

---

The Current

NSU Digital Collections

---

4-27-2022

## The Current - Volume 32 Issue 24

Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsudigital\\_newspaper](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/nsudigital_newspaper)

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

---

## Features



A rundown of environmental organizations on campus  
P. 5

## Arts & Entertainment



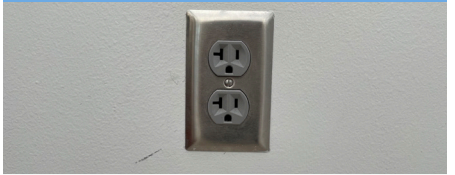
A look back at the Performing and Visual Arts productions  
P. 6

## Sports



Women's Tennis Ranked No. 2 by Intercollegiate Tennis Association  
P. 8

## Opinions



Plugging in at the UC: An inconvenient task  
P. 11

# Asbestos removed from Mailman-Hollywood building

By: Sofia Gallus  
Editor-in-Chief

There are ongoing construction and renovation projects in the Mailman-Hollywood building located on Nova Southeastern University's main campus. If you've passed through the building or have seen crews on the outside, you've probably noticed that one of the building's stairwells is blocked off and has "asbestos removal" signs posted. This has caused both student and staff concerns, but the Office of Facilities Management wanted to reaffirm that this is part of a normal renovation process.

Daniel Alfonso, the vice president of facilities at NSU, explained that the renovations in the Mailman-Hollywood building are to make the building a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing educational environment. He said that the stairwells are all in the process of receiving upgrades.

"I don't know if you've walked up and down that stairwell, but if you notice there's a plastic non-slip surface that's been glued to the stairwell for a long time and it's been deteriorating. We are replacing that surface,

cleaning it up and putting something new in there," Alfonso said.

He noted that the glue holding that non-slip surface to the floor, referred to as mastic, is where the asbestos is located.

"Like anything that was built before the 1980's, the glue underneath has some small component of asbestos. I believe in the 2% range," Alfonso added.

Even though it is a small amount, Alfonso assured that NSU is following all healthy and safety guidelines, conducting testing before, during and after the project is completed to make sure there are no health risks.

Beth Welmaker, the executive director for environmental health and safety, explained that NSU doesn't dispatch their own teams to work on construction projects like this, but instead hires licensed individuals that have gone through additional training and experiences to perform abatement work.

"Before taking on a project like this, we sampled to make sure we could identify any hazards that may be present before we disturb

the area. A total of 72 samples were taken, and a total of only 11 were identified as containing asbestos," Welmaker said.

Welmaker added that not only does NSU hire licensed professionals to perform the abatement work, but also hired an individual not associated with NSU or the abatement contracting vendor to come perform testing after the construction has happened to ensure that the space is safe to resume activities in and that the construction is of quality.

The project is still ongoing, as all three of the stairwells in Mailman-Hollywood are receiving these abatement processes and construction upgrades.

Seth Mangasarian, the director of Physical Plant, explained that after testing had concluded, construction started on the first stairwell during the second week of April. According to Mangasarian, each stairwell should only take two weeks to complete, but due to fire safety regulations they are only working on one stairwell at a time.

Randall Seneff, the executive director

of facilities management, explained that in addition to the construction happening in the stairwells, what was formerly known as the data center is being constructed into a classroom. He said that there was a small area in that room that also contained asbestos but noted that since the surface area was much smaller than the stairwells and the construction in that room would be finished in the span of a weekend, especially since the asbestos found was non-friable, meaning that it was encased so that it would not as easily be released into the air.

"Right now, the abatement contractor is in the cleanup process. They couldn't take down the barriers until all the results that were in the space came back negative [for asbestos], but they have now received those post-removal samples and they are negative," Mangasarian said. "We don't want to interfere with student learning from a noisy standpoint, so construction should be finishing sometime in mid-to-late May."

Correction from Issue 23: The Sharkettes did not perform at the STUEYs due to a last minute cancellation.

# STUEYs recipients take home gold

By: Rei Perez  
Features Editor

The 24th annual Student Life Achievement Awards, or STUEYs, honored notable students, staff and faculty on April 12. The ceremony took place in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center and recognized many but just a few went home with a STUEY.

Although 15 were nominated for Overall Student of the Year for 2022, the winner was Jeremy Espuet of the College of Psychology. Inviting his girlfriend and parents on to the stage, he gave a brief but heartfelt speech alongside President George Hanbury.

"If I were to invite everyone on stage tonight that has helped me on my journey thus far we would probably have a fire hazard and go over the weight limit," said Espuet.

Executive of the Year went to Ron Chenail of the Executive Office. Chenail won many laughs with the audience in his acceptance speech after some playful banter with his colleague on stage.

The Alumni of the Year for 2022 was Adam Scott Goldberg of Shepard Broad College of Law, who thanked those who helped him get to where he is now.

Gina L. Peyton won Professor of the Year for 2022. Peyton was chosen for this award for all of her hard work in the Abraham S. Fishler College of Education and School of Criminal

Justice at the Orlando campus.

The NSU Staff Person of the Year, which recognizes those who work for the university outside of the classroom, went to Kandee Griffith at enrollment and student services at the Jacksonville campus.

Regional Campus Student of the Year was Jacquelyn Marquez of the NSU Miami campus.

"This is actually the second year I've been nominated, so it's actually a very big privilege for me to actually win this the second year. I actually graduate in two weeks so this is a great way to go out," said Marquez to applause.

Carlos Manuel Perez won Administrator of the Year for his work in the College of Psychology. Perez wore what he described as his "spring suit" and thanked his husband who was in the audience.

"Sorry HPD, Law, business. Psychology students are the best," said Perez jokingly.

The Juan Pablo Correa scholarship honors students who show the same initiative as the man the award is named after. A Student of the Year recipient, Correa died in a car accident in 1997. This year's recipient of the Juan Pablo Correa scholarship was Emanuella Barros Magalhes Brito from the Halmos College of Arts & Sciences.

"I feel honored to be the recipient of this scholarship this year," said Magalhes Brito.

The 2022 Co-Curricular advisor of the Year was Jose Rey from the College of Pharmacy.

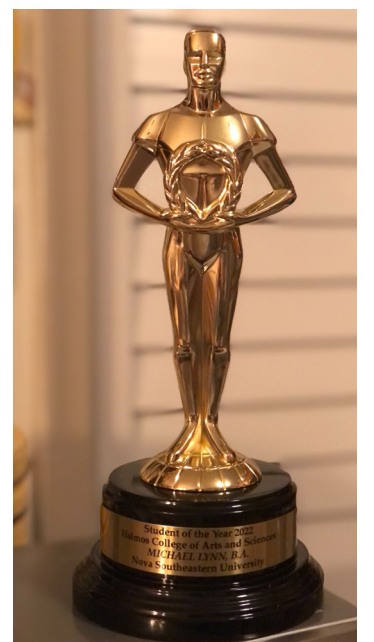
"When I was an undergrad student, I learned a long time ago: we are on this planet to serve others," said Rey.

Student Government of the Year, an award for which the Undergraduate Student Government Association was nominated, went to the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine SGA.

The Graduate Organization of the Year was the National Optometric Student Association from the College of Optometry.

The 2021 NSU men's soccer team won Athletics Team of the Year. They thanked the university and gave a shoutout to the other nominees during their speech.

Corporate Partner of the year was Lee Health, which works with the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing. Undergraduate Organization of the year went to Freedom Sharks from the Division of Student Affairs, an organization known for its service to the veteran community.



A STUEY is a high honor few have obtained.  
PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM M. LYNN

# The push for preferred names and pronouns at NSU

By: Rei Perez  
Features Editor

As schools across the country adopt accommodative efforts for trans and non-binary students, Nova Southeastern University has begun considering its options as well, most notably through preferred names and pronouns on school IDs; but it has also raised questions about how this can be done.

University President George Hanbury held a town hall in the University Center on March 31 where he took various questions from students. An anonymous question submitted online asked about preferred names and pronouns on Sharkcards, something that has gained steam throughout the semester at NSU.

The concept is simple: adding customizable pronouns and preferred names to Sharkcards, email addresses and on Canvas. This policy change is heavily favored by trans students who it would affect.

Sol Mateo Astacio, sophomore dual education and music major and trans student said, "I think it's super inconvenient to not have my preferred name on my documentation. Even if I tell people, every time they email, they use my deadname."

Trans students usually get a name change at some point in their transition, but the process is long and costly, and for many students it is not a possibility yet.

What's stopping NSU? Documentation and public safety concerns.

