

#KSU lifestyle

# THE PEAK

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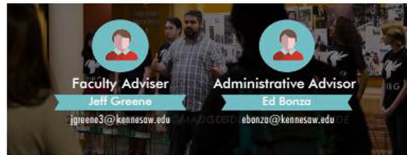
FOR THE  
**STUDENTS.**  
BY THE  
**STUDENTS.**

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### What is #KSUlifestyle?

KSU Lifestyle is the next step in the evolution of our organization. We will still be producing our student lifestyle magazine, but now we are also creating original podcasts and videos to help improve your college experience. All of our content and more can be found on our website at [www.ksulifestyle.com](http://www.ksulifestyle.com)

Do you want to see your name in a published magazine? Do you want professional work experience? Do you want to record podcasts or videos? Join us at [www.ksusm.com](http://www.ksusm.com) and we'll help you create the content that you want.

We're all part of #KSUlifestyle.



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# Winter Trends and How to Wear Them

by Sarah Crawley

In the winter, we all just want to cuddle under a blanket until the cold passes, and the idea of leaving our warm comforters to get dressed is daunting. However, winter fashion is a force to be reckoned with. For one, you get to bundle up, which means the more pieces to keep you warm the better. And for another, who doesn't love a good sweater? New trends for winter appear every year, which can make us cautious to try them out, but you can mix the trends with the staple pieces you already have in your closet. Here are a few foolproof outfit formulas to get you through the cold in a stylish manner.

## Bottoms

Skirts are great any time of year, but, unfortunately, in winter they tend to take a back seat. Recently, however, suede and leather skirts have dominated winter looks, so if you want to wear a skirt but don't want to freeze your legs off, pair a cute skirt with over-the-knee socks or some black tights and boots. If this is still too cold for you, pants are always a go-to for winter.

Skinny jeans are good when going for a more classic look, while flares make it more modern, as they've come back huge in the past year. For a more comfortable look, leggings are always a go-to. They keep you warm while letting you avoid buttoning up your pants, because, honestly, after the holidays we all have issues with that. If you're really committed to the trends, frayed-hem jeans are also great paired with a lace-up top. This outfit will look best if completed with some booties or white sneakers, topped off with the velvet moto jacket from earlier. All the trends, one perfect winter outfit.

Photo by Emily White

## Accessories

Winter accessories are always fun because they range from a good hat, to a scarf, to a faux fur vest. Adding accessories can make an outfit look ten times more put-together. Oversized fedoras are always a good accessory, and also good for hiding that three-day hair we're all guilty of sometimes. Plaid scarves have been taking over winter fashion for quite some time now, and they help to keep you warm during the unbearable walk to class in the morning. Fur vests are also great to throw on over a plain tee or flannel to give the outfit extra flair. Another great accessory are over-the-knee socks to wear under riding boots; when wearing a dress or a skirt, they make your legs look longer and keep them nice and toasty. If the weather really dips into the low temperatures, beanies, and possibly even earmuffs, are also great. These days, stores are selling cute faux fur earmuffs that you'll appreciate when you get to class without hat hair or frozen ears.

## Tops

One of the first staple pieces we have in our closets is a good sweater, the one that we keep year in and year out which we can trust to keep us warm and get us compliments. A sweater is probably one of the most versatile pieces in our closet, too. Pair it with some over-the-knee boots and black jeans to give it a sleek, polished look. Or, for a lazy day, pair it with leggings and boots, maybe even a scarf, and feel cozy in class.

Lace-up tops have been incredibly popular these past few seasons, and this winter is no exception. If you want to mix up your usual sweater and jeans combo, a lace-up sweater is the way to go. This season, olive green and maroon are the colors to wear. Pair a lace-up top or sweater in one of these colors with some black jeans or leggings for a chic everyday outfit.

## Shoes

Another staple item for winter that we all have in our closet is riding boots. Year after year, they never fail to keep our toes securely warm and our outfits stylish. They can be worn with sweaters and jeans, tees and leggings, and almost anything else in your closet. Over-the-knee boots are also incredibly stylish these days, and they add a put-together element to any outfit. So, when you want to wear your leggings, add over-the-knee boots to make it instantly look put-together.

## Jackets

Jackets and coats are a must once we start getting into the colder months. A good way to wear velvet, a trend that was all over Fashion Week, is a moto jacket. Velvet moto jackets are everywhere these days, from places like Kohl's to higher-end places like Revolve. You can wear it with jeans and over the flannel we all keep in our closet as a casual day outfit. You can also dress it up and wear it over a little black dress with some tights and heels to go out with some friends on a Friday night.

A camel-colored oversized coat is also a great thing to have in your wardrobe for winter. It's stylish and goes with everything. You can wear it with flannel and jeans, leggings and a loose top, or a dress to go out in. Anything you want to wear, you can throw a camel coat over. It's a great thing to have to stay warm and stylish.



