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The Current

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## The Current Volume 30 : Issue 9

Nova Southeastern University

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## NSU receives grants from NOAA to further marine research

By: Madelyn Rinka  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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NSU has received over \$4 million from two grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These grants are designated to help further the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography's research in "Deep-Pelagic Fauna" and "Highly Migratory Species Research in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico."

A \$2.7 million, five-year grant will help support the research of deep-pelagic fauna in the Gulf of Mexico, led by Tracey Sutton,

professor in the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, along with other scientists from NSU, NOAA, Florida Atlantic University, the University of South Florida and Florida International University. The grant is funded by a program called RESTORE (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies), which, according to their website, gave approximately \$15.6 million to four teams announced in early October.

"We're trying to solve a problem — and

the main problem is that the vast majority of the Gulf of Mexico is deep. We tend to think of it as kind of shallow, because that's what we're used to, but about 92% of the Gulf of Mexico has water deeper than 200 meters. The problem is that, before the oil spill, we didn't know what was down that deep. When the spill happened, we didn't have any baseline information for what might have been affected," explained Sutton.

Sutton is the director for a consortium called DEEPEND, which stands for Deep Pelagic Nekton Dynamics. One of the benefits of having a large research group for the project is having experts in various fields of study, such as fishes, pelagic shrimp, squids and their relatives, jellyfish and other unique organisms. The consortium began its research after an oil spill in 2010, and is trying to determine the long term patterns of deep water life in the Gulf and whether or not it is still being impacted by the spill. The spill made evident how little data was available for deep water ecosystems, according to Sutton.

"The oil industry itself is going deeper and deeper, so spills like the Deep Water Horizon are actually more likely to happen in the future than less likely. [We need] a baseline of what's there in case we have another oil spill," said Sutton.

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) research project, which received \$1.6 million from NOAA's Sea Grant, will focus on the life history data of these species in hopes of better

managing sustainable fishing. The research will take place in regions in the northwest Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico and will be conducted by researchers from NSU, the University of Maine, Mote Marine Laboratory and Auburn University as a part of Pelagic Ecosystem Research Consortium (PERC).

Three of the four researchers for the project serve on the HMS advisory panel, which is a NOAA appointed group of fishermen, anglers, academics and conservation group representatives that provide guidance for the management of these species in the Atlantic. David Kerstetter, an associate professor in the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, explained that, over the years, these species were not getting enough funding to provide data on reproduction, survival data for bycatch reduction purposes and more. By producing this data, PERC is hoping to improve U.S. and international management of species such as tuna, yellowfin, marlin, sailfish and swordfish, among others.

"This is a huge economic driver for a lot of coastal communities," said Kerstetter. "All the charter boats you see coming out of Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Keys are often times targeting these tunas and billfishes, so that's the recreational side. Every time you go get a sushi roll at Publix, you're eating tuna that were caught by the HMS commercial fisheries. Even though you might not think about HMS fishes, you probably see evidence of their economic impact on a daily basis."

Further information about DEEPEND Consortium's projects and research can be found at [deependconsortium.org](http://deependconsortium.org).

For more information about the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, visit [cnso.nova.edu/index.html](http://cnso.nova.edu/index.html).



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We meet Tuesdays,  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.,  
in the Student Affairs  
Building Room 104





## global news, courtesy of the current

### Ancient coffins found

Last week, over 20 ancient wooden coffins were found by archaeologists near the Egyptian city of Luxor. The coffins were found in two layers on the Nile River's west bank in the Theban necropolis of Asasif. The majority of the tombs are from the Late Period, 664-332BC, of Ancient Egypt; however, there are tombs in the collection from the early period of the 18th Dynasty, 1550-1292BC. According to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiques, the area that the coffins were found is now being claimed as an ancient "industrial area" that included houses for storage and cleaning of funerary furniture with pottery dating back to the 18th Dynasty. According to BBC, "The ministry described the discovery as 'one of the largest and most important' in recent years."

### Farmers fighting blame

Last Wednesday, thousands of Dutch farmers began protesting at The Hague, a city on the North Sea coast of western Netherlands where the seat of the Dutch parliament is located. The protest was aimed at the government as they plan to reduce nitrogen and carbon emissions. The farmers claim, however, that the government is unfairly targeting them for emissions. According to the Associated Press, "[the

farmers] argue that the government's plans are based on inaccurate readings and calculations by the government-funded National Institute for Public Health and the Environment." The farmers disagree, arguing that the nitrogen measuring they carry out is "robust and scientifically responsible." The program the Dutch government is planning on implementing involves buying old inefficient farms and subsidiaries to help modernize other farms, and in turn, decrease carbon and nitrogen emissions.

### Professor accused of selling Bible fragments

The Egyptian Exploration Society, ESS, has accused Oxford University professor, Dirk Obbink, of selling ancient fragments of the Bible. The 11 pieces in question are from the Oxyrhynchus Collection, a group of ancient manuscripts discovered in the late 19th century located near Oxyrhynchus in Egypt. The professor apparently sold the pieces in two batches in 2010 to the U.S. corporation Hobby Lobby. The artifacts were taken from the Sackler Library at Oxford University and ended up in possession of the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., but are currently being arranged to be returned to the ESS.

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## News Anchor

Stay up to date with national events.

### Northeast gets hit by a Nor'easter

Late last week, more than 500,000 customers in New England were left without power as over 90 mile per hour winds hit the East Coast. According to The New York Times, meteorologists described this storm as a "bomb cyclone," or a winter hurricane, which occurs when atmospheric pressure drops dramatically and a mass of warm air meets cold air creating a cyclonic effect. The storm strengthened as it moved up the coastline with an atmospheric pressure drop of 24.7 millibars. Other than power outages, the northeast coast also faced downed power lines, trees and other similar natural fallings of this caliber.

### Chicago Teachers Union on strike

On Thursday, the Chicago Teachers' Union held a rally after the union's House of Delegates rejected the mayor's and Chicago Board of Education's

latest proposal. The union is fighting for more influence over the direction of the school system, including base-pay raises, staffing, class sizes and prep time demands. According to the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Public Schools announced that it has canceled classes for the day in anticipation of a walkout. CTU President Jesse Sharkey said a deal was unlikely at the time, but there is optimism for future negotiations.

### Vaping study links e-liquids to lung complications

On Wednesday, a study published in the Cancer Prevention Research journal, found that vaping e-liquids, especially those containing glycol and glycerin may lead to inflammation in the lungs. Dr. Peter Shields, a medical oncologist and the study's lead author told CNN that the findings come as no surprise, but says it's not a conclusion to the issue. "I would not make the conclusion that this shows that e-cigs are harmful to your health, but

[only] one piece of evidence for that," said Shields.

### Florida policy bans sunscreens to protect coral reefs

Florida Senator Linda Stewart proposed a bill this past week that would require a prescription to use sunscreens that include oxybenzone and octinoxate in their list of ingredients. These two chemicals are linked to coral bleaching and coral reef health. According to CNN, this bill would ban sunscreens with these ingredients and "Reef-safe" sunscreens with zinc oxide, an FDA-approved chemical, would replace banned sunscreens on store shelves within the state. This ban is in an effort to protect the nearby reefs that are essential to tourism and marine diversity. This bill will be in effect by January 2021.

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## NSU to hold mock interview night

By: Emma Heineman

Features Editor

The Office of Career Development, the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the HR Advisory Board, and the NSU SHRM chapter will be hosting a mock interview night on Nov. 13 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the Carl DeSantis Atrium. It is open to all NSU students who want to practice their interviewing skills and expand their professional networks.

The interviews range anywhere from marketing positions to management and finance positions. When students sign up for the event, they will have to RSVP on Handshake and email their resume. When they arrive the day of the event, they will receive a packet with a list of who they will be interviewing with. Each student is guaranteed two interviews from a

large selection of employers.

Emilio Lorenzo, the associate director of employer relations at NSU, said, "Even if you don't want to work for one of the companies in attendance, the event is a chance [for students] to get their brand out there and get comfortable with how to sell themselves to other individuals... you may be a good public speaker, but interviewing is kind of like baseball because the longer you go without having one, even if you are experienced, you need to get some rust off. What better way to do it than to interview with someone who wants to give you feedback and help you grow?"

Johnny Kevorkian, the graduate assistant for employer relations, also recommended that students visit the Career Development Office

at NSU in order to prepare and put their best foot forward at the event. He said, "Making an appointment with Career Development can help students fix their resumes and get it catered towards what companies they want to meet with."

In addition to resume services, the Office of Career Development also offers interview prep and assistance for students to develop their networking and professional skills. Even if your resume is fine, setting up an appointment is still a great chance to make yourself shine. Kevorkian explained that students should also be ready to talk about themselves when networking with professionals. Unlike a career fair, which allows students to network with potential employers in a relaxed setting, an interview allows students

to get a personal opportunity to meet and talk to professionals.

