



KATH H. ELLIOTT

New Director of Orchestra Studies Gears up for Dynamic Season

Dr. Howard Hsu addresses Metro One, a young professionals networking group, about the Downtown Symphony Club, a Valdosta Symphony Orchestra initiative that encourages people in their 20s and 30s to enjoy the orchestra experience.



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In today's hustled pace, kept in time by the ping of BlackBerrys, some consider the orchestra painfully old fashioned. But Dr. Howard Hsu insists that letting one's unplugged mind wander as melodies weave together into an auditory dance is exactly what people need to reflect on their fast-paced lives.

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra conductor, who was hired in January as director of orchestra studies, said he aims to delight established symphony patrons with sophisticated concertos but to also introduce orchestra newcomers to the moving harmonies of the VSO. Hsu plans to be instrumental in the cultivation of the Downtown Symphony Club, established in 2009 to urge young professionals to experience the orchestra.

"Everyone, myself included, has so much going on their lives that it can seem like a big time commitment to come to a concert, but I will say that people who do make the commitment will experience something incredibly unique and rewarding," said Hsu, pronounced "shoo," who earned a doctorate of musical arts at the University of Connecticut. "There's something so special about seeing and hearing wonderful musicians come together to recreate great works of art that have survived centuries. Music allows us to escape the quick speed of "now" and lets us take the time to reflect on anything it evokes."

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. Howard Hsu to our faculty as director of orchestra studies. Hsu rose to the top of all 27 candidates. He is an elegant conductor as well as a dedicated professional with essential academic experience. As Director of Orchestra Studies and music director of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, he will be in the vanguard of musical and artistic growth on campus and in our community."

— Dr. James Shrader, head of the VSU Department of Music, organized and chaired the rigorous conductor interview process.

Hsu, who plays the violin, previously served as the assistant conductor of the University of Connecticut Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras. Prior to working in the university setting, Hsu debuted as a guest conductor with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and a number of ensembles and orchestras in the Northeast.

The Pennsylvania native said he is eager to begin the VSO's 20th Anniversary Season, which features five concerts between October and May. Hsu's first concert as the VSO conductor was the April 25 season-finale performance featuring piano soloist Alexander Ghindin. He performed a trail concert in September 2008 as one of three conductors being considered for the maestro position.

Hsu's wife, Tamara Hardesty, a professional opera singer and voice instructor, will serve as an adjunct instructor of voice in the music department. Hardesty, who has performed as a featured soprano soloist at the Kennedy Center, will perform as a soloist during the VSO's December concert. Hsu and Hardesty are proud parents of their 3-year-old son, Hudson. ■



Learn more about the 2009-2010 symphony season at <http://www.valdostasympphony.org/>

VSU Hires Quarterbacks Coach



Robby Brown threw his first football as quarterback at age 9 and his most memorable at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he graduated in 2004. Before he ever stepped onto the field, he sat alongside it — watching his father referee and coach beneath the Friday night lights. After years of play, Brown joined the VSU Blazers in July to guide and strengthen the Blazer's passing game.

"I love to teach," Brown said of his coaching philosophy. "I love the look on players' faces when you have communicated the correct way to do something and they figure it out. I came to Valdosta because the whole community expects to be the best. The football here is second to none, and as a coach, you want to be at the highest level possible."

The native of Blairsville, Ga., began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Troy University in Alabama for two years before he served as the offensive coordinator at Division II Southwest Baptist in Bolivar, Mo. He came to VSU from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark., where he had been coordinating offensives for the Reddies since 2008.

The coaching position at VSU opened up in the spring when former VSU Offensive Coordinator Buster Faulkner took a position at University of Central Arkansas. Brown said he is excited to work with the VSU coaching staff, which is known for its successful collaboration and talented athlete pool. Brown said he is eager to work with VSU quarterbacks, including transfer student Kellen Lewis, who set 16 school records at Indiana; and Jimmy Coy, a transfer from El Camino Community College in California. Having worked for teams that play VSU, Brown is familiar with the VSU offense's strengths.

"I'm an even-keeled guy," the NASCAR enthusiast said about his style of coaching. "I didn't have this unbelievable talent when I played, I was more of a student of the game. I don't get real high or real low, but I have a lot of energy."

