

# Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Residence Hall Students & their Families

Spring 2015

## Director's Letter

Dear VSU Parent:

It's a new year, and once again a new semester has begun at VSU. We are experiencing many changes in the Department of Housing and Residence Life, perhaps similar to the growing pains your student has experienced. Your student has likely changed quite a bit during this past semester, especially if he or she is a freshman. Maybe your son is sporting a goatee or your daughter has an extra piercing or two in her ear. Maybe you are noticing that the multiple daily phone calls have been reduced to once a day. Your student is likely becoming more at ease with making his or her own decisions. These changes often take time to get used to, but hopefully they will prove beneficial in the long run.

### DID YOU KNOW WE ARE REDUCING RENT FOR 2015-2016?

Subject to board approval, we will charge 3.5% - 11% less than this academic year.



### CHOICES FOR 2015-2016

#### HOUSING FOR UPPER-CLASS STUDENTS

Upperclassmen will be able to choose from Centennial Hall, Converse Hall, Hopper Hall, and selected spaces in Georgia Hall. Centennial Hall offers apartment-style units that house two or four students with 12-month contracts. Converse Hall houses students in either an efficiency apartment (one person) or a one-bedroom apartment (two people) with a 12-month contract. Hopper Hall and Georgia Hall are suite-style with private and semi-private rooms with a shared bathroom. Hopper and Georgia are on a traditional academic year contract with no summer rent requirement.

Students who currently live in Centennial Hall and Converse Hall will be able to reclaim their space if certain criteria are met. Please see the reclaim section for more details. This process will be held February 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> before room selection. If students reclaim the same space, they will not participate in room selection. Room selection will occur February 16<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>. Returning students will be given preference in the following order during room selection: **current juniors and above (rising seniors or graduate students), then sophomores (rising juniors), and finally current freshmen (rising sophomores).** The exact time to select a room is further broken down by cumulative GPA.

Yes, your student is undergoing changes and so is VSU Housing. I am confident that these growing pains will make for a brighter future for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Hardy'.

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

Living  
Accommodations  
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# Living Accommodations

## 2015-2016 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

More space with private options for returning students

Upperclassmen are able to choose from **Centennial, Converse, Hopper**, and selected spaces in **Georgia** for the 2015-2016 academic year.

### CENTENNIAL HALL

12 Month Contract  
August - July

is an apartment facility that features individual bedrooms, a kitchen shared by no more than four residents, one to two bathrooms, and a dining/living room area. Conveniently located next to the Student Recreation Center and the Sustella parking deck, this hall gives upperclassmen much-needed privacy and convenience. The well-trained, supportive staff develops programming and provides emergency assistance as needed.

### CONVERSE HALL

12 Month Contract  
August - July

is an apartment facility that features efficiencies that house one student and one-bedroom units that house two students. Ideally located in the center of campus, Converse Hall is a small facility and offers upperclassmen privacy and convenience.

### GEORGIA HALL & HOPPER HALL

9 Month Contract  
August - May

are suite-style halls that provide two private bedrooms with a shared bathroom or two semi-private rooms (two beds in each bedroom) with a shared bathroom. Conveniently located on main campus, residents of both Georgia Hall and Hopper Hall have quick and easy access to Hopper Dining, Palms Dining and Retail, and the Student Union.

COMPARE



**NO RATE INCREASES FOR 2015-16**

Options	Centennial	Converse	Georgia	Hopper
<b>Length of Contract</b>	12 Month	12 Month	9 Month	9 Month
<b>Building Style</b>	Apartment	Apartment	Suite-Style	Suite-Style
<b>Layout</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 or 4 Private Bedrooms</li> <li>• Living Room</li> <li>• Fully-Equipped Kitchen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Efficiency Room OR</li> <li>• 1 Bedroom (Shared By Two People)</li> <li>• Separate Living Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Private Bedrooms (With Shared Bathroom) OR</li> <li>• 2 Semi-Private Bedrooms (2 Beds In Each Bedroom)</li> <li>• Shared Bathroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Private Bedrooms (With Shared Bathroom) OR</li> <li>• 2 Semi-Private Bedrooms (2 Beds In Each Bedroom)</li> <li>• Shared Bathroom</li> </ul>
<b>Rent Reduction from 2014-15</b> <i>(Subject to board approval)</i>	3.45% to 7.96% Decrease	4.76% to 10.64% Decrease	.35% to .79% Decrease	.35% to .79% Decrease

