

NEWS ON BLAZER HOUSING

A NEWSLETTER FOR INCOMING RESIDENCE HALL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILY

SUMMER 2006

*Welcome to our Centennial
Move-In*



Move In 2006

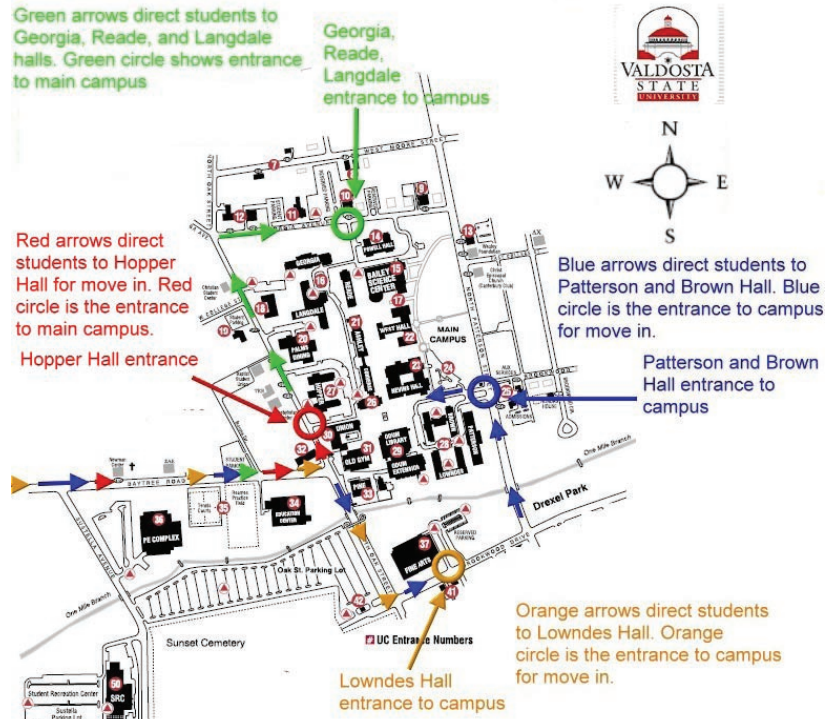
The residence halls open officially for the fall semester on Wednesday, August 9th at 9 am (**Freshmen only**). The residence halls open for **everyone** on Friday, August 11th at 10 am.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life is working hard to make the move-in process a smooth transition for the residents and their families. Throughout the residential areas, specific parking lots will be designated as unloading zones. In these areas, vehicles will be permitted to pull up and/or park to unload immediately. All cars must then be moved to the Oak Street parking lot or other nearby lots for long term parking.

Langdale, Georgia, and Reade will all use the same entrance off of Georgia Avenue (across from parking and transportation going in the "wrong" way beside Powell Hall). Brown and Patterson halls will use the main entrance off of Patterson Street. Lowndes Hall will use the main entrance to the Fine Arts building parking lot. Hopper will use the entrance off of Oak Street right by the University Union. It is best to enter campus from Baytree Road after getting off of exit 18 on I-75. To get to Baytree Road you will take a left off of the exit (if you are traveling south on I-75) or right off of the exit (if you are traveling north I-75), then the first left onto Gornto Road, and then the first right onto Baytree road. For on campus directions, please view the detailed directions and visual map on our website at www.valdosta.edu/housing/.

After reading the detailed directions, you can refer to the labeled entrances (the colored circles with an arrow going to it) on the map to help you understand this procedure. There will be a copy of a detailed route to your hall from Patterson Street for those of you who come in that way. Also, you can print off our directions from campus to Wal-mart and Target for your convenience. **Please remember, all vehicles will be asked to immediately relocate to Oak Street parking after unloading.**

If you have questions about the opening of the residence halls, please contact the Office of Housing and Residence Life for more specific information. We look forward to seeing you in August!



RESIDENCE HALL OPENING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 9th – (9 am - 5 pm)

All halls open for **Freshmen** check-in.

Friday, August 11th – (10 am - 4 pm)

All halls open for **everyone** to check-in.

Monday, August 14th – 5 pm

This is the deadline for students to claim their space. If you cannot be on campus by this time, please notify us in writing or you will forfeit your assignment.

