

A Blazin' Hot Night... "Around the World" Gala Dinner & Auction



Valdosta State University President Patrick J. Schloss and Dr. Maureen Schloss, are joined by Susan and Chuck Steel at the university's A Blazin' Hot Night Gala, held Friday, March 13 in the University Center Magnolia Room. The dinner and auction featured more than 80 live and silent auction items, which raised approximately \$60,000 to benefit the VSU Foundation, Inc.



President Patrick J. Schloss and Dr. Maureen Schloss are joined by members of Valdosta State's Society of International Students. The group volunteered to serve as ambassadors for the evening festivities.



The black-tie event provided an opportunity to thank generous donors and friends for their continued financial support of Valdosta State University. Alumni Director John Trombetta and Computer Applications Manager Karen Johnson celebrate with Dr. Lamar Pearson, and his wife, Nancy, along with Advancement Accounting Clerk Jodi Gaiss. The Pearsons have donated more than \$100,000 to the university during their nearly 50-year association with VSU.

Focus on New Budget Model

Moving Valdosta State University to an institution of national prominence is the underlying objective of Strategic Focus 2010. Serving as a budget model, Strategic Focus 2010 will establish a limited set of standards that advances the university's standing against similar institutions.

A fundamental aspiration of Strategic Focus 2010 is to guide VSU in its quest to move from a premier regional comprehensive master's institution to a nationally recognized university with an increasing number of advanced degree programs.

Bolstering the number of advanced degrees is a core element in the elevation of the university stature regionally and nationally. Similarly, the university seeks to develop high profile programs that attract students from around the nation and world.

"There is a value to offering advanced degree programs within our region," President Patrick J. Schloss said.

"Students should not have to drive to Atlanta to earn a nurse practitioner or doctorate of education. This region is becoming increasingly sophisticated and with this sophistication is the need for highly trained leadership personnel. Many of our programs are approaching national prominence. Our goal is for an increasing number of people to travel across the country to benefit from the opportunities known to our immediate region."

Strategic Focus 2010 is the cornerstone of our revised budget model. It is important to focus attention on strategic priorities. In the past, budget allocations assigned fiscal resources to routine expenditures — roof repairs, upgrading computers, or replacing outdated classroom equipment.

Community Partnership Restores Camellia Trail



Kappa Alpha Order fraternity and the Valdosta Camellia Society will collaborate to preserve VSU's Camellia Trail



Valdosta Camellia Society member Hulyn Smith shows Valdosta State alumnus Tom Newbern, '83, and members of Kappa Alpha Order the proper way to care for camellias. The Camellia Trail began in 1944, when Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitehead gave 150 camellia bushes to Georgia State Womans College as Christmas gift. The

Whitehead's gift has flourished — 64 years later more than 400 camellias are entwined among the stately pines and azalea bushes on Georgia Avenue and across campus. Members of the Delta Rho chapter and the Valdosta Camellia Society have volunteered to work with VSU's landscape and grounds crew to preserve the camellias for future generations to enjoy.

Learn about camellias, gardening tips and how to join the Valdosta Camellia Society at www.camellias-acs.com.



“Victory over Violence” Exhibit — Learn how ONE PERSON can create PEACE!

Department of Modern and Classical Languages will host the Victory over Violence exhibit March 24-27 in Odum Library near room 1604. The exhibit addresses various forms and causes of violence and aims to inspire people to identify and counteract the root causes of violence in their own lives.

The exhibit is part of a national movement launched in 1999 in response to growing concerns about youth-related violence throughout the world. Victory over Violence strives to spread the ideals of nonviolence through exhibits, presentations and an active Internet presence that focuses on the power of dialogue and introspection to encourage respect, trust and friendship among all people. The exhibit highlights the teachings of nonviolent leaders, including Mohandas Gandhi, who was often quoted as saying, “passive violence fuels the fire of physical violence.”

The movement, which actively supports the United Nations “Culture of Peace” initiative, explores within the exhibit three ways to counteract violence, which are to value one's own life, respect all life and inspire hope in others.

Learn more about the VOV movement and register to launch your personal peace movement at My.VOV.com.

The Victory over Violence exhibit will also be displayed during the American Association of University Women's “Sister to Sister Summit,” a conference for and about girls in middle school on Saturday, March 28 in the University Center.

