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## The Current Volume 21 : Issue 16

Nova Southeastern University

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# The Current

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University • December 7, 2010 | Volume 21, Issue 16 | nsucurrent.nova.edu

Commentary: "Christmas just ain't Christmas" without the cold



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Site of the Week:  
Get help making  
decisions

PAGE 10

Fun and easy holiday recipes

PAGE 5



## VP of Academic Affairs clarifies NSU's poor ranking on best college report

Written by:

Annarely Rodriguez

At NSU, you may "do what you want to do" and "be what you want to be." But, according to the 2011 U.S. World and News Report's national university rankings, that is not enough.

NSU, Barry University, Florida Atlantic University, and Florida International University appeared in the report's second tier, which means they ranked in the bottom 25 percent.

However, Frank DePiano, Ph.D., vice president of Academic Affairs, said the rankings are biased toward popular schools.

"I've gotten surveys from U.S. News Report asking me about my impressions of places. They send those surveys to a lot of people and base a lot of their ranking on the answers," he said. "So, [the rankings] are always going to be biased to better-known schools."

The report ranked the uni-

versities by looking at schools' 2009 undergraduate data. Criteria included retention rates, graduation rates, acceptance rate, selectivity, and faculty quality.

"I think the bigger thing, more than what a university does, is what impact it has on the student," said DePiano.

He said that while NSU is not as selective as other universities on the list, NSU adds more value to students by accepting applicants with lower scores and turning them into successes.

"I think what makes an institution really worthwhile is taking people and transforming them," he said.

According to College Board, NSU admits 45 percent of undergraduate applicants. Harvard University, which ranked number one, accepts seven percent.

DePiano said that, aside from reputation, what may have ranked

SEE RANKING 2

Nova Southeastern University ranked in the bottom 25 percent of schools in the 2011 U.S. World and News Report on the nation's best colleges. NSU's VP of Academic Affairs, Frank DePiano, Ph.D., said the rankings are biased toward popular schools.

## Student wins iPad for Old Spice spoof

Written by:

Annarely Rodriguez

Cherie MacFarlane, senior marketing major, won first place in the Huizenga Sales Institute's uPitch for iPad contest last week. Her prize included a 16 gigabyte iPad and \$1,000 for an organization to which she belongs.

To participate, students had to film a 60-second pitch in the sales institute's rooms. The pitch had to explain "Why I am NSU."

MacFarlane's 53-second commercial was a spoof of the Old Spice campaign, "The man your man could smell like."

"I wasn't interested as much in the prize, as winning to be proud and put on my résumé that I have selling skills," said MacFarlane.

She said that, to win, she distributed flyers to students and professors in the business school asking them to vote for her. She also created a video to explain the voting

process and posted it on YouTube and Facebook.

"It was a whole marketing campaign," she said.

MacFarlane said she got the idea for her video while browsing reddit.com and it evolved with the help of her friends, the American Marketing Association, and Toastmasters. She gave the prize money to NSU's AMA chapter.

MacFarlane was one of five finalists the judges chose from nine entries. The judges' criteria for the videos included their likelihood to go viral, the students' charisma and whether the presentation was fun and entertaining.

Charlie Pettijohn, D.B.A., director of the Huizenga Sales Institute, said, "We had the dual purpose of promoting NSU and get students accustomed with the facilities." Pettijohn said he believed that this was accomplished.

Anthony Campenni, senior



PHOTO BY: A. RODRIGUEZ

SEE UPITCH 2

(From left to right) Brad Williams, Ed. D., dean of Student Affairs, Charlie Pettijohn, D.B.A., director of the Huizenga Sales Institute, Cherie MacFarlane, senior marketing major and first-place winner, and Michael Fields, Ph.D., dean of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.



UPITCH from 1

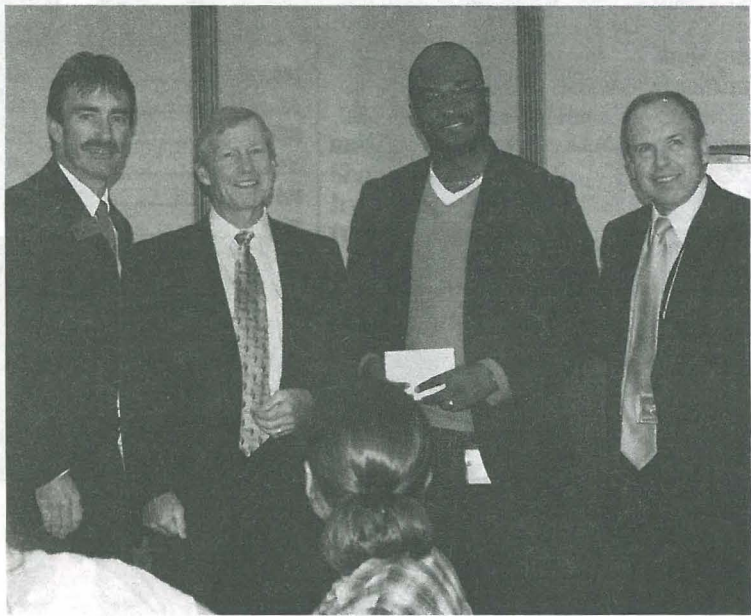


PHOTO BY: A. RODRIGUEZ

(From left to right) Brad Williams, Ed. D., dean of Student Affairs, Charlie Pettijohn, D.B.A., director of the Huizenga Sales Institute, Jean Souffrant, junior marketing major and third-place winner, and Michael Fields, Ph.D., dean of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

economics major, won second place and a \$250 American Express gift card. Jean Souffrant, junior marketing major, won third place and a \$100 American Express gift card.

Voters chose the winners through the institute's Web site. There were nearly 70,000 votes.

Pettijohn said, "We tried to create it, not only to promote the sales program, but also NSU and what it brings to the students."

Melissa Jones, senior business

administration major, was also a finalist and, although she did not win, she felt "blessed to have been chosen in the top five."

Jones also said she had fun shooting the commercial.

"It was a good opportunity to get your face known by the faculty and new people because you never know where they'll post it," she said. "And an iPad was at stake."

To view the finalists' videos log on to YouTube and search "uPitch for iPad."

RANKING from 1

NSU so low on the list may have been the university's retention and graduation rates. About 65 percent of freshmen return for a second year and the average graduation rate is 50 percent.

He said the university is working to improve this by providing

students at risk of dropping out with a mentoring program, strategic sessions and counseling.

"As retention rate increases our ranking will enhance," said DePiano. "But we're not doing this because the U.S. News Report is asking us to. We're doing it to improve our

undergraduate program."

Ivan Almanza, sophomore exercise science major, said he did not think the ranking will affect the way students view NSU.

"We know what NSU is really like. We're getting our education and that is all that matters," he said.

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# The Current

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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<p>Joydel Trail</p> <p>Annarely Rodriguez</p> <p>Keren Moros</p> <p>Juan Gallo</p> <p>Samantha Harfenist</p> <p>Alek Culpepper</p> <p>Magdalena Kabelis</p> <p>Kayla Revelus</p> <p>Josh Streimer</p> <p>Alyssa Sterkel</p> <p>Sabrina Talamo</p> <p>Lauren Aurigemma</p> <p>Chelsea Seignious</p> <p>Alex Pop</p> <p>Gabrielo Banks</p> <p>Megan Fitzgerald</p> <p>Eddie Jitraphai</p> <p>Michelle Manley</p>	<p>Editor-in-Chief</p> <p>News Editor</p> <p>Features Editor</p> <p>Arts &amp; Entertainment Editor</p> <p>Opinions Editor</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Contributing Writer</p> <p>Chief of Visual Design</p> <p>Visual Design Assistant</p> <p>Business Manager</p> <p>Distribution Manager</p> <p>Adviser</p> <p>Adviser</p> <p>Adviser</p>	<p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrentnews@nova.edu">thecurrentnews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu">thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrenta&amp;e@nova.edu">thecurrenta&amp;e@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:lettertoeditor@nova.edu">lettertoeditor@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:thecurrentad@nova.edu">thecurrentad@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:nsunews@nova.edu">nsunews@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:mf821@nova.edu">mf821@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:jitraph@nova.edu">jitraph@nova.edu</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:mmichell@nova.edu">mmichell@nova.edu</a></p>
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# Holiday shopping stimulates the economy



Shoppers rush into Macy's in New York after the doors opened on Black Friday 2010. National statistics showed that shoppers spent more this year than last year.

COURTESY OF CHANG LEE

Written by:

**Annarely Rodriguez**

This year's Black Friday weekend was money green. According to the National Retail Federation, consumers spent more this year than last year.

American consumers spent \$45 billion in stores and \$1 billion during Cyber Monday.

David Cho, assistant professor of finance, said this was an indication of the state of the country's economy.

"In order for the economy to

grow, people need to spend money," he said.

Cho said that more than 70 percent of the year's revenue comes from consumer spending — even with the discounts.

"As long as retailers are efficient, they may end up doing better than previous years," he said.

This year, online shopping was the biggest it's ever been. Cho said this was because of the convenience of online shopping.

"Cyber shopping allows consumers to shop more efficiently.

They can compare prices easier that going to different stores," he said.

Daniela Zitzmann, junior biology major, said this year's Black Friday success may be attributed to good marketing.

"I think it's all about the advertising. People see posters that say 75 percent off but it is not true — at least that's what I saw on Black Friday," she said. "But people get into that shopping mood and go crazy."

Michelle Garcia-Casals, sophomore biology major, said she did

not think holiday shopping helped improve the economy overall.

"I think it helps a little bit, maybe for two months, but then the other 10 months, it's bad again," she said.

An addition to the shopping weekend was Small Business Saturday, which was introduced this year as an incentive for consumers to support locally-owned businesses.

Tamara Pino, senior environmental science major, said, "I didn't hear about it but I think it's a good idea because those are the people that need it."

## News Briefs

### Center for Psychological Studies sponsors art

Sheila Elias' paintings, photographs and sculptures are on display at the "Expressions of the Creative Soul: Art and Psychology" exhibit in the second floor gallery of the Alvin Sherman Library. The exhibit runs through Jan. 28. It is free and open to everyone during regular library hours. Go to [www.nova.edu/library/main](http://www.nova.edu/library/main) for more information.

### Concert pianist Damira Feldman visits NSU

"Culture Vultures Presents: A Celebration of Music" will take place on Dec. 12 in the second floor art gallery of the Alvin Sherman Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feldman will interpret the work of 17th century Classicism and 20th century Modernism composers. The event is free, open to everyone and no reservations are required. Contact Kimberli Kidd at [plsrefdesk@nova.edu](mailto:plsrefdesk@nova.edu) for more information.

### Miami Luxury hotels super-size to host NBA players

Last month, several luxury hotels in Miami renovated their rooms to fit the needs of visiting basketball teams. Hotels near the American Airlines Arena added new package deals like "Live like LeBron" at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and "Turn up the Heat" at the Viceroy Hotel. The JW Marriott Marquis also changed its rooms to accommodate the players. It added longer beds, a media screening room to view recorded games and a gym with weights customized for larger biceps. There are also plans to install a shot clock and NBA-approved lines on the basketball court.

