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## The Current Volume 20 : Issue 16

Nova Southeastern University

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# The Current

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

December 8, 2009

www.nsucurrent.com

Volume 20, Issue 16

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## Forecast

Today  
Partly  
Cloudy  
Hi: 83 Lo: 72

Wednesday  
Sunny  
Hi: 84 Lo: 71

SEE FORECAST 2

## Peace: A Holiday Concert Brings Christmas to NSU



Photo by L. Aurigemma

The NSU Vocal Ensemble get the audience in the holiday spirit by singing "This Christmas."

AMANDA CAZACU  
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

On Dec. 4 in the Black Box Theater in the Don Taft

University Center, NSU held Peace: A Holiday Concert to a filled auditorium. The concert was hosted by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' Division

of Performing and Visual Arts. Pianos were played, gui-tars were strummed, and voices sang as the Bossa Nova Chorale, NSU Vocal Ensemble, Pro

SEE PEACE 3

## Delores Smiley Continues to Give a Helping Hand to Minority Students



Photo by A. Rodriguez

Maxine Mason, M.B.A., (left) and Delores M. Smiley, Ed.D., (right) pose for a picture inside the Carl DeSantis building.

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS EDITOR

Delores Smiley, Ed.D., dean of community education and diversity affairs in the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, has been involved in education all of her career.

She has taught junior high

school, high school and college. She considers education a passion. That passion was recently rewarded when she was reappointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the board of directors for the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers.

"I cannot remember not being interested in [education],"

said Smiley. "I have always had a passion for teaching and learning."

Smiley began serving on the board two years ago, but at the end of each term, the governor decides whether the members are reappointed. Her current reappointment will be effective until June 30, 2012, during which

SEE MINORITY 2

## NSU is the First University to Host the Special Olympics



Photo by S. Mann

Donald Taft prepares to cut the ribbon at the opening of the Special Olympics.

SERENA MANN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Clouds and gray skies did not put a hamper on the celebrations on Nov. 22 for the grand opening of Special Olympics Broward County. Paul Sallarulo, a chair of SOBC, first thought to approach NSU about hosting the event several years ago.

Donald Taft, of the Taft Foundation, has always had an invested interest in giving back and approached George Hanbury, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief operating officer of NSU, one year ago looking for a space to hold the olympics. After being presented two less-than-ideal locations, Taft told Hanbury, "If you're sincere, you'll bring me to the right place."

"When I saw the present office, it was so expansive. It was a place where the organization could function," said Taft. "NSU has been so generous. It gives me great happiness to come and put on a day like this with all my friends, the olympians, and guests to celebrate."

Taft added that he wanted to name the university center the "Special Olympics University Center" but others, including chairs of the SOBC, urged him to keep the building in his name.

SEE SPECIAL OLYMPICS 6

## FORECAST from 1

 <b>Thursday</b> Sunny Hi: 82 Lo: 69	 <b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 80 Lo: 70	 <b>Saturday</b> Mostly Sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 71	 <b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 83 Lo: 68	 <b>Monday</b> Scattered T-Storms Hi: 80 Lo: 67
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## MINORITY from 1

time she will be involved in policy making.

During her time at NSU, Smiley has been involved in many projects to help students. Most recently is the establishment of a master's degree program in 2008 and the launching of a certificate program that launched in the fall of 2009.

Another project in which Smiley is involved is the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, which awards undergraduate minority students \$4,000 every year to further their education. NSU is one of 34 Florida schools to receive the fund. After

being rewarded, students go to conferences where they meet other educators as well as scouts willing to hire on the spot.

"It's my desire to see the administration of institutions really buy into programs that are designed to assist and support minorities across the board because they are the workforce of tomorrow," said Smiley.

However, only 32 students currently receive the scholarship, not because there is not enough money, but because students do not apply.

"I don't understand because we have a large number of

minority students in our school," said Maxine Mason, coordinator of operations in the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, and primary contact for the fund.

To receive the award, students must be enrolled full-time in a state-approved teacher education program. They must be a junior, be a Florida resident and complete the FAFSA.

For more information about the fund, contact Mason at (954) 262 7900 or write to smallm@nova.edu.

# NSU Pitches to Target, Corp.

**SIMONE SPENCE & BEATRIZ RESTREPO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Regina Greenwood, Ph.D., professor of management at NSU, thought of a creative way to impart knowledge while having her students demonstrate their talents and skills. Greenwood partnered with executives from Target to allow the students in MGT 5090 Entrepreneurial and Strategic Thinking to work on real case studies from Target. Two cases were given to the groups in the class, and each had to present a unique idea to be implemented. They were asked to think outside of the box and bring creative ideas that could be implemented within the company.

On Dec. 3 all groups presented their projects at the Knight Auditorium in the Carl DeSantis Building to the Target executives and Carla Withrow, assistant director of the MBA program. The group pitched their ideas and felt that their presentations were a success. After a difficult competition, two groups were awarded a cash prize of \$1,000 per team. The winning groups were Nicole Broges, Ashley Hodson, and Paola



Student present their ideas to Target.

Mosquera — who created a proposal surrounding multicultural shoppers; — and Kiesha Edwards, Sebastian Moreno, and Tania Velez, who proposed a Smartphone application tailored for every Target store.

"The Target Case was an amazing experience for my teammates and I! It really allowed us to think constructively, be creative, and bring our ideas to life," said Ashley Hodson, graduate student pursuing her

master's in business. "We were up against very strong competition; everyone competing against us had great, innovative, and refreshing ideas. This was a big accomplishment for us; I am ecstatic that we won and am very proud of my team!"

NSU took the challenge seriously and looks forward to future challenges similar to the one with Target. The students were grateful to apply theories learned in class to real-world situations.

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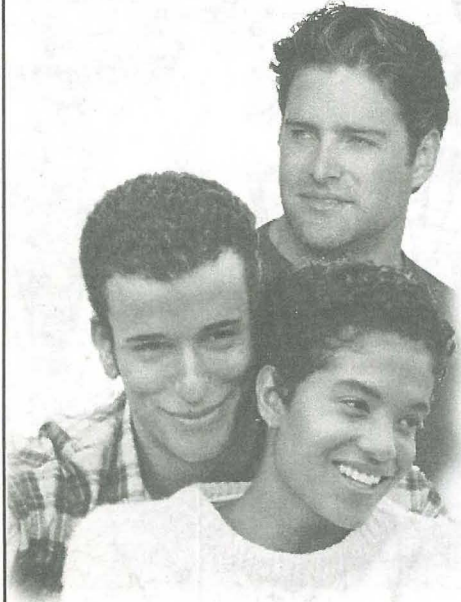
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For more more information regarding deadlines for submission, please contact us at (954) 262-8455 or thecurrentad@nova.edu.

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PEACE from 1

Musica Chamber Ensemble and vocal and instrumental soloists were featured.

Overall, the concert created an atmosphere of Christmas cheer. Lindsey Nowland, a sophomore biology major, said that she "felt cheerful and happy throughout the concert; excited about the holidays." Holiday songs were sung and played passionately throughout the concert. A piece by the Pro Musica Chamber Ensemble kicked off the night, directed by Mark Cavanaugh who some of you might know as the host of Life 101.

Alejandrina Lara, a management major and also a member of the Bossa Nova Chorale was pleased by the overall experience, stating that "it was great to see all the performers come together from every division."

Assistant professor of music and director of the Bossa Nova Chorale, Jennifer Donelson, mentioned that "it was great to have so many students involved in the program and just working in such an intense and creative environment. It was a good opportunity to show what we offer."



Photo by L. Aurigemma

Yazhou Hu plays a solo of Beethoven's Sonata in F minor.

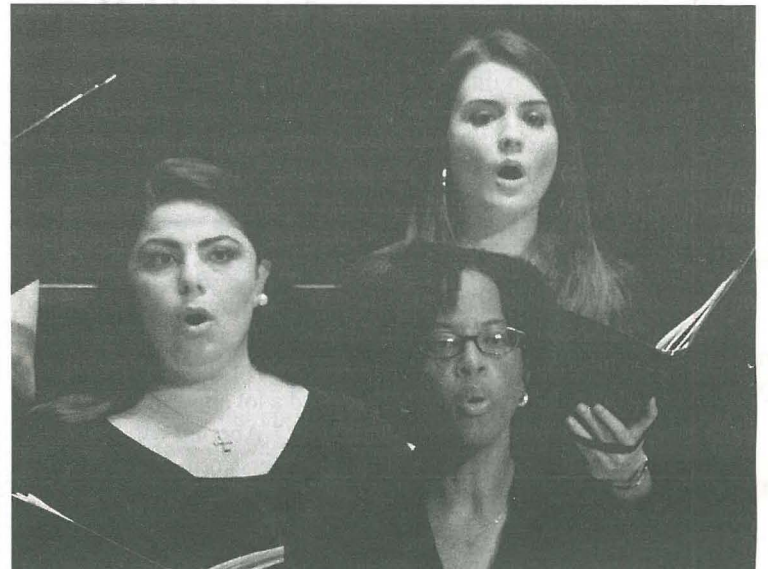


Photo by L. Aurigemma

Members of the Bossa Nova Chorale sing the last song of the evening.

ACURA HONDA



HONDA HYUNDAI smart

## CAMPUS COMMUTER LEADQUARTERS

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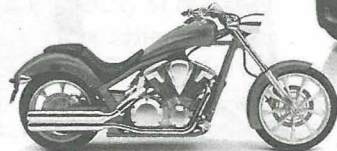
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# Decisions, Decisions...

**CHELSEA SEIGNIOUS**  
VISUAL DESIGN ASSISTANT/  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Dec. 2, the Office of Career Development held their workshop Wednesday on "Life after NSU."

According to Career Advisor Whitney Brown, students are faced with three choices: attend a graduate or professional school, serve in the military or another service organization or enter the job market. While most students choose the latter, all options have advantages and disadvantages.

Brown asserted, "Grad school is an option, not a fallback plan," emphasizing that all students should follow their passions in order to be successful.

Though the workshop did not target which of the options was best for each type of student, Brown reviewed the services offered by the Office of Career Development to aid in students' and alumnus' decisions.

The Office of Career Development provides resume and cover letter assistance, help on graduate and professional school applications, interviewing tips and assistance, the job search Web site "Career Shark," public sector and business sector career fairs and various workshops.

"Grad school is an option, not a fallback plan."

- Whitney Brown

One M.B.A in Entrepreneurship alumna who attended, Ish Aberion, said, "I just finished my program in November. I've learned a lot about what NSU has to offer." Aberion will be serving in BuildersCorp in the Philippines this coming year.

For additional information, check out the Office of Career Development at [www.nova.edu/career](http://www.nova.edu/career) or stop by their office on the fourth floor of the Alvin Sherman Library.

# Walk to Prevent Suicide Raises More Than \$15,000

**SERENA MANN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Crowds of people, including students, parents and members of Broward County gathered in front of the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Center on Nov. 22 to raise awareness and walk for suicide prevention.

"I am here to support the event by walking. I actually had a cousin who was a victim of suicide. I'm here to support him," said Angie Freeman, master's of student in college of student affairs.

President Ray Ferrero, Jr., was an honorary chair and opened the ceremony with a speech noting that, "...Suicide is the third leading cause of death among high school and college students and that more than 32,000 individuals die each year in the U.S."