"We are working with vendors to see if we can add preferred names that can carry though while the system still has the legal name... Our vendors are trying to see if preferred names can be applied," said Stephanie Brown, vice president of Enrollment and Student Services at the town hall.

While President Hanbury acknowledged that he wants what is best for students, he said that his decision on the matter would be based on the rules and regulations put forth by the Department of Education. According to the Washington Post, the Department of Education is putting out new Title IX

guidelines in April prohibiting discrimination against trans students.

The Undergraduate Student Government Association posted a step-by-step guide on how to change pronouns on Canvas on their Instagram account.

USGA president-elect Lijo Andrews stated during his presidential debate in March that one of his priorities, along with placing more flags of countries in the UC, was implementing gender-affirming ID for students.

"A lot of these big-name schools have the option to change your preferred name in a way where it won't affect any legal processes. Working with Hanbury on this is a top priority," said Andrews.

Andrews specified that he intends to work with Public Safety, the University Registrar and OIIT to "discuss what the first steps would be." He intends to put preferred names and pronouns on Sharkcards and on Outlook emails, which currently can't be changed.

"I feel like the voice of trans students and non-binary students has been overlooked for way too long. It's time we address these issues... I'm sorry we haven't been able to make this happen. It's very important to a lot of students and it's important to me," said Andrews.

Trans students are all too eager for the results.

James Geier, sophomore biology major and transmasculine student said, regarding Andrews, "USGA has someone who is willing to fight for trans people and our rights on campus," adding that they avoid sending emails as much as possible for fear of revealing their deadname.

"If NSU can remove deadnames and add preferred pronouns, it would relieve this stress and allow trans students like myself to live without fear of being called a name that we work to keep hidden," said Geier.

# Students struggle with door maintenance on campus

By: Blake Malick  
Sports Editor

The largest residential hall on Nova Southeastern University's campus, Mako Hall, had reports of issues with the doors not opening and Sharkcards not allowing entry into the building on April 7.

Jim Lambe, the associate director of communications and technology of Public Safety, oversees the door functions on buildings on campus from a programming standpoint. Lambe's team had planned server maintenance from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 7.

At Mako Hall, each card reader connects to controllers that talk to the server through the network. When the network is turned off, it then relies on local memory. According to Lambe, the issue with Mako Hall's doors comes from a mishap within the local memory. During the server maintenance, the network that contains all information is shut down, but there is supposed to be a local memory that has the same information.

"When the server goes down, the local memory is still supposed to remember that a specific student has access to the building," said Lambe. "For some reason, at Mako Hall, all the controllers dumped their local memory when they lost connection with the server. This created an inconvenience factor for all the residents there."

Going forward, Lambe mentions that there is now a plan in place to make sure that the event on April 7 doesn't repeat itself. He says that the issue is still being troubleshooted further to understand it in detail due to it only occurring at Mako Hall.

"We regret that there was an inconvenience, and ideally, that should not have happened," said Lambe. "The good thing is that we've identified the issue and there is now a workaround in place."

The door issues extend further than just Mako Hall. The Louis W. Parker Physical Sciences Center, better known as the Parker building, is also having an issue with their doors. At times, the sliding doors in the Parker Building need to be propped open due to them not functioning properly.

Jimmy Ricci, Public Safety's associate director of physical security specializing in locksmith operations, is familiar with the situation. Ricci said that people pushing the doors open is the most likely reason for this issue.

"Sometimes people will push the sliding doors and they go off the track," said Ricci. "It's a matter of realigning the doors back on the track and getting them to re-set in place."

The doors may have also been affected by the maintenance, according to Ricci. Each building has a schedule of when doors are supposed to open. The server's downtime could have also possibly affected the Parker building.

"When the server is down, there are certain door schedules that occur outside of the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.," said Ricci. "For some reason, there could've been a schedule that was occurring in that time frame, and that could've been possibly impacted by the server being down."

## TheCurrent

3301 College Ave  
University Center, Room 328  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

### NEWSROOM

Phone: 954-262-8455  
Fax: 954-262-8456  
nsunews@nova.edu

### BUSINESS & ADVERTISING

Phone: 954-262-8461  
Fax: 954-262-8456  
thecurrentad@nova.edu

Sofia Gallus	Editor-in-Chief	nsunews@nova.edu
Alexander Martinie	Copy Editor	nsunews@nova.edu
Jamila Hughes	News Editor	thecurrentnews@nova.edu
Rei Perez	Features Editor	thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu
Blake Malick	Sports Editor	sportseditor@nova.edu
Sophia Cortes	Arts & Entertainment Editor	thecurrenta&e@nova.edu
Brielle Aguayo	Opinions Editor	thecurrentfeatures@nova.edu
Open	Multimedia Manager	nsunews@nova.edu
Gerianne Salamanca	Chief of Visual Design	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Hailey Wilcox	Business Manager	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Demerius Augustin	Distribution Manager	thecurrentad@nova.edu
Open	Contributing Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Open	Contributing Writer	nsunews@nova.edu
Megan Fitzgerald	Faculty Advisor	mf829@nova.edu
Mike Lynn	Advisor	ml2009@nova.edu
Adam DeRoss	Advisor	ad1584@nova.edu

The Current serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in Room 328 of the University Center. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute.

Editorials, commentaries and advertisements in this publication reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or its officials, The Current staff or other advertisers. The Current will not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. The Current reserves the right to edit.

Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

## Visit our Website

Check out our web exclusives, learn more about our staff, leave a comment on our articles or send us a letter to the editor.

Interact with us!

<https://nsucurrent.nova.edu/>



# The curious case of cows on campus

By: Sofia Gallus  
Editor-in-Chief



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM P. SAWICKI

Cows spotted outside Mako Hall.

Davie may be a western-themed town, but students weren't prepared for cows to be spotted at multiple locations on Nova Southeastern University's main campus on March 26. While unnoticed by most, the word traveled quickly through the student body throughout the following month and the cows gained celebrity status, even earning themselves a mention on NSU's Wikipedia page.

Preston Sawicki, a sophomore marine biology major, was a student who managed to capture a photo of the two cows outside of the Mako residence hall in the early hours of the morning. Sawicki said that at first, he thought he might be seeing things.

"At first, I saw people running from the direction of the parking garages, and I didn't think anything of it even though it was a Saturday at 7 a.m. because people are always running. Then, I just see a white and black blur hop over the curb, and I thought it was a cow and I thought I was crazy," Sawicki said.

As he continued to walk towards Mako hall, he watched as the cow ran towards the building and jumped over the plants that border Mako circle. Just as the shock settled in, he watched a second cow follow in its footsteps.

"They didn't seem to be maliciously following people trying to get into Mako hall,

they just seemed to be more interested in the people. It was kind of like a dog and it's like, 'Oh, where are we going now?' They just sort of follow along out of curiosity," Sawicki said.

The cows camped out in front of Mako hall until public safety and Davie police officers were able to escort them off the premises. Public safety was not able to confirm where the cows were returned to.

Shane Lam, the associate director of field operations for the department of public safety, noted that he was unsure where the cows came from. He said that they were first spotted by the Automation field by students and that public safety was quick to respond.

However, he said that with any instance of a wild animal or an animal that is not supposed to be on campus, public safety works closely with the Davie police department and animal control to make sure that the animal is safely removed. Lam explained that shortly after the cows were located by Mako residence hall, they were escorted off the premises by officers. Whether it be cows, cats, raccoons, possums or all of the above, public safety's first point of contact is Davie animal control.

# NSU's annual Arbor Day festival and the importance of planting trees

By: Sophia Cortes  
Arts & Entertainment Editor



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM S. CORTES

Gorgeous landscape at the NSU Library Quad.

Arbor Day, like Earth Day, is a national holiday centered around the celebration and appreciation of the natural world, specifically through the planting of trees across the nation. It is normally celebrated on the last Friday of April, although many states around the country host celebrations throughout the month. Tree Campus Higher Education, in partnership with NSU's Nature Club, the Green Sharks Sustainability Club and Epsilon Eta Environmental Fraternity, joined the festivities with NSU's annual Arbor Day Festival, on April 21 from noon until 4 p.m.

The host of the festival, Tree Campus Higher Education, is an Arbor Day foundation program whose mission is to help "colleges and universities grow their community forests, achieve national recognition and create a campus their students and staff are proud of," according to the official Tree Campus website. In accordance with NSU, Tree Campus is

helping to promote and provide the means to make the campus a little greener.

Junior biology and marine science major and the President of NSU's Nature Club Joseph Dubner said, "NSU and Tree Campus Higher Education deal with the development of the tree canopy on campus. So, every year they do an Arbor Day celebration where they host a planting ceremony for a tree that's being planted on campus."

