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Student Lifestyle Magazine



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The Sting is Kennesaw State University's monthly student lifestyle magazine, and a part of KSU Student Media (KSUSM). As a student lifestyle publication we take the responsibility in engaging in conversations that build student engagement as part a community, and not just a university.

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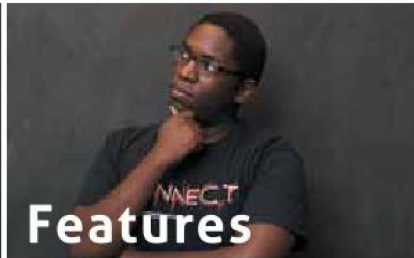
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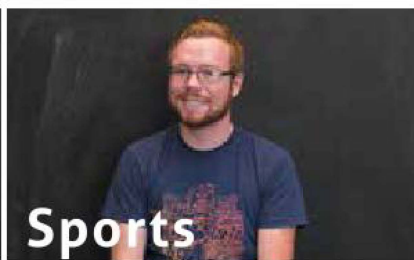
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From Dropout to Commencement Speaker

► by Gerron Green

It's that time of year again. The pressure begins to mount as students take midterms and the add/drop date for classes looms in the distance. It's at this time that many students begin to wonder if what they're doing is what they really want to do in life, whether that's to change majors, keep going on their current path, or even drop out. One former student who knows this feeling all too well is former *Sting* Editor-in-Chief and English and Professional Communication graduate Randy Brown Jr.. Brown was lucky enough to receive one of the top honors bestowed upon a student, commencement speaker at his own 2014 graduation. He achieved this despite having dropped out of college during his initial attempt in 2005. We sat down with him for advice on what a student feeling this way should do.

Sting: Describe your journey for our readers, for those who might not know it.

Brown: Long. A very long, but fruitful journey. 2004-2005 Freshman year of college at Wallace State Community College. I dropped out in August 2005. I worked as a

groundskeeper, at an apartment complex for the next 4 years. Went back to school in 2009, first at a technical college, then Southern Polytechnic. I excelled because of the bumps and bruises earned during the dropout years. I had too many failures to count, and earned all of them.

Sting: What was your original plan in college?

Brown: My original plan in college (Freshman year, 2004) was to run track, earn a full athletic scholarship, and end with a sponsorship from Nike; that was the plan. I wanted to run the 400 meters in the Olympics.

Sting: What initially convinced you to leave school and what made you decide to come back?

Brown: I initially left for 3 reasons: wasn't sure what I wanted out of college, an urgency to start my own company, and my friends were dropping out (all three of us dropped out together). All in all, I knew that I wanted to do something big - great - but I didn't know what. I thought starting a company was the BIG thing, but it wasn't. I never lost confidence that I'd do something

Randy Brown Jr. giving the first and last commencement speech by a student at Southern Polytechnic State University on May 10, 2014. He also graduated that day receiving a B.A. in English and Professional Communication. Photo by Desmond Hilson Jr.

“I would never encourage a student to not drop out. Dropping out was the best thing that’s happened to me thus far.”

great. I always wanted to help change lives, and inspire people. I never lost this desire, even during the dropout years. If anything, the struggles during my dropout years fueled my desires.

Sting: When did you initially feel a change in your drive to finish college, and what changed your motivation?

Brown: In 2008 a need and desire began to emerge for me. I needed to be challenged, and I wasn’t being challenged, intellectually, at work. I knew that school could provide the need. I desired to be an architect, and change the lives of people everywhere with my work. I knew that through hard work I could become an architect. I’d always built things as a child. Stadiums and arenas fascinated me, and I began to feed that fascination again, building scaled models in my mother’s basement.

Sting: Did it ever feel surreal making it to one of the highest honors for a college student?

Brown: It only felt surreal once school and graduation were over. I can’t remember a time during the process when it all felt surreal. I’d been preparing my mind for that moment for 10 years. Speaking in front of thousands... I’ve played it out in my head too many times. Receiving that honor felt good, but not surreal. I had set a high bar for myself. There were many things that I set out to accomplish at SPSU, commencement speaker was one of them.

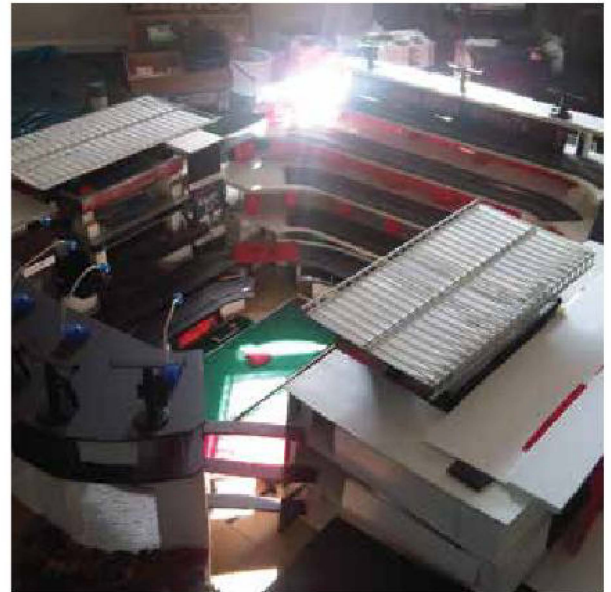
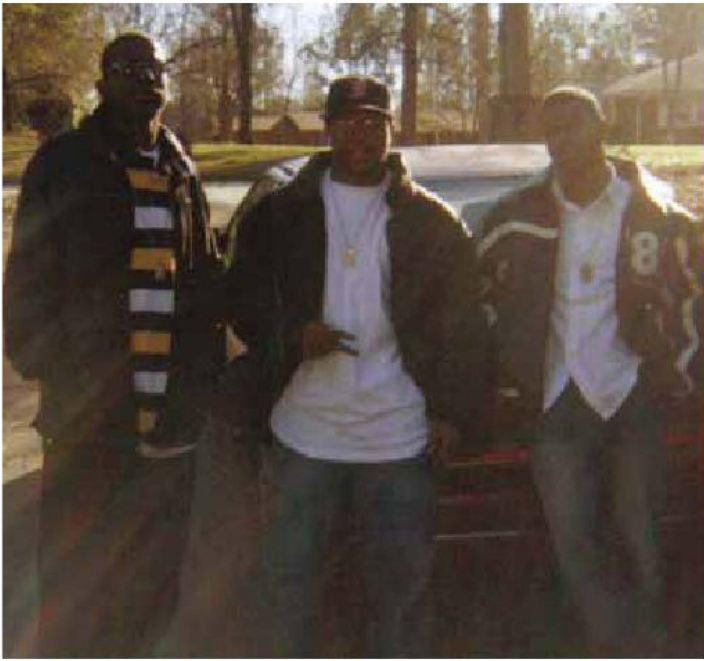
Sting: What advice would you give college students

who feel overwhelmed and may be considering dropping out of college?