All buildings are co-ed. See our website at [www.valdosta.edu/housing](http://www.valdosta.edu/housing) for more details on each residence hall.



An Interview with the R.H.A. Executive Board

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## RECLAIM PROCESS

**February 9 - 11, 2015**

Students who currently live in **Centennial Hall or Converse Hall** will be able to reclaim their same space only if both students in a two-bedroom or half of the current students in a four-person apartment want to reclaim it. Students who live in an efficiency (1-person unit) will be able to reclaim as well. This process will be held one week before the room selection interest process. If students reclaim their same space, they will not be eligible to participate in room selection. Students who are not able to reclaim or do not wish to reclaim their same space may participate in room selection and try for a new housing space for Fall 2015.

All other students in Centennial Hall and Converse Hall who are not assigned to the same unit for 2015-2016 **must move out** of their current room assignment at the end of the contract period, which is July 31, 2015, for cleaning and maintenance purposes. All returning students are permitted to move into their new assignment on August 14, 2015, move-in day for upperclassmen. Students assigned to the same apartment for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 will not be asked to move out July 31. They may stay during the two-week interim period between contracts at no charge as a courtesy.

**Note:** If a student has a hold on his or her account, they will not be able to participate in the reclaim process until the hold is removed.

**The reclaim process will be held online February 9-11.**

We will also be available in the Housing and Residence Life Office during business hours to assist students and answer questions.

## ROOM SELECTION PROCESS

**Mid-February to Mid-March**

We will hold our annual room selection process mid-February to mid-March. Room selection is an online process, but we will also be available in the Housing and Residence Life Office during business hours to assist students with the process.

*The timeline for the online process is listed below:*

### **Online Room Selection Interest Process: Week of February 16**

Current students who did not reclaim a space and want to participate in room selection must go online to let us know they want to participate in room selection. During the interest process students will be able to mutually select a roommate(s). If a student fails to complete this step he or she will not be able to participate in room selection and must wait to be placed on the waitlist after room selection concludes.

### **Online Room Selection Process: March 9 - 20**

If students participated in the interest process and are invited to participate in room selection, they will be sent an email invitation to participate based on the number of credit hours completed and cumulative GPA. The invitation will include a date and time that the student will be able to begin the online room selection process. **Note: Not every student will be sent an invitation. Invitations will be sent out based on the number of spaces available. If a student does not receive an invitation, he or she will have the opportunity to be placed on the waitlist.**

Please note that Housing gives priority to upperclassmen in descending order (seniors-sophomores) but holds the largest number of spaces in ascending order (sophomores-seniors) due to socialization, academic success, and personal growth needs.

Beginning on their assigned date and time, invited students must log in and complete the online room selection process. Roommate pairs or groups will be linked together based on mutual acceptance during the interest process, and one person in the pair or group will log in and select one space for the pair or group. However, all students in the pair or group must go in and complete the online process to confirm the selected space.

**Once a space has been selected and the process is completed, the selection is final. Students will not be able to log back in and make changes to their selection. It's very important that students decide ahead of time the type of space(s) they prefer so they are prepared when going through the process.**

All current students should attend a hall meeting to get further details on this process. Centennial and Converse will have meetings at the beginning of February, and all the other hall meetings will be held the week of February 9. Please see VSU's Housing and Residence Life website for specific dates and times for each hall - [www.valdosta.edu/housing](http://www.valdosta.edu/housing).

