

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall Students and their Families

Spring 2009

Dear VSU Parent

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

Your student has likely changed quite a bit during this 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 get used to, but hopefully they will prove beneficial in the long run.

Coincidentally, our department is undergoing something similar. Part of our mission is to house 25 percent of all undergraduate students by the year 2014. More than 11,000 students are currently enrolled at VSU, and the university projects enrollment to reach 16,400 students by 2014. For us to accommodate this influx, VSU must build additional state of the art residence halls to house at least 4,100 students.



Choices for 2009-2010 for Upper-class Students

This year we are able to offer more living accommodations with more amenities than ever before for our upperclassmen. They are able to choose from Centennial, Converse and Hopper halls. Centennial and Converse offer apartment-style units that house two or four students, with 12 month contracts. Hopper hall is an all suite style building with private and semi-private accommodations. This is a nine-month contract option.

Students who currently live in Centennial and Converse hall will be able to reclaim their space if certain criteria are met. Please see the reclaim section for more details. This process will be held two weeks before room selection. If students reclaim the same space, they will not participate in room selection.

Returning students will be given preference in the following order during room selection: current juniors

and above (rising seniors or graduate students), then sophomores (rising juniors), and finally current freshman (rising sophomores). The exact time to claim a room is further broken down by cumulative GPA.

Yes, your student is undergoing changes, and 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 2009-2010 Academic School Year



More Space with More Options for Returning Students

Upperclassmen are able to choose among **Centennial**, **Converse** and **Hopper** for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Centennial Hall is our 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 Student Recreation Center and the Sustella parking deck, giving upperclassman some much needed privacy and convenience. Centennial has trained staff support to program and provide emergency assistance as needed.

Converse Hall is our original apartment community. A small facility with only 100 beds, Converse is ideally located in the center of campus. The hall has two varieties of apartments — efficiency units, which house one resident and traditional one-bedroom apartments, which house two residents.

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

Hopper Hall is our new suite-style hall and will provide two private bedrooms with a shared bathroom or two semi-private rooms (two beds in each bedroom) with a shared bathroom. Hopper is on a nine-month contract system (August — May).

Community Phone Numbers

FD=Front Desk | HD=Hall Director Office

Housing & Residence Life

333-5920 | <http://housing.valdosta.edu>

Brown	FD 333-5918	HD 249-4985
Centennial	FD 333-5269	HD 245-3792
Converse	FD 245-4364	HD 245-4364
Hopper	FD 333-5916	HD 259-5152
Langdale	FD 333-5915	HD 333-2194
Lowndes	FD 333-5914	HD 249-4984
Patterson	FD 333-5913	HD 245-3736

Comparing the Options

Options	Centennial	Converse	Hopper
Length of Contract	12-month contract	12-month contract	9-month contract
Building Style	Apartment	Apartment	Suite-style
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

All buildings are co-ed.

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



Reclaim process - February 16 – 17, 2009

Students who currently live in Centennial hall will be able to reclaim the space if both students in the two bedroom or two out of the four current students in the four person apartments want to reclaim it. Students in Converse will be able to reclaim their apartment if they live in an efficiency by themselves or if both students in a one bedroom wish to reclaim. This process will be held the two weeks before room selection. If students reclaim their same space, they will not be eligible to attend room selection. Students who are not able to reclaim or do not wish to reclaim their same space may attend room selection and receive a new housing space for Fall 2009. All students in apartments who are not assigned to the same unit for 2009-2010 must move out of their current room assignment at the end of the contract period, which is August 1, 2009 for cleaning and maintenance purposes. All returning students are permitted to move into their new assignment on August 14, 2009 — move-in day for upperclassmen.

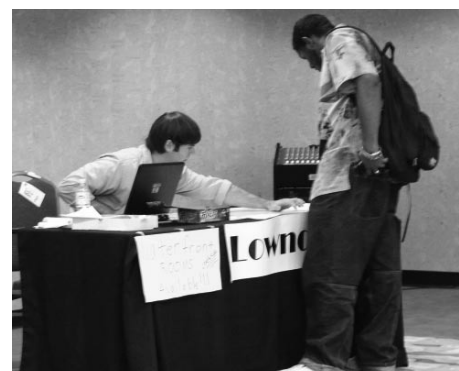
Students assigned to the same apartment for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 will not be asked to move out August 1. They may stay during the two-week interim period between contracts.

The reclaim process will be held in the Centennial Hall classroom on Monday, February 16, 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. and Tuesday, February 17, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

On Campus Room Selection Process - March 2 – 4, 2009

From March 2-4, 2009, 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 together will be able to bring their preferred roommate with them to room selection if the students 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. Please note that Housing holds the largest number of spaces to house freshmen and sophomores due to socialization, academic success and personal growth needs. On his or her assigned date and time, your student simply needs to report to the University Center – Cypress Room to sign up for a space on campus. If your student plans to live on campus for the 2009–2010 academic school year, he or she may attend one of the meetings about the process held in the residence halls February 23–26, 2009. Please see VSU's Housing and Residence Life Web site for specific dates and times for each hall.



