

Winter 2025



KEISER  
UNIVERSITY

Sarasota

# THE KEISER CONNECTION



## IMPORTANT TERM DATES:

TERM A.....1/13/25

TERM B.....2/10/25

TERM C.....3/10/25

TERM D.....4/7/25

## HOLIDAYS:

MLK JR. DAY.....1/20/25

VALENTINE'S DAY.....2/14/25

PRESIDENT'S DAY.....2/17/25

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- What's been happening at KU Sarasota?
- Student & Staff Spotlight
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# A Message from Dr. Morgan



NEW & EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

WELCOME  
TO  
2025!

WOW, how time flies. It seems like it only yesterday I was packing up our tabletop Easter Bunny decorations at home to put them away, and here we are having already put Christmas decorations back in the storage closet for another year. How is that even possible?

With each passing year flying by us, it's easy to just go thru the motions of another day, another week, another year. But, instead of doing that this year, I urge you to take a moment to appreciate and **be present now**. *Present in class, present at home, present with family, present with friends*. Presence is the new craveable attribute. It's hard to come by but so appreciated when found.

The likelihood of entering a room and finding most people with their head down looking aimlessly at their phone avoiding eye contact or human interaction is astounding. At the same time, Americans are reporting loneliness in staggering numbers. One study notes that almost half, or 47%, of Americans report feelings of loneliness. While another equates social isolation as having negative health impacts equivalent to that of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Now, don't let me bring you down with these recent facts. No. Instead let them inspire you to do something different in 2025. If almost half of Americans report feelings of loneliness, chances are you are in a room with at least one of them. **Look around you and engage. Be present. Be social. You never know who will benefit greatly from you and your presence in their life at this very moment.**



# What's been happening at KU Sarasota?



STUDENTS CELEBRATED CONSTITUTION WEEK WITH A PANCAKE BREAKFAST, GIVEAWAYS, TREATS, TRIVIA AND RYAN'S COFFEE HOUSE COFFEE TRUCK!





# What's been happening at KU Sarasota?



HALLOWEEN AND  
SCARE FAIR WERE  
A HUGE HIT AND  
SO MUCH FUN!  
THE COSTUMES  
WERE AMAZING!





# What's been happening at KU Sarasota?

OUR ASN, BSN AND RT PROGRAMS ALL CELEBRATED  
THEIR GRADUATES WITH PINNING CEREMONIES!





# Sarasota Seahawk Student Spotlight

## VANESSA PEREZ:

Vanessa is one of the newest recipients of the Kosloski Family Foundation Radiological Technologist Scholarships! When asked about her journey with her program and with Keiser University, this is what she said:

What inspired you to pursue your current major?

From a young age, I've always wanted to be part of the medical field in some way because helping others has always been a passion of mine. When I started learning more about the Radiology Technology program, I knew it was the career path meant for me, a calling I truly believe God placed on my heart. I've always been fascinated by the anatomy of the skeletal system, and being able to see it in action and work with it in real time is both exciting and fulfilling.

How do you stay motivated and focused on your long-term goals?

My two children, Savannah, who is seven, and Saviour, who is five, have completely changed my perspective and given me a sense of purpose like never before. They are my daily inspiration, pushing me to stay focused and finish what I started years ago. The thought of being able to provide for them both financially and emotionally keeps me going, even on the hardest days. Every morning, I remind myself of the bigger picture: completing this radiology technology program and becoming the best radiologic technologist I can be, the kind of professional any organization would value and respect.

What does the scholarship you won mean to you?

Receiving this scholarship has been a humbling and eye-opening experience. I never imagined I would be chosen for something like this, and it feels like such an incredible blessing. It's made a huge difference in easing my financial worries, taking a significant weight off my shoulders. This support means so much to me, and it allows me to fully focus on my education and my goals for the future.

If you could give one piece of advice to your first-day self, what would it be?

If I could go back and give myself advice on the first day of the radiology program, I'd say, "Relax. Trust that everything will fall into place the way it's meant to." I'd remind myself to stay focused, not let anyone or anything interfere with my studies, and to use this time to grow and be the best version of myself. Everything is going to work out just keep pushing forward.





## *Staff Spotlight: Testing Coordinator, Chris Doucakis*

A native of the Boston area, Chris Doucakis brings a vibrant energy and dynamic personality to his new role as Testing Coordinator at Keiser University. He holds a degree in Communications from Emerson College and boasts a wealth of experience across multiple industries.

