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NSU
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UNIVERSITY



**SPECIAL
EDITION**

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From humble beginnings to a promising future, NSU has always stood for the cutting edge in terms of innovative academic programs and on-campus educational opportunities that foster academic excellence, intellectual inquiry, leadership, research and a lifelong commitment to the community through the engagement of students and faculty members. As a part of that mission, NSU has gone through some incredible transitions to present the image of NSU as we know it today to the world at-large. As we move on into the future of NSU, you will get a look into the past through this special edition of The Current.

MEET THE NEW RAZOR

By: Madelyn Rinka
 Co-Editor-in-Chief



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRMC

NSU's beloved mascot, Razor the shark, received a new look, which was unveiled to the NSU community on Nov. 4 at the Homecoming Pep Rally. The transformation took advantage of a necessary replacement for the old mascot costume to establish a new image for the university.

"We wanted to look at what the world already recognizes, where do people already see influential, memorable and inspirational symbols, and where might those preconceived associations and images cross over with our face and our image as NSU - as Shark Nation," explained Kyle Fisher, vice president for public relations and marketing communications, of the changes made to Razor.

The new Razor still has the fun, friendly personality the NSU community knows, but now with a new presence and power. Before NSU was the Sharks, the university has a different mascot - the Knights. Razor's new warrior attire pays respect to the older spirit symbol of the

school, while still being the force of nature that is a Mako Shark.

"NSU Florida is enjoying a well-deserved second look by a lot of people right here in our hometown who thought they knew [NSU] but need to realize that NSU today has even more impact, great credentials and contributions than it ever has before," said Fisher. "... We want a mascot that rises to that level and helps to let people understand that is a new force to be reckoned with."

The transformation isn't meant to change the NSU community, but rather help to amplify and reflect Shark Nation's own energy and spirit. "We would like the mascot to help bring [NSU's] story to others and be a great symbol of that. It's not so much changing things as it is giving us more of what we've got," expressed Fisher.

If you haven't seen the new Razor just yet, catch a glimpse of him at the upcoming homecoming game and any other athletic or university events.

GET OUT THERE AND HAVE FUN

By: Rick Esner
News Editor

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
NSU STUDENT MARKETING



Homecoming is a time with plenty of opportunities to show some school spirit. Whether you go to the basketball game or do something lowkey, there is something for everyone.

Nov. 3-9: Shark Trivia Challenge & Bleed Shark Blue Day

From Nov. 3 to 9, there will be an online Shark Trivia Challenge, where students from NSU regional campuses can test their NSU knowledge for a chance to win NSU gear and gift cards. Students interested should keep an eye out for

information in their email. Also on Nov. 7, all regional campuses will be celebrating Bleed Shark Blue day, where students are encouraged to wear their best NSU apparel.

Nov. 5: Anything That Floats Raft Race

Kicking things off on Nov. 5 is the 28th Annual Anything That Floats Raft Race from 4 to 6 p.m. at Gold Circle Lake. Check out page 7 to learn more about this exciting event.

Nov. 6: Benefit Concert

Pan SGA and Student Government Association,

in association with Student Affairs, will be hosting a benefit concert on Nov. 6 in the Flight Deck backyard from 7 to 9 p.m. The concert will be held as a fundraising project to raise money for the Bahamas with a variety of performers, including Jamie Smith, an alumna of NSU's music department.

Nov. 7: Library UC Takeover & Homecoming Bash

In the afternoon, the Alvin Sherman Library will be taking over the University Center Spine from noon to 1 p.m. That evening, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., the Homecoming Bash will be held in the Rick Case Arena in the UC. It will reveal homecoming royalty from each class, including the overall king and queen. Additionally, there will be a chance to win a car from the Rick Case Automotive Group.

Nov. 8: Shark Pride Friday, Yard Show Stroll & Friday Night Flights

On Nov. 8, students are encouraged to wear NSU gear for Shark Pride Friday. The Unified Greek Council will also be holding a yard show stroll off at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center from 7 to 10 p.m., where the

grieks compete for the best stroll to a variety of songs. Afterwards, there will be a special Homecoming edition of Friday Night Flights at Flight Deck.

