



## Biology Department Secures Natural History Collection



A 2,000-pound stuffed buffalo is one of the nearly 300 specimens the Valdosta State University Biology Department acquired when the state of Georgia began distributing items once displayed in the Georgia Capital Museum. Dr. Leslie S. Jones, associate professor of science education and equine reproductive physiology, said the extensive collections of fish, birds, reptiles and mushrooms will bring curriculum to life for students enrolled in science courses at VSU. When not being used in class, the specimens will be displayed in educational dioramas within the Hugh C. Bailey Science Center.

"This is a bona fide treasure for the biology department, and we are ecstatic about how these specimens will improve classroom instruction and up the educational value of the display cases," said Jones, who traveled in early June to retrieve the collection with Dr. Colleen McDonough, professor of animal behavior, and Dr. Mitch Lockhart, professor of parasitological and wildlife disease. "Faculty members have been coming in to look at the collection, drooling at the educational possibilities."

### Rare Specimens

Jones said the study of fungi, for instance, is a challenge to teach because students often observe a limited collection of specimens that look like "pickles in a jar." The addition of 45 colorful wax mushroom and fungi representations will enable students studying mycology to examine lifelike subject matter rather than picturing the species from images in textbooks.

Senior biology major Holly Dekle, who has been helping to unload and catalog the collection, said she is impressed

with the nearly 130 stuffed birds in lifelike poses as well as the array of animals, reptiles and amphibians - including a sperm whale, bald eagle and alligator.

"Being able to handle and view animals and birds in natural states is going to be such an asset for students studying zoology and ornithology (the study of birds). There is just something about being able to get up close to an animal when you are studying it to truly take it in," said Dekle.

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### Classroom Instruction

McDonough, who helped pack items into the 15-foot passenger van, attached trailer and truck, said the team of professors had predicted specimens would be in questionable shape after 20 years of storage. The state capital boxed up natural history items during renovations in the early 1990s, and specimens remained in storage when the state decided not to restore the exhibits after remodeling. However, the specimens are in pristine condition and will contribute greatly to vivid classroom instruction.

The various shells, corals plants and other items not used in classroom instruction will be displayed in educational dioramas throughout Bailey Science Center. Jones said many of the 39 fish — including an 8-foot sailfish — are wall mounts, which lend themselves to expansive sea displays. The giant American buffalo will be displayed on the second floor near windows overlooking the pedestrian walkway.

### Dedicated Displays

Jones and McDonough plan to dedicate two displays to biology faculty members who died recently. They will create educational displays in honor of Dr. Linda Chamberlin, associate professor of biology, who died in 2005, and biology professor, Dr. David O'Drobinak, who died in November 2006. ■

### VSU on flickr®

Check out pictures from the VSU Department of Biology's museum collection and other VSU photographs at the campus Flickr account, [www.flickr.com/photos/valdostastate/collections/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/valdostastate/collections/).

Share your VSU photos by joining the VSU Flickr Group at [www.flickr.com/groups/valdostastate/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/valdostastate/).

## Peach State Offers 'Pay What You Can' and Online Ticketing

If it's true that theatre is an honest reflection of the times, then Peach State Summer Theatre's "Pay What You Can" performances signal the strain of the economic climate and the theatre's conviction that the show must go on.

Georgia's official musical theatre is offering two opportunities for theatre enthusiasts to pay what they can to enjoy evening performances of the tender love story "Once on this Island" Wednesday, July 1, and a scheming comedy "The Producers" on Tuesday, July 7.

Peach State Managing Director Duke Guthrie said the theatre does not want ticket prices to inhibit people from being able to experience the transformative art form. Those interested in attending one or both of these performances must stop by the PSST! Box Office to purchase up to four tickets per customer. Phone reservations and on-line purchases do not apply to



this special offer, which is subject to availability based on limited seating. Curtains for both "Pay What You Can" performances open at 7:30 p.m.

### Online Ticketing

This summer Peach State has also introduced online ticketing capabilities.

Theatergoers are now able to purchase individual tickets, season memberships and various packages by visiting the Peach State Summer Theatre Web site at [www.valdosta.edu/psst/](http://www.valdosta.edu/psst/).

The online ticketing option does not replace traditional ticket purchasing options. Patrons are still able to call the Peach State Summer Theatre Box Office at (229) 259-7770 or stop by the office, located on the first floor of the VSU Fine Arts Building. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ■

## VSU Honors Retirees



The following retirees were honored at the June Retired Faculty & Staff Luncheon. To purchase a VSU Retirement Walkway brick in honor of a former employee, go to [www.edu/cosa/retirement.shtml](http://www.edu/cosa/retirement.shtml).