Ferrero added that, "Individual and public awareness can help prevent suicide...To our NSU students, we have an Office of Suicide and Violence Prevention to address this issue."

"We're walking for a loved one," said Judith Brigido, grandmother of John Vincent, a victim of suicide. Brigido is part of a team of four who held up a banner and wore matching t-shirts during the walk commemorating Vincent with the slogan, "One Love Team for John."

"Suicide is an issue that



Photo by S. Mann

Members of the One Love team walk with their banner commemorating John Vincent, a victim of suicide and a native of Pembroke Pines.

has touched a lot of the members of this chapter. We like to host events, not parties," said Lorena Cabrera, president of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc., the organization that hosted the event, and junior psychology major. "We've been planning this event for more than a year and have raised over \$15,000."

"I lost one of my best childhood friends, Lillian Saluk, who committed suicide at 14. I lost her three years ago," said Juliana Ospina, junior biology

student. "It meant so much to me to open peoples' eyes and talk about my friend. I knew the walk would make an impact on Broward County."

Following the walk, there were musical performances, testimonials of how suicide has affected students and members of the community and a butterfly launch. The walk had approximately 600 attendees and is the first in Broward County since 2004.

# Continuing a Tradition of Successful Leaders

**YINETH SANCHEZ**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

On Nov. 20, NSU was proud to congratulate the 2009 graduates of the Emerging Leaders Certificate Program.

This program was designed to prepare students to be effective leaders. It seeks to increase the participants' self awareness regarding their unique strengths, leadership styles, team building skills, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) goal setting and problem solving strategies. It helps assemble and turn individuals with visions into accomplishing leaders who impact and succeed in our community.

"Today we are graduating the cream of the crop," stated Terry Morrow, director of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. "It is our job and our pleasure to help people that are dedicated to rise up and achieve their objectives by preparing them to be leaders on campus."

At the beginning of this semester, flyers stating "I will



Courtesy of the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement

Jennifer DaSilva receives her honor from Timothy Chin.

impact" or "I will succeed" were distributed all over campus. Those flyers were an invitation to the NSU community to show their leadership skills and to improve them. Around 50 individuals, including undergraduate and graduate students, signed up for the Emerging Leaders Program this semester. The amount of students interested caused the directors to authorize two sessions per week.

"I will miss my one-on-ones," said Jessica Helsel,

program assistant of the Emerging Leaders Experience. "It is fascinating to see how a group of committed individuals from different backgrounds can gather and grow so much together."

This program offered its participants the opportunity to build their intrapersonal and interpersonal skills through activities such as "Strengths Quest," "Earthquake," S.M.A.R.T Goals, "Landscape" and "Ethics and Leadership."

"Many times we left the

"Today we are graduating the cream of the crop. It is our job and our pleasure to help people that are dedicated to rise up and achieve their objectives by preparing them to be leaders on campus."

- Terry Morrow

classroom wishing we had more time to continue our insightful discussions," stated Gabrielle Devove, sophomore business administration major. "It's sad that we won't be able to see many of our peers anymore."

The Emerging Leaders Program also offered its students information regarding various leadership opportunities on campus some of which included Convocation, the Fall 2009 Leadership Conference, the Diversity Submit and NSU Make a Dif-

ference Day. By being part of this program, students were able to connect with fellow colleagues who represented various organizations on campus. The Emerging Leaders Certificate Program is in its fourth year, but with time it has undergone several changes.

For more information on the Emerging Leaders Certificate Program, visit [www.nova.edu/studentleadership/development/certificate\\_program.html](http://www.nova.edu/studentleadership/development/certificate_program.html).

# The Depths of Social Networking

KEREN MOROS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During "Netiquette," the Lucky 13 Workshop's Oct. 24 session, Heather Studenberg, director of New Student Orientation and Fayona Salmon, associate director of employee relations in the Office of Career Development, taught students about social networking.

Studenberg said that in the past, social networking meant talking to friends on the phone, but now it means sending messages to people through social networking Web sites such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn and Twitter. She pointed out that MySpace has 110 million registered users, while Facebook has 70 million and LinkedIn has 22 million. In 2006, the Student Monitor, an organization that researches college students, named Facebook as the second most "in thing" among college students, tied with beer and second to the iPod.

Thea McComisky, senior education major, said that she was surprised to find out how popular Facebook is. "I realized ... that you should watch what you put on Facebook," she said, "so when your employer sees it they won't, like, fire you or know stuff that they're not supposed to know."

Studenberg mentioned that some of the pros of online social networking include networking for a job, staying connected to others and remaining informed about others. However, stalkers and identity thieves can follow others on social networks, and one's Facebook page may not always give others a good first impression. Studenberg added that while NSU does not monitor Facebook, things on stu-

## Social Networking



Courtesy of www.mediabistro.com

dents' Facebook pages "could be brought up for disciplinary action."

She advised students to think of who would be reading their messages and to not use foul language or improper spelling. She also advised them to practice good manners by responding to people's messages and "stop updating every five seconds."

Hassam Batarfi, freshman computer science major, said "I have never regretted anything I have posted on a networking site. But maybe I should block other people that tag my photos."

Salmon called social networking "a good way to meet other people who can help you build your vision." She said that 70 percent of job seekers found their current job through networking, and a referral generates 80 percent more results than a "cold call." However, she warned that employers would not hire people with inappropriate material on their networking site. She suggested that students join professional social networking sites such as Meetup.com, LinkedIn.com, and Bni.com and

network at places such as church, chamber of commerce meetings and conferences.

Salmon reminded students to use the "CHAP Approach": courtesy, humor, attitude and persistence. This approach involves being polite, using humor to "break the ice," and being willing to learn and practicing persistence when making social connections. "Keep working at [social networking] because it will definitely pay off," she added.

Studenberg concluded by saying "Build a network when you don't need it, so that it is there when you do."

After the workshop, Craig Ferguson, freshman biology major, said, "I always think about what I post first, so [the workshop] made me more aware of what's going on."

For more information on Lucky 13 Workshops, contact Dalis Dominguez, Ph.D., at [dalis@nova.edu](mailto:dalis@nova.edu) or (954) 262-8485.

# Race is a Difference of One Gene

ISIS DARIOS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How much do you really know about race? That was the main topic of discussion during the Lucky 13 workshop titled, "Different People Make the World Go 'Round," held on Dec. 1. Nearly 30 students gathered in room 200 of the Rosenthal Student Center to participate in the diversity awareness work-shop. Deborah Nixon, Ph.D., professor in NSU's marriage and family therapy department and diversity and inclusion administrator, hosted the workshop.

After bellies were full from the free lunch provided, students were handed a four-question race literacy quiz. The first question was, "Humans have approximately 30,000 genes. On average, how many genes separate all members of one race from all members of another race?" From the six multiple-choice options, the correct answer was one gene. This fact astounded some of the students, as many of them glanced around the room to look at each other. Of the students in attendance, several different diversities were represented. The race literacy quiz also helped inform students that members of a race cannot be identified by their blood group, skin color, ancestry or their genes.

Nixon showed a short clip from the three-part series called, "Race: The Power of an Illusion," which can be found in the Alvin Sherman Library. According to the video clip, "We can't find any genetic markers that define a race." After the video segment was over, Nixon showed a Powerpoint slideshow that displayed this famous ideal from



Photo by I. Darios

Students listen to discussion about race.

the Declaration of Independence: "All men are created equal." Nixon commented, "The social construct of race negates our ideal."

To conclude the workshop, Nixon had the students divide into groups to devise a plan to be piloted at NSU then implemented in the U.S. at large to promote the idea that, "There is only one race — the human race." One of the most discussed ideas was the removal of the race question on college and job applications.

"I like coming to the workshops to learn something new," said Thea McComisky, senior education major, "I found it both interesting and strange that only one gene separates us." Bernhadine Barthelmy, freshman marketing major, said that the workshop met her expectations and she recommended that students take Nixon's class.

For more information about diversity awareness education, contact Nixon at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at (954) 262-3968 or at [nixond@nova.edu](mailto:nixond@nova.edu).

For more information about Lucky 13 Workshops, contact Katie Gittleman at (954) 262-8558 or at [katielg@nova.edu](mailto:katielg@nova.edu)

## Events Calendar Dec. 8-15

Tuesday, Dec. 8

**Relaxation Station**  
12:10 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Focus on good mental and physical well being by nurturing mind and body. This event is open to the undergraduate population in the Rosenthal Student Center, Room 200. Lunch is provided. For more information, please contact Katie Gittleman at (954) 262-8558 or at [katielg@nova.edu](mailto:katielg@nova.edu).

**Deborah Sharp, Visits NSU Library to Talk About "Mama Rides Shotgun"**  
6:30-7:30 p.m.

One of the nation's funniest mystery writers and a Florida native, Deborah Sharp, will be speaking about her latest novel in the Mace Bauer Mystery series at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library. Author discussion and book signing, free and open to the public. For more information please call (954) 262-4627, email [jmbean@nova.edu](mailto:jmbean@nova.edu).

Monday, Dec. 14

**Undergraduate New Student Orientation**  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

An exciting and information filled day for all incoming day freshmen and transfer students. Join us for an opportunity to meet future classmates, your academic college and advisors, get your questions answered, and a larger understanding of your new university. For more information, please contact Stephanie Garland.

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**If you would like to write for The Current, please contact us at [nsunews@nova.edu](mailto:nsunews@nova.edu) to set up an appointment.**

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS from 1

Throughout the celebration Taft was often affectionately referred to as "our [SOBC's] superhero." Taft was presented with a plaque and said that he "would wear it around my neck if I could."

The event had several games for the athletes, a free picnic and lots of booths with

information and activities. This is the first time in the history of the Special Olympics that the games will be hosted by a university.

"Maybe other universities will also bring the Special Olympics to their campuses," said Sallarulo. "It would be great as far as safety and so on."

## Get Your Crunch On

SERENA MANN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Dec. 2 and 3, the Alvin Sherman Library hosted its bi-annual Crunch Time Services and offered activities for patrons to "refresh, refuel, and refocus" prior to undergraduate exam week.

Belly dancing, pilates, yoga, self-hypnosis, guided meditation, and video and board games were presented in various rooms throughout the library. Free snacks were available and included chips, cookies, soft drinks, and coffee.

In addition, representatives from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Office of Academic Services and the Office of Career Development were on hand at the second floor reference desk alongside the librarians to provide patrons with tutoring and career advisement services.

"I came yesterday for the yoga class and tried out the belly dancing too," said Nerissa Street,

senior in theatre. "I thought it was a great way to relieve stress and take my mind off all the stuff I'm thinking about now."

"I'm a transfer student and I don't think my old school did anything like this. So I think it's great to have these services available," said Brittany Gooden, a senior studying theatre.

Welcoming students on the first floor was Youth Services Librarian, Meagan Albright who stated, "[Crunch Time] is put on to provide people with information to help them [attendees] use library and university resources to the fullest, to destress and succeed during finals."

"It's [Crunch Time] cool. Free food? I'm down for that. I'm here studying for my exam at 4 p.m. and it's keeping me going," said Albert Aubert, junior in marketing.

Crunch Time Services were available to all students and members of the community.

