



VSU Connection

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

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Search Phase Begins for VSU's Next President

The Presidential Search and Screen Committee (PSSC) met Wednesday, March 5, to review a list of potential candidates and discuss the search progress with Parker Executive Search, the global executive search firm VSU secured to recruit qualified presidential candidates. The meeting marks the beginning of a month-long "search phase," during which the university will accept nominations as well as identify and recruit potential candidates.

Since late January, committee representatives have met with various constituent groups to explain the search process and gather suggested presidential characteristics desired by those faculty, staff, students, foundation and community members who attended the meetings. The 12-member group, headed by Dr. Cynthia Tori, then submitted the proposed qualities and professional expertise to Parker so the firm may seek out candidates who fit VSU's standards and needs.

The search process will continue through the end of March. Tori, a professor of Marketing & Economics, said the committee and Parker Executive Search are encouraging people to submit nominations by March 18 for full consideration. Nominations may be sent to Tori at crtori@valdosta.edu or

to Laurie Wilder, senior vice president of Parker Executive Search, at lwilder@parkersearch.com.

During April, the committee will enter the "screen" phase of the process, which will entail reviewing resumes, selecting candidates to interview and conducting

those interviews. Tori said the committee plans to conduct initial interviews in mid-April. VSU constituents will be able to meet candidates during on-campus interviews, tentatively scheduled for the weeks of April 14 and April 22.

"Parker Executive Search continues to help us build a strong pool of candidates," Tori said. "All of the candidates that have been nominated to date have been contacted and many have committed to the search process."

At the end of April, the VSU's search and screen committee will submit a list of unranked candidates to the Special Regents Selection Committee, Chancellor Davis and Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Herbst. The System is expected to complete its interview activities during May and select a president by June.

PSSC members are available to address questions and provide updates about the search process to committees and organizations. To set up a time to meet with a committee member, please e-mail Tori at crtori@valdosta.edu or call her at (229) 245-2234. ■

January — February: Held meetings with various VSU constituent groups and community organizations to develop a list of personal attributes and professional characteristics desired in VSU's next president.

March: Official monthlong "Search Phase" begins. The committee will identify qualified candidates through responses to advertising, nominations/recommendations and direct recruiting. *People may submit nominations by March 18 for full consideration.*

April: Identify and interview qualified candidates and select applicants for campus visits.

Last two weeks of April: Conduct on-campus interviews of most qualified candidates.

End of April: Submit five unranked candidates to the Special Regents Selection Committee.



BOBBY LACEY

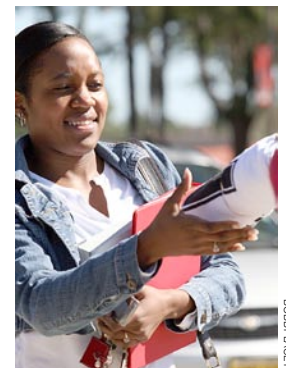
Parking Patience

Student Success Center Academic Advisor, Terence Sullivan, and a handful of other faculty and staff passed out towels March 5 to VSU students parking at North Campus and Colonial Mall.

Auxiliary Services is leading the campaign to thank and reward students for coping with growing pains by parking in remote lots and taking shuttles or walking to campus.

Members of the Council on Staff Affairs passed out bottled water to student commuters in late February. The VSU Bookstore and VSU Alumni Association also committed to distribute items during the campaign. Coca-Cola has donated bottled water, and Sodexo has donated dining services coupons to pass out to students.

All faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the campaign. To join the "thank you" efforts, call Lynn Hortman in Auxiliary Services, (229) 333-5706, or email her at rlhortma@valdosta.edu. ■



BOBBY LACEY



For updates and general information about the presidential search, go to the VSU Presidential Search web page: www.valdosta.edu/presidentialsearch

Georgia General Assembly Honors Blazer Distinctions



The Georgia General Assembly honored VSU with three joint resolutions that recognized the 2007 NCAA Division II National Championship football team, Head Coach David Dean and President Ronald M. Zaccari. The joint resolutions were read

on the floors of both the Senate and House chambers on Feb. 27.