Please remind your student that any holds on his or her account (student conduct violations, parking tickets, library overdue book fines, etc.) must be paid first to participate in room reclaim or room selection.

**Not sure of your plans - DO NOT go through room selection unless you know you want a space. Once a contract is signed, you are locked in for housing for the 2015-2016 academic year. No buyouts and no cancellations permitted.**

## WAITLIST

### PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY...

Because of limited space for returning students, please be aware that not all returning students are guaranteed to receive a space on campus during the room selection process. If your student does not receive a space, he or she will have the opportunity to be placed on the waitlist. The waitlist is for the first available space, not a particular residence hall. Students placed on the waitlist will be able to find out their status beginning Friday, March 27. However, Housing will work through the summer to fill all spaces for students on the waitlist who still desire a placement for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Note that waitlist priority numbers are based on a weighted average of housing more sophomores, then juniors, then seniors and graduate students. There is no guarantee that being on the waitlist will ultimately result in an offer to move on campus. Priority for vacant upper-class spaces is given to residents remaining from the March 2015 waitlist signup. Waitlist room offers will be made via phone call and/or e-mail sent to the student's valdosta.edu e-mail address. Students will have only 24 hours to accept an offer from the time it is sent, so please make sure the student

reviews his or her messages and/or e-mail frequently. If a student declines a space offered, he or she will forfeit their space on campus and will not be able to remain on the waitlist. There is no charge to be on waitlist.

## SUMMER SCHOOL HOUSING SIGN-UP

Students currently living on campus in a 9-month residence hall will have a special application period for Summer 2015. The summer application process will be held starting March 30. Students simply need to come by our office to submit an application and contract. Please visit our website for more information.

## MEAL PLANS

Meal Plan questions or concerns are to be taken care of at the 1Card Office, located at 1204 N. Patterson St., next to the Bursary. Their phone number is **229.333.5988**, and their e-mail address is [mealplans@valdosta.edu](mailto:mealplans@valdosta.edu).



### Community Phone Numbers Housing and Residence Life Office 333.5920

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

FD = Front Desk    HD = Hall Director Office

## StayConnected!

**Be Sure to Like the VSU Housing and Residence Life Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter & Instagram.**



[/vsuhousing](https://www.facebook.com/vsuhousing)



[@VSU\\_Housing](https://twitter.com/VSU_Housing)

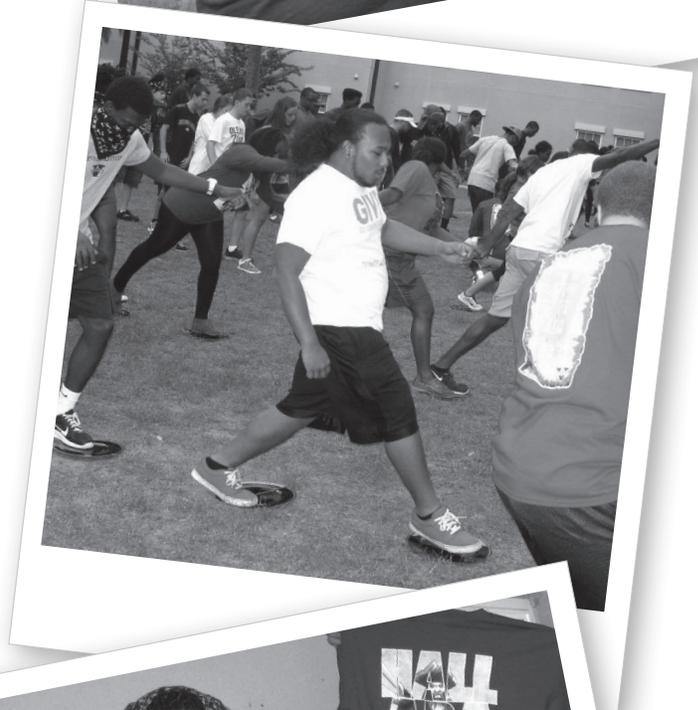


[vsu\\_housing](https://www.instagram.com/vsu_housing)

*VSU Housing & Residence Life*

# HALLABALOO

On September 26, 2014, Housing and Residence Life held a Hall vs. Hall competition that we call "Hallabaloo." Students from each residence hall competed against each other in various field day style games. The event encouraged teamwork and strengthened the relationships of our on-campus students. This year's Hallabaloo theme was Pirate Attack, and the winning hall was Brown Hall. Congratulations Brown Hall!



