



# VSU Connection

For the Faculty, Staff and Members of the Valdosta State University Community

Vol.1 • No.5 | Nov. 12, 2007

## VSU Announces Record Enrollment

When Ryan Sterritt, from Marietta, Ga., decided to attend Valdosta State University, he was not alone — 884 students (42.7 percent) from the 2007 fall semester freshmen class are from metropolitan Atlanta.

“Valdosta is only four hours from home, so I am close but far enough that I can be on my own,” Sterritt said. “I wanted to go to a school where I could live on campus and really experience college life.”

Sterritt is one of 2,072 freshmen that make up VSU’s record enrollment of 11,279 students for fall semester 2007. This semester’s student enrollment represents a 27.9 percent increase from fall semester 2000.

“VSU’s strategic goals include action steps to expand undergraduate and graduate enrollment,” President Ronald M. Zaccari said. “This is accomplished through a united effort from our faculty and staff, who have helped build a campus culture that challenges each student to expand their thinking skills and develop a more creative approach to problem solving.”

Students enrolled for fall semester 2007 represent 154 Georgia counties, 45 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and 65 countries. Lowndes, Gwinnett and Fulton counties boasted the most VSU students — 1,947 students, 535 students

and 436 students respectively. A strong supporter of international studies, VSU welcomed 157 international students to campus this fall.

The fall 2007 semester enrollment is the highest in VSU’s history and is a 3.6 percent increase from fall 2006 with 10,888 students. Both undergraduate and graduate enrollment experienced significant enrollment increases, with 9,653 undergraduate students (2.77 percent increase from fall 2006) and 1,552 graduate students (10.94 percent

increase from fall 2006) and the remaining students are transient or joint-enrolled.

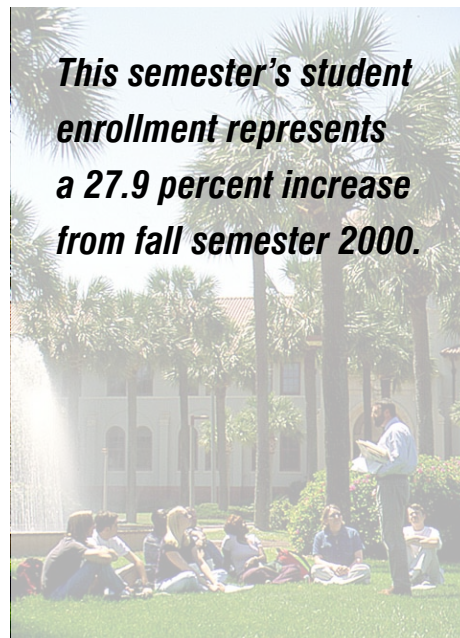
“American higher education institutions are not only focused on preparing students for an internationally competitive workforce but also providing opportunities that will create positive life changing experiences,” Zaccari said.

While VSU is consistently growing, class sizes remain small with a teacher/student ratio of 1:19. Female students outnumber male students marginally at a ratio of 1.6:1.

VSU also strongly supports its distance learning programs, which allow traditional and non-traditional students, who are limited by both time and location, to continue their education. More than 1,451 students are enrolled in online courses for fall semester 2007, 436 of which are solely enrolled online. At least 25 of these students are involved in the newest Distance Learning program, Doctorate of Public Administration.

While online programs primarily benefit non-traditional students, a growing number of VSU professors are incorporating the university’s online management system, WebCT, into traditional courses.

For more information regarding enrollment, contact the Office of Strategic Research and Analysis at (229) 245-6517 or visit [www.valdosta.edu/sra/](http://www.valdosta.edu/sra/). ■



## Twenty Minutes to a More Diverse VSU

VSU’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Multicultural Affairs urges faculty to devote 20 minutes of class time to an online questionnaire about diversity at VSU.

The campus-wide survey is the final stage of VSU’s first diversity audit to analyze attitudes and practices on campus in hopes of establishing a scholastically diverse institution that values all cultures, lifestyles and physical capacities.

The questionnaire, which is offered online and in paper form, asks a series of 125 multiple-choice questions about

perceptions of diversity on campus and VSU’s strengths and weaknesses in providing a diverse college experience.

For more information about the survey or to request paper copies of the questionnaire, call (229) 333-5463 or e-mail Maggie Viverette at [mviverette@valdosta.edu](mailto:mviverette@valdosta.edu). ■

**Find the questionnaire at:**

**[www.insightlink.net/VSU/](http://www.insightlink.net/VSU/)**

# USG Investigates Purchasing Card use at all Institutions

As a result of a statewide audit which uncovered improper or, in some cases, fraudulent use of Georgia's Purchasing Card Program the University System of Georgia has launched an extensive investigation of P-Card usage at each of its 35 institutions.