Brown: Do what you feel needs to be done. I would never encourage a student to not drop out. Dropping out was the best thing that’s happened to me thus far. Had I finished college in 2008 (my original expected graduation date), there’s no telling where I would be. I wasn’t ready for college in 2004. I didn’t know what to do. I majored in Art and ran track because that’s what made sense. I didn’t know what to do with either of those things after college. Nike? I wasn’t running the times for Nike. I’ve met students that’ve find their way while in college, and to that I say, good. Everyone has their own path. Stay in school and find your way, because it’s your decision. Drop out of school and find your way, because it’s your decision. The life of my decisions begins and ends with me. In 2005 I did what was best for me. My parents couldn’t afford to pay for my education. The onus was and still is on me. I make my own decisions, and walk the walk thereafter.

Sting: If you had to do it again would you do anything differently, and if so what?

Brown: I wouldn’t change a thing. I work in Manhattan. I have my own place next to Prospect Park in Brooklyn. NY Times Best Selling authors, editors in the city, and emerging writers review my work weekly. I host a reading series, and read at public events. This is all a sum total of 10 years learning, falling, getting up, falling, and getting up again. I wouldn’t change a thing.



Randy's Foundation

Photos Courtesy of Randy Brown Jr.

[1] (From left to right) Randy Brown Jr, Dexter Jackson, and Sean Babb visiting home December 2004 during Winter break of their freshmen year. They all decided to drop out of college around the same time with plans of creating an event service company. **[2]** Randy Brown Jr. in August 2005 a month after he dropped out of college. **[3]** "The Warehouse" was a chicken coup turned event space located in the backyard of Sean's house where they held poetry cafes, dance parties, and other events in College Park, GA from 2006 – 2008. **[4]** A model built by Randy in his mother's basement of his vision of a Falcon's Stadium in March 2010 as he attended Georgia Military College. A few months later he was accepted into SPSU where he would go on to study Architecture.

ZTA Brings Breast Cancer Awareness to Campus

► by Ellen Kozee

Boobies. Milkshakes. Ta-tas. Whatever you want to call them, October isn't just a month for costumes and candy anymore; it's become an entire month dedicated to raising awareness for breast cancer and celebrating survivors. Not only will you begin to see the pink ribbons and ads cropping up on cars and on your Facebook feed, but you'll be able to see them right here on campus, thanks to the philanthropic efforts of Zeta Tau Alpha. According to philanthropy chair for ZTA, Alyssa Hojnowski, breast cancer affects 1 in every 8 women in the US, and 1 in every 4 cancers is breast cancer. It's not discriminatory, and can even affect men.

Breast Cancer Awareness month started when a breast cancer drug company, AstraZeneca, began a

cancer screening program within the company. They eventually collaborated with American Cancer Society. From originally campaigning for early detection through regular screenings, this partnership evolved into dedicating an entire month to promoting awareness, raising funds for research, and celebrating those who have survived breast cancer.

Alyssa and her ZTA sisters take the month of October seriously, aiming to educate the Kennesaw student body and raise awareness in our student population. For every week this month, you can find ZTA sisters decked out in their pink gear distributing the familiar "Think Pink" ribbons, as well as invaluable educational material to help students self-check their humps for lumps. During the last week in October, ZTA will have their

annual "Think Pink Week." Every day brings a new event to help spread awareness and raise money for breast cancer research.

Beginning with a fraternity competition, a tasty Chipotle fundraiser night, and a bake sale, students -- both Greek and non-Greek -- can enjoy and support ZTA's philanthropic cause. When you walk past their tent, make sure you drop by to get your "Think Pink" ribbon and information on the importance of self-checking for any signs of breast cancer. This is especially important, since early detection is key to cure! If you're less inclined to self-examine, you can catch ZTA partnering with KSU athletics for the "Think Pink" games through the athletic seasons.

As if this already wasn't neat



Pictured, from left to right: Mathews, Rachel Buckanan,



Kelly Herrera, Kathy Bonilla, Katie Connor, Hannah and Anna Rainwater. Photos by Emilie Wilhite



enough, ZTA goes above and beyond to reach out into the community to help raise awareness for breast cancer. "We have three huge sponsors," explains Hojnowski, "we have Bright Pink, American Cancer Society, and even the NFL." Since 1999, ZTA sisters have attended NFL games across the nation to distribute the ribbons and promote awareness, using the NFL sponsored campaign "A Crucial Catch," which emphasizes the importance of early detection.

ZTA also teams up with the American Cancer Society to sponsor and host awareness walks. This year, you can find ZTA on October 24th at Centennial Olympic Park for the Making Strides Walk for Survivors. Then, on October 31st, ZTA will be here in Cobb sponsoring the Making Strides Walk at Jim R. Miller Park. If walking isn't your thing, you can still donate to the cause or even volunteer. Both walks are free, and ask for donations only.

As you go about the month of October, enjoy the fall weather, the pumpkin spice lattes, and the Halloween parties, but don't forget that the pink ribbon on your backpack is more than just a ribbon; it's an enduring and powerful symbol of the fight that millions of women are enduring and that millions more have survived.

Don't Fall Into Depression

▶ by Cayla Howard



My favorite time of year is autumn. Fall is the time of the older, wiser individual. It's a strange relationship I have with this time of year, as the change of season brings about seasonal depression. The bittersweet feelings of looking back at times past are affected by the knowledge of the year coming closer to an end. It's no wonder so many people in higher latitudes suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Still, there are coping mechanisms that you can adopt to not let the shorter, colder days spent inside from bringing you down too much this fall.

Go outside!

I realize that not everyone enjoys the cooler weather, but throw on a jacket and some warm, fuzzy socks and go for a walk. You might not be soaking up the Sun for your vitamin D3 production, but being able to get fresh air will go a long way to helping you feel better about the Winter. Also, the walk serves a twofold purpose as it's no secret that many studies have directly linked exercise with increased levels of various "feel-good" chemicals that our bodies naturally produce. If vitamins are your thing, then ensure you're getting good D3 intake during Winter in lieu of showing skin.

Coffee Time: Which drink are you?

► by Cayla Howard

1. You're awake. What's the first thing you do?

- a. Check your emails, like the dutiful student you are.
- b. Read your Facebook news feed. What are your friends up to?
- c. Go back to bed (you've set like five alarms anyway).
- d. Have a philosophical debate with yourself about the redundancy of morning rituals.
- e. Realize you're already late. Scramble!

2. Time to get dressed! What are you wearing?

- a. Something simple, but nice.
- b. You're festive! Break out the scarves and knitted caps.
- c. Something comfortable. Yoga or sweatpants. Maybe a loose fitting sweater.

d. Your style fluctuates with your mood.

e. Whatever you slept in.

