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Nova Southeastern University

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WELCOME BACK  
ISSUE

# The Current

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## Introducing the new College of Undergraduate Studies



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

College of Undergraduate Studies

By: **Jodi Tandet**

President George Hanbury has established a new college, the College of Undergraduate Studies to centralize services for

all undergraduate students, effective July 1.

Offices under the new college include Academic Services, Student Communication and Support, Orientation, Career

Development, Academic Advising and Undergraduate Student Success. Students of all undergraduate majors will stay within their academic college, but they will also be a part of the new college and be served by

its offices.

“Students will continue to take classes in their respective colleges they’re a part of,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Brad Williams. “But the college of undergraduate studies will serve as a home base for students.”

Williams said that all colleges with undergraduate programs — such as the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education — still exist but “more in a pure academic sense, whereas the College of Undergraduate Studies exists more in a service sense.”

Williams oversees the new college as its dean and Jennifer Quiñones Nottingham, formerly the assistant provost for Undergraduate Services and Operations, is the college’s associate dean. Shari Saperstein, director of the Office of Career Development, is the college’s executive director.

“Things that impact all undergraduate students — things like convocation, commencement, the student catalog, academic discipline, most of the policies associated with being an undergraduate — will all be

administered from a single entity,” said Williams.

The new college will not receive its own building space; it will be spread throughout offices all over main campus, though several offices are scheduled to relocate during this academic year.

The Office of Academic Advising and the Office of Career Development will move to the Horvitz Administration Building, from the Mailman-Hollywood Building and the Alvin Sherman Library, respectively.

The Athletic Department has moved to the Athletics and Business Services Building — now simply called the Athletics Building — near the Don Taft University Center. The Office of Academic Services, which is part of the new college, now occupies Athletics’ former space: the second floor of the The Academic Services and Student Affairs building, previously called the Athletics and Student Affairs (ASA) building.

Lisa Walther-Austin, director of the Office of Academic Services, said that the change will allow her office to “broaden the scope” of

SEE NEW COLLEGE 2

## SGA to host paint and water party

By: **Lauren McGarrett & Debbie Mejia**

NSU’s Undergraduate Student Government Association will host Electric WaterWorks — a free outdoor festival with electronic music and water attractions — on Aug. 30 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Alvin Sherman Library Quad for all NSU students.

The event will feature inflatable water slides, water balloon fights, fluorescent body paint, bungee trampolines, free food and live music by DJ Alexandre Marc, also known as Spinfantastic, who performed at last year’s Ultra Music Festival in Miami.

Electric WaterWorks is a recreation of SGA’s former Welcome Back WaterWorks foam party event held in 2010 and 2011 but has more attractions. Part of Weeks of Welcome, it is a chance for students to celebrate the upcoming academic year and connect with the NSU community.

SGA Campus Entertainment Director Chris Lynch, sophomore

biology major, came up with the idea for Electric WaterWorks last year and expects at least 1,000 students to attend.

SGA President Daniel Brookins, senior legal studies and philosophy major, said he has high expectations for the event. Brookins said that while last year’s event was extremely popular, with approximately 800 students attending, it ended early because of rain.

“This year, we’ll have twice the paint, twice the music, more free food and water rides,” Brookins said. “We’re going to blow last year’s show out of the water.”

Kelly Scott, junior athletic training major and SGA vice president of judicial affairs, said SGA has been working all summer to make sure this year’s Water Works is the best yet.

“I’m looking forward to having even more people attend this year’s Water Works,” she said. “SGA has worked so hard to get this event planned and I really want it to be a huge success.”



Students enjoying last year’s Electric WaterWorks, hosted by SGA

PHOTO COURTESY OF SGA

Lynch said students won’t want to miss Electric WaterWorks.

“Just come out and check it out. You are going to love it. This will be a night you will remember for the rest of your college experience,” said Lynch.

SGA recommends that participants wear all white clothes for painting and swimwear for the water rides. SGA will also be handing out free white t-shirts with a large WaterWorks logo on the front. Registration is

not required. For more information, visit Undergraduate SGA’s official Facebook profile at [facebook.com/NSUSGA](http://facebook.com/NSUSGA).



## NEW COLLEGE from 1

its services — including tutoring, testing, in-class workshops, study materials and writing resources — “to not just focus on courses of Farquhar, but of the overall population of the university.”

“If anything, what I would expect, is that our services will expand at some point,” she said.

Cortney Palmacci, assistant director for tutoring, said, “We want to make sure that we have time to expand into the business population and the nursing population, because we don’t really have those relationships. So building that is definitely an important part of the expansion process.”

Nottingham said that students should be on the lookout for additional news as administrators are “trying to just get away from the old

pen and paper type of thinking, and step into the technology era.”

“We’re going to be offering Skype appointments for students,” she said. “We’ve also developed and are ready to roll out an advisement appointment system, so that students can go online and make their own appointments. We hope to do things more in an expedited fashion, so that students feel that they are not just an NSU ID number; there is a face behind their email and their phone call.”

Though the College of Undergraduate Students is new, Nottingham — who has been with NSU for 20 years — says its creation has been years in the making, discussed among deans, directors and the president. She views the change as “a rebirth, a renewal, something to offer students and bring

them a little bit closer together.”

Yet, that rebirth is a work in progress.

“Myself, along with Dean Williams and the rest of the executive team, along with the Division of Student Affairs, are still in the planning and development stage of getting people together, pulling resources together,” said Nottingham. “I’ve met with my direct reports, to get a better idea of how they operate, what works best for them, what they want to see come out of this new concept of the college.”

Williams emphasized that the primary mission of the new college is to support students.

“At any institution, particularly at a school that has grown like NSU, you always have the possibility that there might be cracks that students

slip through,” he said. “What we’re attempting to do is eliminate those cracks. So that students come as freshmen, they graduate as seniors, and they just love being a Shark.”

Nottingham added, “Our goal is to bring directors, administrators and staff together to unload their resources and put them into one basket, per se, and start to have better communication with each other, instead of things being disjointed or decentralized.”

Williams said the college’s success, as well as the changes it brings, will be evaluated by retention and graduation rates, tracked over time.

“We’re looking at doing a whole assessment of the student’s first year experience, from the time they get that first admissions email or brochure, all the way up to when

they are done with that first year,” he said. “What was that experience like? How can we make certain that it’s seamless for the students?”

Though Williams acknowledges it will take time to fully establish the new college as envisioned, he said, “I think there’s going to be synergies here that haven’t really existed before.”

Nottingham advised students to be patient and trusting.

“Just be open to the changes that are occurring. It’s something that has a plan, but they will take time to roll out,” she said. “So, at any point in time, a student feels that their needs are not being met, we just need to know about it so that we can address it.”

# New undergraduate majors and minors offered

By: **Debbie Mejia**

This semester the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education are offering new majors and minors.

Farquhar offers four new Bachelor of Science degrees in anthropology, behavioral neuroscience, human development and family studies, and public administration and three new minors in geographic information science, Latin American and Caribbean studies and studio art. Fischler now offers a Bachelor of Science in speech-language and communication disorders.

Dean Don Rosenblum of Farquhar said, “I am confident that each of these new programs will serve many students and broaden perspectives,” he said.

Each new major has a faculty chair with experience in the respective field.

Eileen Smith-Cavros, anthropology major chair, believes that anthropology students will benefit from learning about anthropological perspectives on culture and how it interacts with other fields of study.

“Students can pursue [careers in] non-governmental organizations, government agencies, museums, national parks and in many other fields where the study of culture is essential,” she said.

James A. Brecher, associate professor of criminal justice and public administration, chairs Farquhar’s new public administration major. Brecher was involved in public sector labor relations as an elected union representative and a union officer, as well as a member of management negotiation teams for more than 30 years.

Brecher said that public

administration is a multi-disciplinary field that draws on theory and research from fields as diverse as sociology, psychology, management, economics, law and political science.

“The study of public administration is appropriate for students seeking careers in government and non-profit agencies, as well as current government employees seeking career advancement,” Brecher said. “[It’s best] for students interested in careers in law, public health, business, environmental studies, criminal justice, and public education.”

Chairing the behavioral neuroscience major is Jaime Tartar, research coordinator of Farquhar’s Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who has taught behavioral neuroscience for more than 10 years.

Tartar said, “The behavioral neuroscience major will prepare students to pursue neuroscience, psychology, pharmacology, mental health, neurobiology, medicine, clinical psychologist and dentistry.”

Chaired by associate professor Madhavi Menon, the human development and family studies major prepares students who want to work with different kinds of agencies including public, nonprofit, business or government. Graduates of the program can complete graduate programs in the social, behavioral and health sciences.

Fischler’s speech-language and communication disorders major is geared toward students who wish to pursue a career in speech-language pathology, which deals with human speech and language communication disorders.

Farquhar’s minors give students a concentration that can help them in their chosen careers. The geographic information science minor teaches students how to use geographic tools and techniques and can complement

other majors such as computer and information science, business and public health. The Latin American and Caribbean studies minor includes classes in the history of Latin America and its politics and literature to prepare students interested in working in those areas. The studio art minor shows students artistic techniques useful for careers in theatre or arts administration.

According to Rosenblum, creating new majors and minors can take one to three years. After faculty identify potential areas of need, they research how other universities structure the same major and collaborate on creating them.

Potential new majors go through a review and approval process, which allows experts from across the university to examine, critique and improve the programs before they are sent to the respective dean for review. The dean then presents the proposal to an academic committee who present it to the provost and president. After receiving the president’s endorsement, the institution informs the Southern Association of College Students, a regional accrediting agency. The school then begins to promote the degree program, admit students and award degrees.

Rosenblum said it takes a few years for new programs to grow.

“Programs with small enrollment can be frustrating when courses are not offered as frequently as students would like,” he said. “But we will continue to offer new degree programs as long as the programs are sound in curriculum.”

He also said that even more new undergraduate and graduate degree programs are being discussed or designed, including sustainability, bioinformatics, urban studies and arts administration.

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## The Current

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# Convocation welcomes new students

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

NSU welcomed its new undergraduate students at the 2013 Undergraduate Convocation Ceremony on Aug. 22 in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center.

About 1,000 students, parents, faculty and staff attended to learn about the Farquhar College of Arts and Science's 2013-2014 academic theme "Good and Evil" and to listen to keynote speaker Wes Moore. President George Hanbury and Don Rosenblum, dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, hosted the annual ceremony.

Pradeep Vanguri, associate professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, was recently awarded the 2013 Full-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. During the ceremony, he gave advice to students on making the most of their first year of college.

Vanguri advised students to, "Meet new people, get involved, read, listen, and don't be afraid to share your opinions. These are five direct strategies for success."

Moore, a former army officer, youth advocate and business leader, is the best-selling author of his memoir "The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates."

In line with the academic theme, the book tells the story of Moore's life in Baltimore, and his surprising discovery of another young man, also from his hometown, named Wes



TAKEN BY FAREN RAJKUMAR

Author Wes Moore was welcomed as one of this year's Distinguished Speakers, part of the Farquhar College's series that brings leaders and experts to speak to the NSU community.

Moore. But despite these similarities, the author finds that their lives have gone in opposite directions - one is successful student, and the other a criminal.

"The book is about two men with the same name and in the same circumstances who make different choices," said Kathleen Waites, professor of humanities in the Farquhar College. "Their choices lead to different lives — one of good and one of evil."

