

# Blazer Housing News

A Newsletter for Current Residence Hall Students and their Families

Spring 2014



## Letter from Dr. Hardy

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.

### Choices for 2014-2015 for upper-class students

Upperclassmen will be able to choose from Centennial Hall, Converse Hall, Hopper Hall, and Langdale 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 is suite-style with private and semi-private accommodations. Langdale Hall is a lower cost traditional style option. Hopper and Langdale 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 in early February

before room selection. If students reclaim the same space, they will not participate in room selection. Room selection will occur mid-February to mid-March. 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 freshman (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,

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

# Living Accommodations for 2014-2015 Academic School Year



*More space with private options for returning students*

Upperclassmen are able to choose from **Centennial, Converse, Hopper, and Langdale** for the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Centennial Hall** (12-month contract, August through 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 through 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.

**Hopper Hall** (nine-month contract, August through May) is a suite-style hall that provides 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, Hopper Hall residents have quick

and easy access to Hopper Dining, Palms Dining and Retail, and the Student Union.

**Langdale Hall** (nine-month contract, August through May) is a traditional-style hall that also houses the Langdale market, Student Success Center, and the Student Employment Office. The rooms in Langdale feature a large vanity area complete with mirror, sink and large counter space. Langdale's main campus location also provides quick and easy access to the dining halls, the Student Union, and Odum Library.

## Comparing the Options

Options	Centennial	Converse	Hopper	Langdale
<b>Length of Contract</b>	12-month contract	12-month contract	9-month contract	9-month contract
<b>Building Style</b>	Apartment	Apartment	Suite-style	Traditional
<b>Lay out</b>	2 or 4 private bedrooms, living room, a fully equipped kitchen	1 efficiency room or 1 bedroom (shared by two people) with separate living room	2 private bedrooms with a shared bathroom or 2 semi-private rooms (2 beds in each bedroom) with a shared bathroom	Double occupancy bedrooms with a community hall bathroom

*All buildings are co-ed.*

See our Web site at [www.valdosta.edu/housing](http://www.valdosta.edu/housing) for more details on each residence hall.

## Reclaim Process: February 3-5, 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 room 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 2014.

All other students in Centennial Hall and Converse Hall who are not assigned to the same unit for 2014-2015 **must move out** of their current room assignment at the end of the contract period, which is August 2, 2014, for cleaning and maintenance purposes. All returning students are permitted to move into their new assignment on August 15, 2014 — move-in day for upperclassmen. Students assigned to the same apartment for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 will not be asked to move out August 2. 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 the week of February 3.** *We will also be available in the Housing and Residence Life Office during business hours to assist students and answer questions. More details will be sent out via email in January.*

## Room Selection Process: Mid-Feb. – Mid-March

We will hold our annual room selection process mid-February to mid-March. Due to a new housing software implementation, we expect to conduct the room selection process online, but we will also be available in the Housing and Residence Life Office during business hours to assist students with the online process. However, should the implementation not be ready, we will be in further contact with the students. The anticipated process timeline is listed below.

### Online Room Selection Interest Process: **Week of February 10**

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 3 – 14**

Prior to February 3, students 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 end of January, and all the other hall meetings will be held in early February. 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.

## 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 21. However, Housing will work through the summer to fill all spaces for students on the waitlist who still desire a placement for the 2014-2015 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 2014 waitlist sign-up. 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.

## Summer School Housing Sign-up

Students currently living on campus in a traditional-style residence hall will have a special application period for Summer 2014. The summer application process will be held starting March 31. 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.

## ResLife Event Management

Students looking for something fun to do in the residence halls should check out ResLife Event Management, a system that provides a list of all the events taking place in our residential community. Students will be able to find out what programs are taking place in their building or in other residence halls on campus.

Each program designates the time, location, and a sneak preview of what will take place at the event. All programs are free and open to any VSU resident. Interested students should pre-register for any event they would like to attend to ensure that there is enough excitement for everyone. Events include free food, prizes, and valuable information students need to know. Residents can join us for movies, games, information sessions, community service, socials, and SO much more!

Students can check out Reslife Event Management online [www.valdosta.edu/housing](http://www.valdosta.edu/housing) by selecting ResLife Event Management from the left sidebar. To log in, students use their Blazeview username and password. For more details, please call Taylor Davidson, graduate assistant for programming and assessment, at (229) 333-5920 or e-mail her at [tldavidson@valdosta.edu](mailto:tldavidson@valdosta.edu).

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# Hallabaloo

On November 7, 2013, 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 Zombie Apocalypse, and the surviving hall was Patterson Hall.