3. Breakfast time. You are eating...

- a. A bagel. Heavy on the cream cheese!
- b. Something filling & healthy.
- c. Something warm! Breakfast is your favorite meal.
- d. Nothing. You're not really a breakfast person.
- e. ... Like you haven't seen food in days, inhaling your pastry on your way to class.

4. Time to study. You are...

- a. Brushing up on material before class. You like to be prepared.
- b. Staring at your phone while stressing out over all the studying you're not actually doing.

c. Curled up in a comfy chair somewhere, catching up on missed work before class.

d. Sprawled out on the grass with your textbooks. You appreciate nice weather.

e. Crunching for that test in an hour that you haven't studied for at all.

5. It's time for class, you are...

- a. Early. You want a good seat.
- b. Sliding in as the lecture begins, hoping no one notices.
- c. On time. Your seat is in the back of the room, preferably a corner.
- d. Usually on time. You don't really care where you sit.
- e. Late, but only by a couple minutes. You immediately sit wherever there's a seat open.

6. Class is out! What are you doing?

- a. Eating. You're starved due to your insubstantial breakfast.
- b. Talking with your classmates. You're a people person.
- c. Heading home! Your pet misses you. And so does your TV.
- d. Going straight to the nearest snack food you can find to hold you over.
- e. Relaxing. You've been tackling projects all day and you're ready for a break.

7. You're hanging out with your friends. What are you doing?

- a. Something productive. You like to put your creative energy to use.
- b. Going somewhere with a good vibe to catch up with your friends. What have you missed?

- c. Chilling at your house. There's plenty of fun things to do at home.
- d. Something fun and hopefully new! You like change.
- e. Going out! You don't set plans for the night, you like to improvise.

8. It's getting late, you are...

- a. Turning in. You conquered today.
- b. Networking. Social networking that is.
- c. Getting sleepy. But that won't keep you from binging on Netflix all night now, will it?
- d. Wondering where the hell your day went.
- e. Getting ready! Adventure awaits and the night beckons.



Photos by Emilie Wilhite

Highly Scientific Quiz Results:

Mostly A: Black coffee—like your soul.

Simple, calm, focused. No frills, no fluff. You're not in a hurry, you have everything planned out. Like your coffee, you can fit in anywhere. Cream & flavoring can be added. You're not that boring.

Mostly B: Pumpkin Spice Latte

Pumpkin everything! You're a people person and most consider you to be fun, colorful, and festive.

Mostly C: Graham Cracker Latte

You're a creature of comfort. You're a person who desires comfort in all things—including your drink.

Mostly D: Salted Caramel Mocha

A bit of an eccentric, but also fun! You're put together, but you also like to try new things. An adventurer.

Mostly E: Iced Double Espresso, heavy on the cream!

The caffeine junky. You need caffeine & you need it now. It's time to cram for that quiz in an hour, as you stayed up a little too late.

**Don't like any of these drinks? Well that's okay, because they don't like you either.*



Photo by Alain Santos

Cheap Halloween Costumes

▶ by Joseph Lorren

Let's face it. We'll never outgrow dressing up for Halloween. Unfortunately, making costumes can get pretty expensive, especially for college students. After tuition, fees, books, gas, bills, and food, many of us are more or less broke. We can't exactly afford to entertain our inner-child every National Free Candy Day. And if we want to enter a costume contest, we're even more out of luck, because cheap costumes tend to suck.

Luckily for you, I was the kid with thrifty parents who made some really awesome costumes over the years. Maybe I can give you some tips on how to make an amazing Halloween costume without breaking the bank.

Zombie

Let's start with the first thing that comes to mind: zombies. Everybody loves zombies, and making a believable zombie costume is a lot easier than you'd think. I was a finalist in two different costume contests as a kid with our "cheap zombie kit."

First off, we'll start with the blood, because what's a zombie without any blood? You could mix syrup with food coloring, water, and baking soda, or you could even just use

Just run around in your underwear and wear a little makeup. Some stockings or fishnets wouldn't hurt, either.

straight up red food coloring and water. A little store-bought fake blood costs about the same, though, so it comes down to whether you want to go to the store or not. But if you need a lot of it, then just make your own. It'll save you a few bucks in the end.

With the blood taken care of, now you need some old, crappy clothes you can tear and cut up to your liking. One thing in particular we did was fill some brown pantyhose with cheap stuffing (about \$3) to resemble intestines. We sewed it into an old shirt, and, bam! Disemboweled zombie.

One time we took a plastic bone from the dollar store and cut it to jut out of a pair of pants. Prosthetic hanging eyes go for under \$10 at the party store, and sheets of fake scabs and cuts are a fun little extra if you've got another \$5. Feel free to use a little makeup for bruises, too.

Robot

If you want to be a robot, all you really need is a cardboard box or two (styrofoam is a good alternative to cardboard if you happen to have any laying around), some duct tape, and enough aluminum foil to cover everything. Gray or silver spray paint works just as well, too. Screens, buttons, and displays cut out of construction paper, as well as a few glow sticks, help bring it all together.

With a laser pointer in hand a good Arnold Schwarzenegger impression, you'll have all the kiddies running in fear. That or they'll pee themselves laughing.

Succubus

For a little more of a risqué party, the succubus is a crowd favorite, and it's a surprisingly easy costume: just run around in your underwear and wear a little makeup. Some stockings or fishnets wouldn't hurt, either.

But what about the wings? Those are expensive. Just get an old um-

brella and cut some wings out of it. Detailed guides on how to do this can be found online.

Get creative!

Of course, I could go on and on about countless costumes and how to make them cheap, but, ultimately, the only thing that'll limit you is your imagination and creativity. Want to be a skeleton? Paint yourself and your clothes. Stick figure? Paper plate face with a single line running down your chest and each appendage. Or how about an identity thief? Just wear a bunch of "my name is" stickers with different names on them.

To save on colored tights, just dye leggings with Kool-Aid. To be a piece of pizza, cover yourself in cardboard and construction paper. An old coat hanger and a plastic tiara make a great cobweb crown. The possibilities truly are endless. Just take a look around your house, and watch as cardboard magically turns into a perpetual source of inspiration.

Welcome to being a kid again.

October/November Horoscopes

► by Gwynneth Shipley

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)



Check your golden scales, regal libra, because right now is your time to shine. Get yourself that gift you've been eyeing or start planning that European vacay. You deserve it and, come November, a new job, promotion or pleasant financial surprise is coming your way. Don't go to crazy, but let yourself have a little fun. If you are in a bad relationship, now is the time for you to set yourself free. Your confidence is unstoppable.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



With Mercury in retrograde, it might be time for you to let go until mid October. You can't control everything around you, so put your stinger away and focus on yourself. Do a little fall cleaning to clear your head before your birthday celebrations commence. After your personal new year begins, use your fresh energy to join a new club or start a new project. If you're single, let love come to you, at least until November.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



Mercury may be in retrograde, but you sure aren't! While most other signs are stumbling through technological blunders, it looks like you've gotten all of their electric luck! Now is a perfect time to dive into that Adobe program you've been putting off or to brush up on your coding skills. Your career might be on the upswing, too, but be wary of some workplace flirting getting in the way. Maybe try your impeccable aim playing Cupid for someone else in November, sweet Archer!

