

---

The Current

NSU Digital Collections

---

4-13-2023

## The Current - Volume 33 Issue 9

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](#)

---

## News



The veteran's office will commission ROTC cadets p.3

## Lifestyle



Worth the trip: Frost Museum of Science Dinosaur Exhibition p.5

## Arts & Entertainment



Behind the scenes of "Zombie Prom" p.11

## Sports



Softball team prepares for the NCAA South Regional Tournament p.14

# Graduate students tag sharks with Adjunct Faculty David Shiffman



NSU graduate student, Ashley Long, cuts a piece of the sandbar shark's dorsal fin while Adjunct Faculty David Shiffman and Christian Pankow, director of Field Research, hold it down. COURTESY OF FIELD SCHOOL



Dr. Catherine Macdonald, director of Field School, holds the hammerhead shark's mouth while other scientists collect data. PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

By: Ashley Diaz

Ally Sheehan, graduate student in the marine science program, was surprised to catch so many sharks during the Conservation and Ecology of Sharks course's field weekend at the Rickenbacker Marina.

"I [was] thinking two or three sharks, so to get 10 is pretty fantastic," said Sheehan.

Sheehan and other students in the Conservation and Ecology

of Sharks course went shark tagging during the field weekends, which took place March 31 - April 2 and April 7 - 9.

The class is a virtual half semester course with a weekend of field work. The class is taught by David Shiffman, adjunct faculty, who is teaching the course for the first time. In the weekends of field work, the course was taught by Shiffman and a separate company called Field School.

Shiffman said working with Field School gives students a chance to experience an open, welcoming environment with other like-minded scientists.

There were 11 students in the boat on the first weekend, with 26 students in the course. The first half of the class went on the R/V Garvin boat to do field work, while the other half went April 7 - 9.

"Students have their own opinion on what species they'd like

to see, but I want them to see as many sharks as possible," Shiffman said.

The field experience part of the course lasted three days on each weekend. The first weekend of field work, the students caught one shark on March 31 and April 1, but on April 2, they got lucky and caught 10 sharks. The field experience gives students an opportunity to get hands-on experience. **See page 4**

# How to prepare for finals at NSU

By: Sofie Daiberl

With finals coming up at NSU, stress levels are especially high for students, including Marisol Coto, freshman interdisciplinary studies major.

"I do experience stress and anxiety when taking my final exams, and I try to think of positive things to calm me down," Coto said.

Final exams and projects can be stressful for students, and it is important to be prepared for them to lessen stress levels.

April is Stress Awareness Month, a time to spread aware-

ness about the stress and anxiety that students can experience every day. There are many ways to prepare for your final exams at NSU, all of which can be very beneficial to students to avoid stress during this time.

## Visiting the Tutoring and Testing Center (TTC)

The Tutoring and Testing Center at NSU is open to all students Mondays through Fridays.

"The TTC provides a variety of services for students as they prepare for final exams," Courtney Stein, director of Academic

Support Services in the Tutoring and Testing Center, said. "The TTC offers one-on-one appointment-based tutoring for math, science, computer science, engineering, neuroscience..., French and Arabic."

The TTC is on the second floor of the Student Affairs Building.

Until April 27, there are many drop-in locations across campus with academic success coaching. They are in places like the Student Affairs building, The Carl DeSantis building, The Mako and Commons Residence Halls and over Zoom.

Students can book an appointment at the TTC through Navigate. Tutoring can oftentimes help students succeed on their exams as they are approaching finals.

## Visiting the Writing and Communication Center

The Writing and Communication Center is available to help students write their academic papers, resumes, creative writing projects and more.

**See page 6**



# Letter from the editor

By: Bryce Johnson

Dear Readers,

Hello! Thank you for reading Issue 9 of The Current, a Mako Media Network production. For those who may not know, I'm Bryce, The Current's editor-in-chief, and I'm excited to welcome you to the final issue of the semester.

From the start of Volume 33 to where we are now, we're hardly recognizable as the same paper. We have more pages, more dynamic photos and stories that better encompass NSU, and it's thanks to the support of our community. You have continued to support us, whether it's by talking with us for interviews, reading the paper and even playing the games on the back of the paper. We are grateful for all of you, and we're happy to have shared The Current with you.

The semester is not over yet! NSU still has a few more surprises and events, like "Zombie Prom," the Student Choreography Showcase and "The Golden Hour."

If you're looking to learn about House Bill 999 and Senate Bill 266, ways to prepare for upcoming finals, Mako Milkshakes or how LGBTQ+ representation has evolved in pop culture, Issue 9 is the right paper for you.



Bryce Johnson, editor-in-chief of The Current.

PHOTO BY CHLOE ROUSSEAU

We have a wide range of stories and topics. Take a look through and see what interests you.

If you have ideas for stories, want to share your comments or just want to talk with us, we would love to hear from you. Our office is inside the University Center in room 328. We're always looking to hear from more voices, so stop by during the day. We would gladly have you.

Our talented reporters, designers, photographers and advisers all work hard to make each issue of The Current better than the last. On behalf of the team, thank you for reading through our stories. See you next semester for Volume 34!

Happy reading,  
Bryce Johnson

## EDITORIAL: The Current's opinion HB999 / SB266: an attack on higher education

By: Ramona Smith

Florida Legislative HB999 / SB266 could effectively remove all funding for diversity, equity and inclusion programs in public institutions of higher education.

Naya Mondroseh, freshman marine biology major, believes that the bill reduces diversity and the quality of student life on campus.

"By trying to pass this bill, [Gov. Ron DeSantis] is reducing diversity on campuses and getting rid of the college experiences for minority students," Mondroseh said. "By reducing this experience for these other students, it is reducing the quality of life on campus for everyone."

HB999 / SB266 allows board members implemented by the state to hire, review tenure and fire academics. This is dangerous because if professors do not follow the vague guidelines given by the bill, they have the potential to be fired.

The bills would also affect minorities in fraternities and sororities.

"This is a blatant disregard for American values because of the censorship for different subjects, as well as disenfranchising a lot of clubs and institutions," Anthony Ficalora, freshman business major, said. "We are college students, we pay our tuition, we should choose."

HB999/SB266 would also require state colleges and universities to remove from its programs any major or minor that is based on or otherwise utilizes methodologies associated with critical theory. This includes critical race theory, critical ethnic studies, radical feminist theory, queer theory, critical social justice and more.

Although the bill only pertains to public institutions and not private ones like NSU, it is clear that if passed, it would change college life as we know it. As college students, we still have the opportunity to voice our opinion and prevent the bills from being implemented by contacting our Florida representatives and protesting. It is our job as Florida residents to fight and prevent this bill from passing.