Nov. 9: Homecoming Basketball Game

On Nov. 9, the homecoming basketball game will start at 7 p.m. at the Rick Case Arena in the UC. NSU will be playing Florida National University and the homecoming king and queen will be officially crowned.

Nov. 10: Out of the Darkness Community Walk

On Nov. 10, the Out of the Darkness Community Walk will be held from 8 to 11 a.m., where organizations on campus and members of the community walk to fight suicide and raise money for suicide awareness.

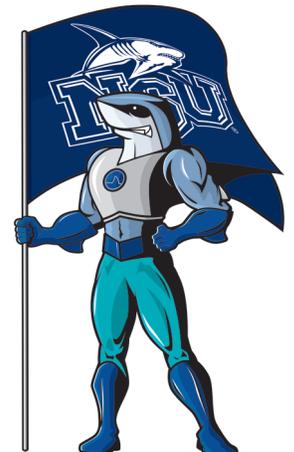


PHOTO COURTESY OF PRMC

HOMECOMING COURT

By: Kathleen Crapson
Chief of Visual Design

Just the mention of the word “Homecoming” elicits visions of rose bouquets, crowns and sashes. While the crowd of cheering students creates a flurry of emotions, the potential winners of Homecoming Court stand on stage decked out to the nines. Last year, NSU alumni Chris Chookagian and Taylor Bertolini won the top spots for the 2018-2019 senior class: Homecoming King and Queen. Both Chookagian and Bertolini are returning to crown this year’s Homecoming King and Queen at the Homecoming basketball game on Nov. 9. Bertolini and Chookagian had this to say.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NSU STUDENT MARKETING



“To be honest, I think I probably blacked out. I heard my name, and I just knew I needed to walk forward. I remember it, but I didn’t feel present in the moment. It was surreal; I couldn’t hear anyone in the crowd. I was just focused on standing next to [Chookagian] and taking the photo and then walking back into the line. Then it was done! That’s when it clicked that I was Homecoming Queen. All four years of college, I’ve always wanted to apply for homecoming court, but I never really had the courage. I decided why not try homecoming court. Then I applied and it worked! I just really wanted to do everything I could in my last year. I’m excited to come back for Homecoming! Last year’s homecoming week felt like a blur; it was just a packed week full of energy and fun. [I expect this year will be the same],”

“When we [got] to the reveal at the basketball game, the winner of Homecoming King was actually a tie with one of the other contestants. They said it never happened before, and after the weeks events, it was down to the crowd who were [in the stands] to cheer for who they wanted to win. It was very nerve racking. It was unreal, like nothing I had ever experienced before. Coming from a fairly decent-sized high school, I was never the guy on a homecoming or prom court. I did not think I was going to win. Then, they came out with who was on the court and there were three others, so I was very nervous. Everyone who was on the court was in it for the right reasons. If any one of us won, we would have been the best representation of the school,”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NSU ARCHIVES

NSU WELCOMES BACK ALUMNI

By: Christina McLaughlin
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**As an NSU alum,
you're always a part of
the NSU family.**

NSU has more than 190,000 alumni, in Florida, in the region and around the world. Homecoming week is an exciting time to celebrate the momentum and accomplishments of every NSU Shark out there. Whether it be faculty, researchers, students, staff or alumni, it's a time to celebrate how far NSU has come and how far NSU will go. Here are some events that alumni can attend to show their shark pride.

**NSU Athletics Hall of Fame
Nov. 5 | 7 p.m.
Rick Case Arena**

Four student-athletes alumni and one coach will be inducted into the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2019 on Nov. 5. At this year's induction

ceremony, the NSU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee will honor MLB player Miles Mikolas, alumni swimmers Erin Black, Oskar Nodstrand, Women's Golf Taylor Collins, as well as John Gartin, NSU's founding coach of the rowing team. For attendees who purchased tickets prior to the Oct. 28 deadline, the banquet will provide a sit-down dinner and presentations that honor the distinguished alumni as they are inducted into NSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

**5th Annual College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Homecoming Alumni Reception
Nov. 6 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.
2nd Floor Lounge of Don Taft University Center**

Dean Honggang Yang welcomes faculty and fellow alumni of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences for an evening that provides networking opportunities, music and complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages. The

reception's goal is to honor and celebrate shark pride during NSU Homecoming and Alumni Week.