## A Sophisticated Holiday Full of Good Fun

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS EDITOR

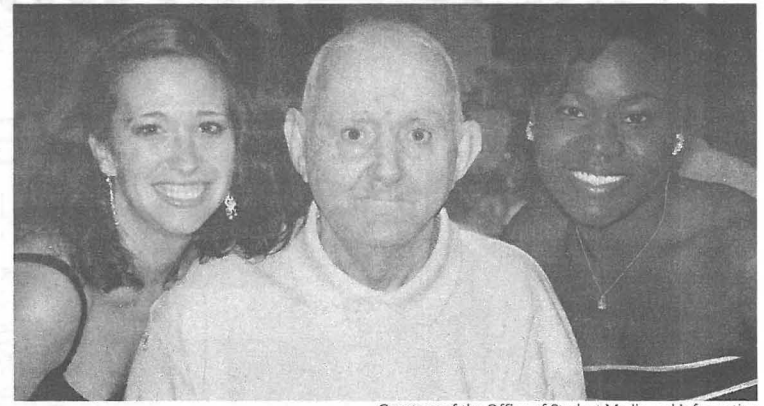
They wore fancy dresses and tuxedos, danced, got their pictures taken with their dates, mingled and had dinner. While it sounds like a standard prom night, this event had a twist: the seniors at the prom were not in high school.

Members of the Harbor Beach Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center partnered with NSU students who volunteered to spend Dec. 1 making the seniors happy. For some of the seniors, this is the only night of the year they leave the nursing home.

"Everyone is talking and the seniors are telling stories about what is going on now," said Garret Joseph, freshman nursing major, "It's nice to hear their experiences."

The Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement hosted the event for the ninth consecutive year.

"The first time I came I was in a wheelchair and a young man took me to the dance floor, we danced the Macarena and everything. I had fun. He was a very nice young man," said Grace Wainwright, 79, who attended the



Courtesy of the Office of Student Media and Information

One of the seniors poses with his dates. Some of the seniors had more than one date to the prom.

prom for the third time.

A fashion show was also part of the night thanks to the members of the NSU's Raw Xplosion Modeling Troupe. They showcased the evolution of prom outfits from previous generations to current times.

While the event used to be hosted in a hotel, this year for the first time in its nine-year history, the prom was hosted at NSU.

"There were many reasons [we changed the location] but the first one was that we wanted to utilize all the great facilities on campus and show off all the renovations that have been going on," said Heidi Hassel, assistant director of the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engage-

ment, also known as SLCE.

"This year it's different because it is on campus but it is more personal and intimate. I think the new setting doesn't draw back the event," said Sara Stevens, freshman marine biology major, who also attended the event last year.

SLCE gave outdoor prizes, picture frames with the couple's picture and giveaways, all while Radio X played songs from the past.

"I'm glad we are able to do this," said Travis Checketts, graduate assistant for SLCE, "I think it is a great way to give back to the community and give senior citizens a special day."

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# COLLEGE KIDS vs. VAMPIRES



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STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

## Two Scrumptious Holiday Treats



AMANDA CAZACU  
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

### Candy Cane Ice Cream:

#### Ingredients:

1-quart vanilla ice cream  
½ teaspoons pure peppermint extract  
14 candy canes

#### Directions:

Put candy canes in a re-sealable bag and crush them into quarter inch pieces or smaller with the smooth side of a meat tenderizer. Soften vanilla ice cream in the microwave for 10 to 12 seconds in a medium sized bowl. Add candy cane pieces and peppermint extract and mix until combined. Transfer into a plastic container, cover, and freeze until firm.

From: [www.cdktichen.com](http://www.cdktichen.com)

### Pumpkin Pecan Cheesecake:

#### Ingredients:

½ cup chopped pecans  
¼ cup packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons butter, softened  
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
¾ cup pumpkin butter  
1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust

#### Directions:

Combine pecans and 1/4-cup brown sugar; cut in butter or margarine with a pastry blender until mixture is crumbly. Set aside.

Beat cream cheese at high speed of an electric mixer until smooth. Add 1/3 cup brown sugar; beat well. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in pumpkin butter. Pour mixture into crust.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 40 minutes.

Sprinkle pecan mixture over pie. Bake for 5 additional minutes, or until butter or margarine and sugar melt. Cool on a wire rack. Cover, and chill for at least 4 hours.

From: [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)





# Holiday Gift Guide and Tips for Shopping Online

**ASHLEY ALLRED &  
SERENA MANN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER &  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Don't know what to buy? Don't know what to get? The holidays are here and if you are like many people at this time of year, you waited until the last minute to find gifts for your nearest and dearest. Being in the midst of a recession has made us realize how gifts may not be the most important things to stress over, but, nonetheless, it is not always the size of the package but the thought you put into it. The following is my gift guide to pleasing those you care about without breaking the budget.

## Gift Guide

### Mom

If your mom is anything like my mom, then she likes to look good. Costume jewelry is a great gift to get for her to feel all glamorous and dolled up without emptying your pockets. This gift is very versatile and could also be given to aunts, sisters and so on. The best places to buy costume jewelry are JCPenny or Kohl's for their great sales or even Target. Tip: Avoid buying cookware, vacuums and dusters – trust me this is the wrong way to go.

### Dad

I think, all dads are tougher to shop for. He may think a gift card is an obligation to buy something more expensive (to use the full value of the card of course), and he may not want another tie this year considering that's the go to gift for all dads. My pick is a Bluetooth headset. You can find one for under \$50 and it is practical, functional and will keep him safe on the road. He will appreciate its functionality and the thought behind it.

### Grandparents

Grandparents are more mature members of the family who often value memories. A digital picture frame would be an ideal gift for them to view endless

photos of the family. Tip: Preload the frame with pictures of your family (or just you) beforehand so all they have to do is plug it in.

### Brother

If you are fortunate to have a brother, then you know how hard it is to shop for them. Stick to the basics like sports and buy a football or sports memorabilia. If your brother is not a sports guy, go for the video games at Game Stop for under \$20. Otherwise go for an iTunes card – everyone loves the gift of music. Tip: You can decide on whether to give a \$10 card or more based on how nice he's been to you.

### Sister

Sisters should always look their best and so a makeup tote is an affordable gift that they will appreciate. They come pre packaged at most pharmacies, Wal-Mart's, and anywhere else so you don't have to know a lot about makeup to get one with all the brushes, eyeshadows and lipsticks they will love. Tip: Give this gift with love and not with a card saying, "Just thought you needed this." It will not come across as a compliment.

### Significant Others

Make a gift for that special someone. I know it sounds cheesy but a memory scrapbook or card, writing a letter or poem can go a long way. Tip: Try recreating a memorable date or time you had a blast at. This will remind you of why you are together in the first place.

### Co-Workers

Holiday treats are always welcome around the office. Make some homemade chocolate covered pretzels or cookies. Tip: If you don't have time to bake, buy pastries at the store and place them on a plate for effect. No one will know they're store bought in an office environment – I have never found treats and sweets as less than welcomed.

If you are buying for someone other than whom we've mentioned on this list go for the stan-

dards: wine, books, and chocolate. All of the gifts mentioned above can be found on-line at various retailers.

## Online Shopping Tips

Shopping online requires a few precautions to make sure your identity, your money and your purchases are safe.

"Internet users are constantly targeted by spam, 'phishing' scams, identity theft and any number of other online attacks," said Gurvirender Tejay, Ph.D., information security experts from the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences. "Most of these fraudulent activities prey on the kind-hearted and the generally trusting nature of our society."

If you are shopping online, make sure you use a combination of alphanumeric and pass phrases to create strong passwords that are difficult to guess or break. Do not record passwords in accessible spaces such as your desk drawer or cell phone.

No matter what Web site you decide to purchase your gifts from, be sure that it is secure and trusted. The small "lock" icon in your web browser will tell you whether the transactions are encrypted or not. Also check the site you are visiting for Web seals of approval such as BBBOnline, Truste, WebTrust and Verisign. These Web seals are awarded to merchants who abide by information security and privacy guidelines outlined by the government and industry groups.

Be careful while using a public computer or wireless networks including Wi-Fi hot-spots. While using computers provided in the library or at an Internet café, do not allow automatic login or the option to remember your username and password.

By following these tips and suggestions, you can be assured that your holiday season will be safe and secure, not to mention that your gifts will be a sure fire hit! Happy Shopping!

# Women's Basketball Moves to an Overall Season Record of 4-2

**CRAIG HEENIGHAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The NSU women's basketball team left it late to dispatch of Armstrong Atlantic State in their second game of the season by a score of 70-69 on Nov. 20.

Junior Abbie Tepe stepped up to the plate as she held a clutch free throw with just four seconds remaining on the clock to give the Sharks their first victory of the season.

In a closely fought encounter, the Sharks took the early advantage as they went up 11-4 and just five minutes of play. However with just under thirteen minutes played in the first half Armstrong fought back and tied the game at 11-11.

The game was an end-to-end encounter as the teams were never separated by more than three points. With a little over five minutes remaining on the clock senior Lindsey Newpher drained a three pointer to give the Sharks a 21-18 lead. In impressive fashion however, Armstrong responded with a couple of baskets from downtown to lead the match 28-25. Senior Tara Haddock reduced the deficit as she hit a free throw with little over a minute remaining in the half. Armstrong would head into the break leading 28-26.

Armstrong came out of the traps quickly in the second period as they produced a run of points to lead the Sharks 36-30. NSU continued to chip away at the deficit and after Tepe made a layup and subsequent free throw after being fouled the game was eagerly poised at 41-38. Haddock thrust the Sharks back into the game as she drained a shot from beyond the arc to tie the match up at 41-41.

The encounter continued to ebb and flow and after Armstrong had put themselves ahead once more junior Priscilla Perez drained a three pointer from downtown to give the Sharks a

63-62 lead with over two minutes remaining on the clock.

With 20 seconds remaining in the game the Sharks amassed a three point lead after sophomore Erin Zampell hit a pair of free throws. Armstrong refused to back down as they hit a three pointer with just 12 seconds to play to tie the game up at 69-69.

Tepe was fouled en route to the basket and was sent to the line with four seconds remaining to sink the all important winning basket.

On the night Tepe amassed 14 points and four steals with sophomore Jada Buckner adding another 12 points. Sophomore Meloney Fosburgh garnered 14 rebounds for the Sharks.

In the second of the two weekend matches for the Sharks they secured victory against a tough Georgia College and State team by a score-line of 71-62 on Nov. 21.

The Sharks struggled to contain a strong Georgia offense. SU found themselves on the back foot for much of the first half trailing by thirteen points with little over four minutes remaining in the half. The Sharks rallied to cut the deficit to five points after a lay up by Zampell. Georgia responded in fine fashion and headed into the break leading 36-29.

The team from Georgia continued their impressive form early in the second half as they soon raced out to an eleven point lead in the match. The Sharks once again forced their way back into the game as the lead was just three after a lay up by sophomore Stevie Kamp.

The Sharks took the lead for the first time in the second half 54-52 with a little over seven minutes remaining thanks to a three pointer from Tepe. The Sharks were able to pull away with an 8-2 run that saw NSU go up 62-56.