The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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

**NEWSROOM**  
Phone: 954-262-8455  
nsunews@nova.edu

**BUSINESS & ADVERTISING**  
Phone: 954-262-8455  
thecurrentad@nova.edu

**Bryce Johnson**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Brielle Aguayo**  
Art Director/Reporter

**Nicole Mary Shaker**  
Editor

**Gloria Mendez**  
Copy Editor

**Danna Bertel**  
Features Writer

**Ashley Diaz**  
Reporter

**Francesca Abarca**  
Reporter

**Ronald Martinez**  
Reporter

**Adam Sadik**  
Health Writer

**Maya Totev**  
Health Writer

**Indaya Byer**  
Photographer

**Joshua Kidd**  
Photographer



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. 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 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 bias, real or perceived.

**Erika Foti**  
Graphic Designer

**Alicia Picado**  
Graphic Design Assistant

**Ramona Smith**  
Graphic Design Assistant

**Chloe Rousseau**  
Business Manager

**Demerius Augustin**  
Distribution Manager

**Chris Delboni**  
Mako Media Network  
Director

**Mike Lynn**  
Mako Media Network  
Assistant Director

**Dr. Megan Fitzgerald**  
Faculty Adviser

**Joyce Moed**  
Online/Features Adviser

**Dr. Aarti Raja**  
Health Desk Adviser

**Viviana Faz**  
Mako Media Network  
Graduate Assistant

**Dr. Shanti Bruce**  
Chair, Department of  
Communication, Media,  
and the Arts



# The veteran's office will commission ROTC cadets

By: Ronald Martinez

On April 28, NSU's Military Affairs Veterans Resource Center will host its first Joint Commissioning and Pinning Ceremony to celebrate students within the Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC) who will be commissioning into the armed forces. It will take place at the NSU Armed Forces Service Flag Plaza in front of the Horvitz Administration building.

Family members, administrators and students are invited to the ceremony where ROTC students who have completed up to four years in their ROTC training will be commissioned into the army and receive their second lieutenant rank.

Existing officers who have completed their medical school from the Health Professions Scholarship Program with an O-1 (2nd lieutenant) rank will receive their commission into O-3 (captain).

"This is one of those culminating events that is special not only for us as NSU, but also [a] monumental period threshold for these individuals,



NSU's Military Affairs Veterans Resource Center does the Fins Up pose at NSU's Forman Field.

COURTESY OF NICHOLAS SWANSBURG

these cadets, that are in ROTC that have gone up to four years in their cadet training, and for those officers that have completed their medical school and [are] entering the military as doctors," Senior Director of Military Affairs Matthew Chenworth said.

This year's group of students are the second to go through the

ceremony. The first group was commissioned in winter 2022.

The ceremonies were originally held separately. This will be the first year they are both combined, making both sets of students pioneers.

"Here on campus, you see a lot of emphasis on leadership, on legacy, on service. This is an event where these students are

combining all of those together. They are able to continue to serve not just NSU but their country," Chenworth continued.

In order to be pinned as a second lieutenant, cadets in the program have good academic performance and are both physically fit and mentally sound.

Cadets also receive a bachelor's in their fields and a minor in military science. Cadets who finish the program enter into the U.S. Army.

In comparison, members of the Health Professions Scholarship Program can enter into one of the many branches as a medical professional, receiving the rank of O-3, the name of which varies from branch to branch.

"To the individual cadet, this marks the beginning of their military service and their life as an army leader. To the university, this honors their investment in their students' future career path and displays their unwavering support of the military, and moreover cements their claim as a military-friendly university," Cadet Ryan Levack said in a statement.

## NSU's Access Plus Program recognizes Autism Awareness Month

By: Ashley Diaz

The Access Plus Program, along with the Office of Alumni Relations, launched a crowdfunding campaign on April 11. The campaign will last for the whole month of April, which is Autism Awareness Month, starting off with a webinar about autism, presented by Maribel Del Río-Roberts, associate professor in the Department of Human Services.

The campaign is to raise money for scholarship funds that will help students in the program.

"The funds give the possibility for internships for the students in the program. [It gives] them a little bit more work experience when they leave the university," Del Río-Roberts said.

The Access Plus Program is an on-campus support program for undergraduate students at Nova Southeastern University.

Along with the tuition, students accepted into the program pay \$9,090 per semester.

The program does have small scholarship funds that come

from campaigns along with the scholarship NSU offers upon enrollment.

There are other ways students enrolled in this program can pay, like registering for the Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, applying for outside scholarships, getting private loans or recruiting donors.

"The price was established when the program was first introduced to the university, and it is so much because it is an intensive support that not all students are eligible for," Del Río-Roberts said.

This program is overseen by the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education & School of Criminal Justice. Students need to be accepted into NSU on their own academic merits to be able to be accepted into the Access Plus Program.

"Just because the student has autism spectrum disorder doesn't mean that the academic requirement [is] lowered in any way," Del Río-Roberts said.

"They have to have the GPA to

be accepted on their own, and they have to be able to keep up with their coursework as any other student."

Students who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum can apply and interview to be accepted into the program.

The Access Plus Program focuses more on social support. If students want academic support, they have to go to disability services to get extra time during assignments or tests.

The program offers social support, like study hall from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday in the Alvin Sherman Library. The program also offers students peer and support mentors to help them.

"In addition to that, we offer some social coaching that helps with difficulty making friends or joining organizations, and we have a psycho-educational group for stress management or career development," Del Río-Roberts said.

Mentors are usually graduate students in psychology, and they help students with organi-

zation, time management, planning and advocacy. Mentors are interviewed and hired through Federal Work-Study. Peer mentors are matched with students based on personality, but accessibility in their schedule is the most important thing.

"Peer mentors help students who can't advocate, ask and get stressed to do things for themselves," Del Río-Roberts said.

Students must attend study hall and ask for support when they need it.

"As long as the student is motivated to participate, they show an effort, attend and are receptive to feedback and support, we at the Access Plus Program will be there for them," Del Río-Roberts said.

**For more information:  
Contact:**

Maribel Del Río-Roberts,  
Psy.D.

**Department of Human  
Services**  
954-262-8529



# The American Association of University Women promotes academic freedom

By: Bryce Johnson

NSU's American Association of University Women branch will present a discussion on threats to academic freedom on April 26.

Randi Sims, professor of management and president of NSU's AAUW branch, believes it will be an important discussion for students.

"Women and minorities have more rights, rights that they didn't used to have, through academic freedom, people researching and studying disparity, studying women's history, studying Black history, studying women's literature or all kinds of different topics," Sims said. "If it wasn't for the fact that individu-

als could study and research the areas they wanted to, we would not have so much social progress."

AAUW, which was founded in 1881, promotes gender equality through education, advocacy and research. Sims first became a member of AAUW in 1993, and later joined NSU's branch. Since then, Sims worked closely to ensure that AAUW protects students and academic freedom.

"I learned actually about the branch we had on campus in the student newspaper, I don't know, 10 or 15 years ago," said Sims. "Our branch here at NSU, we mostly focus on the education part. We also have a student club on campus that's funded by the student government.

The university pays to be a partner with AAUW, so all students, graduate [and] undergraduate, can join the American Association of University Women for free."