Capricorn

(Dec. 23-Jan. 19)



October and November are prime for hard work and social networking. The time is right for interviews, as you are at your most charming and ambitious. Don't forget to take some time to relax, though, as you have the tendency to spread yourself a little thin. You'll get the bug to start something new around the beginning of November so go with it! Whether it's a new relationship or an entrepreneurial effort, it's time to jump right in.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



It's time for you to grow and travel and flow like water, Aquarian! If you can find a way to travel for cheap or free, now is the time to start looking. Try applying to study, house sit or teach abroad. You'll be surprised at the places it may take you. Jealousy could be an issue in your love life this November, so be sure to check yourself before making any irrational claims, accusations or decisions.

Aries

(Mar. 21-Apr. 19)



Someone from your past might come back to surprise you in a GOOD way! Give them a second chance and see what happens. Don't be afraid to try an edgier look by the end of October, Aries. Maybe it's time to show your horns this Halloween! You could be given a big chance at work in November so don't blow it! Not that you could. Your co-workers have just as much faith in you as I do!

Gemini

(May 21-Jun 20)



You're twin emotions will be running high and low this month, Gemini. Don't feel bad about it, though. Embrace the attention you will receive while acting out, just try not to say anything you'll regret. A new development may pop up in love towards the end of October so be on the lookout! Anything from an ex-lover popping back up to taking the next step with your someone special. Be open to new possibilities!

Leo

(Jul 23-Aug 22)



It's time for you to be in the spotlight, my social little lion! Not that that's anything new, but you'll be the one in charge of social gatherings and events for October and November. It should come naturally, but someone may miss your message so be sure you are very clear! You could find a new bestie or even a new...something else...in someone you already know towards the end of October. Just have fun over the holidays, Leo!

Pisces

(Feb. 19-Mar. 20)



Now might be the time for a serious commitment, little fishies! You now have the confidence boost you need to tell everyone what you want and how you feel. Do it before the chance is gone and jump in with all you have. I see a power couple in your future. This could be the perfect travel companion you've been seeking. Buy two tickets to anywhere, I promise you won't regret it!

Taurus

(Apr. 20-May 20)



It's time to get moving and get healthy, Taurus! It should also be easy for you to get a little more organized at work and at home by the end of October. Try to keep distractions like social media at bay while you get your life in order and don't be afraid to ask for help. I know you can be a stubborn bull, but that won't get you very far this month. It's time to get creative in your love life, too. Find a fun new place to take your partner or try something different if you're in the market for someone new!

Cancer

(Jun 21-Jul 22)



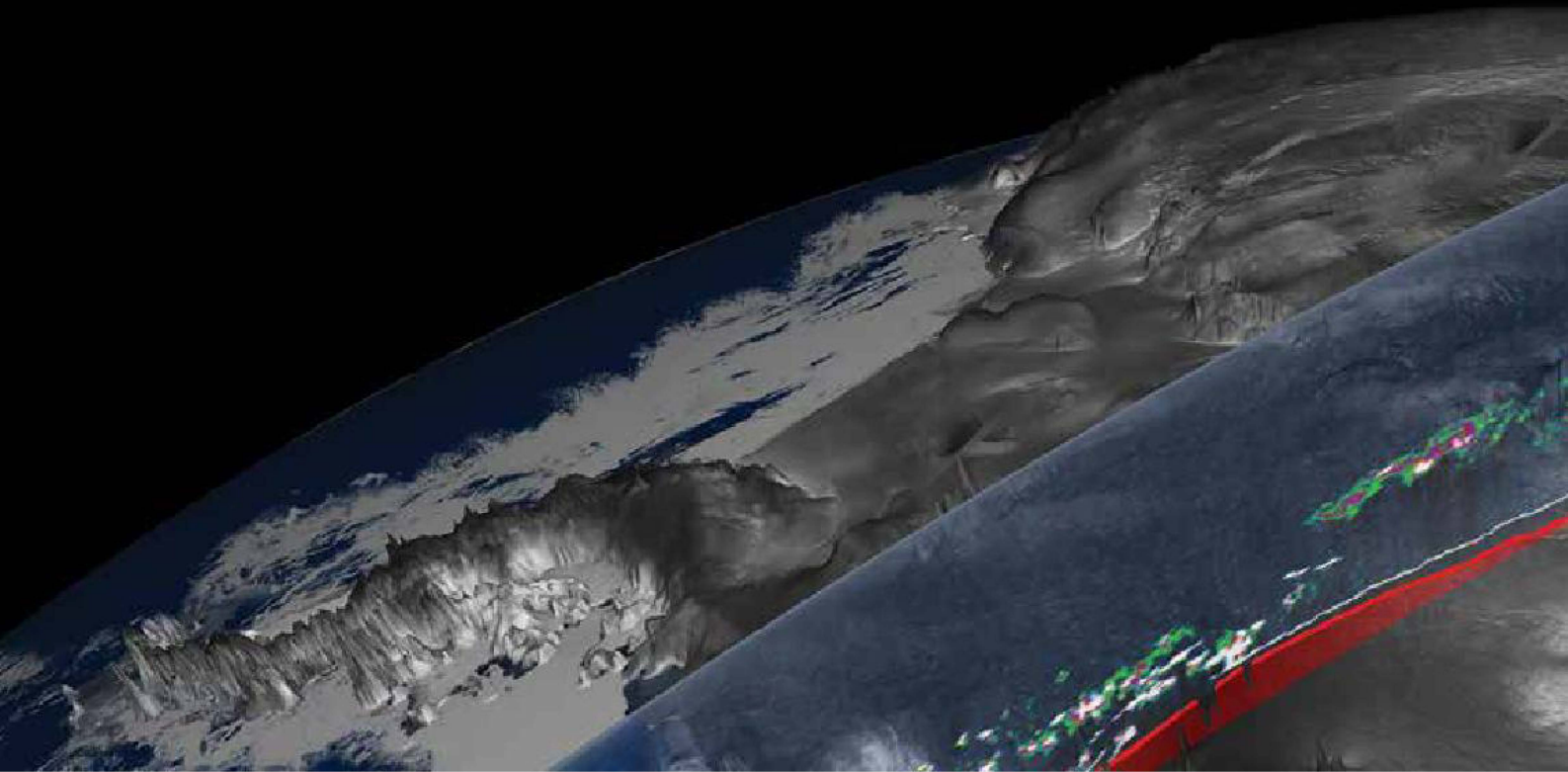
We know you're a homebody, Crab, and don't feel bad about it in October. Make your house a home with some much needed improvements or redecorations...then throw a party! Make your friends and fam come to you for a change and show off your new swanky pad. You could have luck in casual dating, which isn't normally a shy Cancer's scene. If you don't feel like taking a chance, watch out for that friend that you never really thought about like that before. It might be time for them to surprise you.

