living options to upperclassman than ever before. Students will be able to choose from Centennial, Converse, Hopper,



Patterson and Reade halls. Centennial and Converse offers apartment-style units that house two or four students, who must sign a 12-month contract. Construction is rapidly underway for the new Hopper Hall, which will provide students with the university's first suite-style accommodations. Hopper suites — available with a nine-month contract — will open to student residents in the fall 2008 semester. Patterson Hall, which is a traditional hall, will have rooms available under nine-month contracts. Students may also opt to live in Reade Hall, which will be co-ed and offer private rooms; but the hall will only be open during the fall 2008 semester. Reade is ideal for students who graduate in December, plan to participate in spring co-ops or want a private room for the fall semester. Students who live in Reade and want to continue living on campus for the spring 2009 semester will need to reapply to live in an alternate residence hall, pending space availability.

Students who live in Centennial Hall will be able to reclaim the space if at least 75 percent of the current

students in their apartment want to reclaim the space. Students who live in Converse will also be able to reclaim apartments if they live in efficiencies or if both students in a one-bedroom living space wish to reclaim the room. The reclaiming process will be held the week before room selection. If students reclaim their current room, they will not participate in the room selection process.

Returning students will be given preference in the following order during room selection: current freshman (rising sophomores), then sophomores (rising juniors), and finally juniors and above (rising seniors or graduate students). The exact time to claim a room is further broken down by cumulative GPA.

Yes, your student is undergoing changes, but so is VSU Housing. I am confident that these growing pains will make for a brighter future for all of us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Thomas W. Hardy
Director, Housing & Residence Life

Living Accommodations for 2008-2009 Academic School Year



More Space with More Options for Returning Students

Your upperclassmen will be allowed to choose between **Centennial, Converse, Hopper, Patterson** and **Reade Hall** for the 2008-2009 school year.

Centennial Hall is our newest 520-bed facility that features individual bedrooms, a kitchen shared by no more than four residents, one to two bathrooms, and a dining/living room area. Centennial is conveniently located next to the Campus Recreation Center and both parking decks, giving upperclassman some much needed privacy, but convenience as well. Centennial has trained staff support to program and provide emergency assistance as needed.

Converse Hall is our original apartment community. Converse Hall is small at only 100 beds but has an ideal location in the center of campus. Converse has two varieties of apartments — one-bedroom efficiencies and traditional one-bedroom apartments, which house two residents.

Both halls are on a **12-month Contract (students must sign a 12-month contract August – July).**

Hopper Hall will be up and running for the fall 2008 semester and will provide two private bedrooms with a shared bathroom or two semi-private rooms (two beds in each bedroom) with a shared bathroom suite style housing. This is a first for VSU. Hopper is on a nine-month contract system (August-May).

Patterson Hall is a traditional hall that will have a few spaces available for upperclassmen. This hall will be on a nine-month contract as well.

Reade Hall will be co-ed this year and all the rooms will be offered as privates. This hall is only open for the fall semester due to planned renovations in the spring of 2009. This hall is ideal for a student who may graduate in December, part of a co-op in the spring or wants a private room for the fall semester.

Students who live in Reade and want to continue living on campus for the spring 2009 semester will need to reapply to live in an alternate residence hall, pending space availability.

Comparing the Options

Options	Centennial	Converse	Hopper	Patterson	Reade
Length of Contract	12-month contract	12-month contract	9-month contract	9-month contract	1 semester (4.5-month) contract
Building Style	Apartment	Apartment	Suite-style	Traditional	Traditional
Layout	2 or 4 private bedrooms, living room, and fully equipped kitchen	1 efficiency room or 1 bedroom (shared by two people) with separate living room	2 private bedrooms with a shared bathroom or 2 semi-private rooms (2 beds in each bedroom) with a shared bathroom	1 room shared by two residents and community bathrooms	Private bedroom, large walk in closet, and community bathroom

All buildings are co-ed.

See our website at <http://housing.valdosta.edu> for more details on each residence hall.



Living Accommodations for 2008-2009 Academic School Year

Reclaim process - February 25-26, 2008

Students who currently live in Centennial hall will be able to reclaim the space if at least 75 percent of the current students in their apartment want to reclaim the space. Students in Converse will be able to reclaim as well if they are in an efficiency or if both students in a one bedroom wish to reclaim. This process will be held the week before room selection. If they reclaim their same space they will not be eligible to attend room selection.