Dubner said that the Nature Club set up tables near the wildflower garden where they spoke about being sustainable in college, why biodiversity is important especially regarding the importance of preserving native plants and removing invasive ones, what natural history is and the issue of greenwashing, which is when companies or organizations put up the façade of being environmentally friendly. Students who attended participated in these important discussions while enjoying s'mores the club

provided.

"We also had a wildflower planting ceremony," said Dubner. "We had money from the IOC that we were able to put towards buying plants from a local nursery called Tree Amigos Growers, who are well known in the area for providing native plants."

The event itself spanned beyond the Nature Club's ceremony, as the festival hosted food trucks and outside vendors, alongside visits from local environmental agencies such as the Florida Department of Environmental Conservation. Dubner explained the importance of events like these and urged students who couldn't attend to try for next year or even get involved with local environmental clubs or organizations as well.

"For someone like me who focuses on coastal marine ecosystems, I constantly think about the interactions between humans and the environment every time I go outside. But

a lot of people who don't put their lives into environmental sciences don't think about it that often. So, in having events like Arbor Day and Earth Day we can push these ideas of sustainability and the importance of being mindful of our consequences to the forefront, as well as informing people of misinformation because there's a lot out there."

Dubner continued, explaining the positive outcomes of these events.

"It opens up conversations of thinking in the long term, not just about what's happening next week or the week after but what the next generation, the future of humanity, is going to have to deal with and what we can do right now to make things better in the long run. Green Sharks Sustainability Club is currently filing a petition to get NSU to stop using so many disposable plastics, particularly for food and dining services, given the consistent use and availability of single use plastics."



# The stigmatizing history of mental health in film

By: Alexander Martinie  
Copy Editor

For decades, the film industry has made a habit of misrepresenting mental illness. These misrepresentations have major impacts on both the internal and external stigmatization of mental illness.

To clarify, stigmatization of mental illness refers to the formation of public attitudes towards people with mental illness. These public attitudes—more often than not—portray people with mental illnesses in a negative light. External stigmas refer to the attitudes held by the general public towards mental illnesses, while internal stigma refers to the attitudes of people with mental illnesses towards themselves. Internal stigma is also referred to as self-stigma.

As Candice Alaska wrote for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, “Hollywood has a long history of misrepresenting those with mental health conditions. These representations are usually portrayals of people with mental illness as violent and dangerous, which contribute to harmful stereotypes about mental illness. Inaccurate representations of mental illness create barriers to reducing stigma, forcing mental health advocates to work overtime to undo these damaging stereotypes. We need the entertainment industry to start accepting responsibility for the role they have in the mental health movement.”

According to Tim Razza, associate professor in the department of neuroscience and chief psychologist for NSU’s psychology postdoctoral residency program, these portrayals are widely inaccurate and have an overarching effect on the stigma of mental illness. For some, these portrayals may be the only place where they have been exposed to mental illness and seeing such a negative depiction of mental illnesses can make them prone to think that these portrayals are accurate, which seems to almost never be the case. In terms of internal stigmatization, a person with mental illness seeing their diagnosis in films, especially in such a negative light, can influence how they see themselves. Past research has shown that stigmatization of mental illness can influence an individual with mental illnesses’ symptoms and cause the symptoms to worsen in some cases.

“I think that many [depictions] fall short of being very clear and accurate, they tend to be more sensationalized and even inaccurate in how they kind of grab on to symptoms of different diagnoses and kind of throw them all together because they make a better character. I tend to have problems with most representations because I just don’t think they are fully accurate in all aspects of what the experience is and tend to focus more on the perceived negative aspects.

For individuals that are experiencing these difficulties, it serves to increase that self-stigma because of how they perceive how others are going to perceive them and their difficulties,” said Razza.

According to Razza, schizophrenia, dissociative identity disorder and bipolar disorder are commonly misrepresented. Most representations of these, and other disorders, show the person as aggressive and violent. However, around 80% of people with these disorders never show aggressive behavioral patterns, according to Razza. These negative perceptions of mental disorders are over portrayed in the media because it sells a better story.

## Movies with inaccurate and somewhat dangerous portrayals

In many cases, these portrayals are not trying to make an accurate representation. An accurate representation of mental illness does not sell movie tickets.

One such movie that is known for its inaccuracies is the 1957 film, “The Three Faces Of Eve.” Joanne Woodward played the role of the titular character, Eve, who was diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder, which at the time was referred to as multiple personality

disorder. The main inaccuracy of “The Three Faces Of Eve” stems from how it showcases the therapeutic process. In the film, Woodward’s character sees a psychotherapist and all of her trauma is “resolved” in a few sessions. As with its portrayal of dissociative identity disorder, this is a misrepresentation of the therapeutic process. Therapy is a process, it takes time. Especially in the time period that this film takes place and with the type of therapy shown in the film, a patient would see their psychotherapist multiple times a week few for several months if not years.

While “The Three Faces Of Eve” may not be the most recent movie, it did portray this disorder to the general public for the first time, which lead to skepticism of psychotherapy and major implications as several defendants tried to use this disorder as a defense in criminal trials. While this defense is rarely used in criminal trials today, the skepticism that “The Three Faces Of Eve” created is still seen today, especially following the release of movies like “Split” or portrayal of dissociative identity disorder in social media.

If helping to end the stigmatization of mental illness is something you care about, then try to avoid movies that portray mental illness in a stigmatizing way and speak out against it.

# The Time I... was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes

By: Frank Natale  
Contributing Writer



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM S. LEYVA

Novolog insulin vial and syringe.

I have always sought to live a life in which nothing can hold me down. Not school, not parents, and most definitely not a 9 to 5 job. But, on Aug. 18, 2018, I was presented with a reality check on my dreams.

It was a sick day for me. I remember wondering why I had been sick so often that fall. After a relentless battle with my thoughts and my parents, I finally gave in and decided to visit a doctor. I only really visited doctors when I was ill so I was not at all thrilled, but I was hoping that I would be prescribed something so that I could get over this illness. After all, this was the fourth time that I had gotten sick in two months so it’s understandable that I was over it.

The doctor’s visit was routine for the most part. I remember stepping on the scale and it read 142.5 pounds. The attending nurse asked me about my eating habits as my BMI indicated I was underweight. In all honesty, at that moment I ignored her because I knew I never was the “skinny” kid.

After what felt like an eternity, I was finally able to see a nurse practitioner. She did some examinations and asked why I was visiting. I explained how I had been sick often and that I wanted antibiotics to bring me back to good health. The nurse practitioner almost immediately digressed from the reason for my visit and began asking me questions that seemed like they were almost perfectly designed for me to answer yes to.

She asked me questions like, “Has your appetite been sluggish lately?” and “Have you been drinking a lot of water?” As her questions continued, a feeling grew that she suspected something I was unaware of. When she finished her questioning, the nurse practitioner said that she wanted to run a blood sugar test on me by pricking my finger. I acquiesced in her decision and allowed the nurse to prick my finger and run a blood sugar test. I recall the number “591” popping up on the screen in red text and feeling as if that was a “well-rounded number.”

As the nurse left the room to speak with the nurse practitioner, I set in for what I thought would be another eternal wait. But the wait was

not eternal. It took less than a minute for the nurse practitioner to come back and diagnose me with an incurable autoimmune disease known as Type 1 Diabetes. My “well-rounded number” was five times that of normal readings.

Clinic procedures required that I go to a hospital to perform further tests, so I had to visit an emergency room where I was informed that I had Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). DKA is a serious life-threatening disease that causes severe dehydration. My case was so bad that I needed to spend three days in the ICU.

I would say that my biggest wake-up call was when the ER doctor told me I was lucky to be alive.

I spent the next few days reflecting on what my future would look like and learning to manage my disease. I remember asking myself: “Why?” I had spent my life being healthy, running two miles daily and weightlifting but I was now met with something that would hold me down. Did I mention that I did not have health insurance when I was diagnosed? Yes, it was scary for a little while.

Now, almost four years later and close to \$100,000 in gross medical costs, I am still learning about myself and my condition. Throughout these years I dealt with ridicule, bullying and depression as a result of something that was totally out of my control. Although much can be considered tiring and degrading, it is important to admire the comical things.

One of my most notable memories involved me having to spend 30 minutes explaining to someone I met on Tinder that I was a diabetic and the device on my arm was not a “nicotine patch.” My best advice to anyone who is newly diagnosed is to set boundaries. This is your condition and you’ve been provided with the educational resources to handle it in the best way possible. Educate your friends and coworkers and most importantly never let your condition define you.



# A rundown of environmental organizations on campus

By: Brielle Aguayo  
Opinions Editor



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM C. ROUSSEAU

Environmental organizations have been making an impact on campus.