Brown enjoys the outdoors and watching Atlanta Braves baseball games with his wife of five years, Rachel, who is an art teacher. Brown is an avid animal lover with a particular fondness for horses. It's fitting Brown is now a member of the VSU community since he named his childhood horse "Blaze." The third-grade Christmas present still grazes in the pasture where Brown grew up. ■

Meet the Blazers: August 22

Don't miss an opportunity to meet the Valdosta State Blazer Football team at 9 a.m. on August 22 at Bazemore-Hyder Stadium. Children ages 5-13 will be able to participate in football drills with the Blazers. Team members will be signing autographs and visiting with fans during this family-friendly event.



Watch home games online at vstateblazers.tv

Read more about the VSU Football season at www.vstateblazers.com/mfootball/

Blazer Football Radio Network



2009 Football Schedule

Aug 29	vs. Newberry	7:00PM
Sep 12	vs. Southern Arkansas*	7:00PM
Sep 19	@ Ouachita Baptist*	8:00PM
Sep 26	vs. West Alabama*	7:00PM
Oct 1	@ Delta State*	7:30 PM
Oct 10	vs. Henderson State*	3:00PM
Oct 17	@ Harding*	7:00PM
Oct 22	vs. North Alabama*	8:00PM
Oct 29	@ West Georgia*	7:30PM
Nov 7	vs. Edward Waters	2:00PM

Don't Miss the Action

Listen on any of these radio stations

- **Talk 92.1 FM (WDDQ)**
Valdosta/Adel (6 KW)
- **1490 AM/97.7 FM (WSFB)**
Quitman (1 KW)
- **Foxy 97.5 FM (WHLI)**
Valdosta/Statenville (4.2 KW)
- **Z 92.5 FM (WKZZ)**
Tifton (20.5 KW)
- **Classic 93.5 FM (WVOH)**
Hazlehurst (25 KW)
- **BlazeFM 90.9 (WVVS)**
Valdosta (5.3 KW)
- **810 AM (WTHV)**
Valdosta (25 KW)
- **96.1 FM (W24IBG)**
Valdosta (99 W)

VSU Marching Band to Play at Jaguars' Halftime Show



The Valdosta State University Blazin' Brigade Marching Band will perform a halftime show Saturday, Aug. 22, in Jacksonville as the Jaguars take on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at 7:30 p.m.

More than 50,000 people are expected to fill the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, where the 145-member band will entertain fans with American rock band Journey's songs, including "Stone in Love," "Don't Stop Believing," "Lights," and "Anyway You Want It."

"This is by far the largest crowd we have ever played since I have been here, and I am pretty sure in the history of VSU band," said Eric Bradshaw, who has directed the VSU marching band for the past seven years. "It is wonderful for our students to experience the energy of playing in front of such a large live audience, and it is great exposure for VSU."

Bradshaw, who submitted a video and theme suggestions to the Jaguars in the spring, said returning band members and 60 new recruits are eagerly awaiting the start of band practice in mid-August. Although band members have been practicing music on their own, the group

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will have only 10 days to practice as a full band prior to the nearly 7-minute halftime show.

"Students will have to adjust to the variances in sound because the Jaguars' stadium is enclosed, and we will have to make the adjustment from college hash marks to professional ones," said Bradshaw, who played in the University of Alabama marching band. "We will have to revert back to college hash

marks when we come back and perform the show at VSU games. I am confident in their adaptability, though."

The August 22 preseason game will not be televised, but VSU band enthusiasts will be able to experience the Journey halftime show during the first half of the VSU Football season. Bradshaw said the Blazin' Brigade will feature a Broadway musicals halftime show the second half of the season.

"The students are so excited because most of them have never been to a professional football game, let alone played at one," Bradshaw said. "It will be a fun trip and a great way for the new members of the band to bond with the rest of the group." ■

VSU Communications Survey

Please take a few moments to provide your thoughts on the methods of communication currently available to you in the workplace at VSU. Your responses to this survey will help VSU better address the information needs of employees.

The survey is available for online completion. Please visit the survey website by clicking on the link below:

http://surveys.valdosta.edu/surveys/Communications_Survey/

The survey is available for a limited time. Please complete the survey no later than August 31st. The survey must be completed in one sitting and should take you no longer than 5 minutes.

In appreciation of your participation you will be entered to win prizes including tickets to VSU home football games, campus dining certificates, and various items with VSU insignia.

You can enter into the drawing by:
1. Completing the survey
2. Sending an e-mail to surveys@valdosta.edu with your first name and last name in the e-mail body and "Internal Communications Survey" in the subject line. Participation in the survey itself is not required to enter the drawing. ■

Got some news to share?
Send it our way — news@valdosta.edu

VSUConnection

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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 Elliott, Communications Specialist, at kaheine@valdosta.edu.

