ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES FALL 2017

New and Updated Academic Programs/Curriculum

- In the College of Arts and Sciences:
  - New minors in Biology, English Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies
  - New graduate certificates in Teaching College Level English and Online Writing
  - A new 4 + 1 accelerated program permitting qualified students to progress from a BA to MA in Sociology in 5 years
  - New degree concentration: MAT in Education with a Concentration in Foreign Language Education (FLED)
  - New degree track: MAT in Education with a Concentration in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- In the College of the Arts:
  - A new BFA with a major in Emergent Media and Communication. This degree is online.
  - A new degree, a Master of Arts in Teaching with a major in Music Education (first cohort entered Summer 2017)
- In the College of Business Administration:
  - New minor in Accounting
- In the College of Education and Human Services:
  - New minors in Coaching and Health and Physical Education
  - New degree track: MAT with a major in Agriculture Education
- In the College of Nursing and Human Services:
  - A new major, MS in Exercise Physiology
- In VSU's Core Curriculum:
  - Beginning in Fall 2017, Arabic 1001, 1002, 2001, and 2002 have been approved by the USG General Education Council as options in Area C of VSU's core curriculum.
  - Biology 1108K has been approved by the USG General Education Council for Area D21.

Location Changes

- The Counseling Center along with the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Education have moved from Powell Hall East to the second floor of the Student Health Center on Georgia Avenue.
- Information Technology is temporarily displaced to Powell Hall during the renovation of Pine Hall (fall 2017 and spring 2018).
- The English Language Institute (ELI) has relocated to Pound Hall on North Campus.
- University Advancement and Continuing Education have returned to the Regional Continuing Education Center.
- In the College of Education and Human Services, realignment of two departments into:
  - Department of Early Childhood; and
  - Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Special Education

- Effective July 1, 2017, the following departments administratively transitioned to the Division of Student Success: Student Success Center, Testing Office, Centralized Advising, Communications and Marketing, Institutional Research, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Admissions.

Name Changes

- The Department of Art has now become the Department of Art and Design

Revised or Updated Policies and Procedures

- **BANNER Waitlist:** Our Banner system has the capability to allow students to select a waitlist option if they try to register for a class and it has already reached its capacity. Academic Affairs, Student Success, and IT are working together to enable this function for registration for Spring 2018. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Suspension Appeals Committee:** At the conclusion of Fall 2017, any students placed on their first, second, or third academic suspension must appeal in writing through the Registrar's Office. Approval or denial of appeals will be handled by the Suspension Appeals Committee composed of faculty/administrators from the five undergraduate colleges and from Centralized Advising. More information will be available soon.
- **Updated Syllabus Language:** If faculty wish to include any information about HB 280 ("Campus Carry"), just provide a reference to the University System of Georgia website at http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information. This page contains an overview of the policy and FAQs. You could also reference VSU's page at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/police/campuscarry/.

Pilot Projects Underway

- **Gateways to Completion (G2C)** is designed to create and implement an evidence-based plan for improving teaching, learning, and success in historically high-failure rate courses. Success in foundation level courses, such as accounting, math, chemistry, biology and writing and rhetoric is a direct predictor of retention. Gateways to Completion (G2C) provides institutions with assistance on the processes, guidance, and tools to support redesign of lower division and/or developmental level courses. Valdosta State University chose in its first phase of G2C to work with faculty in the following courses for the implementation of these innovations: HIST 2112, MATH 1111, ENGL 2113, CHEM 1211, and BIOL 1107.
- **Online Forms for Academic Committee:** The Office of Academic Affairs has partnered with IT to pilot an online submission process for course and curriculum changes. This year, the College of the Arts has agreed to pilot these online forms to prepare for a university-wide adoption next year.

eLearning Updates

- SmartPath Core development completed in full Spring 2017. Complete SPC course roster launches fall 2017 (see http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/smartpath/)
- Development completed for the fully online Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology in spring 2017.

- Kaltura Digital Asset Manager initial implementation complete. Kaltura is in an integration that allows you to upload, record, organize and publish a variety of videos such as screen captures, video presentations, webcam recordings and more all made available through D2L Brightspace. Launching July 2017.
- The competency-based Mathematics Endorsement program for K-5 teachers was built and launched in spring 2017
- State Distance Education Authorization to offer online programs in Alabama has been secured and eLearning has renewed its membership in NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (http://nc-sara.org/)
  - Alabama approval includes Nursing
- Quality Matters, a course review process for online courses, has been expanded (see https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/main/faculty-and-staff/faculty-resources/quality-matters.php).
- BlazeVIEW was updated to version 10.7
- Online Student Readiness Tool is available for prospective online learners (see https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/main/future-students/student-resources.php)
- 3D Scanner Technology has been implemented in collaboration with the New Media Center (see http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/depts/media-center/services/3d-printing/welcome.php)