NSU clinched the match with a run of five free throws,

four of which were scored by sophomore Jada Buckner as the Sharks won the match 71-62.

Kamp produced an impressive display with career bests in points, 15, and rebounds 13. Tepe and Buckner both contributed greatly with 13 points apiece.

The Sharks continued their good form as they dispatched of Valdosta State in their next outing by a score of 61-57 on Nov. 24.

In a closely fought encounter, the two teams were never separated by anything more than six points.

The Sharks held an early advantage after executing a number of plays including a lay up by Kamp to give NSU a 12-7 lead with 12 minutes remaining in the first half.

Valdosta State showed a determined resilience to stay in the match and to cut the Sharks lead down to tie the game at 19-19. The Blazers continued their comeback as they then amassed a lead over the Sharks at 25-19 with just over five minutes remaining in the half. In the closing minutes of the half the Sharks battled back as the lead changed hands on two separate occasions before Valdosta State scored the final points of the half to go into the break leading 31-28.

The second half produced more of the same as the match remained close as both teams looked for the elusive victory. With a little over 12 minutes remaining the match the teams were tied at 40-40 after another two points from Kamp, this time from the foul line.

The turning point in the match came when Buckner hit a jumper to tie the game at 54-54 which ignited a Shark run which saw NSU accumulate an 8-0 run.

Valdosta State pulled to within three late in the game but Buckner sank a foul shot from the line to seal the win for the Sharks.

Kamp led the way off-

ensively for the Sharks with ten points closely followed by senior LaShawna Edwards, Fosburgh and Tepe who all amassed nine points. Tepe added an impressive seven assists whilst Kamp, Edwards and Fosburgh garnered five rebounds apiece.

NSU made it three victories in a row with an impressive victory over the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras by a score of 69-58 on Nov. 27.

After the Sharks exploded out of the traps, Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras battled back to take an early lead 11-10. The Sharks regained the lead with an Edwards lay up to lead the match 14-11.

Mid-way through the first half the Sharks began to distance themselves after a lay up and made free throw from Haddock put NSU up 25-17. The lead proved to be short lived as Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras fought their way back into the match as they closed the game to just one point with the Sharks leading 29-28 heading into the half.

The real turning point came at the beginning of the second half as the Sharks put together an impressive 18-4 run to go up 47-33 with over fifteen minutes remaining in the contest. Perez put the icing on the cake as she drained a three pointer to secure the Sharks' fourteen point lead.

Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras closed the gap to within seven but the Sharks then pulled away again after a Haddock three pointer the Sharks increased their lead to fifteen with a little over six minutes remaining on the clock. Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras did close the gap to nine but that's as close as they came with the Sharks running out eventual winners.

Haddock garnered a career high thirteen points en route to victory closely followed by Edwards who amassed ten. Perez produced an impressive display as she too garnered a career high with nine points. Buckner and

Kamp led the Sharks with six rebounds apiece.

The run of consecutive victories came to a halt as the Sharks were defeated by Clayton State 75-57 on Nov. 28.

The Sharks were up against an undefeated #13 nationally ranked Clayton State team and it proved to be arguably the Sharks' toughest test of the season so far.

NSU exploded out of the traps as they took the game to the Lakers with an aggressive offensive display. Thanks to a lay up and a three pointer from Newpher, the Sharks found themselves with an early 5-0 lead. The Lakers reduced the deficit to 8-8 but again the Sharks put together a 5-0 run as Fosburgh made a lay up and subsequent foul shot as well as a Buckner lay up to give the Sharks a 14-8 lead.

The Sharks continued to battle as they again went up by five this time by a score of 27-22 courtesy of a free throw by freshman Rheisa Burke. Clayton State, however stormed back into the match as they executed a 16-3 towards the end of the half to head into the break leading 38-30.

The Lakers were able to sustain their dominance in the second half but the Sharks cut the lead to seven after Fosburgh made three foul shots with over 17 minutes remaining in the contest. Unfortunately, for the Sharks, they couldn't maintain a comeback as the Lakers pulled away to an eventual winning margin of 18 points.

Fosburgh garnered an impressive career high 16 points with Newpher equaling her career best of eleven points.

The Sharks move to an overall season record of 4-2 as they head into Sunshine State Conference play.

## Player Profile: Craig Heenighan

**LAUREN AURIGEMMA**  
CHIEF OF VISUAL DESIGN/  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the men's soccer season comes to a close, junior Craig Heenighan closes out an incredible season with stats such as leading the team in six assists, six goals scored and the best playmaker in 2009. He has also tied fellow teammate, junior Aly Hassan, with the team-high in points with 18. In addition to his other accomplishments, Heenighan was also recently named to Daktronics, Inc. NCAA Division II South Region Men's Soccer Second Team.

As a two-way central midfielder from Widnes, England, Heenighan has overcome an injury in the first season of his

college career to playing nearly every minute of a game since 2007. His one of his greatest games this year was against Saint Leo University when he scored the winning goal in the remaining 10 minutes of the game to secure the team's spot in the Sunshine State Conference Tournament.

Yet there is a motivation behind his playing. Heenighan states, "The fear of failure motivates me a lot; constantly trying to find new ways to improve is a driving force."

Although he may be adorned with achievements, there are things that Heenighan says he can always improve on. "I need to get quicker for sure and improve upon my goal-scoring ability becoming more of a threat from midfield."

### Quick Fire Questions

#### 1. What is your favorite pre-game ritual?

My favorite pre-game ritual is to watch inspirational videos on the internet, usually soccer videos.

#### 2. What type of career do you want to pursue upon graduation?

I want a career preferably in the entertainment industry, and possibly in film production. In general, I just want a career with which firstly, I am happy, and secondly, I am successful.

#### 3. If someone was to make a movie of your life, who would you want to play you?

Daniel Craig, he is not my favorite actor, but I think he is the man.

#### 4. Who would you want to play your love interest?

My love interest would have to be Rachael McAdams

#### 5. If you were to have dinner with three people - living or dead - who would you pick?

Tiger Woods, Roger Federer and Daniel Day Lewis

#### 6. If you were stranded on the moon, what three items would you want with you?

A portable DVD player with an endless supply of batteries, a laptop with wireless internet and a soccer ball.



Courtesy of Sports Information  
Men's Soccer player Craig Heenighan.

# Men's Basketball Gets Their First Victory of the Season on the Road

CRAIG HEENIGHAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The NSU men's basketball team claimed their first victory of the season with a narrow win over Flagler College on Nov. 24.

In a nail-biting encounter the Sharks left it late to seal the victory with a John Brooks three pointer, with 4.1 seconds remaining on the clock, ultimately being the difference between the two teams.

After a humbling defeat to Miami, the Sharks were looking for a spirited performance on the road against tough opposition.

The game began in a frantic manner with Flagler scoring the opening four points of the match only to be pegged back by a strong 11-0 run from NSU. The Sharks ended the half in the same manner they began it with a 7-0 run to go into the break leading 32-27.

The Sharks began the second half in a positive manner as they opened up a twelve-point lead thanks to a lay up from Sophomore Max Papendieck putting NSU up 52-40. NSU took their foot of the gas and allowed Flagler back into the contest tying the game at 73-73 with just over a minute remaining.

Papendieck again scored a crucial basket to give NSU a 75-73 lead; however Flagler replied with a lay up of their own to tie the contest at 75-75.

With only four seconds remaining on the clock Brooks stepped up and kept his com-

posure to drain a shot from downtown and give the Sharks the victory 78-75.

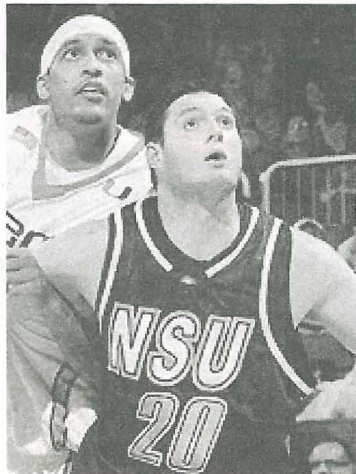
With the crucial three-pointer Brooks amassed 21 points on the night and led the Sharks offensively as he also contributed four assists and one steal. Junior Alex Gynes contributed with eleven points and Sophomore Rob Huntington garnered ten. Freshman guard Brian Cahill recorded a team high seven rebounds with junior Ross Allsop recording four blocks.

The Sharks were defeated in their next outing by #21 nationally ranked West Virginia State going down by a score of 81-78 on Nov. 27.

The Sharks were the first team to hold West Virginia to under 100 points in the 2009-2010 season however they fell just short of what would have been a crucial victory.

The lead changed hands numerous times throughout the first half with the yellow jackets of West Virginia State opening up a 7-2 advantage early in the match. With just under ten minutes remaining in the half the Sharks stormed back into the encounter to lead the yellow jackets 26-20. West Virginia State stepped up their offense at the end of the first half and executed a 16-6 run to lead the Sharks 49-48 at the half.

In the second half the lead again changed hands throughout with neither team holding more than a three point lead. Heading into the final minutes of the encounter two crucial lay ups



Courtesy of Sports Information  
Ross Allsop posts career-high numbers for his first double-double.

gave the yellow jackets a 77-75 lead with just over two minutes remaining in the match.

With just fifteen seconds remaining and down by three the Sharks failed to convert on two three-point attempts seeing their chances of victory fade away.

Allsop led the Sharks offensively with fifteen points, seven rebounds and two blocks. Huntington and Sophomore Teddy Tassy each contributed with 12 points apiece whilst Papendieck garnered ten points. Gynes amassed ten rebounds, five points and two assists.

The Sharks again fell just short in their next encounter against Catawba University, falling by a score of 77-72 on Nov. 28.

Traditionally a benchmark program in NCAA Division II basketball, Catawba reached the NCAA Tournament in 2008-2009. Knowing they were up

against it, the Sharks performed admirably and even had chances to win late in the game.

The Sharks found themselves on the back foot early in the match as they found themselves down 15-6. In true Shark fashion, NSU dug deep and executed a 14-0 run to lead Catawba 29-20. The Indians of Catawba managed to regain the advantage and take a 39-31 lead into the break.

NSU came out firing on all cylinders as they managed to put together a 10-0 to begin the half and lead 41-39. The lead continued to change hands and the Sharks put together another run to lead the match 66-62. The Sharks were forced into two consecutive turnovers towards the end of the half which Catawba capitalized on to lead 69-66. The Sharks narrowed the gap to just a single point with 25 seconds remaining but failed to go one step further and claim what would have been a historic victory as Catawba ran out 77-72.

Allsop again led the Sharks offensively with 17 points, nine rebounds and three assist. Gynes posted figures of 11 points, eight rebounds and two assists. Brooks and freshman Luke Roesch contributed with nine points apiece.

The Sharks bounced back in impressive fashion in their next outing taking down Christian Brothers 80-75 at the Don Taft University Center on Dec. 3.

Up against one of the best teams in the country over recent years, the Sharks knew they had

to bring their "A" game and they certainly didn't disappoint.

The key to NSU's victory was their electric start as they soon amassed a 14-3 lead early in the match. The Sharks continued to apply pressure as they looked like scoring every time they went down the court. With a lead as high as 18 points the Sharks dominated the first half as they went into the break leading 36-20.