**Martha Berrian**, Palms Dining  
1996-2008

**James Black**, Finance and Administration: 2005-2008, 1969-1999

**Ronald Blease**, Building Maintenance  
1984-2009

**Maxine Brown**, Auxiliary Facilities  
1989-2009

**Henry Calhoun**, Ground Maintenance  
1996-2009

**Rita Collins**, Student Health Services  
1976-2008

**Elaine Dawkins**, Odum Library  
1983-2008

**Sandra Denson**, Odum Library  
1983-2008

**Charles Hudson**, Registrar  
1998-2008

**Betty Jackson**, Parking and Transportation: 1997-2008

**Phyllis Jackson**, Custodial Services  
1998-2009

**James Plondke**, Music Department  
1993-2008

**George Rudd**, Building Maintenance  
1983-2009

**Rebecca Tippett**, Aerospace Studies  
1988-2009

**Carolyn Cox**, Adult & Career Education  
1983-2009

**William Fredenberger**, Management  
1988-2009

**William Huitt**, Psychology & Counseling  
1985-2009

**Sandra Walker**, Modern & Classical Languages: 1985-2009

**Hilary Harper**, Sociology Department  
1995-2009

**W. Kent Moore**, COBA  
1979-2009

**Brenda Faulkner**, Housing & Residence Life: 1993-2009

## Veterans Affairs Physician Named Director of Student Health Center



*Dr. Edwin L. Hiatt served as a medical officer in the United States Air Force, and as a physician and administrator with the U.S. Department of State, Foreign Service. His next post — the VSU Student Health Center.*

On August 1, Dr. Edwin L. Hiatt will assume duties as director and physician for the Student Health Center. Hiatt — a physician with the Valdosta Veterans Affairs Clinic — will be directly responsible for managing the health center's daily operations and providing primary medical care to students.

"I am extremely pleased to become a part of VSU. I have always thought that someday I would like to be the college physician for VSU," said Hiatt, whose three daughters attended VSU. "I welcome the opportunity and I am looking forward to working with the excellent staff of exceptionally talented, dedicated, and hardworking professionals to deliver the best possible, student-centered medical

care in a beautiful state of the art facility."

Hiatt earned a Doctor of Medicine from Indiana University School of Medicine, and completed one year of pathology residency training at General Rose Memorial Hospital, Denver, Colo. He is a board certified family practitioner and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"The search committee conducted an extensive search and Dr. Hiatt was selected from an impressive pool of candidates," VSU President Patrick J. Schloss said. "He is highly respected within the medical community. I applaud the health center staff for their contributions to the search and their continued dedication and concern for the health of our students." ■

# New Payroll System Goes Live Aug. 8 **Are You Ready?**

The University System of Georgia adopted software to consolidate various human resources and payroll functions for improved efficiency and effectiveness. As of August 8, all Valdosta State University employees will be required to manage benefit information and record attendance and leave usage via the Shared Services Information Library at <http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/sharedservices.shtml#FAQ>. Faculty and staff are

encouraged to participate in online tutorials, review online user guides, and attend information sessions to familiarize themselves with the new system, which has replaced the former HR management tool PeopleSoft HRMS.

ADP, the nation's largest payroll services company, has developed this user-friendly database to streamline all USG's employee information. Since mid June, Shared Services has been available for VSU employees to practice human

resources functions, such as logging time and filling out essential travel documents. The new Employee Self Service Web site enables employees to view paychecks, view and update direct deposit information and view W-2s online for up to three years. VSU Human Resources and Employee Development requests that employees report any inconsistencies they see in the new ADP system to [sharedservices@valdosta.edu](mailto:sharedservices@valdosta.edu).

## ADP Informational sessions — Held in Odum Library, Room 3270

### Entering Annual/Sick Leave

An overview of the Shared Services software that focuses on general navigation, entering sick or vacation time, and making corrections. Instructors will review how to save and approve time cards and request time off.

July 2: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

July 8: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

### Open Sessions

For one-on-one assistance, the following sessions are available for individualized help with any aspect of the Shared Services/ADP system. These sessions — which require no registration — are open to faculty, staff and student employees.

July 6: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 10: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

### Supervisor Time Approval Training

This session reviews general navigation for bi-weekly staff, student assistants, work-study, casual labor and time clock users.

July 2: 8:30-10:30 a.m.

July 7: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

July 8: 8:30-10:30 a.m.

July 9: 10:00 a.m.-noon

July 9: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Prior to attending a training session, participants must register for ADP Employee Self Service and have added eTime as a service. Please consult the following Web site for assistance with these tasks: <http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/sharedservices.shtml>

**Registration for the informational sessions can be done online at [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training).**



The Center for Outdoor Recreational Experiences (CORE) is offering a handful of outdoor experiences for students, faculty and staff from July 10 through August 2. Trained CORE staff will guide and provide equipment for each excursion.

## CORE Trips in July

**Tennessee Whitewater:** Take a two-day trip down the Tennessee River. The trip, for which camping gear and transportation is provided, requires a minimum of four people. The cost is \$35 per student and \$45 for faculty and staff. Participants may stay in a hotel.