Chris's professional journey includes work in radio, where he held on-air roles and also tested equipment for Prometric, a leading testing company. Additionally, he has served as a Test Coordinator for a county Election Office and worked at two higher education institutions within the Admissions Department and the Office of the Registrar.

Known for his approachable and outgoing personality, Chris is committed to supporting students throughout their academic journey at Keiser University. With firsthand experience navigating the challenges that students face, he is always eager to assist and provide guidance in any way possible!

Outside of his professional endeavors, Chris is an avid Beatles fan and works as an event DJ, providing music for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, fundraisers, and more. He is always open to hearing about students' favorite music and enjoys engaging in conversations about the diverse world of music!





# *A note from: Geoff Stam*



## A FINANCIAL RESET FOR 2025

Hello 2025! While we set our financial sights on a new year, we continue to see everything from eggs, to gasoline, to clothing, to our electric bill cost us more money. Our dollar seems to cover less and less. With that in mind, how do we make the money we have stretch further?

It's time to re-evaluate and reset our budget. We don't necessarily have to cut out or down on everything we do, but where can we make some adjustments to make sure everything we need to cover financially is handled.

Wondering where to start? Begin with the Short-Term Financial Goals. These goals typically are less complicated to complete and generally more manageable. Anything from saving for an emergency fund, paying down a credit card or other debt, saving for a special item, or making sure you are breaking-even at the end of the month/budgeting period. Your goals depend on your personal (family) financial status. Create these goals with the SMART principles in mind to set you on your path.



## *A note from: Geoff Stam*

The SMART principles:

Specific – very clearly defined;

Measurable – has check-points to show progress;

Attainable – a goal that you can complete and is not out of reach;

Relevant – goal is yours (and your family's) and important to your financial health;

Time-Framed – you have a time to complete it (3 months, 6 months, 12 months).

Next, determine your income, identify expenses (ALL of them), and create a simple budget. This is your roadmap to completing your financial objectives. View your budget as a guide to your money and not a restrictive document. A way for you to tell your money what to do versus wondering what happened to it all. But don't forget to treat yourself (even if it's a small treat) within your budget. Your short-term goals should drive this budget.

If you've never created a budget before, it might be frustrating initially and the first attempt may not be successful, and that's okay. If you learn from the mistakes and apply them to the next budget, it will be more effective. Plus, there are plenty of FREE tools available to take advantage of that can assist you along the way.

It's not a document set in stone, it will change and refine itself over time. The more you use it, the more effective the budget will become, and you will see your goals nearing completion.



# *A note from: Geoff Stam*

Here are some sites to help:

<https://www.google.com/sheets/about/>

<https://mint.intuit.com/>

<https://goodbudget.com/>

<https://www.rocketmoney.com/>

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/everydollar/budgeting>

<https://portal.iontuition.com>

Focus on the positive that comes from any of the financial goals you have achieved! Don't let your mistakes stop you from trying to realize financial success, learn from them. Every goal you reach will help you move on to the next goal and the next. With some work, determination, and perseverance, you can make 2023 a financial success!

## **Attention Student Loan Borrowers!**

If you hold federal direct Unsubsidized loans, interest will start to accrue on those loans from the time they are disbursed. Federal direct Subsidized loans will continue to have interest paid by the federal government while you remain a student above ½ time (in-school deferment) or are on a deferment period such as grace period.

Please register for the free website <https://portal.iontuition.com> to track your loans; know your servicer, review interest rates and accrual as it restarts, understand repayment plans/options, as well as deferment, forbearance, and consolidation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional assistance. I can be reached at (904) 238-3099, or [gstam@keiseruniversity.edu](mailto:gstam@keiseruniversity.edu)



# Esports Season RECAP

## Call of Duty

In order to stay competitive with universities that have much larger enrollment numbers than ours, we combine forces with other Keiser eSports programs (Pembroke Pines, Jacksonville, Daytona, Lakeland, New Port Richey) and form a “cross-campus” team. Brandon “Osiris” Gallart and Austin “Zodi” Sales were representing the Sarasota campus and made-up half of the four-man roster.

The team competed in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) where they cruised to a 7-1 overall record in the regular season. The lone loss came at the hands of in-state rival Florida Atlantic University. In the quarterfinals of playoffs, we swept New England Institute of Technology 3-0, followed by a 3-0 victory over Fisher College in the semifinals. The stage was set – we would play Florida Atlantic University for the ECAC championship! This time around, we got the better of them in a 3-1 victory and were crowned champions!