In his keynote address, Moore congratulated new students on their acceptance to NSU, and encouraged them to think about citizenship and to see beyond the struggle of selecting a career path.

"There are so many people who

are walking the line of greatness and don't even know it," said Moore. "Your destiny is going to be felt in the outside world, as well, and that's why you're here."

Students in the First-Year Reading Program observed a question and answer session between Moore and Marlisa Santos, director of the Division of Humanities at the Farquhar College, for an open discussion. Participating students were also given complimentary copies of Moore's book after the ceremony.

"[The book] is about more than just two kids or one generation. It's about everyone and the decisions we make everyday," said Moore.

The "Good and Evil" academic theme will be discussed throughout

the semester in the Faculty Lecture Series. These free events, open to the NSU community and the public, draw from the expertise of more than 140 full-time Farquhar faculty members. Each hour-long discussion takes place in the Second Floor Gallery of the Alvin Sherman Library.

The first in this year's series is a talk by Eileen Smith-Cavros, associate professor of social behavior sciences. Titled "Laguna Manati", she will discuss the possibility of "good" arising from "bad" environmental changes on Sept. 19 from 5 to 6 p.m. For a complete schedule of events and more information on the Faculty Lecture Series, visit [fcas.nova.edu/faculty/publications](http://fcas.nova.edu/faculty/publications).

# You're invited to the Student Employment Job Fair

By: **Jodi Tandet**

As part of Weeks of Welcome, the Office of Career Development and the Office of Student Employment will host NSU's third annual Student Employment Job Fair on Aug. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Atrium.

Approximately 25 campus offices and employers will be present to discuss open positions, distribute applications and interview candidates in a casual setting. There will be positions available for undergraduate and graduate students of all majors, with or without previous related experience and with or without federal work-study.

"I think it's a great opportunity, especially for new incoming students, to get some one-on-one time with the hiring supervisors," said Stacey Levy, coordinator of job location and development.

Carleen Pallante, associate director of The Office of Career Development, said, "It's a pretty casual event, where they'll get to meet lots of offices and see what's available, what's out there. There really isn't a particular major that the employers are looking for; it's across the board. I would definitely encourage students

of any major to come."

Levy estimates that there will be about 30 different types of jobs represented, encompassing up to 200 open positions.

Though most of the participating supervisors and offices are based on main campus, Levy said that America Reads and America Counts is looking to hire about 125 federal work-study students to serve as reading and math tutors at local elementary schools.

NSU's Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale will also have supervisors at the fair.

To be hired, students will still have to go through the Office of Student Employment's process, which includes completing an online workshop and electronic forms.

"We will have sign-in sheets so that the supervisor can write down every person that they see," said Levy, about the fair. "The student will check in at every table they visit. Then, when the student does come for student employment, the supervisor may remember them from the job fair."

Students are highly encouraged to bring a recent resume, though it's not required for all positions. Cover letters, portfolios and other materials are also not necessary. There are no

dress code requirements.

"We are stressing to the supervisors that they might be coming in between classes, so it's a little bit more informal than a typical job fair, where it's more like outside companies — suit and tie, that kind of thing," said Levy. "If people stop in between classes or on their lunch break, it's OK."

Yet, Pallante still encourages students to keep their appearance in mind — at the fair and throughout the year.

"It's important for students to always look their best, because they just never know who they're going to meet," she said. "I'm not saying you have to come in a suit. But you probably shouldn't come in sweatpants."

Besides not needing to alter their appearance too drastically for the fair, Pallante also encourages students not to alter their personality.

"The other tip that I would give is just for them to be themselves," she said. "The offices are looking for is someone that has a positive attitude and takes initiative and is going to be a hard worker, so if they can communicate that to the offices, they'll have a pretty good chance."

In addition to earning a salary, Pallante said that student

employment comes with many other benefits.

"One of the greatest things about getting a job on campus is that you are able to start a new career, something you've never done before, and try it out — and really develop those transferable skills that could possibly help you get an internship or help you to get your first job," she said.

The first Student Employment Job Fair, in 2011, was part of SEA Thursday, which meant that it was among many tables set up for student organizations. More than 300 students attended.

"And last year, it was the first time that we did it independently," said Pallante. "We were like 'I don't know if as many people will show up,' but we actually did better. So, this year, we decided to keep it just as well."

She's more optimistic now, saying "Last year, we had almost 500 students come to the fair, so I'm hoping that we surpass it."

Registration is not required, but for more information call the Office of Career Development at 954-262-7201.

## News Briefs

### Lightning warnings now broadcast at NSU

On June 26, the Office of Public Safety started broadcasting "Lightning Warning" and "Lightning Warning-All Clear" alerts across campus. The Lightning Warning System is part of the NSU Emergency Notification System, which uses SharkTube, email, and other communication modes to broadcast information immediately.

The new warnings include red strobe lights on the athletic fields adjacent to the Leo Goodwin Residence Hall and the Mailman Segal Institute that flash when a lightning warning is active. The Lightning Warning System notifies people on main campus to clear the athletic fields and pools and seek shelter indoors or inside an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle. It is also used by the Mailman Segal Institute and University School to alter drop-off and pick-up times, as necessary.

### One-Stop Shop locations extend hours

Enrollment and Student Services has extended the One-Stop Shops' hours until Sept. 6. The One-Stop Shop locations at the Horvitz Administration Building and the Terry Administration Building will operate from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. The Horvitz location will be also be open from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. The One-Stop Shops provide financial aid, registration, billing, transcript, parking decal, and name and address change services. Enrollment and Student Services is available 24/7 by phone at 954-262-3380 or by email at [finaid@nova.edu](mailto:finaid@nova.edu).

### Federal government drops student loan interest rates

President Barack Obama signed a bill on Aug. 9 that would reduce student loan rates this fall to 3.86 percent for undergraduates and 5.41 percent for graduates. The bill makes provisions to cap all rates at 8.25 percent for undergraduates, 9.5 percent for graduates and 10.5 percent for Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) loans. This plan will only affect Stafford loans, which the U.S. government disburses to help finance a college education. For more information on student loans, visit the Office of Student Financial Assistance on the first floor of the Horvitz Administration Building, log on to [nova.edu/financialaid](http://nova.edu/financialaid) or call 954-262-3380.

### Student Veteran Association to open resource center

The Nova Student Veteran Association will hold a grand opening party for their new Veteran Resource Center in Room 218 of the Rosenthal Student Center on Aug. 30 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. All students are encouraged to bring snacks and beverages.



# M.I.N.D. to raise \$10,000 for renovations

By: **Debbie Mejia**

NSU student organization M.I.N.D. (Mental Illness New Directions), committed to reducing the stigmas associated with mental illnesses, is raising \$10,000 to renovate a group room at the Henderson Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

M.I.N.D. treasurer Lindsay Tracy, third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology, said the organization has raised approximately \$1,000 so far.

The funds were raised through a BBQ and donations sent in from the community, along with t-shirt and bake sales. The organization has also received material and service donations, including a projector screen and an interior decorator.

M.I.N.D. began the fundraising project eight months ago after the organization saw the CSU group room's need for renovation.

The CSU is one of the locations of Henderson Behavioral Health, a nonprofit mental healthcare system that serves the public. Henderson also has a location at University Park Plaza that provides individual, family and group counseling services to NSU students.

The CSU provides short-term, intensive, in-patient treatment and stabilization. Its group room is used as a support room for clients, and also serves as meeting space for classes and



PHOTO COURTESY OF M. SNELL

Some of the executive board members of student organization M.I.N.D. From left to right: Scott Harvey, Melissa Snell, Lindy Lotz and Lindsay Tracy.

families. The facility's clients, who have mental and behavioral health issues ranging from schizophrenia to dual diagnoses, are usually admitted to stay at the center anywhere from three days to two weeks.

Lindy Lotz, M.I.N.D. member coordinator and third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology, said M.I.N.D. plans on revamping the CSU group room to create a more enjoyable experience for its patients.

"We plan on creating separate areas within the group room that include a theater, complete with chairs and a big screen TV, a lounge, a music listening center and a pinball machine," Lotz said.

M.I.N.D. President and Co-founder Marissa Snell, third-

year doctoral student in clinical psychology, said the renovated room will provide resources that promote positive social interactions and activities to help clients pass the time during their stay at the CSU. The student organization also hopes it will provide a more positive experience for the CSU staff.

"Henderson [does] wonderful work and provides some really exceptional services for our community," Snell said. "The group room is used for so many things, like therapy and recreation, so that just seemed like a great place to start [giving back to the community.]"

Melissa Jourdain, third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology and vice president and co-founder of

M.I.N.D., said she hopes the new group room will be a positive addition to the CSU and promote positive therapeutic interactions.

Suzanne E. Higgins, director of development at Henderson Behavioral Health, said M.I.N.D. saw the need for renovating the group room to make it less of a clinical setting and a more bright and comfortable space. She said the project shows that the students understand the holistic approach to healing, which includes a healthy surrounding.

"It's important to have M.I.N.D. assist us [in improving the facility] because we cannot do it alone," Higgins said. "We are thrilled to partner with the group and are doing everything to assist them."

Psychology professor William Dorfman, associate director of Clinical Training at the Center for Psychological Studies and M.I.N.D.'s faculty adviser, said the project would positively affect thousands of people.

"I am very proud and impressed with [Snell's] commitment to the cause. ... [She] has taken it upon herself to change things here," Dorfman said. "She is a wonderful citizen."

Formed about a year ago, M.I.N.D. consists of 20 members. They speak to community groups, especially young children, to help them understand what mental illness is, to become more accepting of it, and to show that people with mental illnesses deserve the same respect as anyone else.

Snell said, "We invite people to learn the truth about mental illness and to open themselves up to gain a new understanding about this important topic that is far too often avoided."

In addition to Henderson's CSU room renovation project, M.I.N.D. is also working on a project to remodel the children's playhouse at Tomorrow's Rainbow, a Coconut Creek center for grieving children.

Snell hopes to make M.I.N.D. into a national movement, with chapters at universities around the country. To become involved with M.I.N.D., email her at [mindcps@gmail.com](mailto:mindcps@gmail.com).

## NSU hosts a Day for Children

By: **Jodi Tandet**

Children and families are invited to attend the 11th annual A Day for Children — a health fair where NSU's Health Care Centers provide free health screenings for children age 18 and under — on Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Alvin Sherman Library.

Vision, medical, behavior, dental, physical and occupational therapy assessments will be offered. Activities will include haircuts, storytellers, exotic animal displays, arts and crafts, and food. The Davie Police and Fire Department will put on safety demonstrations and the Crime Stoppers

of Broward County will administer fingerprinting and identification cards for children.

Robert Oller, CEO of the Division of Clinical Operations, created the fair to educate the public about the medical services available at NSU and in the community.

"We wanted to market and get people familiar with the clinics that provide services, especially for children, because that is a key area of need," said Oller.

Ronnie Oller, chairperson of A Day for Children and Robert's wife, said, "It is just like a carnival and it is also a great way to really share and

educate the community on all the resources available for children."

Last year's event attracted 1,000 families and the Ollers expect a similar turnout this year.

"It is exciting, for me, to see how much the event has grown and how it had been embraced by the community," Robert Oller said, who called it one of the largest events of its kind in Florida.

Although Oller said that the event promotes the university's services, he estimates that between 130 and 160 service organizations will also be in attendance.

