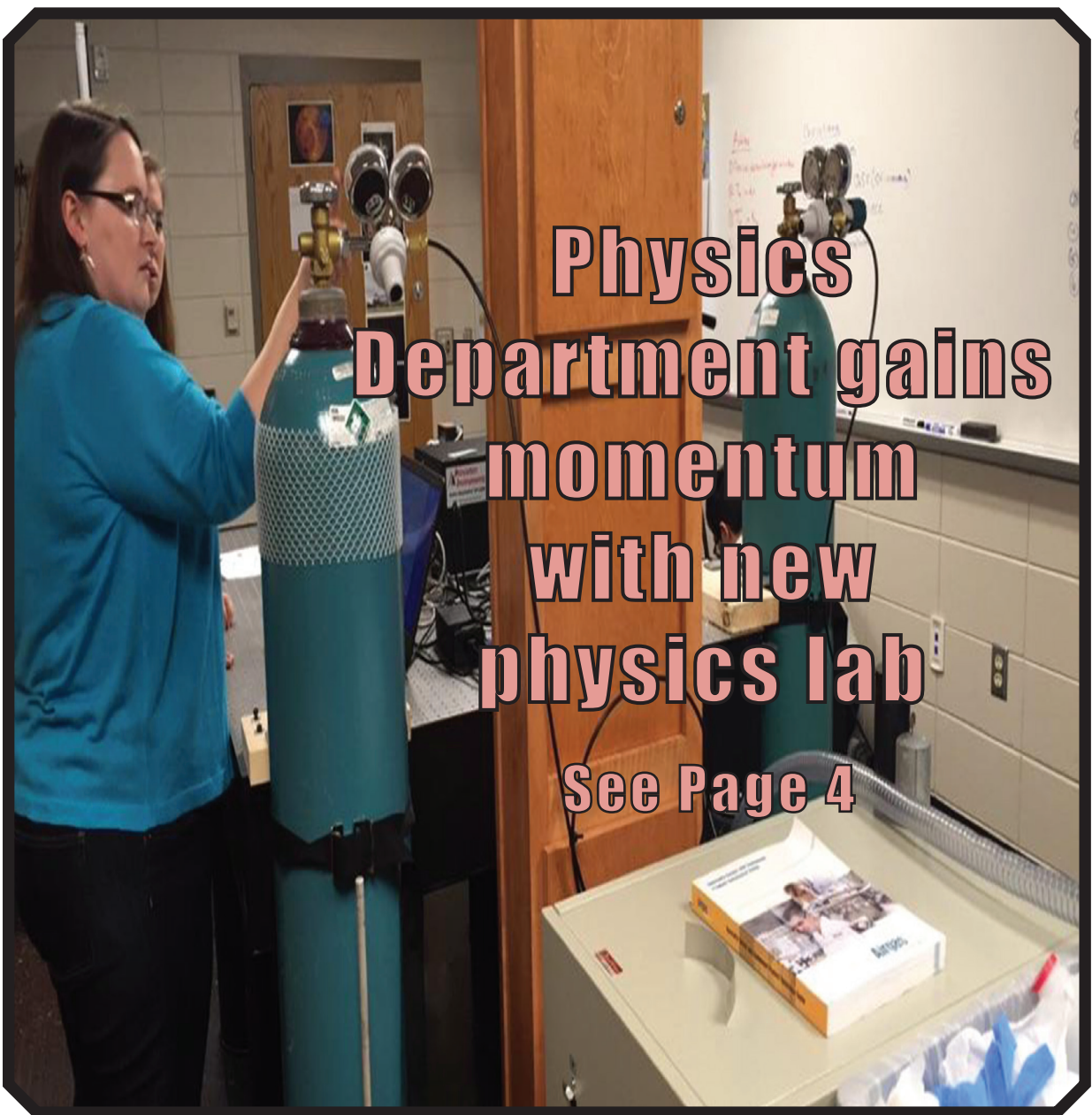


THE SPECTATOR

THE UNFILTERED, UNCENSORED VOICE OF THE STUDENTS.



5 Types of people you meet while on Spring Break

See Page 12

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

HIRING FOR FALL 2016

Positions Available:

TUTORING

Writing - 5 positions	Chemistry - 1 positions
Math - 4 positions	Spanish - 2 positions
American Sign Language - 1 Position	Russian - 1 positions

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION LEADERS

BIOL 1107K- Dr. Cantonwine MWR • 8 -8:50am • 1 position	HIST2112 - Dr. Rickman MWF • 10-10:50am • 1 position
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CHEM 1151K- Dr. Jonas MWF • 10-10:50 am • 1 position	GEOL 1121K - Dr. Groszos MWF • 1-1:50 pm • 1 position
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All positions require that you apply online @ the Student Employment website (scan QR code or web address). You must also complete a paper application.

A completed application, two recommendation forms per discipline, an unofficial transcript copy & fall 2016 class schedule (if available) are required.

The deadline to apply is March 25, 2016.

Changes to availability may be made without notice.
Questions? - tasullivan@valdosta.edu



www.qr2.it/Go/2629527

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Announcements

Slut March

Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority will host the event today at 12:45 p.m. The event will start on the steps of Odum Library and go through the Pedestrian Mall.

Dodgeball Tournament

Draw the battle lines by choosing your own dodgeball team today at 6 p.m. The tournament will be held in the Student Rec Center on Court 3.

Student Health Center Spring Break Hours

The Student Health Center will be open during Spring Break. The Health Center will be open its regular hours on Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Student Union Spring Break Hours

The Student Union hours for Spring Break will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 14 through 17, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 18, closed March 19 and open 3:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. on March 20. Normal operating hours will resume March 21.

Want to have your event featured in our Announcements section? Email Editor-in-Chief Jordan Barela at jlbarela@valdosta.edu to have your event featured.

VSU Department of English Presents

DEAN POLING



Dean Poling is the author of *Waiting for Willie*, a novel about a boy, his mourning mom, his dead father, a bar and a love for Willie Nelson songs. His *Cowboy Boots* and *Pony Tales* and *Redneck Night at the Chinese Restaurant* are works from Poling's writing career. He is a multiple winner of the Georgia Press Association's first-place award for his newspaper columns. During his time as a reporter and editor with *The Valdosta Daily Times*, he has won more than 50 individual writing and journalism awards. He is a member of the newspaper's editorial board and the associate editor of *Valdosta Scene*. A West Virginia native, Dean and his wife, Jetty, live in Valdosta.

**A Reading of Selected Works
Tonight, Thursday, March 10th
7:30pm • Student Union Theater**

Staff Spring Break Destinations

- Blue Ridge Mountains, Second-in-Command
- Shopping in Orlando, Lifestyles Liaison
- Sleeping and Netflix, Web Master
- Trying to find a concert somewhere, Camera Dude
- ATL for a friend's b-day, Spell Checker
- Going to Destin, FL, Miss Opinionated
- Going to Dallas, #feeltheburns

Spectator Classifieds

The *Spectator* prints free classifieds for current students of Valdosta State University only. These must be no more than 40 words, or a \$13.90 charge will apply. Classifieds for faculty, staff, student organizations, student-owned businesses and the general public cost \$13.90 for up to 40 words.

Ads should be sent to the *Spectator* or delivered to our office in 1238 Hopper Hall. The deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, a week prior. If payment applies, it should be submitted in a sealed envelope at the time the ad is placed or paid via Mastercard, Visa, Discover or electronic check online through Aimee Napier, Advertising Manager. Email Aimee Napier

at acnapier@valdosta.edu to pay online.

Ads must be accompanied by the name and phone number of the person submitting the ad. Students must also submit their VSU Student ID number. Ads must be resubmitted each week, as necessary.

The *Spectator* address is: 1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698. Our email address is spec_advertising@valdosta.edu.

The *Spectator* reserves the right to reject any classified ad. All ads are subject to standard editing procedures. The *Spectator* is not responsible for mistakes due to a submitted error. The categories for classifieds include: For Sale, For

Rent, Sublease, Wanted, Roommate, Services, Personnels and Employment.

Room For Rent

Furnished 1 bdrm/half bath with use of shower/tub & kitchen. \$100/week. W/D extra. 928 Bunche Drive. Call Ms. Reid 229-232-7881.

vsuspectator.com

For Rent

FOR RENT
RentValdosta.com
229-244-7800

Student Special
SETH TOWNHOMES
2/2.5, \$550/mo
2415 Seth Place, off Pineview

BLAZER COURTYARD
2Bd/1Bth - \$400/mo
909 Slater St.
(2 Blocks South of University Center)
NO APPLICATION FEE
with VSU ID

Services

Options Now
A Life Choice Clinic

- Free Pregnancy Testing
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- STI Testing
- Options Counseling

229-506-5017 214 W Park Avenue
OptionsNow.org answer@OptionsNow.org

**VSU Students: Your Ad Here
- FREE!**



Health Tip of the week

“In the United States, prevalence rates of many sexually acquired infections are highest among adolescents and young adults.”
-CDC.org

New changes in store for students attending Panama City Beach for Spring Break 2016

Kelsey Dickerson
STAFF WRITER
kedickerson@valdosta.edu

After the events that occurred during spring break in Panama City last year, Bay County is taking measures to shut the party down.