2014

# ROOM DECORATING *Contest*

The Room Decorating Contest, sponsored by Housing and Residence Life, had some tough competition this year! You could tell that participants pulled out all the stops in decorating their rooms, which were judged based on uniqueness, organization, and cleanliness. The judges had to make some difficult decisions.

**THERE WERE WINNERS IN ALMOST EVERY HALL THIS YEAR!**

## **CENTENNIAL HALL**

Rachel Wikerson & Chardonne Mack

## **PATTERSON HALL**

Kimberly Marbutt, Katelin West,  
Mallory Goodenow & Callie Jackson

## **READE HALL**

Christopher Slaton, Caleb Smith,  
Kendra Booth & Cristy Davenport

## **HOPPER HALL**

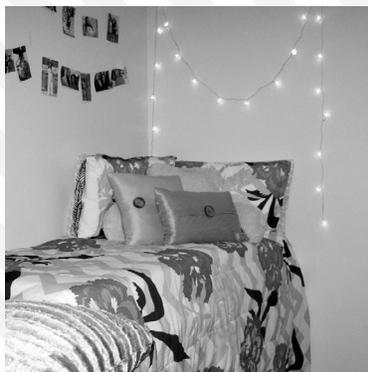
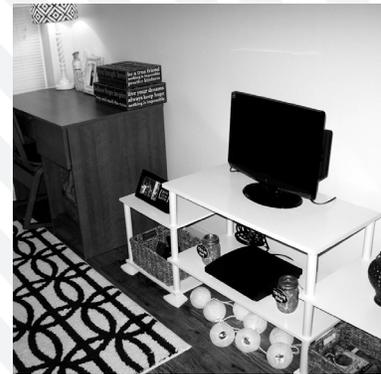
Shannon Selph

## **LANDGALE HALL**

Maya Mapp, Brianna Tanner,  
Courtney Hall & Haley Tidwell

## **GEORGIA HALL**

Jayson Ross, Kennedy Shaw,  
Toi Gardner, Victoria Ledford  
& Taylor Mims



Be on the lookout for signups in the fall for the 2015-2016 Room Decorating Contest!

# An Interview With The **RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION** *Executive Members*

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## **AQUILIUS TURNER R.H.A. TREASURER**

### **What made you choose to get involved with RHA?**

After meeting the hall council and the executive board, a fire was ignited with me and has been fiercely burning ever since that day.

### **What are you most excited about in your position as an RHA executive officer?**

My goal is to create and maintain a financial history and to pass that knowledge on for future generations of RHA members to come.

### **Why did you choose Valdosta State University?**

I chose Valdosta State, because it was far enough from home yet, close enough to make a weekend trip. I like visiting my family when I can.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I love to play ping pong and tennis. It keeps me active. I absolutely love discovering new music and tv shows in my down time from drama to comedy and to anime.

### **What's one interesting fact about you?**

If you haven't been able to tell already, I love volunteering. Whether, I volunteer my time for a cause, give money, and/or give blood, I love volunteering and being active in student organizations.

## **ARIANNA COOPER** **R.H.A. EVENTS COORDINATOR**

### **What made you choose to get involved with RHA?**

I got involved with RHA because it was one of the first things advertised to me and when saw the opportunity to make people's time on campus a memorable and enjoyable one I jumped at it.

### **What are you most excited about in your position as an RHA executive officer?**

I am most excited about making a change. Being able to say that I made a difference and helped make people more excited about living on campus.

