In an effort to reach Vision 2020, the university’s goal to be recognized as a premier university by the fall of 2020, NSU admitted more freshman and transfer students this fall than in previous years.

According to Dee Voss, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, between 970 and 985 incoming freshmen and about 265 incoming transfer students are enrolled for the Fall 2017 semester.

“The history that I have seen, this will be the largest incoming freshman class that the university has ever had,” said Voss. This enrollment puts the university on track to reach 2,020 students as part of Vision 2020.

What this means for housing

According to Voss, about 48 percent of the incoming class are out-of-state or international students, which is a stark increase to the roughly 30 percent NSU had years ago. As a result, more students are staying on campus, causing housing to change.

Aarika Camp, Associate Dean of Student Services and Director of Resident Life and Housing, said that traditional freshman students, who are not in a Razor’s Edge program, will stay in the Goodwin Residence Hall in triple bedrooms. This was re-introduced with the fall 2017 semester.

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What this means for your classes

According to Carmen Sosa, Director of Academic Advising and Retention, NSU’s class sizes will not change with this larger population. “We’ve added more sections. We will respect smaller class sizes which is what we [the university] marketed and grew on,” said Sosa.

Classes will now have a larger range of time slots, like 7:45 a.m. classes or evening classes, to offer students the courses which they need without raising class sizes across all majors.

What this means for campus life

Bobby Borgmann, Director of Campus Life and Student Engagement, and Vanessa Franco, Assistant Director of Campus Life and Student Engagement, both said they expect the campus to be livelier with the student body increase, as well as a rise in student organizations.

“There’s gonna be people on campus throughout all hours of the day so that means there are gonna be events throughout all hours of the day,” said Borgmann. “It means students are going to want to join organizations and create their own.”

In order to help students create these events Franco plans on working with Sandra Philius, graduate assistant for student organizations, to promote the Student Organization Resource Center (SOURCE) office located in Rosenthal.

Borgmann and Franco also said that they’ve been working to accommodate organizations in terms of space, particularly with the Weeks of Welcome.

“We’ve tried to work everyone out as far as where they would like to go. If someone is using another space we’ll be able to see how we can accommodate them best,” said Franco.

What this means for parking

Residential students will have more parking for the 2017-2018 academic year. According to James Ewing, Director of Public Safety, residential students will have exclusive use of 111 additional parking spaces located in the Mallman Hollywood Lot. According to Camp, residential students will also have the option of parking on the top floor of both the Alvin Sherman Library Parking Garage and the West Parking Garage.

Ewing also said that Facilities Management received permission to build a 200-car lot next to the Athletics building, west of FFV. In the meantime, Ewing said the Mallman Hollywood Lot will be monitored to see if adjustments need to be made.

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NSU welcomes largest class of incoming students

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University
ExEL to become a requirement for incoming freshmen

Although experiential learning has always been embedded into NSU’s curriculum, it will now be a requirement for all incoming freshmen. Freshmen must complete six units of Experiential Education and Learning (ExEL) throughout their four years at NSU in order to graduate.

Toni Williams, director for experiential education, was hired to spearhead ExEL, which goes into effect this fall semester. Williams also developed the ExEL program within the Office of Learning Advisory Council (EELAC), which works closely with the ExEL office to identify ventures that qualify as experiential learning.

“ExEL is really about exploring when you come in as a freshman. What is it you really want to do? What are your passions? What are your skills? And then how can you marry those things to create something amazing for yourself,” Williams explained.

Alejandrina Matias, assistant director for experiential learning and a former academic adviser, explained, “As faculty and administrators, they [EELAC] are the gatekeepers of what gets designated as experiential.” If a student has an idea for an internship, for example, EELAC confirms that the internship will be an impactful experience the student can learn from and analyze.

Students’ required UNIV 1000 course will count as one unit of ExEL, as will the required Senior Capstone project or course. Students can choose from five pillars of experiential learning to complete their remaining four units: Experiential Coursework, Faculty-Mentored Research, Travel Exploration/Study Abroad, Community Engagement/Service and Professional Growth/Internships.

While there are no new courses offered specifically for ExEL credits, there are many existing courses that have been approved for ExEL credit because of the nature of the coursework, such as several theater, marine biology, accounting and psychology courses.

To help navigate what may seem like a confusing requirement, Matias explained that students will have assigned ExEL advisers that work together with their academic advisers to guide students through the program and units, as well as check on their overall health, happiness and immersion at NSU.

Students may also visit the ExEL office, located in Rosenthal 104, with any questions about the program.