# Making the World Tydee: Interview with Joshua Guilbaud

by Brittany Rosario

As the world changes from day to day, we are consumed by the situations around us: school, work, our family and friends, and even parties. But do we really take the time to think about tomorrow? To think about the future? Not always.

I'd like to introduce you to someone who is doing something to make a difference in the future of our world. Some of you may know him as the previous president of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., as an Owl Radio talk show host in 2012 for the show "Ro-Sham-Baud," or from working at the Department of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

His name is Joshua Guilbaud. He was born in Miami, Florida but has lived in Georgia since 1999. At the age of 18, Joshua worked as a pharmacy technician, got married, and had a daughter. He was divorced soon after and realized he needed a change. So Joshua set out on his journey at Kennesaw State University where he received his bachelor's degree in anthropology in May of 2015. Joshua has moved around a lot since graduating college; he created a pop-up ad agency, 15 Hertz in Dallas, Texas, and worked in San Francisco, California, where he was exposed to startups and realized the value of our ecosystem. He has worked for companies like Coke, Apple, Beats By Dre, CA Technologies, and at Publix as a marketing strategist.

Joshua recently moved back to Georgia where he works as a self-taught developer doing freelance web content, and he has also started a business called Tydee.

Tydee is an on-demand trash valet service for trash collection in apartment-style housing complexes. It's a simple solution to one of the most annoying problems everyone faces. Trash valet to most is a luxury service, but also a big selling point for many apartment complexes. Having the ability to simply sit your trash by the door and have someone else retrieve it is a highly desired commodity, and those who have experienced the service swear by it. Currently, many upscale complexes offer trash valet services through third-party companies.

Tydee gives all people the ability to have this luxury service despite where they live, and they offer the service at a fraction of the cost.

The other founders of Tydee are Desmond McCain, accountant at YP and treasurer of the Camp Dream Foundation, and Clark Williams, manager of one of the top-performing sales teams at First Data.

I had the opportunity to meet with Joshua for an interview to talk about his life experience, personality, and some of the ins and outs of Tydee.

Read the interview online at [ksulifestyle.com](http://ksulifestyle.com)

Interested in using Tydee? The Tydee App can be found on the App Store [Android App in development].

Interested in becoming a partner with Tydee? Or want more information? Visit the website at: [www.tydee.io/](http://www.tydee.io/)

Like/Follow on Facebook & Twitter @tydeeo





# Black Friday Shopping: The Worst Day Ever

by Brittany Rosario

Growing up, my mom always loved to take me and my siblings clothes shopping every season. As you could expect from children, however, we hated it. Our reasoning for this was that new clothes were unnecessary when we already had clothes that fit and were still in good condition. Shopping during the holidays in order to catch the best sales and deals was a disaster! The crowds of people, the hassle of trying to

find something for everyone you love and care about, having to practically fight strangers for the last item of something in stock, and don't get me started on the long lines.

These are just some typical issues that we think of in relation to Black Friday and holiday shopping in general, but there are so many more:

## “What’s really on sale?”

### EXHIBIT A

[blackfridaydeathcount.com](http://blackfridaydeathcount.com)

I'd like to start by saying, why does a site like this exist? Well, to state the obvious, this site exists because this is a real issue. The site states that between 2006 and 2014, 7 deaths and 98 injuries have occurred as a result of Black Friday shopping. As you skim through the website to satisfy your curiosity, you'll see some interesting captions/headlines to describe each situation, along with the casualty count to go along with it. Embedded article links go to news publications like NBS New York, ABC Eyewitness News, and Huffington Post. These include, but are not limited to...

2011: Los Angeles-area Black Friday pepper-spray attack at Walmart injures 20

2012: Father charged in crash that killed daughters after Black Friday shopping

2013: Teen returning home from Black Friday shopping fell asleep at wheel, killed in wreck

2014: Black Friday brawl at Kohl's in Tustin ends with 3 arrests

### EXHIBIT B

Sales Ads

I've noticed over the years that advertisements for Black Friday (i.e., early Christmas shopping) have pushed further and further away from the actual shopping date. These advertisements are now disrupting the celebration of other holidays such as Halloween, and even Thanksgiving. People are giving in to holiday sales that start the night of Thanksgiving; this can ruin family values for those sales workers who have to work in store instead of being at home. The last thing I'd like to point out in this argument is that the best brands usually aren't even on sale. We watch these sales ads, with all their discounts and sales dates highlighted on the screen to keep us anxious. However, the question must be addressed: what's really on sale? You must at some point take into account that the reason the prices are so low is because, one, there aren't many items in stock, and two, it's a bunch of generic or inferior brands.

### EXHIBIT C

We've Lost the True Meaning of Thanksgiving

In 1864, Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday. The reason behind this was so that people would "reverently humble themselves in the dust, and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Dispenser of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land."

But I guess being grateful and appreciative of family, food, shelter, and drinks doesn't matter because "That is So 4 Score & 7 Years Ago". All hail capitalism (just kidding).

