



Center for International Programs
 Valdosta State University
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cosmicos

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International Students

Currently at VSU there are 227 international students actively enrolled. 55 countries are represented at the University. The number of students and their respective countries are listed below:

Albania	1
Austria	2
Armenia	2
Bahamas	4
Bangladesh	1
Barbados	1
Belize	21
Brazil	4
Bulgaria	14
British Virgin Islands	2
Canada	9
China	4
Colombia	5
Costa Rica	1
Croatia	1
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	3
Denmark	1
Ecuador	1
El Salvador	2
France	1
Gambia	3
Germany	12
Ghana	11
Guyana	2
Honduras	1
Iceland	3
India	6
Israel	1
Jamaica	1
Japan	10
Kenya	12
Korea	7
Liberia	1
Lebanon	1
Mexico	5
Netherlands	3
Nigeria	11
Norway	2
Pakistan	1
Panama	2
Philippines	1
Russia	12
Slovakia	1
SpainSweden	11
Taiwan	1
Tanzania	1
Thailand	2
Trinidad	2
Turkey	1
Turkmenistan	5
Uganda	4
United Kingdom	10
Ukraine	4
Venezuela	1
Vietnam	3
Total	227

Welcome to Cosmicos!



Charlotte Davis,
 international student adviser
 and David Starling,
 assistant director of CIP.

Hello and welcome to the latest biannual edition of *Cosmicos*! This newsletter is a great way for us to keep you updated and informed about Valdosta State University events and about how your fellow alumni are prospering. In order for us to continue to successfully publish this newsletter, we need your assistance. Please send us pictures, letters or anything else you feel is newsworthy about yourself. If you have changed careers, got married, or have an addition to your family please let us know. It is especially important that you keep us informed of your current address so that we can ensure that future mailings of *Cosmicos* are appropriately addressed to you.

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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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tharring@valdosta.edu

David Starling, Assistant Director
dstarlin@valdosta.edu

Charlotte Davis, International Student Advisor
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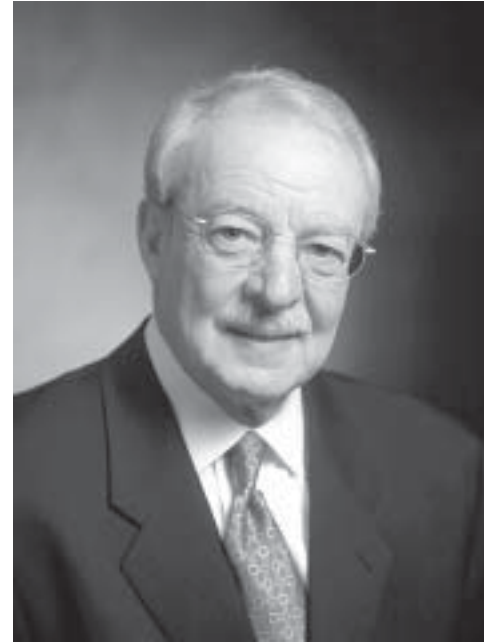
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Center for International Programs
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 Phone 229-333-7410 • Fax 229-245-3849

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



COURTESY: ATTB

VSU'S NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari became VSU's seventh president on Jan. 7, 2002. Zaccari came to VSU after retiring as President of West Liberty State College in West Liberty, W.Va. August of 2001. He is an accomplished sculptor and professor of Art. Under Zaccari's leadership, West Liberty State University increased enrollment, made extensive improvements to campus facilities and launched new program initiatives. "My role is to serve as the catalyst to the evolution of the campus and to engage and nurture people in the creative process," Zaccari says. A key to Zaccari's management style is the use of a strategic plan that outlines the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of the university. This analysis will be an ongoing process that will be revised and improved every year. The planning team will consist of a strategic planning facilitator, students, faculty, staff, administrators and community representatives. In his first campus-wide address on Feb. 28, President Zaccari spoke to more than 500 faculty, staff and students about the University's planning process and how it will transform VSU into one of the best universities in Georgia and in the nation. The strategic plan will encompass ten years with periodic updates and include items such as parking, efficient traffic flow, changes to instructional and support facilities, landscaping, pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Zaccari emphasizes that this is a team project with great opportunity for a better VSU future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM RECEIVES RECOGNITION

After a thorough analysis of VSU's public relations program, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) awarded the program a Certificate in Education for Public Relations (CEPR). VSU is one of only 10 universities and colleges nationwide to receive this recognition. VSU also has the only public relations program in Georgia with PRSA certification.