Matias said, “Students can always come to us, although they have their ExEL advisers. They can always walk into this office and inquire about an idea … I’ll be bringing my experience and knowledge from working with EELAC … and three years in academic advising, understanding the curriculums, the graduation requirements and the academic systems behind everything. We want to make it easy for students; make it inviting.”

While ExEL units are only required for incoming freshmen and those that follow, ExEL opportunities are available to every NSU student.

“Everything is there, every student can participate in these experiences … juniors, seniors come into our office. We will connect you. Unfortunately, it’s not going to be the requirement but we will absolutely help,” Matias said.

Williams explained the importance of viewing ExEL as an opportunity for students, rather than a requirement.

“Experiential education is really about becoming world-ready … students are getting skills that will go beyond the workplace and make them more engaged citizens and help them to see the connection to the greater world,” Williams said.

For more information on the ExEL program, visit nova.edu/ExEL.
Shark Dining offers new menus and venues for the fall

By: Jenna Kopec
Co-Editor-In-Chief

As a result of student feedback from department and Student Government Association (SGA) collaborations, Shark Dining is opening the Fall 2017 semester with new dining options. Replacing Chick-N-Grill, Pizza Loft, Training Table and Food Bar are four new venues planned and designed by Shark Dining called Chef's Table, Roma's Italian Kitchen, World Market and Innovation Kitchen. Among these changes, Juiceblendz and Flight Deck will also be adjusting their menus and offering new items to students based on their feedback.

“The biggest thing we’ve heard is we need variety. I don’t know how much we could have done before with the previous concepts that we’ve had with national and regional brands,” said Stefanie Furniss, Director of Operations for Shark Dining.

Each of these new venues operates on meal segments that change daily. Therefore, not only will menus change at different mealtimes, but they will also vary each day. All of the changes and venues, excluding those from Juiceblendz which is an outside vendor, are created by Shark Dining. Furniss and Alex Lopez, Undergraduate Student President of SGA, both said that this was the better choice. Choosing outside vendors, according to Furniss, meant having to commit to static menus.

“By adding Chartwells-inspired vendors onto campus, students are going to get to have control. If we hate that we have just pasta [for example] we can get rid of that and put something that costs less money and is less of a hassle,” said Lopez, who, with other members of SGA, met with Furniss, Shark Dining staff and Business Services to discuss frustrations that had been communicated to them by the student body.

“They’re [the students’] experience needs to feel homely. I think that’s something that these concepts may convey a little better,” said Harrison C. Davies, Director of Marketing and Guest Services.

Furniss said that Shark Dining staff has increased for the fall semester in both front of the house and back of the house operations. She also said that price points for meals should stay around the same for students, although none of the new venues will use the weight-measuring system used at Food Bar and Training Table.

Both Shark Dining and SGA plan on receiving and analyzing student feedback to continue adjusting dining options to meet students’ needs. According to Lopez, SGA passed legislation to create Shark Dining Ambassadors, a specific group focused on collaborating with Shark Dining to communicate the needs and wants of students.

“SGA listens and can impact campus,” said Lopez. “The more students that respond to SGA surveys, the more change we can make.”

Davies said that his role focuses on student engagement and feedback, and he plans to have surveys and focus groups throughout the semester. Furniss said she encourages students to provide feedback to the office to help improve their experience.

“One way to do so is through the Text2Solve program, an anonymous communication system that lets students directly communicate any concern or question to Shark Dining administration, whether it be a shortage of napkins to larger issues such as poor service. Students can use the program by texting 954-398-5398.

NSU Undergraduate Alumni Award

Discounts Available for Undergraduate Alumni at the Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship

The Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship announces an alumni award for those undergraduate students who are seeking a graduate degree in Business. We extend to our future graduates a $6,550 tuition award towards any of our graduate degrees: Master of Accounting, Master of Taxation, Master of Science in Real Estate Development, Master of Public Administration and the M.B.A. with 12 concentrations.

With a curriculum designed with input from industry executives, and faculty members who challenge conventional thinking, our program will give you the practical skills and knowledge you need to take the next step in your career.

Learn more information about the alumni discounts available at business.nova.edu

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### Home is where the heart is: Navigating long-distance job searches

**By: Ashley Rizzotto**

**Contributing Writer**

Ashley Rizzotto joined the Office of Career Development in June 2017 as a full-time Career Advisor. Rizzotto works with current undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni to ensure the confidence and success of those she meets with.