At the end of the day, Black Friday is whatever you make it. I stay home and binge-watch Netflix instead of going out and risking my life to shop for people who haven't served any real purpose in my life. It is a holiday that should be abolished. Will it happen, though? The mystery continues.



# Cyber Monday Shopping: The Online Paradise

by Henry North

I've never been fond of Black Friday. I hate the crowds and don't find the "sales" worth getting trampled on by crazed discount seekers. I always make sure to avoid going to any stores the day after Thanksgiving because it's just so much safer that way. Granted, I've never been too keen on the practice of going to stores and malls for shopping anyway, because I prefer to get what I need and leave soon after. I try to do most of my holiday shopping online, if I can help it. If you're like me and want to shop without any of the fuss and trouble,

then you'll probably be excited to know that there is an alternative to the nightmare that is Black Friday: and that's Cyber Monday.

For those who are unaware, Cyber Monday debuted in 2005 as the online shopping counterpart to Black Friday. It takes place on the Monday following Thanksgiving and Black Friday. Here are some good reasons to take part in Cyber Monday this holiday season:

## Reason 1: Keep Your Body Unharmful and Life Unthreatened

As many might be aware, there is a constant chance that you might end up in the middle of a brawl over a discounted television; you could break a bone, or something much worse. With Cyber Monday, you do all of your shopping online and only compete to make sure that you can get the deals you want before they're all sold out. The worst case scenario is that you might get some hand cramps from the constant keyboard and mouse use as you speed across the World Wide Web to buy all of the things.



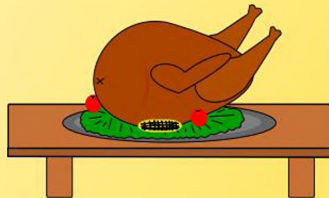
## Reason 2: Want to Start Shopping Now? Why Wait?

CyberMonday.com is a website that is always up and running to let you know about the best deals you can get from many different retailers at any time during the year. Even though the greatest of those deals surface on the official Cyber Monday each year, you can still grab a lot of nice discounts and coupons that you wouldn't be able to see anywhere else. With this site, you can shop cheaply from many of your favorite brands, including Apple, Macy's, JCPenney, Tommy Hilfiger, and Samsung, just to name a few.



## Reason 3: Enjoy Your Thanksgiving with Family and Friends

Thanksgiving is a day to be happy and grateful for the things that you have, so you shouldn't be gearing up on Thanksgiving night to bum-rush stores when they open at midnight for their Black Friday sales; nor should you be out and about on Thanksgiving day, trying to catch the Black Friday presales. Cyber Monday gives you a breather in between rounds of stuffing your face full of food, and it allows you to have a relatively relaxing weekend before you have to really get into the holiday shopping swing. So, settle in at home with those you love, and be merry; many people don't get that opportunity. As the day states, be thankful.



All in all, Cyber Monday is the remedy to the headaches and pain caused by Black Friday. It makes shopping an easy task that can be done on-the-go, either from the comfort of your home or while you're gathering with those you cherish. So, don't join in the battle royale for that new phone this year; instead, sit back, click your holiday shopping list into your online cart, and hope nothing gets lost in shipping. Have fun!

# The 5 Best Things About the Holidays

by Brittany Rosario

Whether you love the holidays or hate them, you'll find yourself experiencing all of these amazing phenomena that arise as a result of the holidays.

## 1. Family Time

The holidays may bring around some relatives that you haven't seen all year, but this isn't necessarily a bad thing. Hopefully you're psyched to see everyone, because we all have those family clapback moments where your aunt asks you, "Oh, how are your grades?" but you've been trying not to talk about school so you just respond with, "How's your divorce going?" Either way, I'm looking forward to seeing my family for the holiday season, because we usually sit around drinking and talking about everything in the world, reminiscing, and brainstorming for the future.

## 2. Location, Location, Location

It's all about where you go for the holidays. The possibilities are endless. You can go away for a serious vacation with warm weather, visit your family, visit friends, or even stay home alone. Remember to book your tickets in advance and get flight insurance, since this is the most likely time that your flight can get cancelled or your luggage can get lost.

[NOTE to you all: If it can go wrong, it will, so having being prepared and having emergency funds while travelling is key.]

## 3. Cooking & Baking

I don't know about you, but my grandmother's cooking is the best reason for me to come home for the holidays. It's my favorite kitchen in America, because she's a woman full of love who has a hand in every meal, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, I usually eat as many plates as I can until I pass out. #TheItis #YouKnowWhyImHere

## 4. Unforgettable Memories

From mistletoe to playing in the snow, the holidays are the perfect time to make memories that last a lifetime. Cuddle with your lover, spend time with your family, get a new pet, buy gifts for family, spend time with family, make new friends, spend time with the ones you already have. There's always going to be something new to do.

