



VSU Connection

For the Faculty, Staff and Members of the Valdosta State University Community

Vol.1 • No.14 | April 29, 2008

Upward Bound

VSU Introduces Area Teens to University Life and Their Dreams...

Valdosta State University's Department of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs secured a competitive \$1 million federal grant to introduce at-risk Valdosta High School students to university life and encourage them to pursue secondary education.

Last fall, the department submitted a proposal to be considered for the Upward Bound Program — one of six programs developed by the United States Department of Education to help low-income, disabled and first generation college students progress through the academic pipeline. Upward Bound will allocate \$250,000 annually to VSU during the next four years to fund a six-week summer experience at VSU for about 60 area high school students. The grant will also support continued tutoring and academic advising for program participants until they complete high school.

During the six-week summer program — two weeks of which is spent living in campus residence halls - the 60 students will attend workshops on a variety of topics, including personal development and academic survival skills. One-on-one

tutoring as well as social and academic activities similar to freshman welcome events will be held to help students picture themselves as part of a university.

"One of the strategic goals of this university is to increase recruitment into higher education, so a part of that effort has

The Upward Bound program requirements place strong emphasis on core subjects. Programs must expose students to math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language.

to be going into our high schools, junior high schools and middle schools to help those schools prepare their students to achieve college admission requirements," Maggie Viverette, the director of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs, said. "Particularly at-risk students, many of them might not know college is

even a possibility for them. No one has directed them to supportive resources or given them the needed encouragement."

The department is in the process of hiring an energetic staff to develop and support a summer program, held from June 23 to Aug. 1, which will provide students with a solid foundation on which to prepare them to finish high school and successfully transition to college life. Staff will provide instruction in core curriculum and expose students to cultural and academic programming.

"A big part of this program is to bring students to a college campus and to get them used to the campus so they realize that they too can pursue secondary education," Viverette said. "We're extremely excited about the two weeks that students get to live in residence halls. That, in addition to the education and social programs, will give them the true campus experience."

For more information about the Upward Bound program, call the department at (229) 333-5463 or e-mail Viverette at mviverette@valdosta.edu. ■

Spring Commencement Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3

Friday, May 2 • Whitehead Auditorium

- 2 p.m. College of Nursing
- 7 p.m. Master of Social Work

Saturday, May 3 • PE Complex

- 10 a.m. Dewar College of Education
ROTC Commissioning
- 1 p.m. College of the Arts
Langdale College of Business
Master of Library & Information Sciences
- 4 p.m. College of Arts & Science

1,218 students will graduate during the spring ceremonies

For more information about the 2008 Spring Commencement and Honors Banquet, go to www.valdosta.edu/specialevents



Tracy Collins (left), senior secretary at Valdosta State University's Kings Bay campus, assists U.S. naval personnel Larry Clark and Luz Lopez as Lopez registers in late February for her next term. The more than 170 students who attend night and weekend classes at the campus, located on the Kings Bay submarine base in Camden County, are working toward one of four associate's, six bachelor's or two master's degrees.

Written a Book Lately?

We want to inform VSU alumni about works produced by faculty and staff. Tell us about a book you've written within the past two years, and we will publish the information in the **Books** section of the summer *Alumni Voice*.

Send book details to Publications Editor, Kate Heine at kaheine@valdosta.edu

Comfort Food

Well, maybe you haven't authored a book lately, but you surely have a family recipe (or recipe with a story) you want to share. We can't wait to hear — and taste — what you dish up!

Send your recipe and any memories associated with making or eating the family cuisine to kaheine@valdosta.edu

Professor Inspired to Provide Free Psychological Services to Area Schools

Associate professor Dr. Larry D. Hilgert and master's students in the Psychology and Counseling Department are providing free psychological services to students and families in the Brooks County School System until the system can hire a psychologist to fill the void left when the county's specialist retired.

"When it is a neighboring county, you want to do something about the problem," Hilgert said. "Since my students and I are trained in the area, why not to provide some supervision for them?"

Hilgert said Brooks County is not alone in experiencing the lack of school psychologists, who typically dedicate much of their time to addressing the needs of special education students. School districts throughout the nation are struggling to fill positions left vacant because of high retirement rates.

The VSU students counseling individuals and seeking to improve district-wide support systems hold master's degrees in psychology and are completing work on a specialist degree, which includes 27 semester

hours of graduate course work, a full year internship and 500 hours of practicum.

"VSU offers the only nationally approved Ed.S. program in Georgia, making our students eligible for national certification," Hilgert said, in regards

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to the quality of work the VSU students will be able to provide Brooks County Schools.

This consultantship is managed through the VSU Center for Applied Research as well as the Office of Grants and Contracts.

"Our advanced students are given an opportunity to further develop skills under close supervision in anticipation of their internship the following year,"

Hilgert said. "They will also touch the lives of the students they will serve in public education."

The counseling services are free of charge for any public school system member. Brooks County employs school counselors for daily counseling services. VSU specialist students will assist those counselors and teachers through consultations at the respective school. Severe cases or cases when a student may potentially cause harm to himself/herself or someone else are treated at area hospitals.

Although this is the only contract between a school system and VSU's Department of Psychology and Counseling, Hilgert said he hopes it will establish a foundation for future experiences and develop valuable practical experiences for VSU students.

For more information about the psychological services, please call Dr. Hilgert at (229) 333-5616 or e-mail lhilgert@valdosta.edu. Visit www.valdosta.edu/coe/psychology for more information about VSU's Department of Psychology and Counseling. ■

COSA Elections Open Until May 2

Online elections for the four open representative positions on the Council on Staff Affairs began April 28 and will run through May 2.

Nominees for the Academic Affairs position include;

Diane Guest
Shirley McClain

Nominees for the three Finance and Administration positions include;

Kate Chappell
Leighia Hammond
Judy Hart
Lisa Hayes
Michael Knight
Regina Lee
Lisa O'Barr
Patrick Smith
Gerald Winningham

Voters must be employed within these divisions, and staff members are only allowed to participate in the voting process for their respective divisions.

A link will be displayed on the VSU home page, www.valdosta.edu, through Friday afternoon.

New council members will be announced at the regular COSA meeting on June 10. If you have any questions, please call Mike McKinley at (229) 245.2498 or e-mail him at mmckinle@valdosta.edu. ■

Calling for Nominations of Staff Dedicated to Service

Faculty and staff may nominate VSU staff members who demonstrate initiative, reliability and service for the Valdosta State University Award for Excellence in Service: Classified Staff. The nominee must have been a full-time classified staff member at VSU for at least three years, and an individual may not receive the award more than once every five years.

The deadline to nominate a classified staff member for the honor is May 31. The award will be handed out at fall convocation, during which time the university also honors faculty with university-wide awards for Excellence in Professional Activity, Service, Advising and Teaching. ■

Nomination forms are available in the Office of the President and online at the president's Web site, www.valdosta.edu/pres/ or the Council on Staff Affairs Web site, www.valdosta.edu/cosa/

VSUConnection

Editor/Designer | Kate Heine

The VSU Connection is a semimonthly newsletter designed to inform VSU personnel and students about the latest campus-wide news. Check out the Connection online at www.valdosta.edu/news/.

For more information about the Connection or to submit a story idea, e-mail Kate Heine, Communications Specialist, Communications Unit, at kahaine@valdosta.edu.