

The Unexpurgated Guide to the

Governor's Honors Program*

*not at all an official document,
but real useful

How do I get there?

Version 1: Take I-75 to exit 22, North Valdosta Road. Go east about 8 miles. Watch out for a tangled intersection, at which you will want to be in the right lane, to veer off onto Patterson St. Once on Patterson, you will eventually come to the campus on the right. You can't miss it.

Drive past the front lawn and turn in at the main entrance. The first dorm on the left is Brown Hall.

Version 2: Take I-75 south to exit 18. Go east. At the second traffic light, take a left onto Gornto. At the next traffic light, take a right. You are now on Baytree. Go until Baytree dead-ends into Oak Street. Turn left onto Oak St., then go all the way around to the other side of the campus. (That's right on Georgia, and right on Patterson.) Turn in at the main entrance. The first dorm on the left is Brown Hall.

Version 3: Depending on construction, you may wish to get off of I-75 at Hahira, exit 29. Head east into Hahira, and at the main intersection hang a right onto Old Hwy 41. This will take you straight into North Valdosta Road. Turn left, and follow the rest of the directions from Version 1. Good thing to know: at any point on your trip south, if I-75 is too horrific, you can get off and come down Highway 41. It is usually a lot less crowded.

Actually, we'll send you an email on Tuesday to let you know how traffic is and whether you should get off at Hahira or not.

Where were we? You're at the dorm. Unload.

Of course, if you're from the Other Georgia, you're on your own.

What kind of clothes should I bring?

The weather is warm in Valdosta. Plan to dress accordingly.

For everyday wear, most of the faculty tend to go native: shorts and t-shirts are fine. You will need to bring some "nice" clothes for the few formal occasions: receptions with sundry VSU officials, concerts and plays, and of course for that day when the STATE SUPERINTENDENT of EDUCATION and/or the GOVERNOR comes to campus.

Some of the dorm rooms and a few of the classrooms (especially Whitehead Auditorium) are refrigerated, so a spare sweater may be appropriate.

Unless you have a stunning [as in beautiful] body which you don't mind displaying for the delectation of the rest of the faculty, you may want to wear a robe to and from the shower. Flip-flops are worn by the more fastidious. You will also want to bring something in which to tote all your shower stuff.

If you want to wear exercising togs, there are plenty of opportunities. The Fitness Support Staff has lots of stuff for you to do, mostly at ungodly hours, and there are tennis courts on campus. The VSU Student Recreation Center also will give you a good deal on a membership for the summer, and it's a very nice facility indeed.

What else should I pack?

Everything. You may feel a fool driving on campus with practically everything you own stuffed into your car, but fear not: everyone else does it too.

Computers, printers, televisions, stereos, radios, clocks, desk lamps, cappuccino machines, trashcans, posters, umbrellas, small refrigerators, sheets, pillows, glasses, swizzle sticks, corkscrews, can openers, coffee makers, synthesizers, all the books you own, T'ang Dynasty ginger jars: all of these have been brought and have been found to be aids to living in comfort.

You don't have to make copies of your handouts to drag down with you: we have a fabulous copier right there in the lobby of the dorm; many faculty return simply to caress the copier.

If you plan to bring a lot of stuff that you want to plug in, bring a multi-plug adapter. That way, you can make sure your computer, printer, and desk lamp can all sit together on the desk and actually function.

Brown Hall is both hardwired and has wireless internet, so if your computer is not capable of that, you'll want to find someone who can help you with that. Also, make sure you know all your webmail settings and ISP thingies before you leave home.

What about dorm life?

You live in the faculty dorm. There are no students there. You do not have a roommate.

There is a large lobby/tv area, with the afore-mentioned

copier and the staff microwave. There is no kitchen in Brown Hall. There's a bathroom on each hall. All the sinks are in the bathrooms, not in the rooms.

The dorm is two floors, and there are no elevators. Men stay in one wing, women in the other, although co-ed kinds of arrangements have been made on the second floor of the women's wing when necessary. You'll pick your room when you get there.

Dorm rooms have predetermined phone numbers. You may wish to contact the phone company and obtain a calling credit card; it makes long distance phone calls a little easier. You will need to bring your own phone and cable.

There is cable TV in your room, if you bring a TV.