## 5. Productivity Levels (may vary)

At the end of your break, you'll either feel like you've done nothing or like you've conquered the world; either way, you're going to be productive. People don't realize how much effort goes into hibernation. You have to buy food, cook it, and eat it; so many things. Whereas others will be playing video games, binge watching Netflix shows and movies, and even catching up on personal projects. There's so many things to do. So stay productive and be happy!

If you read my articles or know me in person, you know that I'm graduating this semester and I want to be one of the first to say Happy Holidays! I wish you all the best going into 2017.



# Congratulations! You Didn't Die!

by Joseph Lorren

Breathe in. Hold it. Breathe out. If you did that, then congratulations! You're not dead. Dead people can't do that. In case you don't realize the implications here, this means that you survived the semester. You sat through lectures, trudged through readings, endured group projects, may or may not have Christmas-Treed some tests, and, for better or worse, surprised yourself with the quality of your papers and discussion posts.

But that's all in the past, and you've finished strong (or at least with a brave face). If you've still got finals to worry about, here's my advice: don't worry. Sit yourself down, start studying now, and apply yourself so you don't have to cram in the library during finals week. Trust me - the library could do without all your drama.

It doesn't even have to be much: 10 to 15 minutes every day will change your life (at least, that's what the infomercials say). You don't even have to bother with seriously studying; just read through your notes a time or two, and after a week or so you'll find yourself finishing

your notes' sentences. It's as if you actually know them or something.

And, then, when you walk out of your final, you can hold your head up high and say, "I didn't die."

**Freshmen:** You finished your first semester of college. You've transitioned from high school, and you didn't die.

**Sophomores:** 30% of college students drop out after their first year. You've crossed that threshold, and you didn't die.

**Juniors:** You're over halfway there, so you have no reason to quit now. And, guess what? You didn't die.

**Seniors:** College is wrapping up, and you're about to walk into the rest of your life. You made it through. And you didn't die.



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Wrapping Christmas Presents with Joseph







## A Netflix Story

► by Jessica Brummel

It's a Saturday night and your friends don't know what they want to do; it's a Tuesday and you're bored out of your mind; you have an essay due this week, but you could probably get to it later. We've all been in these situations, and what do we do? Netflix, and turn on something like Luke Cage. The streaming site has boomed in recent years, becoming a huge component of millennial culture. It has become so widespread and prominent that it has garnered its own lingo: "Netflix and Chill." A lot of us have unquestionably accepted its presence in our life with open arms (as we should), but I think it's important to understand just how this godsend fell into our laps.



Netflix was formed because of a beautifully spiteful man by the name of Reed Hastings. He thought of the idea for it during a day of true shame and turmoil - he had forgotten to return his Blockbuster rental and had a \$40 fine. It hit him, while he was driving to the gym, that this was a rip-off. So, he came up with the brilliant idea of a flat monthly fee for movie rentals, just like the type you'd pay to go to a gym. And so, Blockbuster found a new and spiteful competitor that would throw some major punches.

Hastings started out by simply mailing DVDs to people. In 2006, he had 40 warehouses, each with over 26 million DVDs. He had employees who were each packaging 1,000 movies an hour, and it just kept growing from there. In 2007, Netflix started streaming online. It was, however, a pretty crappy deal back then. There were only 1,000 shows and movies to choose from, and you had to either pay \$5.99 for 6 hours of viewing, or \$17.99 for 18 hours of viewing - not something that would be at all popular today. But it was the start of a movement. Now, Netflix has over 5,000 movies and shows to watch, and the payment plan is reasonable: anywhere between \$7.99 and \$11.99, depending on how many screens you want it to stream on at the same time. Most importantly, however, is that you have unlimited hours of usage.

Not only is Netflix a cheap alternative to cable for a lot of people (aka me, a broke college student), it's also

pulling its own weight in entertainment production. I can't even begin to comprehend the number of hours I've spent and work I've procrastinated on just so I could watch its original shows. House of Cards was Netflix's first series, and then the company just kept following up with big wins: Jessica Jones, Orange Is the New Black, Luke Cage, Daredevil, and Hemlock Grove are just a few of the heavy hitters.

It's slightly inspirational to think that a business that started out tiny and was formed out of spite grew to be such an amazing and revolutionary company. It gives me a lot of hope for my future ventures - that is, if I can get myself to stop watching Netflix long enough to get any work done.

Data Sources:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-brain-behind-netflix>

<http://farstechnica.com/uncategorized/2007/01/8627>

<http://www.netflix.com>

# Movie Tropes That Need to Die

by Tommy Colhoun

If you're an avid movie watcher, there's nothing more boring than bad tropes. It's lazy directing, and it breaks the immersion of the viewer. When we watch a movie, we're expecting something great and new that's going to blow our socks off, not the same old formulas. Now, there are some tropes that can be ironically funny ("cool guys don't look at explosions"), or, if executed well, can make a scene or story much better ("small child says something creepy" in *The Shining*). Bad tropes, though, are obvious and boring. Here are a few tropes movies continue to have that need to go:

## Love Triangles

Definition - attractive girl with no personality is the object of desire between two guys: an abusive bad-boy rebel, Coolguy McBiceps, and her best-friend-since-elementary-school, Friendzone Niceguy. Niceguy usually gets the girl.