The discussion on April 26 about academic freedom will be led by Jon Garon, director of Intellectual Property and former dean in the Shepard Broad College of Law.

Sims said that Garon was the first person who agreed to speak at the discussion.

"I've been at the university a really long time, and I know a lot of people from a lot of other centers, and the people that I know who could speak on this topic were actually afraid to speak on this topic.

They were afraid that they would be somehow punished for speaking out for academic freedom. Isn't that a sad state of affairs?" Sims said. "I got to Professor Garon in the law school. He's not afraid."

The event will start at 12:25 p.m. in the atrium in the Carl DeSantis building. Students can RSVP by emailing Sims at [sims@nova.edu](mailto:sims@nova.edu).

"We're just so excited to have this event. We hope we have a really good turnout. We have seating for 100. We'll have lunch," Sims said. "We hope the students come because they're studying their choice of major, the fact that majors can even exist, right? That's all part of academic freedom."



Ally Sheehan, graduate student in the marine science program, hauls the drumline onto the R/V Garvin. COURTESY OF FIELD SCHOOL

## FROM THE FRONT

# Graduate students tag sharks with Adjunct Faculty David Shiffman

"My goal for this course is for the NSU graduate students to gain some hands-on experience with a variety of field research techniques," Shiffman said.

Alongside Shiffman and the graduate students, there were six experienced Field School workers and four guests on the R/V Garvin boat. The Field School workers and guests hauled the lines when the sharks were caught to show the students how they were supposed to do it. The workers and guests caught at least three sharks, while the

students collected data by biopsy, blood samples, cutting the dorsal fin and tagging. The data collection helps keep up to date with the conservation and health of the sharks that they catch.

"Our oceans are everything, so if our oceans collapse, so will everything else around us, and the research and experience we get from field school is amazing and bigger," said Madeline Hammond, graduate student in the environmental science program. "They have really great tools, and everyone in field school are

awesome and are great people to get advice from."

The team caught 10 sharks, but there was one that broke the line and another two that escaped while trying to haul them on the platform. There were seven nurse sharks, two sandbar sharks and one hammerhead shark. Five of the seven nurse sharks were caught while the others escaped.

On the second weekend, the students caught 13 sharks, including new species like bonnethead and blacktip sharks.

The students were excited to finally have days where they all had the opportunity to collect lots of data and to haul the sharks. They were also excited by the amount and variety of sharks caught on April 2.

"You study them, measure them, you learn how they look and you always imagine them a little smaller than they are, so to see them is a wild encounter," Sheehan said.





An austroraptor replica front and center in new dinosaur exhibit at the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. COURTESY OF DANIEL JOHN

## Worth the trip: Frost Museum of Science Dinosaur Exhibition

By: Sofie Daiberl

The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, located in downtown Miami, has opened a new exhibit to the public: a dinosaur exhibit featuring life-size dinosaur replicas. It also features an animated map showing when and where each breed of dinosaur lived while telling the public the story of Pangea 191 million years ago.

This exhibit is an interactive and educational place for all NSU students to visit through April 23.

"It was really interesting to see all the different types of dinosaurs they had in the exhibit," said Aurelie Bien-Aime, freshman communication sciences and disorders major. "My favorite was the Giganotosaurus because of how tall it was."

This dinosaur exhibition was first created and produced by The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and has now made a splash in Miami.

This new dinosaur exhibit, "Ultimate Dinosaurs: Meet a New Breed of Beast," as stated by the Frost Museum of Science, includes life-size replicas of dinosaurs, such as the Eoraptor, the Malawisaurus, the Suchomimus, the Majungasaurus, the Rapetosaurus, the Amargasaurus and the Giganotosaurus. Each dinosaur replica is accompanied by a sign with information about the dinosaur on it.

"My favorite part of Ultimate Dinosaurs is seeing how unique and bizarre southern dinosaurs are compared to their North American counterparts," Eliz-

abeth Ricardo, director of marketing and PR at Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science said. "The exhibition features dinosaurs from South America, which also resonates with our community in Miami."

These dinosaurs range from small to extremely large to the point of taking up most of the room. They roamed the earth millions of years ago and are from different parts of the world, mostly Africa.

When guests first enter the exhibit, there is a large timeline of when each dinosaur lived placed on the wall. A replica of a large backbone from the Argentinosaurus also sits in the exhibit surrounded by other dinosaur fossil replicas. There are latex molds from which the fossils are made as well as the fossil replicas themselves placed about the exhibit to showcase the process of making the fossils.

"People of all ages, including college students, can have fun exploring dinosaurs they've never seen before while they wander amongst the 13 life-size casts, in addition to authentic dinosaur fossils, and touchable fossilized dinosaur specimens," Ricardo said.

Upon the wall is an animated screen of the dinosaurs walking around and engaging with each other as they did millions of years ago when they were alive and still roaming the earth. There is also a smaller screen depicting a photo of a dinosaur on it, and it allows you to tap on the different parts of the dinosaur to learn about each part and its function. This is not the

only interactive feature in this exhibit. A touch-sensitive screen depicting continental assembly and breakup is showcased on the wall as well.

"Having gone with my cousins, we spent almost four hours exploring every exhibit in the museum. It was impressive because of the range it had. In one exhibit, I was learning about the complexity of the human body, and in the next, I was learning about the diversities of the ecosystems," said Sabrina Solaman, sophomore double major in English and real estate.

This exhibit includes many interactive and interesting activities as well as very realistic-looking replicas of the dinosaurs and fossils. There is a large gift shop near the exit of the museum that sells products such as dinosaur skull replicas, make-your-own volcano kits, dinosaur excavation kits, globes and clothing.

"The gift shop was awesome. They had super cool dinosaur

items and fun activities for you to do at home," Bien-Aime said. "It was so cool to see how accurate all the replicas are and how similar they look to the real thing."

The exhibit is located on the first floor right when you enter the museum.

### If you go:

#### Location:

1101 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132

Phone: (305) 434-9600

Price: \$22 - \$33 per ticket

Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Website:

<https://www.frostscience.org/>



A replica of the giganotosaurus dinosaur hovers over visitors in new dinosaur exhibit at the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. COURTESY OF DANIEL JOHN





A group of students collaborate on a final project to prep for the intense week.  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

## FROM THE FRONT

# How to prepare for finals at NSU

Graduate assistant coordinators in the WCC, like Courtney Rosenthal, are available to work with students on lab reports, presentations and other writing assignments they have.

“Our graduate assistant coordinators have a specific overview of what the Writing Center entails,” Rosenthal said.

The WCC is on the fourth floor of the Alvin Sherman Library. To schedule an appointment, visit [nova.myWConline.com](http://nova.myWConline.com).

“We offer appointments every day of the week,” Rosenthal said. “I think it’s good to have that connection with the campus.”

