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Tickets are now available for the fifth annual TEDxNSU, an event that features a series of short talks from students and faculty, on March 12 from noon to 5 p.m. in the Don Taft University Center Performance Theatre.

TEDxNSU, hosted by the College of Psychology, will showcase NSU community member’s ideas and inspire intellectual analysis. Nine NSU faculty members and students from different colleges and departments will speak on this year’s theme, “time.”

To comedian and YouTube star Stephen Rafferty, junior communication studies major, TEDxNSU isn’t traditional entertainment.

“Someone who wants to learn different things so you get something unique from each speaker. Someone who wants to learn different things from different people should attend.”

Rafferty will present a spoken word piece titled “The State of Time” on how time impacts the human psyche. Rafferty said he looks forward to interacting with the TEDxNSU audience.

“I want to get [the audience] motivated and inspired to do whatever they want to do in terms of goals, dreams and aspirations,” he said. “The speakers are from all walks of life, so you get something unique from each speaker. It’s more of someone telling their story and giving opinions and a different perspective from what someone might normally consider,” he said. “The speakers are from all walks of life, so you get something unique from each speaker. Someone who wants to learn different things from different people should attend.”

Rafferty said that the presentation is based to past events in my life.”

Rutledge said she sees her TED talk as an opportunity to encourage people to break out of their routines and open themselves up to new opportunities. Writing the presentation has challenged her because she wants to make her personal experiences, especially her religious experiences, helpful to an audience who doesn’t have the same experiences.

“I’m speaking about something so deeply personal,” Rutledge said. “It’s a lot more challenging than talking about something that you can disconnect from.”

Qass Shukurat, freshman biology major, will also present at TEDxNSU about how technology affects peoples’ perceptions of time.

“Technology is so quick and so instant, and all sections of our society are moving in that direction,” Shukurat explained. “For some things, it’s great, but, in some situations, you can’t control how much time something takes, you get impatient and that’s not good. You become angry and make wrong decisions because you’re not thinking right.”

Rafferty said that the presentation is based on the fact that words are powerful.

“You get to control the crowd based on what you’re saying,” he said. “You can make them pumped up, you can make them excited, you can make them interested, you can make them inspired.”

Tickets are $10 for NSU students and $25 for non-NSU students. To get tickets for TEDxNSU, visit psychology.nova.edu/tedxnsu.

By: Grace Ducanis
@GraceDucanis

#### Time to get tickets for TEDxNSU

The audience displays their Shark pride at TEDxNSU at last year’s event.

#### NSU tool eases transfer process for prospective undergraduates

One of the most difficult aspects of enrolling in any university is transferring credits from advanced placement, dual enrollment classes or a previous institution. To help ease this transition, NSU’s Transfer Evaluation Services (TES) worked with education technology company CollegeSource, Inc. to create the Transfer Credit System, which shows applicable transfer credits toward their degrees.

The online tool has more than 100,000 equivalencies from regionally-accredited institutions in the U.S. Using the tool, prospective students select their prior institution and see a list of courses that will transfer to NSU and their equivalent courses. Once students find an equivalency, they can also see the credits, department and prerequisites associated with the course at NSU.

Randi Milensky, associate director of TES, said the new system will make the transfer process faster and more efficient for prospective students.

“Because it’s web-based, and we have over 100,000 courses in the database already, if we have to add courses to it, it’ll enhance how we get the equivalencies done,” she said. “Anybody within the university can get into the website, and it’s much easier and convenient to use to find out course equivalency.”

Students can apply up to 90 degree-applicable transfer credits toward their degrees, including credits for College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), proficiency exams and experiential learning experiences. Only courses in which students earned a grade of “C” or higher will be transferred.

Although courses may be transferable, the website states it is not guaranteed that credits for those courses will satisfy degree requirements. There also may be some courses and/or institutions that are not currently in the system, but are transferable.

TES formed in 2006, and, until now, only specific people within the department could access its internal database. After conducting research on other programs, they implemented the online tool, which is in place at other universities.

Milensky said that the new system is expected to enhance undergraduate recruitment.

“You can have a person out in the Midwest who says, ‘Hey I want to go to NSU,’ and if they’re in [figure out course equivalencies] themselves, and then just contact the admissions office directly,” Milensky said. “It’ll make students want to come to NSU.”

If students’ courses don’t transfer, they can contact TES at estes@nova.edu. To see NSU’s transfer policy, visit nova.edu/tes.

For more information, visit the Transfer Evaluation Services website at nova.edu/tes. To access the tool, visit TES’s website and click on the link for Transfer Credit System.
The Current
Stay up to date with international events.

As the April 18 deadline to report taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approaches, many students are trying to find out how and where to complete their tax returns.

To help students complete their income taxes, the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is providing free tax return assistance until April 17 in the Athens Sherman Library, room 104B, on Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to its.gov, through VITA, IRS-certified volunteers provide income tax return preparation and electronic filing assistance to those making $54,000 a year or less, people with disabilities, limited English-speaking people and the elderly.

Some students believe learning how to file taxes is important, including sophomore biology major Angelica Castillo.

“I have no idea how to do taxes,” Castillo said. “Students should [utilize the program] if it will benefit them in the end.”

Individuals or businesses who receive an income tax return must file their taxes yearly. If that individual or business pays excess taxes in the filed year, they will receive a tax refund.

To prepare taxes at a VITA session, students must bring a photo ID, social security cards for themselves and their dependents, wage and earnings statements from employers, interest and dividend statements from banks, health insurance statements, routing and account numbers for their bank, and, if applicable, a copy of last year’s federal and state returns, health insurance exemption certificate, and copies of income transactions from the IRS.

Individuals filing returns use Form 1040. Students filing also use Form 1040-T, which qualifies them for educational expenses that students must report for educational deductions and translates into more money received in tax refunds. Form 1098-T can be accessed on each student’s account at webstnov@nova.edu under the “Student” tab. Students bring copies of their 1098-T, W-4 information and W-2 forms under the “Employee” tab on the site.

In previous years, NSU’s Accounting Club provided free tax assistance. This is the first year that VITA is preparing taxes on campus. Appointments are not required to attend.

Jenna Kopec, first year in secondary education major, said tax assistance will greatly benefit students.

“It would be nice to do my own taxes because my parents are doing them right now,” she said. “I like it not to have to depend on other people.”

Students will also need their tax forms to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2016-2017 academic year. The VITA program also offers income tax certification classes from September through December, providing everything from books to free parking passes. Once the person passes the exam, he or she becomes income tax-certified and can volunteer with VITA and helps others file their taxes. The certification lasts for one year.

Sonya Gopalan, manager in accounting at the Student Business Center, said the program has taken part in the VITA program in the past and believes learning to file taxes is important.

“VITA teaches students things people need to understand to do their taxes,” she said.

For those who wish to volunteer with VITA, visit research.net/vistanovisupg, and you will be directed to a local VITA organization. In Davie, the program is run through Hispanic Unity of Florida, an organization that strives to empower people to be “self-sufficient, productive and integrated,” she said.

Jodie Neufville, sophomore management major and treasurer of the accounting club, believes students learn a great deal from the program.

“I think students should give the program a try and see how they like it,” Neufville said. “They can also ask the professor to break the material down for them, and there are peers they can talk to about it.”

The IRS reported that, last year, more than 90,000 people became volunteer tax preparers through the program and helped prepare over 31 million tax returns.

Gopalan said the program is beneficial to anyone who wants to get involved.

“It’s a great program for anyone, especially accounting students,” she said. “It helped me get a job, and it looks good on your resume.”

Gopalan said the VITA program will help students grow in the long run.

“It’s a good program for other for something that’s real life and that you benefit from,” she said. “You learn more about finances and how to organize your income taxes. As a student, it’s really good for networking. I recommend it to everyone.”

For questions regarding tax return assistance times, contact the Alvin Sherman Library Circulation Desk at 954-262-4960. To learn more about filing taxes and VITA, visit, go to nsunews@nova.edu.

By: Natalie Payan and Li Cohen

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**VITA offers students free income tax assistance**

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NSU is cleaning up with Recyclemania, a 10-week national competition between universities to recycle the most waste from Jan. 24 to April 2. Students rank in the competition based on the percentages of “waste diverted,” or the amount of waste recycled divided by the amount of waste not recycled. Last year, NSU diverted 24 percent of its waste during the eight-week competition, ranking 162nd out of 232 schools for waste diverted and 138th out of 142 schools for waste minimized.