Every year, newly graduated students have dreams of moving across the country and starting a successful career in busy, exciting cities such as New York, Miami, Denver, Seattle, Boston and San Francisco. This is due to demographic changes and diverse, emerging industries developing overnight. Another reason for long-distance career exploration is that a student may simply want to experience a new area that differs from their hometown or college.

However, before buying the plane ticket or packing the U-Haul, there are a few steps that students should take.

#### Research the city before committing:

It’s important, especially when pursuing your first full-time position, to research its financial reality. Look into the average salary for jobs in your industry and see how they compare to the cost of living in your potential new city. This can help with your decision making. Some items to research include: the cost of living in the new location, average starting salaries and benefits for both you and your partner/family.

The time to map out a budget sheet for your anticipated expenses including monthly bills, costs related to your commute and your basic necessities. The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Glassdoor.com and Onetonline.org all provide tools to estimate the minimum salary you’ll need to live comfortably.

#### Choose your “non-negotiables”

Create a list of your non-negotiables. Include the essential people, places and things you absolutely need to be comfortable living anywhere in the world. It’s smart to keep in mind your values as you plan what you need.

#### Don’t blow your budget

**By: Nicole Chavannes**

**Copy Editor**

Enrolling college is both a liberating and challenging experience. Like many students, your first venture into college might be your first taste of adulthood. As a result, college is the ideal time to learn about finances and develop good habits to take with you post-graduation.

#### Identify sources of income and expenses

The first steps to financial responsibility are identifying both your sources of income and your expenses. Take into account every form of income available to you, identify the most stable sources of income and expenses. Take into account every form of income available to you, identify the most stable sources of income and expenses according to its importance and necessity. This includes your earnings, your spending and your savings goals. As Hitto Hering, a consumer spending columnist and published author, states in an article for U.S. News, separating your “wants” from your “needs” is crucial in budgeting. Once you’ve determined whether something is necessary, you want it desperately or it would simply be something nice to have making decisions about what to spend your money on will become much easier.

#### Prioritize everything

Rank everything involving your finances according to its importance and necessity. This includes your expenses, your spending and your savings goals. As Hitto Hering, a consumer spending columnist and published author, states in an article for U.S. News, separating your “wants” from your “needs” is crucial in budgeting. Once you’ve determined whether something is necessary, you want it desperately or it would simply be something nice to have making decisions about what to spend your money on will become much easier.

#### Set savings goals

Instead of living paycheck to paycheck, strive to have money stored away in a savings account. If possible, save a chunk of your income first and spend the money you have left after. Save, then spend. Even if you can only afford to save $20, make a conscious effort to put money away every month. Slowly but steadily, your savings account will grow, and you’ll have a fund in case of emergencies or for a down payment on a car or even a one-time purchase. As Federal Student Aid suggests on their website, think of your savings as an expense itself, and consider it unchangeable.

#### Keep track

If your go-to methods of spending are debit or credit cards, keeping track is easy: simply view your statement online. If you prefer cash, develop a system so you may keep track of where those bills are going, and whether you should continue spending that way or be more frugal. Phone apps are helpful, but even logging your spending in a notebook works. Once you make it a habit to keep track of even the smallest expenses, it’ll be less of a mystery where your money is going, and you can adjust your spending accordingly. Use credit sparingly and knowledgeably

It is extremely beneficial for college students to have at least one credit card. Not to rack up debt, but to build credit issuance, which makes things like buying a car, getting insurance and buying a home easier and more affordable, according to U.S. News. The key is to avoid overextending and to pay it back in full. Instead of maxing out your card — whether you can afford to pay it back or not — spend less than 30 percent of your limit. This will show that you are reliable and don’t overspend, which will improve your credit score faster.

#### Do your research

More than anything, it pays to do your research. Find out what kind of savings account would be best for you, as well as what credit card benefits you most and how best to use it.
A guide to being more outgoing in college

By: Gabrielle Thompson  Features Editor

Even though my Myers-Briggs results say I am an extrovert, I still have problems when it comes to talking to people I have never met before. Starting a new semester with new classes can be stressful, especially if I know that none of my friends will be with me.

Each semester I promise myself that I will go out of my way to be a little more outgoing and make more friends. Luckily, I have been able to finish each semester with at least one new friend from every class — so basically I’ve learned a thing or two. Here are a few tips to help you put yourself out there.

Make a good first impression

When you walk into class, pick a seat right next to somebody else. Yes, there will probably be a lot of seats open, but this is an easy way to get out of your comfort zone and be a little more social. If you sit next to somebody and introduce yourself, you’re already coming off as more outgoing and friendly. You’re also letting the other person know that you are willing to get to know them.