### Organizing a study group

Organizing a study group among fellow classmates and friends can be helpful to students studying for finals, students said. Engaging with the material and understanding new topics and ideas as a team

can further understanding of a subject. If students are unsure about their exam or have some lingering questions, their study group can be beneficial to their understanding, providing them with different perspectives from their peers. Not only can study groups be engaging and eye opening, they can build friendships between classmates.

“My roommate and I always study together; it helps me stay focused and engaged while learning and studying,” Cianni Mosco, freshman biology and pre-nursing major, said.

Creating a group Zoom or FaceTime call to study can also help students who commute and cannot drive to campus.

### Attending office hours

If students are struggling with their exam material or have any questions, visiting professors during office hours can help.

“This was beneficial to me because it helped me understand the question that I was asking my professor,” Mosco said. “It helped me for future exams and assignments.”

Many professors hold office hours for students to help them with anything they may need. During office hours, professors may even cover material that is going to be on the exam and help students prepare. Attending office hours can also build a connection between students and their professor, as it shows that students are eager to do well in class. At office hours, many professors will work through practice problems with students and/or review their work.

### Staying healthy

It is known that staying healthy during exams can possibly help students obtain clearer thoughts, less brain fog and

more focus. Although studying for final exams is very important, so is taking care of your mind and body.

“I like to exercise, eat balanced meals and treat myself whenever I’m feeling stressed or anxious,” Mosco said.

When asked what she does to stay healthy during finals week, Coto said, “Getting enough sleep and eating a good breakfast for energy.”

Sleep is essential for the functioning of bodies and minds. If students are pulling all-nighters to study for their exams, this can actually increase stress levels as well as susceptibility to illnesses. Students may feel the need to cram studying for exams and stay up all night, but this tends to hurt them rather than benefit them.

Finals week can be a stressful time for students, but these tips can be useful to lessen stress levels.

## Sharks speak: How are you preparing for finals at NSU?



“One of my teachers luckily records all of her lectures on Zoom, so every now and then, I sit down and just watch the lecture. I go over it, I do the practices on McGraw Hill for sure, because every time you finish one, they reset, so you can practice as many times as you can,” said George Valadez, junior management major.



“I have read the books, took down notes and tried to adjust my sleep schedule, so I get the proper amount of rest,” said Lucas Pires de Freitas, senior political science major.



“Watching videos on YouTube, asking my professors questions, so that I don’t get them wrong on the exam. You know, the basic stuff, going to tutoring actually,” said Sara Kay Roberts, sophomore biology major.



“I take advantage of the office hours and I go every time it’s available, and other than that, I would just read over whatever you’re studying during office hours and just practice it at home,” said Sh’nyah Fenner, sophomore business major.



## FOOD

## Chill out with Mako Milkshakes

By: Angeline Gilliard

Marisol Coto, freshman interdisciplinary studies major, appreciates that Mako Milkshakes has a variety of dairy alternatives for its products. On a recent trip, Coto ordered a strawberry milkshake with almond milk.

“It’s not just a plain strawberry milkshake. It reminded me of strawberry ice cream and some strawberry syrup, which was really good,” Coto said. “It’s positive that they give other students options. I think it’s what I like the most about it, the inclusivity.”

NSU students can find Mako Milkshakes at Mako Shark Cage, or sometimes in tents around campus, in front of the library during Biz Bash or at other campus events.

Mako Milkshakes is a Razor’s Edge business project that sells milkshakes, sundaes, brownies and more.

Maya Espinosa, senior marketing major, leads the project.

When asked what inspired her, Espinosa said, “Everybody loves

milkshakes. It’s a very fun thing to have.”

Even though there have been other milkshake parlors run by NSU students before, Mako Milkshakes stands out because it includes dairy-free products in its menu.

“We wanted to bring those options to the campus for the students who are lactose intolerant,” Erika Lowe, senior business management major and chief marketing officer, said.

Mako Milkshakes’ dairy-free ice cream can be eaten by itself or used in milkshakes. Most of the milkshakes can be made with or without dairy.

“My favorite is the Oreo milkshake, the dairy Oreo. I’m a dairy girl, but the rest of my team is dairy-free,” Ashley Trejos, senior management major and chief operating officer, said. “You need to love your product to be able to give it.”

Mako Milkshakes posts any announcements like new flavors, products or events it will be at on its Instagram profile.



Ashley Trejos, senior management major, creates a strawberry shortcake milkshake for a customer. PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

### If you go:

**Location:** Shark Cage, Mako Hall  
**Time:** Monday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.,  
Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Price Range:** \$1 - \$6

**Contact:** @makomilkshakes on Instagram

## Review

# National Peach Cobbler Day: a Canadian’s first taste

By: Maya Totev

As soon as I walked through the doors, a gust of cinnamon, sweetness and warmth flowed right by me. I had just walked into The Peach Cobbler Factory’s new location in Pembroke Pines to try my very first peach cobbler in honor of National Peach Cobbler Day on April 13.

Back in Canada, the typical sweet, warm and comforting dessert served during the fall or wintertime is pumpkin pie, apple pie or apple crumble. Unlike in the United States, bread puddings and fruit cobblers are not as customary where I am from, nor do they have shops dedicated to the dessert alone.

When I walked into The Peach Cobbler Factory, I was over-

whelmed with a wide selection of things I could order: cobblers with ice cream, banana pudding, large loaded cookies, cinnamon rolls, milkshakes and more. Having gone with a mission, I ordered the very first thing on the menu: the warm peach cobbler with ice cream.

The best way I could describe a peach cobbler would be a version of a deconstructed pie with soft peaches, lots of cinnamon, and lots of sugar. I appreciated that the cobbler was served warm with cold ice cream to top it off since the two make for a great combination. Alone, the peach cobbler was fairly sweet, even for someone with a sweet tooth like myself. I found that the fat and creaminess of the ice cream was needed to mellow the

sweetness of the peach cobbler, but it was complementary to the dish regardless.

My favorite part of the cobbler was the chunks of soft, thick pie crust embedded between the peaches. They were not too sweet and I was not overwhelmed by the sugar.

The peaches gave the cobbler a different type of tart and acidity than what I am typically used to with apples back in Canada. It kind of reminded me of apricots, although I am sure that they taste differently when baked into a cobbler. I would have liked to see more peaches in the cobbler to make it even more fruity, especially since peaches grow very well in the Florida climate.

I recommend anyone in the NSU community visit The Peach

Cobbler Factory and try the warm sweets that it offers as it is a comfortable, pretty and delicious addition to the Pembroke Pines area.

### If you go:

**Location:** 212 N University Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

**Phone:** (954) 251-2592

**Price range:** \$2 - \$55

**Hours:** Noon - 10:00 p.m.

**Website:** <https://www.peachcobblerfactory.com/>



# FinFest Week recap

On March 25 - April 1, NSU held FinFest Week, hosting events like Sharks After Dark, Fins Up Friday and Fins Festival.



