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The Current

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## The Current - Volume 34 Issue 3

Nova Southeastern University

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**THURSDAY**  
Oct. 5, 2023

# THE CURRENT

**VOLUME 34**  
**ISSUE 3**

NSU's student-run newspaper, housed in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts

## Defending national champs excited for upcoming golf season

By Bella Giaquinto and Michael Silva



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

NSU men's golfer Mike Hay tees off at the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Coming off an unmatched hot streak of a season and securing the NSU's men's golf team's third national title, the Sharks are coming into this season looking to keep the fire burning.

Joey Marino, men's head golf coach, is a firm believer in pushing

all his players to their fullest potential, both on and off the course.

"If you can get the best out of one athlete, their success is only going to help the team. That's what makes the team grow," Marino said.

With five members of the title team graduating from NSU and two

five-year players returning for their final year on the course, Marino is looking forward to bringing in a new first-year roster and instilling the winning culture at NSU.

While a back-to-back title appearance can be a challenge, the expectation is to remain confident and

competitive.

"I like the chances to make the regional tournament and then get to nationals," Marino said.

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## George L. Hanbury II plans for life after NSU presidency

By Bryce Johnson

After 27 years of working at NSU, George Hanbury II, NSU president and CEO, plans to step down when his contract expires on Jan. 1, 2025.

"As much as I hate to admit it, I need to spend a little more time than I have in the past with my wife and family. They definitely deserve it. And I never knew what work-life balance was. Work was life and life was work, and that was the balance," Hanbury said. "We need to

take some time to smell the roses. And I'm learning that now at 80 years old."

Hanbury is now in the process of writing a memoir focusing on his life and role as a leader.

"My book is on what I've done for 60 years in a leadership role. I'm on chapter 10 and I have five more chapters to go," Hanbury said. "I hope I'll have it finished by July of next year. So in a little less than a year, I should have it all wrapped up."

Mako Radio Station Manager Alex Hernández, junior double major in international studies and national security, is in her second year of President's 64, a group of 64 students who provide support and feedback to Hanbury. She remembers trying to take a picture with Hanbury at the Grande Oaks Club during a President's 64 meeting.

"He's like, 'I'll only take the photo if we do a fins up.' And he made 20 of us do a fins up. It was so funny," Hernández said. "He bleeds NSU

blue, all his clothes are blue. Everything about him is so proper. When I first met him, he was just so nice."

Hernández is sad to see Hanbury stepping down and is also thankful that he will remain president until 2025. She is curious as to how NSU will change in the coming years.

See PRESIDENT, page 3

# THE CURRENT

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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.

## Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Hello! Thank you for picking up the latest issue of The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. I'm Bryce, The Current's editor-in-chief, and I'd like to thank you for reading the latest issue of Volume 34.

Many of you will have midterm exams next week. If you're feeling nervous, prepared, excited or something entirely different, this issue is right for you. You can read about how students are managing stress during exams, and places to go once exams are over, including Pembroke Lakes Mall.

Tomorrow, Oct. 6, is College Radio Day. From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mako Radio will host several segments and guest artists, featuring the one and only Razor the Shark. Be sure to stop by the Rosenthal building to see Mako Radio live in action.

You can also read more about individuals who have impacted NSU in this issue, including NSU President George Hanbury II, Razor's Reef worker Spencer Feigelis, Assistant Dean of Student Engagement Gerard Wheeler and NSU alumni Rosemarie Richard, founding member of Phi Sigma Sigma.



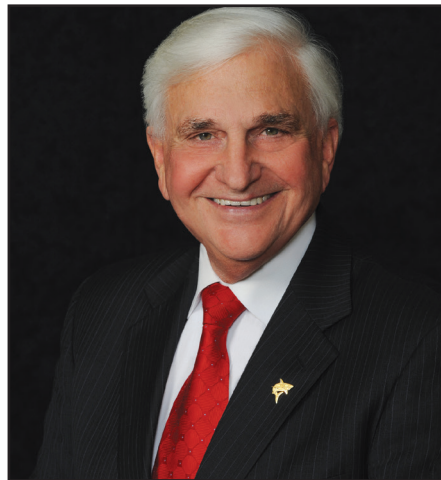
PHOTO BY CHLOE ROUSSEAU  
Bryce Johnson,  
editor-in-chief of The Current.

The Current, alongside Mako TV, NSU's student-run broadcast news station on YouTube, and Mako Radio, NSU's student-run radio station on 88.5 FM, is part of Mako Media Network. If you're interested in MMN, we'd love to hear from you. Please stop by our office in the UC in room 328.

The Current's team has students from all different backgrounds, each coming together to provide you with the best paper we can. We appreciate you picking it up and hope you enjoy reading it.

Happy reading,  
Bryce Johnson

## President Hanbury's letter



By President George L.  
Hanbury II

In a time of uncertainty for higher education nationwide, NSU is ensuring that its future is secure.