Captain Austin Sales had this to say about the team’s performance, “hard work and trust got us to a championship in the fall.” Looking ahead, the Call of Duty team will compete in the Collegiate Call of Duty League (CCL) this spring and hope to build on last year’s results, “we were the best college Call of Duty team in Florida last year, and we want to cement that status and more in the spring.”



# Esports Season RECAP

## Rocket League

After acquiring two of Florida's top high school Rocket League players last summer, we had high hopes for the team coming into the fall. It's safe to say that this team lived up to the hype!

The team featured Bryan "Zinvez" Munoz (freshman), Devin "Denzy" DiCarlo (freshman) and Samuel "Prism" Sotelo (sophomore). After a dominant 7-0 record in the regular season, we defeated Colombia College in the quarterfinals and Edgewood College in the semifinals. That set up a championship matchup against Rochester Institute of Technology. Keiser came out on top with a 4-2 series victory and were crowned ECAC Champions!

Captain Munoz described the fall season as euphoric. "We floated through nine weeks without losing a single series and capped it off with a trophy. Winning in our first semester as a team surpassed our expectations, and our goal is to continue pushing through the collegiate Rocket League scene in the spring together, proving why we're a top team in the country."





# *Esports Season RECAP*

## League of Legends

Our League of Legends team took a big step forward in the fall season. They had a phenomenal start to the season; at one point they were a combined 7-1 between the ECAC league and the National Association of Collegiate eSports league. Multiple mid-season roster changes were difficult to overcome for the team, but they had playoff appearances in both leagues.

Key victories included wins over the University of Kansas and Milwaukee School of Engineering. The starting roster consisted of Stevo “Hazel” Blagojevic, Mike Lyons, Dymitri “Kyaro” Sexton, Matthew Matikonis and Lawrence “Scoffer” Wu. Main contributors off the bench included Ian “QuarterMaster” Przybylowicz and Dante Stabile.

Captain Stevo Blagojevic, “I’m very proud of the team that we have, and thankful for everyone that helped us get to where we are now. We made playoffs in two tournaments simultaneously, while having to reassemble the team. I believe we have the potential to become champions in the upcoming spring season.”





# Esports Season RECAP

## Team News/Info

The eSports lab got a couple major upgrades during the fall season. They installed brand new, high-performance NZXT computers that are equipped to run the most demanding games at incredible speeds. Along with the computers, the team got top of the line keyboards, mice and headsets.

Keiser Varsity eSports has roughly 60 student-athletes on the roster and currently competes in Fortnite, Rocket League, League of Legends, Call of Duty, Super Smash Bros, Rainbow Six Siege, Apex Legends, Valorant, Overwatch and Madden.





**STEP INTO THE  
GAMING REALM**



# ESPORTS

**KEISER**

**ESPORTS COMPETES IN:**

League of Legends, Valorant, Fortnite, Call of Duty,  
Rocket League, Overwatch 2, Smash Bros U, Hearthstone,  
CS:GO, Apex Legends, R6 Siege

**CONTACT**

**COACH KRINGS**

**KYLE.KRINGS@KEISERUNIVERSITY.EDU**

**DISCORD: COACH\_KRINGS**



Scholarships Available



# Student Organizations:



★ KEISER UNIVERSITY ★

**STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

WE WANT YOU

ANY STUDENT CAN JOIN SGA!

SGA is an opportunity to have your voice heard on campus. Leadership, volunteer, and engagement opportunities are available for all members. Meetings are held once a month in the Student Lounge.

Please Contact the KU Student Services Department to Join



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN  
PHI THETA KAPPA?

Phi Theta Kappa is a prestigious international honor society that recognizes scholastic achievement and honors community involvement.

See Student Services to complete an application!



Eligibility  
3.5 GPA or higher  
Have completed at least 12 hours of coursework at Keiser University



# Student Organizations:



## KU Sarasota is reigniting the Student Veterans Association!

The Student Veterans Association offers a supportive presence on campus for military students.

SVA strives to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education.

Contact Student Services for More Information

**Hayley Mondres**

**Associate Director of Student Services**

[hayley.mondres@keiseruniversity.edu](mailto:hayley.mondres@keiseruniversity.edu)



**KEISER  
UNIVERSITY**

## KEISER UNIVERSITY STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION

This group provides opportunities for networking, mentorship, and leadership!