NSU students enjoy playing a carnival game.  
COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON



Razor, NSU's shark mascot, walks around engaging with students at the Shark Bites: International Food Festival.  
PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO



President George Hanbury II holds men's basketball team trophy.  
PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO



Manas Peddiboyina, junior public health major, celebrates his win as the next USGA president alongside the other USGA recipients.  
COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON



Emma Mroz, freshman speech language pathology major, and Carisha Pacheco, freshman biology major, play a game of skeeball.  
COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON



Viviana Faz, graduate student, plays foosball.  
COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON





Hunter Hogan, master's student at Acadia University, checks the salinity in the water.  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

## Florida water safety

By: Adam Sadik and  
Maya Totev

On March 2, health officials in Charlotte County, Fl. Issued a water health warning over a man dying from a brain-eating amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*.

This amoeba has a very rare infection rate, as it has only infected 157 individuals in the United States as of 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The route of infection is intranasally.

"It is more prevalent in areas of a warmer climate. In tap water, if you ingest it, this amoeba will not make it past the stomach because of the acidic condi-

tions. But in the rare condition that it goes up the nasal passages, then there is an increase in chance it would make it into the brain area," said Dr. Aarti Raja, NSU professor and The Current's health desk adviser.

Health officials are concerned since this is the first recorded case over winter. The pathogen is not able to survive in cooler conditions.

*N. fowleri* has a 97% fatality rate, as there are only three recorded survivors from this parasite. This deadly pathogen infects brain tissue, a condition called meningoencephalitis that inflames the meninges region.

"Immune cells arrive there because it senses a foreign entity,

specifically the meninges, which surround the brain and unleashes an immune response. The immune system in the brain area is never a good idea, and it causes damage," said Dr. Raja.

The Florida man was using a sinus rinse, a neti pot, to clear his sinuses, but this was the cause of his infection as the water used was derived from the tap. The water was not treated further as instructed by the neti pot instructions to boil or use distilled water.

"I feel that having brain-eating amoeba in Florida is quite concerning, especially since I use tap water to wash my face all the time," Manas Peddiboyina, junior public health major, said.

Another way this pathogen can enter the body is through lakes and rivers. Intranasal cases have occurred through individuals jumping in these open fresh water sources.

There is no effective treatment available. A combination of drugs can be used to attempt to save their life.

"[Healthcare workers] throw some antibiotic and antifungal medications, but it is not a specific drug against the amoeba. There are more medications given to quiet the immune system down in the hopes that it will not keep firing," Raja said.



Madeline Hammond, graduate student at NSU in the environmental science program, checks the salinity level for data collection.  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER



Hunter Hogan and Micaila Hammer check the YSI for water quality and data collection at a certain coordinate.  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER



# Senior Nicholas Waguespack will present his artwork in Paris, France

By: Bryce Johnson

During the ATypI conference on May 9-14, Nicholas Waguespack, senior art and design major and gallery manager of NSU Gallery 217, will present his book "Wander Type: Vieux Carré" in Paris, France.

Waguespack, originally from South Louisiana, based "Wander Type: Vieux Carré" on underrepresented typography in the French Quarter, a neighborhood in New Orleans.

"I started on my book as part of my typography course taught by Dr. Miriam Ahmed. It was a project about showcasing underrepresented typography," Waguespack said. "That was a really big moment for me, publishing that and receiving all of the nice compliments and everything about the book. That was really big."

In addition to his book, Waguespack has had several other achievements throughout his time making art. He was accepted into the talented art program at his high school, worked for NSU Art Museum and completed an internship at IS Projects, a Miami art center, in 2022.

Waguespack creates art using several different mediums, in-

cluding watercolor and different forms of printmaking. Each of his artworks are reflective and represent Waguespack's innermost feelings.

"My art's very introspective. It kind of analyzes who I am as a queer person who grew up in a conservative South Louisiana household. So I guess I'm the biggest inspiration for my art 'cause my art mainly focuses on me and my experiences as a queer person," Waguespack said. "I made a clown costume covered in slurs that I was called when I was growing up, and that one has received a lot of really positive feedback and I think that piece has resonated with a lot of people."

As the manager of NSU Gallery 217, Waguespack curates exhibitions and decides the layout of the gallery. Recently, Waguespack worked on the 14th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, which is on display in Gallery 217 until April 19.

Waguespack became interested in the gallery manager position when he saw a listing for it online.

"It's not meant to be a student position, so they kind of took a little bit of a leap letting me have the position as a student,"

Waguespack said. "I asked them and I interviewed and they liked me, and I had some experience doing art related things. I was a Federal Work-Study student at the NSU Art Museum. I worked in the education department for a bit and I also worked for the front desk. So I had some experience coming into it."

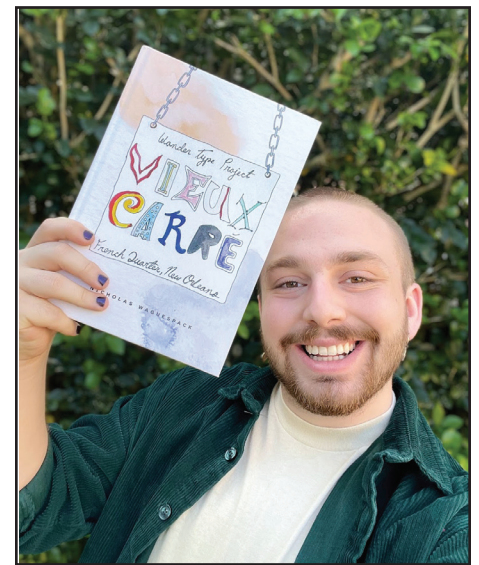
Waguespack first started at NSU as a psychology major, later becoming a neuroscience major, because he felt obligated to pursue a career that makes a lot of money. After deciding he didn't want a lot of money if it made him miserable, Waguespack switched his major to art and design when he realized the only courses he enjoyed involved making art.

"I took a museum studies and gallery practices class, and that kind of really prepared me for this position, managing the art gallery. It goes over different aspects of the art world," Waguespack said. "I've learned lots of practical things, like how to make sculptures in my sculpture classes and stuff like that."

After the ATypI conference in May, Waguespack will attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he will pursue an MFA in print media for

two years. Waguespack hopes to eventually develop more books, create/sell art and teach art classes of his own.

"I really love teaching. My time working in the education department at the NSU Art Museum kind of really showed me that I really enjoyed working with kids. I really enjoyed teaching people about art," Waguespack said. "Follow your heart, and if your heart's telling you that you want to pursue art, definitely give it a shot."



Nicholas Waguespack, senior art and design major, holds his book "Wander Type: Vieux Carré." COURTESY OF NICHOLAS WAGUESPACK

## Digressions: Literary & Art Journal launches its 20th edition

By: Bryce Johnson

When Digressions: Literary & Art Journal first started in 2004, Marlisa Santos, professor in the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences, saw it as a way for students' creativity to come to life.