By now, you may have heard the news that I will step down as President and CEO on Jan. 1, 2025, when my current contract expires. Our Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve Dr. Harry K. Moon, our current Executive Vice President and COO, and COO of NSU Health, as President-elect. You might wonder why this happened now when 2025 seems far off, but this 15-month period will allow us to create a smooth leadership transition.

The year 2025 has additional meaning beyond the end of my time as President and CEO. It's also the culmination of our Vision 2025 plan, in which we will have raised \$1 billion from philanthropy and external research funding to support our students and researchers. It is also our goal to be recognized

as a preeminent doctoral research university by 2025. We have made considerable progress on these goals – including being in the top half of National Universities ranked by U.S. News & World Report – and will continue to aim high as we march toward 2025. The year 2024 is also important, as it marks NSU's 60th anniversary. Looking at where we have been and where we are now, NSU is thriving and will continue to do so.

By 2025, I will have spent 27 years at NSU, and it has been an incredible second career after working 30 years in public service as a city manager. I can say without reservation that serving as president and CEO of NSU has been my greatest honor. I have met so many incredible students in my time here, and they all shared one thing in common: They came to NSU to pursue their dreams, and they carried with them the hope for a bright future.

Although my time in this office has an expiration date, I won't be saying goodbye to NSU. I will be serving as chancellor of the new Institute of Citizenship, Leadership, and International Affairs. Even in this new role, I will still encourage everyone to keep their aim beyond their reach and always set new goals to surpass, and when you see me around campus as chancellor, you can still give me an enthusiastic "Fins Up!"

George L. Hanbury II is President and CEO of Nova Southeastern University.

FROM THE FRONT

# PRESIDENT

"I know that the person he's going to be leaving his tenure to, we're going to be in good hands, but Hanbury is one of a kind," Hernández said. "What direction is the next president going to take the school? I hope that it's one that continues Hanbury's morals of unity and diversity."

After six years of working with Harry Moon, NSU executive vice president and COO, Hanbury recommended to NSU's Board of Trustees that Dr. Moon succeed him as president in 2025. Until then, Moon will serve as president-elect. A national search will be held to find Dr. Moon's successor, the next COO.

"It is an honor. I'm humbled by the Board of Trustees and Dr. Hanbury asking me to take this on," Moon said. "It's worth doing. I think some of my experience and, particularly in healthcare, will help us in advancing to the next stage of what we're doing in the healthcare fields."

Moon's plans for NSU include developing 700,000 square feet of healthcare facilities, a new dental college, a cancer center, an increase in student housing options and more.

"I look forward to helping us advance along to become a R1 university. We're a high performing R2 today, and this is a Carnegie designation," Moon said. "R1 is the highest level of research universities in the country, and it's based on research expenditures, Ph.D. programs, postdoc fellows, a certain set of criteria."

Hanbury will still be involved with NSU, but instead of president, he will be chancellor of the new Institute of Citizenship, Leadership, and International Affairs. Hanbury is currently working with the deans and the provost to create the institute and expects to reveal more about it in another year.

"Any president would love to say, 'I'm going to stay until I die,' but that doesn't do any good for the university. That may be good for that person, but what's best for the university is to have a logical, rational transition to ensure stability in the organization and continued progress toward preeminence," Hanbury said.



COURTESY OF NSU

George L. Hanbury II is president and CEO of Nova Southeastern University.

## Rumors about piano removal debunked

By Danna Bertel

Nicole Salykine, freshman political science major, started playing the piano at a young age. At NSU, she can often be found playing her favorite song "River Flows" on the grand piano on the first floor of the Don Taft University Center. Salykine loves walking in the UC and hearing others play the piano, as well.

"It's beautiful hearing all the pianists playing, it always calms me down, and I love playing for

everyone, too. It's the best way to destress and just have beautiful music playing when you're walking in the UC," Salykine said.

Like Salykine's experience, many students stop by to play the grand piano, making it an esteemed part of the university.

The thought of the piano moving from that location created a commotion among students who feel it is an integral part of NSU. It all started with a rumor that the piano would be removed and replaced by a tech store, which upset many and

almost led to a petition from students to keep it where it is.

"I know that during the campus tours, they definitely mention the piano, and I know a few people who have played the piano just for fun, and that got me interested in it," said Angelo-Nathan Fleurime, sophomore law major. "I think it's pretty important that they keep it because people like it, and there really is no reason to remove it."

Pablo Perez, sophomore chemistry major, feels the piano is a way to meet new people.

"It's kind of cool that we have a piano. There's always people playing here. And you can always come up and talk to them," Perez said. "It's just fun to have here."

The rumor has been clarified to just be a rumor by Ayanna Stephens, director of the Design and Construction department.

Stephens believes the rumor started due to a request for a different piano removal, and the grand piano on the first floor of the UC was never meant to be removed.

"There's an older piano that's somewhere else that wasn't working that was requested to be removed, not this piano on the first floor of the UC, but somewhere in PVA up on the second or third floor," Stephens said.

But while the piano is not currently being removed, there are plans to place a tech store on the first floor of the UC, causing the grand piano to be relocated, but not removed. The tech store is still

in the planning stage but would serve the purpose of becoming a place where students can get help from the Information Technology department.