According to Dennis Pillon, reporter for AL.com, the vote to ban alcohol on the beaches of Panama City during Spring Break went through last May with a vote of five to zero. The Panama City Beach tourism FAQ confirms that no alcohol will be allowed on the beach, regardless of the consumer's age, throughout the month of March. Additionally, all bars and clubs within Bay County are set to close at 2 a.m., rather than 4 a.m., a ruling that went through in 2014.

Last year seemed to be the peak of the party. As CNN reports, authorities made a little over 1,000 arrests, three times as many as in 2014—202 of which were related to drugs. Forty-nine firearms were also confiscated in 2015, up from only nine the year before.

In addition to the arrests, Bay County sheriff Frank McKeith came forward to CNN reporters about a video which surfaced in

April of last year of an incapacitated young woman being gang raped on the beach just feet away from a group of partying spring-breakers.

"This is not the first video we've recovered. It's not the second video," McKeith told CNN. "It's not the third video. There's a number of videos we've recovered with things similar to this, and I can only imagine how many things we haven't recovered."

"I've been two years in a row and it's always the same thing. It's chaos." - Alyssa Wise, freshman

After an eye-opening expose aired on Fox News' "Sean Hannity Show," the measures taken in 2014 to curb drinking—requiring an I.D. to drink on the beach and closing the bars

two hours early—were proven ineffective.

Two media sources for college students have weighed in. Total Frat Move, a blog about fraternity and college life says, "You (spring-breakers) only have yourselves to blame, too. You know that, right? Actually, you should thank them (the PCB City Council). Futures are ruined on that beach."

While COED, another college life news source and blog, has removed PCB from the No. 1 spot on their annual list of "Top 20 Trashiest Spring Break Destinations." Citing all-time high levels



Photo courtesy of Google Images
Each year during Spring Break, thousands of college students participate in the festivities at Panama City Beach including music performances, games, and other entertainment.

of danger on the beach last year, the site was "more than a little disappointed in all the ruckus." According to COED, "trashy" should mean cheap fun and not the sometimes life-endangering situations that cropped up on the beach in Panama City.

Freshman nursing major Alyssa Wise says she probably won't go back to PCB.

"I've been two years in a row and it's always the same thing," Wise said. "It's chaos."

Tucker Prestridge, freshman music major says he isn't surprised at the ban.

"They were sort of notorious for that type of thing (partying and drinking)," Prestridge said. "I don't know that it (the ban) will attract more people to the beach, though. It might even repel people who weren't involved in heavy drinking, like adults who wanted to spend the week on the beach with a six pack. I wouldn't be surprised at all if pissed off college students boycott the beach within the next few weeks."

Students who do decide to go to PCB for Spring Break next week should be advised of the new changes.

In Other News

- Organization Student Budget Applications forms are due this Friday at 12 p.m. Any student organization can put in a request to get money from the student fees to go towards their organization.
- Flint, Michigan VSU "Help Us, Help Flint" water donation drive (Feb 28 through March 12) drop them off in Langdale Hall. Contact Carmen Guess for any questions at ccguess@valdosta.edu.
- SGA senator packets are due Thursday, March 24 at 5 p.m.

411

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA seeks senators

Jyrell Wynn
CORRESPONDENT
jdwynn@valdosta.edu

Stop wasting time wanting to make a change--do it.

SGA is seeking students to fill senate seats who are willing to put in the energy and effort to see changes on campus and address issues that students have. SGA is in dire need for students that care.

Silas David, freshman political science major, found out about the organization through someone when he and two of his friends were going to join SGA and hall council after starting college.

David knew it was important to get involved with organizations and develop connections with other students on campus.

With an interest in leadership,

David is running for reelection for SGA's senator position for. He plans on proposing legislation that makes things more clear in terms of the constitution, the by-laws, conduct, business practices, and the consequences of not following rules and regulations.

David wants to come up with different techniques that the school can adopt to improve student life and student's perception of VSU. Focusing on meeting with students to see what ideas they can propose means your input matters.

Regardless of his role in the organization, David believes he can make a difference. David lets his accomplishments with SGA and Residence Hall Association speak for themselves.

WIN \$100! ESSAY CONTEST!

Professor Emeritus Ron Barnette
Is Sponsoring an Essay Contest for Current VSU Students



"Why Studying Philosophy Is Important To You?"

IN YOUR ESSAY, EXPLAIN HOW CLASSES IN PHIL & REL ADD VALUE TO YOUR EDUCATION AT VSU!
DID PHILOSOPHY:

- Help you understand people's beliefs & values?
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- Give you critical thinking skills?
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- Give you a new way of looking at the world?

You do not need to be a major in Philosophy & Religious Studies to enter, but it helps if you had at least one class in PHIL or REL so you can tell us about your experiences!

Essays do not have to be "research papers." They can be personal and reflective. Essays should be grammatically and stylistically correct, and give specific examples of how philosophy has benefitted you.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD BE EMAILED AS WORD DOCUMENTS TO DR. JAMES AT CHJAMES@VALDOSTA.EDU

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016 AT 5:00PM



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NEWS

Biologist to speak at annual lecture

Julia Rodriguez
ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR
jrodriguez@valdosta.edu

The 34th annual Connell Lecture will be held Thursday March 10 at 7 p.m. This lecture will take place at Jennet Lecture Hall, Room 111 of Dewar College of Education and Human Services building. The Clyde Eugene Connell Visiting Lecturer Program welcomes Dr. Reed F. Noss as this year's speaker.

Noss will be discussing his views on the unsettled topic of competing value systems in modern conservation. He is a successful author of over 300 publications, seven of which, are books, and is one of the top 500 most highly cited authors of all disciplines worldwide. *Forgotten Grasslands of the south: Natural History and Conservation*, is his most recent book. *Fire Ecology of Florida and the Southeast Coastal Plain* is his next book.

Dr. Noss earned his B.S. in Education from the University of Dayton, an M.S. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida. The Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology, the Board of Trustees of the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Florida's Acquisition and Restoration Council, and the Federal Advisory Committee for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program are the boards and panels that Noss has served on. From 1993 to 1997 he served as Editor-in-Chief for the flagship journal of Conservation Biology. Then from 1999 to 2001 he was involved in the Society for Conservation Biology by serving as the President and was a co-

founding member. Later, in 2006 until 2008, he served as President of the North American Section of the Society. Dr. Noss is an elected fellow of AAAS, and on numerous occasions has testified to the U.S. Congress.

The Clyde Eugene Connell Visiting Lecturer Program has been prosperous from its beginnings. Dr. Connell retired from the faculty at Valdosta State University in 1980 and students, friends, colleagues and other individuals who wished to see this program continue have financially supported it to honor his retirement.

Clyde Eugene Connell was born August 11, 1916 in Naylor, Ga. After graduating he joined the U.S. Navy, serving in the Medical Corps. In 1948, the country of Egypt honored him for his role in abating a cholera epidemic and gave him the nation's Gold Medal Service Award.

In 1952, Connell retired from the Navy and went on to get a B.S. in Biology at Valdosta State College, a M.S. and a Ph. D. in Animal Ecology at the University of Georgia. In 1958 he came back to Valdosta State College until retirement in 1980 as Head of Biology Department and a professor.

Tax-deductible donations to the Visiting Lecturer Program can be made. To do so, make the donation to the Valdosta State University Foundation, the Department of Biology, or the Office of Finance and Administration, Valdosta State University. To ensure they are made specifically to the Visiting Lecturer Program, these donations should be labeled, "For the Connell Lecture Fund."

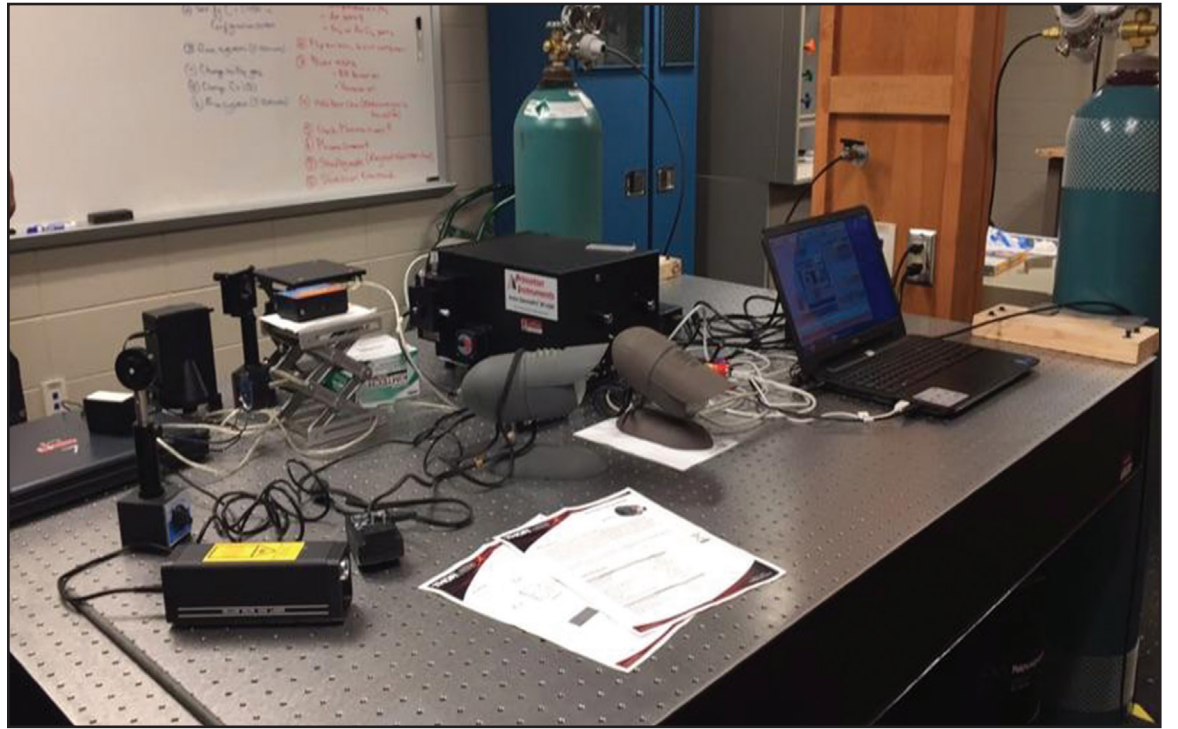


Photo taken by Michaela Leung/THE SPECTATOR

Both a plasma lab and a Geochemistry Lab are new additions Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences Department.

Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences builds momentum with two new labs

Michaela Leung
STAFF WRITER
maleung@valdosta.edu

The Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences Department now has a Plasma Lab and Geochemistry Lab on campus.

The department put in the request to convert classroom 30151 in Nevins Hall into two small labs. Construction for the labs began in the summer of 2013 and the grand opening was November 2015.

Students can choose to concentrate in plasma-surface effects for different types of anodized and un-anodized metals, optical emission spectroscopy of plasma

during etching, effects of surface preparation on the plasma etching process, or the effect of RF frequency on the plasma properties.

"Back in high school science class, you learned about the four states of matter: solid, liquid, gas and plasma," said Dr. Dereth Drake, assistant professor of physics. "Our lab is dedicated to characterizing this fourth state. Of course this should not be confused with blood plasma, which is actually a liquid."

The lab is already starting to produce great rewards for students. In November, Ashley Hardy and Christina Epperson attended the 57th Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Plasma

Physics where they both competed in the undergraduate poster competition.

Epperson's poster won the award for Outstanding Undergraduate Poster. Hardy has also recently been chosen to be featured in the booklet "Physics in Your Future" which highlights women in different stages of their Physics careers.

"The lab's focus is on plasma etching, but the lab also looks to provide students with hands-on research experience using high quality equipment," Dr. Drake said.

The Plasma Research Laboratory can only be used by juniors and seniors in the department.

Daylight Savings to spring forward

On Sunday, March 13, daylight savings will push time forward, starting at 2 a.m. We will lose that extra hour of sleep. Make sure to adjust your clocks. Remember, your phone will adjust automatically!

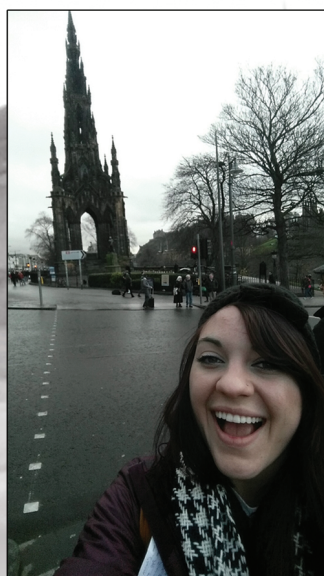
Mass Media curriculum meeting

Attention Mass Media majors: There is a required meeting to discuss the new Mass Media curriculum. The meeting will be at 11 a.m. in Whitehead Auditorium.

SPEND A SEMESTER OR YEAR ABROAD!!!

"STUDYING ABROAD HAS BEEN BOTH A LIBERATING AND GROUNDING EXPERIENCE FOR ME. SEEING THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THE CONFINES OF EVERYDAY LIFE IS A VERY HUMBLING PRIVILEGE TO HAVE."

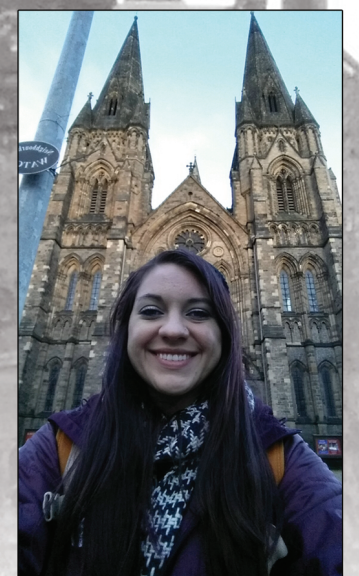
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OPINIONS

Our point of view...

Spring Break parties bring big issues

Spring Break. The holiday that's spent sipping on piña coladas, slipping on a pair of shades while taking in the beaming tropical sun, and parties. Loads and loads of parties.

Whether you take a trip to the frigid Alps, go stroll the sandy beaches of Panama City, or just head back home; we are always susceptible to the dangers that this much anticipated week can bring.

While there are obvious upsides to a week of fun and relaxation, we should still have our guards up when going for a night out in an uncharted area.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, this holiday is the most vulnerable time for college aged students to become victims of sexual assault.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of new reports pop up of sexual-assault cases that happen during break and the number continues to climb. While we are all allowed the chance to go out and enjoy the break, adding alcohol

and a party-like atmosphere into the mix could potentially lead your trip to dangerous extremes.

According to recent data conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) more than 690,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.

Although we have heard it repeatedly, when it comes to alcohol consumption, it's extremely important to know your limits and to never pick up an unattended drink. You alone are responsible for your own safety. The peer pressure may be great, but you should always be cautious.

We at The Spectator would also like to encourage everyone to speak up if they see something questionable happening at a party, on the beach, or anywhere Spring Break will take you.

So fellow Blazers, while we all would like to have fun in the sun without worry in the world, be sure to be careful during break. Anything can happen.

This editorial was written by a member of the editorial staff and expresses the general opinion of The Spectator.

*Follow us on Twitter
@vsuspectator to keep
up with VSU news
during Spring Break!*

IVF allows Teigen to choose the sex of her unborn baby

Erin Martin

STAFF WRITER

erimartin@valdosta.edu

In recent celebrity news, people have started talking and forming strong opinions on the famous singer John Legend and his wife, and model Chrissy Teigen, after deciding to use in vitro fertilization to choose the sex of their baby. A few weeks ago, the couple announced that they would be having a baby girl, and Teigen was open and proud to talk about her method.

People tweeted about the couple, saying that they made a horrible decision for choosing IVF, over other options like adoption. Some people also lashed out at the couple for not choosing a boy over a girl. Instead of overreacting, Teigen calmly responded, and let her naysayers know that she was confident about her choice and was open minded.

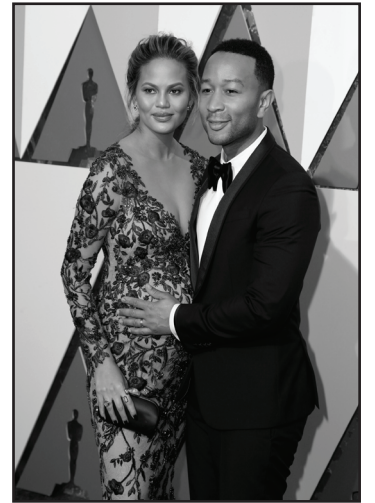
For those of you who don't know what in-vitro fertilization is, it's the manual process of combining sperm and an egg

together outside of the body and then putting it into the woman's uterus. Conversations like this always come up when celebrities announce their decision. The first child was born through IVF in 1978, and it became popular shortly thereafter. Mariah Carey, Giuliana Rancic, Celine Dion, and Nicole Kidman are just a few celebrities who also used the procedure to have their kids.

Many people come from a religious standpoint that accuses people of interfering with God's work. Other people use their moral angle that IVF is unethical, because a lot of the babies conceived through the process die.

I personally believe that people should always have a choice when it comes to their bodies.

I love surprises and feel that learning the sex of the baby is a beautiful moment to share with your significant other. However, some people may like having more influence over that specific decision. After all, the parents will be the ones raising the child. Another reason I'm so open



MCTCampus

Chrissy Teigen and husband John Legend showing off the baby bump at the 88th Academy Awards.

mind to IVF is because it gives so many women the opportunity to bear a child if they were unable to conceive.

I think people should look at the benefits and testimonies of this medical procedure, before shunning the couples who use it.

Kim K goes nude on the Internet...again

Tatyana Phelps

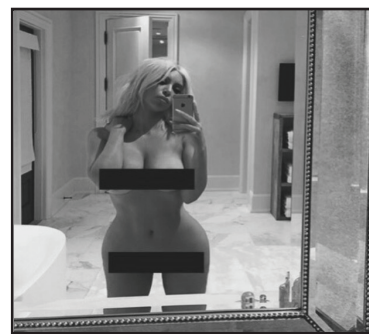
MANAGING EDITOR

tphelps@valdosta.edu

The Internet went into a frenzy over the weekend when Kim Kardashian West posted a full body nude picture of herself with black blocks covering her private areas.