***Congratulations Patterson Hall!***



# Room Decorating Contest 2013



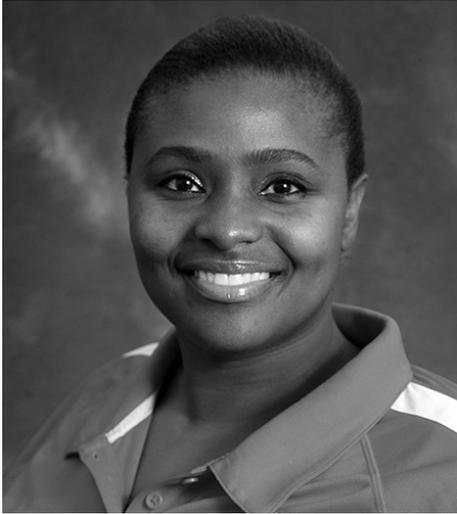
The Room Decorating Contest, sponsored by Housing and Residence Life, had some tough competition this year! You could tell that participants pulled out all the stops in decorating their rooms, which were judged based on uniqueness, organization, and cleanliness. The judges had to make some difficult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

There were winners in every hall this year. Brown Hall's Monique Kosloski; Centennial Hall's Amber Arnold (back-to-back winner!) and Hunter Lewis; Converse Hall's Atlantia Clements; Georgia Hall's Allison Hinton, Danyelle Drummond, Kaleigh Donnelly, and Savanna Graglia; Hopper Hall's Breeanna Lawver and Vivien Nwoke; Langdale Hall's Tiarra Bell and Maya Hendricks; Patterson Hall's Kayla Cox and Aaliyah Suggs; Reade Hall's Jordan Everett and Kathleen Tatro.

Be on the lookout for signups in the fall for the 2014 Room Decorating Contest!



# An Interview with...



**Katrina Hogan**  
*Receptionist, Central Office*

Katrina Hogan is the newest full-time staff addition to the Housing and Residence Life team. Katrina is a Valdosta native and comes to us from Valdosta State's Office of Financial Aid. She is currently pursuing the completion of a Master of Arts in Education degree in higher education and is excited to be a part of the Housing and Residence Life team.

**1. What made you choose student housing as a profession?**

Working in Financial Aid confirmed my desire to work in the higher education arena. Housing gives me the opportunity to do that and deal more closely with the students. I love how my new position puts me in the middle of all of the action, and I look forward to the opportunity to grow in this profession

**2. What are you most excited about in your new job?**

I'm most excited about the challenges. With everything new comes a new challenge, and I welcome the battles. And of course, the idea of having my own office is just the icing on the cake.

**3. Why did you choose Valdosta State?**

I was a student of Valdosta State University and ultimately received my Bachelor of Science from VSU. What better way to provide for my family and give back to the place the molded me into a better citizen than to work here.

**4. What do you like to do for fun?**

For fun, I love anything that involves my family. Being a mom of three teenagers involved in so many different activities, there is always fun going on in and around the house. I love traveling, shopping (my favorite places are Lane Bryant and Dooney & Bourke) and introducing my children to new cultures.

**5. What's one interesting fact about you?**

I wish that I was born in the "I Love Lucy" era. I am such a huge fan of all of her work. I would have loved meeting her!

## Community Phone Numbers

FD= Front Desk | HD= Hall Director

Office Housing and Residence Life		229-333-5920
Brown	FD 333-5918	HD 249-4985
Centennial	FD 333-5269	HD 245-3792
Converse	FD 333-5912	HD 333-5405
Georgia	FD 333-5917	HD 333-5924
Hopper	FD 333-5916	HD 333-5151
Langdale	FD 333-5915	HD 249-4982
Lowndes	FD 333-5914	HD 249-4984
Patterson	FD 333-5913	HD 245-3736
Reade	FD 333-5912	HD 333-5405
Night Operations	219-3197	



**Office of Housing & Residence Life**  
Valdosta State University  
1500 N Patterson St  
Valdosta GA 31698-0400

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## Important Dates

### **January 27-28**

Room changes for in-hall only

### **January 29-30**

Room changes for out-of-hall

### **January 27-30**

Centennial Hall hosts meetings to discuss on-campus room selection for the 2014-2015 academic year.

### **February 3-5**

Online reclaim process for Centennial and Converse

### **February 3-6**

Traditional residence halls host meetings to discuss the on-campus room selection for the 2014-2015 academic year. See your RA.

### **February 10-14**

Online room selection interest process

### **March 3-14**

Online room selection process

### **March 14**

Traditional residence halls close for Spring Break at 5 p.m.

### **March 17-24**

Spring Break; no classes.

### **March 23**

Traditional residence halls re-open at 10 a.m.

### **March 31**

Summer housing signup begins for traditional residence halls (at the Housing Office).

### **April 1**

Release of contract deadline with no penalty for returning students in residence halls with a Fall 2014 assignment.

### **April 15**

Centennial and Converse summer contract release deadline (for students withdrawing, transferring, graduating, or beginning a VSU-credited internship).

### **April 15**

Housing contract (2014-2015) cancellation deadline for returning students to receive \$200 deposit refund.

### **April 28-May 1**

Traditional residence halls spring closing meetings (see your RA).

### **April 30**

Housing contract (2014-2015) cancellation deadline for returning students to receive \$100 deposit refund

and not be charged an automatic buy-out.

### **May 10**

Traditional residence halls close for the academic year at noon.

### **May 14**

Summer move-in day for Mayterm (Summer 1) students in traditional halls.

### **June 1**

Traditional residence hall move-out day for Summer I (Mayterm).

### **June 10**

Traditional residence hall move-in day for Summer II & III.

### **June 29**

Traditional residence hall move-out day for Summer III.

### **July 7**

Traditional residence hall move-in day for Summer IV.

### **August 2 - Noon**

Traditional residence hall move-out day for Summer II and IV; Centennial and Converse residents who did not reclaim their same unit for Fall 2014 must be checked out.

### **August 13**

Returning student move-in day for 2014-2015 school year.