VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mary Virginia Terry Center *for* Experiential Learning



3rd Annual

FALL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING EXPOSITION

November 9–10, 2026

Turning Theory Into Practice

Welcome to the Experiential Learning Expo!

At Valdosta State University, experiential learning is where theory meets the world beyond the classroom through research, internships, fieldwork, service, innovation, and problem solving.

This Fall's Experiential Learning Exposition celebrates that progression. Across disciplines and modalities, VSU students are applying what they learn to real world challenges, moving from learners to practitioners, from research discoveries to products and businesses, and from service learning to sustained civic engagement.

You'll see this work in classrooms and communities, partner schools and clinical settings, research projects and entrepreneurial ventures. VSU's inquisitive students, faculty, staff, and community partners make these experiences possible.

We invite you to explore, ask questions, and celebrate what happens when students turn knowledge into action and ideas into impact. See you there!

Dr. Anne Price, Executive Director of the Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning

Program at a Glance

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

8:30–9:00 AM	Coffee & Conversations	➡	Student Union Theater Lobby
9:00–10:30 AM	Mellon Session 1	➡	Student Union Theater
10:30 AM–12:00 PM	Internship Stories OR Mellon Session 2	➡	Student Union Theater / Meeting Room 1A
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch & Mingle Tabling Event	➡	Student Union Rotunda
1:00–2:30 PM	Mellon Session 3 OR CELT Training: Mentoring Students in Experiential Learning	➡	Student Union Theater/ Meeting Room 1A
3:00–5:00 PM	Study Abroad Panel	➡	Student Union Theater

DAY 2 🔥 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

8:30–9:00 AM	Coffee & Conversations	➡	Student Union Theater Lobby
9:00–10:30 AM	Undergraduate Experiential Learning Showcase	➡	Student Union Theater
10:30 AM–12:00 PM	Mellon Session 4	➡	Student Union Theater
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch & Mingle Tabling Event	➡	Student Union Theater
1:00–2:30 PM	Debate in Action	➡	Student Union Theater
2:30–3:30 PM	President's Research Exchange	➡	Student Union 2nd floor (Multipurpose space outside Career Services)
3:30–6:00 PM	Graduate Experiential Learning Showcase	➡	Student Union Theater
6:00–7:00 PM	Featured Speaker: Amanda Bozcar, Ph.D., MLIS	➡	Student Union Theater
7:00–7:30 PM	Graduate Experiential Learning Awards	➡	Student Union Theater

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

8:30–9:00 AM	**Coffee & Conversations**	➡	**Student Union Theater Foyer**

Join students interested in internship opportunities, current interns, faculty, and community members for refreshments and a meet-and-greet

9:00-10:30am	**Mellon Internship Presentations: Session 1**	➡	**Student Union Theater**

Mellon Sessions are proudly hosted by VSU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences Mellon Team

Presenters:

Mylaijah Lee (Psychology, Africana Studies) The Haven, ***The Haven and Me*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Antoinette Gazda**

Alexandria Willis (Interdisciplinary Studies, Africana Studies) Mildred M. Hunter Community Center, ***Keeping Score of Kids: The Impact of Extra Helping Hands at a Local Community Center*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Antoinette Gazda**

Caiden Williams (Criminal Justice, African Studies), South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness, ***Effectiveness of Empathy in South Georgia*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Antoinette Gazda**

Jaxie Watts (English and Communication) Girls on the Run, ***Girls on the Run: A Week of Greek*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Robert Mark Smith**

Addison Flantos (English and Communication) Girls on the Run, ***Stepping into a New Role: My Experience Interning with Girls on the Run*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Robert Mark Smith**

Thomas Padgett (BSED in Secondary Education Concentration in English, Women's and Gender Studies) Second Harvest, ***Second Harvest: The Weight of a Difference*****, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. A.J. Ramirez**

Moderator: Sidney Wilson

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

10:30am-12:00pm	**OPTION A: Internship Stories**	➡	**Student Union Theater**

Hear students from majors across the university tell their internship stories: What they did, why it mattered, and how it prepares them for their careers. Plan your internship!