This isn't the first time we've seen Kim's naked body, and that's not even a reference to her sex tape. Over the past couple years we've seen a bit more of Kim than we've opted for. It seems as though since she's gotten married, her body isn't only for Kanye West to see, but for the whole world to see. Maybe a lot of people have completely forgotten about the times that Kim was opposed to posing nude.

Anyone who has ever watched "Keeping up with the Kardashians"



Kim Kardashian West/Instagram

ans" probably recalls the episode when Kim cried because her photographers promised that she wouldn't have to be nude in the pictures she took during the shoot. She claimed that she didn't want that to be the only thing the world knows her for—being naked.

Yet in the past three days, Kardashian West posted not one, but two nude (censored) pictures of herself on her Instagram page.

After Kardashian West posted

the pictures, many social media users started body shaming her. It's never OK to body shame someone, but most of it wasn't exactly "body shaming." A lot of it was about the fact that Kim has been feeling really free to publicize her naked body lately. It doesn't make much sense that she wanted to hide it before, but now that she has a husband and two children, she publicizes her body more than she ever did when she was single and before she was a mother.

There is nothing wrong with being comfortable in your own skin and with your sexuality. However, no one likes someone who doesn't keep their word. If it's OK for Kim's naked body to be shown on social media now, it should've been OK several years ago.

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OPINIONS

CAMPUS CARRY: PRO/CON



Keep them off campus

Geneva Crooks
STAFF WRITER
grcrooks@valdosta.edu

What comes to mind when you think of guns? The first thing probably wasn't college campuses, but it soon could be.

When it comes to whether or not guns should be allowed on college campuses the answer should be no.

Although the idea of being able to protect oneself from harm is a great reason to carry a firearm, college campuses should not be a place where you feel threatened. Campuses should be safe, secure and most of all, a learning environment that is comfortable for students.

There should be no reason why students feel the need to carry a gun on their hip in case of potential danger, especially since students pay tuition to attend the institution.

With recent college campus shootings that have happened across the United States, many students are on edge about their safety and well-being. A better option than allowing the entire student body to carry guns would be to implement more of the students' tuition into security,

emergency procedures and other things that will make students feel more at ease.

Students are young, love to party and love to have a good time; safety should be their last concern.

So let's just say after a huge party on a Saturday night, a couple of drunken students come back to campus for the night and decide to play with a gun. Do you see where I'm going here?

The situation could end badly in many different ways. Besides the dangerous aspects, it is the university and its police department's job to keep students safe, not gun holders. Just because someone has a gun does not necessarily mean they'll use it for good.

Some students may not be mentally stable enough to be carrying a gun around a college campus. Plus, going to class each day and seeing guns hanging out the sides of people's jeans wouldn't make for the most pleasant environment.

Schools simply aren't the place for guns. The war on weapons shouldn't be fought with more weapons, but with methods of making these weapons less relied upon.



Bring them on

Terrance Johnson
STAFF WRITER
terrjohnson@valdosta.edu

Much speculation has gone on concerning the bill on whether concealed weapons should be carried on a college campus. As citizens of the United States, we have the right to bear arms.

States that implemented "shall-issue" concealed carry laws reduced murders by 8.5 percent, rapes by five percent, aggravated assaults by seven percent, and robbery by three percent, according to a 2000 analysis of FBI crime data by economist and political commentator John R. Lott Jr., PhD. Some may argue that this number is outdated, but when dealing with firearms and statistical data, the difference isn't very much.

Detroit Chief of Police Larry Craig said permitted concealed weapons are "a deterrent," and "good Americans with CPLs [concealed permit licenses] translates into crime reduction."

The numbers prove that most adults who carry concealed weapons are respon-

sible. These citizens have the right to protect themselves against a criminal who is carrying a firearm. Violent criminals will obtain guns, no matter the restriction on them; it is better to defend yourself, rather than be a victim.

At Valdosta State University alone, there were a series of incidents where students were robbed of their belongings. These students should have had the right to protect themselves.

Seventy-five percent of Americans support the "laws allowing law-abiding citizens to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon." As citizens, we want to be able to carry firearms. We don't want to hurt anybody, but we want the right to do as necessary should we feel threatened by someone.

A peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology found that when a gun is drawn in self-defense, the criminal retreats 55.5 percent of the time. If a criminal retreats more than half of the time when confronted with another firearm, then that reduces the crime rate.

Letter to the Editor...

A huge mistake

In the aftermath of what happened last week at the Donald Trump rally, it is clear that there are many opinions of what happened. While I only speak for myself, I would like to say that it obviously was a huge mistake to have allowed someone with such politics to be allowed to use a facility on our campus. At the time he was granted permission, it might not have been clear how racist Trump is or what type of people he would attract to his rally, but it is obvious that our campus is not the place where such a thing should happen or be allowed to pass without comment.

In the vernacular of Higher Education, VSU is a PWI (Predominantly White Institution), but we are also, more importantly, an MSI (Minority Serving Institution) with by definition, well over 25 percent of our student body made up of students of color. While Trump's people and the Secret Service may have had the right to remove people from the rally, there is no question that this was racist behavior. I had an older student in one of my classes say that he was standing near the Secret Service when Trump's people

came over and told them to "Remove those n*****s from the building." The same word was yelled by Trump supporters at various other students who attended the rally simply to learn more about American politics.

How in this postmodern era can that treatment be described as anything less than racist? Two white students in the group of more than 30 (that were ejected) does not change the color of that situation. Other African American students said that they were escorted out for no reason. VSU used to be a place where the parents of African American students felt their children could get a fair education, but after something like this we jeopardize that credibility. I can only offer my own personal apology to every student on this campus who was offended by what happened. If nothing else takes place to address the matter, you are certainly invited to attend the next "Courageous Conversation about "Race" on Thursday, March 24, from 7-8:30 p.m. in 1111 Jennett Hall. This series of talks was initiated to be a forum for discussion of something like this.

Sincerely,
Dr. Leslie S. Jones



Darian Harris/ THE SPECTATOR

A number of VSU students were removed from the Trump rally under cloudy circumstances.

**Want to submit your own Letter to the Editor?
Send submissions to klkesselring@valdosta.edu.
Submissions must be under 500 words, contain no
profanity, or personal attacks.**

OPINIONS

Voice of the Students Where are you going for Spring Break?

“I’m going home for spring break. I’ll get to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine and play with my puppy.”

- Allison Gay
Junior
English

“I’m going to St. Augustine with my family.”

- Jordan Johns
Freshman
Chemistry

“I’m going home, which means I’ll get homemade food and get to spend time

with my parents and family.”

- Kiersten Jakes
Junior
Spanish

“I’m going to Jacksonville and going to kick it with some friends and family I haven’t seen in a long time.”

- Kenneth Brown
Senior
Communications

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Mexico v. Trump: Former president doesn't plan on paying for a wall

Meaghan Bitters
ASST. ADVERTISING MANAGER
mkbitters@valdosta.edu

“I’m not paying for that f***ing wall!”

Former Mexican president Vicente Fox talked to Fox News about his views on Trump and his notorious wall on March 2, 2016.

Fox started by saying “Please wake up America from this Republican nightmare.”

“Walls don’t work,” Fox said, “The Chinese wall that he mentioned never worked.”

Fox discussed his concerns for the U.S. citizens, if Trump were to be elected, and Trump responded in the only way he knows how, with a vague and threatening comment.

“The wall just got 10 feet taller,” said Trump.

Trump continuously claims that if elected, he will get a wall built on the border of Mexico and the U.S. and get Mexico to pay for it.

Trump allegedly gained the majority of his supporters from announcing his immigration reform. The reform can be read on donaldjtrump.com. According to his website: “Mexico must pay for the wall and, until they do, the United States will, among other things: impound all remittance payments derived from illegal wages; increase fees on all temporary visas issued to Mexican CEOs and diplomats and if necessary cancel them.”

While Fox’s comment might not have been worded very elegantly, it is understandable that he is fed up with Trump. After constantly verbally attacking Mexico during his entire campaign and threatening to make them pay for something they are uninterested in, Fox is not entirely in the wrong.

After all, Trump has spent his time on stage using some vulgar phrases as well. Trump blasting Fox for this comment is what some like to call the pot calling the kettle black.

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DID YOU KNOW?

According to MacWorld, smoking near an Apple computer invalidates your warranty, even if you have AppleCare.

Kendrick Lamar's untitled 'Butterfly' leftovers shine

MCT Campus

Not bad for a bunch of leftovers _ not bad at all. In this era of surprise album releases, Kendrick Lamar dropped his latest project "Untitled, Unmastered" (Top Dawg/Afermath/Interscope) on Thursday with little advance notice.

He billed it on Twitter as "Demos from 'To Pimp A Butterfly.' In Raw Form. Unfinished. Untitled. Unmastered." That's a pretty accurate summation of the 8-track, 34-minute album. In the recent tradition of Kanye West's "The Life of Pablo," works in progress are all the rage in hip-hop. West's album was shuffled, resequenced and retitled so many times it became news long before it was put up for sale. Similarly, "Untitled, Unmastered" is presented as an unfinished work, though it rarely sounds like one.