### Murder and suicide in Disney residential community

On Nov. 29, Matteo Giovanitto, 58, was found murdered in his home in Celebration, Fla. The discovery marked the Disney-created town's first homicide in its 14-year history. Three days later, Craig Foushee, 52, shot and killed himself in the same community after a standoff with police. There were no prior reports of violent crime in the community since it began accepting residents in 1996.

### Google settles lawsuit

After launching Google Buzz for Gmail in February, a group of Buzz users sued Google over privacy concerns. Google reached a settlement that acknowledges they changed their service to address these privacy concerns.

### World Cup locations announced

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association announced the locations of its 2014, 2018 and 2022 World Cups last week. Brazil will host the tournament in 2014, Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022. Brazil has hosted the cup in the past. However, the tournament has never been held in the Middle East or eastern Europe.

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# Diary of...

## A visually-impaired student

Written by:

**Rina Diep**

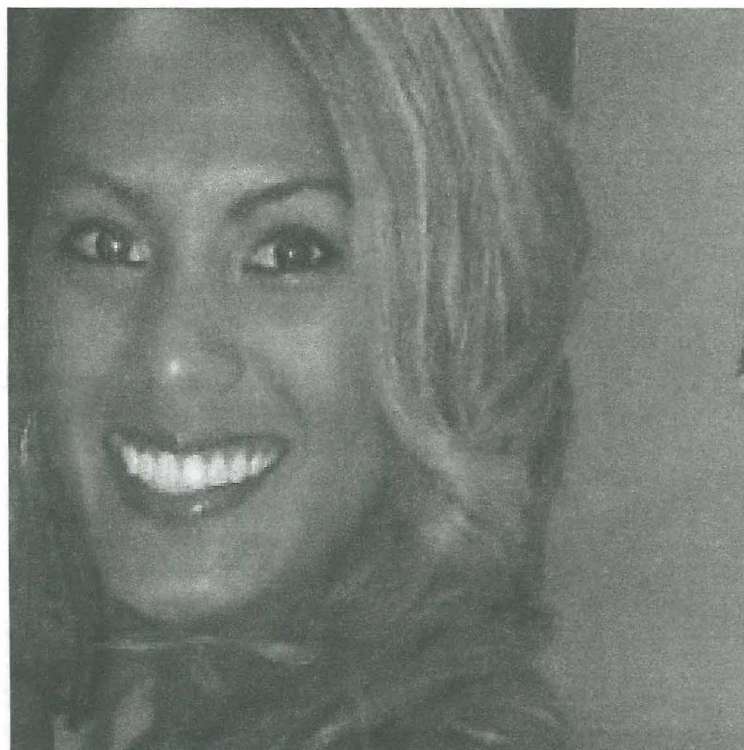
Rina Diep is a junior psychology and business administration major with a minor in human resource management. She is a member of Delta Phi Epsilon and Ablaze. Diep enjoys traveling and experiencing new things. She loves listening to smooth jazz and hip-hop and visiting beaches, art galleries and amusement parks. Her favorite quote is by Antoine de Saint-Exupery: "What saves a man is to take a step. Then another step. It is always the same step, but you have to take it."

I am a visually-impaired student from Seattle, WA. I chose to attend NSU because of its diverse population and academics. Last summer, I was brave enough to fly on a plane by myself for the first time. I came to Florida and fell in love with it. Since then, I knew I could make it on my own with or without a disability.

Six years ago, I was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic eye condition that damages the thin layer of cells located in the back of the eye called the retina. These cells are the rods and cones, which help a person see. It affects peripheral vision, how people see at night, how they see colors, and how clear their central vision is.

I have less than 20 degrees of peripheral vision, which is not a lot compared to an average person who has 180 degrees. I also cannot see very well in dimly lit areas or at night. Basically, my vision is like tunnel vision plus a couple of blind spots, but I can still read regular fonts and see detail. Bigger isn't better in my case — the bolder the better. So far, my rods are deteriorating more than my cone cells. Most people with RP go blind.

Sometimes I get scared of the future, not knowing what to expect about my eyes, but then I think about all my blessings and how far I've gotten in life because of this



COURTESY OF RINA DIEP  
Rina Diep, a junior psychology and business administration major has retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic eye condition that damages the retina.

eye condition. Growing up in a town where many students drop out of school or don't plan for college, I thought I was going to be one of them. Since I was diagnosed with RP, I knew I had to go to college and make something of myself. I didn't want people to think less of me just because I am "differently abled," as a professor once told me. I want to prove to my family and others that this does not limit my opportunities, but gives me more opportunities to prove myself. I have many scholarships and support because of this eye condition. I will indeed make it in life by myself.

Through RP, I have made wonderful lifelong friends and connections. It helped me become more confident and responsible. I am more assertive about what I need, and I have become more outgoing. Having parents whose first language is Cambodian and do not speak English very well, I've had to advocate for myself and be responsible for everything on my own.

Since I've been at NSU, the

sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon, students, staff and faculty have made me feel at home. No one has treated me like any less of a person. They have accommodated me very well when I've needed it.

To make it clear for those who have seen me around campus, I am not faking it. Sometimes I walk without my cane, also known as Charlie, because I am very familiar with the layout and obstacles surrounding me or have a person with me who I can grab onto. I call them my "seeing-eye people." NSU is so diverse and has made it easier for people to be accepting of people with disabilities because we all are different and unique individuals.

The RP diagnosis was the most difficult thing that happened to me. However, it was also the turning point of my life. I wouldn't have made it to NSU without it. It has helped me to develop courage and self-esteem. Today, I am someone because of it. Having a disability does not keep you from being the best. You can always be better than the best if you give your best efforts.

# How to chill out during winter break

Written by:

**Alek Culpepper**

Exhaustion causes hard-working college students to spend summer and winter breaks doing nothing but make new butt grooves in their couches and computer chairs.

But if you work hard, you have to play hard during the breaks to balance the universe. You don't want to be the reason for an unbalanced universe, do you?

I've noticed that my favorite semester breaks are the ones that I spend going somewhere, doing something or making something that I can share with the friends and family. Sometimes it's a good old-fashioned road trip with friends. Other times it's watching a movie, recording some guitar music or having a fantastic, memorable date with someone special.

With those in mind, here are a few things you can do this winter break to make sure it's your most memorable one. Once the winter semester starts and you're back in the library studying, you are going to want to have fond memories of the last time you could sleep in, hang out and not have to worry about your next assignment or test.

### 1. Host a holiday movie marathon

— Prepare a spread of some holiday snacks, like easy-to-make, chocolate-covered candy canes or pretzels. Then pick up some holiday movies and lay out in front of the TV with some friends. Classic holiday movies include "Home Alone," "A Christmas Story," "The Santa Claus," "Jingle All the Way," "The Year Without Santa Claus" and both the animated and live-action versions of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." But remember, no holiday movie marathon is complete without "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

**2. See Santa** — This one's for the young adults who aren't afraid to dork out a little. How fun would it be to tell Santa what you want for Christmas for old time's sake and get a picture to prove it? If you're too embarrassed to see him at your regular mall, trek to the mall two towns over.

**3. Get into the holiday spirit at Christmas** — Even families who aren't big on Christmas celebrations can get out and enjoy others' decorations and celebrations for an afternoon or evening. It's a great family outing to attend a local Christmas play, carol concert or craft fair. Most towns have both indoor and outdoor events available and are listed in the local newspaper. Enjoy the magic of Christmas lights. Go for a walk or drive to an area of town that is all decked out for Christmas. This might be the center of town, where a central tree stands or the ritzy part of the city where the affluent decorate their entire yards.

**4. Visit old friends** — This is the perfect time to look up your old buddies from high school. Since your new college crew isn't around, reconnect with the people who were there first. Plan some movie nights and sleepovers and get back in the touch with each another. Exchange college stories. You'll probably be surprised how much people have changed and grown while they were away at school. It will be like meeting your friends all over again.

Winter break is a magical time of year — no finals, research papers or projects.

Eat lots of food, spend all the time you can with friends and loved ones and enjoy the temporary freedom from your studies. And remember to avoid the mistletoe hanging in all the doorways while your grandparents are in town.

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5 mouth-watering recipes that will have your company begging for more

Written by:  
Chelsea Seignious

When it comes to the holidays, there are three things you can't go without: family, friends and good food. Holiday parties are filled with the finest fare and fanciest dishes. But, don't be intimidated by the well-seasoned chefs around you. With these recipes, your approval rating can go from zero to hero this holiday season. So, roll up your sleeves, fasten your apron, turn up that Christmas music and get cooking.

From chatting with guests, to switching dishes between oven racks, to conquering that sink-full of dishes, there's a lot to entertaining. Keep your company's hunger at bay with a simple appetizer so you won't have to hear that increasingly annoying question, "Is it ready yet?"

But, don't stress out the day of your party. Prepare this dish one day ahead, and keep it refrigerated. Allow it to cool to room temperature before following normal baking directions.

Tracy's Spinach Artichoke Dip with a Kick

Courtesy of Tracy Seignious (my Mom)

- (2) 6.5 oz. jars marinated artichoke hearts, drained
- 10 oz. frozen chopped spinach (thawed and squeezed dry)
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1 c. Parmesan cheese
- 2 1/2 c. coarsely grated Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced

Preheat the oven to 350°. Mix all ingredients in a medium bowl until blended. Place mixture into a lightly greased baking dish and top with remaining Monterey Jack cheese. Bake 20 to 25 minutes until cheese is fully melted. To brown the cheese, broil for a few minutes after baking. Serve dip warm with Tostitos or Triscuits. Make sure you get a bite before it leaves the kitchen. This dish will come back clean.

\*\*\*

Now, I'm probably the pickiest eater you'll meet. I'm not a big fan of veggies, but anything tastes good with bacon — and it tastes really good when you still have enough energy left to eat it after cooking. The best thing about this dish is that you put it on the stove for an hour or so and it's done. Nothing to it.

Super Simple Green Beans

Courtesy of Tracy Seignious (my Mom)

- 6 slices bacon
- 1 large can Green Giant Original Green Beans
- Everglades Seasoning (This is a staple for your cupboard.)
- Salt and pepper

Cut bacon into one-inch chunks and fry in a medium saucepan until slightly crispy. Add green beans and season generously with Everglades Seasoning — don't hold back. Also, season to taste with salt and pepper. Simmer on medium heat with no lid for one hour, and voila — almost too good to be true.

\*\*\*

You might be thinking, "These recipes sound great, but I don't have a kitchen." Have no fear. I lived in The Commons for two years and understand your pain. This recipe can be served as a side or dessert, depending on your menu. All it takes is seven cups of goodness, a little stir and some refrigeration.

Seven Cup Salad

Courtesy of Tracy Seignious (my Mom)

- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 8 oz. can flaked coconut
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1 c. pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 c. mandarin oranges, drained
- 2 c. marshmallows

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Spoon into desired serving dish and refrigerate for at least four hours. The longer this sits in the fridge, the better — though it won't stand much of a chance after one taste.

\*\*\*

As any Southern cook knows, "Southern Living" is a classic go-to for recipes guaranteed to keep your crowd coming back for more. My new favorite is a gooey, caramel mess that is finger-licking good and only four ingredients, too.

