

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Residence Hall Students & their Families

Fall 2014

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 openings 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 website is constantly being updated, so be sure to keep www.valdosta.edu/housing bookmarked on your Web browser.

We have dedicated undergraduate student leaders and full-time/graduate professionals in each residence hall to make sure your student's stay is 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 Resource Center located at <http://www.valdosta.edu/prc/> and the Parent and Family Programs Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VstateParents/>. Both are part of VSU's ongoing effort to remain connected to the best partners we have, our students' "home team." I hope that your student has a good experience living with us this semester, and I look forward to continuing dialogue in the spring semester.

Sincerely,

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



Room Selection for the 2015 - 2016 School Year

Room selection is the process during 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 being accommodated first. Look for the December letter mailed to your home with more specific details about how this process works. If your student plans to live on campus during the 2015-2016 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 Dec. 19, contact the Housing and Residence Life Office at (229) 333-5920.

Please note that Housing values upperclassmen and is holding suite and apartment spaces for upperclassmen for the 2015-2016 school year. No need to move off campus when you can stay on campus and not worry about parking, collecting rent from roommates, etc. Also, you get to choose who you want to live with on campus during room selection, and they are guaranteed to be a student in good standing at VSU. Living off campus where roommates are assigned does not always mean students are assigned with other students.

Meet the Staff...

The Housing and Residence Life Office is excited to introduce you to the hall-level members of the team. This year, there are 14 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 people on staff:

Complex Directors



Eric Petersen
Complex Director for
Converse, Centennial,
Georgia, Langdale,
& Reade Halls

Eric Petersen came to Valdosta State in May of 2014 after working at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, and Georgia Southern University

in Statesboro, Georgia. Originally from the Kansas City area, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Truman State University and his Master of Science in college student personnel administration from the University of Central Missouri. In his role as Complex Director, he is excited to be supervising the Residence Hall Directors in Converse, Centennial, Georgia, Langdale, and Reade.

Aside from working in higher education, Eric is starting to learn the Valdosta area and find ways to get connected to the community. Eric loves to cook and try new foods, so you might find him at the Farmer's Market or a new restaurant on the weekends. He also enjoys bowling and golfing (though he's not very good at either) and is also a big movie fan. If you have any questions or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to send him an email or swing by his office.

Stephanie Bent
Complex Director
Brown, Hopper,
Lowndes, &
Patterson Halls



Stephanie Bent grew up in Jamaica but calls the Atlanta area her American hometown. Stephanie graduated from the Georgia In-

stitute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics. While attending Georgia Tech, she held various leadership positions in such organizations as Student Government, Caribbean Students Association, and Hall Council. Stephanie chaired the planning committee for a leadership conference for Georgia Tech students. While at Georgia Tech, she realized she loved working with people much more than she liked working with mathematical proofs. After leaving Georgia Tech, Stephanie obtained a master's degree in higher education with an emphasis in student affairs. She returned to Atlanta to work as a Residence Hall Director for three years with Georgia State University. After that, she spent a year receiving training from and then working with two religious organizations.

Stephanie believes that college students are the future leaders of our society and wants to help students make the most of their college experience. She enjoys talking to students about life's decisions, purpose, values, and how to interact with those who are different from us. She also loves to hear about students' classes and what they like doing during their free time.

GRADUATE *Staff*



HOUSE CALLS

After the students get settled into their residence halls and routine of going to class, some of the campus faculty and administrators make “house calls” to see how everyone is adjusting. House calls are a great way to show students that we are there to make their experience at VSU an enjoyable one. House calls provide face time and interaction between the residents and the staff who are here to support them. It is also a great way for the residents to ask any questions or express any concerns.

Hall Directors

Rita Wiley

Converse & Reade Residence Hall Director

Rita Wiley is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, and is the Director of Reade and Converse Halls for the 2014-2015 school year. This past year, Rita served as the Camps and Conference Graduate Assistant, helping make the summer time fun and lively for camp participants. However, she is very excited to be transitioning into this new role.

Rita attended Ball State University where she received her bachelor's degree in journalism education with a minor in leadership studies. At Ball State, Rita was a Resident Assistant in the honors community for two years and loved every minute connecting with residents and seeing them make the most of their college experience. While at Ball State, Rita was very involved on campus. She was a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), served as an RA class mentor, and sat on the Student Staff Advisory Council. Rita also worked as a Summer Assistant where she worked with conferences and orientation groups visiting campus.