See: *Twilight*; *The Hunger Games*; *Pirates of the Caribbean*; and *X-Men: First Class*.

Man, I can't remember a time ever when this was pulled off well. It perpetuates so many bad stereotypes in our culture that I don't even know where to begin. First off, since the girl usually doesn't have any depth or background to her character, she ends up being portrayed as some sort of trophy or idol for the protagonist and antagonist to vie for. Instead of caring about who she is as a person and actually talking to her like people are supposed to, the characters in the movie continue to devise these weird over-the-top methods of gaining her attention or

trying to put on displays of bravado to catch her eye. Finally, when it's all over, the Niceguy™ ends up winning her hand because he has a sudden epiphany to treat her like a person, showing all guys everywhere that if you give a girl the bare minimum of human attention she'll fall head-over-heels in love with you.

## Bury Your Gays

Definition - gay characters in movies rarely get happy endings.

See: *Braveheart*; *Bent*; *Cloud Atlas*; and *Independence Day*.

This trope is kind of a combination of multiple stereotypes. It usually involves one of the partners being overly pushy, abusive, and/or a drug addict. Sometimes one of them has HIV/AIDS, sometimes they get mad the other won't come out, sometimes they're abusive to one another, and sometimes they just straight-up die. Usually this is done to "pull the heartstrings"



Source: IMDb.com

of the LGBT viewers. This trope is especially prevalent in series where characters come back from the dead, because directors feel like it "keeps the audience on the edge of their seats." Either way, the overarching message of this trope is that gay people can't have happy endings. This message can be mentally harmful for viewers that identify with the characters.

## Layman's Terms

Definition - a smart character says something that sounds really complex, and the main character says "What does that mean in English?" This is usually done in a tense situation.

See: *Ghostbusters*; *Apollo 13*; *The Matrix*; *I, Robot*; and *The Avengers*.

This happens in almost every movie that has a smart character: *I, Robot*; *Ghostbusters*; *The Matrix*; and just

about any time Tony Stark tries to explain something to Steve Rogers. This trope takes two forms: either they use really simple words that sound scientific and then mash them all together which makes no sense to the viewer, or they use actual scientific jargon to get their point across so the viewer understands but the characters onscreen don't. This creates a sort of weird, ironic disconnect where the viewer thinks to themselves, "Huh, how did they not know that? I learned about that in sixth grade." These scenarios are also insulting to the audience because they imply that the viewers don't understand what's being said on-screen. Either way, the trope is overused and only serves to make the characters look unnecessarily stupid while insulting the intelligence of the audience at the same time.

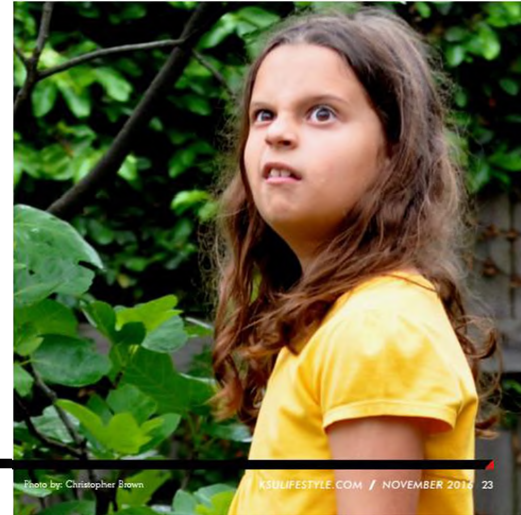


Photo by: Christopher Brown



# Project Escape

by Jessica Brummel

There are a few things you need to know before going into the Escape Room:

1. The Game Masters will make fun of you. But they'll also save your ass.
2. You need a variety of problem solvers and critical thinkers.
3. You're in for an emotional rush.
4. Time doesn't care that you're struggling.

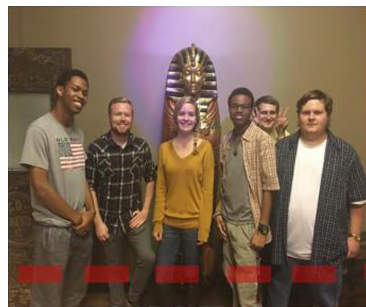
I didn't know any of this when I drove to Project: Escape off of Roswell road - I was just ready for a quick team building activity with the other staff of The Peak. My feelings regarding the next two hours took a completely different turn as soon as I walked in. Our first Game Master, Matt Hutchinson, looks exactly like Thor. He has the blonde hair and loud personality down to a T, and if you were lucky enough to have him as your history professor at KSU, you know the exact personality that would take us through our first game. It was helpful advice, but dripping with sarcasm. I quickly pieced together that this would be a much different experience than I originally imagined.