Environmental organizations provide valuable resources for students and the community to engage in opportunities to look after the planet and environment. There are many organizations on campus that represent positive messages of sustainability. For example, there is Epsilon Eta, Green Sharks and Nature Club.

## Epsilon Eta

Epsilon Eta is an environmental honors fraternity and environmental conservation organization that is motivated to find individuals that have a positive mindset and the will to help their environment thrive. These students have intellectual relationships with one another and hold their academics in high regard, creating networking opportunities within the Nova Southeastern University community and outside of it.

There is a rushing process with a series of events that allow you to meet other members and get to know the organization from a closer point of view. They require you to attend a few meetings and events, but overall want people who truly care about the environment and want to spread awareness. Some events they have had in the past were a game night, beach cleanups

and environmental workshops that cater to job and internship experience.

The organization has influence and passion for bettering the environment through academics and connections.

## Green Sharks

Green Sharks is a sustainability club that tailors itself to the need of educating students, staff and the university itself. They want to communicate their goals and environmental issues to the community.

Olivia Cantalupo, co-president of Green Sharks expresses their objectives.

“Our main goal is to educate students, faculty and the community as a whole about sustainability issues and to advocate for more sustainable alternatives on campus and just kind of promote overall sustainability,” said Cantalupo.

The organization holds many educational talks to discuss how to be sustainable and preserve the environment.

“We do a lot of educational events every month. We have sustainability one-on-ones where we’ll bring in some sort of expert in the field, whether it’s like a professor that does

research, or we’ve had RA’s come and talk about ways you can be more sustainable in the dorms,” said Cantalupo.

This semester they had speaker Alexandria Gordon discuss Florida PIRG Student Sustainability 101, lecturing about climate change, public health and feeding the hungry.

Green Sharks, like many organizations on campus, have a set of goals to achieve. Cantalupo explained an important goal of the use of recycling on campus, that affects NSU’s outlook on the issue.

“So, we can put pressure on people at Nova to start recycling because NSU does not recycle. They say that they do, and we put the recycling bins out, but all of it just goes into the same place. It’s all just into the trash. We used to recycle, but the town of Davie stopped because there are problems with recycling in South Florida in general, and we haven’t started [again.] I believe it stopped like 2019.”

This organization has a mission to spread sustainably and educate the NSU community. Overall, Green Sharks wants to encourage everyone to think of the environment more and have a better understanding of preserving the environment around us.

## Nature Club

Nature Club is an organization that cares deeply about bringing the beauty of nature to campus. They go on trips, hikes, snorkeling excursions and camping expeditions. The organization also has valuable elements that cater to student’s educational needs and interests in the outdoors.

For example, the organization oversees NSU’s Healing and Medicinal Garden which is a beautiful part of campus. The purpose of the Healing and Medicinal Garden is to help calm people and help retain positive energy by being one with nature. There is even a reflexology pathway that provides stimulus points on one’s feet by walking the path barefoot.

Overall, these environmental organizations all have similar goals to promote environmental needs and provide the community with endless opportunities to get involved. The environment is a crucial part of maintaining our planet, and it is important to remember to take care of the ecosystems around us.

# Trans on the ballot: The 2022 midterms focus on culture wars

By: Rei Perez  
Features Editor

As of April, there have been roughly 267 anti-LGBTQ+ pieces of legislation introduced across the U.S. according to Freedom for All Americans, a campaign for LGBTQ+ rights. The majority of those bills target trans people. GOP members around the nation have continuously gone further in limiting LGBTQ+ people’s civil rights and copying each other when a new step is taken. With the 2022 midterm elections on Nov. 8, many of these legislators are up for reelection and have made “parental rights” their key issue.

During the summer months, many states will begin their campaigns for governor, senators and representatives. Key issues are always changing. In 2018, immigration and socialism were heavily discussed as migrant caravans made their way to the U.S. border and Republicans rallied around what they called the “radical left.” This year the talk of the country is all about trans people and how much they can participate in society.

After signing the “Fairness in Women’s Sports” act on the first day of pride month last year, a bill that prohibits trans girls from participating in K-12 sports, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed the controversial “Parental Rights in Education” bill or “Don’t Say Gay” bill, which restricts speech on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Although the governor’s office has insisted the law is not based on discrimination, the

intentions of the legislators has been heavily criticized around the country by activists and even Disney, which disavowed the bill after public backlash against its funding of the legislators.

Professor of history and politics at NSU, Charles Zelden said that this is all designed to fire up the Republican base, and it’s working.

“Their sales pitch is: the world you’re living in is changing and you don’t like it... we’re going to fight to stop this from happening. What they are doing, where they have the authority to do it, is passing legislation,” said Zelden.

Spokesperson for Governor DeSantis, Christina Pushaw tweeted that the law would be “more accurately described as an Anti-Grooming Bill.”

Adjunct professor and gender studies scholar, Zachary Scalzo said that the root of this rhetoric is ignorance, “The real irony of the situation is that if we actually did have more hands-on discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation, we perhaps wouldn’t have such easy spreads of misinformation about it.”

These bills have already been copied by other states, 19 in total, who have introduced bills that limit how educators discuss the LGBTQ+ community, according to the think-tank Movement Advancement Project.

Most recently, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law a bill which prohibits

gender-affirming care for minors in the state. The bill criminalizes providing critical care to trans minors. The bill caused the Department of Health and Human Services to issue new guidelines that urge hospitals to protect trans individuals or risk funding.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed two bills in early April, one that makes it a felony to provide gender affirming care to trans individuals under 19 and another which prohibits classroom discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity, according to NBC News.

“If the Good Lord made you a boy, you are a boy, and if he made you a girl, you are a girl,” said Ivey at the signing.

The Department of Justice, in response, warned that “intentionally erecting discriminatory barriers” against LGBTQ+ individuals would be against federal protections in a letter sent to all the U.S. attorneys general.

This sweep of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is no coincidence. In late February, Florida senator Rick Scott issued his “11-Point Plan to Rescue America.” Outlining all potential Republican policy objectives, the plan makes transphobic claims.

“Men and women are biologically different, ‘male and female He created them,’” wrote Scott, adding, “We will protect women’s sports by banning biological males from competing.”

Many major sports organizations and leagues have declared that giving transition requirements for trans women give them little to no advantage and makes them eligible to compete against cisgender women.

Is this a winning strategy for Republicans? According to a poll from ABC News and IPSOS: “62% of Americans oppose legislation that would prohibit classroom lessons about sexual orientation and gender identity in elementary school, while 37% of Americans support legislation that would.”

According to a CNN poll on the importance of education: 81% of Americans said it was extremely or very important for the 2022 midterms.

The Associated Press and University of Chicago recently found that 31% of respondents felt that schools focused too little on gender and sexuality while 23% felt it was the opposite. These sentiments are along party lines.

Ultimately, Zelden stated that for Democrats, it’s about getting out the vote.

“This is programming for the decided. They’re already going to vote for you, you’re trying to give them a reason to make sure they show up... it’s an arms race,” said Zelden.

As for the conservative base, Scalzo said that once the damage has been done in a widespread moral panic, it takes a long time to undo.



# A look back at the Performing and Visual Arts productions

By: Brielle Aguayo  
Opinions Editor

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM S. CORTES

The first theater performance of the year, *The Tempest* a unique look at the work of Shakespeare



Two Razor Edge Shark Talent students performing at The Song Writer Showcase.



The Performing and Visual Arts department at Nova Southeastern University consists of talented, creative and remarkable groups of people who come together to create art and showcase their passions in different forms. Whether that be visual art, music, dance or theatre, the possibilities for performances and creative examples are endless.

There were many events this year, such as art exhibitions, and dance and musical performances that showcased the varied talents at NSU.

## The Tempest

“The Tempest” occurred on Oct. 8 - 9 in the Black Box Theatre. This production of one of Shakespeare’s plays was a compelling story about human nature in a world full of mystical creatures and moments. This was produced by the department of communication, media and the arts, and directed by Alex Alvarez. This production is the first return to live theatre at NSU since the pandemic in spring of 2020.

## Stage 2: The Mayfly

“The Mayfly” premiered on Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre. This theatre production was the result of a 24-hour creative process by student writers, directors, actors and technicians. It was put on by Stage 2 Productions which is a student-lead theater company. The theme this year was Gamefly, a concept using video games to produce valuable theatrical performances with the help of a whole crew and cast. The Mayfly was exceptional.