The sessions for Lamar's 2015 album, "To Pimp A Butterfly," yielded these demos, some of which have been performed live, and they're drawn from the same stew of jazz, funk, soul, spoken word and avant-garde music that permeated that acclaimed release. The tracks favor upright bass, skittering drums and horn textures as much as loops and samples. Lamar employs a range of vocalists, from SZA and CeeLo Green to augment his typically dense, diamond-hard rhymes.

Visions of apocalypse explode the bedroom rap that opens "Untitled 1": "Valleys and high places turn into dust / Famous screaming in agony." There will be a worldwide cleansing, Lamar's narrator warns, and it will sound like a Barry White record gone haywire.

In "Untitled 3," Lamar's narrator recounts conversations

with four people from different cultures about how they interact with the world while flutes trill and an eager chorus of voices presses the master storyteller for details. Each person's truth is different from the others. Lamar sees his relationship with the "white man" as strictly defined by economics of the most parasitic and exploitive sort: "Tellin' me that he sellin' me just for \$10.99 / If I go platinum from rappin', I do the company fine."

Contrasting moods swap places and collide. Whereas "Untitled 04" offers education as a guiding light amid conspiratorial whispers, "Untitled 05" marks a descent into hopelessness over a driving bass line and floating saxophone lines. Its darkness spreads like a fresh pool of blood on a sidewalk as Lamar channels the voice of an outsider who "used to go to church and talk to God" but now realizes "hollow tips is all I got."

It's followed by immediate relief, a bright, uptempo track that echoes the unison horn lines and choir-like vocals of Earth Wind & Fire, with Green providing the breezy vocal hooks. Even amid this buoyancy, Lamar's narrator struggles to understand himself: "Do I let these personalities always conflict in me?"

With Lamar, there is an ongoing sense of unfinished business. His songs rarely pontificate or indulge in bromides. Instead, they openly struggle with issues of race and racism, identity and self-worth, the desire to possess the world or destroy it. We are all works in progress, he suggests _ unstable, volatile, ever-changing. Why should a collection of songs be any different?

In need of groceries fast? Amazon uses drones to deliver groceries

Carluis Williams

STAFF WRITER

carwilliams@valdosta.edu

Amazon is about to eliminate the strain of shopping and loading grocery carts.

The big thing in recent technology is drones, and Amazon is about to change the grocery game with their new grocery-delivering robots. They have plans to expand Amazon Fresh to include delivery by drones. The drones will not be like the air drones but

more like delivery parcels.

The drones are able to provide travel at lower speeds and can travel on pavement and sidewalks for convenience. They can detect obstacles, and be overtaken by human operators. They also come equipped with microphones and speakers.

The drones are more so better equipped for smaller cities than busy streets. The drones are GPS tracker equipped to prevent theft and are basically built like cheaper model, self-driving vehicles.

A Walmart in Arkansas is trying a concept similar to this.

There is a company in Japan that has successfully used air drones to deliver medicines and other supplies to the elderly in remote rural communities. The drones are powered by companies like Heinla and Starship Technologies.

The drones are expected to be sold commercially by 2017 once the companies finish the end parts, such as navigation around certain cities and countries.

VSU Student Health Center Open Regular Hours During Spring Break

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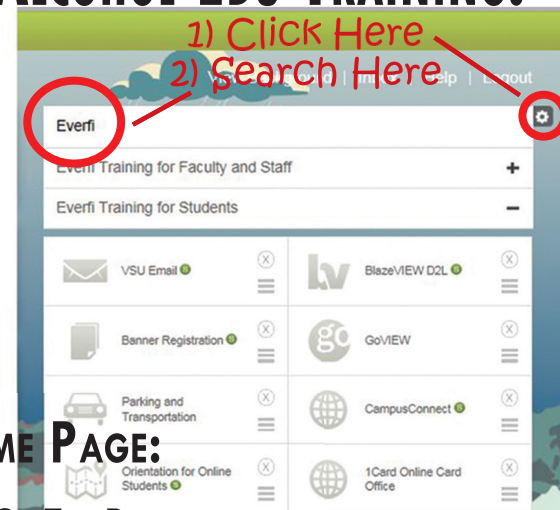
Part One – Extended Deadline

Next Friday, March 4th

Part Two – March 29th

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VSU Office of Social Equity



DID YOU KNOW?

According to didyouknowgam- ing, the Wii's blinking blue light is synched to the bird call of the Japanese Bush Warbler

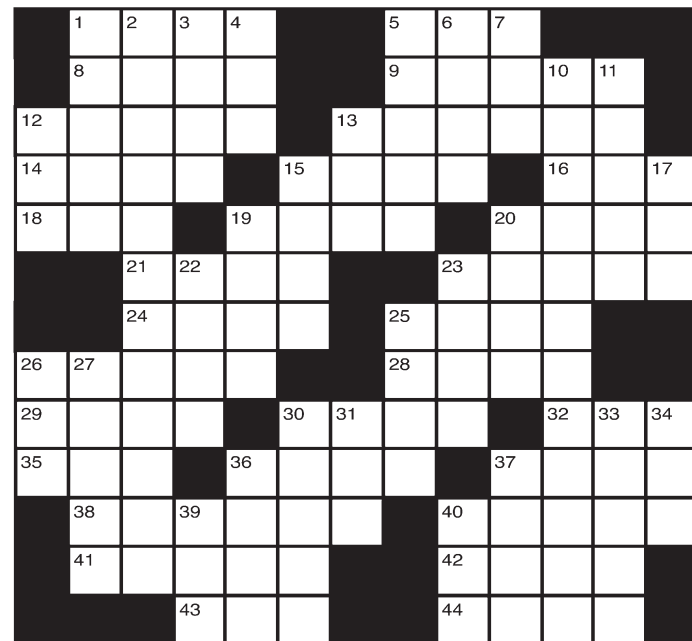
Spring Break

J U N E S T S S S S Y K S E U L B M
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ACROSS

- 1 "Leave ___ Beaver"
- 5 "Million Dollar ___"; Jon Hamm movie
- 8 "For ___ the Bell Tolls"
- 9 Marty ___; role on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- 12 "The ___ Davis Show"
- 13 Early role for Sally Field
- 14 Kathryn of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent"
- 15 Late July babies
- 16 "L.A. ___"; series for Harry Hamlin
- 18 Role on "Alice"
- 19 O'Brien and Sajak
- 20 "Queen of Jazz"
- 21 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
- 23 Actress Procter
- 24 Jack or joker
- 25 "___ Hand for the Little Lady"; Henry Fonda movie
- 26 H's followers
- 28 "Road to ___"; Crosby/Hope film
- 29 Evans or Robertson
- 30 "___ Call Me Mr. Tibbs!"; Sidney Poitier movie
- 32 Role on "Black-ish"
- 35 "What Kind of Fool ___?"
- 36 Atkins or Huntley
- 37 ___ Sher of "The Middle"
- 38 John-Boy Walton's grandma
- 40 "You Don't ___ Me Flowers"; song for Barbra Streisand
- 41 Take the helm
- 42 "___ of the Planet of the Apes"; James Franco movie
- 43 "Who Do You Think You ___?"
- 44 Prolonged pain

DOWN

- 1 "If ___ a Rich Man"
- 2 James Spader series
- 3 Muscle quality
- 4 Tumor's ending
- 5 Farewell to an amigo
- 6 Warren Beatty/Diane Keaton film
- 7 One of the girls in "Little Women"
- 10 Actress on "Law & Order: SVU"
- 11 Delay on purpose
- 12 Topaz or ruby
- 13 "How to ___ Away with Murder"
- 15 "Promised ___"; series for Gerald McRaney
- 17 "Carlito's ___"; Al Pacino movie
- 19 Beautician's offering, for short
- 20 Actor Jannings
- 22 Boy or man
- 23 Auction lover's site
- 25 Aid in crime
- 26 Actress/director Lupino
- 27 Arness or Garner
- 30 "Are You ___ Chelsea?"
- 31 Joaquin Phoenix movie
- 33 Actress Zellweger
- 34 Official lang. of the Bahamas
- 36 "The Sonny and ___ Comedy Hour"
- 37 News journalist Severeid
- 39 Star of "Madam Secretary"
- 40 Woman's undergarment



Student Activity Fee Budget Request Forms

AVAILABLE NOW!

Registered student organizations wishing to request Student Activity Fee Funding for the 2016-2017 academic year may pick up Budget Forms from the Office of Student Affairs & Dean of Students, Student Union, Third Floor.

The deadline to submit Budget Request Forms is

NOON, FRIDAY, MARCH 11th

to the Office of Student Affairs & Dean of Students Student Union, Third Floor.

Budget Hearings Take Place
 Wednesday & Thursday, March 23 & 24

Questions?

Call Andrea Butler @ 229-333-5941



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DID YOU KNOW? According to Uberfacts, the word “slut” was originally used to describe a woman who didn’t keep her room clean.

How to make smart decisions on vacation: Five tips to staying safe during Spring Break

Julie Jernigan

STAFF WRITER

jjernigan@valdosta.edu

It's that time of the year again... Spring Break! Let's forget about our grades, and relieve stress by just having fun. But before we break out the swimsuits and shades, let's take a step back to remember some important safety rules, so we don't regret anything in the morning.

1. The buddy system

Never leave a party with a stranger unless a friend goes with. If anyone decides to leave a party without a friend, make sure they have given their information to someone, so they can be checked up on.