"We have been talking for a while about a project to do a tech store at the University Center. The purpose of the store is to provide an amenity for students, it would be a place where you could go and buy a computer, or if you needed a computer or something happened to your computer, you could go for support," Stephens said.

There is no set date as to when this store will be added to the UC, but the idea is in process as an architect has visited the area to design for the space.

"You want it to feel a little bit like the stores that you see at the mall for similar purposes," Stephens said. "We don't have a timeline for when the project would happen. All we've done thus far is complete the design."

Emilia Noninyan, freshman psychology major, goes to the UC just to hear other students play the piano and is happy to know it is not going anywhere.

"I know a lot of students that come to the piano as a form of therapy to play, but I also made a lot of friends through the piano," Noninyan said. "I come and listen to the piano and then it turns out I meet others and make connections like we have similar majors or hometowns. It's really important to us."



PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

Jared McMeans, freshman exercise science major, plays "Lucid Dreams" by Juice WRLD.

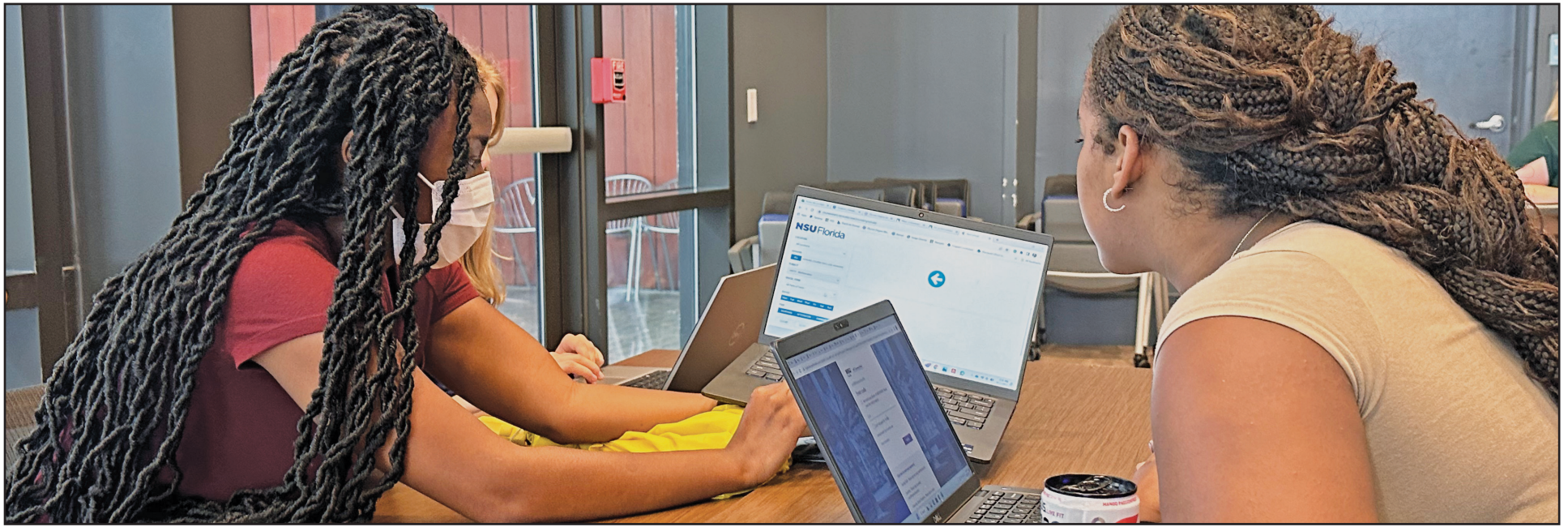


PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

Ny'Erica Young, CAPS adviser, looks through Course Wizard with Yabsera Negussie, freshman neuroscience major.

## CAPS Labs offers career and academic advising

By Bryce Johnson

The Center for Academic and Professional Success opened CAPS Labs, located in Mako Hall's multi-purpose room, on Aug. 29.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., students can come and receive guidance on building resumes and cover letters, adding and dropping classes, switching majors, applying to internships and other services.

Viviana Faz, a second-year student in the College Student Affairs program, enjoys working there as a graduate assistant.

"I enjoy working with students, especially when we accomplish what they come into CAPS Labs for, whether that is them graduating a semester early, finding a class or helping them build a resume for an internship," Faz said.

Kevin Metayer, Edge adviser and chair of CAPS's graduate assistant supervisor committee, said the

idea for CAPS Labs existed years ago within the Career Development office.

"This semester, we wanted to bring the idea back around of having a CAPS Lab where students can essentially come in and then receive assistance for a plethora of services," Metayer said.

Cassie Arroyo, Edge adviser and co-chair of the graduate assistant supervisor committee, said that CAPS Labs is at Mako Hall, rather than at the CAPS office in the Horvitz building, so that staff could be closer to students. It also provides a different atmosphere than CAPS's drop-in sessions, which are normally 15-20 minutes.