For more information on A Day for Children, call 954-678-2273.

## Harry Potter exhibit connects magic with science

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

From Aug. 3 to Sept. 4, a traveling Harry Potter exhibit from the National Library of Medicine is on display in the Health Professions Division Library on NSU's main campus.

Titled "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine," the free public exhibit explores the similarities between the Harry Potter literary phenomenon and Renaissance-era science and philosophy that shaped Western civilization.

"This is the most popular exhibit created by the National Library of Medicine, and because so many people love Harry Potter, it should generate a lot of interest," said Todd Puccio, director of Technical Services at the HPD Library.

The world of Harry Potter was introduced to readers in 1997 by British author J.K. Rowling, and it soon became one of the world's most popular fantasy series. Rowling's inspiration for the magic in her seven books has been attributed to numerous historical and mythological sources, including the work of several Renaissance philosophers, alchemists

and astrologists. The exhibit presents explanations for various aspects of Harry Potter's world, such as potions, magical creatures and herbology.

The library hosted a free "Wizard's Tournament" at the exhibit's grand opening reception on Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. Attendees participated in trivia and costume contests. According to Puccio, a "Wizard's Cook-off" was also planned for the opening but was cancelled due to the lack of NSU student support.

"One young lady from the community brought cupcakes, and even though we had 88 people show up, not enough HPD students signed up for the cook-off," said Puccio.

Winners of each of the trivia and costume contests were awarded Amazon gift cards, and attendees also played a Harry Potter dueling game on a Wii in the library's media area.

Although this is not the library's first exhibit, it is the first to have an opening reception.

"I've been working here for 18 years, and we've never had any kinds of reception in our facility," said Puccio. "It was successful, and we hope to have another one to accompany a future exhibit."

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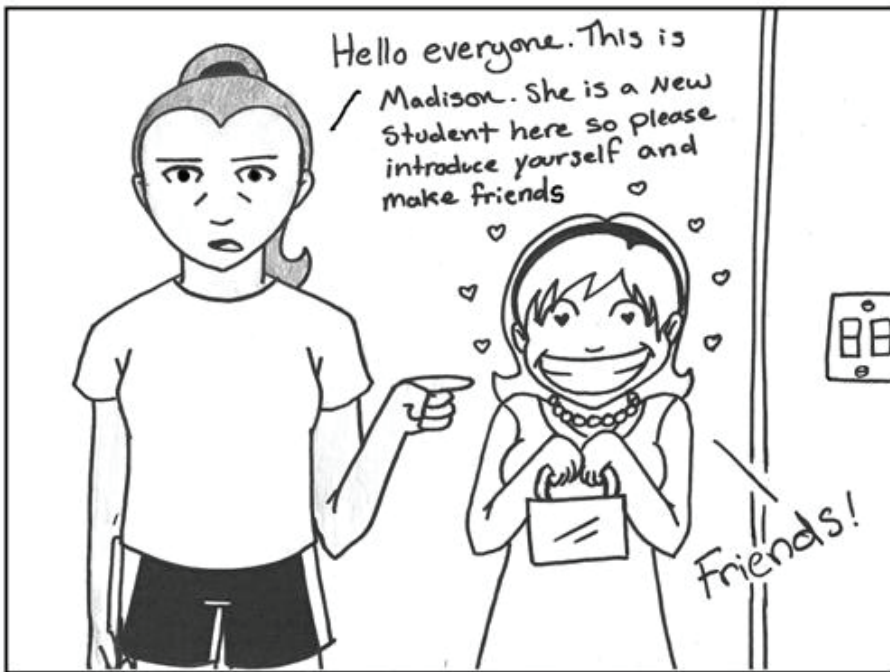




# CHUMS

By: Kathryn Downey

The Current's new monthly comic strip centers on the lives of four fictional college students: Madison, an enthusiastic freshman jumping into her new college experience as a biology major; Gabriella "Gabi," an overworked and slightly pessimistic graduate psychology study; Kyle, a reserved business major who is always around to lend a hand; and Blue, a shark taking a break from his life in the ocean to earn a master's degree in ocean sciences.



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# What you missed

Over the summer, several construction projects transformed parts of the campus. Here's what will be different as you walk around campus.

**THE HORVITZ ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WAS RENOVATED TO CREATE A MORE STUDENT-CENTERED FEEL. THE NEW SPACE NEAR THE ONE-STOP SHOP FEATURES TWO TELEVISIONS AND TABLES FITTED WITH OUTLETS.**



**THIS FIRE HYDRANT AND PIPE ARE THE REMNANTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION AT THE ALVIN SHERMAN LIBRARY QUAD.**



**ATHLETICS MOVED FROM THE ATHLETICS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS BUILDING TO THE ATHLETICS BUILDING, WHICH WAS FORMERLY CALLED THE ATHLETICS AND BUSINESS SERVICES BUILDING.**





THE PARKER BUILDING LOBBY WAS RENOVATED. NEW FURNITURE WAS PLACED IN THE LOBBY AND THE FOOD AREA RECEIVED NEW APPLIANCES.



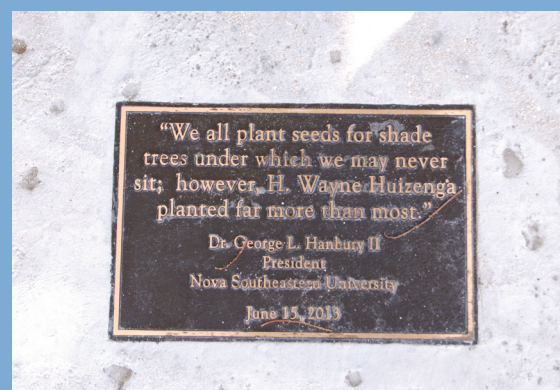
THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES MOVED FROM THE PARKER BUILDING TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ATHLETICS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS BUILDING, NOW CALLED THE ACADEMIC SERVICES AND STUDENT AFFAIRS BUILDING.



A BATTERED MAILBOX STILL STANDS ALONG SW 36TH STREET. THE HOUSES ALONG THE STREET, NEAR THE UNIVERSITY PARK PLAZA, WERE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR MORE CONSTRUCTION.



A STATUE OF H. WAYNE HUIZENGA WAS UNVEILED NEAR THE MINIACI CENTER. THE COURTYARD BETWEEN THE ROSE AND ALFRED MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND THE CARL DeSANTIS BUILDING NOW HAS BENCHES, FLOWERS AND SMALL TREES.





# A cap, a gown... and a ring

By: **Keren Moros**

NSU College of Pharmacy alumna Ally Courson was going to wear a black dress to the Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony on May 19, at which her boyfriend James Neilen would receive a doctoral degree. When Neilen asked her to wear a different color, she was confused.

"Why are you being so picky?" Courson said she asked him. "You never care about what I wear. Why are you being so vocal right now about what I'm going to wear?"

Courson had no idea that Neilen didn't want her to wear black when he proposed to her.

Because Courson received a doctorate degree in pharmacy in 2012, Courson was eligible to place Neilen's doctoral hood on his gown as he came on stage to receive the same degree. After she hooded him, he faced her, got down on one knee and proposed to her.

"I was able to walk up on stage, look at her and say, 'You know, I wouldn't be here without you, baby. Thank you.'" Neilen said. "And then I turned around, she hooded me and the rest is history."

Courson said the proposal was "completely shocking" as she had no suspicion of his intentions.

"It was so unexpected; I think you could see it on my face," Courson said. "I don't even remember saying yes. I just kind of nodded because I couldn't talk. It was very exciting and very overwhelming at the same time."

She was especially surprised because she did not think Neilen would propose in front of a crowd.

"Everybody started cheering, so I had complete stage fright," Courson said. "There [were] a thousand people looking at me and clapping," Neilen, on the other hand, didn't notice the audience.

"When I first went up there, I saw Ally and I only thought about her," he said. "Then as soon as we did our thing, we turned around, we saw everybody cheering, [and] my mind was like, 'Oh, wow, I guess there is an audience.'"

In that audience was Mark Schutnecke, digital video solutions architect for the Office of Innovation and Information Technology, who was monitoring the online live stream of the commencement ceremony. Schutnecke heard the

crowd's reaction to the proposal and saw the proposal.

Schutnecke said that when he saw the proposal, he knew right away that he had to spread the word.

"I said, 'This is a nice story and we should try to get it out there for other people to see it,'" Schutnecke said. "It was a pure human moment, which I thought was nice."

That night, he created a video clip of the proposal and sent it to the Office of Public Affairs. The news was published on the NSU website and the NSU YouTube channel featured a video of the proposal. The video, titled "Nova Southeastern University Student Proposes at Graduation," now has more than 3,000 views.

Neilen said one of the things that made the proposal special was that their mentor Carsten Evans, executive director for continuing education and professional affairs in HPD was there.

Evans, who was then the College of Pharmacy's assistant dean for Continuing Professional Education, was not supposed to be on stage at commencement but started to help hooding students to replace missing participants. Evans said Neilen and



COURTESY OF J. NEILEN

James Neilen and Ally Courson, College of Pharmacy alumni celebrate Neilen's graduation and their engagement.

Courson are a great couple and that the proposal was the culmination of the five years they spent at NSU and a "successful student endeavor."

"We're people and we're about success," Evans said. "This was a cute story and these people are examples of young people who had desires to have professional careers and did it. It's the continuity of a life dream and I think that's special."

Courson is now in her second

year of her pharmacy residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and Neilen is in the first year of his pharmacy residency at Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Providence, R.I. They plan to wed in September 2014.

Courson said, "That would be our eight-year anniversary, so if it works out, that would be amazing."

## Commemorating the March on Washington's 50 Anniversary

By: **Debra Harris Nixon**

Debra Harris Nixon, associate professor in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences' marriage and family therapy program, is the coordinating facilitator of the college's monthly Diversity Dialogues. She's also a leadership team member of the One NSU Inclusion and Diversity Council, a diverse group of NSU constituents organized to promote and support inclusive excellence at NSU.

Fifty years ago, on Aug. 28, more than 250,000 Americans converged on Washington, D.C. and marched a little over a mile to the Lincoln Memorial in protest of a range of inequalities suffered by black Americans. The theme of the march was "jobs and freedom," making it clear that the protest was not only about employment opportunities but also about civil rights.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech and talked about our country living out "the true meaning of its creed that all men are created equal." In the speech, King was clear that the march was not just for Black people, but all Americans. The beauty of the march was the diversity of Americans assembled on the mall: black, white, female, male, young, old, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and more. They held hands and sung about the day when this kind of march would not



Martin Luther King at the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1968.

be necessary.

The finale was King's speech, which is safe to say has helped to etch Aug. 28 in our minds and hearts forever. I have heard the speech many times, and what comes through each time for me is an invitation for unity, a call for equality — in short, a call for inclusion.

Inclusive excellence is one of the challenges of our beloved "One NSU" mantra. NSU is decidedly a place of many kinds of people, much like those King addressed 50 years ago. Like the group assembled on the mall that day, NSU represents a host of differences, yet we're all Sharks — as they were a diverse group of Americans. Our country and our school has become an even more diverse, more global community with the increase in the number of people of color. According to the 2004 U.S. census,

by 2050, people of color will be the country's numerical majority.

Presently, students of color make up approximately 68 percent of NSU's student body. The march to The Lincoln Memorial can be for NSU a model for galvanizing and engaging a diverse group of people and demonstrating what "one nation," hence, One NSU, looks like. King not only acknowledged diversity; he evoked how unity within diversity would embody our country's deepest belief: freedom.