Co-Sponsored by The Office of Career Opportunities and Volunteer Services

Presenters:

Sheena Larsen, Elementary Education
Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Karen Terry and Margaret Smith
Student Teaching Experience at Dewar Elementary School

Kai Kemp, Organizational Leadership
Staff Sponsor: Ms. Alexus Garrett
Internship at City of Valdosta

Ahava Judah, Psychology and Spanish
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Victoria Russell
Internship in Cádiz, Spain

Flor Rodriguez, Criminal Justice
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rudy Prine
Internship at Southern Judicial Circuit District Attorney

Kyah Gomez, Management
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Byeonghwa Park
Experiential Learning: My VSU Experience at the J. Donald Lee Entrepreneurship Center

Jean Garcia, Interpersonal Communication
Faculty Sponsor: Rosalyn Martinez, M.S., CCC-SLP
Student Action with Farmworkers

Ariel Andrews, Communication
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christy Yates
Beautiful Creations by Chanel

Charles Ellis, Geosciences
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Debasree Chatterjee
Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum

Tristin Scott, Sociology & Anthropology
Hoya Summer (Georgetown University)
Staff Sponsor: Mr. Darius Anthony

Moderator: Dr. Anne Price

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

10:30am-12:00pm	**OPTION B: Mellon Internship Presentations Session 2**	➡	**Student Union Meeting Room 1A**

Presenters:

Naomi Harden (Criminal Justice, Women's and Gender Studies) The Haven, ***More Than a Safe Haven: Advocacy & New Beginnings*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. A.J. Ramirez**

Amiyah Simon (Nursing, Women's and Gender Studies) CASA, ***Experiential Learning: My experience with CASA for Mellon Grant Presentation*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. A.J. Ramirez**

Lacey Edwards (Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies) The Haven, ***Understanding Community Impact Through Experiential Learning: Reflecting on My Mellon Grant Internship*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. A.J. Ramirez**

Skylar Morris (English and Communication, Women's and Gender Studies) The Wesley Foundation/ Methodist Church, ***Rebuilding Student & Campus Engagement: Supporting Community with the VSU Wesley Foundation*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. A.J. Ramirez**

Khalisah Tann (Sociology & Anthropology) Raintree Village, ***The Joys and Challenges of Foster Care Work in South Ga*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy**

Tricia Butala (Sociology & Anthropology) South Georgia House of Hope, ***Small Tasks, Steady Change*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy**

Moderator: Sidney Wilson

12:00pm-1:00pm	**Lunch & Mingle: Refreshments Provided**	➡	**Student Union Rotunda**

Students: Join us for lunch and learn about all of VSU's experiential offerings, including undergraduate research, internship opportunities, and study abroad. Directors are available to answer questions & share information on getting involved.

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

1:00-2:30pm	**OPTION A:** **Mellon Internship Presentations Session 3**	➡	**Student Union Theater**

Presenters:

Alaina Key (Interdisciplinary Studies, Humanities) Valdosta City School Social Services**, *From Observation to Understanding: Exploring the Heart of Social Work*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy**

Tyrell Latimore (Interdisciplinary Studies, Humanities) Lowndes County Sheriff's Office**, *Behind the Badge: Lessons from My Internship at the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy**

Jaylin Debro (History) Lowndes County Historical Society and First Antioch Baptist Church**, *The Importance of Preserving the History of Black Churches*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Barney J Rickman**

Jacob W. Smith (History) Lowndes County Historical Society, ***Continuing to Preserve Local History: Restoring Lowndes County Historical Society*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Barney J Rickman**

Arlet Davalos (Spanish) Thomasville High School and Southside Elementary School, Cairo, GA, ***Bridging Cultures Through Education: The Importance of ESOL*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ericka Parra**

Angelina McAnally (Spanish) Latino Community, ***Bridging the Gap: Facing the Lack of Resources within the Community*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ericka Parra**

Moderator: Sidney Wilson

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

1:00-3:00pm	**OPTION B: Professional Training in Mentoring Students in Experiential Learning offered by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT-elearning)**	➡	**Student Union Meeting Room 1A**

Presenters:

Community Partners, Faculty, and Staff leading experiential learning initiatives: Participate in a complimentary professional development session on mentoring students in experiential learning, led by Dr. Jamie Landau of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching.

Training topic: Mentoring Students in Experiential Learning

Facilitator: Dr. Jamie Landau, Director of CELT-eLearning at VSU

Description:

During this 2-hour in-person training, participants will explore evidence-based best practices for mentoring students in experiential learning. Through a review of current research about mentoring, stories about influential mentors, and a self-assessment of their mentoring practices, participants will identify strategies for improvement and develop a new goal to strengthen their mentoring of students engaged in experiential learning.

