

## Faculty Trio Pushes Boundaries



*The Maharlika Trio (from left) David Springfield, Malia Gutierrez Springfield, and Joren Cain, often invite area musicians and VSU faculty to play during recitals. During a performance at Valdosta's Trinity Presbyterian Church in September, Eric Bradshaw, Paul Campiglia, Clyde Edwards, Kenneth Kirk and Tod Leavitt all contributed to the moving melodies.*

**M**USIC FACULTY Joren Cain, David Springfield and his wife, Malia Gutierrez Springfield, are forever students of their crafts. To push themselves as composers and instrumentalists, the Maharlika Trio — named for a Filipino word meaning “noble” — began performing an eclectic blend of chamber music throughout the Southeast. With Cain on sax, David on trombone, and Malia on piano, the group motivates each other to tackle diverse sounds from established classics to original jazz compositions.

“Our backgrounds are versatile, and this comes through in performance,” said Gutierrez Springfield, who has played with world-renowned cellist, Yo-Yo Ma. “In chamber music, the creative input and control is shared by each performer, and there is a high level of musical interaction. With this group, we all get along and respect each other’s opinions and motivate each other as we learn the music together.”

Because of the distinctive combination of instruments, many of the pieces the trio performs are composed specifically for the group’s characteristic sound. David has composed a number of songs along with Atlanta composer Chris Arrell and Chuck Israels, who has worked with Billie Holiday and John Coltrane.

The Maharlika Trio performed at the NASA Biennial Conference in South Carolina in April, and recently returned from a concert in Spivey Hall in Atlanta on September 16. The group also performed in early September at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The free recital featured other music faculty, including Eric Bradshaw, Joren Cain, Paul Campiglia, Clyde Edwards, Kenneth Kirk and Tod Leavitt.

Joren Cain is assistant professor of saxophone and director of the New Jazz Ensemble at Valdosta State University. Cain, who is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas, served as a member of the United States Army Field Band, the Army’s premier touring concert band, for four years.

David Springfield, director of Jazz Studies at Valdosta State University, teaches jazz piano, improvisation, arranging, combos and jazz history. He is also a member of the Faculty Jazz Combo and directs the VSU Jazz Ensemble. His music has been performed throughout the United States and Europe and is published by Kendor Music and UNC Jazz Press.

Malia Gutierrez Springfield earned her Master of Music in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Syracuse University. Gutierrez Springfield has been a staff accompanist at Valdosta State University since 2002. ■



**Listen to the music of The Maharlika Trio  
and review a list of upcoming concerts at ...  
[www.maharlikatrio.com/](http://www.maharlikatrio.com/)**

# Politics is in the Air

The public is invited to attend the South Georgia Political Forum from 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center (off Norman Drive near the Super Wal-Mart). Candidates for all national and local offices have been invited to the event, which will feature free-form roundtables and three-minute speeches.

Dr. Sharon Gravett, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and longtime member of the American Association of University Women, will moderate the candidates' three-minute speeches to the crowd. Prior to the candidates' addresses, the political hopefuls will stand at tables in the meeting room to entertain questions from the public and pass out campaign information.

The Valdosta branch of the AAUW organized the forum, in conjunction with Myrna Ballard of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, Julie Greenhaw of the Lowndes County Republican Party, and Dennis Marks of the Lowndes County Democratic Party. Organizers said they expect more than 20 candidates from state and local races to lobby for votes at the town hall event.

## IMPORTANT VOTING DATES

- **Deadline for Voter Registration was October 6**
- **Early Voting: September 22–October 24**
- **Advance Voting Week: October 27–31**
- **General Election: Tuesday, November 4**
- **Runoff Advance Voting Week: November 24–28**
- **General Election Runoff (if needed): December 2**



## COSA Employee of the Semester

*The Council on Staff Affairs is now accepting nominations for the Fall 2008 Employee of the Semester.*

The Employee of the Semester Award is bestowed upon an exemplary VSU employee who has contributed to the mission and goals of the university. Any VSU staff member, faculty member or student may nominate a full-time classified staff member who has made significant contributions to the university beyond his or her assigned duties in one of the following areas: innovative ideas, team effort, problem solving and/or customer service.