Freedom, the foundation of our great nation, invites inclusion. Inclusion, then, is the recognition that diversity is an asset, not a liability or threat. A 2005 comprehensive report entitled "Toward a Model of Inclusive Excellence and Change in Postsecondary Institutions" — by Damon A. Williams, Joseph B. Berger and Shederick A. McClendon — suggests that students

who are exposed to diverse learning environments are better prepared to work in a global society than those that are limited to homogeneous learning communities.

In an effort to capitalize on our diverse learning environment, NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences invites the NSU community to join our grassroots movement, Do Something Different (DSD). One NSU Inclusion and Diversity Council is strategizing to take DSD to the next level.

DSD is important in commemorating the 1963 march for jobs and freedom because it is NSU's mission to create lasting change. Our movement is about creating an inclusive community, with each of us making personal efforts to be inclusive. For DSD, inclusion means knowing that each of us brings something special to our learning community; everyone must be proactive and welcoming toward fellow Sharks.

Consider each day that you enter a classroom, the Don Taft University Center, the library or an athletic field as an opportunity to create a community of Sharks dedicated to the King's dream, or, more specifically, President George Hanbury II's One NSU mission.

The ideal of One NSU has further inspired the Inclusion and Diver-

sity Council (ID Council), which is composed of a diverse group of NSU faculty, students, alumni, administrators and staff members. The group, much like those who organized the March on Washington, believes in One NSU and has been working diligently to help the mantra materialize by adding personal intention to its meaning. In other words, the group is devising practical ways of inviting a new inclusive consciousness so that our campus may truly be One NSU, not just "talking the talk."

Aug. 28, 1963, was more than a glorious, awe-inspiring day of rousing speeches. It signaled a historical moment that helped to spur the passage of civil rights legislation. That day demonstrated what deliberation and intentionality can produce. At NSU, DSD and the ID Council are movements that are committed to the One NSU idea, but we all know that dreams don't automatically come true. In order for dreams to be realized, they need the support of a determined, diverse group of devotees. We have such a group here at NSU. Please join our country on Aug. 28 in the recognition of the most successful freedom campaign in our nation's history; then commit to helping to make One NSU an example of Inclusive Excellence for future generations of Sharks.





# Career Corner

## Social media and the American business culture

By: **Emilio Lorenzo**

*Emilio Lorenzo is a career adviser in NSU's Office of Career Development. His column, a new bi-weekly feature of The Current, will provide insights, tricks and tips to help you reach your career goals, market yourself effectively and stay proactive in the job market.*

In a world where social media has expanded to the point that having a Facebook account is common practice, aspiring professionals must see this trend as an opportunity to network and build their overall brand effectively.

The growth of social media has led to the emergence of websites like LinkedIn, which offers students an avenue to connect with professionals, engage in meaningful discussions and market experiences strategically to the outside world. To reap social media's benefits, you must understand and implement correct practices and overlook common myths.

You may be thinking, "Wait, social media can get me a job? I'm still trying to figure out how to post a video on Instagram." Take a deep breath and realize that social networking can still be a fun part of your daily life, as long as you approach it strategically.

Work to understand the privacy settings on your various social media accounts and develop a heightened awareness of how certain posts will shape the opinions of potential employers. Everyone has had a friend on Facebook who shares way too much information on his or her profile. This past year being a presiden-

tial election year, many people felt obliged to post their positions on various social and political issues, which led to further meaningful discussions. But it could also be taken the wrong way by employers, as some stances may seem controversial in the American business culture.

The problem lies mainly in social media's convenience; in a matter of mere seconds, your post on Twitter or Facebook can go from a personal opinion to a worldwide understanding of your stance on a topic and, thus, may be subject to the scrutiny associated with such a perspective. A safe strategy to be implemented on social media is to act as if your employers and clients have full access to your accounts.

Facebook is a great tool for connecting with friends, family and colleagues, but because it's so popular for personal use, you may unknowingly post content which could damage your overall professional branding to employers. If, for example, an employer is hiring for a position and deciding between two or three applicants, he or she may decide to do an extensive background search. The existence of photos or videos depicting drinking or other damaging practices on an applicant's profile will convey a message of unprofessionalism and, as a result, possibly prevent him or her from being offered the position. I mean, would you hire someone who has pictures of themselves doing keg stands or throwing eggs at cars?

Unlike Facebook, LinkedIn was created as an avenue for employers and students to build and maintain long-lasting networking bridges. When used correctly, LinkedIn can

help you be proactive in the job search and develop a strong network before graduation, which will put you in the best position to find your ideal role.

I always suggest that students include their LinkedIn address in resumes and emails, as part of their contact information, as it may peak the curiosity of the employer to visit that student's profile. When an employer visits your account and notices shared connections, he or she may be inclined to call those individuals and inquire about your work style or fit within the industry.

LinkedIn can also be a highly useful tool after attending a professional conference, as you can connect with employers you met and continue to strengthen the relationship, by sharing articles of interests or engaging in meaningful discussions. It is important to follow correct protocol on LinkedIn by including an updated resume on your profile and, unlike Facebook, only connecting with individuals whom you've met or have been introduced to by a mutual friend or colleague. Your LinkedIn account should be focused toward desired careers and must avoid the use of jargon from your past jobs. Instead, use terminology, skills and responsibilities that highlight your fit for the field as a whole.

In today's American business culture, mastering your social media accounts will lead to stronger branding strategies to put you in a position for success.



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# Main campus to see more construction

By: **Kevin Lichty**

Students at NSU's main campus have seen a lot of construction recently, but it's not over yet. Here's a look at the upcoming construction projects, scheduled for the 2013-2014 academic year.

### New athletic facilities

The houses along SW 36th Street were recently demolished to make room for new athletic facilities, including two new softball fields and a new baseball field.

Peter Witschen, vice president of the Office of Facilities Management, said the fields will alleviate scheduling problems between the University School and the NSU baseball and softball teams.

"Our athletics facilities were lacking. These fields will help improve our portfolio," said Witschen.

The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will reroute the current SW 36th Street through the demolished housing development and reconnect on the other side and become a university road. The current street will remain a municipal street and be improved with enhanced lighting and a sidewalk.

"We have a lot of joggers on campus. They will no longer be taking their life in their hands when they go out running," said Witschen.

Construction of the first phase will begin in the spring of 2014 and be completed by January 2015.

Phase two will include the construction of a baseball field for the University School and two softball fields: one for the University School the other for the NSU Sharks. Facilities Management hopes the fields will be completed by January 2014.

### Center for Collaborative Research

The Center for Collaborative Research will be built behind the recently opened Health Professions Division parking garage next to the Doctors Hospital Training Facility. The 205,000-square-foot facility will be NSU's second building dedicated solely to research. A multidisciplinary facility, the Center for Collaborative Research is funded in such a way as to allow both public and private research projects, according to Witschen. The building is planned to be opened by the end of 2014.

### Flight Deck expansion

The Flight Deck, located inside the Don Taft University Center, will receive a face lift and expansion this semester. The plans

include knocking down the wall behind the bar to expand the interior space and constructing a covered outdoor deck space with seating.

The Flight Deck will close on Sept. 9 and reopen after winter break.

### Quad improvements

The library quad, the grass area located between the Don Taft University Center and the Alvin Sherman Library, will undergo improvements during the fall semester.

"We really want to give the students an area where they can relax and sit, or play sports on really nice grass," Witschen said.

The grass currently on the quad will be replaced by a softer, more picnic-friendly blend.

### Parker South Module Replacement

Parker South Module, the modular building located near the Parker Building, will be demolished and replaced with classrooms. The offices currently located inside the module will move elsewhere. For instance, the office of the Special Olympics of Broward County, currently located in the module, will be moved to the Athletics II Building, which has yet been constructed.

Once the building is empty, design of the new building will begin. According to Witschen, the number and type of classrooms will be determined by enrollment.

There is currently no timeline for construction to begin, but Witschen hopes the module will be removed within the next 24 months.



# Diary of... an empowered student



Suzi Xayavong hopes that her story motivates students to persevere and find success.

COURTESY OF S. XAYAVONG

By: **Suzi Xayavong**

*Suzi Xayavong is a second-year student in NSU's Master of Business Administration in process improvement program, part of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. When she is not busy with school work, she loves to dance. She hopes students who read her story realize that life presents lessons and challenges from which to learn.*

At a young age, I had this urge deep in my soul but I did not understand what this feeling was. I did not know how to decipher this code my brain was trying to communicate to the rest of my body. Little did I know, starting graduate school at NSU was going to wake up the beast I call my addiction.

I was born to Laotian immigrants who escaped from a communist Laos in the 1980s. My parents came to America not understanding a single English word. They had dreams that they would be able to give their growing family a better future. My parents worked multiple jobs to help pay the bills and raise their five children. Since we grew up poor, we did not know that this

world had more to offer until we got older and our needs turned to wants. We soon learned that we could not afford our wants and we learned to live without many things. Little did my parents know that poverty fueled my addiction.

I grew up with four brothers who felt that I was not deserving of my last name. My brothers felt that someone who was strong, confident, competitive and fearless should have represented the Xayavong name. Since I was the only girl in the family, they challenged me and made me prove everyday that I was worthy of my last name. Little did my brothers know, their treatment toward me growing up fueled my addiction.

When I entered my twenties, I fell in love. I fell in love with the wrong guy. He lifted me up. He lifted me up enough to knock me down. He tore me down to my core. After seven years of this abuse, he left me confused, brokenhearted and depressed. Little did he know, he helped fuel my addiction.

I was entering my seventh year working with American Express in North Carolina, when the company announced that they were closing the office. I was given several options. I

had a choice to work at home, move to Florida, Utah or Arizona, or accept a severance package. After a week-long trip to South Florida, I decided to move to Florida. I signed a contract to stay in Florida for at least a year, with a choice of moving back home.

Leaving my family and friends left me even more depressed. After six months in Florida, I started to feel this urge in my soul. I was reintroduced to this feeling I'd felt as a kid. I felt it was time to find someone whom I lost touch with: myself. I sought a high that my body was aching for. I went to parties, hung out with new friends, went on mini adventures all over South Florida and enrolled in graduate school at NSU. Little did I know I would soon find my high while at NSU.

In my second term here, I decided to get involved in school and network with fellow graduate students. An opportunity opened up for me to become a student ambassador for the Graduate Business Student Association.

As a student ambassador, I was the voice of the students. I couldn't help but notice that several students expressed their concerns about finding employment after graduate school. The GBSA decided to host

a series of Empowerment Events. These Empowerment Events are a way for company representatives to come on campus and talk about their company. I saw an opportunity to bring someone from American Express on campus to discuss opportunities within our company.

I wanted to bring at least one leader from American Express to an Empowerment Event. I reached out to several leaders and human resource employees only to be turned down. I decided to email the regional vice president with my idea. Her calendar was booked for the next six months, so she directed me to the director of human resources. I pitched the idea and he thought it was a great. He spoke at the Empowerment Event and brought 10 leaders from the Global Credit Administration from American Express and their regional vice president.

Shortly after this event, I received an invitation to join the Strategic Forum Student Group (SFSG). This was my second high, since the opportunities for their members are more prestigious than those given to me through the GBSA. SFSG members have the privilege of attending a monthly board meeting held by the Strategic Forum South Florida Chapter, a group of 32 CEOs, entrepreneurs and business leaders from across South Florida.