Living Accommodations for the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Your student may participate as follows:

Location: University Center – Cypress Room				
TIME	10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	12:30 PM– 3:00 PM	3:00 PM– 5:30 PM	5:30 PM– 8:00 PM
MON March 2, 2009	Undergraduates who have completed 60 hours or more and graduate students , and have a 3.0 GPA or higher	All undergraduates who have completed 60 hours or more, and graduate students	Undergraduates who have completed 22-59 hours , and have a 3.25 GPA or higher	Undergraduates who have completed 22-59 hours , and have a 2.75 GPA or higher
TUES March 3, 2009	All undergraduates who have completed 22-59 hours	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less , and have a 3.5 GPA or higher	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less , and have a 3.25 GPA or higher	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less , and have a 3.0 GPA or higher
WED March 4, 2009	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less , and have a 2.5 GPA or higher	Undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less , and have a 2.0 GPA or higher	All undergraduates who have completed 21 hours or less	Participation is open to all current VSU students including students who do not live on campus

*Each time slot is for current residence hall students only (including pulling in roommates) except the last time slot on Wednesday.

*GPA = Cumulative GPA

Wait List Process (Please read this carefully)

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 Monday, March 9; however, Housing will work until the August opening to fill all spaces for students on the wait list who still desire a placement for the 2009-2010 academic year. Note that the wait list numbers are based on a weighted average of housing more sophomores, then juniors, then seniors and graduate students. There is no guarantee that being on a wait list will ultimately result in an offer to move in. Priority for vacant upper-class spaces is given to residents remaining from the March 2009 wait list sign-up. Wait list room offers

will be made via phone call and/or e-mail sent to your student's valdosta.edu e-mail address. Students will have only 24 hours to accept an offer from the time it is sent, so please make sure your student reviews his or her messages and/or e-mail frequently. If a student declines a space offered, he or she will not be able to remain on the wait list.

Summer School Housing Sign-up

Students living on campus in a traditional style residence hall will have a special application period for summer 2009. The summer application process will be held April 6 through April 8. Students simply need to come by our office to submit their applications and contracts. Please visit our Web site for more information.

New Addition to our Full-Time Staff

Complex Director



Janine M. Weaver-Douglas joined the VSU staff in the fall of 2008, as a Complex Director for Lowndes, Brown and Patterson (south side). Originally from Monterey, Calif., Janine and her daughters, Jordan and Emery have lived all over the state of Georgia. Janine has worked for many different institutions,

including Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, and The Art Institute of Atlanta. A proud alumna of Georgia Southern University, Janine earned a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Law in 2005, a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration in 2006, and an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership-Higher Education Administration in 2008. Janine is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Education in Education Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration at GSU, and plans to graduate in 2011. Janine has numerous invaluable experiences in higher education, including working for Student Affairs, Enrollment Affairs, Residence Life and Housing, and Academic Affairs for more than four years. Please don't hesitate to call, e-mail or visit her!

Phone: (229) 333-5607

E-mail: jmweaverdouglas@valdosta.edu

New Graduate Assistants

Centennial Residence Hall Director



Regina Gavin joined the staff in spring of 2009 as a Residence Hall Director for Centennial Hall, where she provides direct supervision for nine resident assistants. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a minor in

Women's Studies from the University of Georgia in May 2008. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Education Degree in School Counseling. Regina loves working with and helping students, which has been a passion of hers throughout her college career.

Phone: (229) 245-3792

E-mail: rigavin@valdosta.edu

Resident Success Graduate Assistant



Clarissa Onisk is the Graduate Assistant for Resident Success, and she works with the Central Office staff and the Residence Hall Directors to coordinate programming and training efforts for the department.

She has lived in Valdosta most of her life, and she graduated from Lowndes High School. Clarissa received an Associate of Arts Degree from Georgia Military College in December 2005 and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the Langdale College of Business at Valdosta State University in December 2007. This is her first year in the graduate program, and she is pursuing a Masters of Business Administration with an expected graduation date of December 2010! Clarissa has worked in Campus Recreation Intramurals most of her time at VSU, and she enjoys working on campus and meeting so many new people. She is excited about working in the Housing and Residence Life Office and meeting even more people!

Phone: (229) 333-7390

E-mail: cnonisk@valdosta.edu

Night Desk Operations Graduate Assistant



Lisa Beth Williams is an alumna of Valdosta State University, receiving her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice in 2001 and a master's degree in Public Administration in 2007. She is currently enrolled in the Public Administration Doctoral program.

After four years of working inside maximum security facilities, Lisa became a certified police officer at the Valdosta State University Police Department. Lisa is responsible for providing direct supervision for 10 undergraduate Night Staff Supervisors, ensuring daily contact with the Night Staff Supervisors for the purpose of exchanging information, discussion of ideas, problem solving, advising in regards to working with residents and miscellaneous needs.

Phone: (229) 333-3197

E-mail: lbwilliams@valdosta.edu

Marketing and Public Relations Graduate Assistant



Dedrick G. Morrison is a Graduate Assistant of Marketing and Public Relations for the Office of Housing and Residence Life. He is a former member of the Valdosta State University football national championship team from 2004.

