



# CELEBRATING THE PAST and EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE

## *Into the Future: the New Health Sciences and Business Administration Building*

**A**fter many years of work and much effort on the part of many people, VSU's Health Sciences and Business Administration (HSBA) building will become a reality. It will serve as an advanced academic facility to educate Georgia's future health care professionals. The 140,000-square-foot four-story structure will house six health science programs: nursing (including a dental hygiene program with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College), communication sciences and disorders, athletic training, exercise physiology, social work and healthcare administration. The HSBA building will be located directly across from South Georgia Medical Center's newly constructed parking deck on the Rea and Lillian Steele North Campus at the corner of Patterson Street and Pendleton Drive.

The Langdale College of Business will occupy the third floor of the \$32 million facility while maintaining occupancy in Pound and Thaxton Halls. The new building will accommodate the physical space needs of the Langdale College for years to come. The Southeastern Federal Credit Union (SEFCU) Financial Trading Center (FTC) will move from its current location in Thaxton Hall to take a more prominent position in the HSBA building. As one exits the elevator or staircase, the FTC will be

in full view enclosed in blue tinted glass with the SEFCU logo etched in the front corner. There will be additional faculty offices, conference rooms, three large computer classrooms, student gathering and meeting rooms and a graduate classroom designed to allow for group/team work. The first floor of the HSBA building will include a 260-seat auditorium and nine classrooms that will be shared by all the programs.

Given that health sciences and nursing will be housed in the new building, the opportunity for collaboration will be significant. The Langdale College of Business is developing a BBA degree in healthcare administration and an online MBA in healthcare administration. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Outlook Handbook (2012) estimates that employment of healthcare managers will grow by 22 percent from 2010 to 2020. The Long-term Occupational Projections for the South Georgia Workforce Investment Area (WIA018) for 2008-2018 projects an even greater growth (45 percent) in employment of healthcare managers. The new programs in healthcare administration will aid economic development as well as contribute to a higher quality of life for the South Georgians.

# Celebrating Student Successes

## Beta Gamma Sigma Inducts 45



**Induction into the Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Society is the highest academic honor that a business student can achieve.** Forty-five students and faculty were inducted at the Langdale College of Business' Honors Night Dinner on April 27th. To be inducted, undergraduate students must be in the top ten percent of their class and masters students must be in the top 20 percent of their class. The following students and faculty were inducted:

Mary Agramonte  
Elvan Aktas  
Daffane Alred  
Mathew Bailey  
Ashley Blankenship  
Kathryn Butler  
Meagan Camp  
Anthony Combs  
Attila Cseh  
Kristel De Groot  
BreAnna Dean  
Barbara Durr

Joshua Edwards  
Christopher Gaither  
Aillyn Gildon  
Christine Grass  
Chelsea Griggs  
Holden Hendricks  
Laura Hewett  
JerKendra Holloway  
Cameron Jahnke  
Haley Janousek  
Jessica Johnston  
Kella Kicklighter

Susan Kouril  
David Kuhlmeier  
James Landrum  
Brian Leverett  
Alexandra Lichten  
Carrie Miller  
Nathan Moates  
Natalia Morozova  
Allen Muncy  
James Muncy  
John Murray  
Brian Parker

Cheryl Parlor  
Bethany Smith  
Jordan Stone  
Allison Walega  
Jennifer Walker  
Nikki White  
Amanda Whitford  
Robert Williams  
Lindsey Wisenbaker  
Clinton Yager

## Celebrating Student Successes

# Beta Alpha Psi "Honors our Neighbor"



**Beta Gamma Sigma is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary** during 2012-2013 with a number of special programs. The Langdale College of Business Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter will also be sponsoring several activities throughout the year. Alumni inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma at VSU should be on the lookout for these activities.

Langdale College of Business Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter is led by Dean Wayne Plumly who serves as Chapter President and Dr. Karin Roland who serves as the Chapter's Faculty Advisor. For the first time in 2012-2013, student vice-presidents will assist the faculty advisor with a number of projects throughout the year.

This past February Beta Alpha Psi Mu Zeta Chapter attended the Southeast Regional Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. Although one of the smallest chapters in the region, it competed in all three Best Practices categories and earned a 2nd and 3rd placing. The chapter also presented on the creative and innovative ways to recruit new members in a chapter operations session.

During the past academic year, the chapter hosted the Honor Our Neighbor 5K/ 1 mile run/walk event. The purpose of the event which was held in January 2012 was to assist a local family facing financial hardship especially due to the illness. The event attracted approximately 100 runners and raised \$5,000. Our honoree was the Dallas family, whose six year daughter is battling leukemia. Mu Zeta was honored to assist this family and plan on hosting similar events in the future.

Mu Zeta continues to earn awards at the national level. They were recognized as a distinguished chapter in 2009 and as a superior chapter for each of the past three years. Superior status means going above and beyond the minimum chapter requirements. Through our professional meetings, such as our open house hosted by Henderson and Godbee, LLP, and through community service events such as the blood drive to benefit the America Red Cross. Langdale College is proud of their accomplishments and are working hard to continue their success.