The Sharks came out in the second half with the same desire and determination as they looked for their first victory in front of the "finatics" this season. Christian Brothers stepped up their game in the second half opting to take a lot of three-pointers as they found it hard to get to the basket thanks to a resilient Sharks defense.

The Sharks lead was cut to just three points with under a minute remaining but the NSU hung on for a massive victory as they move to an overall season record of 2-3.

With an outstanding performance, Gynes led the Sharks offensively with a career high 23 points, five rebounds and as assist. Allsop also posted career numbers with 17 points and 11 rebounds, which constituted his first career double-double.

Freshman Cody Dennison contributed with eleven points with Tassy contributing with ten.

The Sharks will face up against Northwood University in their next encounter on Dec. 13, at the Don Taft University Center.

## Women's Volleyball Thwarted at NCAA II South Regionals

CRAIG HEENIGHAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The NSU women's volleyball team finally ran out of steam as they were defeated by the Eckerd Tritons in four sets at the NCAA South Regionals on Nov. 19.

Having won the South Regional Championship last year, the Sharks were looking to build on that success this time out. Standing in the way of their pursuit for glory was a resilient Eckerd team which NSU beat twice in regular season play.

The Sharks started slowly in the first set and struggled to find their rhythm as they soon found themselves trailing 10-1. Like on so many occasions this season the Sharks dug deep and clawed their way back into the encounter as the game was poised at 18-17 in favor of the Tritons. The Sharks showed great determination and continued to battle as they eventually claimed the set 25-22. Leading the way offensively for the Sharks was senior Valia Petrova who amassed four kills,



Courtesy of Sports Information  
Women's volleyball falls at the South Regionals.

eight assists and four digs, with junior Lucia Cizmarova garnering four kills.

The second set was much of the same as the Sharks managed to overturn an early deficit to be in the game trailing 18-17. This time it was the Tritons that managed to produce a run of crucial plays to take the second set 25-21. Cizmarova and sophomore Molly Sigerich each claimed five and four kills respectively.

With the game tied at 1-1, the third set was crucial as whoever could claim the set would have momentum in the match. The third set proved to be an epic encounter in which the difference between the two sides was never more than three points.

As the set ebbed and flowed, the two teams looked difficult to separate until, with the score at 33-33, the Tritons dug deep and produced two huge points to claim the set. Freshman Carly Perschnick led the way for the Sharks with five kills in the set.

Despite holding a substantial early lead the Sharks were unable to claw themselves back into the encounter as Eckerd continued their good form en route to a 25-20 and claimed the match 3-1. Sigerich claimed five kills with senior Jenerra McGruder contributing with four.

Cizmarova and Sigerich led the way offensively for the Sharks in the match as Cizmarova claimed a career high 19 kills closely followed by Sigerich with 18. Kathleen Yony registered 14 digs in the match. Petrova concluded the match with four kills, 48 assists, ten digs, two blocks and an ace. McGruder posted figures of nine kills, five digs and an ace.

The Sharks concluded the season with an overall record of 19-11.

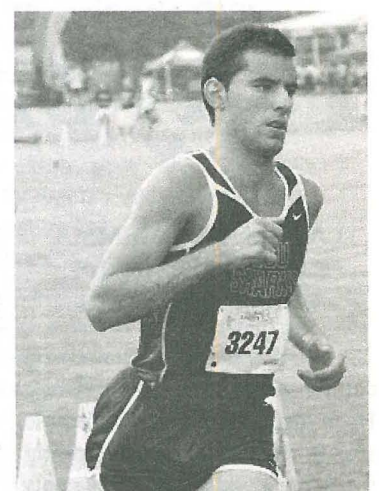
## Men's Cross Country Places 23rd At National Championship

CRAIG HEENIGHAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The NSU men's cross country team produced an impressive performance at the NCAA II National Championships as they clinched 23rd overall on Nov. 21.

In the first National Championship in the programs history, the Sharks competed admirably as they amassed a 613 team points en route to their top-25 finish.

Leading the way for the Sharks was senior Matt Meagher as he crossed the finish line with a time of 33:40.5 in 95th place overall. In second place for the Sharks was freshman Kevin Meagher, who covered the 10K course in a time of 34:55.0 and clinched 142nd place overall. Brendan Chwalek finished in 144th place with a time of 34:57.2. Junior Agustin Rey placed fourth for the Sharks and 161st overall completing the course in a time of 35:33.6. Right behind Rey was John Besharat who ran a



Courtesy of Sports Information  
Agustin Rey finished fourth for the Sharks.

time of 35:47.0 and crossed the line in 163rd place overall. Joe Peña finished the race in 167th place after running the course in 35:53.0. Rounding out the Sharks line up was sophomore Jonathan Junkins who ran a time of 36:32.9 after finished in 171st place.

The Sharks conclude their season on a high note and will be looking to build on their record breaking season next time out.

# Throwback of the Week

## Van Morrison

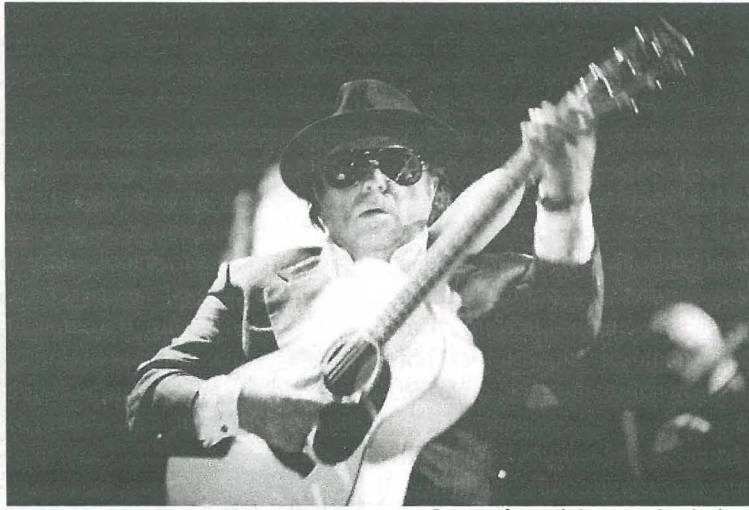
JUAN GALLO

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Have you ever pulled a "Ferris Bueller" and stayed home all day watching infomercials and Court TV? If so, you have probably stumbled upon some collection of old music hosted by Dick Clark being sold for four easy payments of \$29.99. That is one of the places where you might have heard Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl," as you see him singing it in black and white and the words "Brown Eyed Girl" by Van Morrison scrolling along the screen of your TV set. Yes, this artist and this song are usually included in such lists and such collections, because both are truly great and you should know this man's music.

Van Morrison is a Northern Irish singer-songwriter, who began his solo career in the late 1960s with the release of the hit single "Brown Eyed Girl" from his first album "Blowin' Your Mind." His third album, "Moondance," which I will be highlighting here, is regarded as one of the best of all time, coming in at number 65 on Rolling Stone's list of "The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time."

Van Morrison became a well-respected musician for his blend of musical genres, as well as his soulful voice. The opening track of "Moondance" is a very famous song titled "And It Stoned Me." A beautiful blend of R&B and folk rock, "And It Stoned Me" tells the story of what Morrison claims to have been an actual day in his childhood. The simplicity of the lyrics and the storytelling recall a regular day out fishing with his friend Billy,



Van Morrison

Courtesy of www.designermagazine.tripod.com

but the beauty and the innocence behind it all is what makes this track so appealing. The rhythm guitar along with the piano and the saxophone that comes in on the chorus make the song a great musical journey that is mellow but incredibly heartfelt. Toward the end, when Morrison is singing over and over "And it stoned me" and improvising over it is so emotional and beautiful that it gives you chills.

The next track is the title track "Moondance," a jazzy, funky tune that is filled with romantic, passionate, poetic lyrics as Morrison sings of his desires to "moondance" with his lady, "And I know now the time is just right/ And straight into my arms you will run/ And when you come/ My heart will be waiting to make sure that you're never alone." The whole song maintains that jazzy bass line until the chorus kicks in and they start to break it down with cuts and breaks and Morrison bellows out with an inability to keep his composure as the emotion surges throughout his entire body.

The next track, "Crazy Love," is a beautiful love song in which Morrison's falsetto singing is soft and almost like a whisper. Accompanied by what seems like a southern gospel choir in the background, he sings of his "crazy love" over and over again.

Another incredibly famous song on the album is "Into the Mystic," most recently heard in the movie "American Wedding." Beautiful lyrics accentuated by a medley of wonderful acoustic-guitar picking, saxophone, bass and piano. During the chorus, Morrison sings out with no inhibitions from the top of his lungs.

Since the release of "Moondance" in 1970, Van Morrison has gone onto release over 35 albums and influence just about every artist that has followed him. He still tours today and continues to release albums. His music has transcended generations and continues to touch both old and new fans today.

# As Fantastic as Mr. Fox

JUAN GALLO

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Director Wes Anderson is known for making movies that are unconventional. He has a special talent for presenting audiences with quirky characters in unique situations and gift-wrapping all of this with a special blend of filming technique, perfect musical selections, tremendous casts, original dialogue and a touch of heart-warming feeling goodness, and "Fantastic Mr. Fox" lacks none of those.

Boasting the enormous vocal talent of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Willem Dafoe and many more, this charming story about a fox seeking to score big one last time is a home-run.

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" is a story based off of the Roald Dahl children's book. In the film Fox (Clooney), decides to change careers from dangerously stealing chickens to journalism after he finds out his wife is pregnant with their first cub. He is also unhappy with their underground living conditions, so he moves the family above-ground to the inside a tree. However, the tree happens to be located within a short distance of the three most dangerous farmers around, Bean, Boggis and Bunce.

Bored with his new job and unable to ignore his natural tendencies, Fox secretly begins to sneak into these farms at night to steal chickens, cider and whatever else the farmers produce. The farmers become livid and declare war on Fox and his home. When his actions lead to terrible consequences for him, his family and the rest of the animals around, the cunning and "fantastic" Fox must find a way to dig them out of this hole once again.

There is nothing but praise to be said about this film. Starting from the top, Anderson has pushed the envelope once again with the completion of the overwhelming task to create this film using stop-motion animation. A painstaking process in which the entire film

is made up of many photographs and characters must be manipulated thousands of times, inch-by-inch, scene by scene, until an entire film is the finished product. There were no limits to what these clay figures could do; there were dance numbers, close-ups of varied facial expressions, even fight scenes. The result of using this approach, aside from just being an incredible feat, is a beautifully shot movie that is visually stunning, attractive to children, but also awe-inspiring for adults.

Aside from the jokes and anecdotes that each character adds to the movie to make it gut bustingly funny, it is the ability to make these characters, their dialogue and their interactions so human-like that is the funniest. To see an incredibly articulate fox prepare an eloquent toast, or have a reflective conversation about his purpose in life and existentialism, or to see him meet with his lawyer to discuss mortgages and interest rates — before a word is said, just the idea of these situations in this fictional world are hilarious.

However, what makes this film so great, like its predecessors "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," "The Royal Tenenbaums" or "Rushmore," is that it is captivating in the way it tells a story of the human heart. Beneath all the jokes is a story about a fox desperate to heed the call of his heart and not ignore who he really is. There is also the loving wife who supports him, the son who cannot live up to the grand expectations placed before him and even the displaced community dealing with a tragedy and having to build a new life for themselves. Incredible vocal performances from these gifted actors bring all of these situations to life.