**Half-day Kayak/Canoe Trips:** Take a half-day trip down the Little River in Cherokee County Georgia or the Banks Lake in Lakeland. At least four people are required to participate in this excursion, for which all equipment and transportation is provided. The cost is \$5 for students and \$10 for faculty and staff.

**Full-day Kayak/Canoe Trips:** Enjoy a full day of kayaking and/or canoeing down the Suwannee River or the Wacissa River. Everything but food is provided for the trip, which requires a minimum of six participants. The cost for the Suwannee trip is \$20 for students and \$30 for faculty and staff. The Wacissa trip is \$15 for students and \$25 for faculty and staff.

**Tubing Down the Ichetucknee River:** A minimum of six people are required for this leisurely float down the Ichetucknee River. The cost is \$10 for students and \$15 for faculty and staff.

Call CORE at 229-245-2360 to set up your trip today. The summer office hours are Monday through Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Friday from 1-4 p.m.



## University Launches New Scheduling and Calendar Program

Managing and reserving space on campus will become easier with the implementation of Resource 25 — a Web-based program that streamlines classroom and event scheduling campus-wide.

“The overarching goal of R25 is to provide a centralized system to manage and reserve both academic and non-academic space on campus,” said Sage Archer, director of Event Services. “It optimizes the use of campus resources and ensures accurate information is received, which helps us provide better services to all of our customers.”

The new program also provides a campus-wide calendaring system —

where events and activities of special interest to the campus and/or are open to the public will be featured on the university’s main Web site at [www.valdosta.edu](http://www.valdosta.edu).

“This is a one-stop system to manage classroom inventory, as well as schedule

public space,” Archer said. “It provides a comprehensive listing of information and events taking place on campus, and in some instances off campus, in one scheduling system.”

The R25 implementation includes representatives from Event Services, Information Technology and Academic Affairs.

Training is mandatory for all individuals wanting to reserve space for their VSU campus department or organization, including registered student organizations. Online and standard classroom training will begin in July and continue through the fall semester. Full implementation of R25 is scheduled for August, with some aspects of the calendar system starting later this month.

## Downing Named Georgia Author of the Year

The Georgia Writers Association named Dr. Frederick Downing Author of the Year in Creative Non-Fiction, Biography for his work chronicling the faith pilgrimage of famed Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel. The head of the VSU Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies said he felt led to write “Elie Wiesel: A Religious Biography” so the Nobel Laureate some call “the messenger of mankind” could impart his story through new perspective.

“When I first began to teach, I read Wiesel’s ‘Night,’ which is one of the best known pieces of Holocaust literature. It was one of the most poignant and powerful books that I had ever read,” said Downing, who published the book in March 2008. “I found working with Wiesel to be an important combination of several aspects of my own scholarly journey.”



Judges from across the country sifted through the more than 90 nominations for Author of the Year awards in 12 categories. Downing said the honor was a gratifying affirmation of the nature and quality of his work. Awards were presented during the 45th annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards on June 13 at Kennesaw State University.

Downing has authored a number of articles, and in 1986 wrote his first book, “To See The Promised Land: The Faith Pilgrimage of Martin Luther King, Jr.” The father of two is currently working on a volume titled “In Scorn of the Consequences: The Radical Pilgrimage of Clarence L. Jordan.”

Read more about Downing and his works on his VSU Web page, [www.valdosta.edu/philosophy/frederick\\_downing.shtml](http://www.valdosta.edu/philosophy/frederick_downing.shtml). ■

## Accolades

**Suzanne Barnett**, director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), received a continuing grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration through the University of Georgia to help operate Valdosta State’s SBDC during 2009.

**Dr. Jean Temple**, associate dean for the College of Nursing, received a continuing grant from the Department of Health and Human Services/Health Resources and Services Administration for the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships for FY2010. This project supports registered nurses enrolled in Valdosta State University’s masters nursing program.

**Dr. Karla Hull**, professor and interim dean of the Graduate School, **Dr. Shirley Thompson**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Lynn C. Minor**, acting department head and associate professor in the Early Childhood and Special Education Department, received one year of funding that is part of a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Their project — “Seeking to Prepare Highly Qualified Special Education/Early Childhood Educators” — supports early childhood and special education programs in restructuring the dual certification program.

**Dr. Donna N. Sewell**, professor of English, was again awarded a grant from the National Writing Project to continue the Blackwater Writing Project at VSU for its 15th year. This grant supports the improvement of writing and the teaching of writing through a professional development model that invests in area teachers.

**Dr. J. Mitchell Lockhart**, professor of biology, was awarded a grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity, Fort Detrick, MD, for his continuing Gopher Tortoise Demography Study at Moody Air Force Base.

**Got some news to share?**  
Send it our way — [news@valdosta.edu](mailto:news@valdosta.edu)

### VSUConnection

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The *VSU Connection* is a monthly newsletter designed to inform VSU personnel and students about the latest campus-wide news. Check out the *Connection* online at [www.valdosta.edu/news/](http://www.valdosta.edu/news/)

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