Schedule for Opening of the University *Fall Semester 2009*

August marks the official beginning of the 2009-10 academic year for Valdosta State University. See below for a list of important dates and details to remember as students return, classes begin and the VSU community prepares for the coming year.

Aug 10: Convocation

Dr. Patrick J. Schloss, Valdosta State University's eighth president, will address the campus community during convocation at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10, in the Fine Arts Building's Whitehead Auditorium.

Convocation will air on VSU-TV, Cable Channel 11, live at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10. It will rebroadcast:

- 9:30 p.m. on Monday
- 1 a.m. on Tuesday
- 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday
- 10:30 p.m. Friday.

You can watch the live simulcast online at <http://cinema.valdosta.edu:8080/ramgen/broadcast/vsutv.rm>.

Following convocation, faculty and staff are invited to attend a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Palms Dining Center.

Deans, directors and department heads will meet from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Powell Hall Auditorium.

Aug 11: Meetings and Orientations

College, division and departmental activities will be held from 8 a.m. to noon.

Core curriculum faculty will meet from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the UC Cypress Room. New faculty members can learn about life at VSU during two orientation sessions: 3:30-5 p.m. in the University Center Rose Room.

August 12: More Orientations

A second new faculty orientation will be held from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Odum Library, room 3270. The orientation will also include faculty development activities.

August 12-14: Move-in Days

Students will settle into their residence halls Aug. 12-14. Students in Patterson and Hopper, as well as newly opened Georgia and Reade halls, will be the first to move in on Wednesday. Students moving into Langdale, Lowndes and Brown will unpack their boxes on Thursday. All upperclassmen

will move into Centennial, Converse and Hopper on Friday. More information on housing and move-in is available at http://services.valdosta.edu/housing/docs/BHN_Summer_09_WEB.pdf.

Faculty and staff members will be able to park near the Office of Admissions, the University Center, the Alumni House and the Oak Street Deck and surface lot. Other parking updates and changes, as well as a campus parking map, can be viewed on the Parking and Transportation Web site at <http://services.valdosta.edu/parking/>.

Aug. 13-14: Registration

Students who have not registered for fall semester classes will be able to do so from 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, through 2:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

Department and division meetings and activities will be held Friday, Aug. 14.

Aug. 17: Classes begin

Registration ends and students begin attending regularly scheduled classes. ■

New Payroll System Goes Live Aug. 10: Register Today!

The University System of Georgia adopted software to consolidate various human resources and payroll functions for improved efficiency and effectiveness. ADP Shared Services goes live August 10, yet only 40 percent of VSU employees are registered.

All faculty, staff and student employees must register and add eTime to their available ADP services. Those who do not register and enter eTime via the new system should anticipate paycheck delays.

Biweekly employees, student and casual labor (temporary) employees are expected to record work and exception time (sick and annual leave). Monthly paid employees, including faculty, use eTime to request and record exception time.

Before August 10, take time to register using the steps below:

1. Register: Go to <https://portal.adp.com/public/index.htm> and click on the "First Time User" link. Type in the registration pass code: usg-6775 and follow the instructions provided.

2. Add a service: You may add a service, such as eTime, without logging out after the first time you register. Click on the "Add a Service" button and follow the instruction. If you are already registered but never added eTime, go to <https://portal.adp.com/public/index.htm>, click the "First time User" link and follow the same steps listed above.

Problems? E-mail sharedservices@valdosta.edu.

ADP tutorials, user guides, training schedules and frequently asked questions are available at www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/sharedservices.shtml

Enhanced Employee Self Service

As part of the shift to ADP, an improved Employee Self Service Web page will soon be available for VSU Employees to view paychecks online, view and update direct deposit information, and view W-2's online for up to three years.

Paycheck Disbursements

The Department of Human Resources

and Employee Development encourages all VSU employees to sign up for direct deposit as soon as possible if they have not already done so. Direct deposit is the most reliable way to ensure prompt access to one's paycheck. The paychecks of employees without direct deposit will be mailed out from an off-site location.

Pay Dates

All monthly employees will be paid on the last working day of the month. For May and December, faculty will be paid on the 15th of the month. There will be no change in the pay schedule for employees paid biweekly.

All Supervisors Please Note:

All employees cannot begin work until Human Resources, Student Employment and Payroll (where applicable) have received all paperwork and the employee has completed the ADP sign-up process. New employees absolutely cannot be paid for any work they do prior to that sign-up date as they cannot begin recording time into the system until this process is completed. ■