Utilize group conversations

Don’t be afraid to join a conversation. If a group of people in class is talking about their favorite TV show, they probably won’t be mad if you join in. Group conversations are the easiest to navigate because you don’t always have to be the one talking. You can chime in when something pops into your head, but you don’t have to worry if you can’t think of anything to say.

Don’t think about it too much

A lot of times people get anxious because they are thinking too much about how to start a conversation or what to say next. If you’re too focused on what to say, you might miss a good opportunity to expand on the conversation because you weren’t actually listening to what the other person was saying. Listening to the other person is the best way to keep a conversation flowing.

Take it step by step

If you’re a shy person, putting yourself out in the open can definitely be a daunting task. A little nervousness is normal, but don’t push yourself too hard to where you feel extremely uncomfortable. Take small steps and build yourself up to where you want to be. The more you do it, the more confident you will become.

A little nervousness is normal, but don’t push yourself too hard to where you feel extremely uncomfortable. Take small steps and build yourself up to where you want to be. The more you do it, the more confident you will become.

Becoming a more outgoing person is something that takes time and effort. You can’t expect to become a social butterfly in just a few days. The important part is that you continue to work at it and, of course, have fun. Good luck out there.

Using mental health as a gateway to physical fitness

By: Fiorella Marezquez  Student Manager

We have all heard the typical advice that everyone gives: “Eat your veggies, make sure you meal prep, wake up thirty minutes earlier and run or do some at-home exercises.” It’s easier said than done.

Staying physically healthy in college can be one of the hardest things to do. We must juggle work, class, studying and home responsibilities. How can we find time to work out and put our best foot forward in the open can definitely be a daunting task.

A little nervousness is normal, but don’t push yourself too hard to where you feel extremely uncomfortable. Take small steps and build yourself up to where you want to be. The more you do it, the more confident you will become.

Becoming a more outgoing person is something that takes time and effort. You can’t expect to become a social butterfly in just a couple of days. The important part is that you continue to work at it and, of course, have fun. Good luck out there.

Mental and physical health are connected

Why is it so important to take care of ourselves mentally? The answer is simple — just like a car breaks down, we do, too. According to the American Psychological Association, stress is linked to six leading causes of death. Stress can bring illnesses, disorders, relationship problems and mental breakdowns — which can lead to lower grades and a decrease in school performance. We burn out without even realizing it.

Apart from mental health causing physical symptoms, it can also affect our daily routine and mental ability to conduct daily responsibilities, according to the American Psychological Association.

For example, dealing with a breakup, being broke or having an insane amount of homework can lead to depression, which may cause you to sleep in longer than you need to or end your day earlier than usual, cutting your available time off. Your mood is off so you feel heavy and it’s a struggle to do a simple task. This can have a negative domino effect, keeping you from that mental health goal.

Don’t be too hard on yourself.

It’s easier said than done. Take a mental health day. Don’t be afraid to reach out for help. You can talk to your roommate, a family member or a friend. Don’t let pride get in the way.

Create a vision board.

Write positive messages. The Mayo Clinic says that changing negative thoughts to positive ones can help fight depression. We have found that posting sticky notes with positive messages around me to look at throughout the day helps to do this. It can be on your mirror, your desk, work area, laptop, refrigerator or anywhere else you can think of.

Don’t be too hard on yourself.

It’s alright to make a mistake and not be okay, we’re human. Take a step back and find solutions. Don’t beat yourself up about it. Keep moving forward.

Allow others to help you. If a stranger, friend or family member is offering you help, accept it. We’re here to help each other. Don’t let pride get in the way.

Take a mental health day. If you need to take a day off to recuperate, do it. Take the day to do yoga, meditate, exercise, read or whatever de- stresses you and put you in your happy place.

Seek help. There is someone out there who will listen. There is always the Henderson Student Counseling Center. NSU students receive 10 free mental health counseling sessions. Contact the center at 954-424-6911.
A GLIMPSE AT THE future OF NSU

A special thanks to Sharks United Television for providing the following photos

Shark Culture 101: Fins Up!

Several incoming freshmen participate in a Lip-Sync Battle; an NSU orientation staple.

Did you know that Sharks can jump?

Esteem the start of memories at NSU. Many students remember the address that Brad Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies, gave to their class.

Small victories are victories nonetheless.

It’s important for new Sharks to know that there are plenty of upperclassmen to help them navigate these waters.

A glimpse at the future of NSU

This photo is a small snapshot of student life as it begins.

