

# Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall students and their family

Fall 2011



## Director's Note

### Welcome!

The Housing and Residence Life Office will send out a newsletter each semester to establish a clear path of communication with Blazer parents. "Blazer Housing News" will contain information about hall opening and closings, as well as general office updates that may or may not affect your son or daughter and his or her living arrangements. I highly encourage you to contact us via phone, e-mail or standard mail if you have any questions or concerns. Our web site is constantly being updated, so be sure to keep <http://housing.valdosta.edu> bookmarked on your Web browser.

We have dedicated undergraduate student leaders and full-time/graduate professionals in each residence hall to make your student's stay as

personally enriching as possible. Now that midterms are finished, it is time for every student to study hard and do well on his or her final exams. The in-hall staff can help to make this a reality. Feel free to ask your son or daughter if they are consulting his or her Resident Assistant (RA) regularly. The professional staff is here to assist students with their social and intellectual development, and to direct them to the proper campus resources for additional help.

A couple of resources for you to be aware of are the Parent's Resource Center located at <http://www.valdosta.edu/prc/> and the Parents and Families Association at <http://www.valdosta.edu/pfa/>. Both are part of VSU's ongoing effort to remain connected to the best

partners we have, our students' "home team." Also be sure to add yourself to our new parent listserv where we will also keep in touch with you. The signup is off our homepage on the right hand side entitled "Parents stay updated with Housing news".

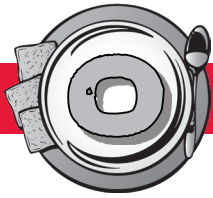
I hope that your student has a good experience living with us this semester and look forward to continuing dialogue in the spring semester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas W. Hardy  
Director, Housing and Residence Life

## Room Selection for the 2012-2013 School Year

Room selection is the process in which current residence hall students are able to sign up for a space to live on campus. Spaces are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, with students in a higher class standing and/or those with higher GPAs accommodated first. Look for a December letter mailed to your home with more specific details about how this process works. If your student plans to live on campus for the 2012-2013 academic school year, please pay particular attention to the December letter. Note: housing is not guaranteed all four years. Each year is a separate contract. If you have any questions before then, or if you do not receive a letter by December 17th, contact the Housing and Residence Life Office at (229) 333-5920.



## OUT TO LUNCH!

The Office of Housing and Residence Life and Campus Dining, proudly announce a unique opportunity for on-campus residents. "Out to Lunch!" offers students the opportunity to invite a professor or other faculty member to lunch at no cost to that faculty member. (The student will need to use his or her own meal plan to cover his or her own meal).

During lunch, students and faculty can get to know each other better and discuss various topics such as: grades, class assignments, study opportunities, the professor's background, and common interests.

For more information, or to obtain a meal ticket for your esteemed professor, please visit the Office of Housing and Residence Life in Hopper Hall or email Sarah VanKuiken at [slvankuiken@valdosta.edu](mailto:slvankuiken@valdosta.edu).

# Promoting success of *Campus Residents*

## Meet the Staff!

The Office of Housing and Residence Life is excited to introduce you to the hall-level members of the team. This year, there are 15 graduate assistants and two complex directors working in the office and the residence halls. Their full contact and biographical information is available on the Housing and Residence Life website. Here is a quick look at some of the new people on staff:

### Complex Directors

### Complex Director for Georgia, Langdale, and Reade Hall



After spending a year in the cold state of Maine, Bonnie Brackett is excited to return to her home state of Georgia and begin working at VSU as a Complex Director. Bonnie is originally from East Point, Georgia on the southern side of Atlanta. Although Bonnie originally wanted to plan weddings and graduated with a B.S. in Leisure and Sport Management from Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, she discovered the field of Student Affairs and decided to shift career

paths. After working as a Graduate Resident and completing her M.Ed. in College Student Affairs Administration at the University of Georgia in 2010, Bonnie headed north where she was the Assistant Director for Residence Life and Housing at the University of Maine at Farmington for a year. Now she is ready for a return to the warm weather and charm of the south!

During her college years, Bonnie was very active in many aspects of Student Affairs, including residence life, leadership, orientation, admissions, and community service. Bonnie spent several years as president of the Resident Student Association at Elon University and held two positions on the SAACURH Executive Committee while at the University of Georgia before moving into an advisor role for the Campus Residence Council at the University of Maine at Farmington. Bonnie is excited to be working at a school with a strong RHA and NRHH in her home region!

When Bonnie is not working with students and staff, she enjoys cooking and baking, reading, watching television, cheering on the Elon Phoenix and Georgia Dawgs, shopping, and traveling. The Georgia coast holds a special place in her heart and Bonnie is looking forward to many trips to Jekyll Island and the surrounding coastal area. Bonnie is also involved with the Young Alumni Council at Elon and travels back to North Carolina several times a year for Young Alumni meetings.