Lorenzo also highlighted the importance of networking in future employment and professional opportunities by saying, "Today, 80% of the jobs we get are through our network and who we know, so what better way to do that than [by making] connections with people who have real decision-making abilities. I think it's very important, no matter where you stand on your professional development, to constantly push yourself out of your comfort zone."

For additional information or to RSVP, visit <http://app.joinhandshake.com/events/333493>.

## Get to networking

By: Rick Esner

News Editor

The dates for NSU's Levan Ambassadors Board monthly breakfasts have been announced and can be found on Handshake. The breakfasts provide an opportunity for students to connect with senior-level professionals who are members of the Levan Ambassadors Board. The aim of the events is to expose students to C-suite level executives who are connected to the university and, in a group setting, broaden their skill sets. Through the events, students have the opportunity to reflect on their intended professions as well as their life after NSU.

After registering, students are to inform their career advisor of their major and professional interests in order to be paired with a member of the Levan Ambassadors Board. Upon attendance, students will check-in, grab breakfast and mingle. Afterwards, the actual

meeting begins and will include two faculty speakers who present their personal research and share about their career path. According to Meagan Jones, assistant director of Career Advising, "At the beginning, they have an opportunity to sit with their host, ideally hoping that host talks about how they got through their field and the path they took to get to where they are now. After the breakfast, we hope that students have a shadowing opportunity based on the rapport created [during the event]."

When asked about the Levan Ambassadors Board itself, Isabella Soublette, assistant director of the Susie and Alan B. Levan Ambassador and Fellow Society, explained that the ambassadors themselves "Are connected with the university in some way. They are philanthropists really looking to further NSU,

whether it be through education, healthcare or all the different things NSU has to offer." The event encourages students to establish connections and build networks during their years at NSU as well as after graduation.

"With our NSU sharks, we really want them to have an opportunity to be competitive in their field, so if they can make that first connection point with a host who has already established this rigor and amazing opportunity in their field, we really want out students to be able to learn [that] you have to know how to communicate," mentioned Jones.

Before students can attend any of the breakfasts, they must first meet with their career advisor to learn more about the Ambassadors Board and the breakfasts as a whole. "We want to make sure they research the host that they are

matched with, are in business professional attire and really understand what the professional development opportunity is," explained Jones. Students will also discuss and learn from their career advisor follow-up opportunities attached to these events.

Each month, there is a breakfast meeting for students to attend, running until May. The breakfasts' locations will also be changing each month, taking place in different areas around campus. If a student is interested in attending, they should reach out to their career advisor and RSVP for the date they would like to attend on Handshake. Only four students are able to attend each event, so be sure to register and get to networking!



## News Briefs

get the scoop on events happening on campus

### The Commons Haunted House

The haunted house held by the Office of Residential Life and Housing in The Commons will be on Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. The theme this year is 'Throwback Thrashers,' and features four different scare areas, including "Freddy versus Jason," "It," "Chainsaw Massacre" and "Insane Asylum." The haunted house is the conclusion to HalloWeek at NSU, and on Oct. 22, there will be an escape room in the Leo Goodwin Sr. Residence Hall. Then, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m., an event titled "Halloweentown: A Frightfully Fun Affair" will go down in the FFV Pagoda. All events are open to students.

### Innovative Leadership Experience

The third Innovative Leadership Experience

workshop will be held on Oct. 28, and will include a series of workshops that put emphasis on engaging with professionals, building one's network and learning about oneself through activities and personal reflection. There are five workshops being held in the fall semester and five more will be held in the winter semester, each focusing on different competencies related to leadership. The upcoming workshop is titled "Meaningful Interpersonal Relationships," followed by a "Multicultural Competency Workshop" on Nov. 11 and "Leadership Development Workshop" on Nov. 25. Students who register and attend seven of the 10 sessions will receive both an Innovative Leadership Experience certificate and a recognition pin. If interested, students can sign up on SharkHub.

### Book Sale

The 28th Semi-Annual Used Book Sale will be occurring Oct. 24-26. The sale will feature plenty of used books, CDs, DVDs and video games, taking place in the Alvin Sherman Library from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the first two days, then 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the final day. Only checks and cash will be accepted as no scanners will be present at the sale. Additionally, there will be a pre-sale event on Oct. 23. The pre-sale is being hosted by Circle of Friends at the library from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the West End Deli on the first floor. The pre-sale, however, is only open to those 21 years or older as the event will feature drinks, conversation and books. Pre-sale registration can be done online at [lib.nova.edu/BB](http://lib.nova.edu/BB). The normal sale dates are open to everyone and does not require prior registration.



# In the midst of LGBTQ History Month – How does the sky look, transgender students?

By: **Linh Tran**  
Contributing Writer

I met A on a beautiful day in fall. Shyness and some insecurity were distinctly shown on his bright face and I wondered when was the last time someone sat down and talked to him about gender identity. On official documents authorized by NSU, A always fills out a preferred name he created for himself and checks the “other” checkbox for gender. He has attempted tirelessly to apprise people of his self-identity, which he has been discovering for the past seven years. People do hear his voice, but they don’t always listen.

In May, A was originally assigned to a double room in a dorm with a girl. He believed that he would not find comfort living there and consequently contacted the housing office via email to request the change into a boy’s room. He needed to live in a space that fit his gender identity, which he already clearly stated on all recorded documents. The process

was unsurprisingly painstaking – not until late July did the housing office respond to his email and a search for his new room was started, but in a patience-stretching way. Not everyone was willing to share a room with a transgender, or a pre-operative transgender, except for most people in the same community as him. He eventually found a gay friend who was also looking for somebody in the LGBTQ community to share a room with.

A at least had a shelter that gave him a sense of security, but obviously he could not stay inside around the clock. Using public restrooms was no longer a basic human deed for him, but an act of bravery that he would not bring up in everyday conversation; peers stared at him as he entered the male bathroom - some with curiosity, some with judgment and some with even aversion.

“Most of the times, I try to use the bathroom

in my dorm and the one where I work. It’s a unisex one.”

“Why? Are you afraid?”

A hesitant head nod splintered my heart deeply.

A plans to have his first testosterone hormone injection in a couple of months at the Sun Serve clinic in Wilton Manors, Florida. Even though his NSU health insurance did not cover this treatment plan and this decision may drive a permanent wedge between him and his family, this was everything that mattered to him.

“It’s just extremely mentally disturbing and damaging to have a physical life as a female and I don’t think I can carry on living as I am right now. This is a change that is meant to happen in order for me to live the rest of my life.”

I no longer saw a reserved and timid A, but a person of determination striving for his desired life. I had no idea how much struggle

and courage it took to have such a beautifully strong person in front of me.

“If you can make three requests to NSU for better protection for transgender students, what would they be?”

“First, I’d like to be able to use my preferred name on Canvas, my school email, and school ID instead of my birth name. Secondly, it would be much appreciated to have gender-inclusive bathrooms on campus. Lastly, I wish transgender resources could be more accessible, especially in terms of healthcare, because the clinic on campus does not have the medication I need.”

After my long talk with A, I still saw the beauty of fall upon the sky. I just wondered if the sky looked the same in the eyes of A and other transgender students.

## History of spooky traditions

By: **Tava Boeckel**  
Contributing Writer

The spookiest of seasons is now upon us and the masses will flock to each other’s homes for tricks and treats while donning all sorts of costumes. One may even be lucky enough to have a black cat cross their path. Since Halloween is deeply tied to a multitude of cultures, it is formed by a mixture of various traditions.

### Costumes and trick-or-treating

The most famous Halloween tradition must be dressing in costume. This tradition dates back furthest to the Celtic festival of Samhain where festival attendees would dress in animal skins to scare away unwelcome spirits. By 1000 CE, the Romans overtook the Celtic lands and began spreading Christianity, which celebrates All Souls Day on Nov. 2. This is when poor villagers went around town promising to pray for the souls of others in exchange for food or

ale. When these different traditions mixed, thus began the tradition of costumes. As European immigrants came to the Americas, especially the Irish immigration of the 1840s, these traditions were brought over and celebrated. The traditions were spreading, and by the 1920s, mischief and vandalism were also common issues amongst the youth during this time of year. The culture shifted to a community-based holiday in the 1930s to lessen these acts, but this was cut back drastically during World War II due to food rations. Halloween returned with vengeance in the 1950s with the wide-spread availability of sugar for candies and the creation of the suburbs. This gave way to the iconic term trick-or-treat, which implied no mischief in exchange for treats and is still popularly used today.