Caramel-Chocolate Sticky Buns

Courtesy of Southern Living

- 1 (15 oz.) container of coconut-pecan frosting
- 1 c. pecans, chopped
- 2 (10-12 oz.) cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 20 milk chocolate Hershey's kisses

Preheat the oven to 375°. Spread the

coconut-pecan frosting in a lightly greased 9-inch square pan. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Separate biscuits on wax paper and flatten each to about 1/4 - inch thickness. Place a chocolate kiss on each and fold biscuits in half. Seal the edges and arrange over pecans. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for a few minutes before inverting onto a serving plate. Eat these goodies nice and hot for brunch, or serve with a scoop of ice cream and caramel sauce for dessert.

\*\*\*

Interested in a not-so-traditional holiday cookie? Allow me to introduce you to Clear-the-Cupboard Cookies. My younger brother insists that I bake these on almost every visit home. They are delightfully perfect for gifts and stocking stuffers. Trust me. They're winners.

Clear-the-Cupboard Cookies

Courtesy of Southern Living

- 1 c. shortening (I use Crisco.)
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 c. uncooked regular oats
- 1 c. flaked coconut
- 1 c. Rice Krispies
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 c. chopped pecans (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°. Beat shortening with an electric mixer at medium speed until fluffy. Add the sugar and brown sugar, beating well. Add eggs and beat until blended. Mix flour and next four ingredients in a separate bowl. Gradually add to the sugar mixture, beating after each addition. Stir in coconut, Rice Krispies, vanilla, and pecans if desired. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto baking sheets. Bake for 10 minutes or until lightly golden. Cool on wire racks.

Is all this talk about cooking making your mouth water? Mine, too. But while the food is good, the company is always the best. Surround yourself with the people you love, and the rest is just "icing on the cake." Cream cheese icing, that is — because it tastes the best.

5 ways to survive the holidays with family



A Christmas postcard with a funny message.

Written by:  
Samantha Harfenist

Goodwill toward all mankind is a good thing, except when you're trapped in a house with family who hasn't seen you since last year and wants to know everything. And, then, of course, judge you.

Instead of dreading that walk through the door to your parents' house like you're walking the plank, use these five tips to help you survive the holidays with your family.

Go to your happy place

If well-meaning "Aunt Sylvia" starts harping about why you haven't gotten married yet, start daydreaming about you and your favorite crush being the last two people alive on the planet. Oh, and you have to re-populate the Earth.

Prepare quick transitions ahead of time

It's bound to come up. Mom, Dad or Grandpa are going to ask you that awkward question about what you are going to do with your life. Some of us just don't know. Some of us are unsure how to get there. Most of us don't want to talk about it over sliced chicken and green beans.

The solution is to have some topics that can swiftly change the conversation. Think of it as dangling a string in front of a cat. They instantly become focused on that string. Talking about the weather is cliché. Be more creative. For suggestions on topics, I suggest reading The Current.

Don't talk about politics or religion

Nothing gets tempers flailing like these two issues. You'd be better off discussing war, serial killers

and pedophiles. When you bring up either politics or religion, chances are, everyone will end up frustrated and unhappy for the entire holiday. If you were comfortable enough to tackle these controversial topics civilly with your loved ones, you wouldn't need this list.

Safety in numbers

If you have that one relative who will back you up no matter what, stick to him or her as if you're Siamese twins. Predators usually target the lone animals who have separated from the pack. If you use the buddy system, chances are, family members can't easily ambush you with uncomfortable questions.

Be comfortable with long moments of silence

This is known as "the parent trap." Mommy and Daddy know that if they remain quiet enough, their offspring will start babbling. I know I do. Babbling is dangerous because it leads to truths that you would rather your parents not know slipping out. Whether it's that you had a one-night stand with your married professor or that you failed your journalism class, there are just some things that should be left unsaid.

These survival tips are sure-fire ways of easing the suffering of the holidays with pesky loved ones. The main thing to remember is that it could be worse. You could be the peaceful Native Americans who patiently sat around the table with strange foreigners who tried to convert them to a new religion. Then, they were slaughtered by the very people they had to put up with six months earlier. But I'll tell you how to survive the summer with your loved ones some other time.

The Current  
The Student-Fun Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

WELCOME BACK  
Special Edition

NSU celebrates back-to-back national championships

\$2.1 million grant awarded to NSU program puts grannies in good hands

Judge outs Proposition 8

ON PROPS 8  
EQUALITY FOR ALL

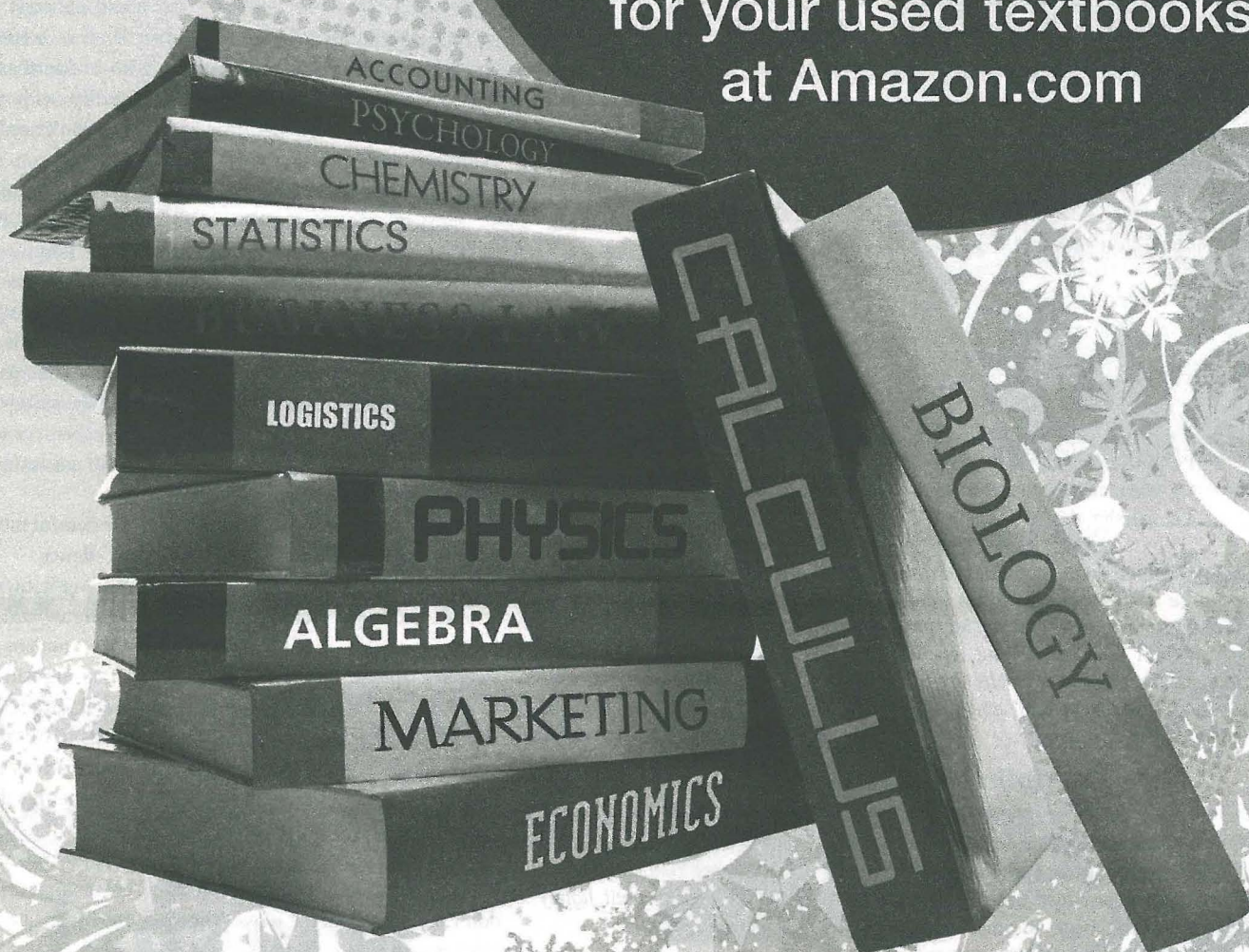
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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES MESSING

Written by:  
**Keren Moros**

Marine biology professor Charles Messing's bookshelf in his office in the Parker Building doesn't have any books. It is filled with dinosaurs — from triceratops to diplodocuses.

They are the remnants of his childhood dream of being a paleontologist, working with paleontologists and teaching a course on the age of dinosaurs.

"It got to the point that, when I was about 6-years-old, my friends started calling me 'Chuckasaurus,' because I was so interested in them," Messing said. "In eighth grade, my teachers convinced me that there was no future in dinosaurs and that I should look for something else."

Going to the Jacques-Yves Cousteau film "The Silent World" with his grandfather created an interest in oceanography. However, his only experience with the ocean was swimming in it, so the world of oceanography was alien to Messing. But he knew he didn't want to work with insects, plants or microscopic organisms, so he gravitated toward marine biology where he found the diversity of life that fascinated him.

Today, Messing, Ph.D., professor at the Oceanographic Center and the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, continues to enjoy the diversity of life and has discovered new marine species. He received

his bachelor's degree in biological science from Rutgers University and master's and doctoral degrees in biological oceanography from the University of Miami. He was also a postdoctoral research fellow at the Smithsonian Institution.

Messing's latest project is a television show called "Messing with Nature."

During his freshman year in college, one of Messing's professors used a video to lecture. When he saw his professor on the video, he decided that he wanted to do something similar.

"A number of years ago, I approached our digital media productions facility here in the Office of Information Technology, and I said, 'How would you like to do this? Here's a proposal and a treatment for an idea for a show,'" he said.

After the idea was approved, Messing and the team worked for seven years to produce two half-hour episodes. Messing has premiered the show to colleagues and friends and will now try to air them on a local channel.

Messing said his dream for the show is to get a sponsor and have it air on a major cable channel like Animal Planet or National Geographic. But Messing said he knows it will not easy.

"That's like saying, 'Well, I'm a teenager and I do a little disc jockeying, and I'm going to get a



COURTESY OF CHARLES MESSING  
Charles Messing, Ph.D., is a professor at the Oceanography Center and the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

record contract.' It's as long a shot as that," he said. "It's a dream, and I'm working toward the dream. It's still a minor component of what I do."

One of those components is Messing's research. His specialty is the ecology and evolution of crinoids, also called sea lilies and feather stars, which are related to sea stars and urchins. He describes new species of them and studies their growth and distribution. He also studies the ecology of deep sea coral

reefs. This research has taken him to Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Bahamas. He also had the opportunity to use the Alvin, the submarine that found the Titanic.

Messing also has an artistic side.

He takes voice lessons and sings from the American songbook and Broadway musicals. He said he enjoys singing because he comes from a show business family. His father was a lighting electrician for NBC, his uncle is Bruce Jay Friedman, a screenplay writer

and playwright, and his brother is a musicologist.

"It's in the blood," he said. "It took me until my 30s to have it really come out."

As a graduate student, a classmate encouraged him to perform in a skit at a Christmas party.

"I had never done anything onstage," Messing said. "I was in the theater group at high school, but just backstage. He dragged me kicking and screaming, and I found out I could rewrite lyrics. And so, I've been doing that ever since. Marine biologist by day — Weird Al Yankovic by night."