## Danceworks

“Danceworks” was a versatile dance concert that took place on Nov. 5-6 at 7:30 p.m., located in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center. This concert was for dancers to express themselves through the creative process of choreography. Dance majors and minors and Razors Edge Shark Talent students were all a part of this production. Duos and group dances took place, displaying different genres of dance

such as contemporary ballet, spoken word, modern dance, and a powerful duet.

## Peace: A Musical Celebration

Peace: A Musical Celebration took place on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the performance theater. The Peace concert was a musical celebration that represented creativity and individuality. The theme and message that the concert had was music that represents a better world and allows for tranquility and meaningful performances like solos and group numbers to take place.

## Improv Jam

The Improv Jam was a show that took place on Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Theater. During Improv Jam, actors performed scenes in front of a live audience. The catch is that there were no scripts and nothing was planned, meaning actors created scenes from the top of their heads, often based on audience suggestions. It was a wild ride full of creative artists coming up with content on the spot to

showcase their theatrical abilities.

## And the World Goes Round

The production “And the World Goes Round” took place through Feb. 11-13, located at the Performance Theater. This show was an iconic and memorable take on classic compositions from musicals by John Kander and Fred Ebb. Kander and Ebb are the artists responsible for creating musicals such as “Cabaret” and “Chicago.” The show was produced by the department of communication, media and the arts.

## The Songwriter Showcase

The Songwriter Showcase took place on April 7 in the Performance Theater. This production consisted of musicians presenting their composed music. There were solos and group performances full of talented and creative individuals, with a band playing music in the background to complement each singer’s vocals.

# “Our Flag Means Death” review: Who knew a comedy show about pirates could make me cry?

By: Sofia Gallus  
Editor-in-Chief

If you’re anything of a weird history buff, you may have heard of Stede Bonnet, otherwise known as the Gentleman Pirate. Even if you aren’t a weird history buff, you’ve definitely heard the name of one of the most ferocious pirates to ever live, known as Blackbeard. What you may not know is that Blackbeard, a pirate feared both by those scouring the sea for treasure and the British royal navy, sailed with the Gentleman Pirate in 1717. This is where “Our Flag Means Death” comes in: released on March 3, the dramatic comedy plots the fictional adventures of Blackbeard and the Gentleman Pirate that loosely follow actual historical events.

“Our Flag Means Death” boasts an impressive cast of comedians. Starring Rhys Darby as Stede Bonnet and Taika Waititi as Blackbeard, both actors come from a long line of cult classics such as “Flight of the Conchords” and “What We Do In The Shadows.” However, the show doesn’t just star two great comedians,

but is stocked full of them. Appearances also include Leslie Jones from “Saturday Night Live” as Spanish Jackie, Fred Armisen from “Portlandia” as Geraldo, Will Arnett from “BoJack Horseman” as Calico Jack and Kristen Schaal from “Bob’s Burgers” as Antoinette, amongst so many others.

The cast is part of what made this show so fantastic, because not only is every single person in the show hilarious, but they’re all skilled actors. There wasn’t one single joke that didn’t land, one single scene that seemed half-hearted, one single character that I forgot the name of. You can tell through their acting that not only were they dedicated to their craft, but they enjoyed making this show together. Paired with incredible writing, this show is comedy gold.

What really made “Our Flag Means Death” special to me is the delivery of meaningful LGBTQ+ storylines. There is not just one gay character, but instead many different

iterations of queer relationships that are often underrepresented in media. The relationships aren’t just a three second kiss that is thrown in as a plot device – looking at you, Star Wars—but instead are integral parts of the storyline and character arcs.

Additionally, the characters do not rely on their relationships to identify them, but instead have well written and fully developed individual storylines surrounding their identities. “Our Flag Means Death” not only did the work to make sure LGBTQ+ relationships were portrayed in a significant way, but casted underrepresented actors in underrepresented roles. This show is the first that I’ve seen to not only cast a nonbinary actor to play a nonbinary character, but also give the character a heartfelt storyline that both surrounds their identity without making it the only significant thing about them.

The effortless delivery of these LGBTQ+ relationships and characters are what makes “Our

Flag Means Death” one of my favorite shows to date. Unlike shows from my generation’s childhood, this show didn’t hold back on those teased romances, instead it showed them to viewers without hesitation. Even following backlash from homophobic viewers and snooty history buffs, director and starring actor Waititi posted on social media about how proud he and the rest of the cast were about the show and those who felt represented by it.

“Our Flag Means Death” made me laugh and cry, but most importantly it made me feel invested in multiple on-screen relationships and characters, which is more than I can say for any other show that I’ve watched in the past few years. It hasn’t been renewed for season two yet, which I can only assume is the biggest mistake HBO Max has ever made due to the show’s critical acclaim and fan reception, but I am still holding out hope.

**ONSHORE  
CALENDAR**

Confrontation: Keith Haring and Pierre Alechinsky  
April 27 - Oct 2 | Varies  
NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale

Student Graphic Design Exhibition  
April 29 - July 10 | Varies  
Virtual Gallery

Pavlo in Concert: The Santorini Tour  
April 29 | 8 p.m.  
The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

Carnival of the Animals  
May 1 | 2 p.m.  
The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

Free First Thursday- Sunny Days and Starry Nights  
May 5 | 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale

**Making your cap as special as graduation**

By: Jamila Hughes  
News Editor

Decorating a graduation cap is a great way to show off your individuality as well as make your graduation day even more special. Graduation is a super exciting time for all students, whether you're in high school, undergraduate or graduate school and during this time, you can decorate your cap to show off who you are or who you want to be. There are several different ways to go about decorating your cap, whether you're renting your cap and gown or if you've purchased one to keep.

**Do it yourself**

Firstly, you can decorate it yourself using a poster board. Cut the poster board in a square the size of your cap and cut a hole in the middle where the button and tassel from your cap can fit through. Once this is done decorate it however

you want. Once decorated you can use command strips or strong double-sided tape to stick the poster board onto your cap and you're all set.

However, if you do want to decorate your actual graduation cap the steps are pretty simple. You can use pencil to outline your design and paint your cap. For best results paint with acrylic paint as it dries quickly and is available at most craft stores. Another option is to tie die your cap the same as you would a t shirt.

**Have one custom made**

If you're not the arts and crafts type, don't worry. There's another way to decorate your cap without having to pick up any glitter or paint that also keeps it in perfect condition in case it needs to be returned. Tasseltoppers.com is a website that will allow you to virtually design a

graduation cap to your liking and they will ship it to you to place on your cap. Tassel Toppers designs are digitally printed so the cap will be 2D.

Once you get it you can add your own 3D aspects to it to make your design special. Tassel Toppers sends you velcro to help stick the cap topper onto your graduating cap for easy installation and removal processes. These two options are best for those who are renting graduation gear or don't want to decorate their physical cap.

No matter what you decide any of these options will help your graduation cap stand out on your special day and help family and friends spot you as you walk across the stage.

**OFFSHORE  
CALENDAR**

Broward Pops Orchestra Celebrates Maestro Peter Fuchs  
April 27 | 7:30 - 10 p.m.  
Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center

Food Truck Thursdays  
April 28 | 5 - 10 p.m.  
Highland Oaks Park

Monolink & Colyn @ Space Park  
Miami  
April 29 | 3 p.m.  
298 NE 61 Street, Miami, FL 33137

Pottery Class For Beginners  
April 29 | 2 - 4p.m.  
Mingo Pottery Studio

Fort Lauderdale Artwalk  
April 30 | 6 p.m.  
844 NE 4th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Margarita Festival  
April 30 | 5 - 8 p.m.  
Township FTL

**Soundbite:  
"This is Not America" by Residente**

By: Danna Bertel  
Contributing Writer

Puerto Rican rapper Rene Perez, also known as Residente, returns with the French-Cuban musical duo Ibeyi to tell the history of Latin America's struggles with corruption, violence, United States imperialism and police brutality. The title of the song refers to Childish Gambino's 2018 single "This Is America," focusing on racial violence and gun problems in the United States. Residente's "This is Not America" is challenging the meaning of "America" to identify as a continent and not just a country.

The inspiration for the song comes from the Chilean artist Alfredo Jaar's LED screen display from 1987, exhibiting a pixelated image outlining the United States map displaying the message "This is Not America." Residente, conveying the same message, used Jaar's image to begin his music video, clearly setting the tone

and message throughout his video.

The song kicks off with the sound of drums and a choir that provides a suspenseful rhythm, which is similar to his other songs. The tune is maintained consistently and slowly building to the outro of the song. Residente's rap flows smoothly with the prominent sounds of the drums, expressing a fierce tone. The chorus led by the duo Ibeyi, with distinctive voices and the increasing intensity of the drums, makes the song perfect to lead a protest. The song is authentic to the rapper, known for his poetic lyrics and social and political commentary in his songs with a blend of hip hop and distinctive Latin American music styles.