Fall Assignment & Roommate Information

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

- ✓ Open <http://www.valdosta.edu/eas/sis>
- ✓ Click on Login, Enter your User ID and PIN
- ✓ Click on Student and Financial Aid
- ✓ Click on View Housing Application/Assignment
- ✓ Select Fall 2006 Term

If your assignment shows up as Res. Hall, this means you have a spot, but the actual hall is in process. Please check back later for your assignment if this occurs. Accessing this information should make it easier for students to get together with their roommates before school starts and decide who is bringing the TV, VCR, and other items.

Room Swap/Change Request and Consolidation Policy Explained

If for some reason you are unhappy with your assignment, applications for room change request will be available beginning August 21st, but room changes will not take place until after August 28th. 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, you will 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, you may have been moved elsewhere in your assigned building.

Some Basic Information on 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. Often students are covered under their parents' homeowners insurance policy.

Renter's insurance is available to any resident that is not protected by their parents' insurance. It will provide coverage for many items commonly found in residence halls such as clothing, computers, school supplies, and electronic devices when stolen or destroyed by fire. Without coverage, theft or damage to personal property could represent substantial financial loss for a resident.

VSU has information on (but does not sponsor) two companies for providing insurance for a student's personal property. National Student Services, Inc offers a Student Personal Property Plan and offers 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 a full twelve months.

There are limitations to each program so be certain to read each policy carefully. Links are provided to each agency through the Housing and Residence Life homepage (<http://services.valdosta.edu/housing/insurance.aspx>).

Cancellation Policy

If you decide to move off campus during the spring, you may cancel the contract by paying 50% of the remaining value of the contract and forfeiting the reservation fee. For example, if you decide to move to an off-campus apartment for spring semester, the \$300 reservation fee will NOT be refunded and you will be charged 50% of the spring semester housing fee. (Note: you may not apply to buy out 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 will operate a Movie Channel which provides students with information about campus events as well as recent movie releases.

Traditional Residence Hall Holiday Closings

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

Thanksgiving

Close: November 21 @ 5pm

Re-open: November 26 @ 10am

Winter Holiday

Close: December 9 @ 4pm

Re-open: January 4 @ 10am

Spring Break

Close: March 10 @ 10am

Re-open: March 18 @ 10am

Mail and Packages

Each on-campus resident is assigned a mailbox. Refer to the information listed to access your VSU box number and combination.

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

MAIL BOX ADDRESS

Student's Name

VSU Box _____

Valdosta State University

Valdosta, GA 31698

MAIL BOX # & COMBINATION ACCESS

- ✓ Go to <http://www.valdosta.edu>
- ✓ Click on Registration and Advising
- ✓ Click on Login (enter your user ID-Student ID # and PIN)
- ✓ Click on Personal Information
- ✓ Click on View Addresses & Phone Numbers to find out your VSU box number and combination. **Note: Combinations will not be available until the beginning of the semester.**

Centennial Hall Residents will be assigned a mail box in Centennial Hall upon check-in.

A Dining Update

This summer you may have gone to the theater to see the Mission Impossible team. At Valdosta State we simply had to go to the Palms Dining Hall. VSU had their own IMF team in the form of Troy Dunham and Juneau Construction who undertook a renovation project of approximately \$4 million.

With Sodexo assuming the management of the Dining Services on the campus, plans were made to renovate the Palms dining Hall, convert the Oasis snack bar into an Einstein's Bagels in the Education Center and to transform Food for Thought in the Library into a Jazzman's Café. All of this to be completed by the time students return in August.

The Palms will drastically change from its past configuration. While the building's structure will remain literally unchanged, the inside will feature two distinct elements. The center and north wings of the building will become the Palms residential Dining Center. The south wing will emerge as the Palms Retail Center featuring a Quizno's, Salsa Rico, and a Jazzman's. The Jazzman's will be accessible from

both the residential and retail sections of the Palms.

Students will be greeted by a large salad bar as they enter the Palms, but the options will not stop there. Palms residential will also feature a variety of options including a grill, deli, pizza oven, international line, classics line, and granary in addition to other options that should satisfy every student's desires.

Meal Plan holders will be able to utilize their meal portion of their meal plan in the residential section of Palms. The a la carte portion of each meal plan will allow meal plan holders to eat in the Palms Retail, The Loop Pizza Grill, Einstein's, UC Food Court, or Jazzman's in the Library.