### Pumpkin carving

The famous Jack O’ Lantern that we

associate with pumpkins originally came from the carving of root vegetables like potatoes or beets. This Irish tradition comes from the tale of Stingy Jack, a man who trapped the devil. The tale goes that Jack invited the devil for a drink, then trapped him in exchange for not going to hell. Jack then trapped the devil a second time to prevent him from having his revenge. The devil gave him coal and told him to “Find his own hell.” Jack put the coal in a turnip, and when he died, he wasn’t allowed into heaven or hell. He wandered the Earth with the lit vegetable as a sign of his presence. The myth carried on in Ireland for centuries, coming to America with the large influx of Irish immigrants during the famine of the 1840s. In the U.S., the pumpkin was aplenty and easy to carve, therefore, Irish traditions began to change into American cultures, allowing for holidays like Halloween to be celebrated with pumpkin carving traditions.

### Black cats

The black cat is a seasonal mascot for everything spooky and occult. The myth related to these adorable felines is that if you cross their path, you will have a curse of bad luck for seven years. But, where did such a dark myth about such a friendly creature come from? Dating back as far as the Middle Ages of Europe, black cats had a deep association with witches. As the religious based systems of government were avidly against witchcraft, they saw these cats as bad omens that they needed to be rid of. Fear spread throughout Europe and people began to perceive these cats as evil familiars of witches, or even a shapeshifted witch herself. This perception, however, is now the opposite in many places like England and Japan, where black cats are considered bringers of happiness and wealth.

## Tackling climate change as college students

By: **Linh Tran**  
Contributing Writer

While the industrial civilization has been crucially shaping the world we live in, the continuing threat of climate change caused by environmentally harmful substances and industrialized lifestyles is incontrovertible and remains a hot button issue. Just in 2019 alone, the world panicked over the record burnings of the Amazon rainforest. These events indeed present an urgent question: how can we, the members of NSU and inhabitants of the earth, enable our future generations to experience the marvels of our planet that we have been blessed to experience?

In order for NSU students to take action on such a controversial issue, it is important to acknowledge that each of us may hold a distinct stance on the subject. While some perceive the exigency of climate change prevention in a practical way, others may be interested in the scientific study of it or may comprehend the issue through a religious lens. These differences

should not be a surprise. However, as the world itself is inherently diverse, the main focus should always be to find a common ground within these arguments to achieve the desired goals we all share. Regardless of perspectives, a fact is always a fact — and the fact is that the planet’s climate is in extreme danger – and each of us needs to be responsible for this inextricable situation in order to make a change.

Fortunately, at NSU, there are some construction efforts, researches, initiatives and academic instructions across all disciplines regarding climate change that all students should be fully aware of:

### Conservation efforts in building design and construction

Since the 1970’s, NSU has actively applied conservation technologies to the majority of new and existing buildings including high efficiency lighting systems, high efficiency air conditioning

systems, automation computer systems, cost effective utility rates and conservation programs and thermally efficient roofs, windows and walls for buildings. The Strategic Plan for Sustainability, adopted in 2008, empowers the school to practice energy conservation and recycling. Just recently, solar domestic water heaters have been installed in some of the residence halls and Photovoltaic systems have been used to generate clean energy. The university has successfully executed some major changes, so now it’s our turn.

### Academic and extracurricular engagement

The NSU Florida Climate Institute led by the Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography provides an interdisciplinary platform for information and discussion on climate issues for all students. Furthermore, on-campus organizations, such as the Epsilon Eta,

Sigma Chapter of the National Environmental Honors Fraternity, the Green Sharks Student Sustainability Club and The Endangered Species Association, offer students many great opportunities to get immersed in the issue through various activities, trips and meaningful reflections.

### Be a green-living self

Changing everyday habits can hugely impact the global environment. Most of these habits are so simple that they are often times easy to neglect. Therefore, try doing the following to help the planet: turn off lights when leaving a room; refill water bottles; carpool, use shuttles or bike to save fuel; recycle paper, bottles, and plastic; unplug chargers when not in use and take shorter showers. It’s not too difficult to do all that, is it? It is always self-choices and awareness that matter the most.

Go to [nsucurrent.nova.edu](https://nsucurrent.nova.edu)

for more online exclusive features articles!

# The complexity of bilingualism

By: Isadora De Abreu  
Contributing Writer

According to the 2010 U. S. Census Bureau, more than half of the population is bilingual, and in the U.S., the nation known to be a “melting pot” of cultures, the popularity of bilingualism is ever growing. There are approximately 350 languages spoken inside American homes, excluding English. Research conducted in the 15 largest metro areas of the U.S. shows that the percentage of the population that speaks another language at home ranges from 12% in Detroit to 51% in Miami. The situation is not different in high schools and college campuses; students are advised to complete at least two years of a foreign language and in college, a second language is not only an impressive “skill,” but essentially a must-have. Despite the common belief that bilingualism brings benefits in the workforce and in one’s personal life, who actually knows what that means?

Career Advisor Nick Escalante said that being fluent in more than one language is a benefit to working anywhere because you have a greater ability to communicate with more people. He further explained that being proficient in a second language goes beyond understanding the other language, creating an understanding of different cultures as well as different groups of people. “I often find that people with multiple languages tend to have multiple

cultural backgrounds in their upbringing and it allows them to understand different cultures and empathize more efficiently with others who have multiple cultural backgrounds, effectively aiding in bridging gaps and [building] faster rapport,” said Escalante.

The ability to communicate in a different language and understand different cultures is important for any profession. Melinda Luis, an adjunct instructor at NSU, says that, as a dietician, having the ability to be mindful of a patient’s background and primary language is essential to treating that patient properly. She said, “Food is such an important part of people’s lives and culture. [When you work] with people in healthcare that might be ill, you need to know the types of food that are part of their culture within therapeutic guidelines.” As a UNIV instructor, Luis interacts with students from diverse backgrounds and recognizes that there are cultural biases present in healthcare and education. “There have been certain students in my classes that could not do certain activities [because of] religious and cultural beliefs, and it is important to be mindful of that in any profession,” said Luis.

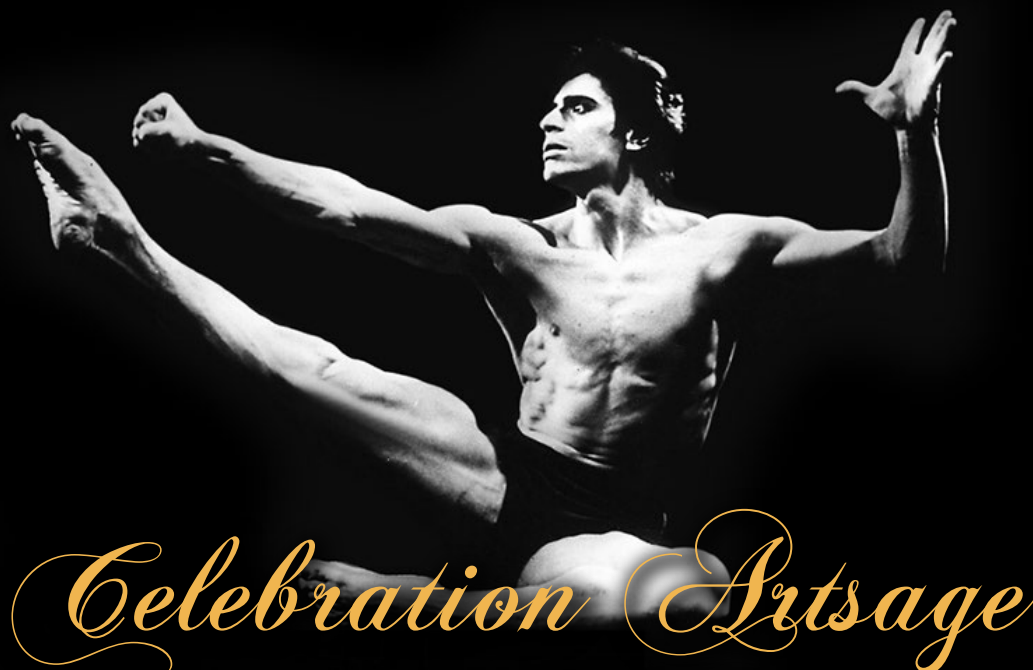
The ability to speak more than one language is also helpful in one’s personal life. Kimber Manley, a sophomore Biology major at

NSU, learned American Sign Language while taking it for three years in high school. She said that it has been an asset when deaf or hard of hearing clients order food at her job. Manley also has a deaf neighbor in her hometown and has served as a translator when necessary. She said, “When my neighbor lost her dog, I was the only one able to communicate with her. It really is a language that should be learned by more people.” For engineering major Tyler Phan, growing up learning Vietnamese gave him the ability to assist customers at the Boba shop he works at. He said, “Many of our customers are Vietnamese and some of them don’t speak English, so I am able to get orders in Vietnamese.” Phan also learned Chinese when he lived in China for two years and said traveling from the U.S. to China to Vietnam allowed him to have access to multiple cultures and ways of living. “I feel like I am more open to trying new things and meeting new people from other places because of the experiences [I have had with other cultures,]” said Phan.