The message the song is conveying is not complete until viewing the impacting visuals that the music video presents. The video recounts the history of different countries of Central

and South America, giving ode to specific events that occurred in these countries. The music video offers visuals of Chilean musician Victor Jara assassinated during the Chilean coup in a stadium, the 43 Mexican students who disappeared and were assassinated, an indigenous child sitting on a tower of Happy Meals and a mother breastfeeding her child through a fence. The imagery that Residente displays is powerful due to the history that they represent and the struggles many people from these countries have to face..

"This is Not America" is a well thought out song holding a meaningful message and representation towards Latin America. Residente raps about the violence and chaos, but through his video and lyrics emphasizes this violence is met with resistance and in history there were people who stood up against the violence.

**Information regarding commencement**

**May 2, 2022 9:30 AM:  
Halmos College of Arts and Sciences**

**May 2, 2022 2:30 PM:  
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education & School of Criminal Justice  
College of Computing and Engineering  
College of Psychology  
Dr. K. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Dr. P. Patel College of Health Care Science  
H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business & Entrepreneurship  
R. & K. Assaf College of Nursing  
Shepard Broad College of Law**

To access the commencement livestream, visit <https://bit.ly/3OCuju4>



# Women's Tennis Ranked No. 2 by Intercollegiate Tennis Association

By: Blake Malick  
Sports Editor



PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM NSU ATHLETICS

Sharks congratulate each other after a win.

After a 17-2 start, the Nova Southeastern University Women's Tennis team has been recognized as a top program in Division-II by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. The ITA ranked NSU as the No. 2 team in the nation in their most recent poll. While NSU did spend three matches as the No. 1 team in the country, a loss to Barry set the team back to No. 2 overall. How has their season gone thus far?

Head coach Doug Neagle's team has gotten out to a great start and owns a 7-2 record vs. ranked opponents. Their only two losses came against Indianapolis and Barry, teams that were ranked No. 2 at the time of the matchup. Now, Barry is the undoubted No. 1 team in the nation with NSU following shortly behind.

Neagle's preferred singles lineup is set in stone. He starts it off with grad transfer Julie

Razafindranaly (11-1), junior Natalie Espinal follows (11-1), then redshirt senior Karolina Snita steps up third (11-0), grad student Zala Dovnik trails her (6-3), the five spot is for junior Diane Follin-Arbelet (8-2) and the final selection is grad student Nika Kozar (4-4). Senior Chantal Nosievici (7-1) and freshman Eva Goncharov (3-2) have filled in during the season and contributed.

In singles, NSU has a team record of 88-16 (.846). The team dominates the first three matches, racking up a 51-2 record (.962). The final three rounds are where the struggles come in, as their cumulative record is 37-14 (.725). While that percentage is still good, improvement is needed to take down the top teams.

When it comes to individual rankings, NSU has six players appear in the ITA Top 75 Singles

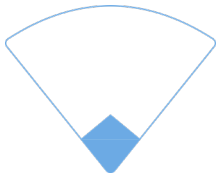
players. In addition, NSU is the only school in Division-II to have two players in the top six overall. Espinal (No. 3) attains a dominant 15-1 record (.937). Razafindranaly (No. 6) sports a 14-1 overall record after transferring to NSU from rival Barry. Kozar (No. 30) owns a high ranking despite her 6-5 record due to the fact that four of her losses came against ranked opponents. Snita (No. 51) has an impressive 15-0 record in singles. Even though she is a doubles expert, Nosievici (No. 72) still owns a ranking in singles after just eight appearances. Five of the six players in the six-player rotation own a ranking from the ITA's Top 75, giving NSU a deep rotation.

From a doubles perspective, NSU has a total record of 44-9 (.830). Coach Neagle's strategy is clear. Start the match off strong and

finish it in the final round with a strong closer. The first doubles match for Coach Neagle is a combo of Espinal and Nosievici (12-1). The dominant duo is ranked No. 3 in the nation by ITA. Up next is the duo Razafindranaly and Follin-Arbelet (4-0). The third and final group to play is the elite partnership of Dovnik and Kozar (8-0). The highly touted tandem is ranked No. 9 in Division-II. Much like the singles, NSU's doubles teams are ranked highly by the ITA.

The NCAA South Region Tournament begins on May 6 and ends the following day on May 7. Following the conclusion of that tournament, the NCAA Division-II Tennis Championship starts on May 17 and goes on until May 21. Expect to see plenty of Sharks in these tournaments.

## ON DECK



### Baseball

v Rollins  
April 29 | 6 p.m.  
NSU Baseball Complex

v Rollins  
April 30 | 3 p.m.  
NSU Baseball Complex

v Rollins  
May 1 | Noon  
NSU Baseball Complex

### Softball

v Florida Southern  
May 5 | 6 p.m.  
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Florida Southern  
May 6 | 1 p.m.  
AD Griffin Sports Complex

v Florida Southern  
May 6 | 3 p.m.  
AD Griffin Sports Complex

## Finding fitness: Running across campus because you are late

By: Alexander Martinie  
Copy Editor

We've all had days where we are off our game. Days where we are behind for whatever reason. Days where no matter what we do, we'll be just a tiny bit late. You could have been stuck in traffic, or had another class or meeting that ran long, or maybe you had to do some chores before you left your room. Whatever reason you have for being late, if that speaks to you, then this advice is for you: run!

The only reason I am writing this is because I was late to a staff meeting and was told to write it instead of choosing a different article. Which brings me to the newest addition to The Current's exercise routine: running across campus because you are late, again.

Whether you are late for a meeting, like I was, or late for class on an exam day, just run. Run to that important thing you have to do. Do your best to get to it on time. If it helps,

maybe channel your hunter gatherer ancestors and pretend a bear is chasing you to motivate you. Let that fight or flight response kick in and race to class. Let out a nice long blood curdling scream as you sprint across the library quad to your chemistry lab which started ten minutes ago.

I could tell you that running is good for you, or that it releases endorphins or something that is good for your mood, but do you really think I'm going to say that? Yes, running might be good for you, but at what cost? Don't run for your health, run because you are late. Run because your professor has already started class and you are missing the most important information of the semester. Run because you've been late to every class this week and you can't handle getting any more disappointing looks from your professors. Run so you don't show

up late to your staff meeting and have to write a fitness article, knowing full well that you haven't been to the gym in months.

Okay, maybe I will tell you a little bit about the benefits of running, especially right before going to class. Running gets the heart pumping and helps to release hormones and neurotransmitters that can improve mood, which can help you learn better. Your mental state influences how you learn. When you learn while in a good mood, you are more likely to remember what you learned before.

Speaking of being late, I was a few minutes late to class because I was rushing to finish this article, but at least I am not running to meet my deadline.



# The 4th annual Sharky's is in-person for the first time since COVID-19

By: Brielle Aguayo  
Opinions Editor

*Editor's note: This issue of the newspaper was written prior to The Sharky's.*

The Sharky's are an annual awards show that consists of commemorating and celebrating Nova Southeastern University's student athletes. During this year, athletic teams have worked hard and shown their efforts throughout their sporting events. They all have reached incredible milestones, which brought out memorable school spirit and passionate viewers.

The Sharky's took place on April 24 at 4 p.m. in the Miniaci Theater. All sports teams were recognized during this event, such as men and women's basketball, soccer, track, cross country, golf, swimming, volleyball and the Sharkettes. The only team that was not in attendance was the

women's tennis team because the Conference Championships took place at the same time.

Jameson Carter, manager of athletic communications, stated the differences this year's show has to offer.

"This will be the first live Sharky's we have done in three years, the last two years because of [COVID-19] we had gone to an online format where everything was prerecorded. It is a better experience for the student-athletes. It is a lot more fun; everyone dresses up and it is more of an overall great celebration to recognize the entire year," said Carter.

The award show consisted of pre-show interviews that were live streamed, and there were emcees from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee that were the directors and voices of

the show. There will be many awards presented to signify the attributes that all these athletes have achieved.

"There's a number of different awards, but pretty much the big ones you'll see are called 'Rookie of the Year,' which will be the best seasons freshman student-athlete and 'Male/Female Rising Star,' which is sophomores or juniors that have shown that they have potential or had good years that are ready to take the next step of being the stars of their respective teams," said Carter.

Other awards like the 'Golden Shark,' which is the best student athlete from each team, were given, as well as the 'Ultimate Shark,' an award judging who is the singular best athlete. Awards for things like strength and conditioning,

plus nutrition were highlighted as well. Finally, there were also academic awards for those inducted into a prestigious group of individuals who have maintained strong academic standing while being athletes.

