

# cosmicos

A publication of the Valdosta State University Center for International Programs | December 2001

**Fall 2001 International Students**

Forty-five new international students enrolled for Fall Semester, 2001. Currently at VSU there is a total of 214 international students actively enrolled; 56 countries are represented at the University. The number of students and their respective countries are listed below:

Albania .....	1
Argentina .....	1
Armenia .....	2
Bahamas .....	7
Bangladesh .....	1
Barbados .....	1
Belize .....	28
Brazil .....	3
Bulgaria .....	8
British Virgin Islands .....	1
Canada .....	5
China .....	5
Colombia .....	7
Croatia .....	2
Cyprus .....	2
Denmark .....	1
Ecuador .....	1
El Salvador .....	2
France .....	1
Gambia .....	1
Germany .....	15
Ghana .....	13
Guyana .....	3
Hungary .....	1
Iceland .....	2
India .....	6
Ivory Coast .....	1
Jamaica .....	1
Japan .....	15
Jordan .....	1
Kenya .....	8
Korea .....	3
Kuwait .....	1
Lebanon .....	1
Mexico .....	4
Netherlands .....	2
Nigeria .....	4
Norway .....	2
Pakistan .....	1
Palestine .....	1
Panama .....	1
Phillipines .....	1
Romania .....	1
Russia .....	9
Spain .....	1
Sweden .....	1
Taiwan .....	1
Tanzania .....	1
Thailand .....	2
Trinidad .....	1
Turkey .....	3
Turkmenistan .....	5
Uganda .....	2
Ukraine .....	3
United Arab Emirates .....	1
United Kingdom .....	8
Vietnam .....	2
Virgin Islands .....	1

## Greetings from Valdosta



**Speaking –** ELI students Astrid Roa, left, and Ramon Escalante are improving their English speaking skills with the assistance of ELI instructor Jim Fiveash.

**G**reetings from Valdosta! Welcome to the sixth edition of *Cosmicos*, the VSU International Alumni Association Newsletter. This quarterly circular is designed to update you on VSU news and events as well as inform you of activities of former VSU international student alumni.

In addition to telling you about what's

happening with us, we would like to know what's been going on with each of you. When you have finished reading the newsletter, please complete the "Stay In Touch With Us" insert and return it to us at your convenience. Please feel free to give us your feedback on the newsletter on the form as well.

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- 2 Library expansion
- 3 President Hugh C. Bailey's retirement
- 3 International alumni news and notes

# Campus & Community News

## Odum Library Expansion

In mid-July, construction of a 95,000 square-foot addition to the VSU Odum Library began. The addition is scheduled to be completed by the Summer of 2003. The expansion will double the size of the library and add impressive features including a 24-hour Internet café, a computer lab and a GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online) Technology Center. It will also provide for expanded study space, reading rooms and a 100-seat auditorium. The Media Services office will receive an uplink studio and enhanced multimedia and digital editing capabilities. In addition to all this, there will be a climate-controlled room for rare books, extra shelf space for special collections, and new seating areas in the Archives Department. The expansion will provide a vast amount of resources and accessibility to students that had previously been unavailable to students and employees. It will certainly be an outstanding supplement to the campus.



## New Master's Degree Program

Beginning Fall 2001, VSU is offering a new Master's degree in Library and Information Services (MLIS). This program is a web-based, non-thesis, 40-hour degree program designed to the needs of library and information services professionals. The program focuses on the techniques of organizing and retrieving information. Its focus is also centered on information management, services, resources and systems. For more information, you can contact the Graduate School at 229-333-5694 or Dr. George Gaumond at 229-333-5880.

## English Language Institute Begins Fall 2001

In an effort to ensure growth in the number of international students enrolled at VSU, the Center for International Programs created a new program to attract potential students. The program was created to ensure new foreign students develop the necessary language skills to be successful in an American university setting. The program is also open to international members of the community who may wish to enhance their English skills. Students spend four hours a day, five days a week learning grammar, reading, writing and speech. Optional courses are offered in TOEFL preparation, American Culture and various topics. Full-time ELI students have full access to all facilities including Odum Library, the student health center, the student union and recreational facilities.

## Valdosta State University Tennis Teams

For several years, the VSU tennis team has had a significant number of international students on its teams. Over the years, at least half of all VSU tennis team players have been from foreign countries. Both the men's and women's teams have also been very successful. In addition to their athletic superiority, the two teams are also known to be the most academically successful. Seventeen of the 23 All-Americans have been international students. In past years, the men's team has made it to the NCAA National Championships. The women's team reached the same level once in University history. The women's team made it to the Regional Championships every year until 2000 and 2001 when they successfully reached the nationals. Individual VSU tennis players have reached the NCAA National Championship competition about 20 times. The conferences have changed over the years and VSU is now part of the Gulf South Conference. Since this change took place, the men's team has won the Conference championship five times and the women's team has won it once. This year there are five international students on the men's team and three international students on the women's team. As the statistics show, Coach John Hansen has done an outstanding job guiding the team to these victories over the years. He has been heading the University teams for about 20 years. To find out more about VSU's tennis teams or other athletic teams, you can call Coach Hansen at 229-333-5902 or email him at [jhansen@valdosta.edu](mailto:jhansen@valdosta.edu).