"The whole idea behind it was that we meet the students on their turf," Arroyo said. "Having the ability to have a three or four-hour time span where students can come in just makes it a little bit easier for everybody."

Metayer remembers one of the first meetings held between a student and a graduate assistant in the CAPS Labs.

"We had a young lady come in for her resume critique and it was essentially what we envisioned the CAPS Labs to be," Metayer said. "She was there for about 30 to 35 minutes, and she built her resume from scratch and added two of the experiences she had onto the resume. That's really what we were hoping that CAPS Labs would be."

Caitlyn Baris, graduate assistant and first-year student in the College Student Affairs program, remembers helping a student in the CAPS Labs.

"I once helped a student who was an exercise and sports science major, and he was looking for physical therapy volunteer opportunities. So I was able to give him all the resources that he needed to apply for some internships for physical therapy," Baris said.

Karina Assanova, graduate assistant and first-year student in the College Student Affairs program, appreciates the experiences at the CAPS Labs.

"The thing that appealed to me in the CAPS office is the career side because since I'm an international student, I did not know much about the academic side in the United States," Assanova said. "But I always liked to explore more about career development, interviews and the hiring processes."

Arroyo encourages all students to come to the CAPS Labs, whether they're alone or with a friend.

"A lot of students do come in with their roommate, or their friend or they're walking by and they see it. So we do encourage everybody just to come in, as many people as you want at a time, no appointment needed," Arroyo said.

For more information about the CAPS Labs  
Students can email [caps@nova.edu](mailto:caps@nova.edu)

## Sharks Speak: How do you de-stress during exams?



"I try to take time away from studying and go to the beach because that's where I feel calm and relaxed," said Kierra Sherlock, sophomore marketing major.



"Usually what I'll do is hit the gym right and then head to the beach," said Sean Mungin, senior finance major.



"I like going to the beach to de-stress myself and I also like the Pawsitivity events on campus. Sometimes I pick up soccer because it de-stresses me a lot," said Maria-Jose Contrera, senior business management major.



"I take a couple of moments to myself, listen to some music and I'll just breathe," said Roodenson Pierre, freshman entrepreneurship major.

BY Lauren Do Nascimento and Elizabeth Franklin

PHOTOS BY  
Lauren Do Nascimento

# Venture off-campus to Pembroke Lakes Mall

By Veronica Richard and Alexandra Acevedo

Pembroke Lakes Mall, located nine miles from NSU, is a local shopping mall with more than 140 stores, restaurants and activities. This mall has been open since 1992 but has recently made new additions, including AMC Pembroke Lakes 9 and an arcade.

Michael Cook, senior general manager of Pembroke Lakes Mall, believes that it has something for everyone.

"It's a super regional enclosed shopping center," Cook said. "With the entertainment and the food and restaurants, it makes something that is appealing to everyone."

The mall does have typical anchor stores, like JCPenney and Macy's,

but also has a variety of other, smaller stores and restaurants.

Jasmin Zakaria, freshman biology major, likes to visit these stores instead of the bigger department stores.

"I like the little shops in between [the stores] while you're walking. Those are cute," Zakaria said.

Daniela Carrero, freshman exercise science major, particularly likes to go clothes-shopping at the mall and is excited about the new additions to the mall.

"I [used to] go to American Eagle and Aeropostale there a lot," she said. "And now it has a movie theater."

Some stores in the mall also have a student discount policy that NSU students can take advantage of by presenting their Shark Cards.

Participating stores include Forever 21, GNC, Journey's, LensCrafters, Oakley, Pandora and AMC theaters.

AMC Theatres opened in 2017, while its neighboring structure, Round1 Bowling & Amusement, opened in June 2022. AMC is home to nine theaters featuring IMAX screens, reclining chairs, and a food and drink menu. There are also discounted movie days for all ages.

Round1 is a family friendly arcade housing games, a bowling alley, karaoke, Ping-Pong, darts and billiards, among other activities.

"My favorite place [at the mall] is probably Round1," Cook said. "It really is a cool place. You have your arcade games and bowling alley, but the second level is very different. They call it 'Sports Challenge.'

It's got everything from basketball courts, mini bike races, batting cages, an indoor trampoline, even a mechanical bull you can ride."

Zakaria also enjoys going to Round1.

"I go with my boyfriend and we bowl and do something in the arcade. It's good," Zakaria said. "I think [the new additions] do attract more kids. With the AMC right there, before they can go to the movies, they can go to Round1."

Alicia Boodram, senior public health major, is unsure of the mall's new additions.

"I feel like it's going to be [really] crowded now, with as crowded as it was [before]," Boodram said.

## Alumni spotlight: Like mother, like daughter

By Danna Bertel and Brielle Aguayo

Growing up, Veronica Richard, senior communication major, remembers looking at pictures and hearing stories of her mother and her friends when they attended Nova Southeastern University. Feeling connected to the university through her family contributed to Richard's decision to attend NSU.