"So much has happened at NSU in the last 20 years, and Digressions has changed and developed and evolved," Santos said. "We wanted to give students a safe space to express themselves, but also a place where they can challenge ideas."

On April 3, Mario D'Agostino, faculty adviser of Digressions, unveiled the 20th edition of the literary magazine, which includes artwork, short stories and poetry submitted by students.

"We are super excited to have published the 20th anniversary of Digressions. We are so fortunate that this gift is still with us at NSU, and we're hopeful that it will continue another 20 years," D'Agostino said.



Shanti Bruce, chair of the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, introduces the 20th edition of Digressions.

PHOTO BY CHRIS DELBONI

This was the first time that many people were introduced to the Digressions magazine, like Dr. Harry Moon, chief operating officer and executive vice president of NSU.

"This will be my first attendance at Digressions. I look forward to seeing the program," said Moon before the launch started. "I think it's very important that the administrative side of the institution knows what the students are doing."

One student, Cora Padilla Castillo, sophomore marketing major, spoke about the poem "El Universo / The Universe."

"These are the thoughts that we never shared," Padilla Castillo said. "'The Universe' was originally written in Spanish, but it is revised in English."

The 20th edition includes a QR code linking to an interview with Santos and Diane Joy Obregon, the first student editor of Digressions. It is also the first edition with a music submission, work

done by practicum students and contracted cover art.

"When I first became a graphic design major, one of the first things I had to do was make a mock Digressions cover," said Sofia Aurora Guerra Cardona, senior art and design major and cover designer of this year's Digressions. "It was very important that we did a callback to past covers, because obviously, that is what led up to the current issue. My idea was to make 19 freeform shapes."

Imani Allen, freshman nutrition major, was excited to see this year's Digressions and looks forward to the next editions.

"This was my first impression of art at NSU, and I really like it," Allen said.

The 20th edition of Digressions is now available to download on NSUWorks.



## ONSHORE CALENDAR

Shape of You  
April 13, 12:30 p.m.  
UC Shark Circle

Luminary Bags Tabling  
April 14, Noon  
UC Shark Circle

Delta Phi Epsilon's  
Tangled Fashion Show  
April 14, 6 p.m.  
Mailman Auditorium

Yoga in the  
Meditation Room  
April 19, Noon  
NSU Meditation Room

## OFFSHORE CALENDAR

Tortuga Music Festival  
April 14 - 16,  
Noon - 10 p.m.  
1100 Seabreeze Blvd.,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Janet Jackson:  
Together Again Tour  
April 14, 8 p.m.  
Hard Rock Live

Delta Phi Epsilon's  
Beach Cleanup  
April 16, 10:30 a.m.  
Oceanographic Center  
Dania Beach

Young Nudy  
April 18, 7 p.m.  
Revolution Live

Laura Jane Grace  
April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Culture Room

Indigo Girls  
April 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Au-Rene Theatre  
Broward Center for  
the Performing Arts

Mac Ayres -  
Comfortable  
Enough Tour  
April 19, 7 p.m.  
Revolution Live



Nina Poulos, senior musical theatre major, and Spencer Carlisle, senior musical theatre major, rehearse.  
COURTESY OF JAQUELINE MATOS



The cast of "Zombie Prom" rehearses a group number.  
COURTESY OF JAQUELINE MATOS

# Behind the scenes of "Zombie Prom"

By: Danna Bertel

Spencer Carlisle, senior theatre major, is starring in NSU's "Zombie Prom" musical as Eddie Flagante, a determined and opportunistic investigative reporter who is out to seek the truth, as long as it's newsworthy.

With another play to add to his repertoire, Carlisle is playing a character out of his comfort zone.

"It's a different character to what I've played before. Usually I've played characters that are comedic relief, and while he has his comedic moments, there's a bit more to him than what's originally seen," Carlisle said. "[Our] director, Alex Alvarez, tends to cast us in roles that challenge us. He has us try different characters to play as, and it's just a great experience."

Carlisle and the rest of his castmates will present a rendition of the off-Broadway musical "Zombie Prom," a genre mashup set in the '50s. The musical follows the love story between senior Toffe and class bad boy Jonny. Even after getting into a nuclear waste dump, nothing can stop

Jonny from taking Toffee to the prom and graduating.

"I love that it's got a little bit of horror, a little bit of comedy, and it's got all those musical numbers," said Alex Alvarez, associate professor and director of "Zombie Prom."

The cast of "Zombie Prom" started rehearsing in January and won't stop until the show starts. With the different elements of dancing, singing and acting, the rehearsal process for the musical has been long and challenging.

"The first two weeks were music rehearsals. They learned and reviewed the music. Then the second two weeks were choreography. They learned and practiced choreography. Now we're doing what's called a kind of a work-through of the show, which is stopping and starting," Alvarez said. "The fact that it's a musical is the most challenging aspect of it because there are so many elements to it."

The cast is now focusing on rehearsing aspects that are lacking or need more work.

Through the extensive rehearsing schedule, the cast finds

ways to have fun.

Emily Bernard, chemistry major, shared how the cast started randomly dancing and singing to "Cotton-Eyed Joe" after a long hour of rehearsals. With moments like this, the cast has been able to grow and bond together.

"It became the whole cast just doing 'Cotton-Eyed Joe' on the stage with no music, we were all just singing. I thought this seems right, when everybody was drained and tired, they resort to doing the 'Cotton-Eyed Joe' dance," Bernard said. "It's been really cool to see everybody grow outside of their comfort zone and be able to bond together over that fact that we're all just doing something that we really like."

Carlisle, Bernard and the rest of the cast will be performing "Zombie Prom" at the Black Box Theatre on April 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and April 16 at 2 p.m.

"Our goal with this is to have people come and have a really good time and laugh," Alvarez said.



Luca Zayas, freshman theatre major, and Antonella Lalinde, senior theatre major, rehearse.  
COURTESY OF JAQUELINE MATOS

**If you go:**

**Location:**  
Black Box Theatre

**Time:** April 14 and 15 at  
7:30 p.m. and April 16 at  
2 p.m.

**Price:** Free

**Contact:**  
aalvare1@nova.edu



# NSU's dance choreography class presents the Student Choreography Showcase

By: Francesca Abarca

Brooke Daniszewski, senior dance major, will present an original dance piece in the Student Choreography Showcase.

Daniszewski described her piece as an “intricate allegory for my fears about being an adult and going into the real world while being a normal person working a job.”

Daniszewski and other students will perform in the Student Choreography Showcase on April 21-22 at 7:30 p.m. The showcase will be in the Performance Theatre in the Don Taft University Center.

“These are students in the dance choreography class. They have been creating works throughout the semester. They’ve been working together to give each other feedback and put the show together,” said Elana Lanczi, associate professor and director of NSU’s dance program.

This event is free to everyone.

“It’s been a challenge, figuring out schedules, times and trying to get everyone into rehearsal at the same time [and] actually working on it, while making sure that the concept that I started with is readable to the audience,” Daniszewski said.