Anthony Iovino, assistant director of waste management, reports NSU’s progress each week. To help NSU do better in the competition, he said that students should try to recycle as best they can and inform the school and SGA of issues they see that are keeping NSU from becoming more eco-friendly.

“We all need to be good stewards of the environment,” Iovino said. “Some people use scare tactics, saying if you don’t do this, terrible things will happen. But I think we just need to be smart about the planet we’re leaving for our kids and our future. If each one of us is a good steward, and we do the things we can, it will magnify and have a big effect.”

Iovino said that recycling is even more of a focus this year for NSU since NSU signed the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge, which is not just about recycling but also encompasses sustainability in general.

Campus groups are getting involved with Recyclemania this year, helping to spread the word about the competition and educate students about recycling. Green Sharks, which students started last year, is a student sustainability club focused on advocating for sustainable initiatives on campus and educating students about recycling. Green Sharks, Iovino said, “is not just about recycling and plastic, paper and aluminum and other materials, it’s about the environment,” Iovino said. “Everyone likes a little bit of competition, and recycling is just an important aspect of life,” she said. “We only have so many materials on this earth, and we don’t want them all going into landfills. Recycling is easy to do, but people just don’t do it.”

NSU has a single-stream recycling program, which means that recyclables don’t have to be sorted into mixed papers, glass and plastic before leaving campus, making recycling easier. Single-stream recyclables include paper, cardboard, aluminum and tin or steel cans, as well as plastic bottles and containers. Food waste, plastic bags, plastic wrap and foam cups or containers cannot be recycled at NSU.

Iovino installed a food digester last year in University School cafeteria as part of a pilot program to divert more organic waste from landfills and make NSU more sustainable. If the program is successful, she said he wants to get approval to put food digesters in more of NSU’s kitchens.

To make the campus more eco-friendly, Green Sharks wants to get rid of plastic and paper utensils and dishes in the University Center food court and create a compost garden.

"I will be really cool to see an example for Florida schools," Lobaugh said. "If we can get students to remember to recycle, that would be a success."

Students can put recyclables into the blue bins around campus. Some bins list what materials are recyclable and what materials aren't. Visit recyclemaniacs.org to learn more about the nationwide initiative and NSU’s participation.

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Show off your talent
Applications are open until March 25 to participate in the annual NSU’s Got Talent, which will be held on April 6 at 8 p.m. in the Shark Theatre. The talent show will be similar to NBC’s “America’s Got Talent,” and is an opportunity for individuals and student organizations to show off their talents, ranging from singing to demonstrating sign language. The first-place winner will receive $500, the second-place winner will receive $300, and the third-place winner will receive $200.

NSU Libraries are conducting a survey to learn students’ opinions on the resources available until Feb. 25. Participants will get a chance to win one of three $100 Blames & Noble gift cards.

Take a survey for a chance to win
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February 23, 2016 | nsucurrent.nova.edu

Fact-checking the Republican town halls

On Feb. 17 and 18, CNN hosted back-to-back GOP town halls. Presidential candidates Ben Carson, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio debated in Greenville on Tuesday night, while Donald Trump, Jeb Bush and John Kasich debated in Columbus on Thursday night. The evening of Feb. 20, Bush suspended his campaign, so his quotes were not included in this article.

Candies made the following statements throughout the debates, and The Current staff determined the verdicts after heavy research of reputable sources. Full transcripts of the debates can be found online on CNN, The New York Times and other sources.

“Now how do I think that the government saying it would eliminate poverty work out? You know, $29 trillion later, 10 times more people on food stamps, more poverty—out-of-wedlock births, crime, incarceration. Everything is not only worse, it’s much worse.”—Ben Carson, on balancing traditional Christian values with social issues.

Debt — According to the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. has a debt of over $19 trillion as of Feb. 2016.

“Food Stamps — The Food Research and Action Center reported that, from November 2010 to November 2015, the number of people in the U.S. using food stamps increased from 45,415,445 to 45,453,806, which equals a 10-percent increase.

Poverty — According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people living in poverty increased from 50,960,000 in 1980 to 20,803 in 2014.

Births to unmarried mothers — Childrends.org reported that, from 1960 to 2014, there was a gradual increase of births to unmarried women. The percentage of all births that were to unmarried women was approximately 33 percent in 1990 and 40.2 percent in 2015.

Crime and incarceration — According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. increased from 500,000 in 1980 to 2.3 million in 2008. However, the Brookings Institute found that since the 1990s, the U.S. has had a steady decline in crime rates. Between 1990 and 2012, the rate fell approximately 45 percent.

VERDICT: Mostly true. The only comment that was wrong was the crime rate, which has gone down.

“In 2006, for example, when the Democrats took over Congress, Donald Trump and his son gave about three times as much to the Democrats as they did to the Republicans. They helped fund putting Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid as Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate. They helped set the stage for ObamaCare.”—Ted Cruz, on Donald Trump.

The Washington Post reported that, in 2006, Trump gave $25,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. His son, Donald Trump Jr., also donated $22,500 to the committees. That year, both Trumps gave approximately $1,000 to the Republican committees. There are also numerous records of Trump donating large sums of money to Democrats and Democratic groups and significantly less money to Republicans and Republican groups.

VERDICT: True.

“And I’ll tell you the problem with the Cuban government. It’s not just a communist dictatorship, it is an anti-American communist dictatorship. The Cuban government, three years ago, helped North Korea evade U.S. sanctions. They were caught trying to sell missile parts to North Korea but nothing happened…The Cuban government today harbors hundreds of fugitives of American judicial, Medicare fraud — there are people there who have stolen your money.”—Marco Rubio, on why he would visit Cuba as president.

In 2013, the United Nations Security Council filed economic sanctions against North Korea after the country conducted its third underground nuclear test on Feb. 12. After this sanction passed unanimously, Cuba and Singapore organized legitimate shipments of Cuban fighter jets and missile parts to North Korea, as reported by Al Jazeera. Included in the shipment were instructions on how to load and conceal the shipment and how to make false statements to customs officers in Panama.

A year-long investigation by the Sun Sentinel found that Cuban criminals had staged car accidents for insurance fraud, hijacked trucks, sold Medicare numbers and wired money through Western Union.

In one case, it was found that a Cuban scam artist sent millions of dollars to Cuba, allowing the government to seize $200,000 of that sum.

Cubans are allowed to come and go so easily because of their refugee status; once they come to the country, they are automatically considered political refugees and can receive welfare, food stamps and more. If they stay in the U.S. for a year and a day, they receive a green card.

VERDICT: True.

“And if you look at unemployment with African American youth…it’s 58 percent, 59 percent. Probably even higher than that. If you take African Americans…in prime age, 30, 40, 45, even 50, their numbers are not comparable to what white men or women in business are. It’s not good.”—Donald Trump, on small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of Jan. 2016, the unemployment rate for black or African American youth aged 16 to 19 years old was 25.2 percent. The unemployment rate for black or African American adults aged 16 to 19 years old was 25.2 percent. The unemployment rate for white youth aged 16 to 19 years old was 14.4 percent, and the rate for white adults was 4.3 percent.

VERDICT: The general idea was correct, but the numbers were wrong. While Trump was correct in saying that the “numbers are not comparable to what white men or women in business are,” his statistics were significantly inaccurate.

“You know, I’ve spent 18 years on the board of Kellogg’s, 16 years on the board of Costco, learned a tremendous amount about business, both domestically and internationally, and a lot of things that people who are politicians who are running have never done.”—Ben Carson, on if he’s qualified to be commander-in-chief.

The Detroit News reported that Carson was on the board of directors for Kellogg’s since 1997, and for Costco Wholesale Corp. since 1999. Both terms on the boards ended when Carson announced he was running for presidency in 2015.

VERDICT: True.

“For 80 years it has been the practice that the Senate has not confirmed any nomination made during an election year. And we shouldn’t make an exception now.”—Ted Cruz, on a hearing to replace recently deceased Supreme Court Justice Scalia.

The New York Times reported that, since 1900, the Supreme Court has confirmed six nominees during an election year. The last time a justice was both nominated and confirmed in an election year, as reported by The Washington Post, was in 1940, which is 76 years ago.

VERDICT: False.