"My godmother is a former NSU student who was in the same sorority as my mom. Still, I've grown up around so many of her sorority sisters, that I've been to one of their weddings, so I've always been connected in that way," Veronica Richard said.

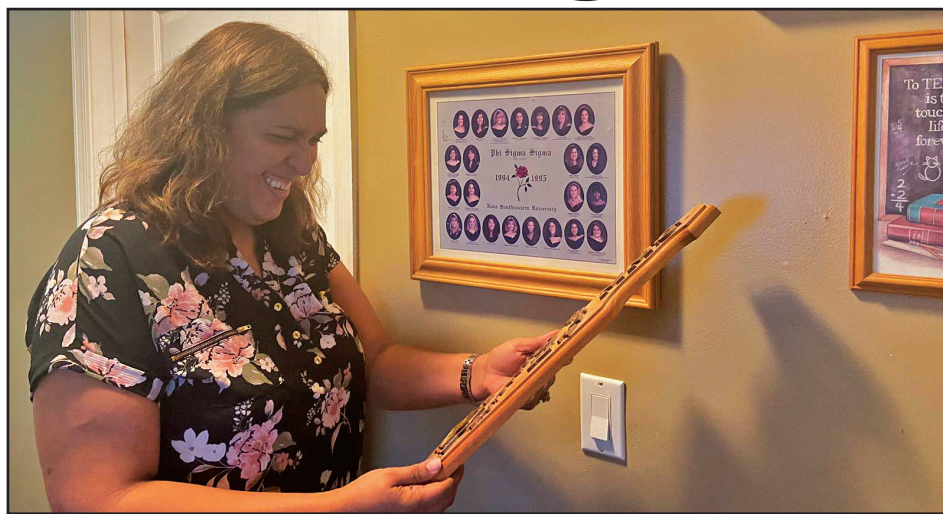
"It helped that she already knew so much about the university and how things worked even though it worked pretty differently back then, she always talked amazingly about her experience, like how nice the people were."

Finding out her daughter would be attending the same university, Rosemarie Richard, class of 1997, was proud, awaiting the day she could place their graduation photos side-by-side.

"I'm a cheesy mom, so when she told me, 'Mom, I'm really considering NSU,' I was extremely proud," Rosemarie Richard said. "If you go on my social media, you'll see all the cheesy pictures. I would post the comparison photo of me on my first day and her first day."

NSU, then called Nova University, caught the eyes of Rosemarie Richard as she looked for a university near her home and husband-to-be. With the opportunity to attend with a grant that paid a large portion of her tuition, she felt NSU was the right place. As a student, she majored in elementary education.

"I knew that since I was 5 years old and I stuck with it and I lived



COURTESY OF ROSEMARIE RICHARD  
Rosemarie Richard looks at her sorority's memorabilia.

to tell," Rosemarie Richard said. As part of her extracurricular activities, she joined the Future Educators of America and Phi Sigma Sigma.

As a commuter student, Rosemarie Richard knew she wanted to get involved and make connections. Greek life caught her attention and she said it was one of the best decisions she made during her college years.

"I was able to have the best of both worlds and still go home as a commuter student, and have the comforts of home but still have that great connection and social piece while I was on campus," Rosemarie Richard said.

Alongside finding her forever friends, Rosemarie Richard was a founding member of Phi Sigma Sigma, which not only helped shape the sorority's history but also helped her gain leadership skills.

"We were literally just an interest group and so to be a part of that was pretty awesome and to be able to call myself a founding sister. It intrigued me, I was like ok I like this, plus these girls are pretty awesome," said Rosemarie Richard.

As a founding member, Rosemarie Richard held many positions

such as public relations chair, and treasurer, and in her senior year, she was vice arcon (vice president). Even though everyone had their own positions, she said they all did everything together starting out, in order for them to grow their chapter.

Rosemarie Richard had many fond memories, but her favorite memory was helping lead their first fall rush.

"That was a lot of fun because of all the planning, the themes and finding locations because we had to book rooms. We didn't have as many choices as you have now. So it was a lot of fun and hard work, but I didn't mind. As a commuter student, I remember staying here to the most ridiculous hours of night and then getting in the car and driving back home," Rosemarie Richard said.

One of Rosemarie Richard's biggest accomplishments as part of Phi Sigma Sigma was helping support its philanthropy for the National Kidney Foundation.

"My fondest memory was we used to do rock anthons for our philanthropic association in front of Parker Building. We would have these 24-hour rock anthons where

someone had to be rocking on a rocking chair. The entire time you signed up for shifts and that's a fond memory because we had so much fun sitting there. It would be 3 a.m. and we would just be laughing and talking, it was pretty awesome," Rosemarie Richard said.

Even after 30 years, Rosemarie Richard is still with her sorority sisters, one of them being Candace Ruffin.

"She used to wear really baggy pants and she was like the girl from the Bronx in the middle of Florida, it was hysterical," Ruffin said. "She was never quiet, a very extroverted person. I watched her be this leader and she handled it all with grace. The frustration was there, but we managed it all the way through and supported each other. She is an amazing support person."