Every other year, the showcase flips between students auditioning to be a part of the show and students in a specific class presenting it. This year, the Dance Choreography class is the one that is putting on the showcase. There are seven choreographers this semester, and they’re all working with different concepts and ideas. The whole idea with the class is to get them comfortable working with a group of dancers and auditioning to be in other choreographers’ pieces.

“It’s a variety of work. I would say contemporary dance,” Lanczi said. “A lot of it is based on their personal stories and personal experiences. It is really unique and different.”

The choreographers are working to show intricate and complex pieces to the audience and are excited to see the final products come to life. With the use of costumes and lighting, the class hopes to bring a new audience to find appreciation in art and dance.

“I think that it’s really great to have an opportunity for our students to create work and see it fully realized on a stage with lights and costumes,” Lanczi said. “It’s a really special experience for them.”



Brooke Daniszewski, senior dance major, performed at the previous Student Choreography Showcase. COURTESY OF BROOKE DANISZEWSKI

**If you go:**

**Location:**  
Performance Theatre

**Time:** April 21 and 22  
at 7:30 p.m.

**Price:** Free

**Contact:**  
lanczi@nova.edu

## Observe Holocaust Remembrance Day with “iMordecai”

By: Bryce Johnson and Alex Hernández

During Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which lasts April 17-18, students can learn more about the Holocaust and how it impacted one Jewish family by watching the film “iMordecai.”

Azia Dinea Hale, known for her role in “F9: The Fast Saga,” portrays the character Nina in “iMordecai.” Nina is a young phone store employee who befriends a Holocaust survivor, Mordecai Samel.

“I genuinely fell in love with my character, Nina. I think that she is someone that I really understand and relate to with how big her heart is and wanting to do good in the world,” Dinea

Hale said. “She discovers something very traumatic within her family that makes her want to be a better person than the people that she came from. So I think that her story was very enticing to me.”

“iMordecai” was released in theaters Feb. 24.

The film is based on a true story and follows Mordecai, played by Judd Hirsch. After leaving his home as a child during World War II, Mordecai now lives in Miami with his wife Fela, played by Carol Kane. With the support of Nina, Fela, and his son (played by Sean Astin), Mordecai learns the joys of being a kid again through painting, listening to music and spending time with friends.

“iMordecai” was filmed in Miami and directed by Mordecai Samel’s son, Marvin Samel.

“I had a lot of conversations with Marvin. I think he had a very clear idea of what he wanted Nina to be. And with that came a lot of research,” Dinea Hale said. “I had to learn a lot about the Holocaust and learn about different stories of people who had intimate or close relations to people who were involved in it. Whether that was with a family member or somebody who was actually in the camps and had interactions with really horrible SS officers.”

Dinea Hale encourages people who watch “iMordecai” to take away the themes of self-forgiveness and staying true to yourself.

“I think that it’s really important to love and take care of yourself as much as you can. And if you find something that you’re passionate about and that makes you happy, then that should be the goal,” Dinea Hale said. “Do what you love. Don’t feel pressured to follow something that isn’t for you. I think go to school for what you want to go to school for, and just make sure you love it. Make sure that what you’re doing every single day is something that makes your soul happy.”

“iMordecai” is now available to purchase on DVD and digitally on iTunes.



## MUSIC

# NSU bands lead “The Golden Hour” concert

By: Danna Bertel

The Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts is presenting “The Golden Hour,” a music spring concert featuring the Bossa Nova Chorale and the Mako Band. The concert will run from April 21 to 22 at 9 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

The concert will also mark the return of the Mako Band after the pandemic occurred.

“The Bossa Nova Chorale was brought back last semester in the fall,” said adjunct faculty Carlo Ricchi, who oversees the Mako Band.

Ricchi shared what students and faculty can expect to see at “The Golden Hour.”

“We’ve got a good mix of different repertoire, a lot of jazz classics in the mix, but we also have a few songs that are not necessarily in that genre,” he said. “Anytime we set up a concert with the Mako Band and the Bossa Nova Chorale, you can always expect variety.”



### If you go:

**Location:**  
Black Box Theatre

**Time:** April 21 and 22 at 9 p.m.

**Price:** Free

**Contact:**  
wadams@nova.edu and cr939@nova.edu



**Want to be a  
volunteer  
DJ at  
Mako Radio?  
Scan this  
code!**

**Want to know what The Current staff will be listening to in the summer? Check out School’s out for Summer, our collaborative Spotify playlist**



### Mako Radio: evening shows

Tune into 88.5 daily from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to see what’s playing. Here’s what you can expect from the lineup of DJs.

**Thursday 4/13:**

DJ Sirena  
International Music

DJ Shorty  
Indie Music

**Friday 4/14:**

DJ Dream  
Indie Music

DJ Tranquilo  
Soul and R&B Music

**Monday 4/17:**

DJ @ -Mr.É  
Alternative Rock and Pop

**Wednesday 4/19:**

DJ Blossom  
Caribbean Music

DJ Anika  
Soca/Reggae Music

**Thursday 4/20:**

DJ Sirena  
International Music

DJ Shorty  
Indie Music

**Friday 4/21:**

DJ Dream  
Indie Music





Emily Thomas, freshman gets ready for a full swing  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER



Alyssa Drogemuller, junior elementary education major, an outfielder and pitcher position, throws the ball to the opposing team.  
PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

## FINIS UP SHARKS: HOME GAMES

**April 14: 6 p.m.**  
Baseball vs. Florida Southern  
College  
NSU Baseball Complex

**April 15: 2 p.m.**  
Baseball vs. Florida Southern  
College  
NSU Baseball Complex

**April 16: Noon**  
Baseball vs. Florida Southern  
College  
NSU Baseball Complex

**April 28: 6 p.m.**  
Baseball vs. Barry University  
NSU Baseball Complex

**April 15: 11 a.m.**  
Women's Tennis vs. Rollins  
College  
NSU Tennis Complex

**April 16: 10 a.m.**  
Women's Tennis vs. Eckerd  
College  
NSU Tennis Complex

**April 25: 6 p.m.**  
Baseball vs. Palm Beach  
Atlantic University  
NSU Baseball Complex

# Softball team prepares for the NCAA South Regional Tournament

By: Bella Giaquinto

With an overall record of 27-12, NSU's Women's Softball team has had led a fantastic 2023 season so far, with less than 15 games until the NCAA South Regional Tournament.

Katelyn Ellard, a graduate student right-handed pitcher, opened up the 2023 season with a powerful performance against the University of Alabama in Huntsville on Feb. 3, setting a strong tone for the team.

The NSU softball team was on a roll on Feb. 11, as it defeated West Liberty (6-0) and Mars Hill

(13-0). The Sharks then went on to beat Florida Tech three times in a row with Alexis Smith, senior in fielder and out fielder, hitting a grand slam in the second game.

Smith leads the Sharks in almost every offensive category, scoring 45 runs, maintaining the highest batting average of .424 and has been up to bat 139 times this season.