Virgo

(Aug 23-Sep 22)



You are quite the social butterfly through October and November, Virgo! You might meet your match soon, but you may be afraid they are too good for you. Don't sell yourself short, you deserve whatever you get. You'll also be working hard at your job and if you keep it up, it will pay off. Don't be afraid if a job offer far way lands in your lap. It just might be the change you've been waiting for.



GIS Day 2015

▶ by Gwynneth Shipley

It's that time of year again, folks! GIS Day is coming up fast and, as KSU has one of the largest celebrations in the country, it's something you don't want to miss.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is a growing and specialized field and GIS Day is an international event celebrating its practices. I spoke to GIS Alum and Cartographer for Quantum Spatial,

Rebecca Mattord, and asked her to explain the program and field in her own words.

"GIS is both a tool and a concept. As a tool, GIS is the ultimate way to manage spatial data. GIS, in the conceptual sense, helps us manage relationships in the world around us. Everything is related to something else, somewhere, and GIS allows us to



**KSU GIS Day
November 18, 6:30-10pm
Burnt Hickory Brewery
2260 Moon Station Ct NW
#210
Kennesaw, GA 30144**

create, manipulate and distinguish these relationships in order to visualize our data and fashion a trend or a solution, to make a discovery, or to prove a point.”

If you are interested in geography, geo-sciences of any type or even computer programming, you’ll want to check out the small and incredibly successful KSU GIS program and this exciting event.

For the third year, Kennesaw State’s GIS Day celebration is being held at Burnt Hickory Brewery, but all ages are welcome to attend. There will be contests with prizes, food and drinks will be provided, and you can enjoy some delicious local brews for a small fee.

It’s a great career opportunity, not only for GIS students, but for anybody in a technology

field. Multiple companies and organizations will be in attendance, making GIS day not only a fun experience, but a great networking event as well. Susan Miller, Head of the Georgia Geospatial Information Office (GIO), will be speaking and you’ll get the chance to mingle with representatives from the GIO, Quantum Spatial, Critigen, URISA, Clearion Software and more.

Path of Exile Review

▶ by Matt Dinoff

You wash up on shore, broken branches around you. You wake up and look to your right, there is a man who just woke up next to you. The man starts to speak, "Where are we?" Then, a 'drowned' comes back to life and attacks the other exile next to you. Will you fight it or run before turns on you?

Path of Exile is a rogue like RPG that loves to punish you. Created by Grinding Gear Games, a fitting name for a developer making a game like Path of Exile. Based in New Zealand, Grinding Gear Games has said Path of Exile is a game that they wanted to play.

Path of Exile touts a massive online item economy, with competitive PvP, 'ladder races' and a wild amount of character customization with the absolutely massive passive skill tree.

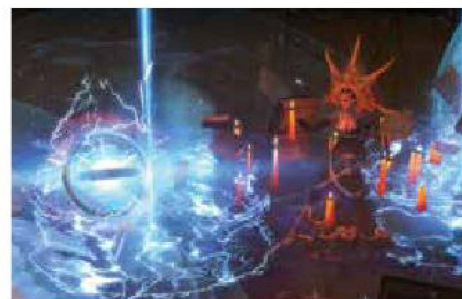
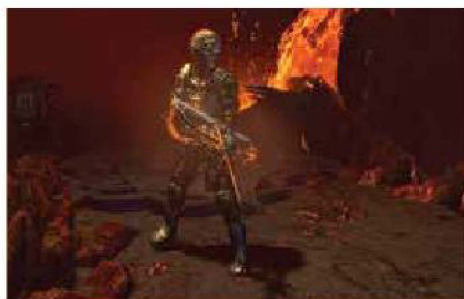
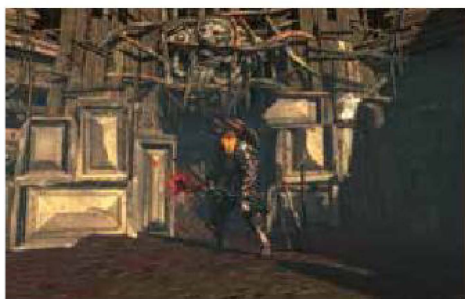
There are a few classes to choose from in the beginning: Marauder, which builds off strength, Ranger, which builds off Dexterity, Witch, builds off Intelligence,



4 / 5

RATING





Duelist, (Strength and Dexterity), Templar, (Strength and Intelligence), and the Shadow, (Dexterity and Intelligence). Depending on the class, players will build accordingly. For instance a Witch, wouldn't want to build full strength since it wouldn't benefit her as much as building into intelligence would.

The game play is definitely a rogue like RPG. Players run around on maps trying to clear the monsters in order to level up their skills and their skill gems. PoE uses an interesting item system, where items have stats as well as having colored 'slots' for players to put their ability gem. As players use the abilities, they level up.

I absolutely fell in love with the game. I played on the harder difficulty since my friends told me you get better items on the harder difficulty. Each month or so there is a new 'league' where players would start as a brand new character and work their way through the game in search for better items. The new leagues can last anywhere from an hour to a few months. These are separate game worlds than a player's 'main' character resides.

However, there is a catch. A catch that I absolutely hate. If you start on the harder difficulty(or in the newest 'league') and you are killed, your character, no matter what level or where it is in the game, is forcibly moved down to the 'standard' league.

While my friends were waaaaay ahead of me and had a few characters already, I was unable to pass the first few 'acts' in the game. I could have continued to play on standard but found out that there was no one in that league. Playing a multi-player game without anyone to play with, got boring pretty fast and the struggle to live and keep dying was too devastating for me.

I would rate Path of Exile, however difficult it is, a solid 4 out of 5. Fun game-play but still very challenging.

Nostalgia: The Legend Of Zelda: Oracle Of Seasons

► by Robert Shonfelt

For every gamer, there is a first game played. For the majority of us, hearing the name of that game brings back warm memories of our childhood and spending countless hours immersed in another universe. I set out to find someone who still had their first game, to ask them why it's so special. After getting lucky with a Yik-Yak post on the Marietta campus I found myself sitting down with Nathan Matson, a Mechanical Engineering major, to talk about The Legend Of Zelda: Oracle of Seasons.