The first room he locked us in was The Professor's Office, fully decorated to immerse you into the experience. Thor spent a few minutes telling us exactly the type of stupid things not to do: no, you don't need your own toolkit, if it's screwed shut or down, you're not supposed to unscrew it; no, you don't need to climb up the bookshelves, they will fall; no, please don't be the guy to stand on the swivel chair; and no, this will not be like the movie Saw (Griffith Knoop, our web editor, was very upset about this part). With that, he left us, and a video introducing us to the game room commenced. We had one hour to find the clues necessary to leave The Professor's Office.

It was in this moment that everyone's true

characters were revealed. Our editor-in-chief, Carson Long, was unsurprisingly quick to organize all of us. No phones throughout the whole game, everyone take a side of the room, and search. Let me just stress the importance of searching. Search everything, brush your hand against everything. Nothing is too obvious, and a few things really aren't obvious at all. This is where Griffith Knoop, Henry North, Jordan Alexander, and I came in. We swept through the room dozens of times, finding new clues and new puzzles. We quickly started dumping puzzles on Joseph Lorren, giving him the harder concepts to analyze. There was not a single second throughout the entire experience that any of the six of us weren't doing something.

As the game continued, the emotional rush skyrocketed. All of us were on edge as time quickly escaped us. In the heat of the moment, Joseph and I collided. Clues we had gathered spilled on the ground around our feet, but we didn't stop. The clock was ticking down. All of us were on edge during the hour, which made unlocking each lock on the chest such a rush. There were six locks, and when we finally unlocked the chest we were given the final clue for putting in a code and exiting the room. We nearly tripped over each other, yelling and cheering as we put that code in and bolted out the door.



We had done it - we wouldn't be put on the wall of shame this time around, but that didn't mean we were ready for The Vault.

The Vault has a 30% completion rate, and if that didn't make it scary enough to begin with, the fact that no one had managed to escape it that day made us doubt ourselves even more. Well, let me clarify: I thought we were screwed, but Carson was the perfect image of optimism.

If you've ever played Fallout 4 before, the next room was an amazing adaptation of the story. The room we walked into was cold, dark, and full of survival gear. It had Nuka Cola posters, bobbleheads, canned foods that matched those in the game, and other Fallout memorabilia. The story for this room is simple: we have to solve all the puzzles in order to disarm a nuke and save the city. As soon as the Game Master left and the video ended, it was on.

We were slightly more put-together this round, and we had Lauren Clark from our layout team with us this time. We knew everything had to be searched, so we went through what we believed was everything. Let me reiterate a statement from before: nothing is too obvious, and a few things really aren't obvious at all. We learned this the hard way when the Game Master had to stress the fact that we had not looked everywhere. And if the hidden places for objects weren't bad enough, the puzzles and locks in this room were definitely more intense and had many more steps for solving them. They weren't keys anymore - the locks were puzzles, and the codes we needed to use to unlock them were found by solving other puzzles. It was puzzle-ception, but we made it. We were a part of the 30%, and it felt amazing.

I won't lie, I was anxious during Project: Escape; time was running out, and I felt like there was so much I had to do. But at the same time, I learned a lot about my team. We encouraged each other, we learned new personality traits about each other, and amongst the running around we were cracking jokes with both ourselves and the Game Masters. It was one of the best ways I could have spent that night, with my team.



You'll find our names on their doors of victory. For the Professor's Office we finished with 13 minutes and 21 seconds left. For The Vault, we finished with 11 minutes and 23 seconds remaining. Try to beat The Peak's scores, but I doubt you can.

For more information, visit:

- [ProjectEscapeATL.com](http://ProjectEscapeATL.com)
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“It was in this moment that everyone's true characters were revealed.”

# Kickstarter FutureTech

## Pimp My Personal Space

► by Henry North

Everyone loves having their own space and making sure that it's always at the highest comfort level possible. Sometimes that space can get encroached upon by outside forces that make you feel uncomfortable and can distract you from what you're doing. What if I told you that you could make your personal space even better, and that you can have higher control for keeping it as your own? I'm back with another slew of Kickstarter-funded technologies, and this time we're focusing on making everyone feel comfortable and at ease, no matter where they are.

### Wynd

For all of you allergenic people out there, or even those who just like having fresh-smelling, breathable air, I have the perfect product for you. The Wynd, created by Wynd Technologies, Inc., a Redwood City, California-based company, is an air purifier that pulls harmful particles out of the air around you and filters clean air that lets you breathe without trouble. It's not just an air purifier, but instead "an intelligent personal air quality system." It uses smart technology to help analyze the environment that you are in, and constantly regulates the air quality. It's also portable and can be taken anywhere. You can detach the air quality sensor from the Wynd to analyze how healthy the air quality is any place you take it.