Orientation groups who dine together stay together.

Open tryouts - no experience necessary

Info meetings 8/20 & 8/23 at 4 pm Athletics Building 2nd floor
Contact Coach Anna alindgrens@nova.edu for more information
Freshman pre-nursing major Amanda Pultorak joins the NSU volleyball team this fall all the way from Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Ill. I sat down with the new Shark, who has a recorded .552 hitting percentage and 102 total blocks behind her name, to learn more about her transition from the Windy City to the Sunshine State.

When did you first get started in volleyball?

“Third grade – it was actually my third grade. Her mom owned the club First Alliance Volleyball and they invited me and a couple of my friends to try volleyball because they said that it was super fun. So, I started and I played there for my entire life because I just loved it there – she’s who got me started.”

How did you decide to move away Chicago to study at NSU?

“Oh obviously the weather down here is perfect and I’m somebody that hates snow – I can’t even deal with it – so I knew that I wanted to go south. So, when the head coach contacted me, I came out and I fell in love with the campus – everything kinda just fit together. Everyone here was super nice, so I just felt like I was at home; like I belonged here.”

What has it been like transitioning from a Hinsdale Horseto an NSU Shark?

“In the Midwest we do it [volleyball] so much differently than down here. Like for the last two years I’ve had to really work on my whole blocking technique and footwork transitions … I’m used to swing blocking and here they don’t swing block; I’m used to step crossovers to block and they do more of a run and jump. They open up different ways when they transition off the net … it’s basically like I’m relearning the game of volleyball, but it’s almost a relief for me here because Coach King’s coaching styles are a lot more relaxed so I’m not stressed and I know a lot of the girls here and the freshmen.”

What motivates you to keep going?

“It’s more that I just love playing the game and I really wanna be a starter here so that’s what’s motivating me. Then lifting wise, I look at all of the juniors and seniors and they have those size big muscles and I’m like, ‘I wanna have muscles like that … I want my body to look like that’ so that’s what motivates me.”

Are there any athletes in particular – professional or otherwise – that you look up to?

“I look at Katie [Pyles] and Denvyr [Tyler-Palmer’s] leg muscles – those two girls on the team have muscles that are so big and I want to be like that! But, I haven’t really had a volleyball idol.”

What do you think that your biggest accomplishment has been so far?

“I think that it would be just being able to live the dream of being a college athlete and getting a full-time scholarship to a great university … and I got it. I’m here. This is it!”

What advice would you give to someone who is in your position?

“I would say to just be really open to everything and make sure that you listen to what your coaches say. Be patient with yourself. Don’t get frustrated; it’ll all click together.”

Last month, when it was announced that Kyrie Irving had requested a trade from the Cleveland Cavaliers, fans were outraged. To be fair, the opinion was a little baffling given that the team had won its first championship just 13 months prior and things seemed to be progressing very well.

Many sports fans took to social media around somewhere on the interwebs. you can still find a parody of Eminem’s “Stan,” displeasure after hearing the shocking news.

It can be argued that athletes should have the right to be, you have the right to reconsider their contracts and move on in pursuit of a position that they love, which seems to be quite a dead end. Yes, the staff is nice, the location may be perfect, but if you picture yourself in the same spot years down the road and that’s not where you want to be, you have the right to reconsider your options. I might even add that the pressure of making such a decision may be greater for an athlete, given the fewer years they have to make it as a legendary star or risk retiring quietly and relatively unknown. Let’s be honest, no one wants to see their life’s work go unnoticed. So, we’re passionate about our sports teams; and that’s understandable. Yet, we shouldn’t let that fire assist us in dehumanizing the athletes that we claim to love so much. The fact of the matter is that they have important career decisions to make just as we do. Thus, while we may not always be thrilled or even pleased by the outcomes of the choices they make, we should at least respectfully acknowledge them and keep our focus on the teams we faithfully root for.
As a new NSU Shark this fall, you have the unique opportunity to participate in NSU’s Experiential Education and Learning (ExEL) initiative. Through ExEL, you will be exposed to a world of hands-on opportunities that enrich your academic life while helping you reach your professional and personal goals. At NSU, you can ExEL in various ways:

- **Faculty-Mentored Research**
  Conduct research with your faculty members for deeper connections with your studies. Available across all majors and within your areas of interest.

- **Professional Growth/Internships**
  Gain the knowledge, contacts, and hands-on experience you’ll need to secure the professional roles you seek after graduation.

- **Experiential Coursework**
  Learn more and dive deeper into your coursework to go beyond the lecture hall and into our STEM labs, the field, and performing and visual art studios and theatres.