Once I was accepted as a Member in Progress (MIP) in the SFSG, I became very active. I made sure to attend all the student events and offered my assistance in anything to help the board members.

Shortly after completing my time as an MIP, I became the communications and events chairwoman for the SFSG. This opened other doors for me. Through SFSG, I was selected as the intern for the Council of Economic Advisors. As an intern, I sit in on a quarterly board meeting with 25 business leaders partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. I compile a report that is sent directly to the Federal Reserve Board to represent South Florida's

economic status and future projections. I was also one of four students selected to speak at the Young President's Organization/World Presidents' Organization Economic Summit attended by the CEOs, chairs, owners or presidents of various businesses worldwide.

One of the privileges of being an SFSG member is that we select a mentor within the Strategic Forum members. Phil Bakes, president of Snapper Creek Equity and co-founder of the South Florida Chapter of the Strategic Forum, hosted the past five Economic Summits in the Conrad Hotel in Miami. Bakes agreed to mentor me while I was a member of the SFSG. This involves meeting with him once a month following the monthly Strategic Forum meeting. He helps prepare me for what I'll need outside the classroom. With his support, I've been able to connect with the necessary people to get me closer to my dream profession after graduate school: a consultant helping businesses implement improvement processes into their organization through Six Sigma, a quality control system created by Motorola in the 1980s.

The following semester, I accepted the role as president and chairwoman of the SFSG. In addition to my own agenda, I've been able to create opportunities for some of the SFSG members as well. My addiction does not stop at doing things for myself or my organization. I've volunteered for organizations like a Prom to Remember, an organization that organizes a prom once a year for kids with cancer, and Tomorrow's Rainbow, which helps kids cope with the loss of a loved one through the aid of miniature horses.

I continue to fill my calendar with philanthropic activities or activities that will build my members or me. I continue to do so, simply because I am able.

I'm addicted to being empowered.

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# Athlete of the week: *Jonathan Key*



COURTESY OF K. SMITH  
Jonathan Key, senior criminal justice major, recently won the Wilma Rudolph Student Athlete Achievement Award.

By: **Keren Moros**

Senior criminal justice major Jonathan Key knows the special pride that comes with being first. He joined the men's swimming and diving team when it started in 2010.

"It was a risk," Key said of his decision to join the program when it was just starting. "But everybody that came, we were all willing to take that risk. We knew we'd be able to kind of mold it into what we wanted it to be."

Taking the risk paid off. They won the Sunshine State Conference Championships their first two years and came in second place in their third year.

"We always had a high motivation," Key said. "We always backed

each other up on the pool deck. One of the cool things was that we got to make up all the cheers because we didn't have any."

Key's individual swimming accomplishments include coming in ninth place in the 400-yard individual medley and seventh place in the 200-yard breaststroke with times 4:04.50 and 2:07.22 respectively at last year's Sunshine State Conference Championship. He competes in breaststroke and individual medley competitions with some of his best times being 59.84 for the 100-yard breaststroke and 2:07.22 for the 200-yard individual medley.

This year, the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics awarded Key the 2013 Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Achieve-

ment Award. The association gives the award "to honor student athletes who have overcome great personal, academic and/or emotional odds to achieve academic success while participating in intercollegiate athletics."

"I was surprised," Key said of winning the award. "I didn't really think I had a shot at it."

To qualify for winning the award, Key wrote an essay about his struggles with dyslexia throughout college.

"If anybody saw my GPA then, they'd wonder how I was still here," Key said. "It was a struggle at first, but I've never really been one to quit anything so I just worked through it as best as I could."

Key started out as a marine bi-

ology major but later changed his major to criminal justice. He made his decision after going on a SWAT team raid with a family friend.

Though he's just starting his senior year, Key is trying to enter the workforce in his field. He's sent applications to the Secret Service and other law enforcement offices.

But he hasn't set swimming aside quite yet.

"If I'm close to Olympic [Team] Trials, I'll keep training and go to trials," he said.

I sat down with Key and asked him a few questions.

**If you could have dinner with three people, alive or dead, who would they be?**

My great-great grandfather, Josephus Daniels, for sure. He was secretary of the navy, he worked with the president, and he was an ambassador to Mexico. I think that's all really cool stuff and I'd love to talk with him about it if I had the chance. I'd have to think about the other ones.

**Who would you say is your biggest fan?**

My mom and my brother.

**Who is your favorite athlete?**

Ryan Lochte.

**As a native of North Carolina, what do you like the most about South Florida?**

No cold weather. I can go to the beach New Year's Day and send my parents a picture while they're at home freezing.

**Who's your favorite superhero?**

Batman. Hands down.

**Coke or Pepsi?**

Mountain Dew.

**If you had to play any other sport besides swimming, which one would you choose?**

Soccer.

**What would you say is the best thing about swimming?**

It teaches time management, and it keeps you in the best shape of your life.

**What's your favorite thing about your coach Hollie Bonewit-Cron?**

She knows what she's doing. If she sees something wrong with your strokes, she'll tell you exactly what's wrong with it. You'll have it fixed by the end of the day.

**If you were to go to the moon and you could sketch one word or phrase on the moon dust, which would it be?**

Never give up.



## ON THE BENCH

Commentary by: **Kevin Lichty**

We want our sports heroes to be demigods. The stories of Hercules, Perseus and Odysseus have been replaced by those of Usain Bolt, Michael Jordan and Mohammed Ali. We recount with reverence Jordan's shot in game six of the 1998 NBA Finals to clinch his sixth title. We look on with awe as Bolt seemingly glides across the track while breaking every sprinting record in human history. We stand and roar with our brethren as Patrick Willis carelessly throws aside a 300-pound offensive tackle while hunting down the opposing team's quarterback.

These are our legends, our myths, our heroes. And for that, we build them cathedrals named Soldier Field, or Fenway Park or Camden yards. We display our allegiance to them with their jerseys and we retell stories to our children of the time when we "were there on game seven when..."

And for this adulation, we expect our sports demigods to be faster, stronger and more agile than the generation before them, and the generation before that, and the generation before that. And in pursuit of this anointing by us, the fans, they destroy their bodies and sometimes their minds and sometimes their health, risking everything to be remembered the way Babe Ruth, Pele or Wayne Gretzky were remembered. The ancient Greeks called this Kleos. It was their principle pursuit.

But there is a particular Greek

myth that warns against going too far in our search for glory: the story of Icarus. Enraptured by the glory of flight, Icarus flew higher and higher, until the sun became so hot that the wax holding his wings together melted and he plummeted into the ocean and died. Icarus was cocky, he lost his head; his pursuit to reach the glory of the sun led to his downfall. This, the ancient Greeks called Hubris. It was their greatest sin.

The list of athletes who have reached too far to find greater and greater glory is long: Lance Armstrong, Marion Jones, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Rudy Gay, Barry Bonds. Alex Rodriguez — A-Rod as he's affectionately known — is just the latest to be caught dipping into the well of performance enhancing drugs to prolong his career.

A-Rod was recently suspended 250 games by Major League Baseball for his part in the Miami anti-aging clinic Biogenesis' scandal involving at least 12 current MLB players and over a dozen South Florida High School athletes. The fact that A-Rod was suspended 250 games while the other baseball players were suspended 50 is two-fold. One, A-Rod refused to settle with MLB as the other player had. And two, well, he's A-Rod. He's the name, the big fish, the example.

Alex Rodriguez has been under enormous pressure — not just from the fans of the Yankees, the team he plays for, but from all baseball fans — to restore integrity at the top of

the home run chart. Barry Bonds currently sits atop the all-time list of home runs with 762. Bonds has been tagged a steroid taker, a cheater. No one wants him there. He is an affront to the baseball gods, to the men who played the game the "right way," like Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Willie Mays (660). These three are the trinity of baseball. The fact that Barry Bonds has surpassed them as the homerun king is a sacrilege that must be corrected.

So enter Alex Rodriguez. He is the only current player within striking distance of Barry Bonds' record, sitting at 648 home runs. He is a media darling. He plays for the biggest club, on the biggest stage, in the biggest city in the country — the same city Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle and Jackie Robinson played in. In the prime of his career, he was averaging 47 homeruns a year. He became the hope of the entire baseball community to restore balance to the top, to make baseball pure again. And had he continued hitting like he was between 2001 and 2007, he would have.

But he began to age and battle injuries. The furious pace of home runs began to dwindle then trickle. In his last two seasons, Alex Rodriguez hit a total of 32 home runs, missing over 100 games. This season, he's only played in six, battling a nagging knee injury.

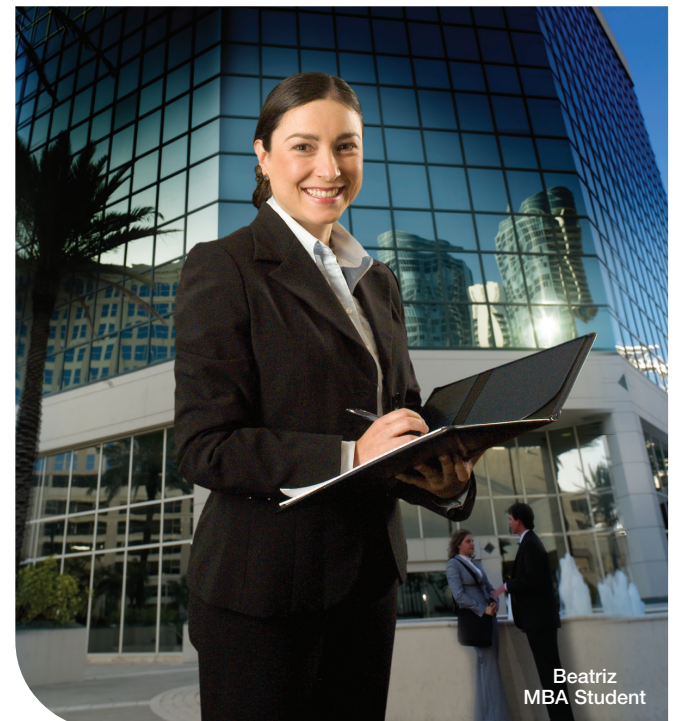
Like so many before him, he turned to Biogenesis, to human growth hormone, and its promise to

speed recovery and hold back time in an effort to prolong his career, to reach the pinnacle of baseball lore, to become the homerun king and win our undying adulation.

He was primed to return to the lineup just before MLB announced they were going to suspend him 250 games. That's the rest of this

season, plus all of next. He will be 40 before he can take the field again. He will be a shell of his former self, Barry Bonds' record an unattainable dream.

We want our sports heroes to be demigods. But they aren't; they're just human beings.



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# Fitting in Fitness

By: **Megan Mortman**

College is known for a lot of things, including the infamous “freshman 15” — the 15 pounds students gain during their freshman year. Whether you’re a freshman, senior, graduate student or faculty member it’s important to make time for yourself and make time to exercise. The semester can be stressful but working out and going to the gym can clear your mind and help you become more focused.

Marcela Sandigo, associate director of Campus Recreation, said the benefits of exercising are countless.

“[Although exercising] gives you health benefits and makes you look better, the way that you feel inside is the best thing you get from exercise,” said Sandigo. “I think it makes you a better employee, a better student. Your mind is a little clearer, and you’re a little bit more focused.”