Since graduating, Rosemarie Richard is now working with teachers on how to educate English language learners.

"Is the most fulfilling work that I have ever experienced. When you have students who are coming to the country for the very first time and they don't speak any English and have to meet the same graduation requirements as a monolingual, it's so incredibly difficult to do. But it can be done and to be a part of that for so many students is absolutely incredible," Rosemarie Richard said.

Living and working near the area, Rosemarie Richard is still near NSU and is able to see its developments through the years.

"I just adored my time here those four years were incredible. This place will always hold a dear part of my heart. Being a resident here, seeing the campus over the years, I'm just so proud to see what it's becoming," Rosemarie Richard said.



COURTESY OF GERARD WHEELER

Gerard Wheeler poses with students in the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement.

# Meet Gerard Wheeler, assistant dean of Student Engagement

By Bryce Johnson

Ryan Mangano, freshman real estate and property management major, first met Gerard Wheeler, assistant dean of Student Engagement, as his UNIV professor on Orientation Day.

"Knowing him has been great. He's involved in everything, so I always see him on campus doing something," Mangano said. "He's always making sure that we all know what's going on on campus and what big events are happening."

Wheeler enjoys the opportunity to work with students and seeing them work on different projects.

"I actually really enjoy working with students. I love to see their creativity. I like to see what they're working on. We have students here that are doctors and lawyers and all that kind of jazz," Wheeler said. "I am so adamant about making sure that everybody has a great time in college because you can't get it back. You can't do this over, and so I really want to see students love the institution."

Wheeler remembers when Jefferson Cristovao, coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Engagement, was a student at NSU and president of the Pi Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. Cristovao scheduled a meeting with Wheeler but never came. Wheeler saw Cristovao later outside the University Center and talked to him.

"He kept saying how he wasn't involved, he didn't do anything. He was a commuter. To see him get more and more involved, he became the UGC President, which is a council. He became Campus Life Student of the Year. He actually became a graduate assistant in our office, and now he actually works for the office," Wheeler said.

Wheeler commends Cristovao's progress from barely being involved to becoming an intricate part of Student Engagement.

Wheeler also remembers a student who worked for the office of Campus Life and Student Engagement. Her time at NSU was not easy, but the one thing she loved was working at Campus Life.

"She was depressed to the point

where she didn't want to get out of her bed. Coming to work really motivated her. She never told us any of these things. We just saw her at work and thought she did a good job and she was amazing," said Wheeler, who learned about the situation later from a letter she wrote to NSU President George L. Hanbury II.

Seeing her motivation and appreciation inspires Wheeler to work with NSU's student body.

Wheeler is involved with many events at NSU, either overseeing or in attendance. At Sharkapalooza in August, Mangano remembers watching Wheeler dance with his fraternity.

"They had their whole dance thing going on. And I saw him behind the DJ booth doing the dances, too. So that was probably the best memory I have of him. It was pretty funny," Mangano said.

Wheeler oversees several offices at NSU, including the office of Campus Life and Student Engagement, the office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, the Fraternity and Sorority Life office and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Resource Center.

"I am the chair of PanSGA, and then I newly acquired Orientation and Commuter Engagement. So, I'm not bored," Wheeler said, adding he is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. "I do a lot of community service."

Manas Peddiboyina, senior public health major, often works with Wheeler as president of the Undergraduate Student Government Association.

"His work ethic is literally unmatched in my eyes, and I just hope to one day be like that," Peddiboyina said. "I think Gerard is somebody who will truly help you out to the maximum ability that he has. And the one thing about Gerard is he will always be honest with you, which is amazing."

Wheeler has worked at NSU for five years. He first came to campus in 2018 to visit Justin Smith, who was director of Residential Life and Housing at the time. During his visit, Wheeler met Aarika Camp, former associate dean of Student

Services.

"There was an actual opening for a director of Campus Life. And so Justin encouraged me to apply. At the time I was looking for something different. I worked at Savannah College of Art and Design, and so I was ready to leave res life, start something different, do something new," Wheeler said. "And NSU took a chance on me."

When Daniel Alfonso, vice president of Facilities and Public Safety, first started working at NSU, he took a tour to meet several people across campus, including Wheeler.

"He immediately struck me as an enthusiastic individual that I would like to get to know," Alfonso said. "When I talk to him, I get a sense that he does have the core values of the university, of being student-centered, well established in his persona."

Originally from Gastonia, North Carolina, Wheeler graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, which is a Historically Black College and University.

Wheeler is also a licensed counselor in Georgia. He became interested in counseling when he took a psychology class in high school.

"I enjoyed learning about how people thought and think, and then I figured people already tell me all their business, now I can get paid for people to tell me their business," Wheeler said. "So I think it kind of mixes my love for helping people, listening to people and then also getting paid at the same time."

Before NSU, Wheeler worked with people affected by HIV and AIDS, as well as people who were affected by homelessness.

"I used to go to different shelters and get them to get back in services, help them get on their feet, help them get housing. I love that aspect of it because it was just really helping people. You really don't know, sometimes we are one decision away from being homeless," Wheeler said. "So that was the biggest thing for me, it kind of humbled me."