- **Community Engagement/Service**
  NSU has received national recognitions as a community engaged institution, and you can be a part of that by participating in various community projects.

- **Travel Exploration**
  See and experience a new culture and location while earning credits toward your degree program and fulfill your ExEL requirements at the same time!

Contact us to learn about the ExEL offerings and requirements. [nova.edu/exel](http://nova.edu/exel)
A combination of everyday favorite and home-style menus that feature premium carved meats

Expanding the selection of classic Italian dishes to include signature recipes and oven baked daily pastas

New food trends that key into growing alternative menu choices including vegan & entrees made without gluten ingredients

Self service style salad bar with more variety including delicious ready to eat in-house prepared salads

International fare representing the different flavors, spices, and cooking techniques around the world

FOR ALL LOCATIONS, HOURS & MENUS, VISIT dineoncampus.com/nova
“Big Fish Theory” by Vince Staples

California rapper Vince Staples has been on a significant rise in the underground hip-hop scene since his debut in 2010. The 24-year-old fronted a featured artist on popular tracks from the now mostly defunct Odd Future group, with rappers such as Earl Sweatshirt and Tyler, The Creator. Since then, he released four mixtapes, two EPs and his second studio album on June 23, “Big Fish Theory.”

The majority of his releases have garnered positive reception from critics and fans alike, especially his 2015 album “Summertime ‘06” and last year’s EP “Prima Donna.”

“Big Fish Theory,” however, is a result of Staples taking a much more experimental approach to his production that doesn’t always fully deliver. Staples has always taken most of his songwriting inspiration from his experience growing up in a city heavily permeated by the violence and chaos of gang culture. He has written many strong verses on this subject throughout his career with many stories left to tell. Still, seven years is a long time to write about the same subject, and as a result, some of the tracks on this record come off as stale, low effort and redundant.

Best cuts

The record’s second track, “Big Fish,” is the strongest from the album’s first half. Staples delivers contemplative verses on his involvement in the music industry and whether it has actually affected him in any significant way, peppered with his usual references to his neighborhood and old gang. While the production is just as frigid and unforgiving as ever, there is a greater sense of charisma and confidence on this track that builds a lot of steam for the listener. The instrumental produced by Christian Rich is a stark departure from the usually dark and forbidding beats that drive Staples’ verses. Instead of gutteral and rattling beats, the sounds are more contemporary and “pop-y,” filled with watery synthy riffs and crisp, clear synths that really reinforce the song’s focus.

“Yeah Right” is reminiscent of Staples’ older tracks but with an even more jaggied texture. The instrumental put forth by experimental electronic producers SOPHIE and Flume features erratic and staggered percussion that gives the beats a bit of a jolt, while the cold brass sounds of Staples lays down a few charged verses of how skeptical he is about most rappers shatter glass. Staples lays down a few charged verses of how skeptical he is about most rappers actually living the lives that they brag about and is backed up by an additional verse from fellow rapper, Kendrick Lamar. This cut is the most interesting and layered of the whole record and Lamar’sFlameless verse is icing on the cake.

Worst cuts

“475” has overcomplicated and tinted instrumentals on the record, produced by Jimmy Edgar. It takes the jazzy synths and bass of the G-Funk genre and mimes it with some rolling hi hats and snare to give it a little trap influence. However, the lyrics detailing Staples’ struggles with a girl on a date and the redundant hook are like expired chocolate chips on top of the instrumental’s delicious ice cream.

Similarly, the track “SAMO” suffers from uninspired songwriting as well as another SOPHIE instrumental that is a little too repetitive to be interesting for more than 20 seconds.

Final thoughts

It’s clear that Staples has not lost his ability to provide impactful and visually arresting beats, but the visual experience that he provides with his brand of charisma and confidence has yet to come off in a more cohesive way, peppered with his usual references to his own life.

The track “Rapper” is a stark departure from the usually dark and foreboding beats that drive Staples’ verses. The instrumental produced by Christian Rich is a stark departure from the usually dark and forbidding beats that drive Staples’ verses. Instead of gutteral and rattling beats, the sounds are more contemporary and “pop-y,” filled with watery synthy riffs and crisp, clear synths that really reinforce the song’s focus.