“We [the U.S.] have the highest combined corporate tax rate in the world. We are the last major industrial country that double taxes its companies from making money overseas. That’s why you have $2 trillion of American corporate cash sitting overseas; $2 trillion is equivalent to the GDP of Russia.”—Marco Rubio, on the economy.

There are 34 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and, out of those countries, the U.S. has the highest combined corporate tax rate of 39.3 percent. The next highest country is France with 34.43 percent, according to OECD’s database for 2015.

In an article published by Time, it was found that the U.S. is the only industrialized country that taxes citizens who live in other countries. Bloomberg reported that, as a result, there were approximately $2.1 million in profits from U.S. companies overseas last year. Microsoft Corp., Apple Inc. and Google Inc. are among the eight tech firms known for accounting for more than a fifth of this profit.

The World Bank reported that in 2013, the GDP of Russia was $2.097 trillion.

VERDICT: True.

“She [the U.S.] spend more money per pupil than any country in the world by far, and we’re ranked number 30 in the world.”—Donald Trump, on spending cuts.

OECD reported that, in 2011, the U.S. spent approximately $11,000 per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student in elementary and secondary education and more than $25,000 per FTE student in postsecondary education. Although Switzerland spends more per FTE student in elementary and secondary education with almost $15,000 per student, the U.S. dominates expenditures for postsecondary education by over $2,000.

U.S. spending is also well-above the OECD average for both categories.

VERDICT: True.
Help fight children’s cancer

By: Grace Ducanis
@GraceDucanis

NSU’s Pediatrics Club will bring the fight against childhood cancer to campus with the PJammin’ 5K on Feb. 28, where participants can run in their pajamas to raise money for cancer research, and a hair shaving/donation event on March 13.

The money raised from the 5K will go to St. Baldrick’s Foundation, an organization dedicated to children’s cancer research. Two cancer survivors will speak at the race.

The hair shaving/donation event will take place in the Don Taft University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with undergraduate club Locks for Cause. Participants can choose to shave their heads to raise awareness about childhood cancers or donate at least 8 inches of hair to cancer patients.

Ashley Van Putten, second-year medical student and president of the Pediatrics Club, said the events will unite NSU in the fight against cancer.

“Cancer is so universal,” she said. “It can affect anyone at any time, and it’s so unexpected. These events are bringing our club, our class and people throughout the university together for a common cause.”

Christina Baxter, first-year medical student and member of the Pediatrics Club, said that there isn’t enough money allotted to children’s cancer to help the number of child cancer patients.

“Hope that students who attend understand that there are organizations working to fight against children’s cancer and that they can partner with them as adults and as students,” she said. “Hopefully, people don’t need to be convinced that this is a worthy cause. Even if you haven’t had a loved one touched by cancer, you can understand that it’s awful, and who wouldn’t work to change that?”

Roshni Marballi, second-year medical student and member of the Pediatrics Club, explained that children’s cancer is different from other cancers, so it’s important to raise awareness and money specifically for children’s cancer research.

“When you’re in school and studying all the time, events like this help you take a step back and realize how something like cancer affects somebody,” she said. “You’re trying to give back to your community and help in any way that you can, even if it’s not in a medical sense. There’s other ways to help, even if it’s just to hold someone’s hand through a rough time.”

Marballi said that, last year, a classmate passed away because of brain cancer, and it hit her class really hard.

“You hear about people who die from cancer, but then it’s someone you’ve known for a while,” she said. “It really hits a nerve, so, last year, I donated my hair in his memory, and I want to keep these events going.”

The Pediatrics Club hopes to raise $10,000 for children’s cancer research. So far, they’ve raised over $1,000.

The minimum donation for the 5K is $20, and the first 250 participants will receive a T-shirt and medallion.

Sign up for the 5K on the PJammin’ 5K Facebook page. To find out more about the hair donation event, visit stbaldricks.org/events/nova2016. The events are open to everyone, and food and drinks will be provided.

For more information about the events or the Pediatrics Club, email Van Putten at av523@nova.edu.
Robert Willis is a junior business and finance major with a minor in economics. He wants to join the Marine Corps and later on get his master’s in finance. Willis is a member of the President’s 64 and has been a proud member of the prestigious club for almost three years.

Like everyone else, coming to college was a drastic change in my life. With my newfound free time I quickly started filling it up with activities, organizations and friends. I had a mission to meet as many new people as possible. After all, I would be spending the next four years of my life with my fellow students. After one semester, I quickly found myself involved with numerous activities, including rushing a fraternity, participating in Super Sharks and joining numerous organizations. With so many involvements, I needed to prioritize and organize my time as efficiently as possible. So I paid attention to my involvements, I needed to prioritize and organize my time to spend it efficiently as possible. So I paid attention to my involvements, I needed to prioritize and organize my time as efficiently as possible.

While I was at NSU, I decided to join P64 and then trained on becoming student ambassadors for the president and to represent him and the university at numerous events, including ambassador board meetings, recognition ceremonies, business meetings and president lunches. We act as bridges of communication between the students and the administration, giving feedback on initiatives.

Personally, my favorite events are the ambassador board meetings, where students get to meet the people who link NSU to the surrounding community by spreading awareness throughout their personal connections. Among those at ambassador meetings are school board members, who put in the work to make sure that new initiatives are created to make the school more and more prestigious and valuable to students’ lives. Because of P64, I have gained a deep appreciation for the people who help make our school great, and it’s those people who have ingrained the deep sense of pride I have for NSU.

From my experience, I’ve gained internship opportunities, connections that have helped my friends, and an appreciation for the people who don’t even know the opportunities that they give to students. My biggest piece of advice to incoming students and new P64 members is to take full advantage of what college has to offer and to be an active member in the school’s community — we want nothing but success for you.

Being 21 is no excuse to overdo the fun

By: Roddia Paul

Sometimes, the excitement of getting to unwind after school may overshadow one’s thoughts about safety. To those students who are 21 or older, if you’re planning on partying with your friends over break, treat going to hang out with your friends over break, treat going to hang out with your friends over break, treat going to hang out with your friends over break, treat going to hang out with your friends over break, treat going to hang out with your friends over break, try to keep in mind the rules that your parents taught you. You probably do not want your parents to know what you’re doing with your friends; however, staying safe is more important than socializing your parents, so try to tell them everything they want to know before you leave. Moreover, you do not want to be in any danger and have no one know where you are. At least if you tell someone who you are, in the case of emergency, you’ll have someone to count on.

Good things come in pairs

Think back to your elementary school days when you had to hold hands with your classmates as you walked across the treacherous hallways. OK, maybe you don’t need to do something as drastic as that, but you still need to practice the buddy system. It does not matter how safe the area looks, how bright it is outside or how comfortable you feel in the environment; never go anywhere alone. Don’t let your guard down, and make sure you have at least one friend with you everywhere you go.

Say no to DUI’s

If you are 21 and older, spring break and alcohol are probably synonymous, but with all the alternative forms of transportation, there is no reason anyone should be drinking and driving. If you are going out with friends, and you know you will be drinking, make sure that you have a designated driver who will not consume any alcohol. If no one wants to be the sober friend, then that means it’s time to call a taxi or Uber. Sure, you’ll have to spend some money, but at least you will make it home safely.

If you really want to be efficient, you can try getting a hotel near where you plan to hang out, so you and your friends can walk in a safe place and not have to worry about driving at all. Either way, you need to plan to drink responsibly if you plan on drinking. You do not want to do anything over spring break that will harm your record or your body; remember, this is supposed to be fun, not costly.

Remember that you’re not in a movie

At some point, you’ll probably find yourself having the urge to overdo it. Fight that urge. This is not the movies — crowd surfing doesn’t usually happen, drunk driving actually leads to accidents, and jumping off a building into a pool can be fatal. Do not get carried away with being cool or using movies like “Spring Breakers” as your reference points. Here, in the real world, actions have consequences.

Have fun this spring break; you definitely deserve it after all those gruesome midterms. Students who are of age, just remember that taking precautions and being safe will definitely make having fun even more enjoyable.

My life with a heart condition

By: Carli Lutz

Carli Lutz is a sophomore arts administration major with a graphic design minor. She is the Chief of Visual Design at The Current.

Since I was about 17 years old, I’ve had those episodes where I would experience crazy heart palpitations out of nowhere, and I felt like I couldn’t breathe. I always thought these were just panic attacks triggered by stress from my workload at school, so I just shook them off as if they weren’t that big of a deal. However, as I continued to learn more about how to handle my stress, they became more and more frequent and random.