March was a strong month for the Sharks, as it had 12 wins coming against nine different universities. The Sharks put up a tough battle, leaving three of its opponents without an oppor-

tunity to score any runs.

Ryleigh Langwell, senior left fielder, is right behind Smith, with a .429 batting average and received player of the week during the first week of the 2023 season.

"This season has been going really well, we've had a tough schedule but it's made us a lot stronger," Langwell said.

Grace Rende, a senior outfielder transfer from Maine, also has high hopes for this season.

"We just got a new pitching staff which is exciting and the environment that our team has created is amazing," Rende said.

"I love going to practice everyday because of my teammates and the coaches."

The Sharks have many opportunities left this season to enhance its reputation and dominate until the NCAA South Regional Tournament on Friday, May 5.

To keep up with the 2023 softball season, check out the Sharks' Instagram @nsu\_softball and watch its journey leading up to the regional tournament.

# Women's Golf and the pursuit of excellence

By: Abraham Velasquez

NSU's women's golf team is currently ranked #3 in the country. NSU had a solid showing at the Lynn Invitational in Boca Raton on April 4. The Sharks finished in fourth place as a team, with freshman Olivia Grønberg leading the way with a T-3rd place performance, shooting +2 overall. Sophomore Haruka Muta also contributed to the Sharks' success with a top-15 finish, shooting +10 overall.

The team is under the leadership of Head Coach Heather Wall, who has proven herself to be one of the best in the pro-

gram's history with 20 career wins ranking her second all-time at NSU. Wall's experience as both a player and a coach has undoubtedly contributed to the success of NSU's women's golf team.

"We try to make them as mentally tough as they can be and just take one shot at a time and just keep them having fun on the golf course and keep them loving the game," Wall said.

The team will return to the course on April 15 for the Sunshine State Conference Tournament. Keep up with the team on Instagram and Twitter at @NSU\_WGolf.



Haruka Muta, sophomore, prepares to swing.  
COURTESY OF SHARK ATHLETICS



Olivia Grønberg, freshman, gets ready to downswing.  
COURTESY OF SHARK ATHLETICS



# The bittersweet side of graduating

By: Ashley Diaz

After waiting four years to finish my degree and enter the workforce, the time has come for me to graduate. Seniors of 2023 are graduating in early May, right after finals. Undergraduate seniors received their commencement invitations during spring break.

When I received the email, I was ecstatic, jumping around and screaming that my invitation finally came to graduate.

Last time I was this excited was when I got accepted into NSU. Students were to RSVP to commencement and buy their caps and gowns and possibly other accessories, like stoles. It was very costly but worth it. It's not every day you graduate from college with a bachelor's degree. Students are able to pick up their regalia for commencement in April at the NSU Shark Store.

Commencement is open to the public alongside students' friends and family, so the amount of guests is unlimited. It could cause a problem when the arena is full, but some students' families are not able to get a seat because it is a first come, first served basis.

NSU recommends families arrive an hour before commencement starts in order to be guaranteed a seat. The families of the students graduating should take top priority.

NSU should give limited tickets to students to guarantee they have seats. Even if there are some people who won't be able to get seated or are unable to attend their student's commencement, NSU will livestream the event. I would be upset if my family couldn't come because the arena was full and they were subjected to watch the livestream. I would want them to be a part of this milestone in my life in person and not on a screen.

There are many events seniors can attend during the winter semester. It is my last year at NSU, and I am going to take advantage of any event that commemorates and celebrates undergraduate seniors. We deserve to celebrate everything we have done and sacrificed to graduate from NSU, so I plan to attend every event.

On March 23, the NSU bookstore hosted the Grad Festival. I attended to take pictures and buy more accessories for commencement day. When I got the announcement for Grad Festi-



Ashley Diaz, senior communication major, gets her photos taken for graduation.

COURTESY OF REINALEIDY CAIROS

val, I was very excited, but the reality was a little disappointing. I don't know what I expected from the festival, but I expected it to be like other events that NSU throws. I did have a good time with my family, but I expected more out of it.

Toward the end of April, Campus Life and Student Engagement will be hosting Senior Week. It is a week filled with so many activities to celebrate the seniors' accomplishments, and I cannot wait to attend.



## Are we finally embracing queer people in pop culture?

By: Suzan Kinran

Raise your glass for the TV and the music industry for their continuous involvement with LGBTQ+ representation during the last decade. It is safe to say that the media has never been more queer, since the shining days of David Bowie. Although many people are still criticizing this new advancement, the opposition to queer portrayal will not be enough to stop it from growing and continuing to break down boundaries. It is about time we start to accept queer people in the mainstream.

You could feel the shift in the universe when Lady Gaga rose to fame a decade ago with "Born

This Way." For many queer teenagers, she had become more than crazy wigs and dresses. I see her as the Gen-Z's Bowie. She was able to execute exactly what he started 20 years before, and she was able to conquer and re-queer the mainstream.

TV has become a platform where queer producers and actors have been able to tell their own stories without any sugarcoating. There have been more queer romances than ever on TV and it is something that I love the most about it. I think Netflix has done an excellent job of letting LGBTQ+ people express themselves as they should, with shows like "Heartstopper" breaking down many stereotypes.

On the other hand, the portrayal of LGBTQ+ media on television and in the movies has been vastly different. Numerous major studios have persistently failed to include gay representation. The outcry for this bias has also been enormous.

When Timothée Chalamet lost the Oscar Award for best actor in 2018 with "Call Me By Your Name," many questioned the Academy for being homophobic. His portrayal of Elio Perlman has made me connect to myself more than any other movie. I also love Gary Oldman but seriously? I still have several unanswered questions, dear Academy.

The gap between embracing and despising the image of LGBTQ+ people has been difficult to ignore, yet we can still grow and give ourselves chances to be better humans. As we have more social interactions with each other, we begin to gain a brand new perspectives from all around the world. It is critical to be open-minded as the world evolves to become better than it was before. I feel that as long as LGBTQ+ celebrities, performers and allies continue to speak up, we will be able to welcome queer people everywhere in the world — especially in the mainstream.



# THE CURRENT'S CORNER

## WORD SEARCH

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

CHOREOGRAPHY  
GRADUATION  
GOLDEN  
PEACH  
FINALS

INSTITUTIONS  
IMORDECAI  
SHARKS  
WATER  
AUTISM

MILKSHAKES  
DINOSAUR  
LGBTQ  
CEREMONY  
PARIS

# STAY CURRENT & STAY SAFE

## TIC TAC TOE

Tic Tac Toe is a game where two players seek alternative ways to complete a row. One player is a circle while the other one is an X. Whoever completes three in a row is the first to win the game.





## DOTS AND BOXES

This is a two-player game where you take turns joining two dots together (vertically or horizontally) to make the side of a square (a box). When you make a box with a line, write your initials in it and take another turn. The person with the most boxes at the end of the game wins.

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