Scientifically, a plethora of research is necessary to fully understand the benefits — if any — of being bilingual. There are differences in electrical activity between a bilingual brain and a monolingual brain, but defining “bilingualism” is a bit complicated. There are

many “types” of bilingualism, and according to Dr. Mercedes Fernandez, a professor in the NSU Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, there are many variables factored in, including the age the person learned a second language and the ways in which that person uses that language on a daily basis. There is a difference between a bilingual exposed to two languages at birth and one that learns a second language after moving to another country. Similarly, there are differences between a bilingual that uses both languages on a daily basis and one who only uses a language when traveling abroad. According to Fernandez, and due to the discrepancies stated above, the major problem in conducting research experiments with bilinguals is that the results are difficult to replicate.

The topic of bilingualism is an interesting area to look at in terms of a career, scientific and personal perspective. It is clear that learning a new language benefits much more than just a resume. It gives you benefits in the workforce when communicating and provides access to new cultures and groups of people. In one way or another, it is really just nice to know you can understand a little bit more of the world.



## Celebration Artsage

### Edward Villella

Legendary American danseur,  
choreographer, and founding artistic  
director of Miami City Ballet

featuring performances by  
**Razors Edge**  
**Shark Talent Scholars**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019**

NSU’s Performance Theatre  
at the Don Taft University Center

**FREE** for NSU students, faculty  
and staff

**\$50** to general public

**NSU**  
Florida  
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UNIVERSITY



*Reception*

6:00 p.m.  
(refreshments served)

*Salon Concert*

7:00 p.m.

*Meet and Greet*

8:15 p.m.

For ticket information, visit  
<https://venetianartssociety.org/events/the-history-of-modern-dance/>



# Halloween crafts

By: **Laurel Gallaudet**  
Contributing Writer

It's October, and if you still aren't feeling the spookiness of the season, you should be. With midterms over and half of the semester already behind us, it's okay to allow yourself a break, and Halloween is the perfect excuse to do just that. If you're looking for a bit of freaky-fun to give your mind a break, here are a few craft ideas to put you in the right mood and get those creative potions flowing.

## Mason-jar lamp

No craft list is complete without something that uses a mason jar. With just a paper cut out of a shape or picture of your choice, some paint and a mason jar, you can make your very own lamp.

Here's what you'll need:

- Mason jar
- Black paper or Halloween stickers (whatever you want your design to be – unless you're making multiple, try them all!)
- Votive candles
- Orange, white or black paint (and big/wide paint brush)
- Tape

1. Taking the construction paper, outline the shape you want to shine through the mason jar. Maybe trace a pumpkin, a cat, a skeleton or whatever you want — as long as it can be cut out relatively easily. For this step, you can even just use stickers that you bought at the store,

since what you'll be doing is taping the shape to the mason jar and painting over it several times. This way, the outside of the jar will be darker, but the light will shine through the shape of your choice brightly.

2. The effect you want will determine how you paint your jar. For example, if you want it to be very opaque and vibrant orange, paint over the mason jar, let it dry, then repeat several times until it is a solid orange color. If you want a more distressed look, paint over it loosely once and don't fill in any of the gaps left by the paintbrush when you paint over it again. Do this maybe only once or twice.

## Spooked milk jug faces

Similar to mason jars, fairy lights are another thing that has recently become a staple of room décor and by association is almost necessary for a cute, easy craft.

For this simple project, here's all that you need:

- Plain white or translucent milk jug
- Black construction paper / Black sharpie marker
- Small fairy lights (probably the metal ones that are very cheap and bendable!)
- Glue/tape
- Scissors

1. If you drink milk, you're already one

step of the way to a spook, which is part of what makes this craft so simple and cheap. Rinse out the jug a few times, making sure it doesn't smell. On your black construction paper, draw and cut out the eyes and mouth of some funny or scary faces, keeping them a size that will take up a good portion of the milk jug. If you would rather just draw them on with a sharpie, feel free to do that as well. You might draw two big ovals for the eyes with just a small dot in the middle and a big smile for the mouth, or maybe just use a circle to look like they're screaming. If you used construction paper, once you have your face, simply tape or glue it to the milk jug the way you want it.

2. Take your wire fairy lights and start loosely threading them into the milk jug, balling them up. Make sure you do this while keeping the battery pack, or on/off buttons, in your hand as you thread the opposite side in. Fold some tape in a tube form, as if you were about to try to use it to stick something to a wall, and stick the tape on the battery pack, or on/off button, to the inside of the milk jug on the side that doesn't have the face on it, so you can more easily access it. You might want to lightly shake the jug around once you've put them inside so the light is more balanced inside. Now, turn them on and admire your spooked light-up companion.

## Vampire donuts

If food is more your style, whether you're

hosting a party, bringing snacks to your study group or just want something fun, these donuts are for you. Maybe the easiest (and tastiest) craft on this list, all you need for these blood-sucking treats are:

- Dozen (or however many you want) of glazed donuts
- The same number of fake fangs
- M&Ms or similar chocolate candies

This is an easy one for the foodie in us all. Taking fake fangs, simply stick them in the middle of the donuts in various ways, making the donuts look like they have mouths with their fangs wide open to grab a bite of you before you can get a taste of them. Now, take the M&Ms, or chocolate candies, and stick them on the donuts in the glaze, making them look like eyes. If you want a little extra flair, take some red icing or jelly and smear lines on the donuts coming from the fangs, making it look like blood. Let the fangs and "eyes" sit for a while and then enjoy your deliciously eerie snack. This way, if you're having a party or just giving out snacks, your guests can enjoy a tasty treat and get extra spooky with their very own pair of fangs.

# How to throw a last-minute Halloween party

By: **Madelyn Rinka**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As we dive deeper into October, the time allotted to planning a Halloween bash is dwindling. Don't wait for someone else to invite you to a party — throw one yourself. Keep reading for some tips on how to host your very own quick and inexpensive spooky celebration.

## DIY decorations

Halloween decorations can be expensive, and by the time the holiday rolls around, a lot of the good items are already sold out. Turn your house or room into a haunted mansion by pulling apart cotton balls into fine strands. Lace your new spider webs around any and all surfaces. Summon some spirits by using cloth

or crepe paper over a volleyball and hanging it from a tree or window. Just be creative and look online for inspiration and tutorials to spruce — or spook — up your party scene.

## Whip up some quick snacks

If you're planning a last-minute Halloween party, you really don't have to serve your guests a five-course meal. Instead, head to your local Target or grocery store and look for any Halloween themed snacks to make it a bit easier on yourself. If you really want to make some treats yourself, look for quick recipes that don't require a lot of effort. Consider dripping cherry pie filling down pre-made cupcakes for

a vampire-esque twist or making dirt cups with pudding, crushed chocolate cookies and gummy worms. You can also fill a punch bowl with red fruit juice, floating gummy eyeballs and chocolate fingers on top.

## Take it easy on the entertainment

Setting up an intricate mystery game or haunted house might be a little ambitious in a shorter time frame. Instead, plan activities that don't require as much prep work. Consider painting pumpkins, baking treats (cover entertainment and snacks in one activity!), playing Halloween-themed charades or having a costume fashion show. Sometimes, just hanging

out with friends and playing a few board games is enough to entertain a crowd, too.

## Find activities you don't need to plan

Instead of putting all of the burden on yourself to entertain your guests, find something in the area to do. Check out scary movies that are in theaters, haunted houses, escape rooms or any other fun activities in the area — you can find some ideas on our Offshore Calendar as well. If you still want to hang out with your friends, plan for a few snacks and refreshments to have at your place afterwards.

# History of synthesizer music

By: **Ashley Diaz**  
Contributing Writer

Synthesizers are a kind of electronic instrument that creates sounds. A synthesizer instrument can imitate the sound of a bass guitar, any natural sound or even make a completely new sound. As provided by Performer magazine, the synthesizer was first created by Thomas Edison in 1877 when he cut a signal into a cylinder and synthesized his own voice. According to Britannica, the first synthesizer made for the sole purpose of creating music was built by two acoustical engineers, Harry Olson and Herbert Belar, in 1955 at the Radio Corporation of America, but it wasn't until the 1960s-70s that the synthesizer was actually used as a device to create music.