Lourdes Perez, a personal trainer for nine years and fitness instructor at the Recreational Complex for eight, teaches spinning and body sculpting classes, and is working toward a master’s degree in exercise science.

“Always have gym clothes nearby so that you can always get to it,” she said. “I always keep an extra pair of gym clothes in my car. You never know when you’re going to have a few minutes.”

The RecPlex offers a variety of activities, including intramural sports

and group exercise classes like yoga and body sculpting, which is weight training in a group environment.

The RecPlex also offers interval training like Tabata and Circuit Blast, both short, high-intensity classes. There are also extreme fitness classes like Boot Camp, which is held outdoors and in-volves flipping tires and throwing medicine balls.

According to Sandigo, many students find that going to a group exercise class with a friend is fun, interactive and less daunting than working out alone.

“I feel that group exercise is a great way to get started, especially if you don’t know how to start a fitness routine,” said Sandigo.

Perez encourages students to make time for exercise, instead of making excuses.

“If you make it part of your routine and don’t look at it as a workout but look at it as a class, I think it’s a

good thing,” said Perez.

In the next few months, the RecPlex will offer several events and activities that will allow students to try out a variety of workouts.

On Sept. 17, the RecPlex will host Dance Jam, featuring energetic workouts like zumba, hip-hop and boxing, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the basketball courts.

NSU Shark Shuffle, held on Oct. 13 at 7:30 a.m., is a 5K run/walk held near the Carl DeSantis Building. Any student who crosses the finish line will be eligible to win one of 30 prizes, including \$500.

The RecPlex is open Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to midnight, Fridays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays noon to 8 p.m.

For a full list of all upcoming RecPlex activities, including classes and special events, stop by the RecPlex or visit [www.rec.nova.edu](http://www.rec.nova.edu).



RecPlex trainer Lourdes Perez teaching Body Sculpting, one of the fitness classes at the Recreational Complex.

TAKEN BY M. MORTMAN

# Sprinting into the new sports season

By: **Keren Moros**

With a new school year, comes an exciting new athletic season. Support your Sharks at the first games of the fall or get involved in intramural sports.

## Home games

Sept. 5 at 6 p.m.: women’s soccer vs. the University of West Georgia at the NSU Soccer Complex

Sept. 6 at 11:30 a.m.: women’s volleyball plays vs. Virginia State University at the Arena at the Don Taft University Center

Sept. 6 at 6 p.m.: men’s soccer plays vs. Young Harris College at the NSU Soccer Complex.

Sept. 6 at 7 p.m., women’s volleyball vs. Barton College at the Arena at the Don Taft University Center

Sept. 7 at 11:30 a.m., women’s volleyball vs. the University of Findlay at the Arena at the Don Taft University Center

Sept. 7 at 1 p.m., women’s soccer plays vs. Georgia College at the NSU Soccer Complex

On Sept. 7 at 4:30 p.m., women’s volleyball plays vs.

Pfeiffer University at the Arena at the Don Taft University Center

On Sept. 8 at 1 p.m., men’s soccer vs. University of North Georgia at the NSU Soccer Complex

## Away games

On Sept. 6 at 6 p.m., men’s cross country vs. the South Florida Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

On Sept. 6 at 6 p.m., women’s cross country vs. the South Florida Invitational in Tampa, Fla.

## Intramurals

Students looking for a way to socialize while staying fit can play intramural sports, in which NSU students play against one another. This year’s intramural sports include flag football, softball, racquetball and volleyball. To register, visit [imleagues.com/novasoutheastern/registration](http://imleagues.com/novasoutheastern/registration).

Students interested in serving as sports referees must attend Officials’ Clinics, the dates of which will be announced soon.

For more information on intramural sports, call Mike Prociuk, assistant director for Intramural Sports and Special Events, at 954-262-7305 or Meloney Fosburgh, graduate assistant for Intramural Sports at 954-262-7303. You can also visit [www.rec.nova.edu/intramurals](http://www.rec.nova.edu/intramurals).



Members of the men’s cross country team



The women’s volleyball team



A member of the women’s soccer team

# Summer sports report



The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee presenting a check to Make-A-Wish Southern Florida.



Stephen Frazier-Wong, head coach of the women’s rowing team.



Baseball player Carlos Asuaje



The women’s track and field team.

By: **Keren Moros & Megan Mortman**

NSU’s Athletic Department had quite the summer. Here’s what they were up to while you were away.

NSU’s **women’s rowing team** won its first NCAA Division II National Championship on June 2 in Indianapolis, beating Barry University in the Varsity 4 and Varsity 8 grand finals.

**The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee** donated \$5,544.72 to Make-A-Wish Southern Florida.

**Women’s rowing coach Stephen Frazier-Wong** was named Coach of the Year by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association.

The Boston Red Sox chose **Sharks baseball team player Carlos Asuaje**, infielder, in the 11th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year player draft.

At the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators Best of Award Ceremony, **NSU’s Athletic Department** received a gold medal for their Sharks Golf Video, which highlighted NSU’s men and women’s golf teams.

The 2013 National Association of Basketball Coaches Honor Court named **three men’s basketball team**

**members**, Louie Schonauer, Lukas Roesch and Brian Cahill, to the Honors Court. The distinction is given to athletes who maintain a GPA or 3.2 or higher.

The **men’s basketball team** was awarded the National Association of Basketball Coaches Team Academic Excellence Award for having a cumulative grade point average of 3.24.

**President George Hanbury** became the president of the Sunshine State Conference. He will hold his position until 2015.

U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named the **women’s track and field team** a 2013 Division II All-Academic Track and Field teams. They are one of the 92 teams to earn this distinction.

The **NSU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee** announced their 2013 inductees for the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame: Bryan Cook, member of the baseball team from 2006 to 2008; Nicole Felluca, member from the rowing team from 2004 to 2007; Juan Ramos, member of the soccer team from 1992 to 1995; and Katie Veltri, member from the softball team from 2004 to 2007.



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


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


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


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


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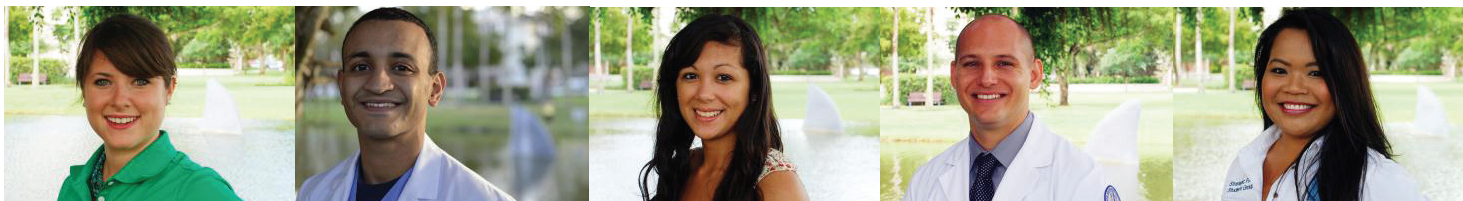


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***Congratulations to the Winter 2013 '2020 Legacy Scholarship' recipients!***



**Molly Kresl**

*College Student Affairs Association*

**Ahmed Elghawy**

*Nova Wrestling Club*

**Priscilla Franco**

*Phi Sigma Sigma Fraternity*

**James Jackson**

*Sigma Sigma Phi Osteopathic Honors Fraternity*

**Suzi Xayavong**

*Strategic Forum Student Group*

**Thank you to all of our 2020 Legacy Scholar donors:**

**Stephen Agbor  
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Ahmed Elghawy  
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Jennifer Vogel  
Richard Williams  
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The 2020 Legacy Scholars Program is a student giving campaign to build Shark Pride, while supporting our students.

Money can be donated to any recognized and participating NSU student organization.

For every dollar raised at or above \$250,

NSU will match the amount up to a maximum of \$2,500.

This past semester we had a total of 45 participating organizations, of which 5 established scholarships that were awarded to one member of their organization.

The next round of scholarships will be awarded in November 2013.

**To learn more about the 2020 Legacy Scholars program, please visit  
<http://www.nova.edu/safspeialevents/legacy/index.html>**



# SUMMING UP CELEBRITIES' SUMMER

By: **Megan Mortman**

While you spent your summer relaxing at the beach, sleeping in, or maybe studying, here's what you missed in the celebrity stratosphere.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM

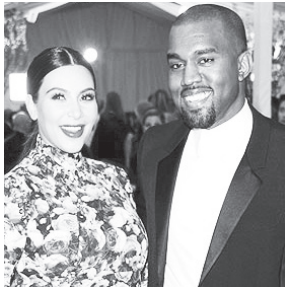


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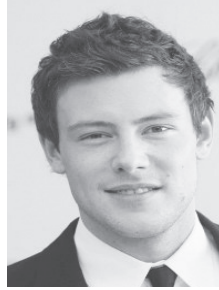


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

## WHOA, BABY:

- Actor Channing Tatum and his wife actress Jenna Dewan-Tatum gave birth to a baby girl Everly Tatum on May 31.
- "Keeping up with the Kardashians" star Kim Kardashian gave birth to daughter North West with boyfriend and rapper Kanye West on June 15.
- "Late Night" host Jimmy Fallon and his wife Nancy Juvonen Fallon welcomed the arrival of daughter Winnie Rose Fallon via surrogate on July 23.
- Prince William and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, welcomed a baby boy, George Alexander Louis on July 29.
- Simon Cowell is expecting a baby with Lauren Silverman, a New York socialite and former wife of Cowell's best friend.

## FAREWELL FRIENDS:

- "The Sopranos" leading actor James Gandolfini died June 19 of a heart attack while on vacation in Italy with his family. Gandolfini played Tony Soprano on the hit show from 1999 to 2007. He was 51.
- "Glee" star Cory Monteith was found dead on July 13 from an accidental overdose from heroin and alcohol in Canada. Monteith rose to fame in 2009 playing the loveable jock, Finn Hudson. He was dating Lea Michele, his on-screen love interest, up until his death. He was 31.
- Former Disney Channel star Lee Thompson Young died Aug. 19 after committing suicide. Young was known for his show "The Famous Jett Jackson" and recently starred on TNT's "Rizzoli & Isles." He was 29.

## SINGLE LADIES NO MORE:

"The Client List" star Jennifer Love Hewitt got engaged to her on-screen husband, Brian Hallisay. The pair is also expecting a baby.

"High School Musical" actress Ashley Tisdale got engaged to her musician boyfriend Christopher French. French proposed at the top of the Empire State Building in New York City while they were on vacation.

## DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

Pop star Justin Bieber apologized via Twitter to former President Bill Clinton after a video leaked in which Bieber curses at a picture of Clinton in a restaurant. In the video, Bieber also sprays the picture with cleaning fluid and urinates in a bucket.

## THE AMANDA SHOW:

Former Nickelodeon child star Amanda Bynes spent the summer in court on drug possession charges and was hospitalized for endangering herself. Her parents have temporary control over her wellbeing and finances after a series of irrational behavior. Facial piercings, plastic surgery and inappropriate tweets are just a few incidents that have drawn attention toward Bynes.

## YA'LL BUTTER BELIEVE IT:

Food Network star Paula Deen was stripped of her endorsement deals and relationship with the Food Network after admitting to using a racial slur. Deen is best known for her southern-style cooking and first appeared on Food Network in 2002 with hit shows like "Paula's Home Cooking" and "Paula's Party."