Don't hesitate to stop by Bonnie's office and say hello! Bonnie is always eager to talk with students and share some candy or homemade cookies!

## Complex Director for Centennial, Patterson, and Converse Hall



**Adonis Thompson** joined the VSU staff in August 2009. Originally from Pine Bluff, Ark., he graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1999. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Radio/TV Production in December 2003 from Arkansas State University.

Upon leaving college he took a job as a producer/director in the Creative Services department at KAIT-TV (ABC) in Jonesboro. A year later, he moved to New York City to be a VJ/host for Fuse TV. Although he loved what he was doing, Adonis felt that he had a calling to help others reach success through their collegiate experience. In 2009,

he graduated with a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Services.

While in college, Adonis was very active with student organizations such as the Student Government Association, National Broadcasting Society and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. This involvement allowed him to work closely with numerous administrators and faculty members on campus, and intensified his love for student affairs. Adonis chose VSU's Office of Housing and Residence Life because he wanted to work with students on a day-to-day basis and help in their development as young adults.

In his spare time, Adonis is a HUGE music fan. He also enjoys working out, sports, catching a good movie and being around good people. Feel free to stop by his office in Centennial Hall!

### Meet the Graduate Staff



#### CONVERSE RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Ricardo Horne** is spending his first year with the VSU Housing & Residence Life Team this Fall of 2011. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Mississippi State University. He is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Higher Educational Leadership. During his down time, Ricardo likes to read, attend spoken word events, and volunteer for academic tutoring.

#### CENTENNIAL RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Holly Stewart** moved to Valdosta from Knoxville, Tennessee early last summer. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in May 2010 with a B.A. in History. She is working on her master's degree in Educational Leadership while at VSU and is very involved in the field of Higher Education and Student Affairs. Holly loves to spend her free time watching movies, attending concerts, and spending time with her friends. She is excited to start a brand new adventure this year and invites everyone to come by and see her during her office hours!

#### BROWN RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Jack Fischer** is experiencing his first year with the VSU Housing and Residence Life Team in 2011-2012. He received a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. He is currently pursuing a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. In his spare time, Jack enjoys leisure running, lifting free weights, spending time with friends, and learning about technology. He is also looking forward to experiencing the warmer climate of Georgia.

### HOPPER RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Josh Gilbert** is a first year graduate student and resident hall director from Pascagoula, MS. He attended Mississippi State University as an undergraduate and studied Management of Construction and Land Development. Josh looks for any excuse to spend time outdoors, from a barbeque in the backyard to a fishing trip at the islands. A true DAWG, Josh loves rooting for his alma mater and letting out a ferocious bulldog bark every now and then.

### GEORGIA RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Shelli Ivey** became a resident assistant in 2007 and has been a part of the Housing and Residence Life staff ever since. She is a recent graduate of Valdosta State University where she has obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Early Childhood Education. She is currently working on a master's degree in school counseling. Shelli is passionate about living her life in a way that reflects her relationship with Jesus Christ. In her free time, Shelli enjoys playing intramural sports and being outside.

### LANGDALE RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Abbey Thompson** was born and raised in Waunakee, Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She is starting her first year with Valdosta State Housing and Residence Life in 2011, and will be pursuing her Master of Science degree in Clinical-Counseling Psychology at VSU. Abbey is a huge movie buff, and loves movie nights and hanging out with friends. She is very excited to get started at VSU and meet many new people!

### LOWNDES RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



This is **Keyocko Joiner's** second year with the VSU Housing and Residence Life team in 2010-2011. She received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, KY. She is pursuing a Master of Science in criminal justice.

While at WKU, Keyocko worked for housing and residence life for four years as a resident assistant, desk clerk, and night clerk. She was involved with Gamma Sigma Sigma national service sorority where she was the service vice president. If you have any questions about Lowndes Hall don't hesitate to stop by her office!

### PATTERSON RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Anthony Holmes** joined the VSU staff in January of 2011. Originally from Springfield, OH, Anthony received his B.A. degree in Psychology from Berea College in KY, and currently; pursuing a master's degree in School Counseling. In his spare time he enjoys playing sports, watching movies, spending time with friends, and meeting new people. Anthony has a great passion for helping others and hopes to leave his mark on VSU by promoting growth, learning, and community among the students at VSU.