On Campus Room Selection Process - March 3 - 7, 2008

From March 3-7, 2008, we will hold our annual room selection process. Each student will be allowed to participate based on the number of credit hours completed and GPA. Current residence hall students who wish to room

Your student may participate as follows:

together will be able to bring their preferred roommate with them to room selection if that student has the same credit hour designation. (For example: Both or all of the students who wish to room together will need to have completed 21 credit hours or less, 22-59 credit hours, or 60 credit hours or more/graduate student). Students who are not in the same credit hour designation will not be permitted to come to room selection together. Housing places its primary focus on housing freshmen and sophomores due to socialization, academic success and personal growth needs. Your student simply needs to report to the University Center – Cypress Room on his or her designated date and time to sign up for a space on campus. If your student plans to live on campus for the 2008-2009 academic school year, he or she may attend a meeting about the process in February 2008 at his or her current Residence Hall. Please see our Web site for a powerpoint on the room selection process.

Location: University Center – Cypress Room

TIME	MON March 3, 2008	TUES March 4, 2008	WED March 5, 2008	THUR March 6, 2008	FRI March 7, 2008
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 3.5 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 2.5 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 22-59 hours, and have a 3.25 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 60 hours or more and Graduate Students, and have a 3.0 GPA or higher	Participation is open to all current VSU students. Process ends at 12:00 noon.
11:30 am – 2:00 pm	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 3.25 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 2.0 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 22-59 hours, and have a 2.75 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 60 hours or more and All Graduate Students	
2:00 pm– 4:30 pm	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less, and have a 3.0 GPA or higher	Undergraduates that have completed 21 hours or less	Undergraduates that have completed 22-59 hours	Current students that do not live on campus	

***Each time slot is for current residence hall students only (including pulling in roommates.)**

***GPA = Cumulative GPA**

Wait List Process

Because of the limited space for returning students, please be aware that not all returning students are guaranteed to receive a space on campus during the room selection process. If your student does not receive a space, they will have the opportunity to be placed on the returning student wait list. The wait list is for the first available space, not a particular residence hall. Students placed on the wait list will be able to find out their status beginning Thursday, March 20th; however, Housing will work until the August opening to fill all spaces for students on the wait list who still desire a 2008-2009 placement. There is no guarantee that being on a wait list will ultimately result in an offer to move into a residence hall. Priority for vacant upperclass spaces is given to residents remaining from the March 2008 wait list sign-up before other residents. Wait list room offers will be made via phone call and/or email sent to your student's valdosta.edu email address. They will have only 24 hours to accept an offer from the time it is sent, so please make sure your student reviews their messages and/or email frequently. If a student declines a space offered, they will not be able to remain on the waitlist.

Summer School Housing Sign-up

Students living on campus in a traditional style residence hall will have a special application period for Summer 2008. The summer application process will be held March 31st through April 2nd. Students simply need to come by our office to submit their applications and contracts. Please visit our website for more information.

New Additions to our Staff



Louise Nathan, native of Valdosta, joined Valdosta State University in June 2001 in the Office of Career Services/Co-Op as an Administrative Secretary. Nathan worked there for six years before transferring to the Office of Housing and Residence Life as an Accountant Assistant. She graduated from Valdosta Technical College with an

Accounting diploma. In her leisure time, she likes spending quality time with family and friends and attending church.

Phone: (229) 333-5920

Email: [Louise Nathan, wnathan@valdosta.edu](mailto:Louise.Nathan@valdosta.edu)



Pam Sweatt joined the Office of Housing and Residence as our Receptionist in May 2007. Some of her duties are processing applications, answering the phone, managing student assistants, and helping students. She graduated from Georgia Southwestern State University with a Bachelor's Degree in

Psychology. Previously, she worked at Georgia Military College as an Admissions Assistant. Outside of VSU, Sweatt enjoys participating in church activities, scrapbooking, shopping, going to the beach, and spending time with her family.

Phone: (229)333-5920

Email: [Pam Sweatt, pmsweatt@valdosta.edu](mailto:Pam.Sweatt@valdosta.edu)

Reslife Bucks Online Store Now Open

VSU's Reslife Bucks Program is continuing to be a success. In October 2007, the program incentive expanded, most notably with the introduction of an online store. The Reslife Bucks Store carries cool items, including: jackets, water bottles, sports bags, back packs and MUCH more.

Students can visit the housing website at <http://housing.valdosta.edu> and login to the Housing Reslife Bucks Program Store to preview items. Students click on items of their choice to submit orders (the only stipulation is that students must have a minimum purchase of \$350.00). After placing an order, students should wait for an email confirmation that will include a pick up date. Students should be sure to print their shopping cart list to serve as an invoice.