The renovations are proceeding quickly with the Einstein's scheduled for a mid-July opening and the Palms opening when the students return this fall. In order to view the progress of our IMF team (aka Juneau Construction), check out the following website where we are posting pictures of the progress, <http://services.valdosta.edu/dining>

Meal Plan Options

All meal plans cost \$1400 per semester.

- ◆ **The Blazer Plus with \$125 Blazer Bucks** offers UNLIMITED access to the dining hall for meals and snacks from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekends. It also includes **\$125** in Blazer Bucks to use at The Loop Pizza Grill, Einstein Bagel Café in the Education Center, Food for Thought in the Library, The University Center Food Court, and to purchase additional meals at Palms Dining Hall.
- ◆ **14 Meal Plan with \$225 Blazer Bucks** is designed for those who want to eat on 2 meals per day in Palms Dining Hall and use their Blazer Buck to supplement snacks or other meals throughout the day.
- ◆ **10 Meal Plan with \$370 Blazer Bucks** is designed for those who want to eat any 10 meals a week in Palms Dining Hall and use Blazer Bucks to supplement snacks or other meals throughout the day.
- ◆ A la Carte plan offers a declining balance of **\$800. (Available to sophomores and above.)**
- ◆ A la Carte plans for **Centennial and Converse** residents **ONLY** offer a declining balance of **\$375.**



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 in the past:

- Flashlight and batteries - in case of power outage (*candles are prohibited*)
- Alarm clock and/or clock radio
- Personal hygiene items
- Pens, pencils, paper, notebooks for academic work
- Posters and room decorations
- Stereo and/or radio
- Tapes, CD's
- 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/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 approximation 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 that 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 (tobacco items are excluded)
- 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
- 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 seeing-eye dogs and fish. 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 and students will be required to remove those items from the premises, and may be subject to disciplinary action as well as monetary fines.

Where to Hang Out

So you have gotten settled, you like your room and your roommate but you just want to find a place to hang out outside of your room. There are several places on campus that will allow you to do just that.

If you are looking for that space outside, you can visit the newly finished pedestrian mall located in the heart of campus. There you can sit and read, draw, play an instrument or just watch students pass by on their way to class. Another outdoor hot spot on campus is the front lawn. On any given day you will find large groups of students sitting on the front lawn, reading, talking, playing games or simply catching rays of sunshine.

If you are looking for a place to get away from the South Georgia heat there are plenty of indoor areas for you. If you like to workout or shoot hoops, the Student Recreation Center is the place for you. There is an indoor pool, rock climbing wall, weight and cardio equipment, basketball, volleyball and racquet ball courts, as well as an indoor track. This is a very popular area for many members of the VSU student body to hang out in.

If you are looking for a more relaxed pace there are several areas to choose from. The University Union located on main campus houses a recently renovated game room that offers pool tables, televisions and video games. Students enjoy the interaction with others as well

as the activities that Student Life holds for them there.

Also located in the Union are TV/study rooms. These rooms are much like a living room at your parent's home. There are sofas and comfortable chairs in them, along with a television. Students enjoy these rooms for study groups and as hang out areas in between classes. There are also study rooms located through out the library without televisions. Students need to check out a key at the front desk.

At the University Center, while most of the space holds meeting rooms, the lobby is an inviting space for students to use between classes for studying and to visit in. Also in the UC is the food court that offers a hot bar, deli line, grill and Chick-fil-A.



VSU Plans Centennial Celebration

Valdosta State University is gearing up for the celebration of the century, literally, as plans begin to solidify for VSU's 100th birthday, on August 18, 2006. The summer date includes a grand celebratory evening event on the front lawn of West Hall.

VSU partners and friends from the community, region and across the state can expect the third weekend of August to be packed with cultural and festive events, beginning with the grand opening of the VSU Museum, on August 16-18, which will be a permanent fixture on the fourth floor of the Odum Library. The front lawn gala on August 18 will include a variety of live bands, food, and fun, followed by a spectacular fireworks presentation. The culmination of weekend activities will be a centennial fun run/walk on Saturday, August 19, that spans the perimeter of the university campus.