I could not stop laughing the whole time. It was simply a great movie, perfect for the holidays and for the entire family. "Fantastic Mr. Fox" warms the heart and splits your side with laughter. You will probably see it twice like me.



## Sharks United Television

Channel 96 Movie Show Times: Dec. 8–Dec. 14, 2009

For more information: [www.nova.edu/sharksunitedtv](http://www.nova.edu/sharksunitedtv),

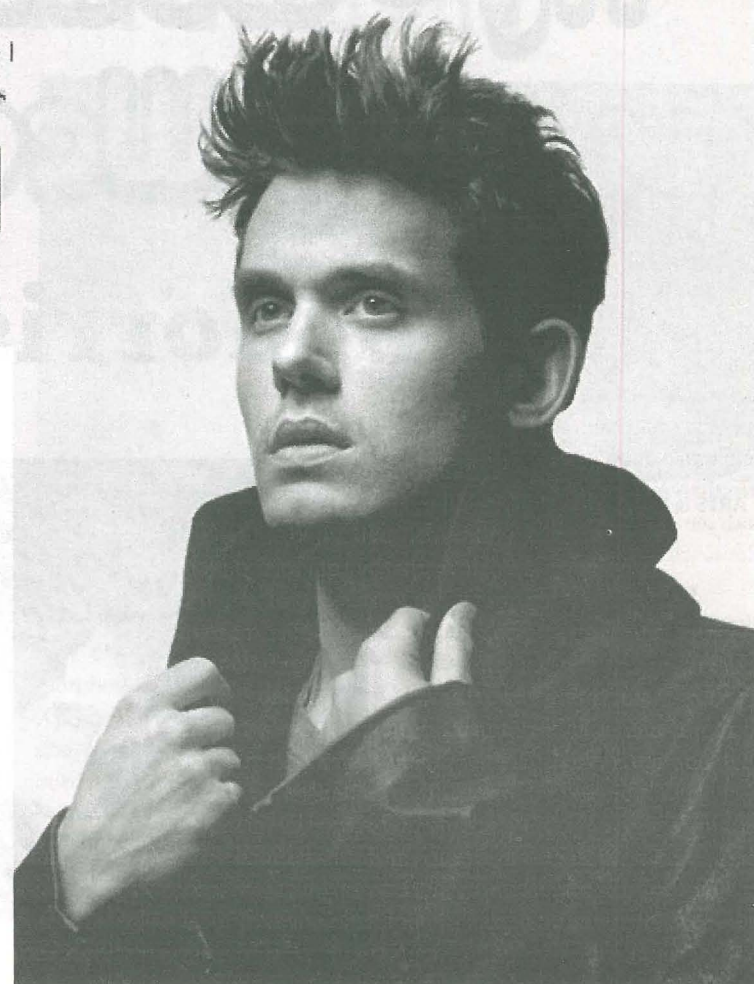
(954) 262-2602, email [sharkt@nova.edu](mailto:sharkt@nova.edu)

2009	Angels and Demons	Four Christmases	Orphan	The Taking of Pelham 123	Transformers: Revenge of The Fallen	The Ugly Truth	Into the Wild	Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas	The Park Knight	Enough	Ghost-Busters	National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
Dec. 8	8:00a	6:00p		8:30p	11:30a	3:00p			3:30a	12:30a	11:30p	
Dec. 9		8:30a	6:00p		9:30p		2:30p	2:30a	11:00a			
Dec. 10	9:00p	1:00a	8:30a	6:00p			3:30a				Noon	3:00p
Dec. 11			4:00a	9:00a	6:00p	9:30p		3:00p	12:30a	Noon		
Dec. 12	2:30p		12:30a	11:30a	8:00a	6:00p			9:00p		4:00a	
Dec. 13		3:30a				9:00a	6:00p	12:30a		9:30p	Noon	3:00p
Dec. 14	11:00a		3:30a	12:30a	9:00p		7:30a	6:00p	2:30p			

# The Art of War is Now Being Taught by John Mayer

## JOHN MAYER Heartbreak Warfare / All We Ever Do is Say Goodbye / Half of My Heart / Who Says BATTLE STUDIES

Assassin / Crossroads / War of My Life / Edge of Desire  
Do You Know Me / Friends, Lovers or Nothing



Courtesy of Columbia Records

John Mayer

**JUAN GALLO**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"Battle Studies" is the new studio album by popular recording artist John Mayer. This marks his fourth major release after astounding success with his previous three releases.

The sentimental and thoughtful Mayer has won over millions of fans with romantic and insightful lyrics, laced over skillful guitar-playing and catchy melodies. While a lot of his following comes from college girls who are lulled away by songs like "Your Body is a Wonderland" and "Daughters," the male following is also strong with Mayer because of his fearlessly honest lyrics, his amazing guitar skills, his wit and sense of humor.

To date, followers of Mayer have witnessed a somewhat schizophrenic artist. Mayer started off as an acoustic rock, melodic, sensitive type with "Room for Squares," singing about the great indoors and running "through the halls of his high school." That all changed with the next phase of his artistic evolution, as Mayer peered into the world of blues with side projects like The John Mayer Trio and then the release of "Continuum," an album that was almost all led by electric guitar and a much older Mayer exploring deeper matters of life and love with soulful songs like "Gravity," "Belief" and "The Heart of Life."

There are also the many romantic relationships he has had through the years, which have been massively exploited and stalked by the Hollywood machine and the paparazzi, as well as Mayer's hilarious antics like his own show on VH1, performing on-stage in a bear suit, a side-gig as a stand-up comedian and his comical tweets he posts on Twitter for his fans.

The Mayer of today is the combination of all of these personalities and traits, splattered on a table, voluntarily wide-open, waiting to be dissected and studied. "Battle Studies" is perhaps Mayer's most courageous album to date, as the songwriter pulls no punches from himself. He candidly dangles before us his fear, his vulnerability, his loneliness, his heartache and inevitably, his life.

The first single released from the album is "Who Says," a heavily picked and palm-muted song in which Mayer ponders about life and the direction he is headed in, singing, "Who says I can't get stoned/ Plan a trip to Japan alone/ Doesn't matter if I even go/ Who says I can't get stoned."

The opening track is "Heartbreak Warfare" and it describes just that. It is driven by the banging of the snare drum and a careful blend of electric guitars and bass. Like many of the songs on this album, it shows the painful side of love: fighting within the struggle, bitterness and the inability to change someone.

The next track, "All We Ever Do is Say Goodbye" can be considered in the same bane as "Heartbreak Warfare." However, while the theme is similar, musically they could not be more different. "All We Ever Do is Say Goodbye" is even slower and softer with strong acoustic guitar strumming and some piano chiming in just before the chorus and before an instrumental part in the middle. At the end, there are layered vocals as the chorus plays on and Mayer improvises over it.

Next is the song "Half of my Heart," which includes a surprise appearance on back-up vocals by Taylor Swift. The song begins with a sort of country feel, a bit more upbeat than the previous two and with a twangy

guitar intro. On this track, Mayer sings about indecisiveness as both halves of his heart pull him in separate directions. The combination of voices between Swift and Mayer make for a great sound as the young Swift holds her own beside the already legendary status of Mayer.

On "Perfectly Lonely," you kind of feel like this could be one of the low points in the album as the chorus just sings "I'm perfectly lonely" and does not really go anywhere. However, as soon as you are ready to toss this one out, Mayer hits you with a fantastic bridge that changes pace and is suddenly driving into a great guitar solo that ends with a catchy outro in which Mayer repeats, "That's the way that I want it." Now, Mayer has forced you to view the song in a new light, ignoring what you did not like about the chorus or the beginning of the song and taking it all as a whole. It is a story that Mayer tells completely in this song, beginning with the idea that he is satisfied with his, perhaps, lonely state. Then, claiming that he would change it at any second if the right opportunity came around, but if it does not, this is the way that he wants.

Recalling the style and influences of "Continuum," Mayer takes a trip back into that mindset with the sixth track on the album "Assassin." Mayer sets out to tell us another story of how he was a "lady killer," using women for his pleasures and his satisfaction, "You get in/ You get done/ And then you get gone." He was once an "assassin," but that all changed when he met a woman that was an "assassin," too. A great story put into song that is made even better by a fun and catchy chorus and another opportunity to hear Mayer wail on the guitar.

The next track "Crossroads" is all blues. It seems that on this

album Mayer was really intent on not being placed in any boxes and wanted to play anything he felt inspired to, whether that meant playing something very low-key or a fun track like "Crossroads," in which Mayer takes the role of blues-playing southerner at some old, beat-up, hole-in-the-wall bar.

After the track "War of My Life," a song much to the style of the first few songs on the album, the next track is "Edge of Desire," in my opinion the best track on the album by far. Everything from the honesty of Mayer's lyrics, to the constant, gentle guitar-riff being played through the entire verse, to the climactic, beautiful, limited, guitar solo in the middle, this song is a masterpiece. On top of that, it captures all of the raging emotion of the heart and angst in falling in love with someone, not just in the lyrics or in Mayer's voice, but the emotion is palpable even in his guitar playing. By miles, the most emotional song on the album and in my opinion, one of Mayer's top three best songs he has ever written.

There is one more trip down a mellow acoustic avenue in "Do You Know Me" and onto

the finale, "Friends, Lovers or Nothing." "Do You Know Me" is yet another masterpiece by Mayer, as he is able to combine all of the things that he does best into one perfect composition of music and lyrics. His guitar playing is triumphant, his lyrics are genuine, his melodies are infectious and catchy, and the themes of his music are universal and connect with both his male and female listeners. He ends the album by singing, "Anything other than yes is no/ Anything other than stay is go/ Anything other than 'I love you' is lying/ Who has never felt that?"

At the end the result is another victory from one of the most gifted musicians of our time. Consider this one another notch in the belt for John Mayer, he is building an incredible legacy for himself by making music that is unaffected by glitz and glam, and instead is as roots-y and earthy as the soil we walk on, the soil we were made from. "Battle Studies" is one of the best albums I have heard this year and will probably win the deserving Mayer some more Grammy's for his mantle.

## Write a Letter to the Editor

Want to say something about what you have read? Have an opinion about something we covered? Do you have an idea that you think would be great in The Current?

Then send a Letter to the Editor at [nsunews@nova.edu](mailto:nsunews@nova.edu).

You can also comment on our articles at [www.nsucurrent.com](http://www.nsucurrent.com).

# “Up in the Air” with Jason Reitman

SERENA MANN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Current had the chance to discuss “Up in the Air” with director Jason Reitman. Reitman has directed past movies such as “Juno” and “Thank You for Smoking.” In Reitman’s latest film “Up in The Air”, Ryan Bingham (played by George Clooney) is paid to fire people. Bingham lives out of a suitcase and becomes an expert at dismissing corporate employees. However, Bingham’s job is threatened by Natalie Keener (played by Anna Kendrick) who implements video conferencing to fire employees. In order to salvage his job Bingham takes Keener on one of his firing expeditions but along the way begins to see the emptiness of his occupation.

**Media Conference:** “I’ve read that you began writing “Up in the Air” in 2002; it’s 2009 now...”  
**Jason Reitman:** “Yes.”