Messing parodies songs for his friends and family and played Ebenezer Scrooge in "The Voice of Dickens: A Concert of Holiday Carols" in the performance theater in the Don Taft University Center in December.

Messing also drew scientific illustrations for science books, and he illustrates his scientific work.

Messing said he enjoys his hobbies when he can because his duties as a professor leave him with little spare time. But, he said, the time he puts into teaching is worth it.

"I enjoy distributing the information and giving students the opportunity to hear and see things they haven't heard or seen before, particularly about the diversity of life on earth and how it got to be this way, the evolution of life on earth," he said.

# Greeks unite to help children's hospital

Written by:  
**Keren Moros**

Up 'til Dawn, a new Greek-led student organization, is calling on NSU students to write letters to help raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Alicia Anania, junior marine biology and sociology major and fundraising chair of NSU's Up 'til Dawn chapter, said people who register with the organization will contact 50 people and ask them to donate to the hospital. On Jan. 19, the organization will hold a letter-writing campaign, where those who signed up will sign the letters. On March 19, the organization will have a celebration announcing who raised the most money.

Anania said the hospital runs off donations and treats children for free. She also said that it costs \$1.5 billion each day to run the hospital.

Damion Campbell, executive director of Up 'til Dawn and senior accounting and management major, said the letter-writing campaign is traditionally held all night, which is where the name Up 'til Dawn came from. However, the NSU letter-writing campaign will not be held all night.

Kevin Saberre, Jr., graduate assistant in the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and advisor for Up 'til Dawn, said Up

'til Dawn is a year-long philanthropic event. Saberre said he thought the Greeks on campus would benefit from doing a unified philanthropic initiative and presented this idea to the Office of Greek Life. He then presented it to the Greeks and asked them to give ideas for different initiatives.

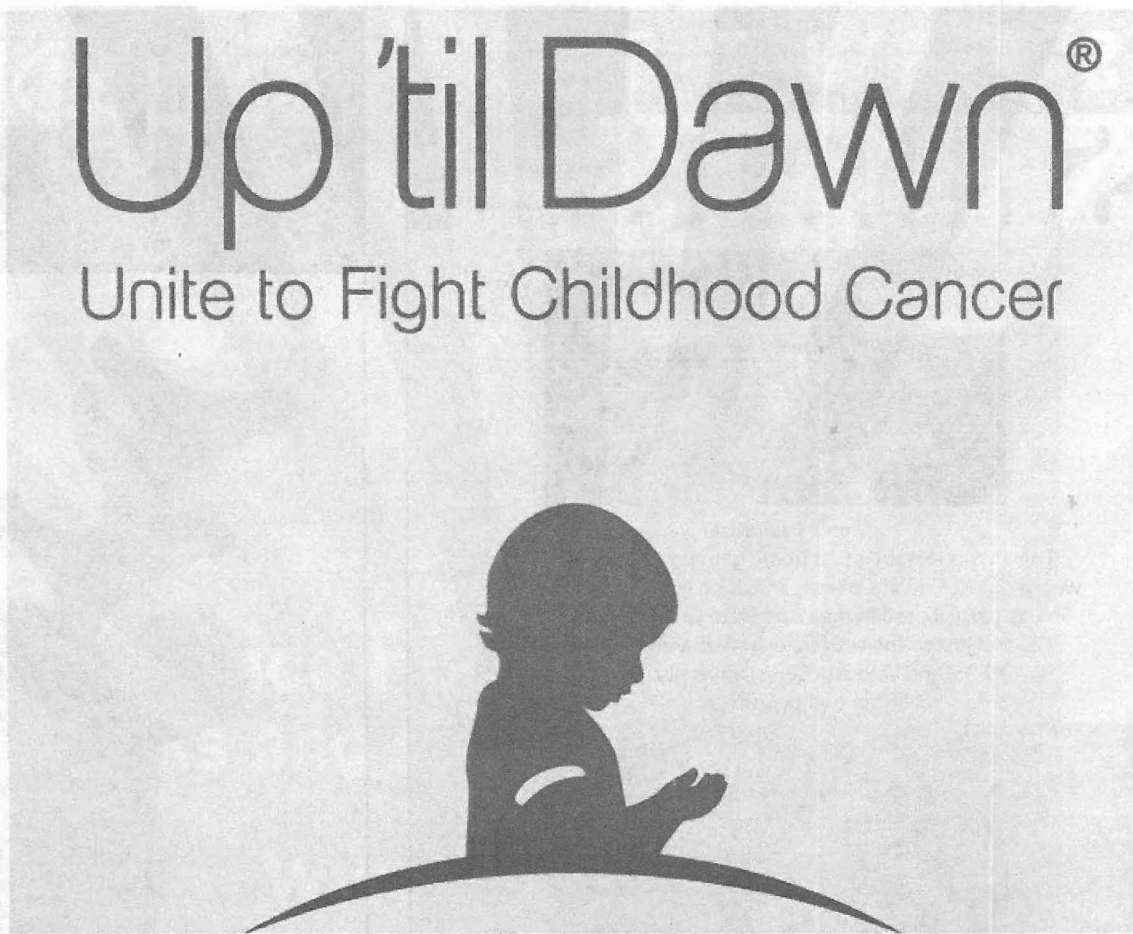
"A couple of students brought up the idea of Up 'til Dawn, and I had done Up 'til Dawn as an undergraduate student," Saberre said. "I knew it was very beneficial and a great way to unite for a great cause in regards to childhood illnesses. When we asked the Greeks if this was what they wanted, they were ecstatic to take it on."

Campbell said Up 'til Dawn is significant because it raises awareness about the hospital.

"It helps us to unite to help fight against cancer for children who are less fortunate and to get them cured, help their families out financially and be their mental and moral support," Campbell said.

Angelo Capobianco, freshman biology major and the organization's advocacy chair, said Up 'til Dawn consists of three teams corresponding to the three teams of Greek organizations formed during Greek Week. He said teams get points for people who register with their team.

Anania said the point of having



COURTESY OF WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STJUDEUTD  
Up 'til Dawn is a philanthropic college initiative benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. NSU's chapter is participating in an event to help raise money by requesting donations, through letters, from volunteers' contacts.

Greeks run it is to get outside organizations to get involved with the Greeks.

"We don't want just the Greeks to do it. We want to unite all the different clubs and organizations on this campus

into one specific community service project," Anania said.

Saberre said he would love to see Up 'til Dawn become an annual initiative for Greek organizations and bring multiple organizations together.

"It's a great way for student leaders to come together," Saberre said. "It really shows how doing a little work can go a long way. It's the little things that count, and that's what it means to people."



# Students work to increase school spirit



COURTESY OF NSU FINATICS FACEBOOK PAGE

Members of NSU Finatics exhibit school spirit in front of the Don Taft University Center. The organization's goal is to promote school spirit on campus.

Written by:  
**Josh Streimer**

NSU may not have football team, but for the members of Finatics, a student organization formed to promote school spirit on campus, there is still a lot to cheer about.

Finatics became an official student organization in August. Their goal is to develop Shark pride through several initiatives, including creating a fight song and game chants.

Mike Straus, sophomore business major and the organization's founder, said, "[Our] goal is to make going to sporting events a priority, where the people that aren't going to the games look like they're crazy."

Straus and his team are want to increase attendance at sporting events.

Brittany Schemtob, president of Finatics, said, "No school starts out with die-hard passionate fans. It starts with a small group of people that have a vision for what it could

be and they make it happen. Players work their butts off, and we need to give them the support they deserve."

The group plans to hold pep rallies throughout the year and is seeking volunteers.

The group holds meetings every other Tuesday on the second floor of the Don Taft University Center. For more information call, 954-262-8050 or email Brittany Schemtob at bs753@nova.edu.

## ON THE BENCH

Commentary by:  
**Annarely Rodriguez**



## What is hockey?

Baseball is America's pastime. Football is America's sport. And hockey... do you even know what hockey is?

Hockey is exciting. Hockey is nerve-wracking. But mostly, in South Florida at least, hockey is unknown.

Like any in other sport, there are die-hard fans and die-hard opponents. I am one of the former.

The beauty of hockey is that you don't need to know much about it to enjoy it. All you need to know is that the team that gets the puck into the other team's net the most times in three 20-minute periods wins. There, you can now enjoy a hockey game.

Of course there is more to it than that. There are rules. Really, there are. There's jargon. And there are rivalries. But you'll pick up on those as you watch.

There is nothing like watching a live game. Experiencing the crowd's energy, rooting for your team, seeing a hat trick — it is one of the best experiences.

Hockey players are incredibly talented — even those who don't play for the New York Rangers. You try ice skating at 30 mph while pushing a tiny puck with a stick and making beautiful and complicated goals

like Wayne Gretsky did or Alex Ovechkin does.

Yes, people criticize it for being too violent, but it really isn't. Players sometimes get into fights when someone from the opposing team hits or insults them or their teammates. Of course, there are times when a player will pick a fight with a strong player from the opposing team to get him benched and give his own team an advantage. But that seldom happens.

The fights are allowed because the National Hockey League thought it would attract new viewers — and it has.

But even though hockey is stereotyped as violent and players are stereotyped as toothless, angry people, the NHL is doing a lot to help the community and break those notions. Teams sell jerseys and paraphernalia to raise funds toward a cure cancer, for example.

So, you see there is more to hockey than fights, ice and toothless men.

The Florida Panthers are playing twice this week. I encourage you to give hockey a chance because it might change the way you think about it.

And to answer the question I asked in the beginning, life-changing — that's what hockey is.

## SPORTS SHORTS

WRITTEN BY  
JOYDEL TRAIL



### Men's Basketball

The Sharks lost their first home game of the season last week against Flagler College, 76-85, on Nov. 29. Dec. 3-4, the Sharks participated in the Loop Pizza Grill Class in Valdosta Ga. and lost to the University of Alabama in Huntsville, 79-85, and Valdosta State University, 103-113, in two overtimes.

