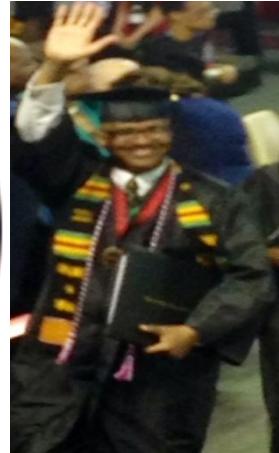


## John Wallace Isom Jr, Blazers Alumnus, Six-Month Update

20 May 2014



***I AM A HAPPY VSU BLAZERS ALUMNUS***

**To: Dr William McKinney and VSU Team**

**From: John Wallace Isom Jr, aka The U-Can! Man, Graduated 7 December 2013,  
20 plus years of diversity recruiting**

**Goal: Help Valdosta State University (VSU) enroll 14,000 Blazers by Fall Semester 2015**

President McKinney, I am happy to share this initial update after six months of being a Blazer alumnus. I am taking your challenge to our fall semester 2013 class to heart (see <http://johntheucanman.com/files/79291511.pdf>). It has been a fast-paced race to ensure I do all I can to help the university that helped me obtain my undergraduate degree. As I stated to you on January 9, 2014, “VSU is a Triple O University, Outstanding Opportunity Option.” Dr. McKinney, I am convinced that all the past and present opportunities offered by VSU will help my second book, *Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can!* (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00HNY8SAU>) be a driving force in increasing VSU’s recruitment, retention, and graduation rates.

As I look for employment opportunities, my family is my number one focus, but our goal of 14,000 Blazers by fall semester 2015 is a close second. I am hoping to join the Triple O VSU family in the near future, but in the meantime I am using my B.A. in Sociology with a minor in African American Studies to help me secure employment locally. Valdosta State University’s awesome staff, faculty, and administration has fueled my desire to be the number one Blazer alumnus, making our university one that the whole world knows about and desires to experience. I hope to ask other Blazer alumni to join me and follow my example of giving back to the university we all claim as our foundation.

### **Special Request**

Please let Valdosta State University #1 Ambassador Dr Dacia Charlesworth know her keynote address (6 May 2014) for the Valdosta-Lowndes County 5-Star Chamber of Commerce “World Class Employee Recognition Breakfast” <http://www.valdostachamber.com/2014-wcer-program->

[and-finalist.htm](#) was inspiring. Chamber President Myrna Ballard invited me to a front row seat. Dr. Dacia Charlesworth, spoke on the meaning of rhetoric and how to retain quality employees through the development of a focused organizational message. I will seek to use her address as my standard (driving force) for achieving 14000 Blazers by Fall Semester 2015. Dr Charlesworth empowered, encouraged, enlighten , excited, and most of all helped me see how I can use my 8 year Chamber Membership to invite Chamber members to help our University with recruiting, retaining and graduating future Blazers.

Here is what I have done since graduation (December 2013 – May 2014):

1. Joined the VSU Alumni Family after graduating with honors on December 7, 2013 (see [www.johntheucanman.com](http://www.johntheucanman.com))
2. Shared with web.com CEO David Brown how I used his company to record my five-year college journey (<http://johntheucanman.com/files/79687774.pdf>)
3. Met with our Think Big university president, Dr. McKinney, on January 9, 2014, to share my book about my amazing college journey. Dr. McKinney introduced me to the Life Happens Student idea/concept (see attachment).
4. Created BAAM for BSAM idea (see <http://johntheucanman.com/files/81032020.pdf>) and became the first Blazer alumnus to mentor a BSAM (see <http://johntheucanman.com/files/82252340.pdf>).
5. Created the 14,000 Blazer Strategy to share with the state of Georgia, especially the Big Bend area (<http://johntheucanman.com/files/78015154.pdf>).
6. Proposed a plan for improving Florida 10-F high schools while also generating exposure for our Triple O University (see <http://johntheucanman.com/files/82242469.pdf>).
7. Shared the testimony of our super SGA president, Mr. Will Cameron Jimerson, with many in the Atlanta area (see <http://johntheucanman.com/files/78326998.pdf>). I have made three trips to this very important recruiting area in the past six months and have sent this testimony every day to some part of Atlanta by way of my website, [www.johntheucanman.com](http://www.johntheucanman.com).

I also have great news to share about my family. My son Caleb Isom, a Lowndes County Vikings Class of 2014 honor graduate, has decided to attend South Georgia College's entry-level program starting in fall semester 2014, with the goal of transferring to VSU in fall semester 2015. WOW! This means my son will be one of the 14,000 Blazers.

Our son Joshua is a junior at the University of Georgia with a 3.69 GPA. He took 17 classes at VSU before transferring in spring semester 2013, and also took two summer classes there in 2013 during his break from UGA. He is happy to call VSU his foundation and provides another example of VSU being a pacesetter in the world of continuing education.

Finally, I leave you with the "proof in the pudding." Here is what VSU did for a student who earned one A in high school: <http://valdosta.meritpages.com/John-W-Isom/658802?expand=3200382>. I am telling everyone I see that if VSU can produce results like this for the U-Can! Man, it can do it for you.

Dr. McKinney, this is just a little of the lot that I have been doing over the past six months to help increase our recruitment, retention, and graduation rates. I have my website designed to show potential students across the world how magnificent Valdosta State University is. I have applied

for two different jobs at VSU but have not yet been called back. My happiest moment will be the one when I find myself employed by Valdosta State University. Until then, I will continue looking for employment elsewhere, but will always make it known that my heart's desire is VSU. I am convinced that with our awesome team assembled, we will be able to say in fall semester 2015 that we have at least 14,000 Blazers. This is my hope, dream, desire, reason for living, and driving purpose. Experiencing five years at this great university has given me a cause to ensure that as many students as possible, from all kinds of diverse backgrounds, take advantage of this Outstanding Opportunity Option located here in Valdosta, Georgia.

Until my next six-month Blazer alumnus update in November 2014, I say to you, President McKinney, and your entire team, "U-Can!"

U-CAN!  
John Wallace Isom Jr  
The U-Can! Man  
229-548-5003

[www.johntheucanman.com](http://www.johntheucanman.com)

College Graduate 7 Dec 2013, Valdosta State University

BA Sociology, Minor African American Studies

Second Book, *Graduating With Honors: If I-Can, U-Can!*

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00HNY8SAU>

### **Memberships & Affiliations**

2007 Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, seven year member

2012 National Society of Leadership Success, VSU Chapter

2013 Who's Who Class Among College Students, VSU

2014 VSU Phi Kappa Phi. Honorary Society