**MC:** “How did the writing of the movie change over 7 years?”

**JR:** “Two major things happened. One, the economy took a turn and two, I grew up. You know when I first started writing this, I was a guy living in an apartment in my 20s, I was single, and by the time I finished, I’d met my wife. I’ve become a father, had a mortgage, so. In one sense, the story changed and simply as I grew up, so did Ryan Bingham and what I found in life, he began to look for. What started out as a movie about a guy who just fired people for a living became about a man who was trying to figure out who and what he wanted in life.

“Also, I had to make some changes because of the economy. Most notably, I cast real people as the people who lose their jobs in this movie. So when you see someone get fired in this movie,

except for a few actors that you’re going to recognize like Zack Galifianakis and J.K. Simmons, these are real people in St. Louis and Detroit who actually just lost their jobs in real life.”

**MC:** “Like ‘Thank You for Smoking,’ ‘Up in the Air,’ features a character who essentially isolates himself from the real world, and why do these types of characters interest you and what you think they say about society today?”

**JR:** “Well, yes, I mean, I made three movies. The first one’s about the head lobbyist for Big Tobacco; the second one is about a pregnant teenager girl and the third one was about the guy who fires people for a living. So, I’m obviously attracted, whether I know it or not, to characters who live in kind of polarized world. Usually, why I like these characters is that they usually have a very open-minded point of view on something that is traditionally polarizing. And they gave me – they give me an opportunity to take a fresh look at a subject that is usually kind of talked out in one way.”

**MC:** “In ‘Up in the Air,’ Clooney defines himself as the consumer. He compares loyalty cards as opposed to family photos with his love interest in the movie. So, in today’s consumer society and then the economic trends, which are portrayed in the movie as well, I’m wondering how the film industry has been affected? Do you feel pressure as a director to make movies marketable to consumers and that distributor’s think will do well in the box-office?”

**JR:** “It is a tough time in the movie business and certainly, independent film divisions have shut down, and there are less, (thoughtful) movies for adults being made because they’re more

risky, and there’s more kind of popcorn movies getting made. And look, I have a few friends that have lost their jobs, more than a few. So, it’s a tricky time but you know the film business has gone through tricky times before and it’s usually when filmmakers feel pressure that they often come out with their most creative materials. So, I said to myself, I hope that whatever pressures we’re feeling will actually lead to more interesting films.”

**MC:** “Over your career, like through ‘Thank You for Smoking’ and ‘Juno’ and now ‘Up in the Air.’ It seems that you’re attracted to stories with/or just purely family relationships, why so? And how – I’ve also seen that this is, well, you’ve said that this is your most personal movie and how does that play into it?”

**JR:** “You know it’s funny because I never intended to be a guy who made movies about the importance of family. And inherently, there are family themes in all three of my movies and this is the kind of thing that I was just talking about where you know as a director, you just kind of instinctually come to material that interests you and really follow your gut in the process, and it’s only once you’ve made a few movies that you look back and go, “Huh.” For whatever reason, I continue to be drawn to similar themes, and obviously, I think there is something inherently valuable about having family connections and you know building up kind of interconnectivity between the people that you love most.

“That there is, that somehow makes life more livable particularly when times are tough. As far as why this film is most very personal to me, I think, that has to do with the last six years of my life and how I’ve really taken a lot of who I am



Jason Reitman

Courtesy of Columbia Records

I’ve put into Ryan Bingham. You know and my films are always addressing personal questions that I have, and these are perhaps the most personal. If I like to just complete as it is you know I’m married, I have a beautiful daughter; I get to do what I want for a living. Why do I also often think about the concept of waking up in a city where I know nobody and have nothing and why does that interest me.

“I have to imagine that other people feel this as well, and as a director, get the opportunity to kind of live it out and see what it would be like.”

**MC:** “I was wondering how you — or rather, if you thought of ‘Loss of Innocence’ as being one of these themes and I’m thinking in particular of “Juno” but also of the other characters as well.”

**JR:** “Yes, that is an important idea to me, and I’m happy that you picked up on that. I mean, certainly, that is at the core of what ‘Juno’ is about. ‘Juno’ is really not about teenage pregnancy, ‘Juno’ is about what is the moment that we decide to grow up and our teenage girls are growing up too fast and a 30-year old man refusing to grow up. And, certainly, in approaching ‘Thank you for Smoking,’ there is this kind of crux as to how informed you want the next generation to be and how do you still also want to have a childhood?”

“And you know ‘Up in the Air,’ there is kind of ‘Loss of Innocence’ through in Kendrick’s character who looks at (Vera’s) character wondering you know is this just going to be me 15 years from now. Should I just kind of face the fact of how hard it is going to be a career woman. You know you’re the first person who ever asked me about it and I think you’re absolutely right. That is a really important idea to me, and not only as a storyteller but just as a person. So, bravo. You got me.”

**MC:** “In the past years that you’ve been developing the screenplay for ‘Up In The Air,’ what initially drew you to the book in 2002?”

**JR:** “You know I think it was a combination of things me. I mean, one, it was a book about a guy who fired people for a living and I thought that was fascinating that this job existed and I wanted to humanize a tricky character like that. It reminded me of (Nick) Naylor from ‘Thank You for Smoking.’ But in addition to that, I’m also a frequent flyer mile collector myself. And I suppose I enjoyed the fact that Walter had humanized the existence of travel.

“You know I’m still used to stories about airports being planes, trains and automobiles. So, it was nice to see someone who has written kind of a love letter to travel.”

## Bullock’s Performance Will Catch Many on “The Blind Side”

CRAIG HEENIGHAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Book adaptations and extraordinary true stories often struggle to translate on screen, the complexities of the written word and intricacies of real life situations may sometimes fail to develop into motion picture. In the case of “The Blind Side,” directed by John Lee Hancock, the transition from a real life story to the written word to the silver screen appears seemingly effortless.

Starring Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw and Kathy Bates, “The Blind Side” tells the true story of Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), a young African American man, from the slums of Memphis, who is taken in by Leigh Anne Touhy (Bullock) and her family.

“Big Mike” is a 350-pound, homeless African American teenager who has become accus-

tomed to a world of failure and unhappiness. With a family history of drugs and crime behind him, Michael finds himself alone in the world. Michael’s life suddenly changes when one cold night in Memphis; Leigh Anne takes him in off the streets and provides him with a couch for the night.

The Touhy’s are an extremely wealthy, white Christian family with two children. The “couch for a night” soon becomes a couch for a few weeks until it becomes a bed for the foreseeable future as Michael and Leigh Anne form a lasting bond. As Michael integrates into the Touhy lifestyle, they soon see he has a talent for football but his dreams of playing college ball are stunted by his poor grades.

In an attempt to raise his grades, a tutor by the name of Miss Sue (Bates) is hired, who provides Michael with the tools to flourish in the classroom. With

an abundance of natural ability and his grades intact, Michael accepts a football scholarship to the University of Mississippi.

“The Blind Side” is a touching adaptation of an unbelievable story which keeps the viewer engrossed from start to finish. Although the movie is conventional in its formula, the chemistry between all the characters is what makes this movie a must see. Although the story has a very moving undertone and dark beginnings, the movie employs comedy throughout in order to make a potentially heavy story lighter hearted.

Aside from Michael’s connection with Leigh Anne, the relationship he holds with his new brother S.J Touhy is heartwarming. S.J (Jae Head) almost steals the show as the cute and fun loving brother with a comedic tongue who idolizes Michael.

In reality, however, the movie would not succeed to



Sandra Bullock in “The Blind Side.”

Courtesy of www.celebritywonder.com

the extent it has without the performance of Bullock. For large parts of the movie, she carries the story on her shoulders and finally begins to flex her acting muscles after her recent lackluster performances in “The Proposal” and “All About Steve.” Bullock, as of late, has fallen into the trap of working within her comfort zone, as she turns in funny yet uninspiring performances in romantic comedies with narratives that simply fail to deliver.

As “Oscar talk” heats up, Bullock has propelled herself into the reckoning with her heartwarming, strong and dramatic performance. With a bevy

of mediocre performances in the “Best Actress” category in 2009, Bullock might find herself with an outside shot come Oscar night.

The movie has a constant and gentle rhythm with a narrative that is easy to follow with a more than happy ending. The performances and direction of the movie allows viewers to empathize with the characters and believe in the story that is being told. The stellar performances by all and the gratifying narrative may take some moviegoers by surprise as the movie may indeed catch them on the “The Blind Side.”

# Cormac McCarthy's Post-Apocalyptic Vision Comes to Life in "The Road"

STEFANI RUBINO  
MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

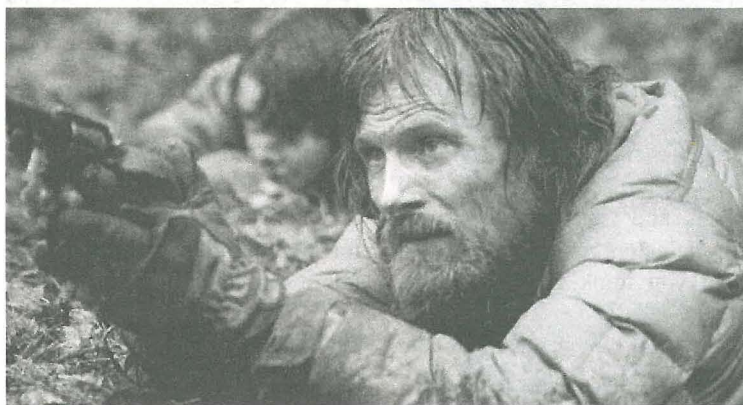
More often than not, directors, screenwriters and producers go through tons of rewrites, new ideas and new directions before even thinking about starting to film a film adaptation of a novel. Although Hollywood does fail fairly often to accurately translate these stories to the "Silver Screen," the ones they get right seem to blow audiences away. Such is the case with film adaptation of one of Cormac McCarthy's, author of "No Country for Old Men," most beloved novels, "The Road."

The film — and the book — follows the story of an unnamed father, known as the Man (Viggo Mortenson), and his young son, known as the Boy (Kodi Smit-McPhee), trudging through the bleak landscape of a post-

apocalyptic U.S. In a world where the sun is covered in a thick sheet of ash, where the cold never lets up and the snow falls grey to the ground, humans have become unnecessarily violent and cannibalistic.

After their "home" begins to feel unsafe and completely stripped of what little resources it has, the Man and the Boy decide to pick up and head toward the sea, where the Man believes they will find food, water and more "good people" like themselves. Travelling with only a pistol and two bullets — for protection or suicide, if needed — the clothes on their backs and an old shopping cart filled with rotting food and other remnants of their former life, the Man and the Boy set out on a harrowing and disturbing journey toward their final destination.

"The Road" could easily



Viggo Mortenson in "The Road."

be called one of the best films of 2009 and possibly one of the best adaptations I have ever seen. Since the novel is so well written and because McCarthy seems to have such a beautiful grasp on the English language, it was hard for me to imagine this story as a film. However, Director John Hillcoat and his team captured every terrifyingly beautiful landscape,

conflict and tragedy with more perfection than I ever could have hoped for. I doubt that I could imagine these scenes being any better than how they are in the film.