This is an enjoyable and memorable experience for all athletes to take in to realize the amount of effort, dedication and passion they have given not only themselves but their teammates during their seasons.

"It's more of an enjoyable and appreciative feeling for all the hard work that everyone has put in. Whether it's the coaches, student-athletes, or the staff, it feels much more meaningful to have it in-person and I think the student athletes reflect upon that," said Carter.



## On the bench: Women have a place in coaching sports

By: Jamila Hughes  
News Editor

Alyssa Nakken has made history this month as the first woman to coach on-field in a major league baseball regular season game.

According to ABC News, "Nakken is an assistant coach who works heavily with baserunning and outfield defense. She watches games from an indoor batting cage near the steps to the dugout -- and keeps a Giants jersey nearby, just in case she needs it."

Nakken was working in the batting cage when she received the call that the San Francisco Giants needed her to coach at first base. She ran to the task, made history, and helped the giants reach their win against the San Diego Padres.

ABC News also reported that Nakken's helmet was already on its way to the hall of fame in Cooperstown, NY. When I heard about this news, I found it incredible. It is great seeing a woman make history in major league sports. However, it is disappointing that in 2022, we hadn't even had a woman coach on the field before in baseball. I think this raises a bigger issue and question of why women are not being prioritized in these positions and are rather backups when needed.

There are so many talented female sports professionals that have trained and practiced just as much as their male counterparts but are

never given their time to shine. It seems like sports teams hire them, but they are never at the forefront of what's happening for everyone to see. This doesn't just go for baseball but for all sports. Women deserve to be put in these coaching positions in the spotlight. Now, though there are more female coaches seen on female team sports than male team sports, this is no excuse for the inequality shown.

There's no reason why a woman can't coach a men's team, as men coach women's teams all the time. Though I must recognize that there has been significant improvement in including women in male dominated sports, in

my opinion, we are still far off from where we should be presently. It should be normalized to have both women and men coaching sports together on a regular basis regardless of the sex of the team.

I hope that Nakken's shining moment only encourages not just other Major League baseball teams, but all professional sports to rethink their placement of women on their staff and possibly make some changes to promote equal opportunity.

## Editing for Students and Professors

Experience editing research papers, articles, online courses, textbooks and proposals.

I have helped clients obtain PhD's, create dynamic online courses, get articles published, and more.

Former attorney who knows how to engage readers.

Local to NSU.

Contact Matt (MDE Communications). Email [mdez23@gmail.com](mailto:mdez23@gmail.com)

Phone/text 240-401-3053



# I've already paid tuition, why do I have to pay for my degree?

By: Sofia Gallus  
Editor-in-Chief

## Application Fee

Fees will be assessed as follows:

- Application fee for Degree/Diploma: \$100.00
- Application fee for Certificate: \$30.00

## Make an Application Payment in SharkLink

Charges should appear on your student account within 2-3 business days after submitting your application for degree or certificate. Once the charge appears, and in order to avoid a financial hold being placed on the student account, proceed to [SharkLink](#), using your user name and password. From the "My Account" navigation bar, go to the "Account Summary" channel, and click "NSU EBill (View and Pay Bill)." For question or information, please contact the Bursar's Office at 800-541-6682, ext. 25200.

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM S. GALLUS

Website portrays degree application fees.

The price that students must pay to receive a college education is higher than it has ever been in the United States, but the price at which students must pay to graduate after paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to Nova Southeastern University also seems to be skyrocketing.

The money students spend to live on-campus at NSU alone is enough for me to run away and start a brand-new life, so the fact that I have to pay \$100 just to apply for my degree—and they can reject me and make me reapply—and then pay more money for commencement ceremony fees, specialty cap and gowns, degree

frames and other graduation gear is ridiculous. Now, I know you could argue that not all of that is necessary. After all, the class rings that cost several thousand dollars and the cap and gown that also cost a pretty penny to buy aren't necessary to graduate. You do have the option of getting no class regalia and renting your cap and gown.

However, graduating students have made precious memories at NSU, and many of them want those special keepsakes to remember their time spent there. It isn't fair that only those who can afford to drop additional thousands of dollars get to enjoy those spoils after their hard

work during college.

Even if you don't want a class ring or to keep your wizard-esque robes from graduation, it is still ridiculous that you have to pay \$100 to apply for your degree. In fact, I've had several people tell me that they won't even look at your application until you pay the \$100, in addition to any other fines you have that are outstanding with the university. This not only delays plans for students but puts students with lower incomes or who may be paying their own way through university at a disadvantage.

Graduating college and transitioning into the next steps of adult life, whatever that may

look like, it is stressful enough. Adding the stress of paying any outstanding balances and more fees just to apply for a piece of paper that you've already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on is just downright cruel. It may be standard practice, but it makes every university who puts the practice in place look money-hungry instead of student-centered. I've enjoyed my time at NSU immensely, but please NSU, I've already paid tuition. I don't want to pay \$100 more.

# The Oscars hurts its audience by treating some films better than others

By: Bryce Johnson  
Contributing Writer

Winning an Oscar is a notable achievement in a filmmaker's career, and it has become a staple that lasts for the rest of their lives. However, what the award shows represent has started to mean less and less over the years.

Every aspect of the filmmaking process is important, but the Academy has portrayed some as less important than others, especially in the latest ceremony. Instead of diminishing the significance of some parts of films, it's important for the Academy to recognize that there are no lesser or weaker aspects in film.

The 94th Academy Awards aired on March 27, and during the ceremony, several categories were awarded offscreen and edited into the broadcast. The winners' acceptance speeches

were still included in the live show, but they were shortened to keep the ceremony's runtime down. The cut categories include the awards for original score, production design and sound design. These are all important parts of a movie, yet they were glossed over in favor of others.

By skipping segments and airing abbreviated acceptance speeches, it takes away from the little time some films are already given. For example, the award for best live action short film went to "The Long Goodbye," and the one for best animated short film went to "The Windshield Wiper." Both of these films were nominated for one category each, so this was the only time they were mentioned.

Some of the cut categories also weren't

given presenters, such as the sound category. This ceremony also lasted for three hours and 42 minutes, making it the longest ceremony since 2018. If the ceremony is already going to run long, each category may as well be given enough time to be appreciated.

The Academy also downplays the significance of film in regards to animation. Animation has been primarily seen as a genre in the eyes of the Academy, when in truth it's more of a medium. It's a mode of storytelling that's accessible to everyone, including both children and adults.

During the broadcast, animation was referred to several times as something parents have to endure for their children. This itself

is counterintuitive, since "Flee," an adult animated film, was nominated for three awards. Additionally, two songs from Disney's "Encanto" were performed live during the broadcast. This acknowledges how influential animation is, and describing animation in the way they did discredits the filmmakers' work.

For many people, the Oscars ceremony is supposed to celebrate the achievements in film from the past year. By giving more attention to some aspects of the filmmaking process over others, it implies that those select features matter more. Films are a collaborative effort between many talented people, and the Oscars can help more audiences feel included by recognizing that.

# I understand tuition is rising, but help would be appreciated

By: Blake Malick  
Sports Editor

I have been a student at Nova Southeastern University for three years now. I've now paid for six semesters of college, and somehow, every semester, the tuition amount seems to keep getting bigger and bigger. In the last few years, tuition has steadily increased. As other things like rent, food and gas get more expensive, an increase in tuition doesn't bode well for a student's finances.

When I got here in 2019, a semester's tuition was \$16,339. Now during this current semester, a semester's tuition is \$18,000. From a yearly perspective, it's even more devastating.

During my freshman year, both fall and winter tuition combined was \$32,524. Now, in my junior year, a full year's tuition is \$35,470. That's a \$2,946 rise yearly. Tuition rising is inevitable, and it isn't necessarily the biggest deal, but the students need to be aided financially in this case.

Unfortunately, as tuition rises, scholarships and financial aid remain negatively affected, or not affected at all. The Dean's Scholarship hasn't moved at all. It has been at the same fixed rate since the award date. The Effective Access to Student Education, or EASE, Grant is offered to private school students that are registered for

at least 12 credits and is a non-need-based grant. In Fall 2019, the EASE grant awarded students \$1,421 in scholarship. Now, for the 2022-2023 school year, it was lowered to \$1,000 per semester. When tuition goes up and scholarships don't reflect the same inflation, it can make things very difficult for students.