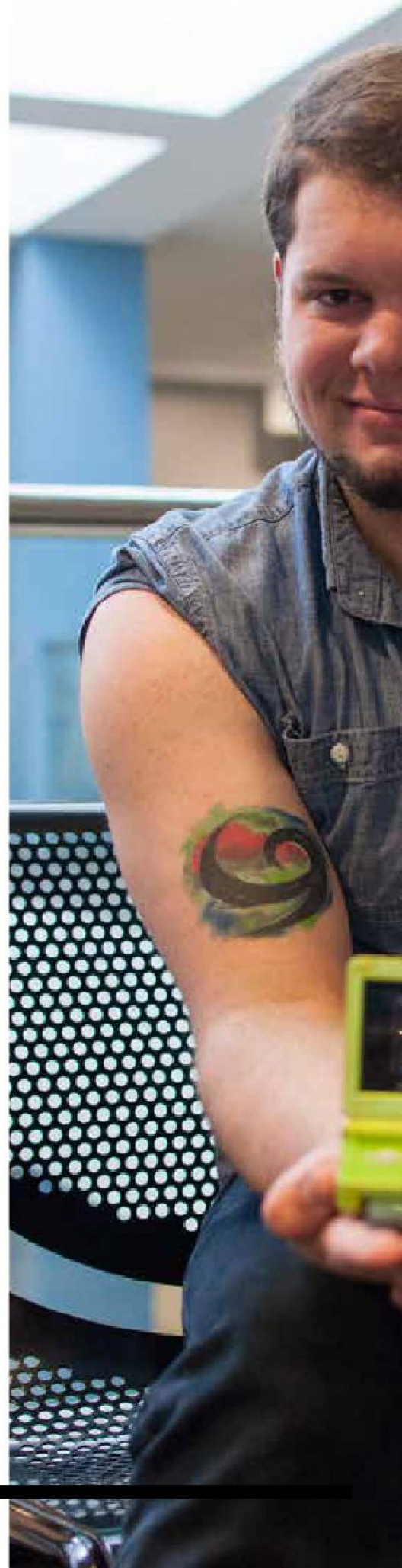




Photo by Alain Santos

“ It means a lot because I’m a huge Zelda fan. It was the first game to get me into the Zelda franchise. ”

Robert Shonfelt: How old were you when you first played this game?

Nathan Matson: I think I was 8

RS: Do you still play it?

NM: Yes, I have it, right here with me.

RS: Awesome! How often do you think you play this game?

NM: I play it about once a week

RS: How many hours do you think you’ve played this game since you got it?

NM: It’s gotta be at least in the five to six thousand range. I’ve 100% [completed] it a couple of times. I’ve removed the battery and replaced a couple times.

RS: What does this game mean to you?

NM: It means a lot because I’m a huge Zelda fan. It was the first game to get me into the Zelda, to really open me up to the franchise and what it’s about. It represents the vast majority of Zelda in my childhood. 🍷



RS: Why do you like this game in particular so much?

NM: Because it was my first Zelda game, I got it for Christmas from my parents with my first Gameboy. It was a Gameboy color, clear blue, and it was awesome.

RS: What is the best memory you have of playing this game?

NM: Well my cousin has [The Legend of Zelda:] Oracle of Ages. So during Christmas we would just sit there and play a file on of the games, swap after a little while, play a file on the other game. For a couple of months we were just swapping back and forth completing multiple files on both games.

RS: What is your tattoo and why did you get it?

NM: So this is the symbol for the Kokiri tribe and one of its first well known showcases is in Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. And the reason that I picked it is that I didn't want to go with something so common as a Zelda tattoo, something that's just to express that I love Zelda, I wanted something deeper than that.

And I picked this symbol because it represents a tribe of people that are forever children. However, even though they're forever children they still grow up to be very mature and become sages. So it's a reminder that no matter how old I get, and no matter what I go through, that I need to stay young at heart and true to my roots. Grow old and gain wisdom, but never forget how to be a kid.

Game Info

The Legend of Zelda: Oracle of Seasons was released in 2001. Developed by Capcom and published by Nintendo, it sold nearly 4 million copies with very positive reception, earning an aggregate review score of 91.5 according to GameRankings.com. It is a single player, top down perspective adventure game following a protagonist by the name of Link. Link must explore the game world to discover items hidden inside various dungeons in order to solve puzzles and save the kingdom. It was released alongside The Legend of Zelda: Oracle of Ages and upon completing both games, a main plot connecting both games stories is revealed to the player.



Photos by Alain Santos



Brave New Worlds

▶ by Matthew Canada

The T.V. screen became a portal into a new world, and I found myself entering through it every moment I was allowed.

A plumber, wearing overalls and a red hat, throwing fireballs, and flying through space is no extraordinary event in today's society - in fact, it's iconic.

Video games have opened up the possibility to introduce other worlds to millions of people in new and exciting ways. What started out as a small dot bouncing back and forth between two paddles, has evolved into many different forms of graphical wonders that suck users into other-worldly experiences. It is this reality in today's society that begs the question: Where are we as gamers, and where are we going?

When I was four years old I experienced my first game on the Super Nintendo: Secret of Mana. The T.V. screen became a portal into a new world, and I found myself entering through it every moment I was allowed. As time went on, I found portals to other new worlds, and I did everything within my limited power to increase my time within those fantastical places. As I grew older, time also brought with it better visuals, and only served to increase my appetite for more of these wonderful worlds. It wasn't until I reached my twenties that I began to question whether or not I was spending too much of my time in these alternate realities.

For so long, these other worlds had been my safety net; a place where I could come and escape from life. It became commonplace for me to find my identity within these other worlds, and I started to lose concern for what was happening outside of them. Now I know this is the extreme case that I found myself in, but I dare say that it is the case for more gamers in today's society than a lot of people would like to admit. ➔





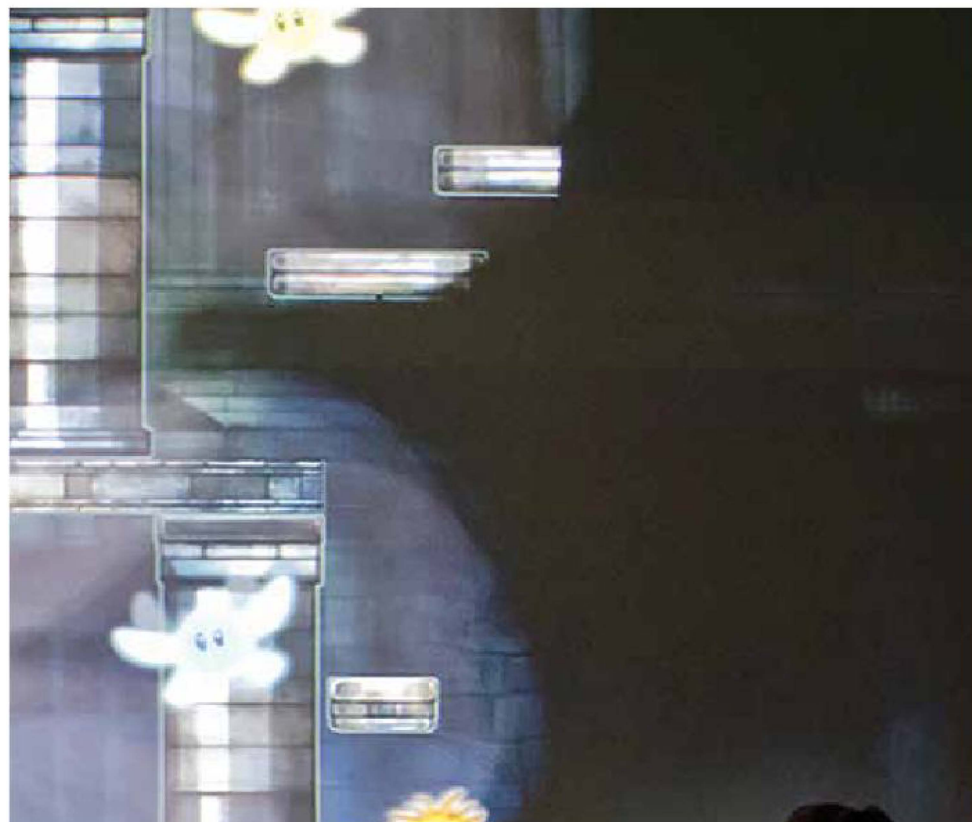
This concept of escaping from reality is nothing new, but the opportunities to do so have greatly increased. With the growing popularity of video games, and the rate with which they advance, gamers will only have more ways to escape. The promise of virtual reality alone should raise alert to this possibility.