**Nomination forms are due Friday, October 31**

The online nomination form can be found at:  
[www.valdosta.edu/cosa/COSAEmployeeoftheSemester](http://www.valdosta.edu/cosa/COSAEmployeeoftheSemester)

*Give your lungs a breath of fresh air*

**IT'S TIME TO QUIT**

VSU is hosting ...

*Freshstart*

**the American Cancer Society's  
FREE smoking-cessation program**



For more information, go to  
[www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/wellness/](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/wellness/)  
or call Tim Yorkey at (229) 219-1276 or  
e-mail him at [teyorkey@valdosta.edu](mailto:teyorkey@valdosta.edu)

**SESSION WILL BE HELD:**

**Tuesdays, November 4, 11, 18, 25 from 12-1 p.m. in UC • Live Oak Room.**

## JUMP and JIVE Into the Age of Instant Messaging



Jive has come to VSU to meet the instant messaging needs of Valdosta State faculty, staff and students. The user-friendly IM operating system enables users to drag and drop file transfers, capture screen images, communicate through multi-user chat rooms and encrypt data transfers. The Department of Information Technology is in the process of incorporating video/voice chat and integrating the system with Facebook.

Login to Jive with your BlazeNet e-mail username and password from any computer or smart phone, including the iPhone and Blackberry, or gaming stations, such as PS3, Xbox 360 and Wii. For further information regarding Jive, please contact the IT Helpdesk at 229-245-HELP (4357).



## JIVE Information Classes

The Office of Employee and Organizational Development is offering informational sessions about Jive and its many organizational and communication functions. Find out how you can conference with colleagues and/or students, send and view files, share your desktop and take notes using Jive.

## Upcoming Classes

- Monday, Oct. 20, from 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 9-11 a.m.

*\*All classes will be held in the Pine Hall Computer Lab. Seating is limited to 15. To register, call (229) 259-5105 or visit [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/index.shtml](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/index.shtml).*

## The Clyde Eugene Connell Visiting Lecture Program 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27, Bailey Science Center Auditorium

*"Why lions are disappearing from Africa. Can research help?"*  
Presented by Dr. Craig Packer, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota



2009 FACULTY & STAFF CAMPAIGN

LET'S MAKE VSU

*More!*

## VSU Wins Multiple Chancellor's Awards

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY was recognized as winning three of the 2008 Chancellor's Customer Services Awards at the Board of Regents meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The VSU Student Success Center was chosen as the gold winner for the Improvement Initiative category based on its focus and success in gaining consensus for its revised vision; honoring commitments in a timely manner; achieving intended and measurable results and integrating these improvements into policies, budgets and ongoing programs. Established to provide tutoring, advising and on-campus student employment, the SSC consolidated several previously independent tutoring centers to create a streamlined, centralized location for advising and employment services.

Information Technology's Helpdesk won the gold award for customer service in the category for call centers/service desks/helpdesk information. The honor was based on the group's ability to implement a continuous-improvement environment that exceeds expectations regarding client service quality and student retention. Described as efficient, friendly and accessible, the VSU IT Helpdesk was willing to go above and beyond standard job duties to ensure first-rate experiences.

The Board of regents also presented James Black, vice president for Finance and Administration at VSU, with the bronze award for leadership, individual category. Known for sincerity and genuine love for others, Black has moved his division toward excellence and introduced to his division the core value of "honoring the individual in community." He has established methods for evaluating customer feedback mechanisms, developed a code of conduct and increased the emphasis on professional development and wellness.

Honorable mention for the individual category was also awarded to building maintenance specialist Timothy Brunt.