**NSU Alumni Night at the Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo
Nov. 7 | 7:30 p.m.
Bergeron Rodeo Grounds**

On Nov. 7, the NSU Alumni Association will host NSU Alumni Night, which celebrates NSU's alumni with fun and festivities. Members of the NSU community can use coupon code "NSUSHARKS" for \$15 tickets to this special event. Attendees are encouraged to visit the NSU Alumni Association table for a free giveaway item and an exclusive cowboy experience.

**College of Pharmacy 10 Year Reunion BBQ
Nov. 9 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Seminole Park**

The College of Pharmacy's Class of 2019, along with the Alumni Association, will host the

10-Year Alumni Reunion BBQ. This event will have games as well as food and refreshments for everyone. Alumni are encouraged to bring their families as this event is open to all ages.

**NSU Basketball Homecoming Game & Alumni Reception
Nov. 9 | 6:30 p.m.
Rick Case Arena**

NSU alumni, friends and family are welcome to join NSU in celebrating shark pride while cheering on NSU's Men's Basketball team as they play Florida National University. Registration for this event is \$10 per person and includes one drink ticket, light appetizers and a special alumni gift. Alumni will be able to watch the homecoming game from this VIP reception in the NSU Club Room, which will allow cash bar purchases.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



HOMECOMING TRADITIONS

By: Kelsey Bruce
Arts & Entertainment Editor

It's homecoming week and that means it's the time of year to let your shark spirit overflow. Between writing papers, studying for tests, keeping up with online classes, working a job, being active in extracurriculars and more, you truly deserve to let loose, and NSU has no shortage of homecoming traditions to help with that.



28th Annual "Anything that Floats" Raft Race

Being held on Nov. 5 from 4 - 6 p.m., the annual raft race is a place for student teams, clubs, organizations and Razor's Edge groups to engineer their own rafts [from any non-harmful to the environment materials] and race them around Gold Circle Lake. Each team also has a chance to win \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 upon winning first, second or third place. To learn more about the history behind this tradition, read the article on page 7.

Homecoming Bash

Head over to the Rick Case Arena on Nov. 7 at 10 p.m to dance the night away with DJ Hercules from 99 JAMZ — and all your peers, of course. The bash is a wonderful time to let your NSU energy possess you, and, in the words of the homecoming theme, "bleed shark blue."



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NSU ARCHIVES

Friday Night Flights on Nov. 8 from 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. The event boasts of food, music and fun activities to keep your party spirit going.

Homecoming Game

NSU's Men's Basketball team is taking on Florida National University on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Rick Case Arena, and you should come out and watch. Supporting the Sharks is a great way to spend your Saturday night, and you won't want to miss our team bringing on its bite.

Homecoming Court

From all of NSU's student body, four students from each class are chosen to represent NSU through the homecoming court. The students are selected from a nomination pool that takes place throughout homecoming week, and finalists are announced at the homecoming basketball game. This tradition is a great way to be involved in NSU and show how proud you are to be a shark.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NSU ARCHIVES & GERLINDE
2002 Homecoming Court depicted below

4th Annual Homecoming Yard Show

On Nov. 8 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center from 7 - 10 p.m., the Unified Greek Council will put on a spirited show including a live DJ. It's a great opportunity to come out and see active members of the shark community. Don't forget to bring your friends.

Friday Night Flights — Homecoming Edition

If you're still looking to burn up energy after the Yard Show, we've got you covered. Flight Deck Backyard brings you



ANYTHING FLOATS RAFT RACE

By: Emma Heineman
Features Editor



This year marks the 28th annual Anything Floats Raft Race at NSU. The raft race was started in 1991 by Dr. Brad Williams, vice president of student affairs and dean of the college of undergraduate studies, and a group of students that has since become one of NSU's most beloved traditions.

The annual event features a race in which teams of six, made up of clubs, organizations and NSU students, build and race their own boat, competing to win money for their club or organization. The winning team will win a cash prize of \$2,000, the runner up will win \$1,000 and the third-place team will be awarded \$500, which can be used for their respective organizations.