Mary Virginia Terry: A Legacy of Learning and Opportunity

Mary Virginia Terry and her husband, C. Herman, believed deeply in the power of education and the importance of creating opportunities for others. In 2015, the Terry Family Foundation made a transformational $3.9 million gift to VSU, establishing three endowments: the Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning, the Mary Virginia Terry Chair in Experiential Learning, and the Mary Virginia Terry Scholarship, which has awarded $441,809 to 197 VSU students. A VSU alumna from Quitman, Mrs. Terry's generosity continues to expand opportunities for students to learn, grow, and contribute through research, internships, service, study abroad, and other real-world learning experiences.

DAY 1 🔥 MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

3:00-5:00pm	**Study Abroad Panel** **Hear from program directors and students who participated in VSU's faculty-led study abroad programs and have the opportunity to ask questions and plan for a summer study abroad!**	➡	**Student Union Theater**

Co-Hosted by the Center for International Programs

Presenters:

Student Panelists

Political Science in the Czech Republic: Adam O'Drobinak (presenter)

Experiential Learning in Waterford, Ireland: Giovani Birmelin (presenter)

Summer Exchange in Dongguk, Korea: Isabeau Davis (presenter) Diya Modi (second participant)

History, Sociology, and Anthropology in Poland: Bradley Collier (presenter) Simon Hall (second participant)

Intensive Spanish Language and Culture in Cádiz, Spain: Ahava Judah (presenter) Adrea Gutierrez Perez (second participant)

Faculty Panelists

Dr. Keith Lee: Fulbright Scholar and Director of the Czech Republic Program

Dr. Irina McClellan: Assistant Director of International Programs and Study Abroad Advisor

Organizer & Moderator: Dr. Victoria Russell

DAY 2 🔥 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

9:00am-10:30am	**Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning Showcase**	➡	**Student Union Theater**

Join us as faculty or staff sponsors and student presenter teams share three-minute presentations on VSU's curricular and co-curricular experiential learning courses. This session partners with the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching which trains faculty in experiential learning pedagogy via the CELT-Terry Experiential Learning Certificate

Presenters:

✷ **Research and Creative Inquiry**

Reflections from a Qualitative Movement Diagnosis (QMD) Experiential-Learning Course Project
Course: CHPE 3150, Applied Sports Science
Faculty Lead: Dr. Eugene Asola
Student Participants: Maddie Kilmer & Eimy Negron

Field Experience Observation in an Exercise Physiologist Setting
Course Number: HSEP 4510, Exercise Physiology Practicum
Faculty or Staff Lead: Dr. Brian M. Williams
Student Participant: Caleb Spence

Monsters in American Culture: The Monsters We Create
Course: INQR 2003, Monsters in American Culture
Faculty Lead: Danielle R. Bond
Student Participant: Brenna Graham

Using Students' Own Educational Experience as Data: A Functionalist Experiential Learning Assignment
Course: SOCI 1101, Introduction to Sociology
Faculty Lead: Dr. Carl Ide
Student Participant: Marasa Gul Agha

Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle: A Transformative Approach to Teaching Organic Chemistry
Course: CHEM 3401, Organic Chemistry
Faculty Lead: Dr. Shipra Gupta
Student Participant: Guy Purvis

Culturally responsive tools: Ethnographic interviewing & cultural genogram
Course: CSD 4140, Cultural and Dialectical Issues
Faculty Lead: Dr. Jessy Brown
Student Participant: Marisol Hernandez

✷ Global Citizenship

Global Citizenship: Study Abroad in Poland
Faculty Lead: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy
Student Participant: Jackson Soosani

✷ Servant Leadership and Community Engagement

From Idea to Final Pitch: The JDL Business Plan Competition
Faculty Lead: Dr. Byeonghwa Park, Director, J. Donald Lee Center for Entrepreneurship
Student Participant: John S. Barbosa, Runner-Up, 2026 JDL Business Plan Competition

From Theory to Practice: A Linear Model of Classroom Experience
Course Number: ELED 4703
Faculty Lead: Dr. Karen Terry and Ms. Susan Walden
Student Participant: Kevin Griffin