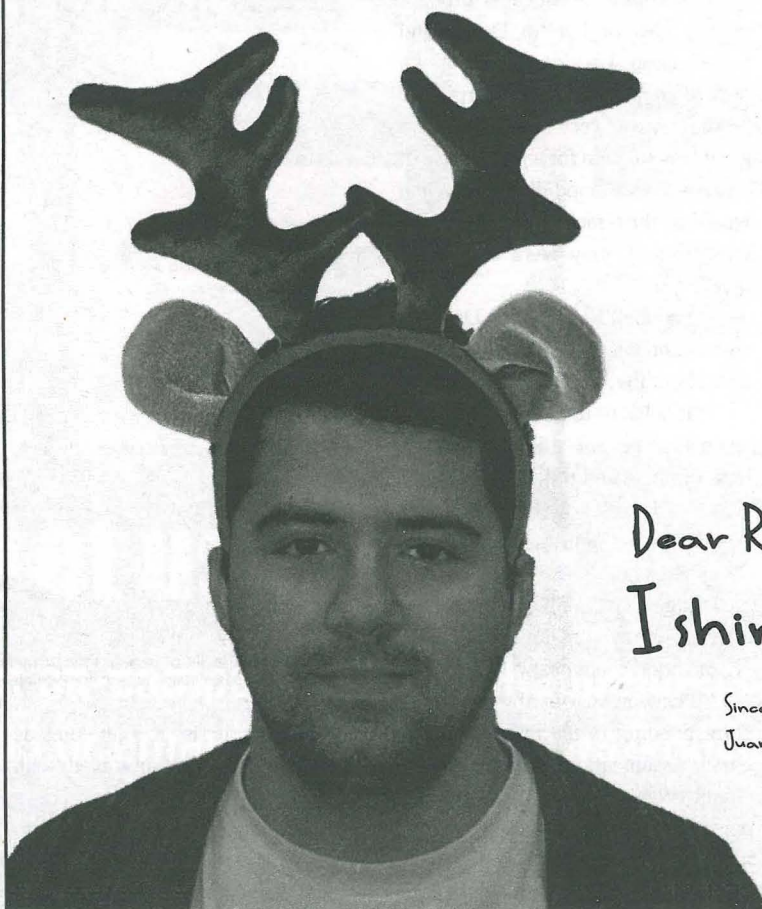


### Women's Basketball

The Sharks set an NSU record for the third most points in a game after beating Florida Memorial University, 93-56 on Dec. 1. However, they lost to Rollins College, 61-87, on Dec. 4 in Winter Park, Fla.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from The Current



Dear Rudolph,  
I shine brighter.

Sincerely,  
Juan Gallo, Arts and Entertainment Editor



**finals  
week**

**CASH  
FOR BOOKS**

**at the  
bookstore**

**Sell your books at the library  
during finals week!**

The NSU Bookstore will have  
a buyback tent setup Monday thru  
Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM to make it  
easy for you to sell back your  
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# SUTV Movies: December Edition

Written by:  
**Juan Gallo**

Sharks United Television has checked their list twice and you've been nice this year, Sharks.

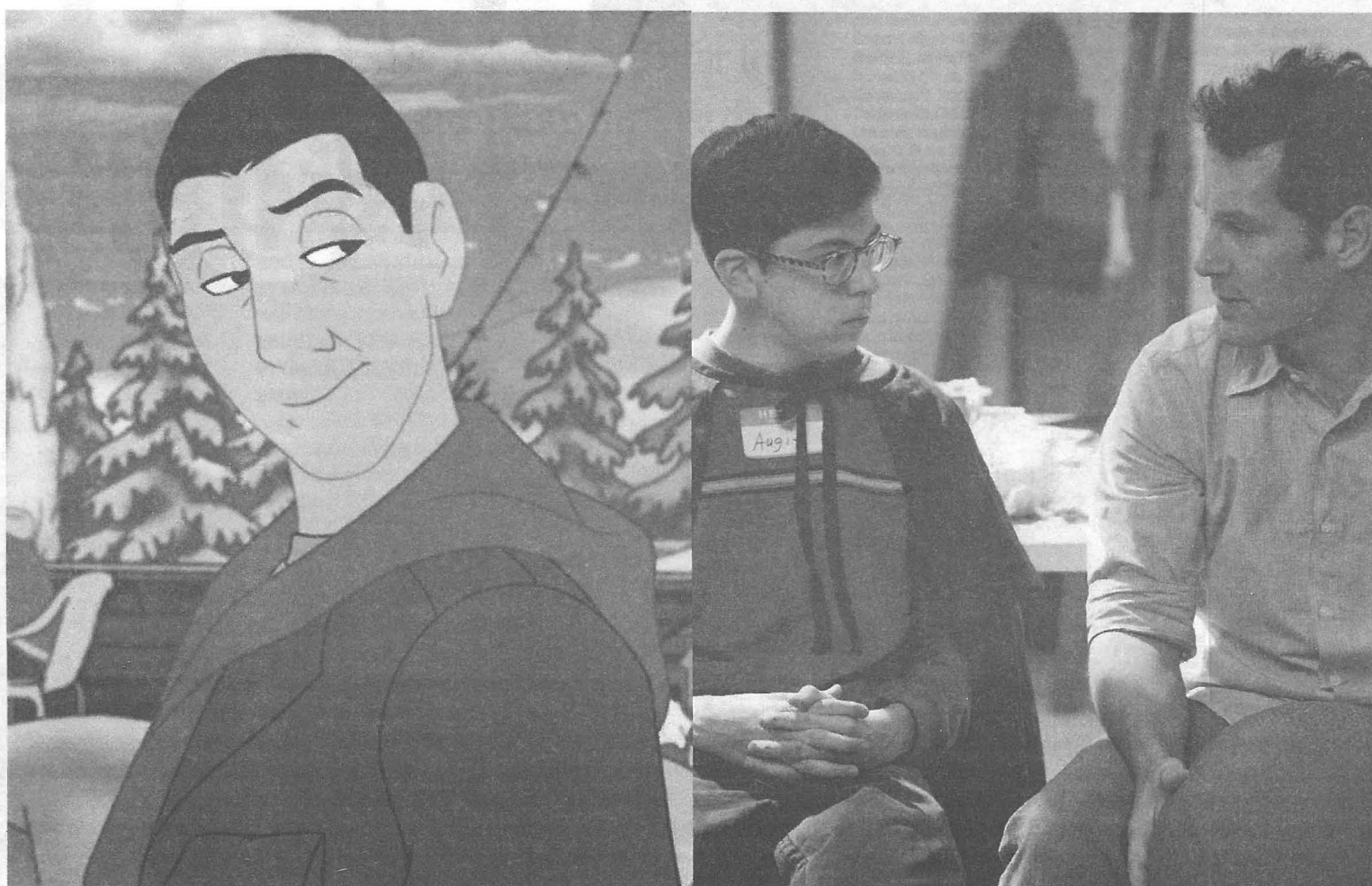
Your stocking is going to be filled with fantastic movies to keep you entertained when you want to take a break from holiday shopping.

First, get ready to laugh your socks off with "Role Models," "Grown Ups," "Yes Man," "8 Crazy Nights" and "Elf."

"Role Models" stars Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott playing two grown men who fell under unfortunate circumstances, which force them to volunteer as big brothers and hang out with children after school. These two guys are hilarious. The main kids played by Christopher Mintz-Plasse and Bobb'e J. Thompson are also hilarious and an entertaining cast of side characters make this a movie that will have your bladder hurting from laughing.

"Yes Man" and "Grown Ups" don't have quite as many scenes that will have you spitting food out of your mouth from uncontrollable laughter, but they are entertaining.

"Yes Man" stars Jim Carrey, and his many faces, as a man who refuses to say no to any opportunity thrown his way. "Grown Ups" unites an all-star cast led by Adam Sandler, and features David Spade, Chris Rock, Rob Schneider and Kevin James as a group of friends who are all grown-up and want to pass their childhood traditions on to their children. I won't give away any spoilers, but the scenes with Steve Buscemi are the best.



Adam Sandler's "8 Crazy Nights" (left) and "Role Models" (right) are featured on SUTV's December movie schedule.

COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM AND WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

"8 Crazy Nights" and "Elf" are both perfect holiday movies. It's hard to keep a straight face when Will Ferrell is on screen wearing spandex and sitting on the lap of the tiny Bob Newhart. "8 Crazy Nights" is not the type of animated, holiday movie you want to watch with your little brother or sister. Adam Sandler puts a spin on the genre with a story about Hanukkah that is both funny and raunchy.

For a little action on top of

your comedy, check out "Kick-Ass" and "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World." Director Matthew Vaughn reinvents the superhero genre with "Kick-Ass," a film that is an accurate representation of the popular graphic novel it's based on. "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" is also based on a graphic novel. This time the director is Edgar Wright of "Shawn of the Dead." "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" stars Michael Cera as a young man who falls in love but is faced with

the harsh reality that he must defeat the girl's seven exes in order to be with her.

The remaining choices are not ideal. "Jonah Hex" is, quite simply, just not that good. I picked up on that from watching the trailer. Yes, it stars Josh Brolin and Megan Fox, but only one of them can act. The other is just easy on the eyes. The other film is "Precious," which is good, but might just be a little heavy for this time of year. Maybe you should

watch this one when you don't have to leave the comfort of your house at all because it'll probably take all day for the swelling in your eyes to go away.

There you have it. As always, SUTV's got your back when you want to be a couch potato and lounge around in your pajama's all day long eating junk food and watching movies.

## See something that happened on campus?



## Let us know!

Inform The Current about on-campus events or happenings by calling us at (954) 262-8455 or emailing us at [nsunews@nova.edu](mailto:nsunews@nova.edu)

*Be active. Be informed. Be NSU.*





# If the weather outside is frightful, STAY <sup>iN</sup> AND JAM <sup>OUT</sup>

*Music adds a special touch to the holidays. When you hear your favorite carol, or even a rendition of a classic holiday song by a new artist, it can warm your heart and send chills down your spine. Here's a list of 10 holiday music essentials to keep on continuous play at home, in your car, or in your headphones, or while you're working out. There's no wrong place for getting in the holiday spirit.*

*Composed by:* **Juan Gallo**

- 1. "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" - John Lennon**  
The holidays are the perfect time of the year to think about what we each can do to help make the world a better place. This beautiful song by John Lennon not only promotes love, it also delivers a message of peace.
- 2. "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" - U2**  
Unfortunately, the holidays are a time spent away from loved ones for many people. However, this song is a good reminder of the love you share, and the hope of being reunited.
- 3. "All I Want for Christmas is You" - Mariah Carey**  
As a kid, all you want for Christmas is the latest toy. As you get older, you just want someone to share the holidays with. This song describes that feeling.
- 4. "The Hanukkah Song" - Adam Sandler**  
Adam Sandler created this great Hanukkah-themed song that is fun for everyone to sing along to. It's perfect for parties that are serving "Gin and Tonickah."
- 5. "Angels We Have Heard On High" - Sufjan Stevens**  
Sufjan Stevens gives a fresh spin to the classic hit in a way only he can deliver. It may sound odd at first, but it'll grow on you.
- 6. "Baby, it's Cold Outside" - Dean Martin and Martina McBride**  
Nobody does this playful duet better than Dean Martin and Martina McBride. It's perfect for a romantic dance.

- 7. "Don't Shoot Me Santa" - The Killers**  
Impress your friends with your variety and range in song selection when you include this quirky, yet amazing, Christmas song by The Killers into your holiday playlist.
- 8. "Last Christmas" - Wham!**  
Christmas heartbreak has never sounded this good. Let Wham! whisk your melancholy away.
- 9. "Christmas is all Around" - Billy Mack**  
So, Billy Mack doesn't exist. He is a character played by Bill Nighy in the film "Love Actually." This song was written by The Troggs in the '60s and called "Love is all Around." However, it was adopted so well for the film that it's a must on any holiday playlist.
- 10. "The Christmas Song" - The Dave Matthews Band**  
This song perfectly captures what this season is all about — "love, love, love." Listen to it, try to keep your eyes dry and think of everything in your life that you love.  
  