WEBMBA NAMED ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION

U.S. News and World Report listed VSU's WebMBA program as one of the nation's "Best Online Graduate Programs." The program was listed among 25 business programs that are regionally and professionally accredited. The ten-course program is offered through a consortium of five Georgia universities including Valdosta State University, Georgia Southern University, Kennesaw State University, State University of West Georgia and Georgia College and State University. The program can be completed in less than two years and features an easy-to-use, Web-based format. The 30 hours required to complete the degree consist of courses in accounting, organizational behavior, marketing, finance, production/operation management, international business, decision analysis, business strategy, and two electives. For more information on the program, visit the WebMBA website at www.valdosta.edu/coba/webmba.

MOST WIRED UNIVERSITIES

According to "Yahoo! Internet Life" magazine, VSU ranks among the most wired universities in the nation and one of the most wired colleges in America. VSU entered the survey for the first time, with a rating of 80.29 percent and ranked number 97 in the trendy Internet magazine's annual survey, which selects the top 100 colleges and universities from among 1,300 institutions of higher learning.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY ONLINE DEGREE

The first class of VSU's Online Education Specialist in Instructional Technology degree program graduated in Dec. 2001. Using a WebCT platform, the students completed 27 to 29 credits of instruction in the field of instructional technology. The online degree enables professionals in the field of instructional technology to obtain a specialist's degree without interrupting their work or personal schedules. For more information on the program, visit the website at <http://teach.valdosta.edu/edsonline>.

"Stay In Touch With Us"

International Alumni Feedback Form

Please send us the latest news and information about yourself. We would love to hear from you so please don't forget to send us your response!

Please fill out this form and return it to:

Center for International Programs
1500 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31698
Fax: 229-245-3849

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

TEL _____ FAX _____

Email _____

Major at VSU _____ Graduation Date _____

Current Employer _____ Current Position _____

Honors, Awards, etc. since graduation _____

You may give my name to prospective students in the area so they can contact me with questions.

Other information we can publish about you:

Comments about the *Cosmos* publication:

Information received will be included in the next edition of Cosmos.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nici and Miki Suzuki (1993) met in Valdosta in 1992, married in 2000, and had a great year in 2001. Miki left Germany for Tokyo, Japan, to assume the position of Assistant to the CEO of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation. Nici is taking intensive Japanese language courses at the OLJ Language Academy in Shibuya to learn about the language and the culture of Japan. Miki climbed Mt. Fuji in August. Their son Kai Luca Suzuki was born April 16, 2002. Congratulations!



Valdosta State University[®]

FALL ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Sixty-seven new undergraduate and five new graduate students applied for fall semester. These new students are from Ghana, Nigeria, Croatia, Belize, Slovakia, Spain, Kenya, Russia, El Salvador, the U.K., India, Pakistan, Canada, Ecuador, Vietnam, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Sweden, the Bahamas, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Brazil, and Korea.

CIP STAFF UPDATES

David Starling went to London, England, and Paris, France, Berlin, Germany and Prague this summer to find locations for future summer programs. Starling and Charlotte Davis, international student advisor, both went to San Antonio, Texas, at the end of May 2002 to attend the annual NAFSA conference.

Dr. Harrington went to Belize in February to work on the beginnings of a new Curriculum and Instructional Technology graduate program. He also went to Yangzhou, China, in May accompanied by Dr. Zaccari, VSU's new president, and his wife, Nancy. They went as part of an invitation to Yangzhou University's 100th anniversary celebration. Dr. Zaccari was the only American speaker selected to speak at the Yangzhou celebrations. This summer, Dr. Harrington was once again off to London for five weeks as part of the European Council's Summer Study Abroad program.

A couple of changes have taken place within the office as well. Dean Allbritton, our long-time intern, graduated in May 2002 and spent the summer in Strasburg, France. From there he was off to Syracuse University (N.Y.) where he was awarded a graduate assistantship and will pursue his graduate degree in Spanish. Our new intern is Elizabeth Chewning. You can access our website at www.valdosta.edu/cip to see pictures of all the new (and old) faces.