During my first semester at NSU, I found out that I was really suffering on this; it wasn’t the stress that I had originally thought it was. I found out that I have a heart valve disease. In my freshman year, during my Principles of Management midterm, my heart felt like it was going to pop right out of my chest. Suddenly, while I was on the last question, I felt as if there was a butterfly trapped in my chest.

As soon as I left the classroom, it got much worse. I felt very dizzy, and my vision began to blur. When I checked my heart rate, it was at 275 beats per minute, which was absolutely off the charts. I was completely terrified, and I didn’t think I would make it through what was happening to me. I frantically called my mom and asked her to take me to the hospital. When we were in the emergency room, they blamed this episode on midterm stress. I knew that wasn’t the case, though, as I was fairly confident that I had passed the exam without a hitch. Soon after I left the emergency room, I made my way to the cardiologist who I underwent various tests.

I was diagnosed with Mitral Valve Prolapse and Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT). Mitral Valve Prolapse, also known as Barlow Syndrome, is the irregular closure of the valve that’s found between the heart’s lower and upper left chambers. SVT is when your heart beats super fast for no reason whatsoever; and, with it, your heart rate may reach up to 300 bpm during an episode, which is far from normal.

[Image: PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM C. LUTZ]

While I know for sure that I have these conditions, my doctor thinks that I might have another heart problem as well. Soon, I will undergo testing to see if any of my heart problems stem from an electrical issue that’s called Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. With Wolf-Parkinson-White syndrome, the heart has an extra electrical pathway that causes a rapid heart rate.

While I have two of the most common conditions in young people, they make life very frustrating. The condition of my heart makes my day-to-day life very unpredictable because it can go from zero to 100 really quickly. With my episodes happening without any notice or known trigger, it’s hard to plan certain things because I don’t know if I’ll be a “bad heart day” or a good one.

Life with heart problems is hard, especially as a point in my life, as I’m trying to live a healthier life with regular exercise. Having a bad heart is a constant struggle wanting to get healthier and not wanting to risk overexertion and cause more heart problems, or even sudden death. My life with a heart condition is like a really bumpy road, but I’m trying my best to make it a bit smoother.
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**By: Chantel Grant**

Undergraduate students are often defined as young students who use college as a vehicle to achieve greater opportunities and shape their identities.

While that definition may be true in many regards, there are times when what it means to be an undergraduate student extends beyond this simple definition. People like Marion Sherman, Jasmine Anthony and Nasser Vetiac are redefining what it means to be undergraduate students.

Marion Sherman is a member of the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), sponsored by NSU for retirees, and has taught middle school for 22 years. This is her fifth semester at NSU; she is 75 years old.

Jasmine Anthony is a senior philosophy major, works as an overnight veterinary critical care nurse, is a professional salsa and Afro-Cuban dancer and is 33 years old.

Nasser Vetiac earns his living as a nurse. Vetiac is a philosophy major, a classical pianist and admits to being older than most students but prefers not to disclose his age.

Cuba’s national dance is the samba, which Sherman, Anthony and Vetiac are redefining the college experience as undergraduate students.

**Sherman:** “It has made me more mature and more aware. You learn better time management skills, even though there may still be some procrastination — we all do it — but life experiences, good or bad, make you a well-rounded individual.”

**Anthony:** “When I had made a decision that I was going to return to school, it was a tossup between Barry University and NSU. NSU won for their ability to be patient with my list of questions and concerns. Also, Professor McNann was so kind to allow me to sit in his class to get a feel of the course. Even though Barry taught the same theories and concepts, the faculty at NSU won me over.”

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**How does your family feel about you being in college? And how do they show their support?**

**Anthony:** “The only living member in my family is my mother. She is my everything and a full supporter. Even though my Latina heritage calls me to be a married woman with children, my mother has always admired my tenacity to do what feels right. I was always a determined, headstrong child who never fit the traditional stereotypes of my Puerto Rican heritage. My mom understands why I go through the struggle and exhaustion because she can see my vision. Her support is demonstrated with our daily talks about the material and assignments from the professors. We usually do this at Café Bustelo, with galletas con mantequilla [crackers with butter]. Also, at times, she reads along with me so we can have an informal debate.”

**What advice would you give to students just coming into college?**

**Sherman:** “My advice to students is to try to discover what they love to do. If they choose a job they love, it will never feel like work.”

**Anthony:** “Before anything, know yourself well, and be grounded in who you are. Never run behind the tail of the job; let the job come running after you. Enjoy living, and, if one is going to be a workaholic, like myself, make sure you have a plan of action for your future. As age creeps up, time becomes shorter. Plan right and accordingly with what you want.”

**Vetiac:** “Try not to party like a rock star early on. Do your work, and try your best to do well in class. I always believe that you should never give up no matter what anyone tells you. Reach for the stars toward the heavens themselves.”

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**PHOTO OF THE WEEK**

**What does kindness mean to you?**

**What does kindness mean to you?**

Brought to you by Campus Cursive

Campus Cursive President Taylor Bertolini, freshman environmental science major, shows off her club’s banner that students signed at last week’s SEA Thursday.

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Don’t burn out: Guide to letting go of stress

By: Emilio Lorenzo and Emily Tasca

Emilio Lorenzo is the assistant director of career advisement in NSU’s Office of Career Development. Emilio understands the importance of helping students reach their career goals and works with all students, including undergraduate, graduate and professional level students, to achieve their professional goals.

Emily Tasca is a member of the career advisement team in NSU’s Office of Career Development. She works with current students and alumni at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.

Have you ever felt like you have too much on your plate, and you’re unsure of how to balance responsibilities? This is probably a very common description of your undergraduate experience. How many times have you found a balance in your life. A good first step to balance the force in Star Wars, effective time management and feel well-balanced overall.

Are some ways that you can keep your stress to a manageable level? As you work through and find a balance, you will increase your confidence to meet such challenges head on.

Find a support network

Even with the best of plans, place, stress can be overwhelming, which is why having a network of individuals, whether they’re mentors, friends or confidants, who can help to alleviate the pressures of everyday life. Having someone to talk to can help you pinpoint the root cause of your stress and provide feedback on strategies to work through and find a balance. If you don’t have a mentor, or aren’t sure of who could be in your support network besides family, you could join a club, organization or even a study group. These outlets can be an ideal support network, because, for example, if you are a biology major with a long-term goal of entering medical school, being a part of the pre-med club surrounds you with others who have similar goals and likely similar challenges. When you surround yourself with others who are going through the same or similar life experiences and obstacles, you will feel more at ease knowing you are not alone and have the right plan in place.

Manage your tendencies

In addition to finding a support network, understanding and managing your own tendencies can be very effective in not only minimizing stress but also making day-to-day activities more seamless. We all have our areas in which we can improve. For example, if you are the type of person who lets stress build up or procrastinates on projects, identifying these trends in your life is the first step to develop strategies to progress toward being well-rounded.

Good strategies to deal with these challenges might be working on projects early, creating daily and weekly lists for yourself or finding additional outlets, such as exercise or hobbies, which can help you distract yourself from the areas that are contributing to your stress.

Stress can come in many different forms, and, at times, we are our own worst enemy when it comes to multiplying or enhancing that stressful feeling. If you are a worrier, or a person who has difficulty separating your work and personal life, there are steps you can take to intentionally deal with such anxiety.

This is where making lists for yourself can be extremely useful because, many times, this anxiety stems from unknown places or your own mind going through “what if?” scenarios. Being able to write out what is really causing your stress or possible steps you need to take is the simplest way to entirely eliminate it. Just like someone going into a dark forest would probably be more at ease if he or she actually knew what lies inside the forest, you, as an individual, must shed light on these unknown areas that are causing you stress.

Overall, challenges are a part of our everyday lives, but having strategies in place to manage them can be the drink of water for your stress. Getting organized, finding a support network and identifying and learning to cope with your tendencies are key ways to minimize the tension, pressure and anxiety that come along with our busy lives.

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Attention all seniors

By: Chantel Grant

From the day we walk through those glass doors of the University Center, we start planning for when we graduate. Each class brings us one step closer to our departure, which is all the more reason to understand the importance of helping students reach their career goals and works with all students, including undergraduate, graduate and professional level students, to achieve their professional goals. The importance of helping students reach their career goals and works with all students, including undergraduate, graduate and professional level students, to achieve their professional goals.