### RAEDE RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR



**Nichole Griffin** was born and raised in Valdosta, GA and graduated from Lowndes High School in 2004. From there, she went on to graduate from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a focus on Marketing. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS



**Hilary Martin** is the graduate assistant for marketing and public relations. Hilary graduated from Reinhardt University in 2010 with a degree in Public Relations and Advertising. While at Reinhardt, she was involved in residence life, campus ministry, and the communication honor society, Lambda Pi Eta. At VSU, Hilary is pursuing a master's degree in higher education. She loves to spend her time outside hiking and camping.

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - PROGRAMMING, ASSESSMENTS, AND TRAINING



**Ivana Ibrahimovic** is from Grand Rapids, MI but was born in Croatia and grew up in Germany. She speaks Croatian, German, and English fluently. She graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. At Valdosta State she is pursuing a master's degree in Communication Disorders, and plans on working as a Speech-language Pathologist once she graduates. In her spare time, you can find her cheering on the Spartan Men's Basketball team! She's also a huge fan of the Pistons. She enjoys cooking, shopping, reading, traveling and especially playing tennis and volleyball.

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - NIGHT OPERATIONS



**Shae Lynn** graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and a minor in Psychology. She is pursuing a M. Ed. in School Counseling and hopes to be a high school guidance counselor. During her years at VSU, she has acquired several different positions through the Office of Housing and Residence Life, including front desk worker, student assistant in the central office, and her most current position as the GA of the Night Operations Team. She has an open door policy and loves to meet new people so feel free to stop by her office!

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION



**Allison Taylor** is from Jeffersonville, Ind. She graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in theatre. While attending WKU, she was a desk clerk, resident assistant and a member of Omega Phi Alpha national service sorority. She is pursuing a master's degree in Higher Education and looks forward to another great year here at VSU. She enjoys playing tennis, acting, swimming, fishing, hanging out with friends and meeting new people. She is a friendly person, so stop by for a visit!

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - CONTACTS AND ASSIGNMENTS



**Matt Parnell** is a native of Valdosta. He is a recent graduate of Valdosta State University where he received his BA in History. He is pursuing his master's degree in higher education. Matt has worked as a student facility assistant for the past year. In his spare time he enjoys being outdoors, fishing, and spending time with friends. He loves playing soccer. He loves all types of music. He enjoys spending time with his family when he has down time. He is the contracts and assignments graduate assistant. He is looking forward to this new position within housing. Matt hopes to one day work in local government.

### CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - CAMPS AND CONFERENCES



**Tisheika Snow** is spending her first year with the VSU Housing and Residence Life. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, Florida. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Higher Education and Student Affairs. While at USF, Sheika was a Resident Assistant to first year students for two years and the Historian for the Resident Assistant Advisory Board. She also enjoyed being a part USF's Dance Marathon Morale Team as well as Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. In her free time, she loves to paint, draw, dance and most of all read the Harry Potter series

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## What if my student cannot come home during breaks?

Centennial Hall is the only building that will remain open during the thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks. If your student can not go home, they will need to make other arrangements.

## During semester breaks, may my student leave his/her belongings in his/her room?

Yes, however, the department of Housing and Residence Life is not responsible for loss or damage to these possessions. Please encourage your student to take home valuables if there is a concern.

## What if my student wants to change rooms or move to another residence hall?

The room change process began on Monday, Aug. 29. The first week of room changes, students were granted moves within their current residence hall. The second week students were allowed to request moves between residence halls. After this two week period, students will be able to continue to request moves for both in and out of hall changes.

## Can my student break his/her housing contract to move off campus?

The traditional hall contract is for the academic year, while a Centennial Hall contract is for 12 months. Residents wishing to terminate their residence hall contract during the contract period while remaining enrolled at the university, may do so by paying 50 percent of the remaining value of the contract and forfeiting the \$300 deposit. However, first year students are subject to the Freshmen Residency Policy. Specific details are available at the Housing and Residence Life Office.

## Who is responsible for my student's property?

Your student is responsible for his/her own property. Although precautions are taken to maintain adequate security, the university cannot assume the responsibility for the loss or damage to student possessions. We encourage you to carry appropriate insurance to cover such losses.

## Is it possible for my student to work part-time in the residence hall?

Yes. The Office of Housing and Residence Life employs students as resident assistants, student assistants, night operations personnel, facilities assistants, and front desk workers. Please refer to the housing website for more information and available postings.

## If I send my student money in the form of a check, will the University cash the check?

Yes. The Bursary will cash checks for a maximum of \$50 with a VSU ID and a driver's license present.