Centennial activities with the "Building for Our Next Century" theme have already begun at the university, and all activities—both regularly scheduled and future planned—will have a centennial twist suitable for the festive atmosphere on campus. Some dates already on the centennial calendar are:

- August 14: First Day of Class
- August 16-18: Grand Opening of VSU Museum
- August 18: Centennial ACTUAL Date! Major Celebratory Evening Event

- August 19: Centennial Fun Run/Walk
- September 23: VSU Parents' Weekend
- October 7: Centennial Football Homecoming, with Pre-Game Festivities and Centennial Halftime Show

VSU is celebrating the centennial anniversary of its founding in 1906, when legislation passed by the Georgia General Assembly created the college. On January 2, 1913, the South Georgia State Normal College opened for classes. In recognition of its rich history, VSU is commemorating these centennial years from 2006 to 2013 with a wide variety of academic, social, athletic, artistic and community events and programs. These activities honor VSU's proud past, present and future, and will set the tone as VSU enters its second century as a major regional university.

For more information on centennial activities at VSU, call Mary Gooding, Manager of Centennial Operations, at 333-5797 or visit http://www.valdosta.edu/news/media/2005/11/centennial_participation.pdf.

Great Things About the VSU Residence Halls

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

A: Automatic membership to the VSU Residence Hall Association.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is an organization that aims to make each resident's on-campus living experience one to remember. The RHA is composed of each residence hall's individual hall council.

Each hall council (HC) has two parts: the executive branch (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary) and the legislative branch (all residents in the hall). The purpose of hall council is to plan and execute fun programs that get residents involved in their halls. Hall council also serves as a governing body that makes changes to improve the residence halls. That's why all residents are automatic members of their hall's HC and RHA as a whole.

This fall, Valdosta State RHA will be hosting Georgia's state conference G.R.H.O.T.H (Georgia Residence Hall Organization Together for Helping). Signs will be posted this fall in the residence halls with more information on getting involved and election dates for the individual hall councils.

Contact RHA President Erin Penamon at ekpenamon@valdosta.edu for more information.

Attention Freshmen Students

If you plan to move-in on Wednesday, August 9th - **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 8:30 pm. Your RA will give a brief overview of upcoming activities and discuss a few important rules. Then, you will walk over to the 1st planned activity, *Movies & Mocktails*, at 9:00 pm in the quad. We encourage you to participate! This is the time to start getting to know other new Blazers!

Fall Explosion

Fall Explosion is a series of planned event that take place from move-in day to the end of August. Fall Explosion is a collaborative effort by several VSU departments whose goal is to aid new students in their acclimation to college life and to engage them 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.

How to Register For A Parking Permit & Avoid Long Registration Lines

- ◆ Many of you have probably already attended an orientation session and registered to receive a packet from parking to obtain a permit. If you haven't follow the next step when you come to Orientation. ALL PACKETS WILL BE MAILED MID JULY. If you do not receive one you may log onto the website and purchase the permit there.
- ◆ When registering for Academic Year (\$50.00 permit), Spring (\$25.00 permit), or Summer (\$15.00 permit) classes, select the option for obtaining a parking permit to add this charge into 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: <http://services.valdosta.edu/parking.htm>.
- ◆ You can either obtain your parking permit in our office or you may select to have it mailed directly to you.
- ◆ All visitors to the University should obtain a parking permit at our office before parking a vehicle on campus.



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. While you are there, see our invitation to cool off and enjoy some ice cream with us after you've moved your new college student into their VSU residence hall on August 9th, 2006. See you there!



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Valdosta, GA 31698-0400

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Housing & Residence Life Mission

The mission of Housing and Residence Life at Valdosta State University is to provide affordable, quality housing in a safe and secure environment. Our caring and competent staff is committed to serving our students by creating a holistic living and learning community which fosters: education, diversity, civic engagement, recreation, and personal growth through programming and leadership opportunities.

Contributors

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If you have any additional housing questions please contact the Office of Housing and Residence Life at (229)333-5920 or via e-mail at housing@valdosta.edu. All suggestions or ideas for articles are welcomed. Please send them to Leighia Hammond at llhammond@valdosta.edu.



Friday
Sept. 22, 2006
&
Saturday
Sept. 23, 2006

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

**Phone 229-333-5674
or visit**

Web www.valdosta.edu/parentsweekend/