# Lights, camera, action for Performing and Visual Arts



PHOTO COURTESY OF B. ADAMS

Last year's Performing and Visual Arts' production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

By: **Megan Mortman**

For quality entertainment, look no further than the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Performing and Visual Arts. This school year, they have a variety of shows planned for NSU and the South Florida community.

Bill Adams, associate professor and coordinator for PVA, said "We are trying to do things which the university community would be interested in hopefully participating in."

These include the following productions: "Sylvia," performed Oct. 4-13, a contemporary play about a couple who move back to Manhattan and encounter a dog, Sylvia, who tests their marriage; "Once on This Island," performed Nov. 22-24, a musical about protecting the environment; and "Everyman," performed Feb. 14-23, a 15th century play about the seven deadly sins written by an anonymous playwright.

"Everyman" will be directed by Michael Yawney, who teaches at Florida International University and previously directed PVA's production of "The Laramie Project." Since "Everyman" is an ancient play, Adams said Yawney will have the freedom to create his

own interpretation of it.

These productions were chosen over a year ago by PVA faculty, who collaborated with music directors, directors, choreographers and designers to obtain the rights from the shows' creators.

Farquhar's 2013-2014 academic theme, "Good and Evil," also played a role in what shows were selected. For example, "Everyman" focuses on morals.

PVA will also present several dance shows.

Elana Lanczi, associate professor of dance, says Dance Works, performed on Nov. 8 and 9, will showcase faculty choreographers and other dancers. The show will feature many dance styles, highlighting contemporary and Afro-fusion styles.

NovaPool: Dancing on the Internet, held on Nov. 22, will be a live dance collaboration with dancers from John Moores University in Liverpool, England. The show is directed by adjunct professor Luke Kahlich, who began working on NovaPool while teaching at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. Over the past seven years, Kahlich and artists from the University of Liverpool have worked on the technology to

create this virtual dance show.

Adam said, "It's really amazing to watch and realize that those people are thousands of miles away and performing together at the same time. It becomes a performance studies piece."

Auditions for "Sylvia" and "Once on This Island" will be held Aug. 29 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Auditions for Dance Works will held on Sept. 7 in the Performance Theatre at 3 p.m.

Senior dance and psychology major Stephanie Ponce has participated in many PVA dance shows — including previous Dance Works, Dance Concert and Festival of Student Works — and is looking forward to auditioning for this year's Dance Works.

Ponce said auditioning is "one huge master class" and a chance for choreographers to show students what they're looking for and a chance for students to get a lot of professional exposure.

All students can audition, with or without experience.

"There are so many things — whether it's a musical or play or a dance concert or all the art things that we do as well — [that] all students can be involved in," he said.

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# Must-see college movies

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

In between classes, studying and partying, every student should make time to unwind by watching a good movie. Watching fantasy movies and thrillers isn't the only way to let one's mind venture; movies about college can be even more entertaining because students can either relate to them or use them as motivation to live their college years to the fullest.

## "Pitch Perfect" (2013)

In this modern musical comedy, Anna Kendrick stars as Beca Mitchell, a reclusive and rebellious college freshman who wants to pursue a music career but is forced by her father to attend classes and get involved in campus life. She reluctantly joins the Barden Bellas, a female capella group, and injects her modern musical style into their repertoire. With her help, the Bellas take on their male rivals in a prestigious competition, and Beca unexpectedly — and hilariously — gets caught up in the world of college capella.

## "The Social Network" (2010)

Facebook is essential to the college social scene, and this film tells the story of the young man who redefined the word "friend." Jesse Eisenberg plays Mark Zuckerberg, a Harvard University student suffering through a bad breakup. He and his friends experiment with

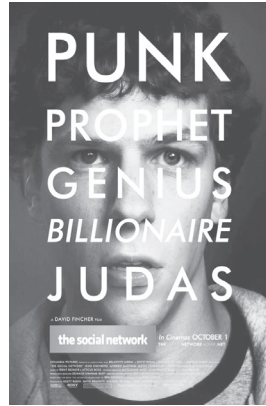


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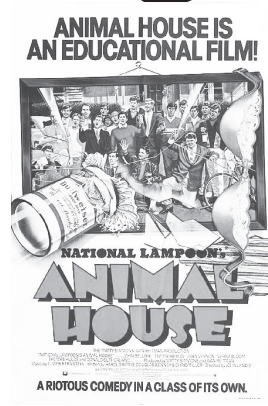


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blogs and dating sites, and although one lawsuit after another impedes his progress, Zuckerberg ultimately creates a website that catapults him to billionaire status and changes the world. An Academy Award winner for the Best Adapted Screenplay, this film is definitely one for the generation of social media addicts.

## "The House Bunny" (2008)

Anna Faris stars as a washed-up Playboy bunny who becomes the "house mother" of a dowdy university sorority. Zeta Alpha Zeta, a group of socially awkward girls, is startled by Shelley's Playboy personality but welcomes her as their mentor in order to gain popularity. The makeovers, dates and parties that ensue show the girls a new way to enjoy college, but also emphasize the importance of self-confidence and genuine friendship.

## "Accepted" (2006)

Come the end of the school year, many high school seniors' worst nightmare is receiving rejection letters from universities. In this comedy, Justin Long plays Bartleby Gaines, a senior who fails to get accepted into any of the schools he applied to. To fool his strict father, Bartleby uses his cunning to create a fake university, the South Harmon Institute of Technology, complete with a fake dean and campus. But when other college rejects begin applying to his school, Bartleby's plan spins out of control. This film is more than just a funny story about a student's prank; it stresses the importance of following your passions and making your own way.

## "Legally Blonde" (2001)

In her senior year at the University of California, girly

sorority president and fashion merchandising major Elle Woods is suddenly dumped by her serious boyfriend. She attempts to win him back by earning an impressive law degree, and along the way, break free of the "dumb blonde" stereotype. Elle's time at Harvard University helps her discover that she might be more than just a popular, pretty face. This famous film, based on the novel by Amanda Brown, has inspired many spinoffs and musicals, a testament to the hilarious story's success.

## "Good Will Hunting" (1997)

Matt Damon stars as Will Hunting, a young janitor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who is secretly a genius. Even though he cannot afford to attend college and has a long history of run-ins with the police, Will demonstrates an aptitude for

advanced mathematics. Stellan Skarsgard and Robin Williams play a professor and therapist duo who attempt to change Will's life for the better. Through his math lessons and therapy sessions, Will reevaluates his relationships with his best friend, played by Ben Affleck, his girlfriend and himself.

## "National Lampoon's Animal House" (1978)

This infamous film chronicles the efforts of college freshmen Larry "Pinto" and Kent "Flounder," as they attempt to embrace Greek life. They pledge to Delta Tau Chi, a typical fraternity full of dimwitted degenerates, and encounter stern opposition from the college's dean, played by John Vernon. From cheating on exams to hooking up with administrators, the male cast demonstrates a wild contempt for the rules and an undying desire to have fun.

## Sara Bareilles belts out her best on "The Blessed Unrest"



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SARABMUSIC.COM

Singer songwriter Sara Bareilles continues to be bold on new album "The Blessed Unrest."

By: **Megan Mortman**

Sara Bareilles shows just how brave she really is with her latest album "The Blessed Unrest." With her powerful vocals and playful energy, this California-native singer-songwriter knows how to make pop songs edgy, especially on her latest record.

"The Blessed Unrest" represents Bareilles doing what she does best: singing beautiful songs that highlight her experiences. In this album, she sings about her transition from Los Angeles to New York City.

It's about making new discoveries and new friends and not being afraid to be who you are.

Many of her songs, like "Beautiful Girl," focus on female empowerment. Lyrics to her first single, "Brave," include "Maybe one of these days you can let the light in/ Show me how big your brave is," which emphasize the song's theme of standing up for yourself and speaking your mind, regardless of people telling you that you shouldn't. Bareilles performed "Brave" with pop singer Taylor Swift at Swift's

concert at the Staples Center in Los Angeles — even Swift can't get enough of her music.

"Beautiful Girl" is about loving who you are. The only instrument on the track is the ukulele, so you focus on Bareilles and her sensational voice. Lyrics include "So before you trade in your summer skin for those high-heeled shoes/To make him want to be with you/Let me remind you one more time/That just maybe, you're beautiful but you just can't see."

Her simple and sweet single "I

Choose You" is one of her best. It's about being with the love of your life and accepting each other's good and bad sides. Lyrics include "I will become yours and you will become mine" and the charming tempo makes you want to sing along.

Bareilles' voice is effortless. Her music is expressive with inspiring songs like "Chasing the Sun," which encourages listeners to stop stressing and to enjoy life. She also has heartbreaking tracks, like "Islands," about a relationship coming to an end.

Her 2007 album "Little Voice" captured everyone's attention with hits like "Love Song," "Between the Lines" and "Gravity." She did it again with 2010's "Kaleidoscope

Heart" with "Uncharted," "King of Anything" and "Hold my Heart." Many of her songs have also been featured in movies and TV shows like "Made of Honor," "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Vampire Diaries."

Grammy-nominated Bareilles is an authentic artist who writes all her music, plays the piano and stays true to who she is. She creates relatable music, which is why she has such a dedicated fan base. Her ability to create meaningful and heartfelt lyrics and melodies makes fans connect to the music and connect to Bareilles not only as an artist, but as a person — and for that, the audience is blessed.

## offshore

**August 27- September 8**

**Thursday 8.29**  
Miami Dolphins vs. New Orleans Saints  
Sun Life Stadium, Miami, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday 8.30**  
Bruno Mars  
American Airlines Arena, Miami, 8 p.m.

**Saturday 8.31**  
Iration  
Culture Room, Fort Lauderdale, 8 p.m.  
Megan and Liz  
Culture Room, Fort Lauderdale, 6 p.m.

**Sunday 9.1**  
Jo Koy  
Improv, Fort Lauderdale, 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

**Wednesday 9.4**  
Diana Ross  
Diana Ross  
Hard Rock Live, 8p.m.

**Friday 9.6**  
Megan and Liz  
Culture Room, Fort Lauderdale, 6 p.m.

**Sunday 9.8**  
Jo Koy  
Improv, Fort Lauderdale, 8pm



# It's good to be back

By: **Faren Rajkumar**

The first day of school has arrived. The daily grind of note taking, studying, test taking, commuting and working can be wearisome, so naturally, most students' favorite part of the school year is the end. But I've looked forward to this all summer the way most students crave a vacation during the long school year.

I understand why many students

would kill for summer break to arrive more quickly. Waking up early for class and staying up late to finish homework or cram for a test was a chore for me during high school. I loathed many of my classes, simply because I felt as though I was memorizing facts and figures that would be useless to me in real life. College, however, is a different story.

It's never all work and no play; the first few weeks back are filled

with happy reunions and campus events that promote a good feeling in our academic environment. Our transition from summer to fall is made much easier with some fun-filled encouragement. But most importantly, the material we work to commit to memory finally matters to our careers.

There are no throwaway bits of worthless information; everything learned is something substantial gained because knowledge gives us the freedom to reinvent ourselves.

This could all be because I'm just a bit of a nerd who loves to learn, but I spent a long time preparing myself for a laborious journey toward a medical career, and I've finally become the academically disciplined and ambitious person I want to be. It's only when the school year and its many demands arrive that I slip back into this new and improved self.