If you know students who are interested in applying to VSU, please have them direct their emails to vsucip@hotmail.com



MPA ONLINE DEGREE

The Master of Public Administration online track is a 36-hour non-thesis program offered exclusively via the Internet. While the emphasis is in City/County Management, the skills developed in the program are readily applicable for managers at any level of government or not-for-profit organization. The program is designed to allow working professionals the opportunity to complete their degree requirements in a convenient manner. A student enrolling in the MPA courses at a rate of nine hours per semester can complete the degree in 18 months or less. Graduate credit earned elsewhere may be considered as transfer credit. For more information, visit www.valdosta.edu/mpa/online.

NEW CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER OPENS

The Student Recreation Center, a new indoor recreation facility on campus, opened in January. The 64,000 sq. ft., two-story building includes an indoor swimming pool, a climbing wall, aerobics rooms, three racquetball courts, three multipurpose basketball courts, an indoor track and 9,000 square feet dedicated to free weights, a cardio-theater and cardiovascular equipment. The student recreation center is free to all fee paying students. To take a look at the new facility, see www.valdosta.edu/recreation.

GRADUATE STUDENT FROM UGANDA COMPLETES NEW MLIS PROGRAM

VSU's new master's degree in library and information science (MLIS) is attracting students both statewide and internationally. Dick Kawooya, an international student from Kampala, Uganda, came to VSU to pursue an MLIS degree because the program offers flexibility. Kawooya likes the variety of Web-based curriculum and specialization opportunities. The program is well structured and gives students the needed time to handle the course work. Dick, who was inducted into Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the honor society of graduate students, completed his degree in May and will pursue a Ph.D.



THRESEBA BOO

VSU MOURNS THE LOSS OF THREE FACULTY MEMBERS

During the past semester, the VSU Community mourned the deaths of three faculty members at VSU. Dr. Gerald Petrella, associate professor of Mathematics and Computer Science; Dr. Frank Marinelli, retired associate professor of Psychology and Counseling and Dr. Bobby Blake, assistant dean of Fine Arts. CIP staff offer our condolences to their families and loved ones. They will truly be missed.



SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (SIS) 2001-2002

The past year was a very successful year for SIS. The society took part in several on-campus activities as well as self-organized activities. The first activity of the academic year was a cookout for all society members and international students. During the second meeting, the following new officers were elected: Florian Froede of Germany, president; Rachea Kanhai of Trinidad, vice president; Linda Cox of Belize, treasurer; Kene Osonwa of Nigeria, secretary; and Karina Gomez of Belize, assistant secretary. The new officers took initiative with other members to participate in several on-campus activities, including Homecoming and Diversity Week.

Trips to Wild Adventures and the Okefenokee Swamp were organized and twice this year international parties were organized at local establishments. The main event of the year was once again the Annual International Dinner, which was held on April 13. A record number of tickets were sold, the food was great, and the entertainment was one of the best in years.

The SIS web page is updated on a regular basis. If you want to know what is happening with SIS and to see pictures of past events, go to www.valdosta.edu/sis

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS EXPERIENCE

The International Awareness Experience once again reflected the importance of international students to the Valdosta Community. Forty-five VSU international students taught about their countries and cultures once a week for six weeks in elementary, middle, and high schools in Valdosta. It was a rewarding experience for the international students, who got a taste of local culture, as well as for the Valdosta school children, who were able to experience places that many may never have a chance to see. The six weeks culminated in the International Fair, held at the Valdosta Mall.

FOCUS SERIES

The topic of the Spring 2002 Focus Series was "Minorities in Europe - Together or Apart?" This year's series was as great a success as in previous years. Lecturers, including a Czech exchange professor at VSU, came to present on various topics. The Series also featured films and a Roma Dance Group from the Czech Republic. The events made the series one of the most interesting to date.

ALUMNI NOTES

Thank you all for your generous responses! As you can see we have a lot of new announcements:

Jonathan Good (1996) and **Wilhemine Bidet** are engaged. Jonathan played for two years on the VSU golf team and is currently employed with American Golf of the United Kingdom where he plays professional golf, teaches and runs one of the AGUK facilities in the UK. He would like to hear from students of their era at VSU. You can contact Jonathan at jon@good63.freeserve.co.uk.