In her spare time, Rita loves to be active and try new adventures. Her favorite new activity is utilizing VSU's ropes course and zip line. She also loves watching Netflix, going to movies, and just hanging out with friends. Rita is an avid Mexican food fanatic and can point you towards all the great places in town.



Stephanie Pocsi

Centennial Residence Hall Director

Stephanie Pocsi joins the VSU team after graduating from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in early childhood development and learning. After realizing that college students have a lot in common with preschoolers, she decided that working with college students was her passion. She will be pursuing her master's degree in higher education student affairs while working as the Residence Hall Director of Centennial Hall.

Stephanie is also an avid reader, currently trying to digest the *Song of Fire and Ice* series. She is also a painter but doesn't claim to have much talent. You may find her doing a variety of activities as long as she is surrounded by people who love to laugh, have a bit of fun, and are passionate about creating social change.



Karen Schlieder Hopper Residence Hall Director

Karen Schlieder comes from Missouri State University, where she studied anthropology and minored in geography. One of her goals in life is to travel the world, and in the summer of

2012, she was able to study abroad in China. Karen has also lived Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and now the gorgeous state of Georgia. Karen's passion with student affairs stems from her experience as a Resident Assistant for three years, a Camps and Conferences Assistant in the summer of 2011, and working closely with National Residence Hall Honorary, Residence Hall Association, and the Dining Services Board. Karen is excited to continue her master's in higher education leadership and to work with the incredible people here at Valdosta State University.

Kimmi Cantrell
Brown Residence
Hall Director

Kimmi Cantrell was born, raised, and lived in Powder Springs, Georgia, until the fall of 2010 when she first began her collegiate journey at Valdosta State University. Kimmi, while already being heavily involved



with multiple student organizations on campus, began working as a front desk worker for VSU's Housing and Residence Life Office in September of 2012; she became a Resident Assistant in January of 2013 and developed a passion for student affairs. In May Kimmi received her bachelor's degree in communication arts with an emphasis in general speech. While continuing to work for VSU's Housing and Residence Life Office as a Residence Hall Director this fall, Kimmi will be pursuing a master's degree in higher education leadership. She is excited and thankful to continue working for VSU's Housing and Residence Life Office while continuing her education as a Blazer. In between work and academics, Kimmi likes to spend her time "crafting" and painting, eating Mexican food, playing card games, sending encouragement/love to others in various forms, and spending time with loved ones. She loves meeting new people and trying new things and is extremely excited for the opportunity to do both this fall.



Tim Frederick
Lowndes
Residence Hall
Director

Tim Frederick is a transplant from Garden City, Michigan, where he attended Eastern Michigan University. While at EMU, he obtained his Bachelor of Science in psychology. Currently, Tim is a Resident

Hall Director in Lowndes Hall at Valdosta State University pursuing a Master of Education degree in higher education leadership - student affairs. In the future he hopes to be involved in student conduct. Outside of education he enjoys playing music, working out, wood burning, reading, and hanging out with his friends.

Jacob Tasseff
Georgia
Residence Hall
Director

Jacob Tasseff comes to Valdosta from Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a recent graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in political science and



history. While at Purdue, Jacob was very involved on campus and with student life through such positions as Campus Tour Guide, Resident Assistant, Staff Resident, and member of the Student Judicial Board overseeing student conduct hearings. This involvement led to his desire to pursue a master's degree in higher education, which he will complete this year. Jacob loves to spend his time being active, whether indoors or out, and he enjoys being able to wear shorts on a regular basis as he is finally escaped the frigid winters of the Midwest. When he is not being active, he can most likely be found catching up on some of his favorite TV shows, a list that tends to vary, but currently includes shows such as "Sherlock," "Luther," and "Doctor Who." Jacob is looking forward to meeting and getting to know many new people at VSU, so feel free to introduce yourself whenever you see him around.



Rachel Lehmann
Langdale
Residence Hall
Director

Rachel Lehmann comes to VSU after completing a degree in history from the University of Iowa. While in college, she loved the time she spent as a Resident Assistant and Orientation Leader.

Rachel is recently returning from a summer working in Indianapolis but has also enjoyed working in residence halls in Pennsylvania and Colorado. After working last year as the Graduate Hall Director in Reade and Converse Halls, she is very excited for a year in Langdale Hall. Rachel is pursuing a master's degree in higher education leadership, and in her free time, she loves to be creative, go "thriftting," reading, and watching movies. She loves meeting new people and getting to know residents in her community.