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. and Chief Audit Officer and Associate Vice Chancellor Ronald Stark, provided the House Appropriations Subcommittee with background about the University System of Georgia's P-Card administration, action recently taken in response to the state auditor's report and additional steps planned within the next few months to improve USG P-Card activity.

"The idea behind the P-Card program is a good one. It reduces the number of steps to purchase goods and services by 14 and reduces a single transaction process cost by an estimated \$100," Davis said. "That allows our campuses to be more responsive and reduce costs. These are good goals for any business. And in the case of state government, it is good for taxpayers, who see less of the tax dollar go towards operational costs and more to direct programs and services."

Chancellor Davis further explained that if problems and gaps are uncovered, they will be fixed and the determination made as to whether these issues are symptomatic of a larger culture within the University System that may not appropriately value effective operational risk management. If this is the case, Davis

vows to implement the necessary steps to create a more effective risk management culture within the University System of Georgia.

"Ultimately, this is about leadership and creating a sense at every level of the organization that leadership means accepting the responsibility to manage risk on an ongoing basis," Davis said.

Stark explained to the House Appropriations Subcommittee that the USG is taking action when instances of fraud have been clearly identified and on a larger scale, establish policies, procedures and the necessary oversight to manage its P-Card program.

Several months ago, the USG initiated a P-Card review that will include an in-depth analysis of the roughly 612,000 Fiscal Year 2007 P-Card transactions and an analysis of the internal controls over P-Cards at each USG institution.

Stark stated that the USG internal audit staff and the audit staff from each institution will conjointly identify and root out past fraud as well as provide recommendations regarding additional steps institutions can take to mitigate the risk of fraud in the future.

Each institution-level audit will include interviews, review of documentation associated with P-Card transactions, analysis of internal controls, and if necessary provide recommendations to improve P-Card procedures. The on-campus reviews are scheduled to begin in November and completed no earlier than January 2008.

The Business Manual of the Board of Regents provides guidelines about business policies and procedures for all 35 USG institutions. These guidelines clearly prohibit use of the P-Card for personal purchases and some additional restrictions. Each institution is responsible for designing P-Card procedures that ensure the necessary controls are in place to effectively safeguard the assets of the institutions.

Valdosta State University's 268 P-Cards are monitored by Business Services and card holders are required to complete an online orientation, which addresses transaction limits, authorized and unauthorized purchases, reconciliation of monthly statements and procedures for reporting lost or stolen P-Cards. VSU requires the use of paper statements and receipts for approval of each P-Card transaction, which requires the supervisor of each cardholder to review the detailed receipt and verify approval of each transaction. As a final step, the Business Services staff reviews all receipts and questionable transactions are investigated in an effort to determine their legitimacy. ■



The October issue of the **University of Georgia System Supplement**, a monthly report of the USG Board of Regents, is available online at:

[www.usg.edu/pubs/sys\\_supp/](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/)

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## Free Betterment Classes

### How to Effectively Train Employees

An interactive training session that provides supervisors with strategies to increase employee effectiveness. Nov. 13 from 9-12 a.m. in the University Center Rose Room.

### Campus Violence: What Faculty Should Know

Review risk factors and warning signs of violent behavior and techniques to minimize problem situations. Nov. 14 from 2-4 p.m. in the UC Cypress Room.

### Stress Management (Learn to cope with Holiday Stress!)

Complete a job stress inventory, learn positive coping skills and create a personalized stress management plan during this interactive program. Nov. 15 from 9-12 a.m. in the UC Rose Room.

To learn more about development opportunities, call the Office of Employee and Organizational Development at (229) 259-5105 or go to [www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/index](http://www.valdosta.edu/finadmin/training/index). ■

### Know a colleague who lives the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

If so, nominate them for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award (Members of all racial and ethnic groups are eligible to receive this award).

**Application deadline:** Monday, Nov. 12 by 5 p.m.

Find out more at:

[www.valdosta.edu/news/releases/dsa.110707/](http://www.valdosta.edu/news/releases/dsa.110707/)

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The *VSU Connection* is a semimonthly newsletter designed to inform VSU personnel and students about the latest campus-wide news. Check out the *Connection* online at [www.valdosta.edu/news/](http://www.valdosta.edu/news/).

For more information about the *Connection* or to submit a story idea, email Kate Heine, Communication Specialist for the Office of the President, Communication Unit, at [kaheine@valdosta.edu](mailto:kaheine@valdosta.edu).