Gerard Wheeler, the director of Campus Life and Student Engagement explained that the event is for students who may not usually be engaged to come out and participate in something outside of their comfort zone. He said, "It is one of the most interesting things I have ever seen. I am going to be honest, I was skeptical when I first got here, but it is a great time to see how much time students put into crafting

the boats and seeing things that you think would automatically float go straight to the bottom and things that you didn't think would float, float. It's a good time and a good atmosphere."

For the past 28 years, the raft race has been a staple in NSU's homecoming celebrations. The event brings students from different clubs, organizations and programs all over campus together to work in teams and have a great time. Wheeler noted, "At NSU, we are all about fun and family, and what better way to trust the people we call our shark family than to jump in a boat and race across Gold Circle Lake."

Tec Clark, the associate director for aquatics and scuba diving, provided a safety perspective of the event. Clark explained that the Office of Recreation and Wellness helps to facilitate the logistics of the event and ensure that set health and safety standards are followed. A variety of safety precautions, including stationed lifeguards, raft inspections, water testing and mandatory life jackets, ensure that the event is fun and safe for everyone and for the environment. The boat inspections

ensure that no environmentally harmful materials, such as styrofoam or fiberglass, are used on the rafts that can negatively impact the NSU aquatic environment. Clark also said, "The event is a historic part of [NSU's Identity] on this campus, and I think it speaks to a high legacy that an event that was done for so many years and students that have such great memories of, still happens today."

So whether you want to jump headfirst into the waterlogged festivities or simply come out to support your fellow sharks, the Anything Floats Raft Race is the perfect opportunity for NSU students to kick off homecoming week and show how they bleed shark blue.

This year the annual event will take place at Gold Circle Lake on Nov. 5 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, students can contact Tec Clark at tclark@nova.edu or the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement. We hope to see you all there!

PHOTO COURTESY OF
NSU STUDENT MARKETING



MEN'S BASKETBALL: CONFIDENT, NOT COCKY

By: Cameron Pritchett
Sports Editor

NSU Men's Basketball is coming off a season where they proved they were a force to be reckoned with. After last season's success, the sky really is the limit for the Sharks.

NSU was almost unheard of in the rankings of the 2018-2019 season; to say they made some noise in these rankings would be an understatement, after they posted a final record of 29-4. In addition to their record, the Sharks took home a South Regional Championship and were able to make it to the Quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. Many teams would be satisfied with these feats, considering it was the first time in program history that the team had gone that far in the Division II tournament; the Sharks, however,

are no ordinary team. Many would say there isn't a whole lot to improve on; however, NCAA coaching legend Jim Crutchfield sees things differently.

“As far as what we do on the court, we can improve in every single aspect of the game; the way we play together, the way we defend and the way we handle the ball, there’s absolutely nothing in the game of basketball that we can’t get better at. We had a great year and won a lot of close games last year, but that can be a little deceptive. We had 12 close games and won 10 of them. We’re getting good [under] pressure, but we need to defend the basket a little bit better,” said Crutchfield.





The notoriety behind the team has increased significantly this season. After not being ranked in the top-25 teams last season, the Sharks have seen themselves rise to top-five status in numerous polls for the 2019-2020 season. "I've seen polls where we were ranked two, three and five, which is incredible, but if we start assuming we're the second, third or fifth best team in the country, then we are making a mistake. We want to be confident, but we cannot afford to be overconfident," said Crutchfield. For a team, being overconfident can signify a death sentence for the entire season.

Goals have been set high for this upcoming season and beyond, and rightfully so. However, the Sharks aren't necessarily focused on just their overall record. "We talk about how good we can become as a team, and the record will take care of itself. Some of the goals

that we have include how we handle the ball and how many turnovers we force. We're trying to be a +10 team in the turnover category," said Crutchfield. Looking forward, Men's Basketball wants to gain more exposure and contribute to the recognition of NSU and its school spirit, and athletics are a key part of Crutchfield's goal: "You develop your so-called brand, as people refer to, by winning games, and how you represent the school, as well as the type of [athletes] you put on the floor and playing a style of basketball that people appreciate, which is uptempo basketball. You create a brand by what you do; I don't believe you can artificially create a brand that's long lasting."