In 2006, Dedrick graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Currently, Dedrick is pursuing his Master of Public Administration Degree in Public Relations and Associates Degree in Computer Networks. In addition, he is a substitute teacher for Valdosta City Schools in an effort to guide young, aspiring students to obtain academic goals. Dedrick looks forward to a great year and hopes to communicate with all aspiring individuals in the VSU community!

Phone: (229) 245-2485

E-mail: dgmorris@valdosta.edu

ResLife Event Management

Is your student looking for something fun to do in his or her residence hall? Then check out ResLife Event Management! ResLife Event Management is a system that provides a list of all the events taking place in our residential community. Students will be able to find out what programs are taking place in their building or in other residence halls on campus.

Each program designates the time, location, and sneak preview of what will take place at the event. ALL programs are free and open to any VSU resident. Interested students should pre-register for any event they would like to attend to ensure that there is enough excitement for everyone! Events include free food, prizes, and valuable information students need to know. Residents can join us for movies, games, information sessions, community service, socials, and SO much more!

Students can check out Reslife Event Management online at housing.valdosta.edu by selecting ResLife Event Management from the left sidebar. To log in, students use their Blazenet e-mail address prefix and password. If your student has any questions or would like more details, please contact Gala Jackson, Residential Success Initiatives Coordinator at 229-333-5920 or gjjackso@valdosta.edu.

Awards and Honors

Gala Jackson presented at the 2008 National Academic Advising Association Georgia Drive-in Conference. Gala spoke on Advising through Residential Education.

Congratulations to Mr. Zach Crapa, the Complex Director for Centennial, Converse, and Reade for his October article publication titled "Making Steps in Judicials and Sanctioning" in the state-wide Georgia Housing Officers newsletter On The GHO.

Associate Director Leighia Hammond received the Georgia Housing Officers Outstanding Professional award, which is bestowed upon professionals who have served in university housing for four or more years. This award recognizes the individual's outstanding contribution to housing or residence life through their ability to positively impact the professional and personal development of students and staff; their significant contributions to the local institution demonstrated by research, innovative programs or services, or a related activity which is above and beyond their normal position expectations; and their active, contributing membership and service to the profession through service at the state, regional, and/or national levels.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life received the Gee Whiz award, which recognizes an innovative program, project or service sponsored by a housing and residence life department. VSU's department was honored because of its birthday recognition program that was initiated last fall to ensure residents received more than birthday cards. The program sends each resident a birthday postcard during the month of his or her birthday, which can be exchanged for a candy bar of the student's choice at the housing office.



Congratulations to all the Patterson Hall RAs and RA D'Juan McGee of Hopper! They won Honorable mentions in Caldwell and Gregory's 3rd Annual Laundry Themed Bulletin Board contest for residence halls.



Hall-a-baloo

In November 2008, the Office of Housing and Residence life held a hall vs. hall competition that we call "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.





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Important Dates

February 9 – 12, 2009

Centennial and Converse host meetings to discuss on-campus Room Selection for the 2009-2010 academic year.

February 16-17, 2009

Reclaim process in Centennial Hall classroom - February 16, 3–8 PM and February 17, 9 AM–3 PM

February 23 – 26, 2009

Traditional residence halls host meetings to discuss the on-campus room selection for the 2009-2010 academic year (see your RA).

March 2 – 4, 2009

On-campus Room Selection Process for the 2009–2010 academic year

March 14, 2009

Traditional Residence Halls close for Spring Break at 10 AM
Spring Break - No classes

March 22, 2009

Traditional Residence Halls re-open at 10 AM

April 6 – 8, 2009

Summer Housing sign-up for traditional residence halls (Housing Office)

April 15, 2009

Centennial and Converse – summer contract release deadline (for students withdrawing, transferring, graduating or have VSU related internship).

April 23, 2009

Spring Fling 1-4 PM, Palms Quad

April 27 – 30, 2009

Traditional residence hall spring closing meetings (see your RA).

May 1, 2009

Release of contract deadline with no penalty for returning students in residence halls with a Fall 2009 assignment.

May 9, 2009

Traditional Residence Halls Close for the academic year at 12 PM

May 13, 2009

Summer move-in for May term (Summer I) students - traditional halls

May 15, 2009

Housing Contract (2009-2010) Cancellation Deadline for returning students to receive \$200 deposit refund

May 31, 2009

Housing Contract (2009-2010) cancellation deadline for returning students to receive \$100 deposit refund

June 6, 2009

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

June 9, 2009

Traditional Residence Hall Move-in for Summer II & III

July 3, 2009

Traditional Residence Hall Move-out for Summer III

July 6, 2009

Traditional Residence Hall Move-in for Summer IV

August 1, 2009 – 12PM

Traditional residence hall move-out for Summer II and IV; Centennial and Converse residents that did not renew their contract for 2008-2009 must be checked out

August 14, 2009

Returning student move-in day for 2009–2010 school year

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