Alexander Rentz Patterson Residence Hall Director

Alexander Rentz is entering into his second year serving as a Residence Hall Director here at Valdosta State. Alex is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Go Niners!), where he obtained his

bachelor's degree in management information systems. During his time at Charlotte, Alex was very involved in numerous student organizations. He also served as a Resident Assistant for three years. Alex's extensive campus involvement, in conjunction with his strong desire to impact students' lives, has transpired in him pursuing a career in student affairs. Alex is currently in his second year of the higher education student affairs graduate program here at VSU. In his spare time, Alex enjoys meeting new people, playing basketball, sleeping, and creating lasting memories with loved ones. Alex is very excited about this upcoming school year in Patterson Hall. He is dedicated to doing everything he possibly can to create a positive experience for the residents of Patterson. When you get a chance, stop by his office in the Patterson Hall main lobby to say hello and get to know him. Who knows, he may even have candy in his office.



Community Phone Numbers Housing and Residence Life Office 333.5920

Brown	FD 333.5918	HD 249.4985
Centennial	FD 333.5269	HD 245.3792
Converse	FD 333.5912	HD 333.5405
Georgia	FD 333.5917	HD 333.5924
Hopper	FD 333.5916	HD 333.5151
Langdale	FD 333.5915	HD 249.4982
Lowndes	FD 333.5914	HD 249.4984
Patterson	FD 333.5913	HD 245.3736
Reade	FD 333.5912	HD 333.5405

FD = Front Desk HD = Hall Director Office

Office Graduate Assistants

Taylor Davidson Programming & Assessment

Taylor Davidson is originally from Newport News, Virginia, where she attended Virginia Commonwealth University. While at VCU, she received a degree in mass communications with a concentration in



broadcast journalism. Taylor is currently a graduate assistant here at Valdosta State University where she is pursuing a master's degree in higher education administration. She is hoping to get into multicultural student affairs in the future. When Taylor is not at work or busy, she likes to scroll through pictures on Pinterest, listen to music, talk to her friends on the phone, and go on mini adventures. One thing she would like to check off her bucket list is sky diving.

Holli Dawkins Marketing & Public Relations



Holli Dawkins was born in Nassau, Bahamas, and raised in Kosciusko, Mississippi. She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Mississippi State University in May 2014. While at Mississippi State, Holli was

very involved in campus and housing life. She served in numerous positions, including Resident Adviser, Orientation Leader, member of the Dean's Student Advisory Council, member of the MSU chapter of Psi Chi executive board, and an undergraduate research assistant for the Psychology Department. Holli plans to continue her education in VSU's industrial/organizational psychology master's program. In her spare time Holli enjoys traveling, listening to music, taking pictures, and spending time with family and friends. She is excited to be joining the Housing and Residence Life team and is looking forward to this new life chapter.

Ethan Gray

Residential Facilities

Ethan Gray started here at Valdosta State as a freshmen in 2010 and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May 2014. Ethan was born and raised in Peachtree City, Georgia. He is currently working towards his master's in public administration. This is Ethan's fourth year working in Housing and Residence Life, where he was a Student Facility Assistant and is now the Graduate Assistant of Facilities.

In his spare time he likes watching Netflix marathons, playing with his two dogs, Bear and Petey, and also hanging with friends, cleaning, and playing on social media sites. He is looking forward to the year ahead and the amazing opportunity that has been giving to him to make a difference to the students here at Valdosta State University.



Seth Sterlin

Residential Education

Seth Sterlin comes to Valdosta State University from southwest Virginia, where he attended Virginia Tech and received his Bachelor's in chemistry in the spring of 2012. He is currently a second-year student in the higher education leadership program, where he is pursuing his master's.

This is Seth's first year working with the Housing and Residence Life Office, where he is the Residential Education Graduate Assistant. In his spare time, Seth enjoys sitting back and catching up on TV shows, especially if it can be a Netflix marathon, going to the movies, and if he has enough time, cooking. Some of his interests include hanging out with friends, singing and dancing when no one is watching, and spending time with his dog, Bailey (named after his favorite character from "Grey's Anatomy"). He looks forward to the upcoming year and cannot wait to work with everyone on the Housing and Residence Life staff.