As stated by Performer, during the 1970s, Engineer Bob Moog collaborated with an experimental composer named Herbert Deutsch. This collaboration led to them creating a prototype synthesizer used for music called the Moog Modular Synthesizer. The Moog Modular Synthesizer was the first step in synthesizers in pop music. Then in 1968, according to BBC, "Wendy Carlos' Switched-On Bach as the first popular album to incorporate synthesizers, which had been confined to use by experimental artists until that point." Carlos performed pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach on the Moog modular synthesizer, which showed the potential the prototype had in making music. A decade

later, real musicians began using synthesizers; Kraftwerk and Tangerine Dream are electronic bands from Germany in the 1970's that used the synthesizers to create a new sound. The synthesizers helped Kraftwerk in 1974 to recreate the sounds of trucks, cars and bridges that could be heard driving through Germany.

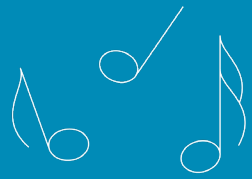
These experimentations with the synthesizer gave rise to the "synth-pop era." According to BBC, most of the pop groups that started using synthesizers in the late 70s used futuristic sounds with pop hooks; their music in the late 70s made it to the top in no time. Without any of the artists that experimented with the synthesizers, we wouldn't have a portion of

the music we listen to now; in fact, some of Lady Gaga's early music would not have been the same without the use of synthesizers.

Prog-rock, soul, hip-hop, grime and more genres of music also use synthesizers. For instance, artists like Snoop Doog, Kanye West, Pink Floyd and De La Soul have used synth music to create top hits, and if you want to listen to popular synth-music, then consider listening to "Old Town Road" by Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, "Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish, "I Don't Care" by Ed Sheeran featuring Justin Bieber, "ME!" by Taylor Swift featuring Panic at the Disco's Brendon Urie and "Talk" by Khalid.

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# SOUNDBITE



## “LEGACY! LEGACY!” by Jamila Woods

By: Tava Boeckel  
Contributing Writer

Jamila Woods released her R&B album “LEGACY! LEGACY!” in May 2019 as a tribute to what has inspired her in life. The Chicago-based artist pulls from many genres to create her music while her words tell beautiful stories about perseverance and growth surrounding the titles of the song, each one-word name associated with inspirational people. Some songs, such as “EARTHA” and “FRIDA,” are instantly recognizable, referencing Eartha Kitt and Frida Kahlo, but others, like “GIOVANNI” and “OCTAVIA,” are more personal, referring to poet Nikki Giovanni and afro-futuristic author Octavia Butler. Both women influenced Woods greatly in her childhood, and she shares their work with her poetry students.

The first track on the album is “BETTY,”

for Betty Davis. The famous performer inspired her with boldness that often scared the public, especially men. The smooth tone and melody that encapsulates Davis’ sensuality, combined with the strength in Woods’ words that channel the starlet, make for a song that inspires the heart and the mind. Woods uses lyrics like “Falling for myself, it’s taken time to know I’m mine” to show her growth towards independence that came from breaking any preconceived notion of women. This song was so well received, she even reprised it for the last track of the album. “BETTY (For Boogie)” is an up-tempo version of the song dedicated to Chicago house dancer Boogie McLarin who taught Woods about the music and dance styles she uses in this version.

“EARTHA” is one of the most vocally

interesting songs on the album. The inspiration for this song is one of Eartha Kitt’s most famous interviews in which she discusses never compromising for a man and seeking someone to love her as she loves herself. Woods not only highlights this message but also Kitt’s own style. She emphasizes vowels and draws out notes in such a similar fashion during the chorus and bridge that it’s easily recognizable as a tribute to Kitt. The steady drum beats stay a consistent pace throughout the song and even her voice changes from faster verses to a drawn-out chorus. Beautiful background vocals make the line “who gonna share my love for me with me?” seem delicate and vulnerable. In such a short period of time, she shares seemingly contradictory elements, such as consistency

and change or vulnerability and willfulness, in a cohesive manner, portraying just as much class and power as Eartha Kitt herself.

Jamila Woods has perfected her voice and literary prowess, and brought an impactful album to life. It touches on many relevant social issues, including feminism and racial inequality, in both a blunt and poetic manner. Her lyricism and melodies are everything one could ask for in a Soul/R&B album. She combines different elements of electric pop and rock to encompass the feeling of each person who inspired her while still staying true to her own soft sound, a sound that can appeal to all generations of music lovers. Overall, “LEGACY! LEGACY!” is one of the most well done and impactful albums of the year.

## OFF SHORE CALENDAR

*Florida Panthers vs. Pittsburgh Penguins*

Oct. 22 | 7 p.m.

@BBT Center | Sunrise, FL

*Mic Check*

Oct. 22 | 6 p.m.

@1350 East Sunrise Boulevard | Ft. Lauderdale, FL

*Miami Heat vs. Memphis Grizzlies*

Oct. 23 | 7:30 p.m.

@American Airlines Arena | Miami, FL

*The Chainsmokers*

Oct. 24 | 7 p.m.

@American Airlines Arena | Miami, FL

*Maroon 5*

Oct. 25 | 8 p.m.

@Hard Rock Live | Hollywood, FL

*Maná*

Oct. 25 | 8 p.m.

@American Airlines Arena | Miami, FL

*Miami City Ballet: Program One*

Oct. 26 | 7:30 p.m.

@Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center | Ft. Lauderdale, FL

*Shrek The Musical*

Oct. 25 - 29 | Various times

@Amaturo Theater | Ft. Lauderdale, FL

*Bastille*

Oct. 27 | 7 p.m.

@Bayfront Park | Miami, FL

*Clairo*

Oct. 28 | 7 p.m.

@Revolution Live | Ft. Lauderdale, FL



## STAFF PICKS:

## Halloween edition

What are some Halloween traditions you are practicing this month and what will you be dressed as while doing so?

By: The Current Staff

**Christana Mclaughlin, co-editor-in-chief, said:**

“There aren’t many Halloween traditions that I have, but I always bake the special Pillsbury sugar cookies with the cute pumpkins or ghosts on them and watch Halloween movies on Freeform, previously known as ABC Family. I have to watch ‘Hocus Pocus,’ ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas,’ the ‘Halloweentown’ series and at least one scary movie for me to qualify it as a good Halloween. This year, I’m feeling like I’m going to be Poison Ivy from the classic ‘Batman & Robin’ or Jigsaw from the ‘Saw’ series.”

**Madelyn Rinka, co-editor-in-chief, said:**

“Honestly, I don’t really think I have any Halloween ‘traditions.’ I love the holiday and all, but living up north for the first 18 years of my life has made me associate Halloween with haunted hikes, huge corn mazes and cool weather that sends a shiver up my spine. Maybe I’ll try to find some new traditions to start in Florida this year!”

**Flor Mireles, copy editor, said:**

“While I do not have really any Halloween traditions, I have definitely enjoyed creating spooky book bindings for the folders atop the

cabinets of The Current this year. Growing up, some Halloween traditions I practiced included watching ‘The Addams Family’ and ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas,’ as well as making scarily-decorated cupcakes. I have yet to decide on what I want to be for Halloween, but I know it’ll be a DIY costume. Maybe something punny, like a ‘cereal killer’ or a ‘holy cow’ or ‘holy guacamole.’”

**Mario Lorrimer, business manager, said:**

“My family has always been very conservative when it comes to Halloween. So, I don’t have any specific traditions that I practice. One thing I do know is that I love candy, so whatever ends up happening on Halloween will involve as much candy as humanly possible. Then as the night progresses and more ghouls rise, I will sink into the bottomless pit of a candy stomach ache and regret my life choices. Last year, I dressed up as Chuck Bartowski from the show ‘Chuck.’ Dressing up as Chuck was very easy, so I have no idea what I’m going to be this year. I could be a potato or a carrot or even a cabbage. Regardless of what I end up choosing to dress up as, one thing holds true; it will be cost effective.”

**Kathleen Crapson, chief of visual**

**design, said:**

“To be quite honest, I don’t celebrate Halloween. I never really got the appeal. After years in my childhood where my mom would ‘inspect’ candy, I’ve learned to buy my own Reese’s. So catch me eating Reese’s in my cozy onesie pajamas. But if a neighborhood kid knocks at my door in a costume, you can bet that I have non-peanut butter chocolate to share.”

**Alexander Martinie, opinions editor, said:**

“Halloween is the best holiday of all time, and no one can convince me otherwise. I just have a few of the usual Halloween traditions like handing out candy, dressing up, summoning the spirits of my ancestors to rain hellfire on my enemies and, of course, watching ‘Hocus Pocus’ and ‘Nightmare Before Christmas’ — you know just normal Halloween things.”

