Now that’s a Plan!

Great News, Everyone! The VSU Board of Visitors has unanimously approved a new master plan that will provide a long-term road map for facilities on campus.

The vote, which came during Thursday’s full board meeting, follows over a year of work by staff, faculty and students to understand the university’s long-term facilities and planning needs. Vice President for Administration and Finance Kevin Davenport presented the proposed master plan, which had last been updated in 2006, to the Board during their April meeting.

The Master Plan, while comprehensive and long-range in nature, is also responsive to current needs, and sufficiently defines and address the future development needs of campus in support of the University’s mission and strategic plan.

The goals of the Master Plan were simple - Support the Building a Better World Strategic Plan by enabling the University’s physical resources to achieve their goals. Key components of the plan are a new iconic campus core, integrating the New Multipurpose Center into the main campus, New Academic and Research Areas, new recreation and leisure spaces, and reinventing the campus core.

Through intensive data collection and analysis, presentation of options and feedback from students, faculty, staff, and neighbors, our Master Plan is complete. Thanks to everyone that has participated in the development of the new VSU Master Plan! After over 60 meetings, focus groups, online surveys and feedback, the final plan is now available on VSU’s website at http://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/capital-outlay/vsu-master-plan.pdf.
Facilities Management

Balancing Service Restrictions— VSU and Natural Gas Service

The gorgeous spring weather makes it hard to remember that cold, cold February when temperatures dipped to single digits at night and daytime highs were a balmy 20 degrees. These very cold periods put campus infrastructure to the test to meet the heating and hot water demands on our campus.

The primary fuel used at the heating plant to generate steam heat to 34 campus buildings is natural gas but oil serves as an alternate fuel source. During those extremely cold days in the winter, the demand for gas increases. More and more homes and businesses have converted to using natural gas in recent years due to new domestic sources and current low cost. However, while the amount of natural gas is increasing, the infrastructure to deliver it to customers has not grown. Those temporary increases in demand creates a big problem. That’s why on these very cold days, our local utility issues Balancing Service Restriction Notices (BSR) for large volume natural gas customers. That means that VSU is given fixed allotment of gas available for our use and we either curtail our usage or pay a penalty for using too much gas. The penalty is great—150% of the one day market rate. The penalty for VSU can amount to as much as $60,000 for one day!

Columbia Gas issued 31 BSR’s between January 1st and March 7th with 16 continuous days in February alone. To avoid penalties, facilities has to react quickly, sometimes in as little as one hour. Here’s what we do—we operate one campus boiler on natural gas and one campus boiler on fuel oil. This is not as easy as it sounds. To operate in this fashion, manual operation of the boilers, constant observation of equipment, monitoring usage and making adjustments to match demands throughout the period is required.

When students are sleeping, faculty and staff are at home, our heating plant staff is hard at work keeping campus warm and watching the bottom line. We were successful in managing these 31 BSR events due to the knowledge and dedication of the facilities staff that operate the Heating Plant and those that manage our fuel usage. As a result, VSU received credits on our January, February and March gas bills for curtailing.

VSU’s Heating Plant & Personnel (L-R) Kenny Roberts, Fred Snyder and Bill Miller
Highlights: Projects Around Campus this Summer

1. Jones Dining & Foster Hall Dining Renovation
2. Moore Hall Energy Upgrades
3. Campus Security Lighting– multiple locations
4. New Multipurpose Center
5. Water Tower
6. Johnston Memorial Library Roof

Please see Page 4 for a brief overview of each project.
Highlights: Projects Around Campus this Summer

1. Jones Dining Hall & Foster Hall Dining Renovation

As part of Thompson Hospitality’s commitment to VSU, they will be renovating the servery and dining areas at Jones Dining Hall. The space will also include a Starbucks. At Foster Hall, in the former Trojan Grill space, we will have a new Chick-fil-a and Subway.

2. Moore Hall Energy Upgrades

As one of the largest energy consuming buildings on campus, Moore Hall will undergo a renovation to improve energy consumption. The existing light fixtures will be replaced with new, energy-efficient LED fixtures. In addition to the lighting upgrades, HVAC controls will be installed on the AC / Heating units.

3. Campus Security Lighting

We will be wrapping up the Campus Security Lighting project over the summer. Parking Lots 8 (Jackson Place) and 19 (Memorial Hall) will receive additional, new LED light fixtures to improve visibility.

4. New Multipurpose Center

Construction continues... Exterior brick masonry will be installed over the summer months as well as interior dry wall. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-ins will occur along with parking lot paving.

5. Water Tower

Erection of a new 2,000,000 gallon water tank at Randolph Farm in conjunction with Chesterfield County.

6. Johnston Memorial Library Roof Replacement

The existing roofing system above the third floor will be replaced with a new system to include light-weight insulated concrete.

For a complete list of projects, please visit the link on the Capital Outlay webpage-
http://www.vsu.edu/about/administrative-offices/admin-finance/capital-outlay-and-facilities/capital-outlay
Virginia State University Named Tree Campus USA University

One of Facilities Strategic Goals for 2015 is forming strong partnerships with the academic community. We are pleased to announce that The Arbor Day Foundation has named Virginia State University a “Tree Campus USA University” for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship! The initiative was led by the College of Agriculture’s Mr. Joel Koci who formed the committee in collaboration with faculty, Facilities, Police and Public Safety, and community groups.