No one said this had to be a conventional list of Christmas songs. They're a little like fruitcake—they might be an acquired taste. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



# A beautiful mind:

Kanye's latest album ventures into the mind of a musical genius

Written by:  
**Juan Gallo**

He titled it "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy." I concur. Kanye's latest album is just as he describes it — beautiful, dark, twisted, and a fantastic fantasy that pushes us past the limit of what we know to be music. Love or hate him. There is no one even close to being on his level of creativity. Denying that is simply foolish.

Forget the controversies. Forget his tweets. Forget him. Take his self-promoting persona out of the equation and focus solely on the music — Kanye West is the best rapper. No one has ever done what Kanye West does. He's a trendsetter who is single-handedly taking his genre wherever he's going.

The anticipation started when it was rumored that West was working on his next album. I wondered what he would do to push the envelope. Then, the first single, "Power," dropped, and it was clear that he was working on something special. "Power" is

aggressive and boasts one of the most ridiculous beats ever.

He then unveiled his next single, "Runaway" at this year's Video Music Awards. In the song, West seems to take responsibility for his actions and even seems to admit acting like a "douche bag." Next thing you know everyone is singing along and toasting to douche bags.

Finally, the wait is over and the album is here. West kicks things off with the track "Dark Fantasy," which features a beautiful chorus of voices accompanied by piano and strings before being flipped into a steady, thumping beat that provides the perfect canvas for West's show-stopping lyrics like, "too many Urkels on your team that's why your wins low."

The next track "Gorgeous" features Raekwon and Kid Cudi and is driven by a wailing electric guitar, which shows how West draws from any device or instrument to create his amazing beats.

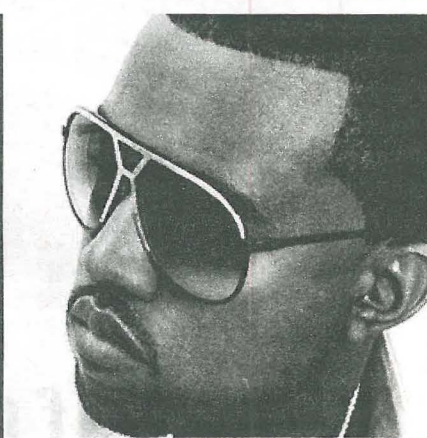
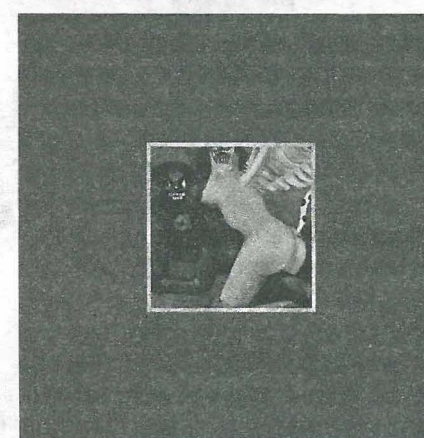
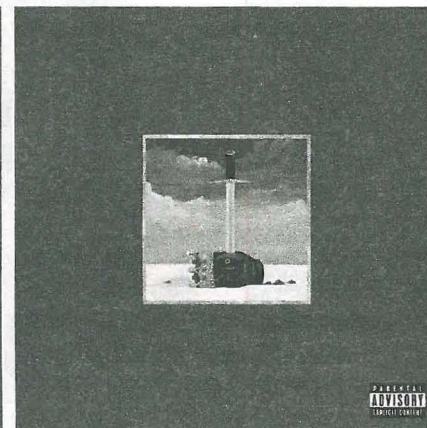
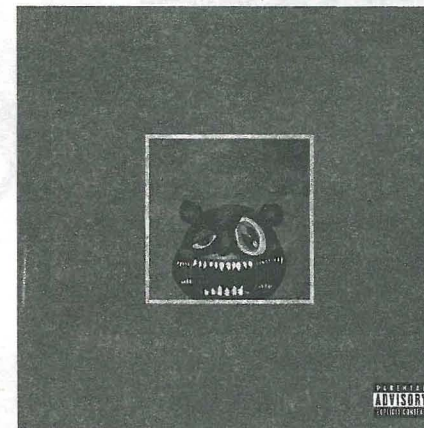
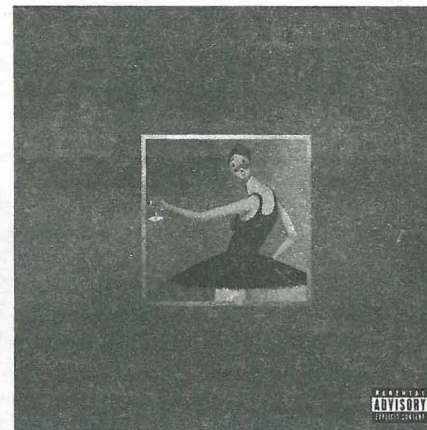
One of the best tracks on the album is "All of the Lights." The track before is a beautiful

instrumental that leads into the song. Before Rihanna's voice laces the hook, she is led by some trumpets that play triumphantly throughout the song. This one will stand out as a fan favorite.

"Devil in a New Dress" contains a sample of the Smokey Robinson song, "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow." It captures West's appreciation of classic jams, which he transforms into a production all his own. It is very reminiscent of the early style he displayed in "College Dropout."

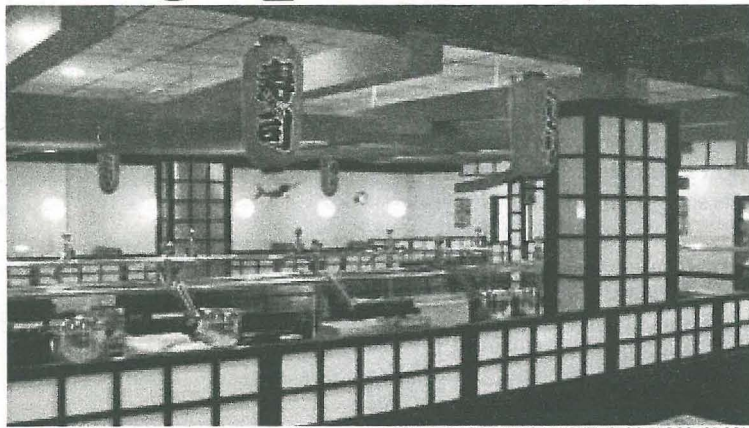
The rest of the album maintains the quality of the previous tracks. "Runaway," "Blame Game," featuring John Legend, "Lost in the World," featuring Bon Iver, and "Who Will Survive in America" cement this album as a perfect creation by a musical genius.

After listening to a lot of this year's most celebrated hip-hop albums including Drake, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, Kid Cudi, and Eminem, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" is the undisputed champion.



Kanye West's numerous varied album covers for his newly released album "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy."

## When there's no turkey or gravy, there's always Japanese



COURTESY OF WWW.CHEWONTHISTOO.BLOGSPOT.COM

Shinju's Japanese Buffet, located at 3305 South University Blvd., is open on Christmas Day.

Written by:  
**Josh Streimer**

Leftovers are boring. Cooking is a chore. And you'll be hard-pressed to find a Whopper or a Big Mac on Christmas day. Instead, head over to Shinju's Japanese buffet and throw tradition out the window.

Shinju, located at 3305 South University Blvd., has a relaxed environment. It boasts fresh food for both sushi and Chinese lovers and a hibachi station.

As you enter Shinju, you get the feeling that it isn't just some overpriced, all-you-can-eat joint. The restaurant offers the option of

watching your creation cooked in front of you. The hibachi station is stocked with a variety of shrimp, chicken, steak, broccoli, cucumber, onion, bean sprouts, and a variety of sauces. Shinju also offers freshly made soup and hand rolls made to order.

Enough dessert choices to make even the pickiest eaters happy, makes paying the \$16.95 flat charge on weekdays and \$18.95 on weekends worth it.

Best of all, they're open on Christmas Day. So if a homemade meal is out of the question, or you're just feeling a little adventurous, Shinju's could make your day that much merrier.

## offshore December 7-13

### Tuesday 12.7



Relient K  
(Acoustic)\*  
Culture Room in  
Ft. Lauderdale  
7 p.m.

Florida Panthers vs. Colorado  
Avalanche BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise  
7:30 p.m.

Rise of the Heavyweights Boxing  
Hard Rock Live in Hollywood 8 p.m.

### Wednesday 12.8

Fun.\*  
Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday 12.9

World Series of Boxing: Miami  
Gallos vs. Mexico City  
AmericanAirlines Arena- Waterfront Theatre in  
Miami 8 p.m.

Andre Rieu  
BankAtlantic Center  
in Sunrise 8 p.m.



Allstar Weekend\*  
Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale 6:30 p.m.

### Friday 12.10

Trans-Siberian Orchestra:  
Winter Tour 2010 AmericanAirlines  
Arena in Miami 8 p.m.

Job for a  
Cowboy  
Culture Room in Ft.  
Lauderdale 7:30 p.m.



Miami City Ballet  
(Dec. 10-12)  
Broward Center for the  
Performing Arts- Au Rene  
Theatre in Ft. Lauderdale  
7:30 p.m.

Joe Bonamassa  
Hard Rock Live in Hollywood 8 p.m.

### Saturday 12.11



BankAtlantic Center  
in Sunrise 7 p.m.

South Flocal Soundcheck Benefit  
Showcase  
Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale 7 p.m.

Florida  
Classical  
Ballet  
presents:  
The  
Nutcracker



Gusman Center for the Performing Arts  
in Miami 8 p.m.

### Monday 12.13

Miami Heat vs. New Orleans  
Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in  
Miami 7:30 p.m.



# “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” casts charms on you

Written by:  
**Alyssa Sterkel**

Warning: Words below may not be understood by muggles.

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” cast a charm on me — the-I-want-to-watch-the-movie-multiple-times charm.

It is troubling times for the witches and wizards of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” as Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) rises to power once again, accompanied by his Death Eaters. Voldemort anxiously searched for his arch-enemy, Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), and almost kills him in the first few minutes of the movie after Professor Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) tells Voldemort when Harry would fly to the Weasley’s.

The movie followed Harry, Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) as they tried to finish the late Dumbledore’s final mission: to destroy Voldemort’s horcruxes. Dumbledore, though, left the trio with vague instructions forcing them to figure out what the horcruxes are, while hiding from Voldemort, the Death Eaters and Snatchers.