**Emma Heineman, features editor, said:**

“One of my favorite Halloween traditions has always been to DIY a Halloween costume. When I was younger, my mom, my sister and I would spend the weeks leading up to Halloween preparing the perfect costume. I always liked having a unique costume that none of the other people at school or any of my friends had. Now

that I’m older, I don’t dress up as much, but it’s still fun to find cute and spooky DIY projects to make during the season.”

**Kelsey Bruce, arts and entertainment editor, said:**

“I love Halloween, and I think one of my favorite parts is building my costume from within my own wardrobe. It’s fun to throw different pieces together and come up with an outfit that actually resembles a character. Of course, I base a lot of my costume choices on characters who have already inspired my fashion sense and usually extravagant makeup looks really help pull my disguise together. This year’s plan is Dark Willow from ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer,’ who just requires a lot of black, 90s style clothes and veiny makeup.”

More Halloween

articles to get you in the  
spooky spirit are online at

nsucurrent.nova.edu



# ON DECK

## MEN'S GOLF

v.s. Miami Intercollegiate  
Doral Golf Resort  
Oct. 22 | all day  
Doral, FL

## WOMEN'S GOLF

v.s. Legends Invitational  
Legends Invitational Country  
Club of Orlando  
Oct. 28 | all day  
Orlando, FL



## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

v.s. Barry  
Oct. 22 | 7 pm  
Rick Case Arena

v.s. Florida Tech  
Oct. 25 | 7 pm  
Rick Case Arena

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

@Barry  
Oct. 23 | 6 pm  
Barry Miami Shores, FL

v.s. Saint Leo  
Senior Night  
Oct. 26 | 7 pm  
NSU Soccer Complex



## MEN'S SOCCER

v.s. Barry  
High School Appreciation  
Night  
Oct. 23 | 7 pm  
NSU Soccer Complex

@Saint Leo  
Oct. 26 | 7 pm  
Saint Leo, FL

## MEN'S SWIM

@Lynn  
Oct. 25 | 3 pm  
Boca Raton, FL



## WOMEN'S SWIM

@Lynn  
Oct. 25 | 3 pm  
Boca Raton, FL

## WOMEN'S ROWING

@Hatter Invitational  
Oct. 26 | TBA  
DeLand, FL

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

@Sunshine State Conference  
Championships  
Oct. 26 | 7:30 am  
Boca Raton, FL

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

v.s. Embry-Riddle  
Oct. 26 | 4 pm  
Rick Case Arena



# On The Bench:

## The role model we need, the recognition she deserves

By: Emma Heineman  
Features Editor

In the world of sports, Usain Bolt's name is synonymous with the astonishing speed capabilities of the human body. Widely considered the greatest sprinter of all time, the Jamaican sprinter holds eight Olympic gold medals and is the only sprinter to win the Olympic 100 meter and 200 meter titles at three consecutive Olympics. To add to his impressive Olympic record, he also holds the world record for the fastest 100 meter sprint at 9.58 seconds and has won 11 world championships, earning him the nickname "Lightning Bolt" as a testament to his superhuman speed. However, despite his impressive achievements, he no longer holds the record for winning the most world championships.

With her 12th world championship, USA Olympic sprinter, Allyson Felix, stole the title, but nevertheless failed to steal the attention of the

world. A simple survey on the street could expose the lack of knowledge about Felix' achievements. Regardless of Bolt having held the record for so long, or there being less attention given to female athletes, her efforts should be more recognized and appreciated.

Much like Bolt, Felix has had an impressive Olympic career. With a combined nine Olympic medals, six of which are gold, she is one of the most decorated Olympic sprinters. According to Fox, last Sunday, after winning her 12th gold medal at the World Championships on the mixed-gender 4x400m relay team, she now holds the world record for the most gold medals at the Track and Field World Championships. As if her accomplishments alone didn't speak for themselves, the fact that she competed in the World Championship only 10 months after having an emergency C-section makes her story

even more noteworthy. Her victory earlier this month came just 10 short months after she faced a battle with preeclampsia in November 2018, a potentially dangerous pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure. She underwent an emergency C-section at 32 weeks to deliver her daughter, yet didn't let it stop her from continuing to pursue her athletic ambitions.

As a role model for young and aspiring athletes, and women athletes specifically, Felix has pushed for reform within the world of sports. She has highlighted the gender inequalities present in sports, especially in regards to the policies concerning maternity leave, and has spoken against Nike's long standing maternity policy that has had negative financial impacts on female athletes while pregnant. As a mother, athlete and woman, she has continued to inspire others and incite change.



## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY



By: Flor Ana Mireles  
Copy Editor

### October 22

#### First baseball union formed

On Oct. 22, 1885, John Ward, best known for being the radio play-by-play broadcaster for the University of Tennessee, and several teammates secretly formed the Brotherhood of Professional Baseball Players, the first baseball union in history.

### October 23

#### Jackie Robinson signs Montreal Royal contract

Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the MLB, signed a contract with the Montreal Royals on Oct. 23, 1945. However, it was not until April 18, 1946 that Robinson debuted with the Montreal Royals as second baseman.

### October 24

#### World's first soccer club founded

In Yorkshire, England on Oct. 24, 1857, the world's first ever soccer club, Sheffield Football Club, also known as Sheffield FC, was founded. Although the club was from Yorkshire, they are

currently based in Dronfield, Derbyshire.

### October 25

#### Colony of American Plymouth disallows sport on Christmas Day

On Oct. 25, 1621, Governor William Bradford, head of the colony of American Plymouth, disallowed sports to be played on Christmas Day, claiming Christmas Day should be celebrated in private and not out in public. Bradford went on to confiscate toys as well, proving to be a "real-life Grinch".

### October 26

#### Football Association forms

Soccer was standardized on Oct. 26, 1863 when the first ever Football Association formed in England. The sport was then called "organized football," which later would just become "football," eventually leading to the term "soccer."

### October 27

#### Serena Williams wins fourth

### season ending tennis title

In the 2013 WTA Championship final in Istanbul, Turkey, American tennis player, Serena Williams, won her fourth season ending tennis title, beating Li Na of China, who is now retired, with a score of 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

### October 28

#### Bobby Orr scores his last NHL career goal

Canadian Ice Hockey legend, Bobby Orr, scored his last NHL career goal on Oct. 28, 1978. Orr played for the Boston Bruins for 10 seasons, and played his last game against the Detroit Red Wings.

### October 29

#### Muhammad Ali's first professional fight

1960 marked the year that Cassius Clay Jr., who would later be better known as Muhammad Ali, fought his first professional fight against Tunney Hunsaker in Louisville, KY. Ali would win the fight on points in six rounds.

## OUT OF THE SHARKZONE

### Barcelona-Madrid game moved

The Spanish soccer league is considering moving the Barcelona versus Real Madrid game out of the Catalan capital. The game is to be played on the same day as a separatist rally. According to the Associated Press, the Spanish soccer league "has called on the Spanish soccer federation (RFEF) — which controls regulations and fixtures for professional and amateur games — to shift the match to Madrid." They have also requested that the return game be switched as well.

### Maddon new manager of LA Angels

Joe Maddon will return to the Los Angeles Angels as manager for the next three years. According to the Associated Press, "Maddon [replaced] Brad Ausmus, who was fired after one season when the Angels finished 72-90, their worst record since 1999. Ausmus was abruptly dismissed shortly after Maddon became available, and most observers assumed Angels owner Arte Moreno had his eye on a reunion with Maddon, who was the Angels' bench coach when Moreno bought the club in 2003." Under Maddon, the team hopes to improve their pitching record.

### Fans arrested in Bulgaria

Last Wednesday, six soccer fans were arrested in Bulgaria after making racist gestures, including Nazi salutes. According to the Associated Press "Bulgarian fans also directed monkey noises at England's black players during the match, which was halted twice in an effort to stop the racist abuse. England won the match 6-0," and the president of Bulgaria's soccer federation resigned.



# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

## Laurel Fink

By: Cameron Pritchett  
Sports Editor



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*Laurel Fink is a junior from Pottstown, PA. In addition to being a swimmer, Laurel is majoring in biology and minoring in psychology.*

### What made you start swimming?

When I was younger, I tried every sport: golf, hockey, dance; basically any sport you can think of. My friend said she was going to join the swim team, I decided to do it with her, and the rest is history. I had a natural feel for the water, so I just took it from there.

### How important is discipline in your success as both an athlete and a student?

It plays a huge role. Sometimes, you've got to give up a lot. Sometimes, I have to say no to going out to dinner on a Monday night if I have an exam the next day, for example. I say no to a lot of stuff, but in the end I know it's all worth it. I question it a lot: Is this really worth it? Am I going to remember this? You really do remember it though, because when you achieve what you set your mind to, you forget everything you gave up to get there.