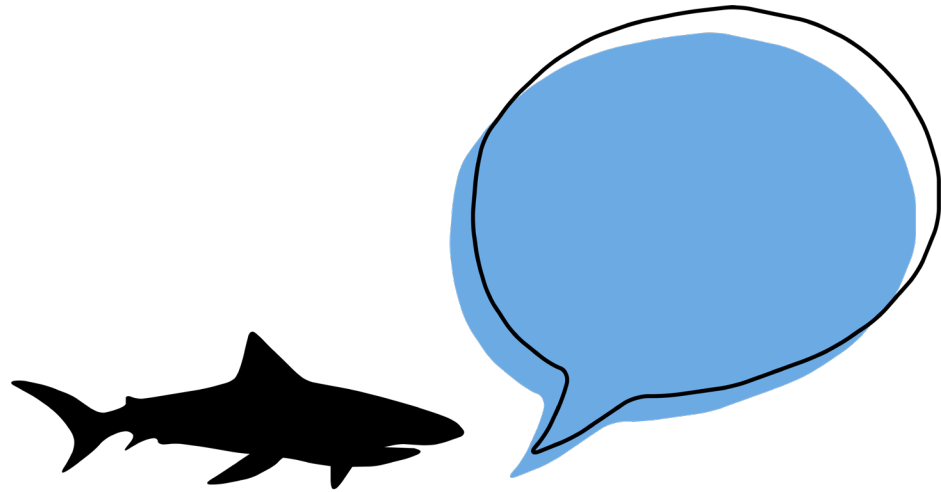
There are possible ways to help your students that are suffering right now. If the school is making more money from tuition, it only stands to reason that they could offer more financial aid or breaks to their students. I understand that some scholarships and aid come

from the government and NSU has no bearing on that, but an increase in the Dean's Scholarship could fare very well for students.

For me, my first semester was very inexpensive, and I thought that is what college was going to be like for me. I expected the financial aid and tuition to stay relatively stagnant. A rude awakening hit me when I realized that wasn't the case. I went from paying very little money to paying four digits. As tuition is expected to rise next semester, hopefully more financial aid can be awarded to students and help students more.



## Shark speak



# What are you doing over the summer?

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM R. PEREZ



"I'm going back home to central Florida where I'm going to hopefully be finding a summer job in education to get more experience in before my internship," said Sol Mateo Astacio, sophomore double education and music major.



"I'm living on campus as a summer RA. I don't have anything fun planned yet but I'm hanging out with my friends who go to schools in different places. My parents talked about going on vacation but with [COVID-19], who knows," said Kaylee Hilyer, junior sociology major.



"I have plans to travel, but I don't know to where yet. I'm a substitute math teacher so I teach over the summer, anything from kindergarten to calculus," said Travis Roberson, junior secondary mathematics education major.



"I'm traveling to Israel. I'm going there from the 8th to the 9th. I'm getting a job full time since I'm graduating and meeting some of my friends I haven't seen in a while," said Dan Karp, senior graphic design major.

## Plugging in at the UC: An inconvenient task

By: Jamila Hughes  
News Editor

The University Center is a great place to study, and one of my favorites. It has food and cute lounge chairs, as well as desks and seats to get focused and do your work. However, I seem to keep running into the same problem whenever I work there. It will be right when I am finishing up work or really in the zone writing a paper that I get the annoying notification that my computer is at 5%. Usually, I start freaking out as I don't want my computer to die causing me to lose all my work. I rush to pull out my charger and quickly detangle it.

I look to plug it in at the nearest outlet by where I am sitting and there's not one right next to me. This is always super frustrating because I have to get up and look around to find an outlet and let my computer sit there to charge.

It seems to me the outlets in the UC are in the most inconvenient locations. Whenever I go to sit at the designated seating, the nearest outlet is always several feet away, so I am never able to work and charge my devices at the same time. I feel like the UC needs outlets the same way the library has outlets. For example, outlets are on

the physical desk themselves, or there should at least be an outlet every place that there's a seat, not outlets on random parts of the wall where no one sits to work.

On the first floor of the UC there is a charging station that comes in handy, but I feel like its location could be better served in a more enclosed area like the second floor of the UC. I feel like not many people want to put their phone in there and walk away from it. Though the charging station is only for phones, it could be beneficial on the second floor, which is a lot

more popular of a study area for students than the first floor.

However, moving the station still doesn't solve the problem of needing to be able to charge your devices at the same time you're working on them. I think that students would really benefit from having more outlets added in the building so that we no longer have to wait for things to charge or move locations to be able to work on our computers.

## Seriously kidding: The creature from Gold Circle Lake

By: Sophia Cortes  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On April 3, the Department of Unknown and Befuddling Paranormal Affairs sent out a warning regarding strange and unusual occurrences surrounding Gold Circle Lake. The report followed sightings of a strange creature with "grim reaper" or "decayed fish-like" proportions seen within the surrounding area of the lake. There have also been reports of nausea, feelings of impending doom and excessive sneezing surrounding encounters with the creature.

"I was on my way to class and passed by Gold Circle Lake," said junior biomedicine major Wesleyton Herberton, "I saw something weird move near the water on the other side of the lake, I thought it was someone in a creature suit or from the theater department. But then something came over me, I don't know how to describe it other than feeling like I was going to throw up or cry from how scared I was all at

once, like I had just walked out of my chemistry final. Maybe it was the thirty energy drinks I had before or maybe it was a fish creature, I'm not sure though."

Multiple reports alongside Herberton's have described the creature as being a "hunched over mass," smelling of "three-week-old ramen and rotting seaweed," and allegedly "emitting an incredibly strong aura of impending doom" that has caused many within its vicinity to spiral into an existential dread, much akin to the "post-graduation blues."

Physics professor GeorGINIO B. Shelley is another such claimant to have had a first-hand encounter with the creature.

"I understand it sounds farfetched," Shelley says, "but I know what I saw. I was on my way to my car; I chose to take the route that brought me near Gold Circle Lake. I was halfway across the perimeter of the lake when a creature of the

likes I've never seen came shambling out of the shadows about three feet ahead of me."

Shelley describes the creature as being covered in ratted robes, having incredibly matted hair, muttering unintelligibly to themselves and carrying a large pile of what seemed to be decades old textbooks and crushed bottles of energy drinks.

"The creature looked almost human," Shelley says, "but then they turned, and I saw their eyes. Those soulless, drooping, millennia old eyes had no way of being human. I felt as if my entire being was being examined twice over, as if all the students that I had failed were looking at me through those eyes. I saw how meaningless my life was in the grand scheme of things and somehow felt the weight of endless days of suffering and student loans crashing down on me. It was horrible. The creature was gone before I could compose myself again."

Officer of the Department of Unknown and Befuddling Paranormal Affairs, Lawrence Stinesberry urges anyone visiting campus to not go within a five-mile radius of the lake.

"I do want to stress that for the safety of those on campus, no one to go near the lake," Stinesberry says. "We will be releasing the timeliest notifications to keep students and staff consistently updated on the matter. Reports have shown that the creature seems to be satiated with extremely caffeinated beverages. We advise any who encounters the creature to give it any sort of caffeinated beverage in order to keep the creature occupied long enough to make your escape."

When attempting to contact the creature themselves, The Current was unable to get a coherent interview, as the creature responded with a thousand-yard stare and mutterings of being late to a literature class.

# THE CURRENT'S CORNER

---

## WORD SEARCH

E	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	Q	S	S	F	E	T
L	M	C	N	L	Q	M	G	E	H	N	A	N	G	E
W	O	C	O	Y	I	B	N	A	U	E	S	K	L	N
A	M	V	I	A	N	T	R	O	C	M	B	C	L	N
J	S	K	T	N	Q	K	N	D	A	X	O	L	A	N
R	I	L	I	W	Y	O	S	I	V	S	E	M	T	N
Z	B	U	U	S	R	G	L	E	R	I	S	E	N	E
C	E	Y	T	P	B	M	H	A	T	F	T	E	M	P
S	Q	S	J	Z	A	B	C	I	U	E	O	E	N	I
H	U	M	E	N	E	S	J	L	H	B	S	Z	O	R
B	L	M	D	E	O	C	O	C	E	V	B	A	R	I
D	Z	R	M	O	R	Z	L	P	C	C	D	P	I	P
M	U	D	G	E	S	T	U	E	Y	S	I	G	V	D
S	I	O	G	U	R	N	J	G	Y	B	Y	L	N	D
M	A	I	N	T	E	N	A	N	C	E	M	U	E	G

ASBESTOS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
OSCARS  
SHARKYS  
TENNIS

COW  
MAILMAN  
PRONOUNS  
STUEYS  
TREES

DIABETES  
MAINTENANCE  
RESIDENTE  
SUMMER  
TUITION

---

## STAY CURRENT & STAY SAFE

---