“Yeah Right” is reminiscent of Staples’ older tracks but with an even more jaggied texture. The instrumental put forth by experimental electronic producers SOPHIE and Flume features erratic and staggered percussion that gives the beats a bit of a jolt, while the cold brass sounds of Staples lays down a few charged verses of how skeptical he is about most rappers shatter glass. Staples lays down a few charged verses of how skeptical he is about most rappers actually living the lives that they brag about and is backed up by an additional verse from fellow rapper, Kendrick Lamar. This cut is the most interesting and layered of the whole record and Lamar’sFlameless verse is icing on the cake.

“Big Fish Theory” that muddles an album which would otherwise be a crystal-clear EP. While there are some shining examples of Staples’ talent on the record, “Big Fish Theory” comes off as a half-baked endeavor that ultimately leaves a lot more to be desired.
We may be a little biased, but we think our staff is the best. Take the time to learn a little more about our work family that brings you a hot-off-the-press issue of The Current every Tuesday morning.

Jenna Kopec

Jenna is a junior communication major with a concentration in journalism and a minor in gender studies. She is the co-editor-in-chief of The Current and is interning for the Department of Writing and Communication for the fall semester. Most of her time is spent writing, but she loves to find new ways to utilize her creativity. You can usually find her catching up with friends over iced coffee, looking at cute dogs on Instagram or planning her next adventure.

Jeweliana Register

Jeweliana is a senior communication major with a passion for journalism, public relations and social media. Jeweliana serves as the arts and entertainment editor at The Current and is interning for the Department of Writing and Communication for the fall semester. Most of her time is spent writing, but she loves to find new ways to utilize her creativity. You can usually find her catching up with friends over iced coffee, looking at cute dogs on Instagram or planning her next adventure.

Danielle Pucillo

Danielle is a business administration major with a minor in communication. She is the multimedia manager for The Current, and is also a photographer for Life365 Portraits. She is a member of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority as the Director of Scholarship and Ritualist. She has been working for The Current since March of 2017, but has been a contributing writer since November of last year. Danielle is a huge advocate for human rights and animal rights. She is also a huge advocate for human rights and animal rights. She is also a huge advocate for human rights and animal rights. She is also a huge advocate for human rights and animal rights.

Gabrielle Thompson

Gabrielle is a junior communication major and marketing minor, and is very proud to be this year’s features editor for The Current. She is also the Vice President of Programming for her sorority, Sigma Delta Tau. When she’s not on campus, you can probably find Gabby re-reading a Jane Austen book, attending concerts or obsessing over dogs.

Fiorella Marquez

Fiorella is a graduate student in the Mental Health Counseling Master’s Program and is serving as the business manager at The Current. Due to her passion to help others, she chose to pursue a career that solely helps others with their struggles. In her free time, Fiorella likes to give back to the community, sing, color and spend quality time with her loved ones. Fiorella is a huge advocate for human rights and proudly considers herself a feminist. You can probably find Fiorella humming “Beauty and the Beast” songs and learning about what makes other people happy.
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FreeDumb Reigns

With three weeks to go before the start of the Fall 2017 semester, most college students had begun to purchase school supplies and order textbooks. FreeDumb, the online organization responsible for leaking digital copies of college textbooks, had other plans. The perception of the group changes depending on which circle you stand in, with some calling the band “digital buccaneers.” Others simply know them as heroes.

The coterie have reportedly stolen and amassed a collection of more than 50,000 digital copies of textbooks for distribution to college students fed up with having to pay tuition and for the cost of school materials to get that education. Among the companies to cite losses are Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Chegg.

In an exclusive statement provided to CNN, the group indicated that they were enrolled in traditional four-year colleges and have had enough of “corporations draining their pockets of everything including the twenty-five cents reserved for their Ramen noodle dinners.”

“Students already have it hard enough having to leave college with thousands of dollars of debt,” read the statement. “So, we decided to make these copies available to college students on our website for free.”

This, of course, was true until Aug. 18 when the group was forced to take down their website due to an IP address compromise. In a tweet on a since deleted page, FreeDumb said that the decision was made to protect the location of their headquarters as the glitch could have exposed their whereabouts to authority figures seeking to apprehend them. Although, they noted that students would still be able to download materials through a link provided on their server’s backchannel: freedumbreigns.org.

Authorities are urging persons who have any information which could lead to FreeDumb’s arrest to come forward. However, the majority of the public seems to be against turning in the group’s members, as seen in responses like:

“Let FreeDumb (b)ring … me free textbook!” - stay_rollin_dough

As a college student, it’s hard not to see this as a little victory; even if I’m still trying to find my way into that backchannel to access my free downloads. Here’s hoping that companies will make these copies available to college students.

