

# THE SPECTATOR

Thursday September 9, 2010

WWW.VSUSPECTATOR.COM

VOLUME 82 ISSUE 3

## Inside This Issue

- **OPINIONS:** "VSU students display spirit"
- **FEATURES:** "Faix trailer comes to life"
- **SPORTS:** "Blazers unique duo hits field"



**Football Season** Instant replay: Blazers take down Wingate 25-22

## On the Web

[www.vauspectator.com](http://www.vauspectator.com)  
- **CHECK FOR UPDATES** - Check our Web site for constant updates on sports, parking, VSU news and anything else you need to know about.

# Former VSU president found liable

## Dr. Zaccari held personally responsible for student's expulsion

**Desiree Thompson**  
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR  
dthompson@vsuspectator.com

The federal district court in North Georgia has found that former VSU President Dr. Gerald M. Zaccari violated the civil rights of former VSU student James Barnes when he expelled Barnes from VSU in 2007. The court found that Dr. Zaccari personally responsible for all damages owed to Barnes.

The court found that Dr. Zaccari expelled Barnes without letting Barnes know about the expulsion and violated Barnes' first amendment rights. The matter came to court in 2007, when Barnes went to the court to sue Dr. Zaccari and VSU for the expulsion. The court found that Dr. Zaccari violated Barnes' civil rights when he expelled Barnes from VSU in 2007.

decks would bring. He posted flyers and sent emails through his Facebook page. Barnes also went on to create a graphic of the potential parking deck and named it the "Zaccari Memorial Parking Deck."

withdrawn in May 2007. Barnes appealed the expulsion to the Georgia Board of Regents and later sued in federal court. Dr. Zaccari disregarded the opinions of faculty, staff and committees that Barnes didn't pose a threat. When Dr. Zaccari expelled Barnes from VSU, he violated Barnes' civil rights.

Public universities are expected to give students a notice of expulsion or provide them with a hearing before taking any disciplinary action. Judge Charles A. Pannel Jr. of the U.S. District Court of Atlanta believes that Dr. Zaccari didn't follow the advice given from his lawyers about the requirements taken to remove a student either. "The undisputed facts show that Zaccari ignored the lawyer's warning that withdrawing Barnes would require due process."

the 2006-2007 Student Handbook, the BoR was liable for breach of contract. "The VSU Handbook provided to Barnes upon enrollment constituted a valid, written contract," Judge Pannel Jr. said. The case is now in damage phase, and the court can determine if Barnes is owed anything at all in damages, and if so, how much he is owed. Although Barnes didn't sue at VSU, he got sued out of VSU by State University and VSU's Board of Regents. He is now a law student at the University of North Carolina.

**"The undisputed facts show that Zaccari ignored the lawyer's warning that withdrawing Barnes would require due process."**

— JUDGE CHARLES PANNEl, JR.

# Front lawn