The 2007 national championship football team, coaches and staff joined Zaccari at the state capitol in Atlanta, as the Blazers were honored for winning their second NCAA Division II football championship and third title game appearance in six years. Dean was also recognized as only the second NCAA Division II head coach to lead a team to a national championship in his first season and for his superior coaching during the team's 13-1 season.

In honor of his retirement, Zaccari received accolades from the General Assembly for his exemplary service to VSU and higher education. Zaccari will retire as VSU's seventh president on June 30. ■

The Senate Resolutions (SR 712, 713 & 904) are available to view at: www.legis.state.ga.us/



Retired Metropolitan Opera Chorus Master Visits VSU

Raymond Hughes has toured the globe accompanying famed singers and conducting world-renowned choruses; but the Thomasville native returned to Georgia as the guest conductor and keynote speaker of the College Music Educator's National Conference, which was held at VSU Feb. 29 – March 2.

During the conference, Hughes worked with VSU choirs and conducted a short concert March 1 in Whitehead Auditorium. ■

VSU Complies With P-Card Audit Recommendations

In 2007, the Georgia Department of Audits completed a performance audit of the state's Purchasing Card (P-Card) program, which involved a number of state agencies, including the University System of Georgia. In addition to the Department of Audit review, the USG is conducting internal audits at all 35 institutions.

According to a USG Internal Audit newsletter (January 18), the System has completed approximately one-fourth of its P-Card audits. The majority of violations include poor documentation, lack of proper supervisor's approval, purchase of gift cards and travel expenditures for athletic team travel. Further evidence showed an overall lack of understanding regarding allowable use of P-cards and inadequate training for users and supervisors.

System-wide recommendations include the expansion of existing campus policies to include clear guidelines regarding use of P-cards, transaction limits and defined guidelines for sufficient support documentation. The audit also suggests the establishment of disciplinary procedures for inappropriate use, procedures for using State contract vendors, competitive bidding requirements on known cumulative purchases exceeding \$5,000 per year and adequate training for new card users as well as mandatory annual refresher courses for current card users.

Valdosta State University's P-Card audit was performed on Jan. 22 and 23. It focused on an extensive review of a random sample of transactions in 2007. Specific areas addressed in VSU's audit findings are similar to the System-wide findings and included the need for additional training, proper approval signatures and documentation, and a change in accounting procedures for agency accounts.

The purchasing card audit also discovered the use of corporate credit cards at some USG institutions that are used primarily for travel and non-state reimbursable expenses. In review of these accounts, the System has directed discontinuance of corporate cards and any charges that exceed current, allowable State per diem limits must be reimbursed from appropriate accounts.

VSU had a limited number of corporate cards that were in existence since 1994 and issued as part of the university's overall banking services. One of the cards was assigned to the president to support university business through travel and non-state reimbursable expenses.

"When I arrived at VSU in 2002, the vice president for Business and Finance at that time explained that the corporate card was to be used to pay for travel expenses, entertaining candidates for employment, and fundraising activities," VSU President Ronald M. Zaccari said. "The banking

services system required that I forward all receipts and a description of the purpose of each expenditure, for which I have done throughout the past six years."

The most recent audit noted corporate card expenses were paid from interest earned on discretionary endowments given to the institution. However, the auditors considered those discretionary accounts to be state funds with restricted use.

Zaccari said that when the audit team finding was brought to his attention he immediately ordered the discontinuance of the corporate cards. There have been eighteen audits throughout the last six years, including a presidential audit, each with high audit ratings and no findings were ever raised or addressed to the use of the corporate card.

"Although all charges made to the corporate card were in support of university business, and well documented, the System auditors recommended discontinuance and adjustment of accounts from other funds and this has been completed," Zaccari said. ■

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 Heine, Communications Specialist, Communications Unit, at kheine@valdosta.edu.