Beta Alpha Psi is the honor's organization which is open to accounting and finance majors with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. For more information on the Mu Zeta chapter please contact Shawn Boltin, the 2012-13 Chapter President ([rsboltin@valdosta.edu](mailto:rsboltin@valdosta.edu)) or Dr. Ray Elson, Faculty Advisor ([relson@valdosta.edu](mailto:relson@valdosta.edu)).



## Celebrating Student Successes



Valdosta State University's 2012 SIFE team placed fourth among 494 SIFE teams nationwide at the SIFE National Exposition last month. Pictured are (Kneeling) Justin McGruder, (Front row L-R) Kai Powell, Ariel Powell, Anesa Barton, Joy Caldwell, Rederic Young, Jessica Moss, Valious Smith, (Back row L-R) Hilary Gibbs-faculty advisor, Travian Scott, Marcus Shine, Michael Oppel, Sean Branch and Diane Guess-faculty advisor. Not pictured but also attended: SIFE students Kelsey Hill and Courtney Sumpter, SIFE faculty advisor-Jeff Shipley

# VSU SIFE places 4<sup>th</sup> in the Nation

**V**aldosta State University's 2012 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team placed fourth among 494 SIFE teams nationwide at the SIFE National Exposition last month.

The VSU SIFE team was recognized in the top four teams alongside students from Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Flagler College and the national champion, Belmont University. The exposition was held from May 22 to May 24 in Kansas City, Mo. and included two days of intense competition at the Kansas City Convention Center. Outreach projects were presented and judged by top business executives.

Dr. Wayne Plumly, dean of the Langdale College of Business Administration, said that the students spent months preparing for the event.

"All the volunteer hours that they managed despite full academic loads and working part-time have ben-

efited the community in ways that we may not know for years to come," said Plumly. "SIFE advisors Hilary Gibbs, Diane Guess and Jeff Shipley have worked tirelessly to give our SIFE students every opportunity to help others and themselves."

Valdosta's SIFE program is one of nearly 500 programs in the United States. Participating students use business concepts to develop community service projects that improve the standard of living for people in need. The culmination of the SIFE program is an annual series of competitions that provide a forum for teams to present the results of their projects and to be evaluated by business leaders who serve as judges. Teams compete first at the regional and national levels, then at the international level when the national champion teams from each country meet at the SIFE World Cup.



Traveling with the team to the National exposition were SIFE Business Advisory board members and guests. During their stay they bumped into one of the members of the band "Foreigner."

*Can you guess which one is the member of the band?*



## **First Annual Campus-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Langdale College of Business students presented their research papers at the First Annual Campus-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium. Felina Duncan, an International Business and Economics major, presented her paper entitled "Springboarding MENA: Economic Success in the Middle East and North Africa". Rebecca Falks, a Finance and Economics major, presented her paper on "Exchange Rate Volatility and Trade Flows: the EU and Turkey". Brian Leverett, a Finance major and May 2012 graduate, presented his research on "Effects of 2008 Financial Meltdown on Borrowers of Micro-financing Outlets." Felina and Rebecca completed their research under the guidance of Dr. Zula Denaux and Brian completed his paper with the guidance of Dr. Elvan Aktas. All of the presentations were well received, demonstrating the students' hard work as well as the high quality of education and academic support provided by the faculty of the college. The experiences students gained by researching and presenting at the symposium are both an accomplishment and an inspiration to higher achievement in their future careers and as representatives of LCOBA and VSU.

## **IMA celebrates a new chapter**

**T**he IMA Student Chapter is an organization that is a recent addition to the Langdale College of Business Administration. IMA stands for Institute of Management Accountants. The goal of the student chapter is to explore all the opportunities that management accounting has to offer. Another goal of the chapter is to create a bridge between students and professionals through different networking opportunities. In its first year of existence, the Valdosta State University IMA Student Chapter was awarded the Silver Certificate of Excellence by the Institute of Management Accountants in recognition of its key accomplishments throughout the year. Some of these accomplishments include creating a strategic plan, hosting regular meetings, orienting new members, conducting plant tours, holding educational

meetings, electing and training officers, launching a website, publishing newsletters, and participating in community service projects. The chapter toured the Lee Container plant in Homerville and the SAFT Battery plant in Valdosta. This past November, 15 members of the IMA Student Chapter attended the IMA Student Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The conference featured all types of managerial accounting speakers, including accountants from Ford, Chiquita Banana, and Proctor & Gamble. Next year, the chapter aims to fulfill the requirements for the gold award by creating a team to compete in the Student Case Competition. The IMA Student Chapter is open to all business majors. For more information, visit the Valdosta State IMA Student Chapter website at [www.valdosta.edu/ima](http://www.valdosta.edu/ima).