The Wynd filters over 8 liters of air per second, so the space you're residing in becomes clean in a very short time and stays pure as long as it's running. It uses a medical-grade air filter and an airflow system developed by an aerospace engineer who used to work on the designs of jet and rocket turbine blades. It was purposely made to be as compact as possible so that it can be taken anywhere and not take up too much space. It works in conjunction with a smartphone app designed to let you know the quality of the air around you. It also tracks different statistics, such as how much pollution it has filtered and how your environment's air quality changes over time. The Wynd is being shipped out this month for backers, and will probably be available for the public shortly after.



### Knocki

Smart homes are super convenient, but also really expensive. Thanks to Knocki, a company based in Houston, Texas, everyone can now have a smart house without the accompanying price tag. Knocki developed a wireless device of the same name that you can attach to any surface in your home in order to create a universal remote for all electronics and software tools.

It responds to simple touch gestures, like taps and knocks on the surface it is connected to in order to do tasks. These tasks range from turning on lights, adjusting the temperature, turning on the television, finding your phone, activating alarms, and much more. All it needs is a smooth surface, a smartphone for the Knocki app, a Wi-Fi connection, and you're good to go. It can connect to software such as Facebook, Spotify, Gmail, Twitter, as well as a continuously growing list. This simple and easy-to-use device will be coming out around this holiday season in December, so it'll make the perfect gift for anyone who wants to have newfound control over their home and various technologies.



### Muzo

Celestial Tribe, another Californian company based in San Francisco, created the perfect solution for privacy seekers, those who have trouble sleeping, those looking to study in absolute quiet, and everyone else who just wants to tune out the many noises of the world around them. They call this device the Muzo, and it's an acoustic device that uses "Anti-Vibration Technology" to prevent objects it touches from causing disturbing vibrations. It also uses "Billionsound Technology," which generates what essentially becomes a barrier that replaces outside noises with sounds meant to soothe and relax you. It has three modes, one designed for creating a silent space, one for increasing your sleep quality, and another to enhance your ability to have a private conversation in a public area.

Muzo is equipped with an "Exciter," which is like a speaker but without a membrane. Instead of sending vibrations through the air, it sends them through the object that it is attached to, in order to produce a sound signal that creates a high-quality white noise effect for the user. This effect travels throughout the object Muzo is on, so it creates a soundscape that blends into the background of the user's perceptions while also blocking out any interfering sounds that are in the area. The device also works in tandem with a smartphone app that changes the type of soundscape it produces. You can choose the synthetic environment you want to relax in, whether it's by a campfire or next to a stream, or even a combination of the two. Muzo is expected to be released in February 2017, so keep an eye out for it.

Editor's Note: Like what you see here? If you're interested in being a part of making more awesome projects become reality, check out [Kickstarter.com](http://Kickstarter.com) for more information on how to back these and other projects.



# Pedal to the Electrified Metal

► by Lilith Arkhi Dracorr

When it comes to getting around campus, people utilize any means under the sun; from longboards and scooters to freeline skates, people want to get from point A to point B in the shortest amount of time possible. However, nothing quite stacks up to the tried and true method of bicycling, which many people on campus use. Bikes are fast and they don't take up much space, what with all the options for bike parking. However, any kind of physical transportation in the foothills of Georgia is a struggle, especially for a campus like Kennesaw State's.



Enter the electric bike, or e-bikes, as the cool kids like to call them. E-bikes are a twist on the traditional two-wheeled model, as they add an electric motor to give you an extra amount of juice to gain speed or flatten hills. When it comes to e-bikes, many have options for pedal assistance (known as a pedelec), where the motor assists in the pedaling based on the effort put in by the rider. If you're looking for raw power and the ability to cruise, then throttles will be your best bet. They supply power on-demand much like a motorcycle would, minus the clutch. Most bikes come with both options, but some favor one or the

other for different riding styles.

Now, electric bikes also provide you with a choice of motor. They come in all shapes and sizes, from the humble 250W hub to the beastly 1000W mid-drive. Generally, the higher the wattage, the stronger the motor will be to carry you, and the more speed it's able to build. However, also note that larger motors will require larger batteries.

When shopping, you'll likely find two main types of motors. The Hub-drive is a motor which is housed within the wheel itself and directly drives the wheel. These are by far the most common motors found on e-bikes, and, as such, are generally

easier to replace if anything goes wrong. One thing to note about hub drives is, since many feature an enclosed motor, the issue of overheating can cause trouble in the wrong environment or with tough usage. Motors are also heavy, and the extra weight to the wheel (because hubs can be found on front or rear wheels) can cause balance changes and weight increase.

So, what's the alternative? The mid-drive motor. Unlike the hub drive, the mid-drive is located near or on the crankshaft, and is in direct contact with the chains, allowing it to work in harmony with the bike's original drive train. Mid-drive systems create more torque and



power for the bike, without placing extra stress upon the wheels of the bike (unlike the hub-drive), and, as such, are often faster and more powerful. What's the trade-off for such power? Mid-drives are often more for advanced riders, and have a price-tag to reflect this.