You need a day off

When you have senioritis, the weekends aren’t enough; you need more time to watch Netflix and “chill.” So schedule a day in the week where you can get away with doing absolutely nothing.

The only downside to scheduling a day off is that you will need to make sure that it does not interfere with school. Most students have a day when classes end early or they don’t have classes at all, so when those days pop up, milk them. If not, you’ll find yourself in class wishing you weren’t there or wishing you stayed in bed.

You can also find activities for you and your friends to do on your day off. On tripomatic.com, you can organize a day trip and create an itinerary filled with activities. Having a day off can be quite refreshing and may relieve that itch to succumb to your senioritis.

Join senioritis anonymous (SA)

Truthfully, there is no such club at NSU, but one of the best ways to cope with anything is to find people who are sympathetic to your struggles. If you hang out with people who also have senioritis, it might be easier to find some motivation to finish the semester. You guys can even get together and do schoolwork. That way, if you feel like quitting or not doing the assignment, each of you can help to motivate each other. Try meeting up off campus so that it feels less formal and you can be more relaxed. Also, you guys can join a group chat to remind each other of upcoming assignments and events — GroupMe, free and available on Apple and Android devices, is the perfect app for this. Just remember that misery loves company.

Talk to a professor or professional

By the time you start your last semester in college, you probably have a favorite professor. So go and talk to him or her so he or she can give you some pointers on how to manage your workload with senioritis. Have a heart-to-heart with this professor, and you’ll walk away from the chat feeling better about completing the semester.

By the way, there is no such thing as a senior panic; professors will not be lenient with you because you have senioritis. Moreover, if you find that your senioritis has seriously impaired your ability to complete schoolwork, try speaking to a professional. You can schedule an appointment to visit a counselor at the Henderson Student Counseling Center located in the University Park Plaza. To schedule an appointment, visit their website at hendersonsh.org.

End things with a bang

This is probably your last opportunity to make college worthwhile. Try doing everything you wanted to do in college in your last semester — fill your semester with activities and events. If you stay active in your personal life, it will be easier to stay active in your school life, especially if you attend events at or near school. One of the reasons why senioritis has become so hard to defeat is that it makes us lazy at home, school and work. So try to be everywhere — go everywhere, and have fun. You can use meetup.com to find activities and places happening around Fort Lauderdale. The activities on the website range from upcoming walks to meeting up with the Miami Beach Photography Club or joining the Women’s Movie and Book Club.

If you’re a senior, and you’ve made it to this point of the article, maybe you’re not a senior anymore, but you can actually defeat your senioritis. For your friend who read the first couple of lines and whose eyes slowly drifted from the article to their phones or laptops, please tell them how informative this article was, and just maybe you can help them overcome this disease and be productive again.
Secret Life: Professor Levitt

It’s no secret that Stephen Ross Levitt, associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is one of the most informed professors on German affairs, but most students are unaware of the history and impact that Germans and Germany have had on his life.

Levitt’s areas of focus include war crimes, comparative law and international law, and he is known for his candor and eclectic teaching style.

Levitt offered some insight on his yearly travels to Germany and how they’ve shaped his teaching career.

How did you start traveling?

“I don’t remember how I got it, but when I was 8 years old, I caught pneumonia and had to stay home for three weeks. I told my grandparents I was sad and bored from being at home, so my grandfather asked what I wanted to do, and I said, ‘Let’s go somewhere warm,’ and he said, ‘Well, go to Florida,’ and I told him, ‘We’ve been there before,’ so we ended up going to Malaga, Spain. Also, when I was 10, my grandparents took me to Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. I think that’s pretty good for a 10-year-old. Moreover, by the time I was 15, I went to Israel and worked on an archaeological dig with two Ph.D. students. So, as a child, I had a lot of travel experience.”

What was one of the most spontaneous traveling experiences you’ve had?

“It sounds really stupid, but when I was 40, I thought, ‘There are certain things that I want to do now.’ For some reason, I was thinking, ‘What if I don’t live much longer?’ It was really stupid, but one of my friends lived in Sweden, and I said to him, ‘I want to see the Arctic Circle,’ but one of my friends lived in Sweden, and I thought, ‘Let’s go somewhere warm,’ and he said, ‘Well, go to Florida,’ and I told him, ‘We’ve been there before,’ so we ended up going to Malaga, Spain. Also, when I was 10, my grandparents took me to Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. I think that’s pretty good for a 10-year-old. Moreover, by the time I was 15, I went to Israel and worked on an archaeological dig with two Ph.D. students. So, as a child, I had a lot of travel experience.”

How and why did you start traveling to Germany every summer?

“Well, I traveled there a couple of times. I went twice when I was in undergrad, and I went once in law school. At the end of my law school, I went to the London School of Economics, and I studied there for a year and a quarter, which was very significant because, while writing one of my papers, a lady who worked in the archives suggested a man named Jörg Friedrich. He helped me with my paper, and I remember at the end of the talk I said to him, ‘Wow, you really know your stuff.’ Friedrich is a popular and controversial German author whose writings are usually critical of Germany. But, for some reason, he decided, one day, to write about how other countries affected Germany called ‘The Fire’ His book sold hundreds of thousands of copies, so he gained a lot of attention and recognition. So I started to meet a lot of people in Germany, prominent people, from lawyers to deans to ex-communists. It really attracted me to the country and gave me the type of insight that helps me to teach with detail and clarity. I just kept going back and learning more and meeting better people each time. And, honestly, it’s very hard for me to give up my friends, so I love going back to visit them every summer.”

Where do you stay, and what do you do there in the summers?

“All year, I go back to the same street in Berlin, where I rent a unit from the same landlord. I visit my friends and their families; we go out to eat or drink tea. I have a hard drive full of pictures of my vacations, if you don’t believe me. But I understand that, when I’m in Germany, great people surround me, so I make sure I take the opportunity to ask questions. I mean, I work with the German legal systems, so, as an outsider, I need help to know the in’s and out’s, so I ask questions, and they are always willing to answer. I’ve met all types of people in Germany, people who most would say, ‘Levitt, he’s a bad guy, why would you go talk with him?’ It doesn’t matter because they give you their knowledge, so meeting someone from a communist party or a German judge is all a part of the learning experience for me. I mean, prominent German professors have even helped me to write my legal studies textbook. And I don’t always just stay in Germany — I visit my friends in London and, sometimes, I even go back to the same street that I lived on when I was going to school there. I like doing that — it brings back memories.”

Do you think you’ll ever move there permanently?

“I go there every summer — there’s no need to move there permanently right now. Going there every summer is enough.”

Levitt shows off his garden at his unit in Germany.
Athlete of the Week:
Katelyn Blummer

Katelyn Blummer is a junior marine biology and business administration minor. She grew up in a family of athletes, and Blummer was exposed to sports at a very young age. She had experience in horseback riding, soccer and gymnastics all before the age of seven. However, Blummer didn’t discover her athletic talent until she enrolled in a little league softball program.

After a brief stint in little league softball, Blummer went on to play recreational and travel leagues and also all four years at Gulf Coast High School. She is currently competing in her third season with NSU.

Coaching is very important to Blummer. She is looking forward to the senior year of her collegiate career, because she loves the marine biology program here, but, at the same time, I thought, excited because I loved the marine biology and we really loved you; we would love you Coach Robin Martin, sent me an email saying recruited goes, and the old assistant coach, Blummer’s life.

The old assistant coach, Blummer’s life.

How did you end up at NSU?

“Blummer tells a really funny story. I was looking at two other schools at the time. I was in my senior year, and I was late, as far as getting recruited goes, and the old assistant coach, Coach Robin Martin, sent me an email saying ‘Hi Brittany, we watched you play this weekend, and we really loved you; we would love you to come check out the school.’ So I was really excited because I loved the marine biology program here, but, at the same time, I thought, ‘What if she sent this to the wrong person?’

But my dad said that I had to call her, and I had to talk to her to find out any way, so I emailed her back, and it turned it that she completely meant to send it to me, and she apologized for [using the wrong name]. After that, I came on an official visit and instantly fell in love with the school. I was debating between this school and another school, but I liked this one because I’m actually pretty close to home — I’m only like an hour and fifteen minutes away, and I love my family — so that was a bonus.

What do you think is the hardest aspect of playing softball?