# Student investment group producing future business leaders of tomorrow



## Frank Visker

Outstanding Senior Frank Visker helped lead the finance program into a new era as the first president of the Valdosta State Investment Group.

As president, Visker served as fund manager of VSU's student-managed portfolio, which was introduced during the opening of the university's Southeastern Federal Credit Union Financial Trading Room.

During his time as president, the investment group made purchases and presented its portfolio at the Quinnipiac University School of Business' second annual Global Asset Management Education Forum in New York City. "The opportunity to manage a portfolio with real-world dollars has been a tremendous advantage for me before stepping into a career in finance," said Visker.

Visker, who graduated on May 5 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance, also served as chair of the LCOBA Student Advisory Council.

Visker now anticipates returning to Cummins Corporation in Indiana to complete his second finance analyst internship with the company. He will then pursue finance and accounting jobs in and around Valdosta and in his home state of California. He also expressed plans of eventually earning his Master of Business Administration.



## Brian Leverett

Brian Leverett is a self-driven businessman who takes advantage of every opportunity to advance personally and professionally.

In 2002, the Colorado native graduated from high school early and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Leverett served four years in the Marines, which included a tour of duty in Iraq. After marrying his wife, Kate, he decided to pursue a

college degree and focus on the next phase of his career.

Leverett found Valdosta to be a good place for him to flourish academically and professionally. In 2009, at age 25, he began his own home rental business, Leverett Enterprises, while pursuing a finance degree at Valdosta State University.

Leverett was also part of VSU's first student investment group, serving as sector manager. In March he traveled with the group to New York City, where members presented at Quinnipiac University School of Business' second annual Global Asset Management Education Forum.

Academically, Leverett ranked among the top 10 percent in his class, and as a result, he was honored as a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, a national honor society for business students, and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Leverett has expressed plans to remain in Valdosta for at least another year, investing in more rental properties for his business. He also currently serves as treasurer for Georgia Bible Camp, where he developed an inventory and accounting system. Leverett will eventually pursue a job as an analyst.

## Finance students on the portfolio management team



traveled to The Game Forum in New York with their faculty advisors Drs. Buchanan and Aktas to participate in the forum and observe the other teams' portfolios in preparation for next year's portfolio competition.

*Left to right—Brian Leverett, faculty advisor—Dr. Bill Buchanan, and Frank Visker in New York City at Quinnipiac University School of Business' second annual Global Asset Management Education Forum.*

## Congratulations Dr. Louis Levy!



VSU SIFE presented Dr. Louis Levy (*Interim President of VSU*) with the first ever Champion of Excellence Eagle award. This award was presented to Dr. Levy for his soaring enthusiasm, fortitude in times of difficulty, and vision with wings during his 23 years at Valdosta State University. Dr. Levy has been a huge supporter of VSU SIFE's mission from the beginning.

Dr. Levy has been interim president since last July when he came out of retirement to temporarily fill the presidential spot. Dr. Levy stepped back into retirement with the welcome of VSU's new President, Dr. Bill McKinney on July 1, 2012.

The Langdale College family would like to thank Dr. Louis Levy for an amazing year as interim President and congratulate him on his recent retirement (again)!

## Quality Matters: Accreditation Maintained



The Langdale College of Business recently announced that it has maintained its business accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees in business and accounting. Only 649 schools of business, or less than 5% worldwide, have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education. To maintain accreditation a business program must undergo a rigorous internal review every five years, during which the program must demonstrate its continued commitment to 21 quality standards.

The AACSB International standards are demanding and challenge business schools to pursue continuous improvement. The standards state that a school must maintain a faculty sufficient for the instructional programs offered.

The faculty must have intellectual qualifications and current expertise in their academic disciplines. The school must have systematic processes to assess the impact of the curricula on learning. And the school must have sufficient financial resources to achieve its mission. These and other standards help provide a high quality learning experience.

"Maintenance of AACSB accreditation has been a concerted effort of faculty, staff, students and advisory boards," said Dean Plumly. "Maintenance is a continuing process and not an event. We strive for excellence in our business programs and this effort has been recognized by our accrediting body. Our students and community are the beneficiaries of our commitment to excellence."

The Langdale College was recognized for its achievement on April 28, 2012 at the AACSB International Annual Conference in San Diego.



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*To make a donation to the Langdale College or another area at VSU visit us online at [www.valdosta.edu/give](http://www.valdosta.edu/give) and click GIVE ONLINE on the left side.*

## **Global MBA Ranking: #1 in student satisfaction**

*The CEO Magazine* has just released their Global MBA rankings. They assessed the performance of MBA schools based on faculty, tuition rates, international reach, innovation, delivery methods, and career progression. The Georgia WebMBA has been ranked in Tier One with business schools such as Duke, Indiana, and Gonzaga. These schools must demonstrate a high level of innovation and thought leadership as well as utilizing senior faculty to teach moderate size classes. The benefits of an MBA include but are not limited to career progression, networking opportunities, and salary increases.

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