## Where can my student go for medical attention if he/she gets sick?

Valdosta State has a state-of-the-art Student Health Center for students that need medical attention. At the Student Health Center, there is a full staff of physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, medical technologists, a pharmacist and clerical staff. Students have already paid a fee at the beginning of the semester, so the visit and most medications are free. Please encourage your students to take advantage of this service, especially during the cold/flu season. To ensure that all students can be seen in a timely and orderly fashion, students will need to call ahead to make an appointment with a provider at (229) 333-5886. Find out more on the Web at <http://services.valdosta.edu/health/>.

## How can my student keep up with his/her grades?

Students will be able to view In-progress grades by logging into their banner account, select "Student and Financial Aid", then "Student Records" and finally "In-progress Grades".

## When can my student register for Spring classes?

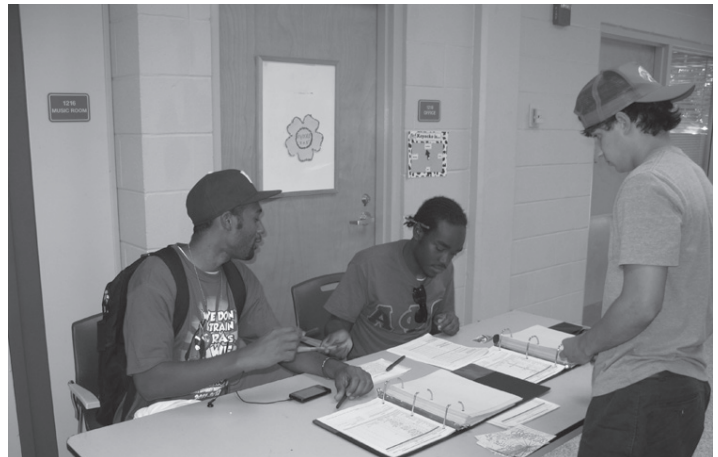
Early registration for spring 2012 will begin Oct. 31 for Seniors, Nov. 1 for Juniors, Nov. 2 for Sophomores, and Nov. 3 for Freshmen.

## Community Phone Numbers

FD=Front Desk | HD=Hall Director Office

Housing & Residence Life Office		333-5920
Brown	FD 333-5918	HD 333-4985
Centennial	FD 333-5269	HD 333-3793
Converse	FD 245-4364	HD 333-2942
Georgia	FD 333-5917	HD 333-5924
Hopper	FD 333-5916	HD 333-5151
Langdale	FD 333-5915	HD 333-4982
Lowndes	FD 333-5914	HD 333-4984
Patterson	FD 333-5913	HD 333-3736
Reade	FD 333-5912	HD 333-5405

# Move-In Day 2011



**O**n Aug. 10 and 11, new students arrived on campus to begin their college experience at Valdosta State University. You could tell some of them had planned, prepared and packed every item they thought they would ever need. The moving of packed items can be a rough and tough job, and recognition needs to go out to the countless number of volunteers including a number of students, faculty, administrators and community members. Over the years, the organization of volunteers and the planning of how to assist students and parents on this day have been discussed. As a result, there is a Move-in Day Committee that meets and attempts to plan the best

way to assist new students and parents as they move-in on this day. These plans include a variety of issues concerning parking, traffic flow, assisting students in moving items, removal of trash, offering of ice water and much more.

Thanks to the many hours of planning and volunteering, this year proved to be a success. We recognize that everyone may not feel the same way about Move-in Day; therefore, we welcome any positive and negative feedback, as well as ideas for the future. You may send your ideas via email to [housing@valdosta.edu](mailto:housing@valdosta.edu) or call (229) 333-5920 and speak with a staff member.



Office of Housing & Residence Life  
Valdosta State University  
1500 N Patterson St  
Valdosta GA 31698-0400

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## Important Dates

### **October 24-25, 2011**

Fall Break

### **November 15, 2011**

Contract Release Deadline for Spring Semester  
(freshmen cannot be released unless they qualify for  
inclusion in the freshmen residency exemption policy)

### **November 22, 2011, 5 p.m.**

Traditional Residence Halls close for Thanksgiving  
(Centennial Hall will remain open)

### **November 23 - 25, 2011**

Thanksgiving Break

### **November 27, 2011, 10 a.m.**

Traditional Residence Halls Re-open

### **November 28 - December 1, 2011**

Traditional Residence Hall Closing Meetings  
(dates/times determined by RA)

### **December 10, 2011, 12 noon**

Traditional Residence Halls close for winter holiday  
(Centennial Hall will remain open)

### **December 10, 2011 — January 9, 2012**

Winter Break

### **January 5, 2012, 10 a.m.**

Traditional Residence Halls re-open

### **January 9, 2012**

First Day of class for Spring Semester

\***Note:** Calendar subject to change as needed by Housing and Residence Life. Visit <http://housing.valdosta.edu> for more information.