In the future, Wheeler's personal goals include having his own reality television show.



COURTESY OF GERARD WHEELER

Gerard Wheeler is the assistant dean of Student Engagement.

For his professional goals, he hopes to become chancellor or vice president of Student Affairs, as well as own his own branding and logistics company.

"I would like to take companies and rebrand them, and actually get their name out, redevelop them and then logistically figure out how they work," Wheeler said. "I'm really, really into how to brand yourself and make sure people know who you are."

Wheeler said he is always available to speak with students, who can schedule a meeting with him.

"I want to make sure students have a great experience and that is the only thing that I'm concerned about. College for me was the best time of my life. It's when you find out who you are. It's where you find your friend groups," Wheeler said. "It lays the foundation of who you want to be. I'm very serious that students have a great experience."

To schedule a meeting with Wheeler, follow this link:

<https://appt.link/meet-with-dean-gerard-wheeler>

# Military Affairs presents Mike Lynn with coin and certificate

By Bryce Johnson

Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network, formerly known as Student Media, received a Certificate of Appreciation and a challenge coin on Sept. 27. Sandra Wendland, director of Military Affairs, and Major Ben Wendland, assistant professor of military science and the head instructor for ROTC, who are both married, awarded Lynn for his support of NSU's Military Affairs and Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

"It's always nice to help others in the NSU community, and it's very rewarding when others can come back and celebrate with you the great community that NSU has," Lynn said. "I enjoy working with the Veterans Affairs Office, and I've been assisting them with various projects over the years, even since I was an undergraduate student working at Mako TV [formerly SUTV]."

The challenge coin is presented in the military to those who demonstrate dedication and selflessness.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO  
Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network, receives a certificate from Major Ben Wendland for his contributions to the Veterans Affairs Office.

Sandra Wendland awarded it to Lynn for his help with the 9/11 Day of Remembrance event.

"He came out there and made sure all of our speakers, our wiring, our mics, all of our audio was done to perfection, so that we could honor and memorialize everyone affected during the tragedy that occurred so many years ago," Sandra Wendland said. "We are very appreciative of Mike. We find him to be dedicated. We find him to be an asset to this university and a real keeper."

Ben Wendland awarded Lynn a Certificate of Appreciation for being the DJ at the first annual ROTC Ball.

"He went above and beyond. Without him, it would not have gone so flawlessly. He communicated very effectively," Ben Wendland said. "I will definitely be asking him again about information as far as DJ equipment and setting up our Military Ball with audio equipment."

# Block Painting Arts Festival Photo Recap: Rain check

By Brielle Aguayo

As students arrived for the annual Block Painting Arts Festival on the Library Quad on Sept. 30, it started raining. Due to weather, the event was rescheduled for Nov. 5.



Students check in for the event.



Students gather their art supplies when showers started.



A pair of students pack up their painting supplies and seek shelter from the rain.



Students head to the Don Taft University Center after the event was postponed.

PHOTOS BY  
JULES BATCHKER



## FOOD



PHOTO BY RONALD MARTINEZ  
Spencer Feigelis, NSU cook, helps prepare a student's order.

## NSU cook shares classical wisdom

By Ronald Martinez and Yasmin De Andrade Rodrigues

For Spencer Feigelis, working at Razor's Reef is more than just a job. It is an opportunity to interact with all the students who stop by Student Choice. Despite working in the industry for more than 60 years, a simple ad in the newspaper led him to NSU, and from there, he has already made himself known.

"[My favorite moments] are the students - giving my words of wisdom to my kids out there," Feigelis said. "I enjoy it, and I'm getting to know the students this year."

Feigelis has worked in all aspects of food service, from bussing tables at a local pizzeria to working as

the executive chef of a corporate kitchen. Even at the early age of 10, he worked in his family's catering business. He may not think himself to be the best out there, but his 60 years in the industry proves he, at least, believes he knows what he is doing.

More than just being a skilled worker, Feigelis spreads positivity to his "kids" daily. His honest sympathy and sincere kindness impact and inspire students every day when ordering at the Student Choice, including Julia Xavier, freshman entrepreneurship major.

"He was giving food to a girl who seemed mad, and he was being really kind to her," Xavier said. "So, I smiled at him, and he said, 'At

least I got a smile from you.'"

Not only does he spread optimism on campus, but he also tries to do the same by just talking and interacting with people.

Once upon a time, he was in line with some friends for a wine festival, where he began talking with others to pass the time. One of them was a woman, who after three minutes of chatting with Feigelis moved ahead to the front of the line. Most were confused as to why she got to skip the line. She eventually came back asking if they were still in line. Feigelis, responded simply with, "Yeah, but we are having a good time." Little did he know, the woman turned out to be the coordinator of the festival, who brought

them to the front of the line.

"She said, 'Look, I cannot get you guys in for free, but you don't have to wait in line anymore.' That's what you get when you talk to people," Feigelis said.