‘Time management, as far as being a student athlete. Especially with my major. I was just talking with one of the freshmen on the team who is a marine bio major, and we talked about how the academic advisors very much dislike our sport and our major and trying to schedule when classes are going to be. Sometimes, practice is from 1 to 6 p.m. if you have to go early or stay late, so you can’t schedule any classes in the afternoon. So we have all early morning classes, practices and then night class.”

What do you think is the most rewarding part of playing softball?

‘You get a family away from home, I guess. That’s really nice. A lot of the time coming in as a freshman, you don’t know a lot of people, but I came in and instantly had 18 sisters, whether they liked me or not. We knew we were going to spend a lot of time together so we all pretty get close. So that was really nice.

But in the sport itself, I love the rush. I ripped two doubles in the very first game we played, and when you get that adrenaline rush as you’re sliding into second, and you just scored two of your teammates home, so they’re screaming, and you’re screaming, and that’s what I live for."

Do you have any goals set for yourself or for the team moving forward in the season?

‘Yes. We actually sat down as a team and set aside a lot of goals before we played last weekend, and I think we’re going to make it a common occurrence just to hold ourselves accountable. But our defense was somewhat lacking because we had a couple of people out of position recently, and we’ve been working 110 percent in practice to be better so that it won’t happen again, and we won’t make the same mistakes. Offensively, we’ve felt strong, and we want to keep that going, but, defensively, we would like to improve as a team."

Are there any professional athletes you who look up to or model your style of play after?

“When I was younger, everyone loved Jennie Finch. She was just a face for the sport, and she’s an amazing person, a great athlete, she has kids, and she’s really just the whole package. I guess I always just wanted to be like that. I mean I can’t pitch, and I’m not 6’1, but she’s still awesome.”

What has been your proudest achievement as a softball player so far?

‘To make it to the collegiate level. I’m only 5’2, and being short in the sport definitely sets you back a little bit, and I don’t have speed either. Usually, you can be small but quick, but instead, I’m small but strong. For me to get recruited to a D-II school that I absolutely loved, with a great softball program, was just one of the happiest days for me.

Have you had any coaches or mentors who have influenced you while playing softball?

‘My dad, believe it or not. He took on the role of coach for a travel ball team that I played on for about two years. People always think that, if you’re the coach’s kid, it’s easier for you, but that was never the case. It was always ten times harder because, whether you’re on the field or at home, he’s the coach. So if you’re not going out and getting extra reps, he would be on you about it, or, at practice, I would get into twice as much trouble. But he made me the athlete I am — he definitely motivated me. There were so many days where I didn’t want to go to practice, but he would make me go, and I would go, and I would love it.”

Do the teams have any special rituals they perform to get ready for a game?

‘Softball players are notorious for being superstitious, but we don’t really have a team superstition yet. Last year, we had an inflatable shark that we had to bring to every game, and it was one specific player’s job to bring it. If she forgot it, we would always act like it was the end of the world, but, this year, we don’t have anything yet. Me, personally, I get my hair braided by the same player, Haley Gonzales, every game.”

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

“I love the ocean and the water, so diving, being out on the boat, tanning, it doesn’t matter. It just has to be somewhere near the water.”

Fans are the most important element of professional sports leagues. Without fans, there would be no one to fill the stands or buy the merchandise and, generally, no reason for professional sports to even exist. Therefore, a majority of sports leagues like to include their fans in a number of different events and activities throughout the year. However, things don’t always run smoothly when professional sports leagues interact with their fans, and the National Hockey League learned that lesson the hard way.

Every year, the NHL hosts an event referred to as the All-Star Game, one game to represent each of the league’s four divisions: Atlantic, Metropolitan, Central and Pacific. The league was thrilled about the event’s upgrade and stated that they were happy to have complete control of the event’s roster, so the NHL allowed fans to nominate any player in the league to compete at the All-Star Game.

As with tradition, the NHL opened their fan vote for the All-Star Game on Dec. 1. This online vote allowed NHL fans to nominate and vote for the players who would participate in the All-Star Game on Jan. 31. The NHL has been doing a fan vote to fill the roster for the All-Star Game for year, but, this year, things didn’t go exactly as planned. A large number of fans voted John Scott, a player only known for fighting and frequent suspensions, into the All-Star Game — widely as a joke. Scott earned so many votes that not only would the 33-year-old captain in the All-Star Game for the first time in his nine NHL career, but he would also serve as the captain for the Pacific division team.

The NHL believed that allowing an enforcer like Scott to compete in an event that is held in such high regard would be an embarrassment to the league. The other main concern was that including Scott in the festivities would hurt ticket sales. The All-Star Game is typically reserved for the superstars of the league, and Scott is less than super. Throughout his entire career, he had only earned five goals and a total of 11 points. Therefore, the NHL and went their first of many mistakes by forcing the Arizona Coyotes to trade Scott to the Montreal Canadiens.

Since the Canadians are in the Atlantic division, the league deemed Scott ineligible to play for the Pacific division team and, ultimately, removed him from the All-Star Game. Scott, along with his young children and pregnant wife, had to move to Montreal simply because the NHL didn’t agree with what fans wanted. The NHL undermined the decision of the fans and proved that they were much more concerned with the profits from the game than the experience of fans. The league shouldn’t have offered to give the fans the option of voting if they weren’t planning on respecting it at the end of the day.

In the end, after boycotts and social media backlash, the NHL finally gave fans what they wanted; they allowed Scott to compete in the games and even named him the tournament’s MVP. However, it shouldn’t have taken threats and thousands of angry tweets to accomplish this.

All sports leagues need to understand that they can’t exploit or discredit their fans on a regular basis. Fans are the entire reason the professional sports exist, and, without them, sports would be completely irrelevant.

On the Bench:
F ans matter, too

By: Erin Herbert

@erin_herbert

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Finding Fitness: Zumba

By Erin Herbert
@erin_herbert

Finding Fitness is more than just about soaking up the latest fitness trend; it’s about finding exciting new ways to focus on the most important subject of any story: you. From extreme sports to strange and, sometimes, uncomfortable classes, this feature is all about finding the best fitness to maximize your health. Stay tuned to find out what new and exciting fitness endeavors are in the area.

What is Zumba?

Zumba is a fusion of cardio and Latin dance that creates a full body aerobic workout. All Shain, junior speech-language pathology major, has taught various forms of Zumba for about four years. She described Zumba as a mix of dance and exercise. Zumba classes are typically an hour long and feature a high energy environment with loud, exciting music. It is more engaging and high energy than a traditional cardio workout, which Shain believes is the reason for its popularity.

She said, “I think it’s popular because there hasn’t really been anything like this before. I think that a lot of people, particularly women, look for an exercise where they can leave sweating and are also having a really good time. It’s not like running on the treadmill to get a good cardio workout; it’s just an hour of high energy dance, and, if the instructor is really fun, you’ll have a really good time.”

According to Shain, there a number of different variations of Zumba. Participants who are looking for a low impact version of Zumba can try Aqua Zumba, which is a form of aerobic dancing in water. There is also Zumba Gold, which is a Zumba course specially designed for older participants. Other courses include mother and child Zumba, as well as courses for young children.

Shain also explained that Zumba courses can be tailored to the needs of a client, depending on what type of experience they are looking for. Individuals of all ages and fitness levels can participate in Zumba, according to Shain. She said, “Honestly, anyone and everyone can try it. I know that people have used it for therapy, to help build up their muscles in a fun way. But I really think that anyone can do it.”

What are the benefits?

Because Zumba is such an effective cardio workout, it can be used to lose weight and burn fat. According to a publication in Harvard Health, one hour of intense dancing, such as Zumba, can burn between 360 and 520 calories. Zumba achieves this level of calorie burning through interval training, which continuously raises and lowers the participant’s heart rate.

However, Zumba is not like any other cardio workout. It involves your entire body and will simultaneously engage a number of different muscles.

Shain said, “[Zumba trainers] know how to get the best heart rate and calorie burn, so your heart rate is up and down, while you’re targeting certain parts of your core, leg muscles or your glutes. It’s just a great all-around full body workout, that’s also fun and enjoyable.”

The benefits of Zumba are not only physical but also mental. According to an article published by the Berkeley Wellness Center, dancing can reduce stress and anxiety, aid in overcoming depression and even improve moods and boost self-esteem.

“It has a whole mental aspect to it. Once you leave the class, you’ll feel so much better than when you came in. It’s a mind, body and soul environment,” said Shain.

