



Notes From The President

October 8, 2010

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It is great to be a Blazer! Homecoming 2010 will be remembered as one of Valdosta State's greatest events. The weather was perfect and the campus was pristine. A special thanks to our electricians, custodians, grounds crew, Student Union staff, and food service employees who worked for days to get the campus ready. Activities began on Tuesday with Wild Adventures night. Our students were given exclusive use of the park. Friday's parade featured the Blazin' Brigade Marching Band. Former President Hugh C. Bailey and his wife, Joan, served as grand marshals. Lt. Col. Aleem, our new Air Force ROTC commander, walked the parade route with me. After the parade, we enjoyed a great concert with 4,000 people on the front lawn. It was described by many as one of the best concerts in recent history.

Saturday morning began with an exclusive brunch honoring the Baileys and the 2010 Distinguished Alumna of the Year, Felicia Norwood. Ms. Norwood is president of the Mid-America Region for Aetna, Inc. Hundreds of alumni converged on campus for tailgating in front of the new Student Union. It was a great opportunity to see one of our newest buildings.

There was great excitement preceding the game with Ouachita Baptist. Tailgates were ubiquitous, the food and drink great, and the Blazer Walk is one of our most engaging traditions. The Blazin' Brigade's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" was punctuated by a fly-over, courtesy of our friends at Moody AFB.

We retired the jerseys of Harlon Hill (the Heisman Trophy of Division II football) winners Chris Hatcher and Dusty Bonner. It was an honor for me to crown the homecoming queen, Avraye Henry. Demario Jones, SGA president, had a great game at defensive tackle. Talk 92.1 and Scott James brought the game to those unable to attend.

Homecoming is a team effort. Hundreds of people worked for weeks to produce the event. Special thanks to John Trombetta, Sage Archer, and the Alumni Association Board for making our alumni and guests welcomed and appreciated. Russ Mast and Robin Vickery are seasoned veterans at hosting homecoming. Each year, it gets better. In addition to the Alumni and Student Affairs departments, I want to recognize all the faculty, staff, and students who contributed to this year's homecoming success. Contributions were made by all the college and administrative units including Advancement, Athletics, Auxiliaries, Creative Design, Communications Unit, Event Services, Parking and Transportation, Plant Operations, Satellite Services/Video Production, University Police, and the Bookstore.

We are a university on the move, thanks to all. I am proud of our great alumni, students, faculty, and staff. This was our finest showcase.

Did I say we won the football game?

Sincerely,
Patrick J. Schloss, President