



HAVE YOU HEARD?

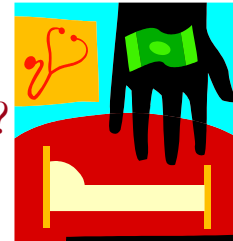
an update for the division of business and finance

FACT & FICTION: PPO Insurance Plan not Accepted ??

Monday, February 14th, 2005

You may have been sitting in a crowded Dr's waiting room and noticed signs indicating that Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPO's plans are not accepted. Or perhaps you know someone who works for another organization with a Blue Cross PPO plan and their insurance was denied at one of our local hospitals. Understandably, this can cause frustration and confusion. However, our excellent Human Resources professionals are able to provide clarification on this issue.

What VSU insurance is accepted?



Both VSU's Traditional Indemnity plan and PPO plan through Blue Cross and Blue Shield are accepted at South Georgia Medical Center and Smith Northview hospitals.

The confusion often arises because several care providers in our area do not accept Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPO plans from other organizations. However, many accept our University System of Georgia Blue Cross and Blue Shield PPO coverage. If you encounter signage in a Dr's office indicating that they don't accept Blue Cross PPOs, then please be sure to let them know that your insurance is with the University System of Georgia, as many will then accept your plan.

The next edition of *Have You Heard?* will feature more details about how to find participating providers (in the state of Georgia and nationwide) for both the Indemnity and the PPO plans. This valuable information is easily attainable and can save you time and money!

Got News?

- Have a question?
- Heard a rumor?
- News you'd like to share?
- A new service or program others should know about?
- An accomplishment to share?

You can be a part of *HAVE YOU HEARD?* Submit information to Carolyn Gaston at cgaston@valdosta.edu.

NEWS NOW

New Security Phones Installed

You may have noticed the 9 foot tall yellow posts topped with blue lights. These eye-catching structures are our new campus emergency phones! They emit a blue light after dark, which turns to a flashing strobe when activated by the large red button. Once activated, users are automatically connected to University Police. These safety enhancements were accomplished by a campus-wide collaboration. Campus Safety, University Police, the Physical Plant, and Shawn Gibbons of Auxiliary Services worked in partnership with students and SGA members to chose the following locations for installation of seven new emergency phones:



- Ashley Hall:** Now operational, this new phone replaces an older phone located behind Ashley Hall.
- Jeanette Street Parking Lot:** This new phone, just off Georgia Ave. is awaiting a number assignment and activation.
- Thaxton Hall:** This new phone replaces an older one and is awaiting a number assignment and activation.
- Oak Street Parking Lot:** Physical Plant has this installation on their to-do list for next week.
- Barrow Hall:** A new installation is complete and awaits phone service provider to program, assign number & activate.
- Library :** Physical Plant will be installing this new phone next week, across the bridge from Fine Arts along the walk between the new addition to the Library and Lowndes Hall (creek side).

Suggestions of where phones are needed, or input about unsafe conditions, are welcomed at:

<http://services.valdosta.edu/safety/unsafeform.aspx>

Reader Reward !

You could be eligible to win a sweet surprise! Be one of the first 8 readers of this issue of *Have You Heard* to contact Christy Coons Yates in the Organizational Development & Training Office and you will receive a special gift.

Contact Christy at:
cbc Yates@valdosta.edu
or
245-6435.

Student Patrollers Added to University Police

The University Police Department will soon hire six to ten Student Patrol Officers, giving additional "eyes and ears" to the campus police force. Some of their duties will include providing escorts at night, conducting building checks, opening and closing buildings, and providing special parking details during evening and early morning hours. These additional positions will allow University Police to better allocate its full-time patrol resources, while providing an increased visual presence on campus.

Look for these new additions to our campus!

Everyone to Receive New ID Cards

The 1Card Office will issue new ID cards this spring as part of a plan to fulfill the Board of Regents requirement to eliminate the social security number from being the campus identification number. The new card will feature an updated, contemporary design and the magnetic stripe on the card will be encoded with the new Banner generated identification number. Distribution of faculty and staff cards will commence following Spring break. Further details will be posted prior to the card distribution. If you have any questions regarding this process please forward them to the ID Change Committee at idchange@valdosta.edu.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

'Food for Thought' Featured in National Articles

The internet café coffee shop "Food for Thought," located in Odum Library, is attracting national buzz in two professional journals. The February editions of *On-campus Hospitality* and the *Bulletin of Higher Education* both published articles about the café's amenities for students. This recognition is due in part to the hard work of Rob Kellner's Auxiliary Services team, including the leadership of Kae Sinkle from Dining Services.

Telephone Audit Saves \$\$\$

The offices of Auxiliary Services and Financial Services conducted a phone audit and received action request forms back from approximately 50 offices. As a result, 133 phone lines have been disconnected! When you do the math (the phone lines cost the University \$21 per month), this is going to result in some substantial savings in the long run. All departments are encouraged to look closely at their phone bill and make sure that they are being charged for their phone lines. Shawn Gibbons, Auxiliary Services, indicates that they are still making modifications to some of the departments' telecommunication budgets and hopes changes will be in place by the new fiscal year. She also wants the campus to know how much the project team appreciates the assistance of departments who took time to fill out forms and ask questions about their bills!



happy birthday to you ...

Please wish the following people a happy birthday as you see them this month!

Edward Alexander	Deborah Conrad	Rufus Foster	Derrick Jones	Amanda Martin	Chelsey Spears
John Anderson	Cassie Cook	Barry Futch	Michael Jones	Christian Mills	Alicia Thomas
Donnie Atkins	Laural Copeland	William Griffin	Mickey Jordan	Ryan Moore	Antowan Thomas
Nathan Atkins	Harry Crumley	Reginald Hammond	Linnie Kinard	James Nelson	Sylvia Wade
James Barker	Willa Curry	Holly Harrell	Jochebed Lawrence	Mary Patton	Natasha Warren
Michael Barnwell	Kenneth Daniels	William Hiers	Reggie Lee	Brandon Phillips	Peggy Westberry
Christopher Blackwell	Kimberly English	Robert Hughes	Cedric Lewis	Jasmine Powell	Michael Wetherbee
Lisa Brown	Yoric Erb-Summers	Ulrike Israel	Betty Loyd	Deborah Reaves	Hollie Wills
Timothy Brown	Stephanie Fogle	Phyllis Jackson	Anna Lott	Lastacia Reese	Gerald Winningham
Jason Clark	Elizabeth Folmar	Russell James	Amanda Lowe	Gregory Richards	Christy Coons Yates
Sumruay Conrad	Michael Fontaine	Freddie Joiner	Jean Maley	Rayfield Scurry	