Now, I am still an advocate for art,

and I still believe that video games provide the best medium for artists to share what's in their minds with the world, but I feel obligated to provide this word of caution: video games are advancing, while gamers are getting lost. Games like World of Warcraft steal away relationships simply because one human neglects the other for more time in the video game. While this may seem harmless

or funny now, the seriousness will become more tangible once loved ones pass away without ever being noticed, or children grow up feeling neglected after falling second to a virtual world.

If society now is losing this unspoken, unnoticed battle, then what happens when virtual reality worlds are more fun, or more entertaining



than the real world in every aspect. There is a physical world, filled with physical people that needs to be taken care of, and spending time in a far off, virtual land has yet to prove advantageous on that front.

I know that got really serious, really fast, but I believe it needs to be said. Video games are amazing, and the advances that they are making

are astounding. However, there is a danger to them, and it seems to be overlooked for the most part. So, to the gamers out there, enjoy being the heroes and villains of these alternate realities, but please, take time to focus on the needs within the physical world. Spend time with loved ones. Go on an adventure where the rewards can be felt by human hands. Spend time thinking

about what games are, and how they affect the mind, and then share that with other humans who love those same games. There is a lot that this life has to offer other than portals to virtual worlds, and I am here to say that it is worth investing some time into.

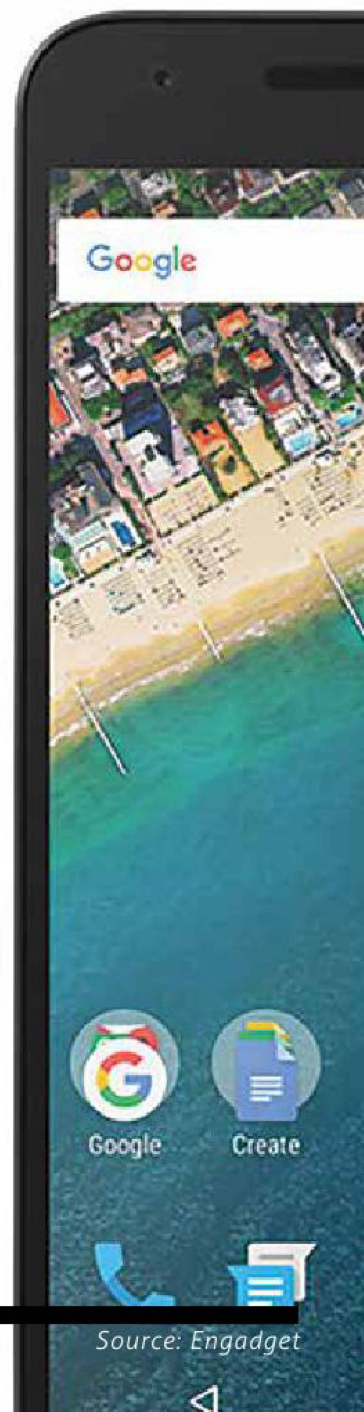
Google's Technological Takeover: Google's Nexus and Android Conference

▶ by Matt Dinoff

On September 29th, Google announced devices and services on how they will take over the world...your world. With powerful new phones, a changed Chromecast device, a new tablet that defies gravity, and improved Google Music and Photo services, this new wave of Technology will make you a devout 'Googlian'.

First up is the new chromecast device

They reinvented the device's shape to match their Chrome logo's circular shape and with new colors, in black, red and yellow. It hooks into your HDMI port, just like the older version, and has been said to have better WiFi connectivity.




Source: Engadget



It uses a chip that constantly determines which WiFi signal is the strongest, to give you the fastest connection. It's coupled with a Chromecast App and Chromecast Audio that furthers the device's reach to media, music and apps.

Chromecast is available for \$35.

Next, is the Pixel C, android's answer to the Microsoft Surface line of products.

With a 10.2 inch screen the device runs on Android Marshmallow and is the first tablet google has designed in-house. It is a tablet with a full bluetooth magnetic keyboard add-on, letting you angle the tablet comfortably. The magnetic attachment of the 

“Are you ready for the Google Takeover?”

keyboard lets you store it under the tablet and while the device is closed, it charges the keyboard. The tablet itself touts 308 PPI (Pixel Per Inch), sRGB color gamut, a nVidia Maxwell processor and 3GB of memory. The Pixel C runs on the new USB type C connector for lightning fast charging.

The keyboard add-on is \$150, while the 32GB Tablet will be \$499 and the 64GB will be \$599.

Two new phones were revealed at the Event the Nexus 5x and the Nexus 6P.

Coming out in late October, the Nexus 5x is a new smartphone





made by LG. There will be a 16GB and 32GB version coming in black, white and ice blue. The Nexus 5x runs on Marshmallow 6.0, uses the new USB type C port and will have a fingerprint sensor on the back for instant and secure access. It boasts a 5.2 inch screen.

Specs:

- Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 CPU
- 2GB of RAM
- 12.3MP rear camera capable

of shooting 4K video

laser assisted autofocus and dual flashes

The Nexus 5x will run starting at \$379

The second phone revealed was the Nexus 6P, also coming out late October and running on Marshmallow 6.0. This phone has a 5.7 screen with 1440p Resolution with 518 pixel per inch. It also has a fingerprint sensor and an aluminium body. Also, runs with the USB Type-C connectivity.

More Specs

- 12.3 megapixel back camera with laser assisted autofocus
- 8 megapixel front facing camera (can capture photos at 30 frames /sec and 4K video)
- Snapdragon 810 v2.1 processor w/ 3GB of RAM

The Nexus 6P will be available in 32GB, 64GB and 128GB. Starting at \$499.