What are the risks?

There are no immediate health risks associated with Zumba; however Shain warned that participants should listen to their body and know their physical limits when trying Zumba.

Shain said, “Obviously, try not to give up if you don’t have too, but if you know that you have low blood pressure, and you’re feeling a little light headed, that would be a good time to take a rest and drink some water. But, if done correctly, it’s a really good workout.”

If you have any major health concerns, it would be advisable to consult a doctor before participating in a Zumba course. Doing so can help you decide what level Zumba course is right for you.

Local Zumba classes:

Recreation and Wellness Center
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale-Davie
Visit recnova.edu/fitness for a schedule of classes.

Elite International Dance Academy
8082 Griffin Road, Cooper City-Davie
(Corner of Pine Island and Griffin Road in Timberlake Plaza)
Visit elitendance.com/classes for a schedule of classes.

Studio B
11330 W. State Road 84, Davie
Visit studiobfl.com for a schedule of classes.

OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

Argentine soccer player shoots, kills referee

After referee Cesar Flores showed a soccer player a red card for striking another player during an amateur league match, the player walked off the field, retrieved a gun from his backpack and shot Flores, who later died at Coral Gables Hospital. The player shot Flores in the head, neck and chest, according to police, and a bullet hit another player, Walter Zarate, in the chest. Zarate is recovering in the hospital. Authorities have not released the name of the player at the time of the shooting.

Nike drops Manny Pacquiao for anti-gay comments

ESPN writer Darren Rovell tweeted a photo of Nike’s statement that the company terminated its endorsement contract with Manny Pacquiao, world champion pro boxer, following his remarks comparing gay people to animals. nike said Pacquiao’s comments were “abhorrent” and that no longer has a relationship with Pacquiao, who issued an apology on social media. Pacquiao quoted the Bible a day later in an Instagram post that was later deleted, calling a verse that called for gay people to be put to death.

Sports Authority to close all stores in Texas

According to state employees, Sports Authority, the second-largest sports retail giant behind Dick’s Sporting Goods, is closing all 25 of its stores in Texas. Reports say the company is preparing to file bankruptcy, as it missed its million dollar interest payment on its $643 million debt in January. Sports Authority will close nearly a third of its 450 stores nationwide.

Ronda Rousey open up about loss to Holly Holm

In an interview with talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres, mixed martial arts and UFC champion Ronda Rousey said she contemplated suicide after her November 2015 loss to Holly Holm. Rousey, who was previously the undefeated champion, said: “In that exact second, I’m like, ‘I’m nothing. What do I do anymore?’ while she sat in the post-fight medical room. Rousey also said the post-fight depression and her struggles because of her boyfriend, UFC fighter Travis Browne, and by choosing to stay undefeated.
Surviving midterms week is a huge accomplishment. After cramming up to six classes at a time—there were a marathon of papers, projects and tests, you deserve a treat. Indulge in that last bit of tasting meal that you reserve exclusively for special occasions. To congratulate yourself, taste the halfway mark of the semester. But if you don’t know where to begin, The Current has you covered. Below are 5 treats that you need to try out after a week’s little bit sweeter for members of The Current staff.

Coco Ncuy, co-editor-in-chief, said Los Verdes

If I never have the chance to eat healthy and stay in shape, I could easily eat at Los Verdes every day for the rest of my life. But, alas, I’d probably be mortally obese if I ate Colombians as a daily habit. And I must reserve my cheese, carbs and creamy sauce binges for special occasions. And with locations in Sunrise, Weston, Doral, Coral Way, Country Walk and Miami Lakes, keeping off the Verdes belly is extremely difficult. Los Verdes has the perfect comfort food combinations to fulfill every craving: crispy, savory, beef-filled empanadas with garlic cream sauce on the side, classic chicken quesadillas topped with crunchy potato chips crumbs and three different sauces, Hawaiian-inspired hamburgers and hamburgers smothered with pineapple sauce and ham and fluffy pineapple upside-down cake and so much more! I highly recommend everything on the menu, as there is not a single item they serve that isn’t worth the immense amount of calories. Just don’t forget to wear comfortable pants to make space for your post-Los Verdes belly.

Jazmyr Brown, copy editor, said Cold Stone Creamery

There’s nothing quite like the rich and decadent flavors of ice cream — mint, vanilla, strawberry, coffee and more — and with variety of toppings — from구강 bears to Oreo to sprinkles to your favorite candy bar — at Cold Stone; they make anyone with an insatiable sweet tooth drool. Not only does Cold Stone offer ice cream creations, but they also have creamy, velvety shakes and ready-made and creamy shakes and ready-made and the menu, as there is not a single item they serve that isn’t...
Fezzy fans, rejoice — Kanye West is finally back after dropping his newest album “The Life of Pablo.” After hundreds of promises, and almost as many title changes, the self-proclaimed “greatest artist of all time” delivered his seventh studio album on Feb. 14.

The 18-track album soundtracks haphazardly thrown together, as the last-minucli exclusion of eight more individual tracks would suggest. The first track, “Ultralight Beam,” starts off with a faint sound of small child praying in a gospel style and keeps the idea of gospel music as a reoccurring theme throughout the church. However, at the completion of the nearly five-and-a-half minute song, listeners are left unsmarmed. Apart from the church, the song feels stagnant; it doesn’t move anywhere, and the high amounts of Auto-Tune are simply overkill. After all of the hype and numerous months of waiting, this is Kanye’s “masterpiece” of an album starts off with: a major disappointment.

The first track also doesn’t fit the feel of the album as a whole, with the subsequent tracks doing nothing to complement each other. Each song is wildly different and feels more like a college student’s rap playlist than an actual album. Kanye’s earlier, and better composed, albums such as “Graduation” and “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy” flowed well and had tracks that related to one another. The track list is all over the place, from gospel songs to love songs, and even party anthems.

“The Life of Pablo” is a star-studded album, featuring a number of other talented musicians like Chance the Rapper, Andre 3000 and Frank Ocean, all of whom seem to overshadow Kanye on his album. It’s far too overdone. And for a man who likes to make literally everything about himself, it doesn’t make much sense for Kanye to sound more like a back-up singer than the star of the show. The Weeknd’s hook in “F.M.L.” is the album’s most redeeming quality and one of the only memorable elements that can be taken from this project.

Kanye’s music is typically riddled with pulsing beats and strange, often catchy, lyrics that seem to stick in your head forever; however, this album seems to suggest a change in his artistry. The tracks are less focused on catchy beats and hooks, while Kanye seems to be more preoccupied with the emotional side of his lyrics, as suggested by “Father Stretch My Hands Pt.1.” The emotional lyrics and soulful beat are reminiscent of “Blame Game,” from his 2010 album “My Dark and Twisted Fantasy.”

The lyrics indicate that Kanye is reflective of past relationships, and that seems to carry on at least to the subsequent track, “2:2.”

This album surely won’t garner Kanye any new fans, and it will probably keep Kanye’s harem where they are, but “The Life of Pablo” offers a new side of Kanye, a more emotional side that is a major change from the rapper’s previous work. The songs by themselves are decent, but when thrown together onto a full album, it just doesn’t work. Kanye may think he’s the best thing to happen to the music industry, but this album says otherwise.
Why having faith is more important than religion

By: Li Cohen
@Current_Yakira

February 23, 2016 | nsucurrent.nova.edu

Religion is about reaching a certain enlightenment so its followers may live to the fullest based on their beliefs, their values and their contributions. We call people individuals because we created to be each unique and not to succumb to specific ideologies so easily. We created to discover what our personal ideologies should be so that we can grow into the best version of ourselves.

Faith is self-motivation. Religion is the drive for success, so that they can attain that goal. This idea pervades a lot of different social issues.

For those who follow a religion because they have enough experience to have one. I've never believed in the teachings, then kudos to you because you have found yourself, and that's truly an amazing accomplishment that should be celebrated daily.

Religion is about reaching a certain enlightenment so its followers may live to the fullest based on their values, but if the teachings that guide you to enlightenment don't truly resonate with you, you can't truly reach that ultimate goal.

This is not to undermine any religious affiliation. This was written to demonstrate why faith, or an affiliation, helps people to grow and understand the world. No matter who you are, a religion is something that you, as a person, can believe in and have faith in the teachings.