Praysha Malone

Contracts & Assignments

Born and raised in metro Atlanta, Praysha Malone came to VSU as a freshman in 2008. After working as a front desk worker for a year, she was a Resident Assistant for three years. She then graduated with a double major in management and international business and decided to continue her education in VSU's marriage and family therapy program in the fall of 2013. She is excited about continuing to work in Housing and Residence Life for the duration of her graduate career.

Outside of work and academics, Praysha enjoys building long-term relationships with her friends and family. Whether that means catching a movie at home with her mom, cooking an "experimental" meal for her sister, or hosting a game night for her friends to enjoy, Praysha appreciates the people around her with whom she can share the "little things." Some of her other interests include traveling, trying new foods, dancing, singing, playing games, reading, and photography.



Lynsei Love

Camps & Conferences

Originally from Stone Mountain, Georgia, Lynsei Love initially enrolled at Valdosta State University in 2008. She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology in 2012 and decided to begin her search for a career. After taking time off from school

while working in the field of education, Lynsei discovered a talent for working with middle and high school students and decided to build on it by seeking a master's degree in school counseling. She is very excited about returning to Valdosta State University as the Graduate Assistant for Camps and Conferences. When Lynsei is not at work, she enjoys reading, trying different recipes, and discovering do-it-yourself solutions for everyday problems. She is passionate about making simple lifestyle tweaks in order to achieve one's best level of health, externally and internally, and looks forward to continued individual and professional growth.



Frequently Asked Questions...

What if my student cannot come home during breaks?

Centennial and Converse Halls are the only buildings that will remain open during the Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks. If your student cannot 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 Housing and Residence Life Office 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 Tuesday, Sept. 2. 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 by meeting with their Residence Hall Director or Complex Director.

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

The traditional hall contract is for the academic year, while Centennial and Converse Hall contracts are 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 halls?

Yes. The Housing and Residence Life Office employs students as resident assistants, student assistants, 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. Personal checks to be cashed should be made payable to "VSU-CASH".

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, and many times, the visit and 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. Appointments can also be made or cancelled through our online appointment system (<https://health.valdosta.edu/PyramedPortal/Account/Logon?ReturnUrl=%2fpyramedportal%2f>). Find out more on the Web at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/auxiliary-services/student-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, selecting "Student and Financial Aid," then "Student Records," and finally "In-Progress Grades."

When can my student register for Spring classes?

Early registration for Spring 2015 will begin Nov. 3 for graduate students and seniors, Nov. 4 for juniors, Nov. 5 for sophomores, and Nov. 6 for freshmen. Early registration will continue through Nov. 21 at 1:30PM.





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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 24
 Valdosta, GA

Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Residence Hall Students & their Families

Fall 2014

Important Dates

- October 25** **VSU Homecoming**
- November 15** **Contract Release Deadline For Spring**
(freshmen cannot be released unless they qualify for inclusion in the Freshmen Residency Policy)
- November 21** **Traditional Residence Halls Close For Thanksgiving Break, 5 PM**
- November 30** .. **Traditional Residence Halls Re-Open, 10 AM**
- November 24 - 28** **Thanksgiving Break - No Classes**
- December 1 - 4** **Mandatory Resident Assistant Floor Closing Meeting**
- December 5** **Resident Assistant Application Due Date**
- December 13** **Residence Halls Close for Winter Break, 10AM** *(Centennial Hall and Converse Hall will remain open)*
- December 12 - January 11** **Winter Break**
- January 7** **Residence Halls Re-Open for Spring, 1 PM**
- January 12** **First Day of Class for Spring Semester**
- January 26** **Room Change In-Hall Only Begins**

MOVE-IN DAY 2014

First-year students arrived on campus Aug. 12-13 to begin their college experience as a VSU Blazer. For many, moving into the residence halls for the first time can be tough. This is why VSU Housing recruits over 300 volunteers, including a number of students, faculty, administrators, and community members. Each year, Housing and Residence Life meets with a number of campus partners to organize and plan for the smoothest and best move-in experience possible. 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. As a result, staff members from Housing and Residence Life, Parking and Transportation, and many other departments are eager to meet new VSU students as they roll in for Move-In Day. Thanks to the many hours of planning and volunteering, this year proved to be a huge 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 or call **229.333.5920** and speak with a staff member.