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.

Director’s Note

A couple of resources for you to be aware of are the Parent 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.”

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 and Residence Life

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 2014-2015 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.
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 three 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 Director for Converse, Georgia, Langdale, and Reade Halls**

Bonnie Brackett is originally from East Point, Georgia, on the southern side of Atlanta. Although Bonnie originally wanted to plan weddings and graduated with a Bachelor of Science 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 Master of Education 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. She has been a Complex Director at VSU since August of 2011.

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 South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (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. Currently, Bonnie serves as the Advisor of the VSU National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) chapter and is the Advisor-Elect for the Georgia Residence Hall Organization or GPHO. Bonnie is also active in several professional organizations, including Georgia Housing Officers (GHO) and Georgia College Personnel Association (GCPA).

When Bonnie is not working with students and staff, she enjoys cooking and baking, reading, photography, 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 loves to take 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.

**Complex Director for Centennial and Hopper Halls**

Donald Coleman joined the Housing and Residence Life team in the fall of 2012. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Donald received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management and a certificate in Event and Tradeshow Planning from Georgia State University. During his time at Georgia State University, Donald was a Resident Assistant, orientation leader, and National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Undergraduate Fellow (NUPF); these student leadership positions led to his passion for Student Affairs. Donald went on to obtain a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration from Loyola University of Chicago. During this time, he also worked as an Assistant Residence Director. Donald’s work in Student Affairs has taken him around the U.S. and even all the way to South Africa. He is excited to join the Blazer family.

**Meet the Graduate Staff!**

**CONVERSE and READE RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR**

Rachel Lehmann has lived most of her life in the state of Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in History. However, she has lived and worked in Colorado and Pennsylvania. Rachel loved the time she spent as a Resident Assistant and Orientation Leader in college, and she is excited for her new role as the Resident Hall Director of Reade and Converse Halls. Rachel is pursuing a master’s degree in Higher Education Leadership, and in her free time she loves to be creative, go thrifting, reading, and watching movies. She can’t wait to get to know all the students at Valdosta State University!

**CENTENNIAL 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 hosted in 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 NRHH, RHA, and the Dining Services Board. Karen is excited to start her master’s degree in Higher Education Leadership and to get to know the incredible people here at Valdosta State University.

**HOPPER RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR**

Katie Collip is excited to join the student affairs family at VSU. Katie was born and raised in Indiana and graduated from Ball State University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies and again in 2012 with another Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. While at BSU, Katie was extremely involved in Student Affairs, working as a Resident Assistant for three years and as a Conference Assistant for one very exciting summer. Katie also served as the President of the Ruth Peters chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, was the Assistant Director of Administration for the Indiana Residence Hall Organization, and served on several regional and national committees for the Great Lakes Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls. Katie will be pursuing her master’s degree in Higher Education Leadership. Katie self-identifies as a proud nerd and in her free time tries to consume as much British science fiction and fantasy as possible.

**Complex Director for Brown, Lowndes, and Patterson Halls**

Stephanie Bent grew up in Jamaica but calls the Atlanta area her American hometown. Stephanie graduated from the Georgia Institute 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 Leadership from the University of Georgia at Valdosta State University.

**Note:** Plan must be verified to receive your coupon book! After verification in late January, you will be emailed to arrange pickup of your coupon book.

**Sweet Rewards**

Because you have an Unlimited + $125 Blazer Bucks, 14 Meals/Week + $225 Blazer Bucks or 10 Meals/Week + $370 Blazer Bucks meal plan for the Spring 2014 semester, you will automatically qualify for V-State Dining’s “Sweet Rewards” meal plan campaign prizes!

You will receive a large coupon book for all retail locations on campus, worth over $70 in savings for the spring semester — and the best part is — every food item! No 10%, no BOGO — we appreciate YOU as our valuable guest, and we want to show you our appreciation by saving you even more money than before.

Please email http://vstatedining@valdosta.edu after purchasing a qualifying meal plan, to receive your coupon book!

http://vstatedining@valdosta.edu
GEORGIA RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR

Jacob Tessoff 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 positions such as a 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 begin this fall semester at VSU. Jacob loves to spend his time being active, whether indoors or out, and he looks forward to being able to wear shorts on a regular basis as he is finally escaping the cold winters found in the Midwest. When he is not being active or enjoying the sun’s warmth on his legs, he can most likely be found catching up on one of his favorite TV shows, a list that tends to vary. He is currently on a BBC kick with titles 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.

LANGDALE RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR

Randi Rice was born and raised in Fisher, Illinois. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. Along with the studies of business, she also studied Psychology, Pre-law, and Accounting during her undergraduate time. She started with Valdosta State Housing and Residence Life in the fall of 2013, and she is currently pursuing her master’s degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. While at Eastern Illinois University, Randi worked as a Resident Assistant for four years, one of which was done on an exchange at Mississippi State University. This position gave her the opportunity to serve students in many facets and learn from several different supervisors. Randi looks for any excuse to spend time outdoors as well as creating memories to last a lifetime.

LOWNDES RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR

Alexander Rentz is one of the new additions to the Housing and Residence Life team here at Valdosta State. Alexander is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management Information Systems. During his time at Charlotte, Alexander was very involved in many student organizations. The longest campus involvement was in Housing where he served as RA for three years, Loan Key Desk Representative, and a Conference Assistant. Alexander’s extensive housing background, in conjunction with his strong desire to impact students’ lives, has transpired into a career in Student Affairs. Alexander is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Higher Education at VSU.