Council Restructures to Promote Shared Governance

A new name and mission — the Planning and Budget Council, formerly the Budget Advisory Council has been restructured to advance the concepts of administrative transparency and shared governance. The new council has a broader representation that includes staff, deans, department heads, faculty, and students.

The 11 voting and 14 non-voting members ensure the effective and efficient use of financial resources, focus on strategic objectives, evaluate routine planning and budgeting objectives established within each division, and monitor enrollment and state funding estimates to create budget recommendations.

“While I had every confidence that the past membership was keenly aware of fiscal resources, the additional membership helps to maintain fidelity to the mission,” said President Patrick J. Schloss. “It is my deepest hope that council members represent their colleagues and act on behalf of the campus community to align resources within the best interest of our faculty, staff and students.”

Chaired by Provost Louis Levy, the weekly meetings focus on planning and budget policies, processes, and all aspects of university finances, including the general operating budget, auxiliary services, athletics, and student services.

“The council strives to support the values, strategic goals, and core instructional mission of the university,” Levy said.

Schloss believes the open meeting format lends itself to expansive debate and discussion of information pertinent to the university's mission.

“All of our work must be in sunshine and individuals should see firsthand how decisions are made and be given an opportunity to debate and discuss decisions that may not necessarily go in the way they think is best for the institution,” Schloss said.

Planning and Budget Council meetings are normally held every Friday at 9 a.m., visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/> for meeting dates and locations. ■

Education Expert to Speak April 6-7



Dr. Harry Wong, a leading speaker in the field of education, will address local educators at **7 p.m. Monday, April 6**, in the James H.

Rainwater Conference Center.

The author of "First Days of School" and "How to Inspire Students to Achieve" will share his knowledge about the importance of educators in student achievement along with high expectations and effective instructional techniques.

With more than 33 years in the classroom, Wong developed methods for improving discipline problems, homework turn-in rates and dropout rates — methods, which he shares with teachers, principals, school administrators and board members around the world.

"Dr. Wong brings a common sense, user-friendly, no-cost approach to managing a classroom for a high-level of student success," said Dr. Brian Gerber, professor in VSU's Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading and Deaf Education. "Over 2,000 colleges and universities use his book, "The First Days of School," in their teacher preparation programs, and the Dewar College of Education is one of those. We are extremely proud to be able to bring this national figure to speak to our students and area educators."

Nearly a half million people have benefited from Wong's more than 3,000 lectures, which feature dynamic delivery, universal appeal and practical useful techniques for classroom success.

All local educators and education-related professionals are invited to the free event. Wong will also address VSU faculty and students at **9 a.m. Tuesday, April 7**, in the PE Complex. Call the James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education at (229) 333-5925 for more information. ■

VSU Continuing Ed Hosts Spring Break Camps

Valdosta State University's Department of Continuing Education will host spring break camps from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 30 until April 3 and April 6-10, at the Regional Center for Continuing Education, 903 N. Patterson Street.

Kaleidoscope, a fun-filled program where students gain hands on experience with drama, puppetry, magic, painting and more, is offered during morning sessions both weeks. Instructor Barbara Waldron will lead students on daily adventures, so children should wear old clothes or an oversized t-shirt for cover-up.

During the first week, students will learn to "make their move" by expressing ideas through the techniques of dance in a fun, child-centered atmosphere. Lead by Caitlin Kirk, the class improves strength, coordination and balance through movement activities with props, images and stories.

During the second week, Instructor Dawn Miller will bring "Stories Alive" with storytelling, games, art and creative crafts. Students will learn about storytelling, arts and crafts through an exciting literary and artistic adventure.

"This is the third year that we are offering Spring Break Camps," said Sue Bailey, program coordinator in Continuing Education. "These classes are similar to Summer Camps in that we provide fun enrichment opportunities; but different in that these spring sessions don't follow the formal, structured themes that summer camps do."

Camps are open to kids in kindergarten through eighth grade (ages 5-12); those staying all day should bring a sack lunch. Early drop-off is available at 7:30 a.m. and late pick-up is available until 5:30 p.m. Half-day, daily and weekly rates are available.

Visit www.valdosta.edu/conted/kids/SBC08.shtml or call (229) 245-6484 to register or receive more information. ■



VSU Earth Hour Events

8:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28

Star Party

The Observatory in Nevin's Hall is hosting a "Star Party" for the public to view the night's sky through rooftop telescopes from 8-10 p.m. Dr. Ken Rumstay and astrology students will be on hand to answer questions.