### How do you find balance in life as a student athlete?

That took me a long time to get used to. My freshman year, I was just juggling everything the entire time. There were times when I would

fall behind in school or not get enough sleep. It really was a learning process to get to where I am now. [I had to learn to be] able to stop studying at 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. so I could have 6-7 hours of sleep for morning practice. You just have to practice time management to become better at it.

### What do you enjoy most about swimming?

Honestly, [I love] how silent it is when it's just [me] in the water. It's so incredible because it's just [me] with [my] thoughts, and that's my favorite part. I'm either motivating myself, or putting myself down, and it's all depending on me. Obviously it's a team sport and the team is motivating me as well, but I just love the silence and having to drive and push myself.

### If you could travel back in time to your freshman year, what advice would you give your freshman self?

I'd tell myself to just go for it. I used to hold back, whether it was in the weight room, dry lands or practice. Sometimes, I'd hold back even in school. [I'd tell myself to] go full force at everything because it's okay to fail, and in the end, it's just going to make you a better person. I don't know how many times my coaches have told us this: "when you're in a race, you need to go for it early. Don't hold anything back for the end because the last part of a race, and even

a semester, it's all heart." We're all tired, we're all dead, but I just tell myself to go for it and not stress the little things, be more care-free and take more risks.

### What are your other passions and hobbies besides swimming?

I coached swimming over the summer and I really enjoyed that because it brought my passion to other people, and if I can help find someone who loves the water as much as I do,

that is awesome. I got to help them grow their love, and show them that swimming is fun; it can be empowering. Swimming is so much more than just swimming; it can help in life. Now, if I wasn't a swimmer, I think I would want to become a makeup artist. I sit and watch videos all the time and do my friends' makeup. No one would think I would be into it since I never wear makeup, but it's like art for your face. I just love it.



## SPORTS SHORTS

### Women's Volleyball

After losing their last five games on the road, Women's Volleyball had a commanding victory against Eckerd, sweeping them 3-0 on Oct. 11. After a 10 year winless drought against the Tritons, the Sharks were able to prove themselves. Redshirt Junior Ally Ford had a team high of 13 kills, nailing 50 percent of her 26 attacks, as well as contributing eight digs and two blocks; Ford helped lead the team in their strong performance.

### Men's Soccer

After a slow first half to their game on Oct. 12, Men's Soccer came out firing in the second portion of their game, scoring two goals that lead them to a 2-0 victory against Tampa. Limiting the Spartans to just seven shots (with one on goal), the Sharks kept the opposing goalkeeper busy with 16 total shots, with nine on goal. Matty Cormish broke the stalemate in the 60th minute, followed by a goal nine minutes later from Henrik Berg. The Sharks will get a week off before they host Eckerd on Oct. 19.

### Women's Rowing

With three of their top 16 rowers out, Women's Rowing was still able to put up solid numbers in matches against both Barry and Miami on Oct. 12. The Sharks A boat finished fourth overall at 15:11.50, just 16 seconds behind Barry's top boat. In addition to their A boat, the Sharks were able to show their strong depth in their B boat, placing sixth overall with a 0.6 second finish ahead of Barry. Coming up on Saturday, Oct. 26, our Sharks will travel north to DeLand, FL for the Stetson Invitational, which will wrap up their races for the fall season.

### Men's Swim

Men's Swim were able to continue their early stretch of successes, taking first place with 951 points in the Shark Invitational on Oct. 12. In the 200 medley relay race, the team consisting of Aleksei Averchenko, Alessandro Xella, Magnus Poulsen and Jonathan Yanello grabbed first with a time of 1:33.06, while Poulsen was also able to win the 100 fly, with a time of 49.81. The Sharks will square off against Lynn on Oct. 25.





## Hispanic, Spanish and Latino: There is a DIFFERENCE

By: Valeria Ravachi  
Contributing Writer

I perfectly remember the day when two girls asked me if I was Spanish, and I answered, “no, I’m Hispanic,” and they just stared at me weirdly. Many people do not realize there is a big difference between Hispanic and Spanish, which starts with our ancestry and descendants. Hispanics are those who speak Spanish, like our descendants. The Spanish, however, are descendants of those from Spain, which is something that needs to be cleared up. Though some people think it is not offensive, others do. It’s really just the same as getting mad for others calling Americans or typically white-raced individuals “gringos.” Hispanics get insanely mad when they are called Spanish.

The word Latino, however, has an entirely different perspective and origin. Unlike Hispanic, Latino is a term that comes from the geography. For example, if you are a descendant of a Latin American country, like Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua or Honduras, you are a Latino.

People don’t get the difference between both worlds, and it’s annoying. In a country where people are so mindful of what they say, it’s important for history and terminology like this to be known. I hope that now that you know the difference between each term, you won’t be confused ever again or offend anyone for that matter.

## When is it too early to decorate for Christmas?

By: Laurel Gallaudet  
Contributing Writer

If you’ve been to Walmart any time within the past week or so and have managed not to see the rows of Christmas decorations (along with those of other holidays that occur in a similar time frame), you must have some kind of superpower. It’s pretty big, and it keeps on growing. Attributed to the many gasps, groans, and sighs I have heard when I’ve mentioned it or even just simply walking through the aisles, I am very aware that not many people are fond of this; this is clearly much too early to be decorating for Christmas in their opinions.

However, my feelings are the polar opposite: I’m the one you see skipping down those aisles before Halloween has even happened yet, dragging carts of garlands, lights, and swag along with me. If you’re on the other side, you’re probably rolling your eyes, scoffing. But I invite you for just a moment to be open. My reasoning for wanting to blast Christmas music as soon as it becomes November and hang up all my lights early in October isn’t because I am overly religious; or because I want to be eccentric or obnoxious; or because I am childish, although I would argue that most of those are all valid reasons for decorating as early as you want. I do it for a very simple reason: if it makes you happy, just do it.

Everyone has their own personal preference, and I understand that. The world should understand that. I will respect you no

matter when you decorate: whether that be March, October, or even never. If it’s what you want and it makes you happy, abide by that. That’s why I think there is no “too early” to decorate for Christmas, Hanukkah, or any other holiday.

You might say I’m biased since I like to decorate early myself, and that I’m only giving this sappy story about happiness to give myself an excuse to decorate in August. But I know for a fact the reason I decorate is because of the warm happiness that Christmas and all its memories bring me, and that’s part of the reason why I love it so much. When I look around at all these trees and lights and the red, green, and gold lining the streets and walls, I feel happy. I feel relieved, and it lifts some of the burden of college off me for just a moment. Would you really deny me this feeling just because you yourself don’t like seeing Christmas decorations this early? Or, vice versa, would you really deny someone else the feeling of happiness they get from decorating late or not at all if you were in my shoes?

Whether you believe or not, the reason for the season (other than what it has culturally and colloquially become in many areas of the world) is to treat others the way you want to be treated; I don’t think it should be too difficult to allow someone just a bit of happiness in their life simply by keeping your personal opinions to yourself.

## We need to reform the American police force

By: Kelsey Bruce  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Oct. 12, Atatiana Jefferson, a black woman living in Fort Worth, Texas, was murdered by a white police officer, Aaron Dean. According to CBS news, a concerned neighbor called a non-emergency line requesting a wellness check, and officers arrived to respond to an “open structure” call. Whilst performing a perimeter check, Dean saw a figure, Jefferson, standing in the window of the house, commanded she put her hands up and then fired the shot that killed her the very next instant, all without identifying himself as a police officer. Jefferson was jailed on charge of murder and was held on a bail set at \$200,000. He has since been bailed out.

Before she was shot, Jefferson was playing video games with her 8-year-old nephew, and according to the family’s attorney, Lee Merritt, she made sure he did not check the window himself. The Associated Press shared that

Jefferson had moved into her house earlier this year with her nephew and mother with intentions to help her family as her mother’s health grew worse. So not only does Jefferson’s family have to experience the untimely and unnecessary death of a loved one, but they will also have to adapt to running a household just a young child and an aging parent. All because of a problem we Americans continue to ignore.

That is to say, since Jefferson’s death, The Washington Post reports police have shot and killed seven more people, bringing up the total of fatal police shootings in 2019 to at least 709. Last year’s total was 992. Some people, especially white people unexposed to systematic racism on a daily basis, remain ignorant to the perils caused by our police force. While white people are also shot and killed by police, police motivations in those instances are not based on racial profiling, so we continue to feel safe

calling the cops in emergency situations. Clearly, people of color do not have this privilege.

EJScreen, an environmental justice mapping and screening tool provided by the U.S. EPA, or Environmental Protection Agency, lists the location in which Jefferson lived as having an 82 percentile minority population in reference to the general US. Had Dean and his fellow officers performed the same wellness check in a predominantly white neighborhood, it is extremely unlikely anyone would have lost their lives or been injured. Dean was performing his job on the basis of racism and bias, and countless other officers are too. Before they even encounter a situation, they are already calculating — subconsciously or not — whether or not they will need to use force and how much because they dehumanize black people.