### **Why did you choose Valdosta State University?**

I chose VSU because it was love at first sight. I loved the small town aspect and the fact that Valdosta is a college town. I hate the cold so I definitely fell in love with the warm weather and palm trees.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I love arts and crafts. If I could sit around and paint all day I would. I also like to do things with my friends like bowling, go to amusement parks, and stuff like that.

### **What's one interesting fact about you?**

I do nails and I actually have over 80 different nail polishes.

## **JACKIE MARRERO R.H.A. PRESIDENT**

### **What made you choose to get involved with RHA?**

I wanted the opportunity to help fellow students love Valdosta as much as I do and to create a campus environment that more students want to be a part of.

### **What are you most excited about in your position as an RHA executive officer?**

The most exciting part about being President of this organization is I have the opportunity to work directly with housing officials so I get to see all the upcoming changes regarding on campus living first hand.

### **Why did you choose Valdosta State University?**

As an Athletic Training major, I chose Valdosta State University because we have one of the best Athletic Training programs and I wanted to learn from the best.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I really enjoy being active, so going to the gym or participating in outdoor activities is really fun for me.

### **What's one interesting fact about you?**

I am the first Marrero in my family to go to college.

## **NEBRISHA ASKEW R.H.A. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

### **What made you choose to get involved with RHA?**

I loved the idea of being able to promote change in order to better the living experience that I faced first hand.

### **What are you most excited about in your position as an RHA executive officer?**

I'm most excited for what we as an executive board are capable of accomplishing this school year.

### **Why did you choose Valdosta State University?**

I wanted to be out of state so bad that I refused to apply to any in-state universities. After many acceptances & offers, my mom suggested that I have one in-state school as a safety net. And well, the rest is history.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I enjoy writing, spending time with family & friends, and shopping & traveling of course!

### **What's one interesting fact about you?**

I'm from a small town where I attended & graduated from a private boarding school. I've also been a vegetarian for 6 years now.



**Office of Housing & Residence Life**  
Valdosta State University  
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Valdosta GA 31698-0400

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# *Blazer* Housing News

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## *Important Dates*

<b>January 26</b> ..... Room Changes <i>In-Hall Only</i> Begins	<b>April 15</b> ..... Centennial & Converse Summer Contract Release Deadline (for students withdrawing, transferring, graduating, or beginning a VSU-credited internship)
<b>February 2</b> ..... Room Changes <i>Out of Hall</i> Begins	
<b>February 2 - 5</b> ..... Centennial & Converse Host On-Campus Room Selection Meeting	<b>April 27 - 30</b> ..... Mandatory R.A. Floor Closing Meetings
<b>February 9 - 11</b> ..... Reclaim for Centennial & Converse	<b>May 9</b> ..... 9-Month Halls Close For Academic Year, 12 PM
<b>February 9 - 12</b> ..... 9-Month Halls Host On-Campus Room Selection Meeting	<b>May 13</b> ... Summer Move-In Day For Mayterm (Summer I)
<b>February 16 - 20</b> ..... Room Selection Interest Process	<b>June 6</b> ..... Move-Out Day For Summer I (Mayterm)
<b>March 9 - 20</b> ..... Room Selection Process	<b>June 9</b> ..... Move-In Day for Summer II & III
<b>March 20</b> .... 9-Month Halls Close for Spring Break, 5 PM	<b>July 3</b> ..... Move-Out Day for Summer III
<b>March 23 - 27</b> ..... Spring Break - No Classes	<b>July 6</b> ..... Move-In Day for Summer IV
<b>March 29</b> ..... 9-Month Halls Re-Open, 10 AM	<b>July 31</b> ..... All Residence Halls Close
<b>March 30</b> ..... Summer Housing Sig-Up Begins For 9-Month Halls (at the Housing Office)	<b>August 14</b> ..... Returning Student Move-In Day For 2015-2016 School Year