2. Keep belongings safe

Do not book a room on the first floor of a hotel, because thieves are more likely to rob those due

to easier access. Keep expensive belongings in the hotel safe, or keep them near your person.

3. Alcohol competency

Never accept a drink from a stranger. Always drink a drink that you made yourself, or make sure the drink isn't open when you take it. Make sure there is a person in the group who will be the designated driver for the night to look after everyone. Remember

to eat something before drinking, and stay hydrated.

4. Protection

We're all adults here, so let's be smart about sex. Always use a condom because birth control does not prevent STDs. Never let anyone pressure you into having sex. It doesn't matter if everyone has their clothes on or all of them are off, if he or she says no, then it stops. Yes means yes, and no

means no. If alcohol is involved, taking advantage is not an option.

5. Sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen

Apply it every hour on the hour...SPF is your best friend this week. Getting sunburnt on the first day is no fun, and if you can't move, you can't party.

Let's all make smart decisions this week. Spring Break, here we come!

You don't need Alcohol to have fun Ways to enjoy Spring Break sober

Olivia Studdard

STAFF WRITER

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Recently a ban was placed on alcoholic drinks on Panama City Beaches, affectionately known as “PCB” to college kids for years. However, this ban puts a damper on Spring Break for many beach-seeking college kids.

It's been a staple for college students so long, they're left scratching their heads and wondering, “How do I enjoy Spring Break 2016 without drinking?”

Go see a movie. Beginning this weekend, there are new movies set to release that would be perfect for a date, a night out with the girls, or just to spend some time away from school and catch a good flick. Some new releases starting this weekend are: “The Perfect Match,” “The Young Messiah,” and “10 Cloverfield Lane.”

Get dinner with some friends. This is a great solution no matter where your time will be spent during Spring Break. Places such as Chipotle and Buffalo Wild Wings offer student discounts, plus with more than one person pitching in for the bill, it's sure to come out cheaper.

Do a home project you've been putting off. Now would be the time to knock out all of those Pinterest projects you've been dying to try but haven't had the time. Dig out your crafting scissors and your old paint and make something beautiful.

Volunteer during your time off. With school out for the week, it's a great time to catch up on some community service hours, or to recommit to that New Year's Resolution of serving others. The LAMP program in Valdosta helps out the homeless; nursing homes always need extra hands, as well as places like the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club. VSU provides a full listing of different opportunities students can volunteer with under the Student Life page on the website. As an added bonus, the only thing this will cost you over the break is your time.

If you plan to drink over Spring Break, do so safely and responsibly. A fun week isn't worth the cost of a DUI or minor in possession charge.

Be smart, enjoy your break, and remember that there are other ways to enjoy your time off outside of alcohol.

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51028 PHIL 3801 A Philosophical Themes in Film M-F 11am-1:50pm Santas 5/12-6/02

50281 PHIL 4900 A A Sexual Ethics M-F 2-4:50pm Serran-Pagan 5/12-6/2

RELIGIOUS STUDIES CLASSES SUMMER '16

50282 REL 2020 IA* World Religions Lovern 5/12-6/02 ONLINE

51029 REL 2020 IB* World Religions Lovern 6/08-6/29

50284 REL 4700 A A Sexual Ethics M-F 2-4:50pm Serran-Pagan 5/12-6/02

51033 REL 4700 B Phil & Religious Themes in Film M-F 11am-1:50pm Santas 5/12-6/02

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Poet & Essayist

Angela Davis
Civil Rights Activist

Lana Del Ray
Musician

*Note: All sections marked IA & IB are ONLINE. For info on how to get started in online courses, go to: www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning.

SCAN TO FIND MORE INFO ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT ON OUR WEBSITE & VIDEO!

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COLLEGE LIFE

Who to party with and who to avoid: Five types of people you meet on Spring Break

Miles Brown
STAFF WRITER
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The Party Girl

This is the girl you usually meet for the first time on the beach; she is seen going up to random people striking up a conversation. She usually laughs at all of your jokes even when they aren't funny and is engaged in any conversation you have. The Party Girl usually knows all the fun places to hangout and has all the details of the party. She is also very outgoing, travels with a pair of two other friends. The party girl will try anything at least once and is more than likely single. She is always found taking shots or chugging beer. The Party Girl likes to be barefoot and wear colored hats during the day. She is the girl you want to hang with during a Spring Break vacation because she knows how to have a good time.

The Awkward Guy

This dude is always the out of place friend in a group of spring breakers and is usually found in his hotel watching television. He has little to no social life and usually taken advantage

of because he is super nice. Due to the awkward guy being a push over, he is usually found surrounded by arrogant guys who boss him around. He doesn't drink or smoke and most likely has no game with the girls.

The Drunk

The Drunk is a guy or gal who literally is nowhere to be found most times over the course of Spring Break. They usually don't come around the main group of spring breakers unless it's time to turn up. Most likely you can find them head down drunk on the counter of a bar, sleeping on a public toilet or passed out on the couch. Usually he or she is the person who you hate to go out with because they are always getting in an altercation or getting arrested. When approached by this person, head the other way. This person almost never remembers his or her drunken episodes and will most likely end up getting a DUI at the end of the trip.

Drama Magnet

He or she is always the problem starter of any spring break group. When meeting them, they seem

like they are normal, but throughout the trip they start to unravel themselves. They are the ones who recently broke up with their significant other and are still carrying the baggage of their previous relationship. Usually these are the individuals who don't bring enough money on the trip. When seen in public they are walking around frantically talking on the phone trying to solve an issue.

The Lady's Man

This is the guy who is always seen with the ladies who are talking to him and following him around. They usually have an athletic body and sports tattoos, as well as wearing sunglasses and Mardi Gras beads. He never gets too wild or drunk when he is at parties. At the end of the night he brings a new girl back to the hotel. He has the smoothest game talk and has a minimum of 2,000 Instagram followers. The lady's man is usually a baseball, football or basketball player who aspires to be a professional athlete or coach. He is very friendly and most people want to be around them during Spring Break.

Do I have to go back to school? How to get back in school mode

Mayah Cantave
COLLEGE LIFE EDITOR
mcantave@valdosta.edu

It's hard to jump back into focus after spending a week partying, relaxing or Netflixing on your couch. It's very easy to stay in vacation mode and forget about everyday life activities. School is the last thing you want to think about when you've spent the last seven or so days relaxing. Here are some tricks and tips to prepare yourself after returning from a week-long vacation.

1. Get organized

The very first thing you should do after returning from Spring Break is organize all of your work. A planner would probably be best to keep everything in order. Write down everything including a break time, gym time, and everything in-between.

2. Create goals

Everyday -- or at least every hour-- create a goal. This is the easiest way to get things done. Make sure you have an idea of what you are trying to accomplish.

3. Reward yourself

After you accomplish a goal, reward yourself. Once you finish an assignment, treat yourself with candy, a break, or an hour of TV time. Anything that can keep you motivated.

4. Don't procrastinate

The only way to get things done is to just do it. Keep working to complete your goals.

5. Meet with fellow students

A good way to stay motivated is working with other students. Sometimes watching other students work will give you the motivation to continue working.

6. Find a study routine

It's time to get back into

the groove of things. Make sure to find a method to study that works for you. Find out when is the best time to study, day or night. Get things done on your schedule.

7. Plan ahead

Remember to plan, plan, plan. It's easier to get through your tasks when you have already planned out what you need to do.

8. Mind over matter

Work always seems like a ton when you start off. If you tell yourself you can do it, you can.

9. Breathe

Remember to breathe. It's okay. Rome wasn't built in a day. Relax and know that everything will get done. Don't worry.



Google Images

Great teachers make great mentors. Meet one who makes a difference.



DR. KATHY LOWNEY

**PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
2011**

“Dr. Lowney helped me understand something about myself that I have never been able to believe, that I was smart and that I had something to offer the world.”

“Dr. Lowney made sure that I was responsible for my own education and I thought at the time she was just being hard but looking back on it I realize she was making me self-sufficient. She, by not dragging me along, was teaching me something it is impossible to learn without a phenomenal teacher, that I could accomplish something bigger than myself.”

“It is evident that by getting to know her students, she continuously evolves her teaching methods to keep up with the ever-changing world, and thus always allowing her to be an effective teacher, no matter what generation she is teaching.”

“Aside from being an excellent educator, Dr. Lowney is an amazing person. She is very approachable and patient, which is comforting to the average overwhelmed college student whom sometimes just needs someone experienced to listen and be understanding of what they are going through.”



Connect with great professors.

**9 of 10 VSU Professors Rate 4 or Above on a Scale of 5
on Student Opinions of Instruction**

*Student comments from letters of recommendation for Excellence in Teaching Award



DID YOU KNOW?

The Atlanta Falcons nabbed Pro Bowl center Alex Mack on the first day of NFL free agency. Mack, who was selected 21st overall by the Cleveland Browns in 2009, signed a five year deal worth an estimated \$45 million.

VSU tennis enjoys successful weekend on the court

Marquez Slaughter
CORRESPONDENT
mjslaughter@valdosta.edu

VSU's tennis teams are rolling. The men's team defeated both the Lee Flames and Shorter Hawks 5-0 in a doubleheader while the women's team also defeated Lee Flames 6-0 and Shorter Hawks 5-0 in Saturday's match at the VSU courts.