The Latest in Smartphones: iPhone 6S

▶ by Alain Santos

“ **New specs,
same old
look.** ”

Photo by Alain Santos

Apple began sales for the new iPhone with pre-orders beginning as early as September 12. Then, the newly released iPhone 6S made its debut on September 25, 2015 hitting Apple stores all over the world. Considering how polished Apple's line of iPhones have been, they think they can do better. What could they have changed on the latest in their iPhone line up?

Retaining the same design from the previous iPhone 6, Apple has made some significant changes to their new model. The iPhone 6S received a structural overhaul using 7000-series aluminum for the chas-



sis, Apple's answer to "bend gate" from the iPhone 6. The new chassis is significantly more robust than the iPhone 6 and noticeably heavier as well.

The extra weight from the iPhone comes from Apple's 3D Touch display that adds an entirely new dimension of interactions and information to iOS. Instead of creating a larger screen, Apple has decided that they needed to go deeper. 3D Touch is a continuation from Apple's Force Touch. Force Touch is a dynamic feature that enables users to use pressure sensitive touch to enable quick actions to supported applications. It also allows for users to quickly

preview photos, e-mails, and messages. Currently, 3D Touch is limited to Apple's native iOS applications, but it will be only a matter of time until developers tap into the potential of 3D Touch.

The iPhone's camera has always been a great performer in well lit to low light conditions. It's always snappy and responsive. But, unlike the iPhone 6, the iPhone 6S cameras have received considerable upgrades. The 6S now features a 12 megapixel rear-facing camera, and an 5 megapixel front-facing camera. The upgrade from the 6's front-facing camera at 1.2 megapixels to 5 megapixels on the 6S is a huge deal,

considering how selfies, snapchats, and video chats are being a part of modern communication. In addition, the inclusion of a 12 megapixel camera now allows for 4K video recording. Apple is also including another photo feature called Live Photos. Live Photos takes a quick 1.5 second video, creating a small snippet before and after taking a photo. Live Photos is a great feature, as long as you remember to keep you camera on the subject.

The S in 6S stands for speed right? The new iPhone 6S features Apple's A9 processor, which Apple claims to be twice as fast as last generation's A8 chip. Supposedly, 🚫





Apple has also increased the RAM from 1GB to 2GB. The new speed can also be noticed by hardware improvements in the Touch ID sensor for faster recognition.

The iPhone 6S is the greatest iPhone Apple has made yet. It's now also possible for you to lease the iPhone 6S for \$27 a month in order to upgrade to the latest iPhone every year through Apple's iPhone Upgrade Program. As a result, this program will slowly start to phase out 2-year contracts with mobile carriers in favor of having custom-

ers obtain the latest and greatest despite the financial cost.

2015 was a very peculiar year for the iPhone. The 6S is the best that it can be. With its release came an upgraded iPhone, seeing that all S-models follow the same pattern. The iPhone features an improved performance, better cameras, and a dynamic pressure sensitive screen. With the introduction of Apple's iPhone Upgrade Program, it now also entitles customers to upgrade to the latest iPhone every year. Which, ironically, battles the creation of

iPhone S-models.

If you're sitting with the iPhone 6 or 6 plus, pulling the trigger on the iPhone 6S will only yield an incremental upgrade. Considering how unrefined 3D Touch is, it'll take a while for developers to fully capture its potential. And when that happens, it'll be time to buy an iPhone 7.



#OwlPride : A New Chapter in KSU History

► by Carson Long

How many of us have spent Saturdays with family and friends cheering for college teams on the TV screen? Who has spent their time following these huge schools across the nation, whose teams looked ready to play at the pro level? The stands were filled with fans showing team colors and cheering on their college. As a Kennesaw State student, I never imagined that my school could be on the screen one day. Much less, that thousands of students and fans would show up and fill stadiums with their support.

There might have been plenty of people who had the same thoughts



as I did five years ago, but things are different now. KSU has developed an incredible football program from scratch and has already proven that they are a force to be reckoned with. The Kennesaw Owls average a staggering 39.75 points a game while restricting their opponents to an average of only 16 points. Our offense boasts 17 touchdowns while only holding their opponents to 4 offensive touchdowns over the entire season!

Even if football doesn't interest you, you should come to the stadium for the tailgating community! Tailgating has become extremely popular among the students and fans

of the team. Before the football game starts, a large crowd can be found in the parking lot grilling food, playing games, and hanging out. Some people even prefer the tailgating experience over the games! So grab some friends and come support your team!

The student support for the Owls has been phenomenal. Home football games have been sold out and filled with the black and gold of the proud Owl fans. As a school that just finished a merger, the football games have been a source of common pride between the two former schools. Senior Bobby Kemmer says that he is more proud of his school and the

football team makes the school have an entirely new atmosphere. Bobby also claims that there's a new school spirit around KSU that makes him proud to wear the black and gold colors.

Not only are the students excited about the football team, but Kennesaw as a whole is behind the team. It is apparent that the football team has a strong fan base and is rooting for them. If they keep playing as well as they have been, the black and gold community will grow and continue to support the team. The students and community are both excited to see what the Owls will do over the next few years!

I feel like my attire was representative of fall fashion because of the neutral colors, the cardigan, the hat and the boots. When I think of fall fashion that's what I see. When considering fall, the colors that I look out for are burgundy, orange and brown. And my favorite article of clothing for Fall would be... I love them all! Although if I had to choose it would have to be hats.

KSU
PEOPLE

Jasmine Miller

Junior
Biology Major

A photograph of a person's hand touching a tree trunk covered in vines. The background is a blurred forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The hand is wearing a red sleeve and a silver watch.

Fall Fashion

► by Alain Santos

Summer is passing us by and fall is right around the corner. That time of year is coming around where we ditch flip flops and shorts in exchange for sweater weather, chilly afternoons, and boots. Although, fall alone is one of the best seasons for fashion. The reason being, is that it's a great time of year for those who love to layer up. Some love going for a rugged, outdoors look, hinting with subtle elements such as field jackets and vests. And others go for a more contemporary and street inspired look. This Fall Fashion section is a glimpse of the Kennesaw State student body, their take on fall fashion, and what it means to them. I also envisioned this Fall Fashion section as a way to possibly inspire your own wardrobe with seasonal elements from a selection of Fall ambassadors.



Fall is a funky time of year where the mornings and evenings get really cool but it can really warm up during the day. My outfit works for those early mornings, but if it heats up you just take the vest off to cool down. And my favorite article in my wardrobe is my shirt and the rolled up sleeves and jeans are also pretty representative of the daily fluctuating temperature. Although I prefer to keep things rolled, if it really gets too cold you can always roll them down for some extra warmth!



Breanna Gleeson
Junior
Civil Engineering Major



“ I think fall fashion should consist of lots of browns and dark colors like burgundy and military green as those really represent fall to me. My attire contains a mix of those colors. My favorite article of clothing for the fall would have to be sweaters because you can just put them on and they look good with anything! ”



Chicoiya Taylor
Junior
Education Major

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