In his spare time, Alexander enjoys meeting new people, creating lasting memories with loved ones, playing basketball, and reading for leisure. Alexander is most looking forward to joining the VSU family and seeing first-hand what it means to be a part of the Blazer Nation!

PATTERSON RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR

Matthew Lovelace arrives in Valdosta from Cary, North Carolina, where he was a graduate of East Carolina University with a double major in Finance and Multidisciplinary Studies. It will be his first year as a graduate student in the Higher Education Leadership program and as a graduate Hall Director. He describes himself as an easy-going person who enjoys the small things in life. He’s excited for the upcoming school year and all the new people he will get the chance to meet.

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kyle O’Bryan is from metro Atlanta, and now calls Valdosta home. In 2012 he graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, and he is currently pursuing his Master of Business Administration. This is his first position with Valdosta State University and he is excited to be a part of VSU’s success. His previous involvement with Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) has sparked an interest in community involvement that he plans to stay committed to. In the future, Kyle plans to run his own business.

In the past, he enjoyed coaching youth soccer at the local park, but now he is lucky if he has enough time to play a pick-up game. Kyle’s new escape is running. He enjoys exploring the town while on a relaxing music-filled run in either the morning or at night to beat the heat. In addition to soccer and running, Kyle has a passion for discovering new music, rediscovering old music, and attending concerts when he can. Some of his all-time favorite acts include Bloc Party, The XX, MF Doom, RJD2, Radialhead, Ta-Ku, Flying Lotus, Tame Impala, Rush, Black Lips, Gorillaz, The Roots, and the list goes on.

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - PROGRAMMING AND 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.

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Originally from Mississippi, Teresa Castillo joins the 2013-2014 Housing team as a recent graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Educational Psychology. During her undergraduate career, Teresa served as both a Resident Assistant and a Guest Assistant for summer conferences and camps. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Outside the office and classroom, Teresa is enjoying this time as a newlywed and getting to know her new home of Valdosta. She enjoys traveling and all things outdoors!

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION

Jill Hohnecker is excited to join the VSU Housing and Residence Life team. Jill graduated in May 2013 from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. She was extremely involved on campus, especially in Student Government, RHA, and the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls. After spending the summer interning at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, she is ready for the move to the warmer climate. Jill is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Higher Educational Leadership and is excited for the challenging world of graduate school.

Jill is the typical Mississippi River Rat from the Midwest. She enjoys spending as much time outside and never passes up a trip to the beach or a chance to play in the water. In her free time, she enjoys a good Dr. Who adventure through time, trying out an exotic recipe in the kitchen, or relaxing with a nice cup of coffee while watching the sunset. She can’t wait to live in Georgia but is going to miss the cold winters and all of the gorgeous snow.

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - 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 was excided about continuing to work in VSU’s Housing department 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 travelling, trying new foods, dancing, singing, playing games, reading, and photography.

CENTRAL OFFICE GRADUATE ASSISTANT - CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

Rita Wiley is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, and comes to VSU as the Camps and Conferences Graduate Assistant. 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 an RA 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 Epislon Sigma Alpha service sorority, 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.

Rita also has experience working with Purdue University summer conferences as she interned there during summer 2012 and 2013. While there, she was able to hire and train student workers and also assist in conference preparation. Rita is also looking forward to making knowledge to VSU to make campus livelier during the summer.

In her spare time, Rita loves to watch and play sports. She also loves watching Netflix, going to movies, and hanging out with friends. She enjoys being adventurous and trying new things, especially finding local places to visit. Rita is also an avid fan of Mexican food and can’t wait to try all the restaurants in town.
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 Monday, August 26th. 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 HALL?
Yes, the Housing and Residence Life Office 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 positions.

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?
VSU 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 (http://services.valdosta.edu/health/). 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, 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 2014 will begin October 28 for Seniors, October 29 for Juniors, October 30 for Sophomores, and October 31 for Freshmen. Early registration will continue through November 15.

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.

Move-in Day 2013
On August 7 and 8, 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 people, including members of the 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 or call (229) 333-5920 and speak with a staff member.

Community Phone Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FD = Front Desk</th>
<th>HD = Hall Director Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Residence Life Office</td>
<td>333-5803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>FD 333-5918</td>
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Reade Patterson Lowndes Langdale Hopper Georgia Converse Centennial Brown

FD 333-5918 HD 249-3985
FD 333-5269 HD 245-3792
FD 333-5912 HD 333-5405
FD 333-5917 HD 333-5924
FD 333-5916 HD 333-5151
FD 333-5915 HD 249-4982
FD 333-5914 HD 249-4984
FD 333-5913 HD 245-3736
FD 333-5912 HD 333-5405
November 15, 2013
Contract Release Deadline for Spring Semester
(freshmen cannot be released unless they qualify for inclusion in the Freshmen Residency Policy)

November 18 - 21, 2013
Traditional Residence Hall Closing Meeting
(dates/times determined by RA)

November 22, 2013, 5 p.m.
Traditional Residence Halls close for Thanksgiving
(Centennial and Converse Halls will remain open)

November 25 - 29, 2013
Thanksgiving Break / No Class

December 1, 2013, 10 a.m.
Traditional Residence Halls re-open

December 7, 2013, 10 a.m.
Traditional Residence Halls close for winter holiday
(Centennial and Converse Halls will remain open)

December 7, 2013 - January 12, 2014
Winter Break

January 8, 2014, 1 p.m.
Traditional Residence Halls re-open

January 13, 2014
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.