The wins earned them both their second consecutive Gulf South Conference win.

Sophomores Leo Blay and Xavier Pineda took the men's first victory Saturday morning at No. 1 in doubles for VSU by winning 8-1 against the Flames' Eirik

Groner and Jake Okines.

Junior Bea Morales Hernandez and freshman Josephine Jedrychowski started the women's hot-streak with their lead over Lee's No. 1 Francesca Tondi and Marta Garcia-Nieto.

Junior Gereon Heitmann and senior Andrew Harvin took the next victory at No. 2 when they defeated the Rhys Milne and Boyd Blackburn of Lee 8-5, then following at No. 3, junior Fernando Rivas and freshman Jordi Mas kept the streak going with a perfect 8-0 victory.

Mas also continued his winning streak by with a singles win against Boyd Blackburn at No. 4 (6-1, 6-4) along with Xavier

Pineda who won 6-1, 6-1 against Lee's Karl Hulten at No. 5.

Juniors Laura Ubeda and Sabrina Schmidt (No. 2) also beat Lee 8-0. VSU's No. 3 freshman Daniella Barta and junior Anke Poncelet and their 8-0 win as well.

In the women's singles against Lee, Jerychowski (No. 3), Poncelet (No. 5), and senior Joanna Lario (No. 6) defeated their opponents with results of Jerychowski winning 6-1, 6-0, Poncelet winning 6-1, 6-1 and Lario with 6-0, 6-0.

The Blazers staged a comeback in the afternoon, defeating the Shorter Hawks in their second match of the day.

Blay and Pineda defeated the

Hawk's Louis Tourtois and Jimmy Kerjouan 8-1 at No. 1.

The men's No. 2 and No. 3 took both wins in their positions as Rivas and Mas won 8-1 and Harvin and Heitmann won 8-0.

Mas and Pineda went undefeated in No. 4 and No. 5 position singles Saturday, beating their opponents Arthur Amat and Patrick Sanders 6-1, 6-1.

The women won in the same order in doubles as they did earlier against Lee. Morales Hernandez and Jedrychowski winning 9-7 at No. 1 against Ornella Frere and Agnes Brun, then Ubeda and Schmidt won 8-5 against Cassandra Wennestrom and Julie Rinderknech at No. 2.

The last winning doubles of the day went to Poncelet and Barta when they beat Sicquena Sinclair and Daniela Chipe 8-3 at No. 3.

In the women's singles, No. 2 Ubeda and No. 4 Schmidt beat Agnes Brun and Monika Gredzinski with scores of 6-0, 3-0 and 6-2, 6-0.

The Blazers are now nationally ranked 9th for men with a record of 6-2 and 15th for women with a 5-3 record. The teams will take on the No. 11 men and No. 8 women of Columbus State.

The Blazers will take on the Columbus State Cougars on March 9 at Mary V. Blackmon Tennis Center in Columbus.

Bell turns to Gainesville to assemble staff

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Kerwin Bell continues to remake VSU's coaching staff, and with that comes an injection of orange and blue.

James Rowe has been added as defensive coordinator. Justin Hinds will be the defensive line coach. Both men spent last season as graduate assistants on Jim McElwain's staff at the University of Florida.

"I don't know if Valdosta State is going to rename themselves the

Gators or what," said McElwain at a press conference on Tuesday.

Bell, a former Florida quarterback, has deep ties to the state. The latest additions to his new staff are prime examples of those associations at work.

2016 is a reunion for Bell and Rowe. Rowe was previously Bell's defensive coordinator at Jacksonville University for four years. Bell recently acknowledged that Rowe's football expertise has grown because of his time learning under current Gators defensive coordinator Geoff Collins and current Ohio State defensive

coordinator Greg Schiano.

In high school, Rowe was a quarterback for coach Gerald Odom, another former Gator. His young success in Cocoa, Florida brought with it an eventual opportunity to play baseball at the University of Southern Florida. Rowe broke into coaching football after his USF baseball career concluded.

Rowe's connections in Cocoa (roughly an hour east of Orlando) should prove valuable to the Blazers' recruiting efforts in the Sunshine State. Just as important is that Bell is assembling a staff

that has faced competition in what many consider the toughest conference in America, the SEC.

Hinds worked at Wagner College and Mississippi State before following Collins to UF. While Rowe will handle the play-calling and defensive backs in a dual role, Hinds will focus exclusively on the trenches.

In addition to the UF transplants, VSU has hired Danny Verpeale from Army to head the linebacker core. Another former member of Bell's JU staff, Jake Grande, will join the Blazers as special teams coach. Grande also

crossed paths with Bell when he was in charge of the Arena League's Jacksonville Sharks' defense.

Former VSU defensive coordinator Chad Williams is moving on to West Alabama. Rowe will be the fourth fresh face in as many years to lead the Black Swarm. Ex-quarterbacks coach Justin Roper will be the offensive coordinator at Slippery Rock. Defensive line coach Dwight Smith and secondary coach J.R. Dorman are also moving on after two and one seasons, respectively.

Baseball looks to break a five-game skid when Shorter visits town at 6 p.m. on Friday. The series picks back up with a doubleheader on Saturday. First pitch is 1 p.m. at Billy Grant Field.



Darian Harris/THE SPECTATOR

Blazer slugger Dalton Duty makes contact during a 9-6 loss to Georgia Southwestern on March 2. Duty leads VSU in batting average (.471), slugging percentage (.632%), hits (32) and on-base percentage (.563%).

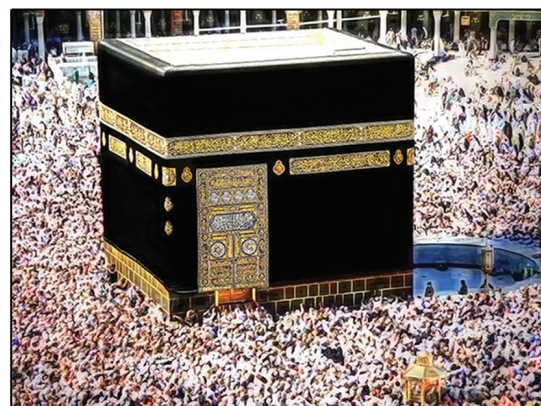
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SPORTS

Braves prepare for upcoming season

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The Atlanta Braves are in the midst of a rebuilding process that turned Turner Field into a ghost town.

They fired general manager Frank Wren and have made 11 moves

since 2015, including trading hometown hero Jason Heyward to the Cardinals, four-time National League saves leader Craig Kimbrel to the Padres and Platinum Glove winner Andrelton Simmons to the Angels.

In return, the Braves saved money and got young pitchers in order to rebuild for 2017 when they will be moving into their new stadium, SunTrust Park, in Cobb County. Although they gave up some stars, they acquired some great young arms. Those acquisitions have them ranked second overall in Keith Law's Major League Baseball's farm system rankings.

The Braves have also acquired highly touted Cuban prospect, Adonis Garcia, who hit .285 and only made eight errors at third base in 87 games with Gwinnett in 2015. Garcia, who is already 30, is expected to start when the Braves move to Cobb County.

So far during Spring Training the Braves have not done too well. They are 2-6 in the Grapefruit League, but there have been some bright spots.

Shortstop Dansby Swanson has had a productive spring so far, including hitting a game tying triple and scoring the winning run on Wednesday to beat the Mets. Swanson, 2015's first overall pick, is the eighth best prospect in baseball according to MLB Pipeline.com.

Twenty-two year old speedster Malle Smith has done well this spring, and MLB.com expects him to make his major league debut later this season. Smith stole 57 bases in 126 games while playing centerfield with Gwinnett and Mississippi in 2015.

The Braves have enlisted the help of some hometown heroes to fill positions while the prospects are getting ready for 2017.

Outfielder Jeff Francoeur, who is from Atlanta and played with the Braves from 2005 to 2009, signed a minor league contract with the team on Feb. 22. Francoeur has been a journeyman as of late, playing with six teams since 2009.

Atlanta also signed second basemen Gordon Beckham to a one year contract in December. Beckham is also from Atlanta and played baseball at the University of Georgia. He spent the first six years of his career with the Chicago White Sox and last year with the Los Angeles Angels.

One of the lone stars who is still with the club is first baseman Freddie Freeman. Freeman, who was troubled with injuries last year, will be one of the main attractions for fans in Atlanta in 2016.

The Braves don't expect to win the pennant in 2016, but their goal is to get the team in position to win the National League East in 2017.

Softball looks to build off of sweep of UWA

Aldean Starr
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The No. 20 Valdosta State Blazers softball team is more than halfway through the regular season and it is ready to take it up a notch.

Through 24 games this season, the Blazers have tallied up a 17-6-1 record.

VSU opened the year gaining 11 wins against their first 13 opponents this season. Although they also ran into some rough patches, with five of their six losses coming from No. 6 North Alabama and West Florida in away games.

After winning six out of their first seven games, the Blazers hit a slump with a tie against Rollins College and two consecutive losses to North Alabama. The last three losses came later in the season and were results of a sweep by UWF.

The team has also had some

bright spots to this point. One was the 500th win by longtime Head Coach Thomas Macera, who is the winningest active coach in Division II softball.