On top of all of that, Mortenson and Smit-McPhee incredible chemistry takes their performances to a level that eerily resembles nearly every aspect

of the relationship between the father and son of the novel. Like many of his other roles, Mortenson completely commands the screen as if he was the only storyline in the film. Conversely, Smit-McPhee stands strong next to Mortenson and his character becomes just as powerful, if not more, proving that even as a newcomer can handle anything thrown at him. If for nothing, else people should be running to see this film just for these performances.

The end of the film leaves you stuck to the seat wanting to see more of the hauntingly stunning dead world these two courageous characters are forced to experience every day. While this may not be the most upbeat film out right now, if you love cinema, you must see this film, whether you have read the novel or not.

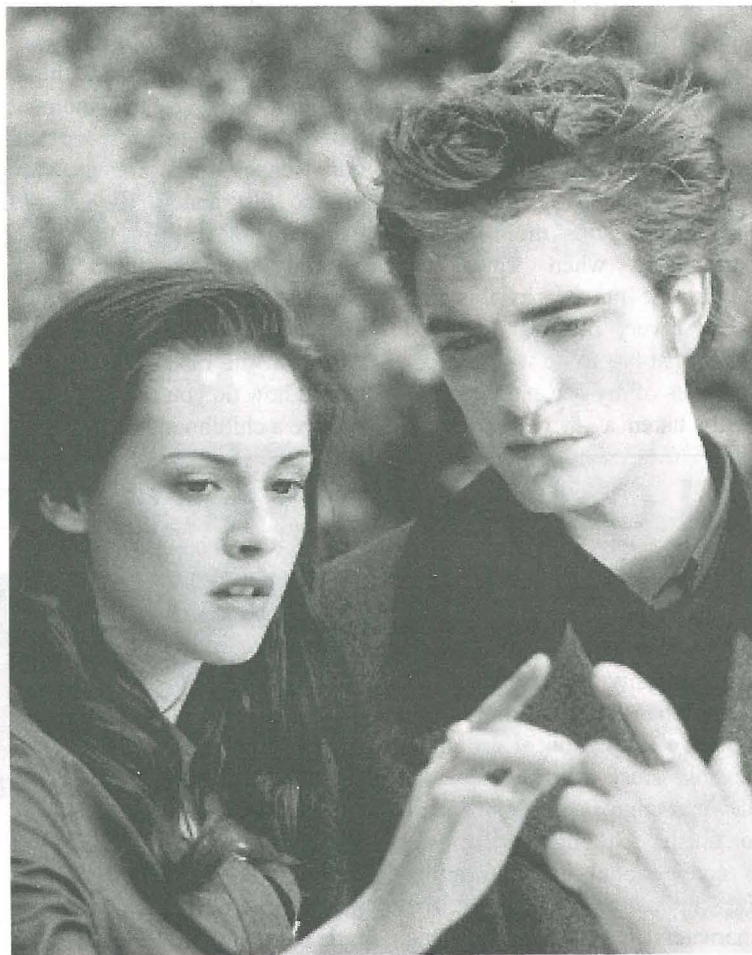
## "New Moon" Leaves Fans Empty Handed

AMANDA CAZACU  
CURRENT AFFAIRS EDITOR

"New Moon" is the anticipated sequel to "Twilight" that diehard fans have been waiting for. To my surprise, not all those who were anxious to see the movie have read the books. What was even more shocking was that they actually liked it. Not that the movie does not have a great plot; it is just that the movie fails to bring the plot Stephenie Meyer wrote to life on the big screen.

In "New Moon" Edward (Robert Pattinson) leaves Bella (Kristen Stewart) in hopes that she will live a normal life and out of danger's way. As soon as Edward leaves, Bella's old friend Jacob (Taylor Lautner) enters her life once again hoping to stay forever but unforeseen circumstances threaten to break their friendship. After many overly dramatic scenes, Bella and Edward reunite, forming a love triangle between them and Jacob.

During "Twilight," some fans complained the acting was not there, but in "New Moon," it was just overly done. It was a good thing I read the book before, because I was too distracted by Stewart's overly dramatic facial expressions and Lautner's failed attempt to be a "big bad werewolf" for me to focus on the actual story. The tension between Bella, Edward and Jacob was nothing to get excited about; it was actually frustrating,



Kristen Stewart and Rob Pattinson in "New Moon."

as everything remained PG-13. It did not feel real but rather forced.

The plot seemed to take forever to unfold. I was more excited to read the book than to actually see it before my eyes. My imagination did a better job at playing the movie in my head than director Chris Weitz did on the screen. When Edward

disappears, the drama and the rest of the movie disappear, too.

Sure, the movie broke box office records, but mostly out of curiosity for the phenomenon. Let's just say the film was extremely hyped up, which is the only thing the actors actually did well.

## Site of the week



ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS EDITOR

Snipi.com is the social networking of media. That is the only way to describe it, really. The site provides its users with a series of tools that help them "collect, organize, share, and collaborate on content anywhere on the Web."

However, the site is more than a storage place for all your favorite finds. By becoming a member of Snipi.com, users can organize their finds under different categories, making it easier to retrieve content at a later time. What makes it "the social networking of media" is that users may create streams of unlimited content to share with other members.

Each stream created can be embedded to Facebook, Twitter, blogs and Web sites allowing anyone who accesses those

sites to browse your stream. Furthermore, the content on the streams does not have to be from other sites; it can also be original content from the users.

The site also allows you to send whatever you find straight to your personal social networking sites without having to copy and paste the link or bookmark it.

If you do not sign up for the site, you may still access its users' content and browse the most popular pictures, streams and videos.

If you use Mozilla Firefox, you may download the Snipi.com toolbar, which allows you to obtain any media from any Web site by simply dragging them. If you use other browsers, you must add the site to your list of favorites. Snipi.com is also available for free to the iPhone and iPod through the app store.

# Come Together and Give a Little

STEFANI RUBINO

MANAGING/OPINIONS EDITOR

As an outspoken non-believer, with a nice balance of both religious and non-religious friends, and a big fan of this time of the year, people often ask why some of us like "Christmas time" so much if we are not Christian or even have faith in some higher power. I think the answer is simple; this time of year does not just represent the month during which three different religions celebrate some of their holiest days. Alternatively, "holiday time" has come to represent a much broader, general attitude.

Think about it for a second. These holidays each have two prominent ideas running through their traditions: the act of giving and receiving and setting aside a little time to be with the entire family. Granted, these are not the major points of such holidays, but they certainly play a large role in the way these holidays are celebrated.

Either way, these are not such terrible concepts. In fact, these holidays seem to promote a kind of unadulterated human kindness and generosity that not many holidays do. On top of that, you can find this kindness and generosity just about everywhere, as almost everyone seems to get into this spirit of giving at least once every year.



Many people are giving to charities and or helping volunteer throughout this holiday season. Courtesy of www.meonvalleylionsclub.org.uk

I am not, by any means, trying to support the kind of lame consumerism that comes with buying Christmas or Hanukkah gifts. Instead, I am simply saying that this time of year, more than any, is a good time to think about giving something back, whether it be to your parents, your siblings, your community, your partner or anyone who has done something to make your life better or easier for the past year, which could be anyone from your favorite waiter at your favorite restaurant to your dry cleaner.

Although we should all be grateful for these kinds of people every day of the year, we often

get sidetracked and our busy lives sometimes make us lose sight of that. Now, that we have a little time off, from classes at least, it is a good time to reflect on this year and see what people in your life deserve just a simple "thank you" or any other kind gesture you feel they deserve.

This time of year is not reserved for the religious or the typical American consumer; it is for everyone to come together, realize that most of us are extremely privileged to be where we are and figure out what we are going to do to make next year even better.

## Editor's Note

SERENA MANN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The holidays are here, the malls are crowded, the flights are booked and you can feel the excitement and anxiety of reconnecting with your family. Whether it is Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or just a break from work or school, the break is welcomed. Aside from the music, the sweets and the good old-fashioned conversation — have you thought about the big picture?

As the new year approaches, it is time to reflect on where you were last year, where you are now and where you plan to be in the future. As students, it is easy to not think about the future. So much emphasis is put on getting that "A" or passing the class — have you ever thought about where you want to be in the future?

What kind of job do you want? Where do you want to work? What field would you want to work in? What title do you aspire to have? There are so many questions about our future — is it possible to succeed at achieving

the answers you desire?

This New Year, I am committing to getting what I want out of the next year. This is my last year in school and all throughout I have always set goals and pushed myself to reach them. I will commit to living a healthier lifestyle and getting my dream job. No recession is going to hold me back.

What are your goals? Write them down. Determine what you need to reach them and do it. You deserve to get what you want; all you need to do is approach it like a project. See you in the new year.

## Classifieds

Pine Island Ridge - Evergreen 2/2 golfview. Renovated kitchen and bath, enclosed patio. All ages. Pets ok. 92K Robbins/Done Deal. (954) 344 -709.

## Write for The Current

We are currently accepting applications for writers to work on articles for our weekly publication.

Employees will be eligible to gain hands-on experience in a newsroom environment and work with real-world deadlines, all while having fun.

Journalism experience is preferred, but not necessary.

Training is provided.

Stop by our office for an application today!

For more information, please contact The Current at (954) 262-8455 or email us at nsunews@nova.edu

## On the Scene

ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ

NEWS EDITOR

### What do you want for Christmas?



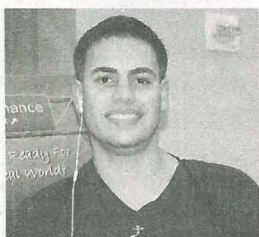
"I really don't know what I want. I have no idea. I don't think I'll get anything."

Honey Diaz Perez, senior biology major



"A job and a digital camera."

Allison Gordon, M.B.A. candidate for 2009



"I just want to hang out with my friends. That's what I want for Christmas."

Amir Eldick, sophomore biology major



"Clothes or something."

Reema Shah, freshman biology major



600 Performances On 25 Stages Over 3 Days!

# THE MIAMI MUSIC FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 10-12, 2009

The Miami Music Festival is the newest series of showcase performances by hundreds of new and emerging Urban, Latin, Rock, Caribbean & Jazz artists.



The following downtown Miami venues will present schedules of performances on each night of the Festival

- » The Festival Tents at SW 7th & S. Miami (4 Stages)
- » Transit Lounge (3 Stages)
- » Tobacco Road (3 Stages)
- » The Hard Rock Cafe (2 Stages)
- » Waxy O'Connors (2 Stages)
- » Gordon Biersch
- » Red Bar
- » Havana Dreams
- » Japengo at the Hyatt
- » Ecco Lounge
- » Finnegan's River
- » Mekka (3 Stages)
- » La Guaracha
- » Artoconecto... plug in at Macy's
- » Wallflower Gallery
- » Blue Martini

Additional venues and performance schedules can be found at [miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org)

## ADMISSION

\* **Three-day** wristbands: **\$50**  
(\$35 with valid Student ID)

\* **One-day** wristbands: **\$25**  
(\$20 with valid Student ID)

\* **Single venue** admission: **\$10**  
(as space is available)

**Wristbands on Sale at  
All Venues During the Festival**

Must be 18 to enter some venues, 21 to enter others.  
Venue policies listed on [miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org).

**MMF**