



VSU Connection

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

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What is VSU Connection?

VSU Connection is a direct source for the most important news on campus. It will be used to supply faculty, staff and students with information on a variety of topics that have campus-wide appeal and importance. From construction updates to major partnerships and programs, the Connection will connect readers to

the latest updates in a clear and simple method.

This inaugural edition will be printed for limited distribution on campus; however, following editions will primarily be available electronically via University Relations Web site at <http://www.valdosta.edu/news/>. Issues will initially be available

on a monthly basis and eventually as a bi-weekly electronic publication.

For more information or to submit a story idea, please email Jennifer Tanner, Manager of Public Information, in the office of University Relations at jtanner@valdosta.edu. ■

Campus Transformation

VSU has a beautiful campus — we hear it all the time from visitors and experience it every time we walk through the pedestrian mall. That beauty will soon be enhanced as the University begins the transformation of its main campus with more convenient, useful buildings and an even more attractive visual identity.

In April, the Facilities Office of the University System of Georgia reviewed plans for VSU to transform its main campus through a series of capital improvement projects with an estimated construction cost of \$150 million. The transformation will address the growth needs that have recently arisen with a steady influx of new students by increasing density and quality of service provided.

Construction will improve many aspects of student life. Approval was granted for Hopper and Georgia halls to be demolished and rebuilt into stylish, efficient living/learning communities and Reade Hall to be renovated to update the historic structural elements and expand common areas for students. Two parking decks will be constructed, one in Oak Street parking lot and the other in the Sustella lot behind the Student Recreation Center, to address the increasing need for student parking, while a new, highly technical student health facility will address the healthcare needs of VSU's increasing student enrollment. Finally, the existing University Union will be replaced



Hopper Hall Street Perspective Rendering

with a state-of-the-art student union offering great new options for students as well as an impressive visual presence on the west side of campus.

The Hopper Hall project is the first slated for construction. With approval from the Board of Regents, VSU chose Ambling University Development Group to take the lead for the residence hall projects. Demolition of Hopper began in July and construction is expected to begin in early September, at which time Hopper Circle will be closed to through traffic. Upon completion, the residence

hall will have a new look, 513 beds total, office space, a mailroom and a dining center.

At the end of fall semester, construction will begin on the two parking decks, facilitated through the team of Tim Haahs, Cooper Carry and McCall & Associates, as well as the new student health center, designed by Lott/Barber. During construction, additional parking will be available on North Campus and Auxiliary Services is working on a variety of ways to

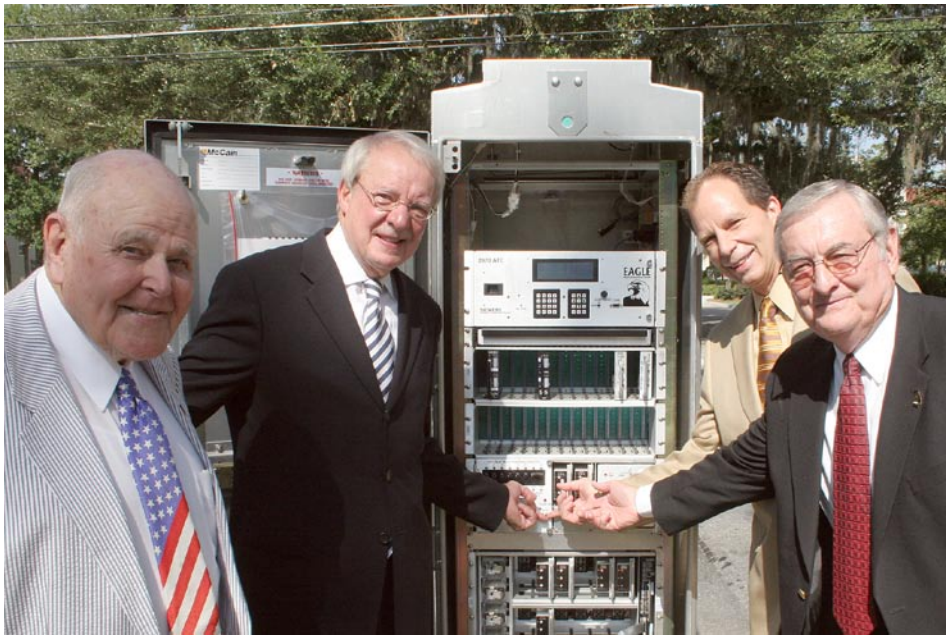
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VSU Campus Alert

Emotions run high during crises of all kinds, leaving people with fear and confusion. They want to understand the situation, but communication can be limited. This issue led VSU to adopt the VSU Campus Alert system, which provides direct communication to participating members of the campus community.

Provided through Connect-Ed, Campus Alert gives VSU administrators the ability to send voice messages to cell phones and E-mail addresses within a few minutes. Messages can be tailored to deliver exactly what people need to know in a timely manner. Students, faculty and staff can hear about campus closings or class cancellations as soon as possible as well as receive explicit instructions for reacting to a crisis.

Although it is not required, all faculty, staff and students are strongly encouraged to participate in this important program. Numbers included in the VSU Campus Alert service will only be used for important campus notifications and will not be shared with any third party groups for commercial or other purposes. In order to receive these important messages, those interested must provide updated contact information to Information Technology at www.valdosta.edu/editalertinfo. ■



(From left) Mr. Billy Langdale, Georgia State Transportation Board, 2nd Congressional District; President Ronald M. Zaccari, Valdosta State University; Mayor John J. Fretti, City of Valdosta; and Mr. David Studstill, Georgia DOT Chief Engineer.

New Lights on Patterson

Motorists and pedestrians are seeing Patterson Street in a new light with the installation of two traffic signals. A product of a long partnership with the City of Valdosta and the Georgia Department of Transportation, the traffic lights give pedestrians a safe place to cross Patterson Street.

Both signals have been incorporated into the City's master traffic plan and follow the coordinated traffic plan along North Patterson Street. To aid both motorists and pedestrians, VSU will station a uniformed officer on the campus-side of the street and a student patroller on the opposite side for the first several months. Everyone is encouraged to use caution in navigating on Patterson as people become accustomed to the change. ■

Campus Transformation —

address parking needs.

Construction will begin on the new athletic field house, located on Mary Street, in October. The new Hopper Hall and both parking decks should open for the 2008-2009 academic year.

VSU will experience some growing pains in the next few years as the campus is transformed for the next century's growth. Construction updates will be available on a continuous basis, via the University Relations Web site at <http://www.valdosta.edu/news/>. ■



2008 VSU License Plate a Reality

All VSU supporters will be able to purchase a commemorative State of Georgia license plate beginning January 2008, thanks to more than 600 people who pre-registered for the tag.

The campaign began in January with the goal of surpassing the required 500 applications necessary for establishing a new commemorative plate. The new tag will feature the V-State athletic spirit mark. As with all commemorative license plates, there is a \$25 fee in addition to regular charges and taxes. For more information about the tag campaign, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 333-5797 or alumni@valdosta.edu. Contact the local tag office to place an order. ■

Operation Contribute

The management team for Operation Contribute is pleased to announce that the VSU Web site conversion is just a few pages away from 100 percent completion! Thanks to all departments who worked so hard to get their sites converted by the deadline. Contribute coaching and content management support will continue in order to help all departments update content that is relative to each department's purpose and mission. ■