Summer days are beautifully lazy, but they are counterintuitive to the nature of a busy student. Like most NSU students, I am used to being on the go and under perpetual pressure from some deadline or due date. I never know what to do with idle time; it feels wrong to have nothing important to do.

As much as I know some of my classmates will be yawning and whining all through the first week, I've looked forward to having my sense of purpose renewed. Be it a lab report or a term paper, I feel at my best when I have a task to complete.

I suppose this is what it means to be a student at my core. The need to maintain a sense of productivity by accomplishing small goals on a daily basis is ingrained in me. I regard this as a sign of complete acceptance

of my current role. It's my job to be a student, and I don't mind defining myself by this job.

Once the educational phase of my life comes to an end, I plan to enjoy using my knowledge and skills to help others care for their health. I hope to never become the sort of working professional whose favorite part of the day is its end.

This same attitude can be applied to any academic or career ambition; college students spend precious time, money and energy to earn a piece of paper that qualifies them to perform services for others in their chosen fields. In the meantime, we should embrace the daily tasks we are required to accomplish, as practice for the rest of our working lives.

Here's to a fun and successful academic year.



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The Prince and the Duchess of Cambridge with their son Prince George of Cambridge outside of St. Mary's Hospital in London.

# FACEOFF: *Royal Family*

The marriage of the Prince and Duchess of Cambridge and the recent birth of their son has created a stir in the media. The world has been following the lives of Kate, William and baby George, but not everyone is a devoted fan. Is the royal family meant to be admired, or is our attention misplaced?

## It's okay to care about the prince

By: **Keren Moros**

I'll admit it. I stayed up most of the night to watch Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, get married. I squealed when I saw their son Prince George's tiny hand give what he didn't know was a royal wave. I said "aww" when the family drove home in their car.

Some people aren't as enamored by the British monarchy as I am and feel that we give them more attention than they deserve. People especially complain about how much the American media cares about the royals. But some people have interests covered by the media and others don't. It's impossible for the media to please everyone, so why complain when one can just click on another link or change the channel?

I'd venture to say that some people don't understand this fascination because it predates them. Princess Diana died more

than 15 years ago, so those who were young when she died don't understand what an impact her charity work had on the world. Because she was "the people's princess," the world now wants to know how she influenced her sons and the nation.

I follow the British monarchy on YouTube and Facebook voluntarily the way some people follow reality stars and celebrities. It's not bad to like the British monarchy, just like it's not bad to like other seemingly frivolous things. That's why we shouldn't let others' interests disturb our own peace of mind.

Besides, with all the news going on in the world, news about the birth of a baby who was born with the responsibility to lead his people and represent his country's ideals to the world isn't the worst thing to hear.

## The royals aren't worth my time

By: **Mickele Mentz**

The United Kingdom's royal family has created a worldwide media frenzy. The royal family held the wedding of the century, and everyone watched it. I am perplexed as to why two billion people would simultaneously decide to turn on their televisions and watch two people whom they have never met get married.

Did we citizens of the United States take anything of substance away from tuning in to this "monumental occasion"? Instead of watching a wedding or waiting to hear the name of the new prince, I was studying for midterms and finals. Time is a valuable commodity, and we should use it carefully. I am by no means suggesting that we should not be informed about outside cultural activities. We should familiarize ourselves with world history and develop a sense of foreign cultures — without immersing ourselves into the lives of celebrities.

Instead of focusing all our attention on foreign figureheads, we should transfer our attention onto our own political system. The royal family will not be able to write a bill reducing interest rates on student loans, decrease the unemployment rate, reform our healthcare, or fix our Social Security system. So it would behoove us to take an interest in our own President, senators, representatives, governors, for these individuals have a direct impact on our lives.

We should inform ourselves on how the monarchy operates and the basic history of the royal family, and then draw a line. It is wrong to use the royal family for personal entertainment purposes; thus, we should all refocus and reevaluate our priorities in life. As a citizen of South Africa, a country in the British Commonwealth, I have a connection with the royal family; nevertheless, I do not concern myself with them. My life does not revolve around the royals.

## On the Scene: What are you looking forward to in this new academic year?



"I'm thinking about joining an athletic team, like volleyball."  
**lala Prida,**  
freshman psychology major



"I'm finally graduating."  
**Bentley Johnson,**  
senior accounting major

"I look forward to finishing my prerequisite classes so I can start taking the classes for my major. After that, I hope to start pharmacy school and I can't wait to be a pharmacist."  
**Ifeoma Mbely,**  
freshman biology major



"I look forward to attending my classes, getting to meet my professors and exercising at the RecPlex."  
**Diana Nutu,**  
freshman biology major

"I will enjoy my senior year and look forward to helping my fraternity reach new heights"  
**Logan Armstrong,**  
senior athletic training major





# Tattoos: Just Skin Deep

By: **Henry Paniccia**

I am considered a “modified” individual. I have snakebites, my earlobes are stretched, my tongue is split, and I have a magnet in my finger. There is a grim reaper and a Fascist eagle on my right arm, a symbol from the “Spawn” comic book with my last name on my left arm and a Detroit Red Wings logo on my hip. These piercings and tattoos are among the many modifications I made to my body that have altered the way the world sees me.

There is a misconception that people with tattoos or piercings must be criminals or drug addicts, but there are millions of different reasons why people decide to get body art. Sometimes it is a deeply seeded piece of art that represents a huge event in their

lives. Sometime it is a great piece of artwork that they want to wear everyday. For me, almost all of my tattoos have a deeper meaning.

My game controller tattoo, for example, tells about the period of time in which I wanted to design games and work on character development, and gaming was a huge part of my life. My “horns up” tattoo shows that I relate to the raw intensity of rock ‘n’ roll, more than any other genre of music. It is a privilege to wear a tattoo, a piercing or any other type of body modification and it is a privilege I don’t think those who judge others will ever deserve.

The so-called “modified” have to deal with biases on a constant basis. Many professional jobs will not allow visible tattoos of any kind, because it is



Henry Paniccia (seated center) and his co-workers at their tattoo gallery.

considered unprofessional by employers and clients. But these people have never met a tattooed guy like me; I’m 22 years old, a responsible home owner, the owner of three businesses, and a double major in college.

The judgments are unfair, because tattooing and piercing are some of the world’s oldest and most respected body modification practices, only rivaling scarification and branding. They are traditions passed down for thousands of years and are art forms that can be

worn by every type of person. Warriors during the Roman Empire wore tattoos proudly to display their pride in their empire. Roughly 1,950 years later, tattoos were still going strong; President Franklin D. Roosevelt had a large tattoo of his family crest on his chest.

In modern society, tattoos and piercings carry many different meanings. While two people may have identical pieces of body art, the story behind each piece might be very different. In prison, inmates might get tattoos to

represent their gang. In a standard tattoo shop, artists do cover ups, flash art, and mainstream or custom tattoos and piercings. In the gallery where I work, the artists have prestigious reputations, and every tattoo or piercing we do carries its own meaning.

Joe Casal, one of my co-workers at the gallery where I work, is an accomplished tattoo artist who also acknowledges that non-modified individuals definitely judge the modified. He tells me that people will always judge people who look different from them, not just because of tattoos and piercings, but also because of race, religion and nationality.

When it comes to non-modified people passing judgment, most modified individuals are able to turn the other cheek. We are a subculture that simply chooses to adorn our bodies with artwork and jewelry, and we understand that not everyone feels the need to do the same.

The only difference between those who choose to decorate their skin and those who don’t is that the tattooed don’t care if a person has a lot of body art; those people are still fellow human beings who deserve respect.

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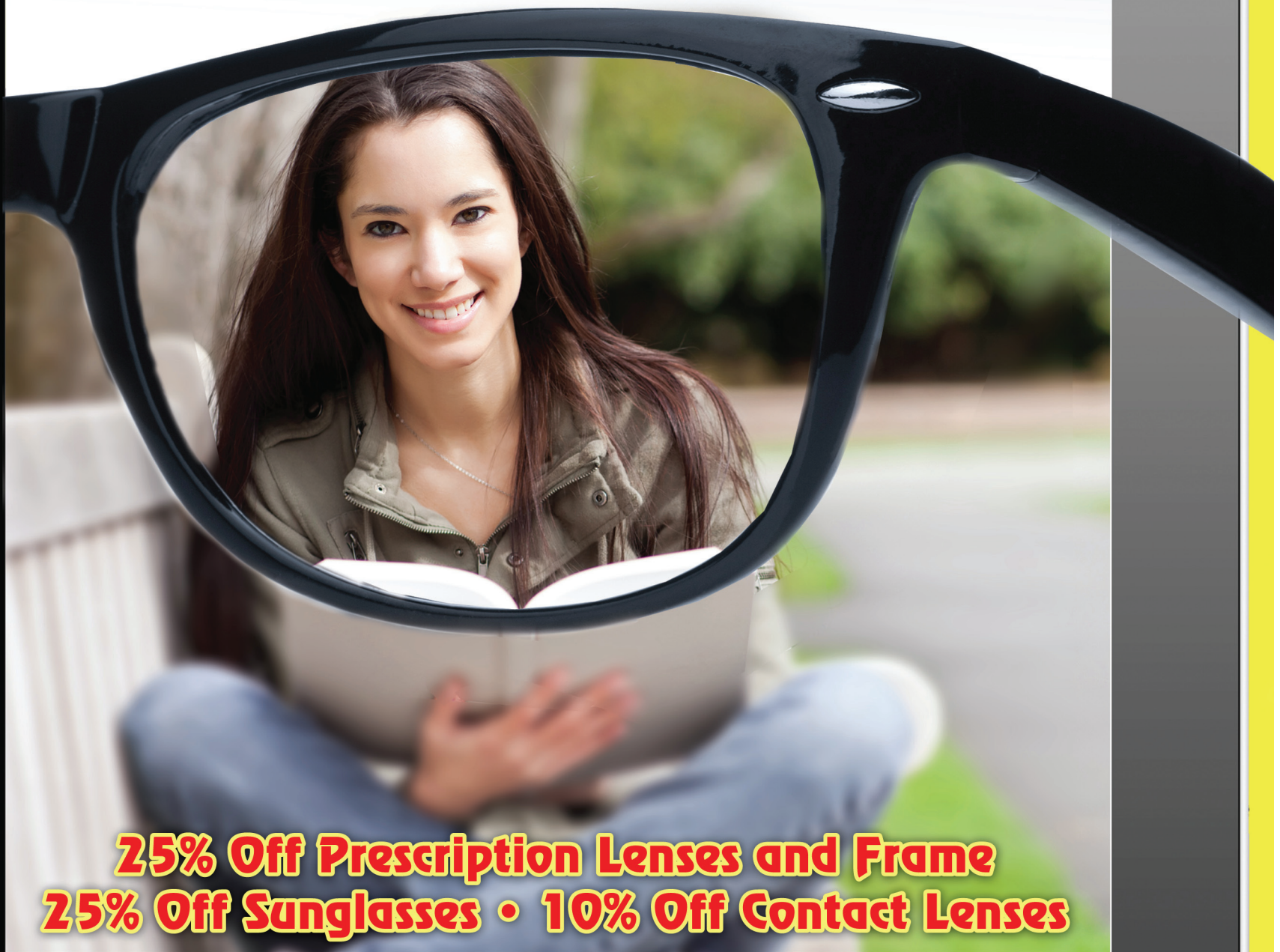


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