Announcements and Information

- **Mental Minutes**: The VSU Counseling Center is excited to announce a new student service available, Mental Minutes. Mental Minutes is a 10 minute, specialized presentation available upon faculty request during class time. A member of the VSU Counseling Center staff will provide a brief presentation—requiring no technology—and give helpful handouts to each student. Mental Minutes is designed for minimal classroom disruption while ensuring that VSU students are equipped in the following areas: Time Management, Study Skills, Test Anxiety, Stress Management, How to Help a Friend, Healthy Relationships, and more. The Counseling Center has also added some new resources to its website: check out their Virtual Relaxation Room at https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-services/counseling-center/relaxation-room.php as well as their online seminars at https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-services/counseling-center/online-seminars-and-workshops.php.
- **Credit and Contact Hour Guidelines**: For those designing new curriculum, you may find this new resource helpful. You can locate it at the Faculty Resources page on the Academic Affairs website under "Curriculum": https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/faculty-resources.php
- **Bookstore Update:** When students go to locate their textbooks for fall, they will see a new organization. Rather than arranging books by course, the books are now arranged by author. This new arrangement allows textbooks to be shopped in one location versus shelving books in multiple locations for various courses.   The Bookstore has kiosks set up for students to print their schedules or they can download the VSU app to review their textbooks--both options can be viewed in author order. Students can print their shopping list or use the App to shop A-Z

instead of shopping by course which may have had the student shopping around the store in multiple areas.

- **Blazer Creed**: For the past several years, all new students have signed VSU's Blazer Creed, which promotes civility, integrity, and citizenship. If you wish to discuss the creed with your students, it is available at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/the-blazer-creed.php.
- **AlcoholEdu and Haven training** now required for all students: All undergraduate students must complete these online courses to help them develop the critical skills to make more thoughtful and educated choices outside the classroom. The programming is provided by EverFi (http://www.everfi.com/substance-abuse-prevention).
- **SOI Timeline for Fall 2017** is available at https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/welcome.php.
- **Textbook Sales:** Remember that USG policy does not permit faculty to sell complimentary copies of texts.
- **Program Review:** Ten programs are scheduled for academic program review during 2017-18 (see list at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/documents/cprcycle.pdf). An orientation session will be held in September 8, 2017, 9:00am, West Hall 118, for these programs.
- **OneUSG**: Training materials for One USG, VSU's new payroll and human resources system, are available at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/human-resources/oneusg/faculty-information.php and face-to-face courses are offered regularly by Employee and Organizational Development.
- **Resource Reminder**: The Handbook for Department Heads and Directors is available online at http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/department-heads-handbook.php

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

- April 2018: **Undergraduate Research Symposium**
- April 2018: **Graduate Research Symposium**

Important Dates Fall 2017

August 14, 2017:	Fall 2017 **first class day**
August 14-September 1, 2017:	**Upload course syllabi** into Digital Measures (http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/faculty-credentials.php)
August 22, 2017:	**Faculty submit P and T** dossiers to departmental promotion and tenure committees (http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/tenure-promotion-timeline.pdf)
September 4, 2017:	**Labor Day Holiday**; university closed
September 11, 2017:	**Academic Committee** meets (October 16, November 13, December 4, January 8, February 12, March 5, April 9). Materials due to Registrar's Office one week before meeting. To appear in the 2018-2019 catalog, all curriculum changes should be through Academic Committee by the February 2018 meeting.
September 13, 2017:	**Departmental P and T Committees** submit report to Department Heads
September 15-16, 2017:	**Parents' Weekend**

September 20-October 4:	Banner open for **faculty to post Midterm/In-progress grades**
September 30, 2017:	**IERs and IEPs due** to college/division assessment committees (http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/program-review.php)
October 4, 2017:	**Department Heads provide p and t recommendations** to College P and T Committees
October 5, 2017:	In-progress grades available and **midterm for full-term classes**
October 9-10, 2017:	**Fall Break** (no classes; university open)
October 12, 2017:	**Last date for students to withdraw** from full-term classes
October 14, 2017:	**VSU Open House** for Prospective Students and Families (February 3 and April 7, 2018)
October 25, 2017:	**College P and T Committees** provide recommendations to Dean
October 26-27, 2017:	**President Carvajal's Inauguration** Activities
October 31, 2017:	**Early registration for Spring 2017** opens
October 30-November 4, 2017:	**Homecoming Week** activities https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-life/our-services/special-events/homecoming.php
November 21, 2017:	**Deans forward P and T recommendations** to Academic Affairs
November 22-24, 2017:	**Thanksgiving Holiday**; (No classes on November 22; university closed 23-24)
December 4, 2017:	**Last class day**
December 5-8, 2017:	**Final Exams** **http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/fall-2016-final-exam-schedule.pdf**
December 8, 2017:	**Graduate School Commencement**
December 9, 2017:	**Fall Commencement** Ceremony for undergraduates
December 11, 2017:	**Final grades** must be posted in BANNER by 9 am
December 13, 2017:	**P and T dossiers uploaded** for university committee
December 18, 2017-	
January 1, 2018:	**University closed**
January 2, 2018:	**University opens**
January 8, 2018:	Spring 2018 **first class day**

New Faculty and Administrators

- VSU welcomes new full-time faculty members to campus; see the complete list at https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/welcome-new-faculty.php
- Dr. Robert (Bob) Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Rodney Carr, Vice President for Student Success
- Dr. Christopher Waugh, Department Head for Adult and Career Education
- Dr. Hudson Rogers, Interim Department Head for Marketing and International Business
- Dr. Shaun Ault, Interim Department Head for Mathematics