Martin Osler (1996) is engaged to Erica and their wedding is planned for late 2002. He is the Public Relations Manager for the Scottish University for Industry in Glasgow, Scotland.

Harikleia Georgiou (1995) lived in Athens, Greece, for 2 ½ years, moved to Paris for six months and then relocated to London, England, where she worked in the retail business. Harikleia translated the novel, "Survival Throes or Death Study" from Greek to English. Last November, she returned to the United States to be with her fiancé, Shawn Sirmans. Currently, she is pursuing a career in publishing and linguistics and plans to enter graduate school at VSU in August.

Tim Wheeler (1998) is the Director of NBC's WALB Channel 10 in Valdosta, Ga. He has been living in Valdosta since May 2000 with his wife, Laine, who is pursuing a biology degree at VSU, and his daughter Savannah. You may remember Tim was part of the rock band "Romaine's Underpants" while a student at VSU.

Nona Rogava (2000) recently graduated from the Georgian University with honors. She is currently employed with the United States Agency for International Development.

Anna G. Einarsdottir (2002) just finished her senior year of volleyball and holds all setting records for VSU. She graduated with a master's degree in health and physical education this summer and is now planning her wedding, which will take place next year.

Annabel Tesson of France and **Andreas Freiher von der Recke** of Germany, who attended VSU in 1995 and 1996, were married in France this summer. They currently live near the French and German border. Annabel is working as a teacher for hearing-impaired children and Andreas, who has a master's degree in physics, is working as a project engineer for an international software company. Their email address is avdr@club-internet.fr.

Elina Haavisto, formerly **Haapamäki**, (1992) formerly employed by the candy company Leaf, recently acquired the position of director of management, reporting and development for the Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. Elina is married to Jari, who is a project manager on SAP R/3 IT projects; they have been married since 1997. Last May, Elina and her husband Jari got together with **Graham McClelland** (Sunderland, UK) and **Gudrun Marta Asgrimsdottir** (Iceland) in London to watch a Liverpool soccer game in Coventry.

Elena Papastavrou (1995) is currently a high school music teacher at the Ministry of Education and part-time student at Bath University in the United Kingdom. She is pursuing a master's degree in Educational Management. She has been married since 1997 and has an 18-month old daughter.

Leithia Economidis (1999) now living in Athens, Greece, is working on a master's degree in art. She keeps in touch with **Sarah Walsh**, who works as a mobile phone communicator in England, **Gavin Anderson**, who is a public relations manager for Toyota LTD in England, and **Annet Tarko**, who is a pharmacist in Hungary.

Codrina Cosma (2002) graduated this summer with two bachelor's degrees in English and German and two international diplomas, one in Spanish and one in French. She will pursue a Ph.D. in Florida.

Klaus-Dieter Acker (2000) is back in Karlsruhe, Germany after successfully completing an MBA at VSU and five successful years as one of VSU's top tennis players and assistant coach. Klaus is currently employed with one of the top 15 software companies in the world: Peregrine Systems Corporation. He is product marketing manager and is in charge of European product marketing for electronic catalogs for Peregrine.



Natalia Nikolova-Welch (2001) is finishing her year of optional practical training for Estée Lauder at Belk in Valdosta. On February 2, 2002 she married David Welch in Savannah, Ga. They held a second wedding ceremony in Bulgaria in the summer.

Peter Tonui (1997) is starting his fifth year of General Surgery residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. The institution is one of three main Harvard Medical School Teaching hospitals. Peter was a biology major at VSU and finished his fourth year of medical school at Northwestern (Chicago). Last summer he was in Kenya and then went to New Delhi to do a rotation, both as part of his continued medical training.

Lale Apakan (1981) is seeking old friends from the period of 1981. You can contact Lale at lapakan@hotmail.com.

Mark Lister (MPA, 1992-93), from Leeds, England, has been working as a police officer in Hong Kong for the past eight years. Mark is now Senior Inspector of a department of 75 officers. Mark visited VSU this summer during a trip that included attending the wedding of **Daphne Durham**, former International Student Advisor at VSU, in Newport, Rhode Island in July. Other guests at the wedding with VSU ties were **Ed Hart and Karen Dumville Hart, Dawn Williams, and Maki Kato**.

Duncan Fortune (1992-1993), Rotary student from Scotland, is now traveling around the world, visiting his former VSU classmates. Don't be surprised if you get a call!