From Foundations to Future Plans: Instructor and Student Perspectives on the Experiential Learning Journey
Faculty Lead: Ms. June Richards
Course: INQR 2003, Healthcare as a Profession
Student Participants: Aniya Harris and Sophia Passley

Moderator: Dr. Jamie Landau

DAY 2 🔥 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

10:30am-12:00pm	**Mellon Internship Presentations Session 4**	➔	**Student Union Theater**

Presenters:

Anabelle Proctor (History) Grady County Museum & History Center, ***Preserving the Past, Educating the Future: The Impact of the Grady County Museum & History Center*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Barney J Rickman**

Sophia Noll (Interdisciplinary Studies, Humanities) The Haven, ***The Haven: Providing a Pathway to Safety and Security for Families in South Georgia*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy**

Destinee Sims (Interdisciplinary Studies) Pope's Museum, ***Inside the Museum: My Internship Experiences*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christy Yates**

Clarissa Mallory (English and Communication) Camp Rock, ***A Mission Worth Sharing: My Internship Experience at Camp Rock of Georgia*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christy Yates**

Xavier Harrison (English and Communication) One Valdosta Lowndes, ***The Importance of Community*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christy Yates**

Avril Mapps (English and Communication) Boys and Girls Club, ***Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Making Every Donor Feel Like Family*, Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christy Yates**

Moderator: Sidney Wilson

12:00pm-1:00pm	**Getting Involved in Experiential Learning**	➔	**Student Union Rotunda**

Students: Join us for lunch and learn about VSU's experiential offerings, including undergraduate research, internship opportunities, and study abroad. Directors are available to answer questions & share information on getting involved.

DAY 2 🔥 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

1:00-2:30pm	**Debate in Action**	➔	**Student Union Theater**

Come see VSU's Award Winning Debate Team in Action!
Debaters: Cassandra Ayers and Natalee Clawson
Speaker of the House: Dr. Michael Eaves, VSU Debate Coach

2:30-3:30pm	**President's Research Exchange**	➔	**2nd floor multipurpose space outside Career Opportunities**

Students: Join VSU President Dr. Donald Green for an informal conversation about research opportunities and the experiential learning opportunities you'd like to see expanded at VSU. All students are welcome!

3:30pm-6:00pm Graduate Experiential Learning Showcase

➔ Student Union Theater

Introductions (3:30 – 3:35 pm)

- Introduction from Dr. Anne Price, Executive Director of the Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning
- Greetings from Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies

Presentation Round 1 (3:35 - 4:20 PM)

1. **Jessica Tipton** — Curriculum and Instruction | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Daesang Kim
Closing the Source-Credibility Gap: A Lateral Reading Intervention for Incoming Ninth Graders

2. **Veronica Morales** — World Languages (Spanish) | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Victoria Russell
Lessons Learned from Observing Spanish Classes in Cádiz, Spain

3. **Melanie Alfaro-Salazar** — Biology | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Erin Grabarcyzk
My, my, MyChart, What Do You Do? Making Healthcare Accessible One Brochure at a Time

4. **Vic Birkey** — Leadership | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. James Martínez
Who Becomes Visible as Gifted? Examining Equity in State Identification Policy

5. **Yoselyn Molina Melendez** — Marriage and Family Therapy | Faculty Sponsor: Ms. Jessica Millican
What Can You Do in One Hour of Therapy? Single Session Therapy Skill Building

3:30pm-6:00pm Graduate Experiential Learning Showcase

6. **Marti Miller-Lee** — Library and Information Science | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Debi Carruth; Supervisor: Muriel McDowell Jackson
Preserving Marginalized Histories: Recovering Middle Georgia's Black History Using Interdisciplinary Primary Sources

✷ **4:05 pm – Q&A (15 mins)**

3:30pm-6:00pm Graduate Experiential Learning Showcase

Presentation Round 2 (4:20 - 5:05 pm)

Presentation Round 2 (4:20 - 5:05 pm)

7. **Addeline Wright** — Communication Sciences and Disorders | Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Walden. M.S., CCC-SLP
Finding Your Niche: Clinical Experience with Underrepresented Populations in Speech-Language Pathology

8. **Benjamin Whitlock** — Leadership | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. John Lairsey & Felicia Sauls
Bridging Theory and Practice: Evaluating Emergency Aid Through a Doctoral Dissertation

9. **Czariah Grier** — Curriculum and Instruction
Tailoring Teachers Toolkits: AI Chatbots in the K-12 Setting