### Faculty/Staff Campaign

Valdosta State University kicked off the 2008 Faculty/Staff Campaign on Monday, Oct. 6.

Duke Guthrie of communication arts and Coach David Dean, co-chairs for the Faculty/Staff Campaign "Help Make VSU MORE," encourage all members of the campus community to consider making a contribution. VSU faculty and staff are already more creative, more caring and more committed, and gifts of any amount can perpetuate the high standards of excellence and give students more opportunities to succeed.

This year's Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign will be conducted via e-mail. Gifts can be made through payroll deduction, credit cards or checks made payable to the VSU Foundation by printing the 2009 giving form at [www.valdosta.edu/give/](http://www.valdosta.edu/give/). Call the foundation at (229) 293-6258 for more information. ■

### State Charitable Contributions Program

The annual State Charitable Contributions Program is underway.

Faculty and staff are also encouraged to participate in a separate fundraising campaign for the State Charitable Contributions Program. Themed "Help Turn Lives Around - Give from the Heart," the 2009 SCCP allows state employees to make charitable financial contributions to hundreds of different organizations and agencies. VSU community members have until Nov. 30 to make a gift via cash, check, money order or payroll deduction. E-mail this year's campaign representatives, Yvonne Le Roy-Landers at [ybleroylanders@valdosta.edu](mailto:ybleroylanders@valdosta.edu) and Deborah Robson at [drobson@valdosta.edu](mailto:drobson@valdosta.edu), or visit [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/sccp/](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/sccp/) for more information. ■



The University System of Georgia's Plan Year 2009 Open Enrollment is from Monday, Oct. 6 until Friday, Nov. 7.

#### Informational Sessions

Benefits Information Sessions will be presented on the following days:

- COSA Meeting, Rose Room, 9 a.m. Oct. 14
- Retiree Association Meeting Open Session, UC Auditorium, 2 p.m. Oct. 14 and 10 a.m. Oct. 15
- Plant Operations, Training Room, 8:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Oct. 16
- Odum Library, Room 1604, 11 a.m. Oct. 21

For detailed information about open enrollment, go to the VSU Human Resources Web site at [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human\\_resources/](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/human_resources/)

### Campus Wellness Lunch N' Learn Presents ...

Breast and Prostate Cancer Awareness Education Session from noon to 1 p.m. on October 15 in the Palms Faculty/Staff Dining Room. RSVP by calling 259-5105.

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

#### VSUConnection

Editor | Kate Heine • Photographer | Bobby Lacey  
Designer | Jeff Grant

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/](http://www.valdosta.edu/news/).

For more information about the Connection or to submit a story idea, e-mail Kate Heine, Publications Editor, Communications Unit, at [kaheine@valdosta.edu](mailto:kaheine@valdosta.edu).

## Weight Watchers At Work



Bob Lee — with his wife and daughter — prior to losing 100 pounds through the Weight Watchers At-Work Program. Lee said his weakness is carbohydrates, so he has greatly reduced his intake of breads and pastas.

Retired VSU Police Sergeant Bob Lee joined VSU's Weight Watchers At-Work Program when the group formed in September 2007, and the father of four has since lost 100 pounds on the program that urges people to "Stop Dieting, Start Living."

Weight Watchers offers hour-long meetings at noon on Tuesdays in the University Center Camellia Room or at 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the UC Dogwood Room.

"I sleep better, I feel better, I am now walking and running five to 10 miles per day," said 64-year-old Lee. "My wife, kids and grandkids are so proud of my determination to eat to live not live to eat."

Angie Weldon, who has been a lifetime Weight Watchers member for 21 years, leads the weekly meetings during the 17-week program, which includes 19 weeks of online support e-tools.



Weight Watchers At-Work members congratulate retired VSU Police Sergeant, Bob Lee, for his tremendous weight loss during the past year.

"Since we started, the group has lost more than 950 pounds, which is so impressive," Weldon said. "They have been so successful because they all know each other and keep each other on track during the day."