Community Phone Numbers

FD=Front Desk | HD=Hall Director Office

Housing	333-5920	
Brown	FD 333-5918	HD 249-4985
Centennial	FD 333-5269	HD 333-5330
Converse	FD 333-5912	HD 245-4364
Georgia	FD 333-5917	HD 333-5530
Hopper	FD 333-5916	HD 333-4983
Langdale	FD 333-5915	HD 249-4982
Lowndes	FD 333-5914	HD 249-4984
Patterson	FD 333-5913	HD 245-3736
Reade	FD 333-5912	HD 333-5405

Hall-a-baloo

In November 2007, the Office of Housing and Residence life held a hall vs. hall competition that we called "Hall-a-baloo". Students from each residence hall competed against each other in various field sports and games. The event encouraged team work and strengthened the relationships among our on-campus students.



Safe Spring Break

Provided by the VSU Student Health Center

Every spring thousands of college students migrate and participate in some type of spring break activity. Whether it is the traditional beach trip or a less conventional vacation, many students engage in high-risk behavior during this time period. Providing them with information will help to encourage them to make positive choices for their own health, as well as the safety of their friends and ensure that their Spring Break will be fun and a success for everyone.



It is a crucial time to promote safe driving, sober driving, safe sexual decision making, and avoiding high-risk drinking to reduce or eliminate the number of injuries and deaths among university students. Have your student sign a Spring Break Pledge Card before leaving. Fix them a survival kit. Remind them of safety and traveling. Suggest an alternative Spring Break!

1 Use the buddy system. There is safety in numbers, and it is best to engage in activities as a group. Try to have at least three members with you at all times when leaving the hotel to frolic and have fun. Two minds are better than one, but a third can usually guarantee a voice of reason. (Also, if one of you does get into trouble, the second one can stay while the third runs for extra help).

2 Along the same lines as the buddy system, everyone should have another friend assigned to them on group outings, especially at crowded clubs and beaches. The two of you will be responsible to have the other person in eye sight at all times and launch a search if you are missing for more than a few moments. Time is of the essence in any situation, and the embarrassment of your friends barging into the bathroom is better than no one barging in at all if you are in need of help.

3 Make sure that someone back home has all your trip information, including hotel phone and room numbers, the members on your trip, your flight plans (if any), and times

you should arrive to your destination and return from your vacation. If any of this information changes at any time, make sure to notify your contact person. Even though it might seem like an inconvenience, take a few moments every day to call your contact person and check in.

4 If you do not already have one, try to borrow a cell phone or purchase a pre-paid phone. This will come in handy for emergencies and is worth a little extra cash for the extra measure of comfort it will provide you (and your loved ones back home).

5 Make sure you have your identification, emergency contact numbers and medical cards listing any conditions and/or allergies with you at all times. Accidents do seem to happen at the most inopportune times, and you want to be able to provide authorities and/or medical personnel with important information without hesitation.

Having fun during spring break should always be top priority. You are making memories that will be the inspiration for many tales to come. Following these few common sense safety tips to ensure that you and your friends return safely to share those stories. Crazy, wildness and abandonment are always encouraged during spring break getaways, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. Safety precautions are not meant to be deterrents of enjoying yourself; they are implemented to guarantee the absence of anything but fun.



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Important Dates

February 25 - 28, 2008

Residence Halls host meetings to discuss the on-campus Room Selection for the 2008-2009 academic year.

February 25 - 26, 2008

Centennial /Converse Re-Claim process

March 3 - 7, 2008

On-campus Room Selection Process for the 2008-2009 academic year

March 8, 2008, 10 a.m.

Traditional Residence Halls close for Spring Break

March 10 - 14, 2008

Spring Break - No classes

March 16, 2008, 10 a.m.

Traditional Residence Halls re-open

March 31 - April 2, 2008

Summer Housing sign-up

April 15, 2008

Deadline for Centennial or Converse residents to release from remaining time of contract for 2007-2008 academic year, if student is graduating, withdrawing, or transferring

April 18, 2008

Spring Fling

April 21 - 24, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Closing Meetings

May 1, 2008

Housing Contract (2008-2009) Cancellation deadline for returning students to receive full \$300 deposit refund

May 3, 2008, 4 p.m.

Traditional Residence Halls Close

May 6, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-in for Summer I (Maymester)

May 15, 2008

Housing Contract (2008-2009) Cancellation Deadline for returning students to receive \$200 deposit refund

May 30, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-out for Summer I (Mayterm)

May 31, 2008

Housing Contract (2008-2009) cancellation deadline for returning students to receive \$100 deposit refund

June 10, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-in for Summer II & III

July 3, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-out for Summer III

July 7, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-in for Summer IV

August 2, 2008

Centennial and Converse residents that did not renew their contract for 2008-2009 must be checked out by 12pm

August 2, 2008

Traditional Residence Hall Move-out for Summer II and IV

August 15, 2008

Check-in for 2008-2009 school year.

***Note:** Calendar subject to change as needed by Housing and Residence Life. Visit <http://housing.valdosta.edu> for more information.