Movie Night

The public is invited to the Palms Quad to watch a movie commemorating Earth Day.

Earth Hour is an annual worldwide event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to promote easing the pressure on our Earth's natural resources. In 2008, the City of Valdosta joined 23 other major cities and over 7,600 businesses worldwide in turning off all non-essential lighting for one hour. Go to www.earthhourUS.org for more information about ways you can reduce your carbon footprint.



VSU sponsors: The Department of Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences, SAVE, Zeta Phi Beta, SURGE, Black Student League and Alpha Kappa Alpha.

College of Nursing Grant Promotes Behavioral Health Care

The University System of Georgia's economic development program, the Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) awarded the Valdosta State University College of Nursing a nearly \$246,000 grant to increase the number of nurses prepared to work in behavioral and psychiatric health care.

"The nursing shortage in Georgia and throughout the country is critical, but even more critical is the need for nurses who work with patients with mental and emotional disorders, substance abuse and other behavioral health problems," said Dr. Anita Hufft, dean of the VSU College of Nursing. This grant will enable us to draw bright students into our program and expand the number of nurses we prepare to provide a high level of care for these special populations."

The grant provides for the college to recruit 10 students into the Accelerated BSN Program, which enables a person with any bachelor's degree and the required prerequisites to receive a Bachelor of Nursing in 14 months of study. Each student will receive a scholarship to pay for tuition on the condition that they work in a behavioral health setting in the state of Georgia upon graduation. The students will receive additional training in the specialized field through partnerships with area behavioral health facilities, including Greenleaf Center in Valdosta and Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville.

To learn more about the grant and admission requirements, e-mail Accelerated BSN Program Manager Michelle Gilbert, RN, MSN, at megilber@valdosta.edu.



Blazin' For A Cure

Join faculty, staff, students and friends as they walk for a cure during VSU's Relay for Life event from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 24-25 on the front lawn.

The 35 teams that have registered thus far have raised nearly \$5,000, but event organizers said they expect to raise more than \$50,000 during the third annual event. Teams will host raffles, sell food items and offer other contests throughout the night to raise funds.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event, in which more than 3.5 million people participate to raise money for cancer research, early detection and prevention information. One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime.

Those interested in organizing or joining a team, purchasing luminaries or donating to the American Cancer Society should go to the VSU Relay for Life Web site at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=18294 or call (800) ACS-2345. ■

Georgia has one of the lowest per capita nurse rates, placing it among the bottom one-fourth nationwide. The state projected 48,000 registered nurses will be working in 2020 in spite of a demand for 80,000.

The University System of Georgia committed \$5 million in 2006 to address the statewide nursing shortage through the "Nursing Program Initiative."

Sources: University System of Georgia, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Focus continued —

"You know at some time you will have to repair roofs, purchase new classroom equipment and so on. These routine expenses are necessary but not strategic, they do not advance the university," Schloss said.

The new budget model will place the routine operational expenses and corresponding resources within the division responsible for facilitating the replacement or purchase.

Faculty, staff and students were invited to submit three to five standards for consideration in the Strategic Focus 2010. According to Dr. Kristina Cragg, assistant to the president for Strategic Research and Analysis, more than 80 standards were proposed and included recruitment, retention and support for scholarships.

"The suggestions were very thoughtful and on target with issues the campus has been discussing," Cragg said. "Strategic Focus 2010 is an opportunity for people to have a voice in determining

the standards for distribution of strategic funds in companion with the university's goals and mission."

Cragg is collating the submitted standards that will be presented at the Planning and Budgeting Council meeting at 9 a.m. Friday, April 3, at the University Center Magnolia Room. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend and participate in the open discussion.

Additionally, the recommendations will be vetted through various campus constituent groups including Council on Staff Affairs, Faculty Senate, Dean's Council, Student Government Association and University Council, before a final document is presented.

"This process will mimic a grant application," said Cragg. "These will be well thought out proposals that will help Valdosta State in meeting its goals."

Future requests for strategic funding will be based on criteria approved by the Planning and Budget Council and competitive funds will be distributed. ■

Strategic Focus 2010 Initiative

submissions will be discussed during the Planning and Budget Council meeting at 9 a.m. on April 3 in the UC Magnolia Room.

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Send it our way — 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/

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