Loving yourself, and your ‘freshman 15’

One of the most overemphasized changes you might encounter as you enter college – or might still be encountering in your second, third or fourth year of it – is the dreaded “freshman 15.” This term refers to the 15 pounds you may gain upon beginning college due to unhealthy eating habits, a lack of exercise and a general increase in stress levels. What people often fail to take into account, however, is that these same circumstances can often lead to losing weight – which can be just as upsetting – and the importance of remaining body positive in the face of disorienting change.

Whether you’re a commuter student still living at home or you live in a residence hall hours away from where you grew up, you’re probably spending a majority of your time on campus in class or studying. As a result, you’ll probably want to partake in the food offerings and you will never be satisfied with yourself. Your mental health and self-esteem will suffer as a result. As long as you work to be a better version of yourself, however, you’ll see progress you can truly be proud of.

Avoid comparing yourself to others, whether they’re your classmates, people you follow on social media, or that fit stranger you envy at the gym. Life is about constantly working on yourself and improving where you can. By comparing yourself to others, you’ll always find someone that is better than you are at something, and you will see this act of rebellion more as a distress signal from penny-pinching college students.
Embrace the change

By: Gabrielle Thompson
Features Editor

College is an exciting place filled with new experiences around every corner. But, as with any big change in life, it can be a bit nerve wracking. Feeling comfortable in an unknown place that you suddenly have to call home isn’t exactly the easiest. Luckily, everything gets better with time.

Chances are, everybody is going to be feeling the exact same way you do. This includes your roommate, who just happens to be the perfect person to help you get acclimated. Having a friend to explore the campus with definitely makes it an easier and less frightening task. Not to mention, you get to spend more time with your roommate, which could result in making a new best friend. My roommate was a lot more outgoing than me, so going to new places and meeting new people seemed a lot simpler with her by my side.

Relying on a set schedule is what helped me adjust the most to my new life on campus. If you’re doing the same thing over and over again, it quickly becomes another everyday routine. After a couple weeks of class, I started to feel more comfortable with my surroundings. Once I knew how to get around campus, I felt more confident and focused on exploring more and becoming comfortable with the whole town.

You can never truly become comfortable in a place unless you fully immerse yourself. The more you do it, the better you’ll feel. Pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone is hard, but it is extremely rewarding once it’s over. Going away to college is definitely a life-changing process, but if you can make your new home here, you can do it anywhere.

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INTERESTED IN NEWS, WRITING, OR PHOTOGRAPHY? COME TO THE CURRENT’S MEETINGS IN SAB 104. AND YES, THERE WILL BE FREE FOOD.

By: Gabrielle Thompson
Features Editor

Many changes were made in preparation for the Fall 2017 semester, but if you could suggest one more change to the NSU administration, what would it be?

- Oriana Lopez, sophomore international studies major
  “As of right now, I truly believe that Nova is at its peak point. The only thing that I might have complained about before was the food and now that they changed it – I don’t want to say that the food is great because I haven’t tried it yet – but I truly believe that Nova’s great with all of the clubs, greek life and people in general so right now I wouldn’t change anything.”

- Marissa Jimenez, first-year optometry student
  “Currently in HPD they have the study spaces out in the hallways and it gets really loud and it echoes, so maybe adding more study spaces in the Alvin Sherman [library] -- not necessarily study rooms but study spaces -- would be helpful.”

- Danielle Pierce, senior education major
  “I would like to see more diversity of majors on campus because like with me, they phased out the PK/primary education program. So, now you’re either doing elementary ed or special ed and I think that they should reimplement it because if you’re not majoring in those areas then you just don’t go here.”

- Alexandra Barth, graduate marine biology student
  “From what I’ve seen so far on the campus -- it’s definitely a lot bigger than where I went to do school for my undergraduate career and it seems like they have all their bases covered … it’s a beautiful campus; it has tons of resources so I really can’t think of any suggestions at the moment.”

- Jessica Stone, first-year optometry student
  “More study rooms and study places in general. We have study places in HPD but they’re remodeling so we don’t really have anywhere at the moment to study, so we’re having to come over to Alvin.”

- Kendely Romero, senior environmental science major
  “For me, personally, I feel like I haven’t been able to get that complete student experience because I’m a commuter student – it’s more like people who live on campus that get that and I feel like I’m missing out on that part.”

- Andy Pierre-Louis, senior communication major
  “I would personally like to see a change in the menu options on campus. There are a lot of students here that come from different ethnicities and different cultures and I feel like we should cater more to our vast student population; not just in the UC Pit but all over campus.”

- Andy Pierre-Louis, senior communication major

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