FACILITIES

- The Manning Nuclear Physics Laboratory
- The VU Observatory
- Sara Consortium Telescope (Remote)
- Planetarium
- Astrophysics Research Lab
- Introductory Lab
- Surface Physics Lab
- Atmospheric Physics Lab
- Machine Shop

The Manning Nuclear Physics Laboratory

Named after longtime Professor and Department Chair Armin Manning, this facility is entirely devoted to undergraduate instruction and research in nuclear physics under the supervision of Prof. Donald Koetke and Prof. Shirvel Stanislaus. Situated in the Neils Science Center and surrounded by five foot thick concrete walls, the Manning Laboratory contains a 300 keV linear particle accelerator and research-grade equipment for experiments for undergraduate students. This distincitive laboratory is not a research facility for faculty or graduate students, but a laboratory environment entirely for and used by undergraduate students.

The VU Observatory

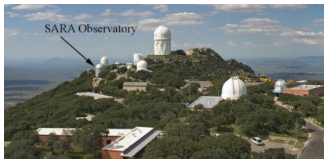
Located at the southeast corner of the Valparaiso University campus, the VU Observatory houses a 16 inch, computer-controlled reflecting telescope used for undergraduate instruction and research under the direction of Professors Bruce Hrivnak and Todd Hillwig. Data are acquired from a variety of stellar objects using a spectrophotometer and a CCD camera. Students work on the analysis of this data in a small attached building as well as in the Neils Science Center.

Frequent open house sessions are scheduled. Many students and community members visit the VU Observatory for these events.

The Sara Consortium Telescope

Valparaiso University is the newest member of the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy (SARA), a consortium of ten universities that operates a 0.9-meter (36-inch) telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory (see image above). Kitt Peak is located about 40 miles west of Tucson, Arizona.

The SARA telescope will be operated over the internet from the VU campus. The remote operation capability will allow astronomy faculty and students to use the telescope year-round, even while classes are in session, without causing a major disruption to their schedules. Faculty and students may also take special opportunity to travel to Kitt Peak and observe on-site.



Planetarium