So, what will all these advances in biking cost you? The average e-bike comes in around \$900 to

\$1,200, but certain bikes, such as the Stealth Rambler off-road e-bike, can come in between \$5,000 and \$10,000 dollars. If you're savvy and technically inclined, you could save money by taking a pre-existing bike and adding a kit, which includes the motor of your choice and battery. This route can be done for as cheap as \$500 by going with kits such as the Hilltopper Hub Motor kit.

E-bikes may cost a pretty penny for the average student, but can be well worth it for the student who needs a reliable, environmentally-friendly way to get from point A to point B. Also, these bikes are just cool.



# Easy to Make Chocolate Cake

► by Kristen Roberson

The hectic holiday season is coming, full of festivities and food and bringing the question of what to make? That question is even further complicated if you, your family, or your friends have food allergies. If you do, you know the holidays can be an even more tricky and stressful season when it comes to mealtimes. What do you do? Find the perfect allergy-free recipe of course! Here's one for chocolate cake or cupcakes, free of ALL major allergens (dairy, egg, nuts, tree nuts, soy, fish, shellfish, wheat/gluten):



## Recipe

3 cups all-purpose flour = 420 grams of any gluten-free flour combination

2 cups sugar

1/2 cup = 70 grams of baking cocoa

2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. salt

2 cups cold water

2/3 cup vegetable oil

2 tsp. vanilla extract

2 tsp. apple cider vinegar

1 tsp. xanthan or guar gum (only if using gluten-free flour)

1-10 oz. bag of mini chocolate chips—optional, omitting them will make the batter appear thinner

## Steps

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine all dry ingredients using a whisk.
2. Add all wet ingredients to the dry ones and fold them in with the whisk until well-moistened.
3. Mix ingredients for 2 minutes using an electric mixer.
4. Pour into a greased 13" by 19" by 2" baking pan or two muffin pans with cupcake liners.
5. Bake at 350° degrees for 25-30 minutes for cake, 20-25 minutes for cupcakes, or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool completely.

This recipe yields 12-15 servings, can be topped with your favorite icing, powdered sugar, or simply left plain, and the cupcakes freeze very well.

# Early Jump on New Year's Resolutions

► by Mike Jones

Nobody has a perfect life: everyone has at least one thing that they would like to change or improve. Improvement season is approaching as New Year's and resolutions roll closer. Making goals can be challenging, from going out more and being more social, to buying your first house, so I've made a few steps for you to follow to attain your goal. Goal setting is key to making improvements in your life, and every goal has multiple steps. Some steps are more difficult than others, but if you really want a change, you will have to start somewhere.

With New Year's approaching, you might have some ideas on what you would like to change in your life. Say that you have decided that eating out is not beneficial to your financial situation. Here is a timeline that your

"New Year's Resolution" probably follows:

January 2016 to November 2016: You spend excessive amounts of money on going out to eat.

December 2016: You decide that this is the last year that you will spend excessive amounts of money on going out to eat, and you will change your habits in the coming year. In the meantime, however, you still go to Chipotle and Starbucks every day to feed your habit.

New Year's Day to January 14th: You are pumped and excited about saving money! You limit yourself and actually build a routine of eating out.

January 15th through the rest of 2017: You decide that you have been doing good enough to add a cheat week to your monthly budget. That

cheat week grows and grows into a monster that you thought you got rid of last year.

There is a big misconception that you have to wait until New Year's to begin to make improvements to your life. While there is a big push to set goals at the beginning of the new year, you can actually start building the habit before the actual New Year's Day starts. Some people decide that they are going to start working out more for the new year; check in on someone who has made that a goal around the middle of February. People generally take longer than just one day or a couple weeks to build a routine that they are actually going to keep. Don't be afraid to start your resolution for the new year early! Get an early start to give yourself some time to actually build a habit.





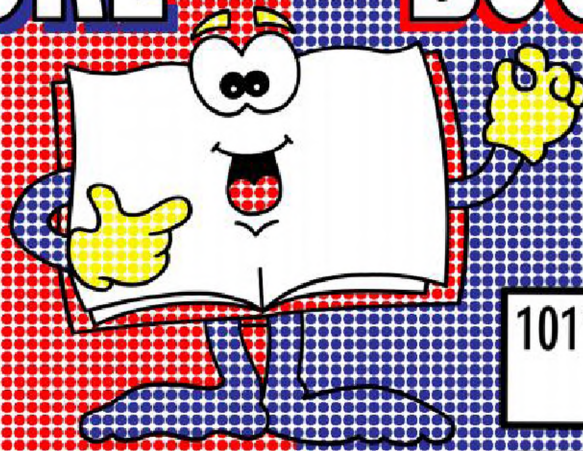
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