Tree Campus USA, a new national program launched by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors college and universities and the leaders of the campus and surrounding communities for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus in environmental stewardship.

The aesthetic beauty and practical design of our surroundings are critical components of the University’s master plan, so we are indeed pleased that VSU’s efforts have been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation. VSU is committed to environmental stewardship as well as to creating a safe, sustainable and attractive environment for the campus community.

To receive Tree Campus USA status, VSU had to meet five core standards of tree care and community engagement. Those standards include: establishment of a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree-care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree-care plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the creation of a service-learning project aimed at engaging students.

VSU is the third college or university in Virginia to be named a Tree Campus USA University, joining ODU and VT in this prestigious honor. The Arbor Day Foundation launched Tree Campus USA in fall 2008 by planting trees on nine college campuses throughout the United States. The Tree Campus USA committee will be planning several activities celebrating trees throughout the year. On Arbor Day, April 24, we performed maintenance on campus stormwater structures and plant water loving trees in them, along with the dedication of a memorial tree at the Gateway complex. Other activities included a day of service for area tree specialists to perform selective pruning and a day of safety to promote safe tree maintenance measures. You can find out more about the Tree Campus USA program at www arborday org/TreeCampusUSA .
Did you know that VSU is working with Chesterfield County to place a new water tank at Randolph Farm? A few years ago, both VSU and Chesterfield County realized that their water infrastructure lacked capacity to support their respective growth. On the horizon for VSU was the new Multipurpose Center and the Quad II and Gateway II residence halls. At the same time, Chesterfield County was facing the dilemma of how to best serve a growing Matoaca district. Both were limited by the size of their water tanks for firefighting and domestic water storage, and replacement costs were prohibitive. The answer—pool resources and work together! A partnership resulted in a new shared 2,000,000 gallon tank at Randolph Farm that benefits both the University and the County.

Construction began in June 2014 with an in service date planned for this November. The tank is called a composite tank because it has a base (pedestal) made of concrete and the bowl is made of steel and will stand 165’ feet high. New underground water lines will link the farm to main campus.

The tank will house the VSU logo on two sides that are visible from far away, including those traveling on the Amtrak train and River Road. This summer, the bowl will be lifted into place at a ceremony which includes our partners at Chesterfield County. When you return for the fall semester, our new tank might be your first sign that you have entered Trojan country!
Did you know that VSU has an Events Setup Crew? This team works behind the scenes on a daily basis to make campus activities a reality. The team consists of the Special Events Coordinator, Robert Hawkes, and his team, Garland Stewart, Anthony Johnson, and Robert Banks.

This team has been together for more than 20 years! On a daily basis, the team spends 2 hours each morning cleaning up the campus grounds of trash and debris. The remainder of their time is spent setting up for events, both large and small, and providing moving services on campus.

Every time we have an event on campus, such as for graduation, homecoming, opening convocation, the debutant ball, etc. this team sets up stages, hangs banners, provides seating, sets up tables, and quite often prepares tents, such as the one below, for the recent Luau celebration. This tent alone required 6 hours of set up time for the crew!

![Debutant Ball Stage Set Up—Before and After](image)

When you see this tent on campus, you know the Events Setup Crew is hard at work!

Events Setup Crew, per Mr. Hawkes, is meeting different faculty and staff members involved in events. The one thing this crew would like the VSU community to know is that they care about what they do, they are dedicated, and they always put forth their best effort for you!
Noteworthy—continued

At the Luau on April 13th, Jane Harris, AVP of Capital Outlay and Facilities, and Steve Panchem, MBP’s Construction Manager at the Multi-purpose Center, hosted an event for a signature panel for students to memorialize the new Multi-purpose Center.

Seniors will have an opportunity to sign the panel at the Senior Picnic on April 29th. This panel will then be laminated and will be on display when the new facility opens.

Have you seen the beautiful blooms from the grounds keeping project of 10,000 bulbs in the fall? We’ve received positive feedback from those visiting campus!
Intern Corner

JeJuan Griffin, a Junior majoring in Accounting, spent time this spring semester as an intern supporting efforts of VSU’s Environmental Compliance Officer, David Weddle. JeJuan played a key role in the development of the University’s chemical database. The database will be used to track the purchase, storage, and disposal of chemicals used on campus, including those used in research and academic environments. This database will aid in compliance with state and federal reporting and management requirements.

CONTEST—How well do you know our campus?
Identify the location of this photo for a chance to win A $50 Gift Card!

Email your guess to the Director of Facilities—Gil Hanzlik at ghanzlik@vsu.edu. Include “CONTEST” in the subject line. Respond before 4:00PM on 5/15/15. The first 10 correct responses will be entered in a drawing for the gift card. Winner will be notified by email.

CONGRATULATIONS to our last quarter winner—

Dr. Patricia Aldridge!

Dr. Aldridge’s name was drawn from one of the correct responses—the photo was taken of the time capsule marker that was created in 2001 in front of Harris Hall. The capsule is due to be opened in 2026!

To learn more about Facilities and Capital Outlay visit our website—
http://www.vsu.edu/about/administrative-offices/admin-finance/capital-outlay-and-facilities/index.php