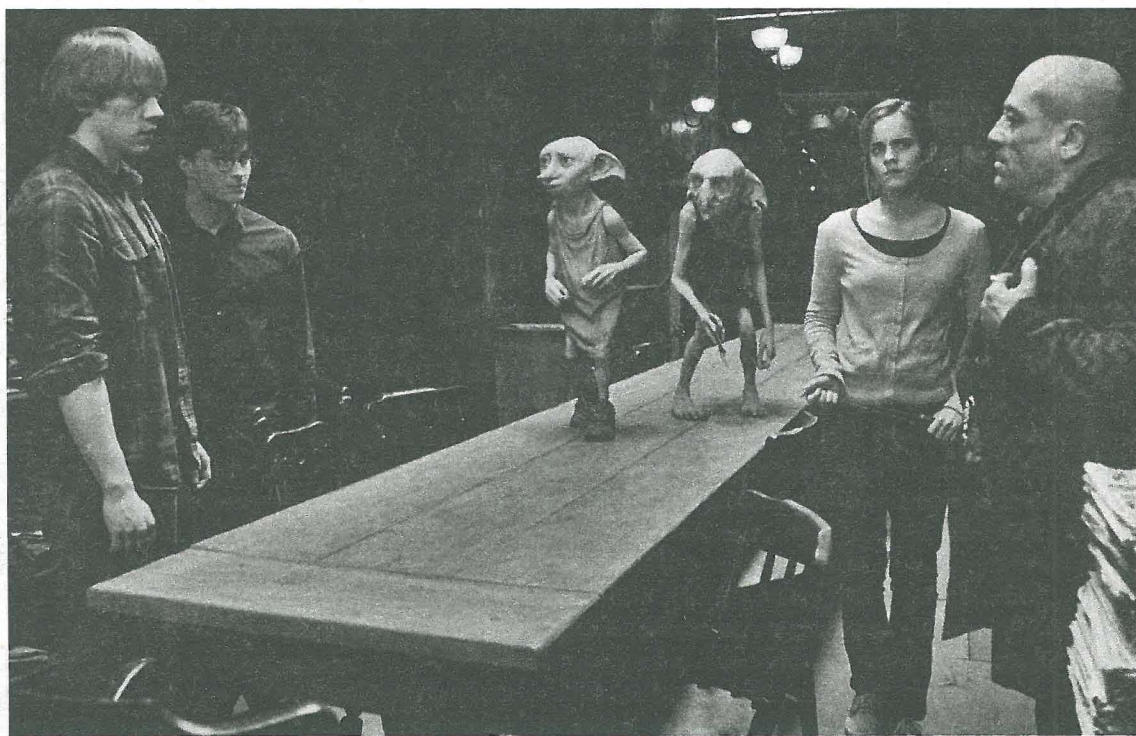
The clichéd complaint of movies not reiterating the book

word-for-word will undoubtedly be made by die-hard Harry Potter fans, but what do they expect? A 10-hour movie filled with miniscule details leaving the audience bored? Having read the books and labeled myself as a total Harry Potter geek, the movie was fan-Potter-tastic.

The seventh movie rolls comedy, drama and romance into one. You may jump. You may laugh. You may tense up. You may want to vomit and you may smile—all in a span of 146 minutes. I knew what happened before it happened, yet I was still on the edge of my seat because of the sound effects. You don’t need an IMAX ticket to feel like you are camping, finding horcruxes and facing Nagini with Harry, Ron and Hermione.

The three friends don’t need a friendship charm either because their acting created chemistry reflective of the book. If they didn’t depict would-die-for-each-other-best-friends, the movie would be as torturous as the Crucio curse.

One of the driving factors in all seven books, written by J.K. Rowling, is this companionship and friendship. They risked their lives to protect each other. Harry tried to find the Horcruxes alone not wanting to risk the lives of his friends because



Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley, Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, Dobby voiced by Toby Jones, Kreacher, voiced by Simon McBurney, Emma Watson as Hermione Granger and Andy Linden as Mundungus Fletcher in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I.

he loves Ron and Hermione. Their acting brought these relationships to the big screen making “Twilight” fans wish Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Daniel Radcliffe were the stars of their movies.

However, if you’ve never read the books (which is unfortunate) or the past movies (which is also

unfortunate), this movie will leave you utterly confused. The first few minutes don’t recap what happened in the sixth movie, but jump right into the plotline. I suggest non-Potter fans read the books or watch the movies before entering the theater; unless you enjoy saying “Huh?” throughout a movie.

Ultimately, nothing compares to the feeling of being a part of the world you’ve read about and “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” captures that feeling on screen. You feel a part of this wizarding world and if you don’t want to feel like a muggle any longer—go see the movie now.

## Site of the week LetSimonDecide.com

Written by:  
**Annarely Rodriguez**

Should you buy Fable III or Call of Duty: Black Ops? Should you go to graduate school or take a year off? Maybe, you’re just wondering whether you should have a PB&J sandwich or cereal for lunch. No matter what the decision is, LetSimonDecide.com can help you make it.

The site doesn’t just randomly pick. After you sign up and pose a question you must rank the contributing factors for each choice. “Simon” then weighs your options and picks the best one.

**What Simon said and how it works**

A few weeks ago, I was wondering what movie to watch. Luckily, Simon was there to help me. I logged onto LetSimonDecide.com and clicked on the big red button to begin my decision-making process. Since “What movie should I watch?” is not among the site’s dropdown choices, I wrote it in as “My own

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Time	Decision	Simon Says	Posted By	0	0
15 hours ago	Decide on a major	Animation	erin	0	0
1 day ago	Will I ever kiss matt	all the way	Jemma	0	0
2 days ago	Should I go to university	good job for the future	lauren mcveigh	0	0
2 days ago	Should I go back to school?	Go back to school part-time	Ratih	1	0
3 days ago	Should I wear my flowery shirt with skinnies or others?	Flowery shirt with skinny jeans	Chanel_Meg	0	0

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Letsimondecide.com asks questions designed to help users make decisions.

decision.” This wasn’t a very important decision, so I gave it 1 out of 3 stars (somewhat important).

There are three options available to assess your decision. “My Scores” is the most logical, fact-based of the three. “My Life Match” examines

your profile on the site and makes the decision based on what would best fit your lifestyle and, finally, “My Points of View” makes the decision based on your perspectives.

Since, this decision wasn’t very important and I have very specific

demands when it comes to movies, I went with “My Points of View.”

Using LetSimonDecide.com you can have as many options as you want, but unfortunately a few weeks ago there weren’t many interesting movies I had not seen, so I only

needed to decide between “Morning Glory” and “Unstoppable.”

Since I picked “My Points of View,” the site asked me subjective questions. It was recommended I didn’t think much about the answers.

“Simon” asked me which option I thought would be best based on the information I had. I answered “Morning Glory.” Then, the site asked the same question but this time I had to base my answer on my feelings and intuition. After watching the trailers, I went with “Morning Glory,” again.

Then, it asked what the least risky option would be if everything went wrong. I knew what “Unstoppable” was about. I knew what to expect from this movie. On the other hand, “Morning Glory” could be a great movie or it could be awful. So, I went with my safe choice, “Unstoppable.”

When, the site asked me to choose what option would have the greatest reward if everything went well, I chose “Morning Glory” because if this movie was good, then it would be really good. It was J.J. Abrams, after all.

A few seconds later, based on my input, Simon recommended I watch “Morning Glory.” The site provided a report of the decision-making process and “Morning Glory” beat “Unstoppable” 75 percent of the time.

With such a clear choice, I went to the movies, more confident in my decision. So, if you’re ever unsure of what the best option is, just let Simon decide.



# When Are We Going To Say “Enough Is Enough” To Child Predators?

Written by:  
**Samantha Harfenist**



In September, Facebook finally shut down the biggest pedophile advocacy group in the world. It was called the North American Man Boy Love Association, which allowed pedophiles around the globe to communicate with each other. Topics ranged from sharing ways on how to hone their predatory skills in hunting children, to tips in which to identify potential victims, and exchanging child pornography.

Last month, Amazon.com removed a book entitled “The Pedophile’s Guide to Love and Pleasure” from its site. The horrific how-to guide teaches predators how to target and seduce children.

To top it off, Amazon defended itself by claiming that they believe that it’s censorship not to sell certain books simply because they don’t believe in the same ideas. Really? Not wanting to read George W. Bush’s memoir isn’t the same thing as advertising a guide on how to victimize children.

I’m not sure what bothers me more. The fact that this book was on a public Web site, that it was so easily accessible, or that someone searched for it. Supply and demand, guys. Amazon wouldn’t have kept it on there for the time it did if it hadn’t sold so many copies. The book was one of Amazon’s top selling e-books on the Kindle list — perfect

for that pedophile on the go.

There’re other sites that promote illicit love between an adult and a child. That, in the future, society will see pedophilia not as a crime, but as a sexual choice, like homosexuality. Other sites use reverse imaging, which is utilized to find out what missing children look like as adults. But these predators use it to reduce an adult’s image back to a child’s. And these sites are allowed to exist under the First Amendment.

Somehow, I don’t think this is what our forefathers had in mind when they included free speech in the first amendment.

I understand the need for free speech. If it wasn’t for that right, I wouldn’t be able to write a lot of the articles I’ve written. But we have to draw a line in the sand. We have to say that “enough is enough.” Saying we’re pro-choice, anti-Sarah Palin or anti-Obama is one thing. Sharing the details of what you want to do to a child in bed, detailing ways of hunting them down, or exchanging inappropriate pictures of children are entirely different issues.

Learning about all the different types of pedophiles in my psychology classes turns my stomach. A common misconception is that pedophiles are homosexuals. However, contrary to this popular belief, most pedophiles are heterosexual males, often married, and have children of their own. They may be your son’s boy scout leader or your daughter’s soccer coach. Are you a little paranoid now? Good. There are many predators out there

but, just like terrorists, you need to look in the right place.

These people make me sick. These predators make me angry. But, most of all, they make me ashamed to be in a world that still allows this to happen.

Kids are the most innocent members of our society. They’re helpless against predators. We owe it to them to do everything we can to stop pedophilia. If that means violating sexual predators’ civil rights, I really don’t care.

We need to step up. In this modern age of such advanced technology and progressive knowledge of the criminal mind, this shouldn’t be happening. I know there are shades of gray in these issues but, hey, if you bought the Amazon book, you’re guilty. There’s no other plausible explanation of why you’d buy a book for seducing children.

You victimize a child; you forfeit your right to certain civil liberties. Hell, you forfeit your right to be considered a human being. Automatic prison sentence. No parole. You have child pornography on your computer. You’re never getting out of jail. If pedophiles get turned on by children, that’s never going away, no matter how much therapy they get.

You want to argue that point with me? Take one look at the pictures that they pass around to each other. Look into the eyes of the young victim who will never be the same again.

What if it was your child? Your sister or brother? I didn’t think so.