NSU Men's Basketball will play Florida National on Sat. Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in their home court, the Rick Case Arena.

The Sharks will begin their new season on Nov. 9, the homecoming game, and it is expected to be the most popular game of the year. Expectations are high, but the team is reacting well to the pressure.

"The first game of the year is always nice to start with a win. We just have to come out, play our game and get a feel for the referees and the environment. It's my last homecoming game, so I definitely want to go out with a bang and have the best game we can have as a team," said Mark Matthews, senior general studies major and redshirt senior guard and forward for the team.



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TAILGATING 101

By: Mario Lorrimer
Business Manager

Whether you're a social butterfly, love to eat or just want to have some pre-game fun, tailgating is for you. Tailgating can be an art, if you do it right. So, how can you go from being that guy who brings Doritos and some salsa to a grilling legend? You become a legend by preparing for everything. Now you might be saying, "but Mario I hate prepping, I just want to run around shirtless, covered in body paint." That's okay too, but if you want to have the best food and experience, I suggest you do a little prepping.

Coolers are going to be your best friend. They store all your drinks, food and maybe some dessert. I would suggest if you plan on grilling, have two coolers. One for drinks and

cooked food and the other for uncooked meat products. This way you don't have to worry about the raw meat juice spilling on all your ready-to-eat items. Another important thing when it comes to coolers is knowing how to pack them. You want all your canned products on the bottom, other drinks on top and then packaged food above everything. Freeze some water bottles and keep those in your cooler, so that when they melt you have ice cold water.

Food prep is key to having delicious meals. Whatever meat you decide to place on the grill, make sure it's defrosted at least two days before the event. Then, you can slide it into some marinade to achieve the best flavor possible. Once

you have your meat ready, get to prepping all the side dishes and complementary foods. If you're making burgers, chop the lettuce and tomatoes the day before and separate some cheese slices. Place them out in a foil pan, cover them and place them on the top of your cooler.

Expert tip: if you want to get fancy and bring hot food, have a third cooler. This cooler will keep things warm instead of cold. You're going to need a heat resistant pan, fill it halfway with close to boiling water. Cover the pan and poke a few holes in the cover, then you're going to want to cover those holes with one or two paper towels if you want to prevent excess water built up. Finally, you're going to put a cooler rack in your cooler to keep your

food on. Make sure you cover your food to prevent any excess moisture and you're done. Now have a makeshift warmer!

Before you start grilling, consider your surroundings and the direction the wind is blowing. Once you are in a safe area, set your grill up and start the magic. Make sure you have a heat resistant bucket for the coals when you are done.

Sanitation: While you are grilling, you want to make sure your hands are clean because you'll be dealing with raw meat. Fill an empty pump bottle with water and wash your hands with some soap. Once the feast is over, pack up at least an hour before the game so you don't miss it!

COURTESY OF
NSU ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRMC



COURTESY OF NSU ARCHIVES



SHARK SPEAK

What are you looking forward to most during Homecoming?

"As an engineering major, they have the Anything Floats Raft Race and that is right up my alley. I have a group, I will be there for sure,"



Shannon Maharajh,
freshman engineering major

I always like how the alumni come back. I think it's really fun. I'm on the volleyball team so a lot of our old friends will come back for the week,



Ally Ford, counseling grad student



Serena Sha,
junior behavioral neuroscience major

I'm really interested in two events: the Anything Floats Raft Race because I love watching people get soaked and have fun. Also the creativity of it. The second one is the Library's UC Takeover. I think it is a really interesting idea,



Marie Theolene Johnson,
junior criminal justice major

I like when the sororities and fraternities get together and perform. I like to see that, it's a great way to get students to get their minds off the mid-terms they just took and the finals they are looking forward to. It is a great way to relax and get us into the school spirit,



William Shawver,
freshman biology major

The Anything Floats Raft Race because I want to [see] if people can actually swim and see who actually can get an engineering [degree]. I [prefer] to watch and laugh on the sidelines,

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<http://nsufl.libguides.com/uc-takeover>

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