### Congratulations!

**Becky Murphy**  
**Kimberly Tanner**  
**Kathy Sundin**  
**Diane Holliman**  
**Sage Archer**

Five members of the at-work program have attained lifetime membership, which means they have reached and maintained their goal weight for at least six weeks.

The at-work program costs \$186.00, or three monthly payments of \$62, payable by check, cash or credit card. Speak with Employee and Organizational Development about scholarship opportunities.

Learn more about VSU Weight Watchers at [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/wellness/](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/wellness/) or e-mail Becky Murphy at [rbowes@valdosta.edu](mailto:rbowes@valdosta.edu). ■



Every 2 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

ONE DAY • ONE CAUSE • ONE CURE

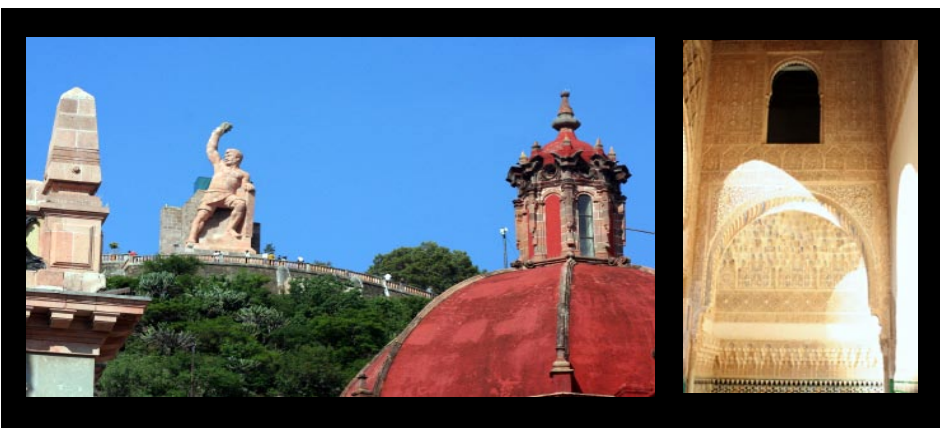
Wear **BLUE JEANS** to work Wednesday, Oct. 22, for the comfortable fee of \$5, which will fund breast cancer research and informational campaigns.

Designate someone in your department to collect \$5 from each employee in the office who decides to wear blue jeans as part of Lee National Denim Day — one of the largest single-day fundraisers for breast cancer, having raised more than \$70 million.

Be on the look out for breast and prostate cancer information tables throughout campus on October 22 and 23. The booths will also have "In Honor of" cards you may fill out. The cards will be posted on the main entrance to the University Center throughout the month of October. Enter to win prizes at the breast cancer awareness table on the Palms Quad from 11 a.m. until 1p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23.

Sodexho Campus Services is selling Otis Spunkmeyer's "Think Pink" cookies at the Sub Connection in the UC Food Court. Through the month of October, purchase three of the chocolate cookies with pink candy pieces for \$1.39 or a dozen for \$5.99. Otis Spunkmeyer is donating \$50,000 to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Contact Wellness Committee member Holly Wright, health educator for the Office of Health Promotions, or Kate Heine, Publications Editor, to arrange the collection of your department's Denim Day proceeds. Call Wright at (229) 245-3896 or e-mail her at [hhwright@valdosta.edu](mailto:hhwright@valdosta.edu). Heine may be reached at [kaheine@valdosta.edu](mailto:kaheine@valdosta.edu) or (229) 333-7177. ■



Dr. Luis Bejarano captured the view of the lookout mountain in Guanajuato, Mexico.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Odum Library has displayed a sampling of photographs by Dr. Luis Bejarano, an associate professor in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. The Columbia native expresses his culture through a variety of artistic styles and media ranging from charcoal and temperas to acrylic and watercolor. Pass through his photography exhibit titled "Angles, Peoples and Places" to get a glimpse of his travels around the Hispanic world. ■