## Sharks United Television

**Channel 96** Movie Show Times: **December 7–24, 2010**

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2010	Role Models	Grown Ups	Yes Man	Eight Crazy Nights	Elf	Precious	Pilgrm vs. The World	Kick Ass	Jonah Hex	SUTV NEWS	NSU SPORTS
Dec. 7	11:00p	3:00a	3:00p	7:00a	5:30p	8:00p	1:00a	9:30a	noon	2:00p 10:00p	2:30p 10:30p
Dec. 8	noon	11:00p	5:30p	3:00a	7:00a	9:30a	8:00p	3:00p	1:00a	2:00p 10:00p	2:30p 10:30p
Dec. 9	3:00p	1:00a	3:00a	noon	5:30p	8:00p	7:00a	11:00p	9:30a	11:00a 10:00p	11:30a 10:30p
Dec. 10	9:30a	3:00p	5:30p	1:00a	noon	11:00p	8:00p	3:00a	7:00a	8:30a 10:00p	9:00a 10:30p
Dec. 11	3:00a	7:00a	1:00a	9:30a	5:30p	8:00p	noon	3:00p	11:00p	11:00a 10:00p	10:30a 10:30p
Dec. 12	11:00p	3:00a	5:30p	7:00a	9:30p	3:00p	8:00p	1:00a	noon	1:30p 10:00p	2:00p 10:30p
Dec. 13	1:00a	noon	7:00a	11:00p	5:30p	8:00p	9:30a	3:00a	3:00p	4:30p 10:00p	5:00p 10:30p
Dec. 14	3:00p	1:00a	5:30p	noon	11:00p	3:00a	8:00p	7:00a	9:30a	1:30p 10:00p	2:00p 10:30p
Dec. 15	7:00a	9:30a	noon	3:00p	5:30p	8:00p	11:00p	1:00a	3:00a	4:30p 10:00p	5:00p 10:30p
Dec. 16	3:00a	7:00a	5:30p	9:30a	3:00p	1:00a	8:00p	noon	11:00p	11:00a 10:00p	11:30a 10:30p
Dec. 17	noon	11:00p	9:30a	3:00a	5:30p	8:00p	3:00p	7:00a	1:00a	2:00p 10:00p	2:30p 10:30p
Dec. 18	1:00a	noon	5:30p	11:00p	3:00a	7:00a	8:00p	9:30a	3:00p		
Dec. 19	9:30a	3:00p	11:00p	1:00a	5:30p	8:00p	3:00a	noon	7:00a		
Dec. 20	7:00a	9:30a	5:30p	3:00p	1:00a	noon	8:00p	11:00p	3:00a		
Dec. 21	11:00p	3:00a	3:00p	7:00a	5:30p	8:00p	1:00a	9:30a	noon		
Dec. 22	noon	11:00p	5:30p	3:00a	7:00a	9:30a	8:00p	3:00p	1:00a		
Dec. 23	3:00p	1:00a	3:00a	noon	5:30p	8:00p	7:00a	11:00p	9:30a		
Dec. 24	9:30a	3:00p	5:30p	1:00a	noon	11:00p	8:00p	3:00a	7:00a		



# Even in South Florida: Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow



Written by:  
**Juan Gallo**

True Story: the other day someone asked me if I wanted to go to a beach cookout during the holidays. I politely declined. What is wrong with people in South Florida? I don't want to go to the beach. I don't want to wear flip-flops and sunglasses. I don't want to put on suntan lotion. For crying out loud people, it's the holidays.

It can't just be me. When you think of the holidays, of winter time, don't you think of sweaters, scarves, hearths, hot chocolate, snow, cold, and mittens? OK, so we're pretty far removed from that down here, but we can make some effort. It's just not the same for me without those things.

I admit that I'm the first one to reach for his scarf when the thermometer drops below 80. But, I'm still waiting for it to get in the low 70s to start wearing my pea coat. I know it sounds a little crazy, but I

like the cold. I like seasons and for it to actually feel like Christmas.

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. I love everything about it. I take it in with all of my senses. I enjoy hearing the Christmas music playing everywhere. Its wonderful to see the lights and the decorations in every neighborhood. The food is especially delectable at this time of year. I love how it seems to make everyone a little bit nicer and happier. One of my favorite things to do is to gather with family and friends to appreciate everything we have.

Can we just pretend for one second that we're not in a tropical paradise? Can we put away the sandals and throw on some shoes that cover the entire foot? Perhaps embrace some activities that take advantage of the perks of the winter cool (I can't even say cold because it doesn't really get cold here). A bonfire. A crisp walk. A night-in



A Santa hat sits on the sand of a South Florida beach.

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playing board games with the family instead of clubbing in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. Watching Christmas movies. Hanging decorations.

I know what you're thinking — if you don't like it here, why don't

you just leave? Trust me, I plan on leaving as soon as I can. Until then, I will be making the most of my not-so-winter-wonderland holiday experience in South Florida. I will be hoping for a drastic drop in

temperature. I will make sure I know exactly where my pea coat is in my closet. And I will be staying as far away from the beach as possible.

## On the Scene

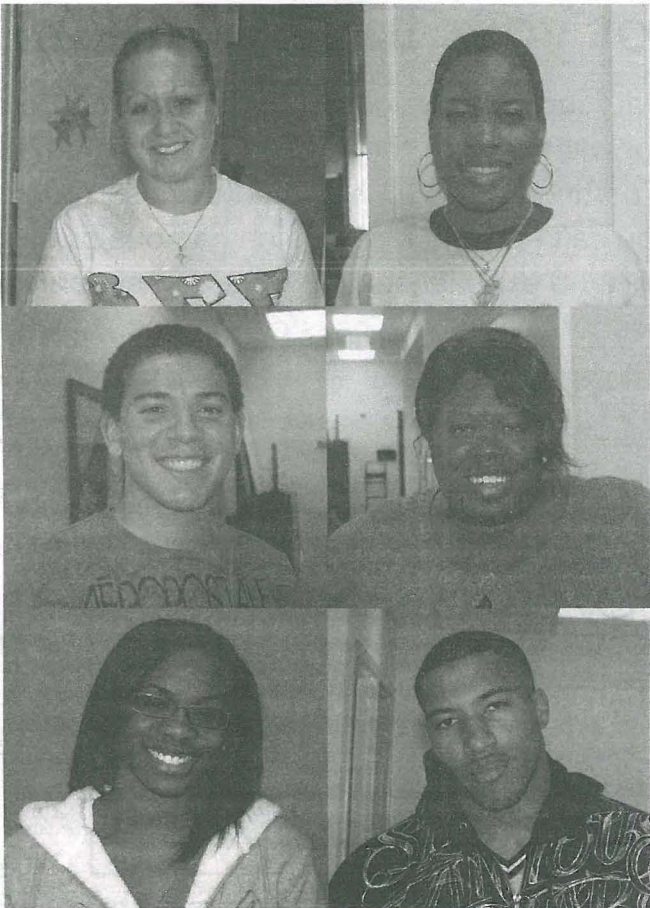
As told to:  
**Stephanie Goby**

Santa Claus is a legendary figure associated with a 4th-century Christian saint called Saint Nicholas. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Dutch brought the tradition of Saint Nicholas, also called Sinterklass (Santa Claus), giving gifts and candy to children to the United States. The tradition carries on in many Western societies today. Children often believe in the folklore of Saint Nicolas (Santa Claus) leaving his home in the North Pole, riding on a sleigh led by reindeers to each house, and delivering gifts to children who have been nice throughout the year.

### How did you find out Santa Claus wasn't real?

"I found out Santa Claus wasn't real when I was in the 3rd grade in my peer group. I didn't believe them. My words were, 'Don't lie. Mommy said he's real.'"

**Lindsay Minthorn, junior athletic training major**



"When I was six years old, in New York, my uncle tried to come to my house dressed as Santa Claus to scare me because I was supposed to be sleeping."

**Jonathan Martinez, sophomore English major**

"I never really believed in Santa Claus but I would say when I saw my mom take out a bag into the living room full of Toys R Us toys in the 4th grade."

**Nefertari Bennett, junior legal studies major**

"One Christmas, I snuck downstairs in the middle of the night to see Santa Claus and instead I saw my parents putting presents under the tree."

**Jazmine Carter, sophomore biology major**

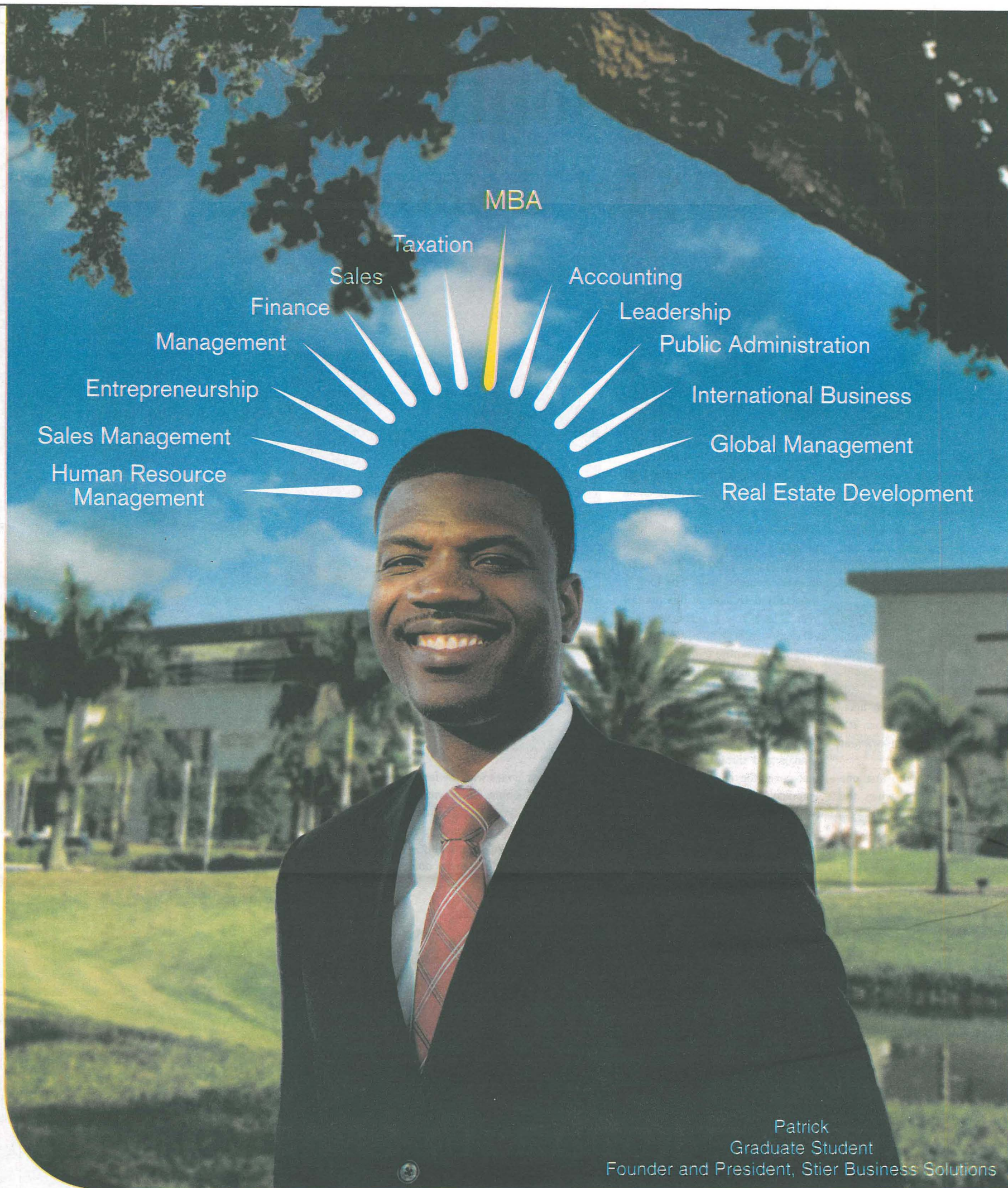
"When I was an emerging young lady, I woke up to go to the restroom and overheard my parents discussing who would eat the cookies and what time they would put the gifts under the tree. I ran out of the bathroom crying and calling them liars."

**Willet Capers, area coordinator FFV/CLC**

"I realized he wasn't real as soon as I realized I didn't have a chimney and asked my parents how the heck will he get in. Plus, we didn't even have a Christmas tree."

**Freire Alcantara, junior athletic training major**





Patrick  
Graduate Student  
Founder and President, Stier Business Solutions

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