**First Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 28th 2025  
0800 in the Graduate Room**

Officer elections will be held at the first meeting.

Scan the QR code below to complete your application and pay your member dues!



**Advisors:**

**Professor Christofferson & Dr. Dowd**





# Student Organizations:

## Join the Keiser University Psychology Club, "Brain Buddies"

### What We Offer:

- Engaging Discussions
- Guest Speakers
- Research Opportunities
- Fun events and socials
- Career Guidance

### Why Join Us?:

- Connect with like-minded students
- Gain valuable insights into human behavior
- Enhance your academic experience
- Boost your resume

### Meeting Information:



Tuesdays

1:30 PM

Room 205c



**Everyone is welcome!**

**Open to anyone interested!**

Don't miss out!

Come be a part of the  
community!



# Student Resources:



**KEISER**  
UNIVERSITY




**Now offering  
student housing**



**Scan here  
for more  
information!**



 COLLEGIATE HOUSING SERVICES	HOUSING	SHARED
	Features and Details	Housing Program
Age		18 & Over (under 18 with co-sign)
Credit Qualification		CHS Standard – Minimal Credit Qualifications
Inspections		Routine – Quarterly or as needed
Rules & Regulations		Consistent with Keiser's Code of Conduct
Lease Length		Compliments Academic School Year

 COLLEGIATE HOUSING SERVICES	HOUSING	SHARED
	Features and Details	Housing Program
Application Fee		\$50 (Non-refundable fee)
Service Fee		\$200 (Locks monthly rate, refundable)
Deposits		\$250 (if needed, based on credit/co-sign)
Rental Rate Lock		Rate locked upon payment

<b>Budget Price Group:</b> This may be an older apartment, typically smaller square footage with 1 bathroom. Amenities generally include A/C, dishwasher, and on-site laundry facilities. <u>Shared Bedroom:</u> <b>\$919 Monthly</b> Per Student <u>Private Bedroom:</u> <b>\$1,419 Monthly</b> Per Student		<b>Basic Price Group:</b> A mix of amenities & square footage. A mix of older and newer communities. Varying amenities: on-site laundry, patio/balcony, A/C, and some kitchens with dishwashers. <u>Shared Bedroom:</u> <b>\$989 Monthly</b> Per Student <u>Private Bedroom:</u> <b>\$1,639 Monthly</b> Per Student	
<b>Moderate Price Group:</b> A better mix of amenities and square footage. May be newer communities with amenity package. Patio/balcony, A/C, pool, on-site laundry, kitchens usually with dishwashers. <u>Shared Bedroom:</u> <b>\$1,049 Monthly</b> Per Student <u>Private Bedroom:</u> <b>\$1,819 Monthly</b> Per Student		<b>Premium Price Group:</b> Higher end/newer property with larger floor plans. Almost all have modern kitchens with dishwashers, larger closets, on-site laundry, A/C, pool, patio/balcony and sports courts. <u>Shared Bedroom:</u> <b>\$1,169 Monthly</b> Per Student <u>Private Bedroom:</u> <b>\$2,049 Monthly</b> Per Student	



# *Student Resources:*

YOU AND KU, ARE GOING PLACES TOGETHER!



## PURCHASE YOUR NEW KEISER UNIVERSITY SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE!

What is the cost breakdown at your local tax office:

- \$30 Specialty plate fee (\$25 of which goes to Keiser Mills Foundation to support student scholarships)
- \$28 One-Time plate replacement fee (if within 3 months of your birthday)  
\*Replacement fee is \$39.85 if not within 3 months of your birthday.
- Approximate \$11.00 state taxes and fees

You can purchase through the Indian River Tax Collectors (IRTC) Office  
or sign up using the QR code!



When accessing the link, the individual will fill out a premade form with their name, zip, phone, and e-mail. A representative will then call back that individual to acquire payment information over the phone.



*This edition is dedicated to*

## **Dr. Daniel Chavez**

In loving memory of Dr. Chavez, a respected professor in our Business Department at Keiser University, whose dedication and passion for teaching inspired countless students. His commitment to academic excellence and his kindness in supporting those around him made a profound impact on our university community. Dr. Chavez's legacy will continue to guide and inspire all who had the privilege of learning from him.

