



VSU Connection

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

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President Announces Retirement

Valdosta State University's President Ronald M. Zaccari announced he will retire June 30, 2008, completing six and half years of service. Zaccari, 70, contemplated a projected retirement in December; however, he has opted to conclude his appointment six months earlier. In 2008, Zaccari will mark 31 years in higher education administration.

Zaccari stated his decision would permit the University System of Georgia to select a new president prior to the opening of the fall semester 2008 and initiate a more fluid transition.

PERSONAL TIME

"It's time to refocus my career as a visual artist and complete several commissioned sculptures. I plan to devote more energy to creative activities, family and travel," Zaccari said. "The past six years have been professionally rewarding, especially working closely with the campus and local community to plan VSU's future growth."

"President Zaccari has overseen Valdosta State University during a period of growth and change and has successfully positioned the institution to meet the growing demand for higher education in South Georgia," said University System of Georgia Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Susan Herbst.

CATALYST FOR GROWTH

Zaccari became VSU's seventh president on Jan. 7, 2002. During his first presentation to the campus community, he spoke of the university's projected transformation and outlined a five step process that would blend diverse but strategically related components, including strategic, master,

facilities, budget and external plans. He further stated that the transformation at VSU would be pervasive and affect all divisions within the institution.

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— President Zaccari

The planning process has served as a catalyst for growth that includes an increased enrollment of almost 14 percent — from 9,900 students in 2002 to 11,279 students in fall 2007 — and approximately \$261 million in capital construction projects.

"VSU has a bright future due to the strong support of the faculty, staff, students and

community leaders," Zaccari said. "I thank everyone for rallying behind the necessity of changes in contemporary higher education and assisting with the development of VSU's master plan."

NATIONAL SEARCH

Herbst will initiate a national search process to identify candidates to fill the presidency. USG will announce details of the search process in coming weeks.



President Zaccari stands in the Hugh C. Bailey Science Center, which opened in 2000. The president spearheaded a campaign for \$261 million in new construction and renovations on campus to be completed by 2014.

Zaccari plans to outline his specific transition plans and university updates during Spring Convocation on Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, at 10 a.m., in Whitehead Auditorium. ■

Commencement Schedule

College of Nursing

December 7 at 2 p.m.
Whitehead Auditorium,
Fine Arts Building
Expected graduates: 42

Dewar College of Education

December 8 at 10 a.m.
P.E. Complex
Expected graduates: 311

Master of Library Information Sciences

December 8 at 10 a.m.
P.E. Complex
Expected graduates: 3

College of the Arts

December 8 at 1 p.m.
P.E. Complex
Expected graduates: 87

Harley Langdale Jr. College of Business Administration

December 8 at 1 p.m.
P.E. Complex
Expected graduates: 123

College of Arts & Sciences

December 8 at 4 p.m.
P.E. Complex
Expected graduates: 231

Final Call for Faculty, Staff Campaign Contributions

Valdosta State University faculty and staff have until Dec. 18 to contribute to the 2007-08 Annual Faculty and Staff Campaign and the State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP).

The Faculty and Staff Campaign, "What's Happening at VSU is Happening Because of You," funds educational opportunities, the arts and athletic events. Because funds from tuition and the state of Georgia comprise only 60 percent of VSU's operating budget, donations to the school are vital to maintaining quality educational and cultural offerings.

Campaign for VSU co-chair, Dr. Donna Sewell, said most departments need additional financial support to send faculty and students to conferences and to expose them to professional development and study abroad activities.

"I have enjoyed theatre performances, athletic events and literary readings, all of which are supported in some way by the Faculty/Staff Campaign," said Sewell, an assistant professor of English. "As

director of the Blackwater Writing Project (a national initiative to improve the teaching of writing in K-college classrooms), I devote a chunk of my contribution to support those activities not covered by the grant."

Last year, 45 percent of VSU employees donated a total of nearly \$128,000 to the

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www.valdosta.edu/adv/development/ag/fsc
or contact Annual Giving at (229) 245-4329

institution. VSU hopes to raise \$130,000 during the 2008 campaign.

Employees may contribute to the campaign by payroll deduction, installment plan or one-time gift. Send a completed pledge form along with a check, payable to the VSU Foundation, or cash through campus mail to Annual Giving. Individuals may also click on "Donate Now" at www.valdosta.org to make a payment.

The State Charitable Contributions Program, "Help Turn Lives Around — Give From the Heart," is a statewide program

that encourages employees of Georgia to donate to any of the 44 participating charitable federations, including area groups like the Valdosta/Lowndes United Way. Employees may make a general program donation, split up donations among a handful of groups or donate to a specific organization, all of which have been approved by the state of Georgia.

Last year, VSU employees contributed more than \$29,000 to area charities through the state program. SCCP co-chair, University Police Sergeant Bob Lee, said VSU hopes to raise \$30,000 during the 2007-08 fundraising effort.

Employees may donate to charities through the state program by payroll deduction, cash or check. Fill out the 2008 SCCP contribution form and send it in the "State Charitable Contributions" envelope through campus mail to SCCP co-chair, Dr. Debbi Robinson, professor of Criminal Justice.

For more information about annual giving, call (229) 245-4329 or e-mail Lynne Capece, director of Annual Giving at lscapece@valdosta.edu.

Mark Your Calendar

University Closed

Dec. 19–Jan. 1

Happy Holidays!

For a list of the 2007 holidays, go to: www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human_resources/hs2007

To read up on leave policies, go to: www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human_resources/policy/leave

Dead Day: Dec. 4

Commencement: Dec. 7–8

For a list of commencement activities and a Valdosta hotel guide and visitor information, go to:

www.valdosta.edu/specialevents/commencement/fall_2007/

Spring Convocation

Jan. 4, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Whitehead Auditorium

General Faculty Meeting

Jan. 11, 2008 at 3 p.m.

Magnolia Rooms 1 & 2

For general faculty information, go to: www.valdosta.edu/pres/generalfaculty

Blazer Pride: Score with Great Athletics

VSU Blazers Head to Playoffs

The Blazers defeated the Catawba Indians with a 55-29 victory in the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 24. VSU (11-1) has advanced to host longtime rival North Alabama (11-1) in the NCAA Division II playoff quarterfinals. The Gulf South Conference's top two teams will match up Saturday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at Blazemore-Hyder Stadium.

Playoff tickets on sale at the Athletic Department Ticket Office

Reserved seat tickets are \$15 and adult general admission tickets are \$10. Senior citizens (65 and older) and youth/student tickets cost \$4.

VSU football season ticket holders, corporate club members and sponsors had until Thursday, Nov. 29 to purchase their current seats for any playoff games. Unclaimed seats have since been available for purchase to the general public.

For ticket information, call Amy Fenolia in the ticket office at (229) 245-3762.

Kids Get In Free

The 2007-08 season marks the 13th year for Take A Kid to A Game (TAKG), a national program to encourage adults to take children to NCAA sporting events.

Kids (age 14 and under), who are accompanied by a paying adult, will be admitted free to all December VSU basketball home games. Game dates are December 1, 10, 28 and 31.

Lady Blazers Host Days INNvitational

Friday, Nov. 30 & Saturday, Dec. 1

For a schedule of games, go to: vstateblazers.com/wbasketball/schedule. For ticket information, call (229) 245-3762.

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, email Kate Heine, Communication Specialist for the Office of the President, Communication Unit, at kaheine@valdosta.edu.