10. **Shelby Whittet** — Library and Information Science | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Debra Carruth
Transferring LibGuide Design and Usability Principles to WordPress: Offering Research Teams a Sustainable Solution

11**. Ara Tasnia Proma** — Biology | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Theodore Uyeno
Hands-On Histology: Preparing and Reading Tissue of Octopus

12. **Abigail Thomason** — Library and Information Science
Gentleman: Please advise the President that the word NUCLEAR is pronounced NEW- KLEY-ARE not NEW-KYOU-LAR

✷ **4:50 pm – Q&A (15 mins)**

Presentation Round 3 (5:05 - 5:35 pm)

13**. Alizeta Guira** — Marriage and Family Therapy | Faculty Sponsor: Jessica Millican
Finding Someone to Lean on Through Bereavement Camp

14. **Bridget Rogers** — Curriculum and Instruction | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Daesang Kim

3:30pm-6:00pm Graduate Experiential Learning Showcase

Paraprofessional Training Targeting Aided-Language Input for Augmentative and Alternative Communication Generalization

15. **Charlie Beebout** — Biology | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Emily Cantonwine
Freaky Fungal Differences Are Messing With My Nuts!

16. **Elena Carne Lorenz** — World Languages (Spanish) | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Victoria Russell
From Cádiz, Spain to My Classroom: A New Perspective on Teaching Spanish

17. **Peyton Murphy** — Social Work | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Hanae Kanno
From Adversity to Intervention: Addressing ACEs and Mental Health Needs in Rural Schools Through Evidence-Based Social Work

18. **Elaina Johnson** — Curriculum and Instruction | Faculty Sponsor: Dr. James Martinez
Addressing Disparities in STEM Fields Through High School Seniors' Mathematics Backgrounds and Self-Efficacy

✷ **5:35 pm – Q&A (15 mins)**

Wrap-Up (5:50 – 6:00 pm)

6:00pm-7:00pm	**Featured Speaker, Amanda Bozcar, Ph.D., MLIS University of South Florida**	➔	**Student Union Theater**

Dr. Amanda Bozcar is Associate Director for Digital Initiatives at the University of South Florida Libraries. She will present *Making Humanities Digital: What We Gain When We Learn by Doing*. Dr. Bozcar is sponsored by VSU's Mellon Foundation Grant for Paid Internships in the Humanities.

7:00pm-7:30pm	**Graduate Experiential Learning Awards**	➔	**Student Union Theater**

Awards will be presented across three categories: Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Community Impact, and Connection or Contribution to the Profession

Thank You to VSU's Faculty and Staff Mentors, Community Partners, and the Committees Who Made the 2026 Fall Experiential Learning Exposition Possible!

Special Recognition to:

Undergraduate Program Leads
Ms. Carla Jordan: Office of Career Opportunities and Volunteer Services
Dr. Paige Krispin: College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Graduate Experiential Learning Committee
Hoa Nguyen (Chair): College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Jessica Millican (Co-Chair): College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Chris Downing: College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Erin Grabarczyk: College of Science and Math
Katie Walden: College of Education and Human Services
Kelley Parker: College of Nursing and Health Sciences
James Martinez: College of Education and Human Services
Jiyoon Jung: College of Education and Human Services
Ju-Ying Yang: College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Mohammad Movahed: Langdale College of Business Administration
Victoria Russell: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Graduate School
Dr. Becky da Cruz
Rosalyn Martínez

The Center for International Programs
Dr. David Starling
Dr. Irina McClellan

The Mary Virginia Terry Student Research Council
Dr. Denise Reid (Chair): College of Science and Math
Sidney Wilson, Graduate Assistant

Technology & Event Assistance
Sheila Hall: Information Technology
Brian Roberts: Campus Reservations

The Mellon Foundation
Dr. James LaPlant (Mellon PI)
Dr. Mark Smith (Mellon Co-PI)
Dr. Toni Gazda (Mellon Co-PI)
VSU's Mellon Grant Faculty Advisory Team
Nashie Wesley, Mellon Grant Coordinator
Isabeau Davis, Mellon Graduate Assistant

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
Dr. Jamie Landau, Director

Ms. Susan Bailey, Administrative Coordinator, Terry Center

Dr. Sheri Noviello, Provost
Dr. Donald Green, President