Depending on where your room is on the hall, it may range from freezing through comfortable to sultry. If the air conditioning goes off, then everyone's room becomes sultry. Tempers flare; bodies sweat; it's all part of the GHP experience. At any rate, what this means is that you will want to bring both a blanket and a fan, just in case.

Refrigerators are not available to rent from the college, so if you want one, you will need to bring your own.

What about the staff's social life?

Since Dr. Searle asks us to eschew dating the children, we have come up with other pursuits.

The lounge is a meeting place with TV where everyone is welcome. Television is not really that big a deal for many. We don't really have time, and there are more interesting things to do. Watching baseball is big, and many, many movies are rented.

Many staff members plan weekend jaunts to the beach or the swamp. Be creative.

There are a lot of activities on campus in which you are welcome to indulge: volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, seminars, campus chorus, etc. These are posted in the dorms in large, daily posters. These seminars are offered by residential staff and faculty. If you've always wanted to teach crocheting, now's the time.

It is perfectly acceptable to sit in your room and be quiet or even work on lesson plans.

What about other aspects of life?

Laundry? In the past, Dr. Searle washed and folded all of our laundry for us.

If for some reason he decides not to do that this year, then you will need to know that there are washers and dryers in our dorm. They do not operate with quarters, but with your ID card, which works like an ATM card.

If you've never done laundry before, then plan to attend the annual seminar presented by one of the RA's.

Sick? The infirmary is concealed from human view, which is usually a good thing. To find the infirmary, go behind the dining hall. It's the small, quiet-looking building.

In order not to spoil what is sure to be one of your cherished GHP experiences, we'll say nothing about what is inside.

What about food?

The Palms Dining Center Experience food is surprisingly good, but eventually you will want to have something else.

There are the usual burger places, and there are many nice places to eat in Valdosta, actually. Check with the math department; they usually know.

What should I call the Program?

Everyone feels like a tyro the first few times they say 'GHP', but after they've sputtered out 'Governor's Honors Program' a couple of times, the initials don't seem so precious anymore. Try saying it over and over to yourself as you drive to Valdosta. By the time you get there, you'll feel like an old hand. [Actually, you'll feel like an old paper sack, but a good night's rest will take care of that.]

What exactly is my schedule?

Major classes are from 8:00 am-12:00 pm, Monday through Saturday.

Minor classes are from 1:30-4:00, Monday through Friday.

You are off after 4:00, although depending on your department, you may have things to do in the evenings.

You are off after noon on Saturday and have no duties until Monday morning.

Which departments are really weird?

That's classified information. And if you don't know by the first Sunday, you're probably in one of them.

Here's some useful advice: take a page from the kids' handbook and meet everyone. You will rarely in your life have the opportunity to play with such an interesting group of people, so get to know as many of your fellow faculty as you can!

And remember the Great GHP Lesson: never assume.

Helpful hints:

Take a 5x8 index card and write '2009' at the top. When something happens which prompts you to think that improvements in the program might be possible, write it on that card. At the end of the summer you will be asked for those suggestions, but at the end of the summer you're all awash in the warm fuzzy glow of it all, and you will have forgotten how the orange construction paper you ordered in March never did come in. That's when the card comes in handy.

Don't panic.

Ask questions! GHP is a lot like riding a bicycle, and at some point in the summer you may find us looking down at you and saying, "Did we forget to tell you that you have to hold on to the handlebars?"

Don't be dismayed: a lot of the good GHP accomplishes takes place in the months following the program. You will never know how much you've affected your students, but you have.

Remember what Mr. Bennet said in *Pride and Prejudice*: "For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors, and laugh at them in our turn?" Learn to be amused by your fellow faculty members, and that way you will resist the temptation to hurl things at them.

Read more about it:

Check out the GHP website, put together by last year's computer minors. It's aimed at students, but you'll find a lot of useful information there.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/ghp/>

Also, if you have questions you'd like answered personally, feel free to e-mail Dale at dale@dalelyles.com.

Here's a map to the campus from VSU's website: http://www.valdosta.edu/adv/sharedimages/Web_City_Map_2000.GIF

Here's a highly detailed map of the campus: http://www.valdosta.edu/adv/sharedimages/map_p_h.gif [#39 is Brown Hall]

If you don't trust the driving directions on page 2, then here's VSU's link to MapQuest: <http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/mapquest.shtml>

And finally, for GPS purposes, our address is 1500 North Patterson.