The Blazers lead the Gulf South Conference in home runs (33) while having allowed the least amount of runs. The numbers suggest future improvement in conference play.

"I think right now we just have to keep working," said pitcher Maci Fletcher. "It's going to come for us, we have a lot of talent on our team and we have to find that spark that pulls us all together and helps us work together as a team. We have left a lot of players on base needed to connect on some timely hits and just make one more play on defense and a bunch of those games would have gone our way, just a couple of fine-tuned things and we got it."

"We can't let the past losses affect our upcoming games because the seasons just starting

and we have a lot of games left."

Because the team has only played five home games (which is least in the conference), VSU is in a good position to capitalize on the favorable schedule ahead.

VSU is riding a three game win streak after sweeping West Alabama. The strong week gave the Blazers two honors: Caitlyn Calhoun as Pitcher of the Week and Heather Robinson as GSC Player of the Week. Robinson is the second Blazer to be honored with the award this season. Kiley Rusen, the GSC home run leader with 12, is the other.

The Blazers' next contest is at home Friday at 4 p.m. against Shorter. The conference foes will also face off in a Saturday doubleheader starting at 1 p.m.


"Come out to our games. We only have three conference series left but we love to have student support," said Fletcher.

Recent Golf Results:
At UIS Island Getaway: 6th of 11
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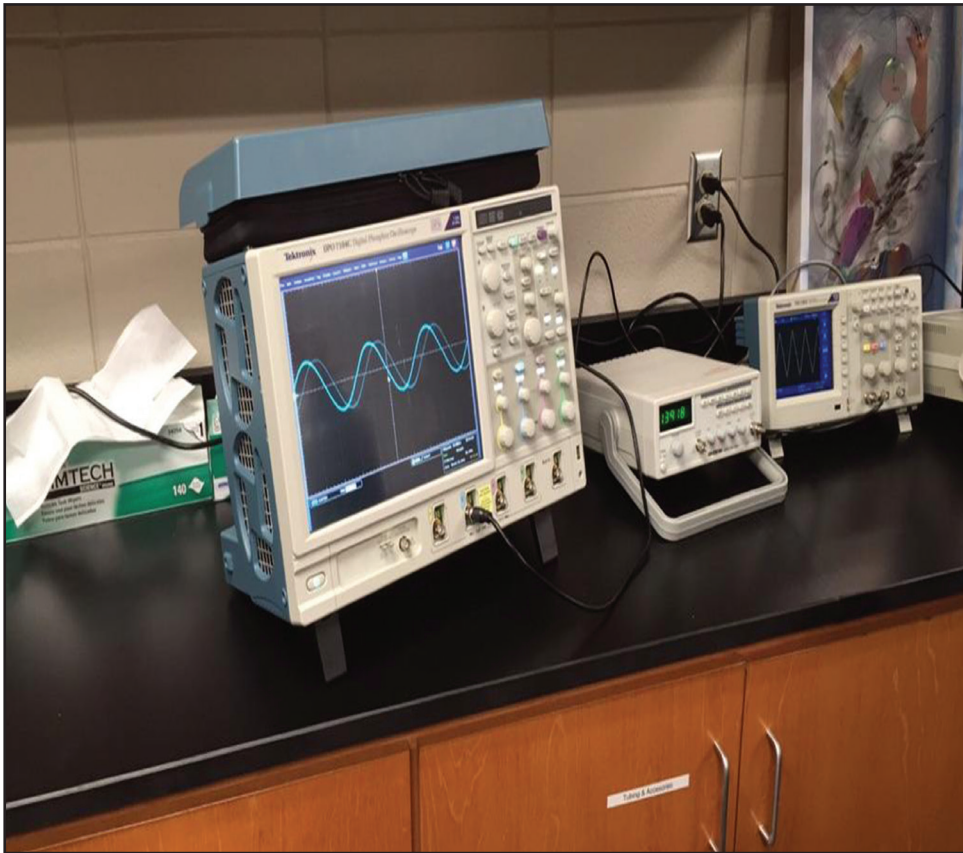
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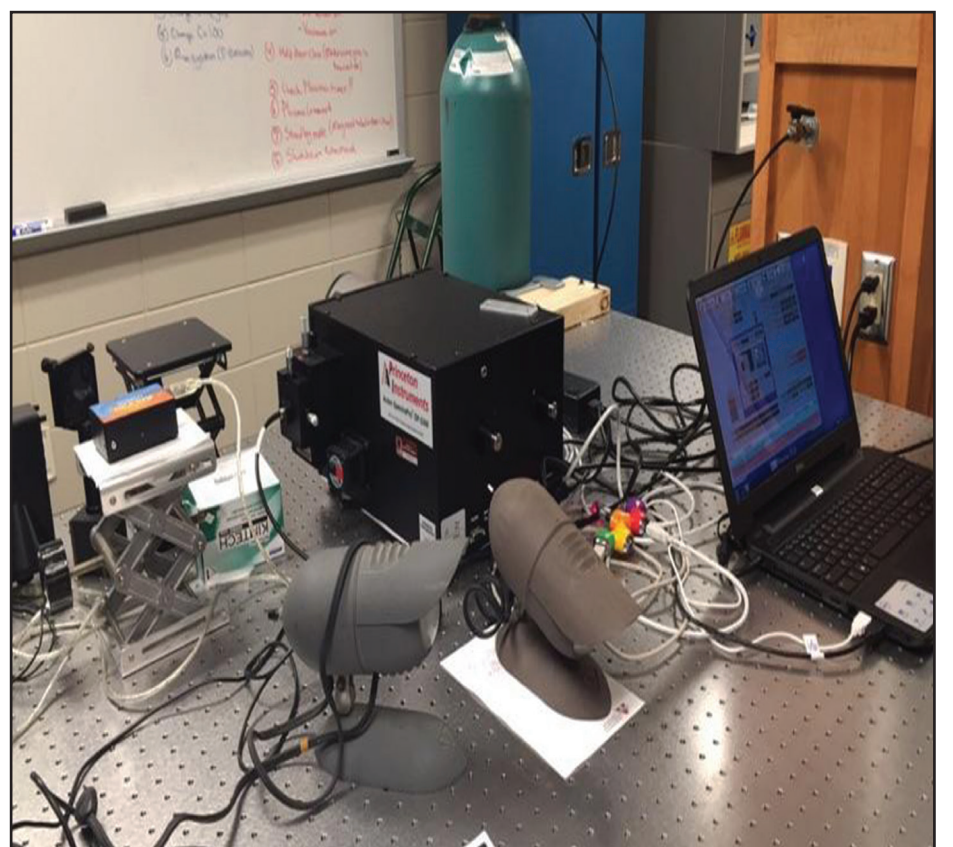


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Michaela Leung
 STAFF WRITER
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Staff writer Michaela Leung recently went to the Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences Department to cover the new plasma and geoscience labs. Here are some extra shots of her coverage.



Horoscopes March 7 - 13

Aries: March 21 - April 19
 You're feeling impatient with your honey. Maybe he is neglecting to do his share of the chores around the house. Or maybe it's your girlfriend who is expecting way too much from you for too little. Mars says talk it out instead of fighting it out.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20
 Money is always important to an Earth sign like you. Right now Jupiter is reminding you that you need to be financially independent so nobody can take advantage of you. Even if you're in a relationship, you want to make sure you can stand on your own.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21
 Romance feels weird for you now. Venus is making things super intense with your honey. If you're single, you're finding it hard to read signals. You're not sure if that hot guy adores you or if that cute girl hates you.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
 The sun is increasing your confidence. Usually you find it hard to ask somebody out, but you're ready to go for it. Get in touch with that nice friend who is always on the outer circle of your social network and bring him or her a lot closer.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
 Romantic matters are giving you headaches as Venus continues to create tension between you and your sweetheart. If you're single, avoid dating for the moment. If you're involved with someone, try spending time with your outside friends.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
 With a pile of planets opposite your sign, don't make any sudden moves. Your judgment is likely to be off. Avoid making a huge emotional commitment to someone. And try not to create any big changes with your career.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

A bouncy moon is making you feel more hopeful than you have in a while. You're letting go of distressing incidents from your past. You're forgiving people who hurt you. And you're open to embracing new friendships, fresh flirtations and promising business contacts.

Scorpio: Oct. 24 - Nov. 2
 There's a solar eclipse this week, and this will boost your spirits. Take your honey out for a hot date and show him or her a great time. Or hold a cocktail party at your place and invite all your friends over. Do something that carries a feeling of celebration.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
 You're making progress with your social life. Maybe you just started dating someone and things are going well. Or perhaps you're joining some new groups and meeting some nice people. Mars says keep doing what you're doing.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
 Jupiter is bringing good energy to your business and career life. Maybe you're interviewing for new jobs. You'll find it easy to attract good offers. Or maybe you're working on getting something started on your own. You'll have lots of good flow with this.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
 You and a casual friend might discover that you have a lot in common. Maybe you'll have a fabulous discussion about something, and you'll discover that you are soul mates in many ways. Venus says keep exploring this special connection.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
 Venus will be in your sign for several weeks, and this will bring a spirit of peace and healing to your relationships. If you were fighting with somebody, things will start to be better between you and this person now. Expect to have more fun with friends and family.

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-- 2nd Lt. Christopher L. McGuirk, 489th FTG, USAF

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