Considering this yearslong pattern of violence, we need to completely reinvent the

American police force because public service should serve the public, not the status quo. People of color should have a reliable resource when they are or feel endangered, so police officers who clearly act and kill on impulse and personal bias should not be armed. We need to uproot racism in America, but we cannot erase and ignore the past or stamp out the bigotry within individuals. For that reason, we should implement an unarmed police force, as countries such as the U.K., Norway, New Zealand, Ireland and Iceland have. Of course, these measures must come with other long overdue gun control policies, and to make that happen, we must hold our government, our police force and the people around us accountable for the violence that has yet to stop.

## Hyper partisanship in the age of negative campaigning

By: Emma Heineman  
Features Editor

At the beginning of the month, CNN announced its decision not to run an ad sponsored by the Trump campaign. The ad in question targets Joe Biden’s conduct with Ukraine as Vice President of the United States and attacks the reputations of various CNN personalities calling them “lap dogs.” The 30-second ad has been posted to Trump’s Twitter account. In the meantime, Biden, as well as other prominent Democrats, requested that Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and other social media platforms take down the ad for spreading blatantly false information about Biden and his son’s involvement in dealings with Ukraine. Social media companies, however, have sent a clear message — they will do little to stop candidates from spreading misinformation in

their 2020 campaign ads.

While it may be unusual for a television network to decline airing a political campaign ad, it is certainly not unheard of. In 2018, in anticipation of the midterm elections, various major channels, including Fox News, rejected a Trump ad characterizing immigrants as dangerous threats. Many people point to the incendiary political rhetoric that has characterized President Trump’s administration and their campaign techniques as the source of the shift to this aggressive form of campaigning. Trump is not the only one to blame though.

A study conducted by the Wesleyan Media Project, which monitors and analyzes televised campaign ads, “found that three-quarters of ads aired during the last presidential race appealed to

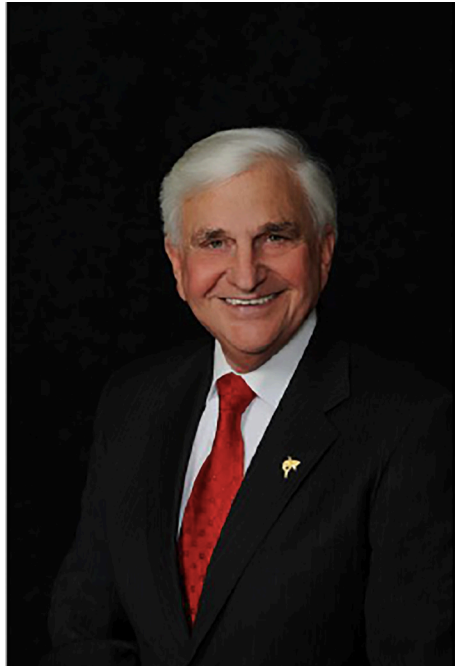
anger.” Additionally, the study divides political advertisements into two categories: positive and negative. Positive ads appeal to human optimism and have been used with increasing frequency in the beauty and fashion industries as a way to draw in customers based on the positive aspects of a product. In terms of campaign ads, however, the use of positive ads has had a steady decline in the past several elections. A study shows that 53% of campaign ads aired in September 2016 were negative, compared to 48% during a comparable time frame in 2012. By drawing viewers’ focus exclusively to the negative aspects of one’s opponent, politicians are able to associate people’s negative feelings with a political opponent.

While the effectiveness of negative ads can

hardly be disputed, their destructive nature begs the question of appropriateness in elections. The schism that can be seen between the two major political parties in the US and the volatile speech surrounding their opposing views has done nothing but divide families, friends and communities. Each side argues that the other party is to blame for the gridlocked government and negatively charged political sphere, but until each agrees to collaborate and work towards a more welcoming, efficient and open future, the situation will only continue to escalate. If the hyper-partisan backdrop of the current political atmosphere is any indication of the effects of the increase in negative ads on political discourse, then voters better buckle their seatbelts for a turbulent election season.

# Time to act. Sign the Florida petition to ban assault weapons.

By: Dr. George L. Hanbury II  
Guest Editorial



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM NSU  
Dr. George L. Hanbury II serves as president and chief executive officer of NSU.

rocked a community dear to my heart. It took the lives of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends and family members in my native state of Virginia. Since then, more carnage has ensued in Ohio, Texas and Louisiana, to name a few.

We've seen it in our schools, in our communities and in our workplaces. Gun violence in America has become so prevalent that many have become numb and callous to the news when it breaks... "another meaningless shooting," we say, before going on about our day. To that, I say: How many more prayers and sympathies will we share, when in fact, we can DO something about it. We should be asking,

"What can we do to stop this from happening again?"

While many point to mental health problems as the key issue — and it is an important one — the better question is: Why do we have laws on the books that allow people with mental health issues access to guns to carry out mass killings? We need more assistance for this population, and more regulations to prevent them from gaining access to guns.

Polls show that a majority of Americans favor strong or moderate restrictions on firearms. Yet, time and time again these reforms fail in our state governments. You can't legislate hatred out of someone's heart, but we can take steps to both rigorously enforce the laws already on the books as well as enact new, common-sense legislation. That is why, in the absence of legislative leadership, Florida's Constitution

gives us the right to bring an amendment to the voters by, and for, the voters.

Even Virginian James Madison, who wrote the Second Amendment, envisioned for America the creation of a well-regulated militia, not an unregulated one. Yet, we have become virtually unregulated, with consequences that are all too evident—and dire.

The reality is that more guns in our schools and universities will not make us safer. People often tell me that they could stop a gunman before the police arrive if they are armed. We saw in Dayton, Ohio that even with police already on the scene, too many innocent lives were ripped away from their loved ones. If someone in that establishment had a gun and was aiming at the perpetrator, how would the police know who should live or die? We may very well have lost more lives that night, or the next night, or the night after.

Looking at the massacre in Virginia Beach, reports showed that the suspect used extended-capacity magazines as well as a suppressor (silencer). Eliminating these items from the public would in no way reduce anyone's right to bear arms, rather it would reduce the ability of people carry out mass killings before anyone knew what was happening. We can fix this.

I say that it's time to save lives, not repeat that all-too-often spoken phrase... "another meaningless shooting."

I encourage you to educate yourself, as I have, on a current Florida Ban Assault Weapons

NOW petition that, if passed:

"Prohibits possession of assault weapons, defined as semiautomatic rifles and shotguns capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition at once, either in fixed or detachable magazine, or any other ammunition-feeding device. Possession of handguns is not prohibited. Exempts military and law enforcement personnel in their official duties. Exempts and requires registration of assault weapons lawfully possessed prior to this provision's effective date. Creates criminal penalties for violations of this amendment."


To be blunt, such weapons aren't needed for hunting, target practice or other recreational uses. We can protect our community, and this is something you can do, not just talk about. I will be signing it and I hope you do, too.

As a registered Independent, I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican, but I am a concerned citizen with the wellbeing of NSU's students, faculty, staff, visitors and the community at large in my heart and my mind.

The time is now. Take action with me and sign the petition. ♦

*This editorial was originally printed in the Sun Sentinel. It was sourced from <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/commentary/fl-op-com-hanbury-mass-shootings-florida-petition-20191013-5o5jvsvl5frnkutjzcw2xs7ci-story.html>.*

Readers who wish to sign the petition are asked to find Dr. Hanbury's article on the Sun Sentinel website, and click the link on the last word of the article. Or readers can access the petition through <https://bawnfl.org/amendment.html>.



## SHARK SPEAK

Should NSU require students to learn a second language as part of their degree?



"While I think learning a second language would help people improve and become more diverse and skillful, I don't think it [would] be fair to make people learn a second language,"

**-Sydney Bruenen, sophomore theatre and music major.**



"It's good for business, especially if you go into international [business], but on the other hand, it takes up time and it's very hard to learn a language. I took French for three years in high school, but if I had to do that now, it'd be hard to learn a language and settle here,"

**-Serena Velardi, freshman marine biology major.**



"I don't think they should require it, but I think that they should encourage [students] to learn a new language, especially in the community we're in since we have a lot of Spanish speakers. It is definitely helpful to have that second language to connect with more people though,"

**-Rhea Advani, freshman public health major.**



"I don't think it should be required, but it should be highly recommended. So many people in America speak so many languages and one of them, especially in Florida, is Spanish. I think it should be highly recommended to learn a language,"

**-Chandana Dasari, junior behavioral neuroscience major.**





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