Whether a religion or one's own mind brings on faith, it is what creates hope and allows us to understand the good and the bad in this journey we call life.
Opinions

Relationships are hard enough

By: Roddia Paul

In this day and age, many people live together long before getting hitched.reason, Fortunante published an article to inform people of the rights they are not entitled to as a partner in a non-documented relationship. But the lack of documented proof of legal entity should not hinder a cohabitating couple’s ability to have the same rights as married one.

This is not in reference to those high school students who move in with their older significant other or those college frats that do not last more than a month. This is about adults, not impulsive teens with roommates who think moving in together will be all sunshine and rainbows.

Not all couples want to get married, some may feel they are not in the right place financially to get a marriage license or have a wedding, or, sometimes, couples just don’t get around to it. Then something bad happens. People never expect to be in a situation of their control, but whether they would like to admit it or not, things happen, and it sucks when they can’t help their significant others just because they do not have legal documentation of their union.

The only alternative to being a legally married couple would be for a couple to apply to be a documented domestic partnership, in which two people that are above the age of 18 and consent willingly to be jointly responsible and to consent willingly to be jointly responsible and to be granted legal partnership.

This is a great alternative to marriage because it allows couples to circumvent the hassles and cost of marriage documents and a wedding while still reaping the same benefits.

Domestic partners receive insurance, health, parental leave and death benefits, amongst many other things. However, the fact of the matter is that domestic partnerships are not recognized in all 50 states. What happens to the couple who would like those benefits and are not permitted access to domestic partnership status due to their individual state laws?

Twenty states in the U.S. do not recognize domestic partnerships, and, out of the 30 that do, recognition and benefits vary depending on the city or county. For example, in Florida, only 9 out of 67 counties recognize domestic partnerships.

So for those whom a marriage or domestic partnership do not protect, death, illness or financial crisis can be their worst nightmares. Because of the lack of documentation, the surviving partner will not have access to the deceased person’s possessions, estate or money. This is unfair for married cohabitating couples, especially if the partner who died was the breadwinner of the two; he or she could possibly lose his or her home and suffer financially. In some cases, a cohabitant will die, and, no matter how long he or she was with his or her partner, the partner’s belongings go to the next of kin, even if it is a relative who the deceased had not talked to in years.

There is also a big concern for children born to cohabitating couples. In the event that the two do split, there can be some difficulty regarding custody and financial support, whereas a married couple usually has some form of legal agreement on custody, belongings and financial support.

Cohabiting couples and married couples all go through the same struggles; they have debt, they have bills, they sometimes have children, they have tragedies, and, of course, they have the stress of maintaining a relationship. The legal system should not exclude cohabiting couples from having spousal rights because they do not have a marriage license.

The unity of marriage is a step that people take for various reasons, but deciding not to do it should not impede a couple’s rights. Many times, partners are closest to each other, and whether they’ve known each other for years or several months, their connection depends on the individual relationship, and the law shouldn’t monitor that.

Seriously Kidding

By: Chanlet Grant

Kanye West is the worst thing that has ever happened to pop culture. He is an arrogant, pompous, vapid human being whom I shouldn’t even be writing about. However, my mom always told me that writing a letter is the best way to release your frustration to someone, so here it is: my letter to Yezy himself.

Dear Mr. West,

Let me start by saying that I never liked your music. I didn’t mind hearing your nursery rhyme-like rap music blowing through the speakers of passing cars, neither did I mind the fact that your mouth and brain appeared permanently disconnected. I just thought that you were a lose cannon who would eventually exhaust yourself and become outdated like Vanilla Ice or Carrol Top.

Yet here I am, 12 years later, baffled that you are still a fixture in pop culture. The only reason that I will not admit to myself that I hate you is because I think your daughter is adorable, and it would be a bit hypocritical to hate you and your daughter. With that being said, I have written down a few reasons why I think you should be exiled and placed on an unhabited island with your wife, music and overpriced clothing line.

The first reason is simple. I think you’re annoying. I can’t think of any other celebrity who gets under your skin more than you. I would gladly rather work as an immigrant staff member for Donald Trump than sit and listen to anything you ever have to say. When I hear you speak, all I can think about is a caveman taking through a series of grunts and moans. That’s really what you sound like to me, a caveman who took one more thing: I was wondering if you could do an regular people a favor and shut up. Just take an sabbath of silence for the rest of your life, or at least until you get the Carrot Top-level of fame where no one cares about you. There are a few more paragraphs that I have left in me, but, for now, I think I’ve said enough.

How do you plan to unwind after midterms?

Shark Speak

“After midterms, I like to relax by going tanning and going to dinner” – Ave Cole, junior biology major

“I look forward to spending time with my friends who are coming to Cancun.” – Nanette Waltzmann, junior criminal justice major

“I look forward to spending time with my family and catch up with my friends.” – Kimberly Gutierrez, senior biology major

“This year, I am looking forward to our spring break family cruise.” – Aubreyanne Mayrhoth, freshman psychology major

“Midterms can be very stressful for me, so I’m going on a cruise with other commuter students here on campus. It will give me a chance to go out, get some good food, and relax and connect with people.” – Kimberly Gutierrez, senior biology major

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Clerical Assistant-(HPD263)  
**Job ID:** 5696  
**Hours:** 20 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $8.50/hour  
Assist the staff in the College of Osteopathic Medicine’s SIM Lab and SIM Clinic by providing general clerical duties such as typing correspondence, reports, emails, photocopying, filing and assisting in completing projects as needed for special events within the two labs.

Group Facilitator/Vocational Services- Pembroke Pines-(OFF33)  
**Job ID:** 4895  
**Hours:** 10 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $12/hour  
Facilitate Educational/Vocational groups to clients looking to obtain their GED and job training skills. May tutor or give individual assessment under the supervision of the educational specialist and educational coordinator.

America Reads Tutor-(OFF10)  
**Job ID:** 4927  
**Hours:** 10 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $13/hour  
Work with and help children read well in Broward County elementary schools.

Administrative Student Assistant-(HPD01)  
**Job ID:** 5027  
**Hours:** 15 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $8.50/hour  
Answer telephones, data entry and mailings for commencement, organization and mailing of diplomas. File, make photocopies, run errands and other duties as assigned.

Administrative Assistant for the Achieve in Medicine Medical Immersion Camp- (HPD266)  
**Job ID:** 5716  
**Hours:** 20 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $9/hour  
Assist in the planning, organization and logistics of two one-week medical school immersion camps (summer 2016)  
Assist the Director with the marketing and promotion of AIM-High Camp  
Manage the registration progress for AIM-High  
Assist in the implementation of camp evaluation  
Assist with the recruitment of medical students to serve as counselors  
Assist with the implementation of the camp

Student Assistant-(092)  
**Job ID:** 5455  
**Hours:** 15 hr./week  
**Rate:** $8.50/hour  
Answer telephones, data entry and mailings for commencement, organization and mailing of diplomas. File, make photocopies, run errands and other duties as assigned, depending on office work loads.

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Civic Engagement Program Assistant-(1120)  
**Job ID:** 5454  
**Hours:** 10 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $8.50/hour  
Manage inputting for Community Collaboration Database projects as well as the SERV hour database process  
Work with staff in communications with Community Affiliates  
Answer main office telephone line  
Maintain Community Affiliate newsletter  
Other duties as assigned by SLCE staff

Graduate Student Assistant-(086D)-(SLYN)  
**Job ID:** 5535  
**Hours:** 20 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $11/hour  
Answer questions and direct students to the appropriate area. Assist with on-going projects within the department.

Graduate Student-Administrative Assistant-(110)  
**Job ID:** 5055  
**Hours:** 20 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $10/hour  
File paperwork for student and employee files, distribute mail, take inventory and submit requisitions. Prepare recruiting materials and assist with event organization

Graduate Student ACE Lab Assistant-(1101)  
**Job ID:** 5155  
**Hours:** 20 hrs./week  
**Rate:** $10/hour  
Staff the ACE Lab to maintain inventory of SGD, alternative input devices for AAC, and other AT to keep them up-to-date and in good working order  
Utilize Boardmaker program to create visual supports and AAC materials  
Program SGD and assist faculty and students in learning to use them  
Troubleshoot problems with AAC apps and SGD  
Demonstrate use of ACE Lab equipment and answer questions  
Participate in AAC-related events  
Assist in scheduling and providing AAC presentations  
Work collaboratively with faculty on AAC projects