## Kalin Stamenov Wins 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Website Showdown

Kalin Stamenov, a 20 year-old VSU student from Bulgaria, won the grand prize of \$10,000 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Website Showdown this year at the Georgia Technology Awareness Program (GTAP). He competed against students from colleges and universities throughout the state of Georgia. Most of the competitors were students of Georgia Tech; Stamenov exceeded all his Georgia Tech challengers in two of the five categories – business concept and easy-to-use. Stamenov's prize-winning entry was a web page that focused on sending text messages to cell phones. In order to send a text message to a cell phone you must enter the cell phone number, a callback number and an email address of the sender. During Kalin's demonstration, both the cell phone number and the cellular provider were automatically identified and the text message was successfully sent. You can view his demonstration at [www.websiteshowdown.org](http://www.websiteshowdown.org). You can also get further information about the competition from this site. Kalin is completing two Bachelor's degrees at VSU in Computer Information Systems and Management. He is in his junior year at VSU with a 3.8 GPA. After graduation he plans to pursue a career in Internet and web page design for businesses. He is a member of the SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) organization and maintains the web page for the chapter. If you would like to contact Kalin, you can email him at [kdstamen@valdosta.edu](mailto:kdstamen@valdosta.edu).

# President Bailey's Retirement

Beginning in April, 2001, Valdosta State University began preparing for Dr. Hugh Bailey's retirement from his 22 year post as President of VSU by hosting several festivities in his honor. The two main occasions were the farewell bash held in front of West Hall on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the official retirement celebration held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the county Convention Center. The West Hall celebration on April 26<sup>th</sup>, consisted of free food, live entertainment, a rock-climbing wall, a caricature artist, a giant slide, and a fireworks display. Members of the Valdosta community joined in with VSU students, faculty, staff and alumni to give Dr. Bailey a heartfelt farewell salute. The official retirement celebration was held at the



Valdosta-Lowndes County Convention and Visitors Bureau on June 9<sup>th</sup>. More than 600 members of the community along with Bailey's friends and colleagues honored the President and his wife for their years of dedication and service to Valdosta State University. However, after a long but unsuccessful search for a presidential predecessor, Chancellor Portch asked Dr. Bailey, in a letter dated April 18, 2001 to remain in his position until a replacement is found. On July 3, 2001, Dr. Bailey released a statement agreeing to the Chancellor's request. Dr. Hugh Bailey continues as President of VSU until a new president is chosen.

## International Alumni Notes

**Mukhtar Irisov** (Kyrgyzstan) completed his college career and received a Graduation Diploma with Distinction from Osh State University in Kyrgyzstan. After graduation he assumed the position of office manager-interpreter with the French non-governmental organization's Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). Prior to this, he was working in the Osh Field Office as a local officer and secretary-interpreter for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He also recently married his girlfriend, Nadira. They are expecting a child in January. In addition, Mukhtar is assisting his father-in-law at a tobacco fermenting company in Kyrgyzstan.

**Magali Renault** (France) is currently working as a medical translator at Laboratories FOURNIER. Magali and her husband are happy to announce the birth of their first child, daughter, Chloé. (see picture). She was born on December 13, 2000.



*Magali Renault*



*Chloé Renault*

## Center For International Programs Staff Updates

**Dr. Tracy Harrington** attended the COBEC meeting in Belize in February. He also went to London over the summer to review one of the VSU summer programs. Dr. Harrington recently became the grandfather of a baby boy, Ben. He went to visit his new grandchild in Zimbabwe, Africa this past summer ... **Mark Baird** left CIP to pursue a higher academic degree ... **David Starling**, former International Student Advisor for CIP, filled his position as Assistant Director. Mr. Starling traveled to Norway in the spring and also traveled to South Korea this fall to attend recruitment fairs ... **Charlotte Davis** joined the team as

International Student Advisor ... **Jill Clemmons** is Administrative Coordinator for the European Council of the University System of Georgia ... **Mary Jane Keene**, former Administrative Secretary for CIP took on a new position in the Vice President's Office's in West Hall ... **Nancy Egan** is now the new Administrative Secretary for the Center for International Programs ... **Kim Becker** is the new Graduate Assistant ... **Dean Albritton** returned this fall as an intern ... Other student assistants returning to CIP for the academic year are: **Olena Korchaka** from Ukraine ... **Sheldon Servio** from Belize ... and **Shekita Harris** completing the CIP staff of student workers.



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## CONTACT US

Listed below are the email addresses for several of our staff members as well as our mailing address, phone and fax numbers. We hope to hear back from you soon!

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Check our website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/cip> for the latest news on the Center for International Programs.