Feigelis is leaving his mark at NSU's dining hall by transforming students' experiences with his actions and memorable words of wisdom, some of which he even writes down in his notes app.

"It is better to look back on life and say I cannot believe I did that, then to look back and say I wish I would have done that," Feigelis said. "Just be nice and kind to everyone. Treat them in the way you want to be treated."

## How to manage food allergies on campus

By Yasmin De Andrade Rodrigues

Sara Menco, sophomore communication major, is lactose intolerant and feels nauseous after ingesting milk.

"I love to get coffee at Starbucks. There was one time I was ordering a chai latte with oat milk, and they didn't have oat milk," she said. "So, I just needed the caffeine, and went ahead with the order, even though it was 2% of milk, that didn't end up well."

When dining in unfamiliar places, individuals with food allergies must always be cautious. Peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products, eggs, wheat and even fish are some common food allergens.

Those who deal with food allergies, especially on campus, must be aware when eating beyond typical

food choices. As a safety measure, always carry medication in case of consuming products that can trigger a reaction.

Micole Rivera-Suarez, senior executive chef at Shark Dining, said "when it comes to allergy, each station is set for that cross contamination to be less than possible. I also tell students to go directly to the cook and tell them they have allergies. They are trained and certified to operate the standard procedure."

At NSU, Einstein Bagels located in the Carl DeSantis Building, has signs alerting customers that the preparation of the products contains some allergens. This action reminds students to be cautious and more careful when ordering certain food.

"I ask beforehand. The staff is very kind to inform you," Menco said. "I understand that the campus

does not need to meet my dietary needs, but they still provide me the facts."

Allergy precaution is taken seriously and students should contact Shark Dining if they have any dietary restrictions or allergy concerns.

Mike Alkurdi, resident district manager of Shark Dining, said all stations have specific signs to help students when buying certain products.

"Bring your concern to us. We have a team of experts to walk with you, and guide you through it," he said. "We try our best, there are a lot of trainings, protocols, and certifications to help you."

Rivera-Suarez said that Shark Dining just wants students to be healthy and have a safe meal.

"As long as you reach out to us, we are able to do anything above

and beyond whatever your specific needs are," Rivera-Suarez said.

**For any further questions:**

Students can email  
Rivera-Suarez at  
[Micole.RiveraSuarez@compass-usa.com](mailto:Micole.RiveraSuarez@compass-usa.com)



# How the brain and body react to stress

By Adam Sadik and Paul Paronich

For Allie Bierkle, sophomore neuroscience major, maintaining healthy stress levels can be a complex endeavor.

"For the most part as I started taking higher level science courses my stress has increased exponentially," Bierkle said. "I would say I am generally at a constant level of medium stress. I've obtained a good balance of school and life. It is challenging but I am able to balance."

William Kochen, professor of neuroscience in the Department of Psychology, has a research concentration on Alzheimer's, stress and brain injury. Kochen believes that stress is a natural human response that can impact a person's health and well-being.

"There has maybe only been a dozen or so studies that have ever looked, across all of animal

research, at these things combined," Kochen said. "It's really challenging because we know stress affects the brain, so it makes sense that it would also affect brain injury, but stress itself is also very broad."

Kochen said the challenging aspect of stress is its far reaching impact on a range of physiological systems. Typical stressors experienced by college students include upcoming tests, papers and figuring out life after graduation. Many fail to consider how the impact of stress encompasses a lot more than anticipated.

"By affecting the brain, it affects everything, so it's affecting the heart, the digestive tract, the liver, the kidneys and so is the brain injury," Kochen said. "There's tons of different neurotransmitters and proteins you can choose to look at."

Student athletes are especially at risk for the adverse affects of stress on the brain and body given the

evidence that points to stress's ability to exacerbate already existing injuries.

In May 2022, the National Library of Medicine published a review article, "Neurobiological Links between Stress, Brain Injury, and Disease," by Hanmu Gao et al, which expands upon the effects of long-term stress on different regions of the brain.

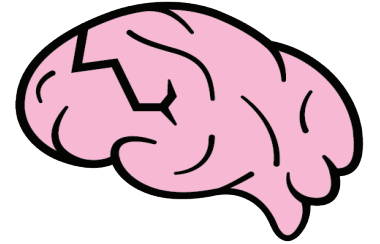
It says: "Intense and persistent stress can trigger a variety of psychological and cognitive deficits by causing or aggravating injuries and diseases involving key brain regions such as the hippocampus, amygdala, hypothalamus, and prefrontal cortex (PFC). The mechanisms are closely linked to excessive releases of various stress hormones."

Given the evidence that points to the many dangers of chronic stress, knowing how to regulate one's personal stressors is important in a college environment.

Vanya Gupta, sophomore neuroscience major, uses several methods to help manage her stress.

"[I am] good at time management, and realizing when you need to step away from work and give time for yourself," Gupta said.

The different ways to reduce stress can involve simple strategies, such as choosing what to wear to school the night before. Updated personal agendas can also reduce the uncertainty that school brings to minimize stress levels.



| Brain regions affected by stress |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Brain Region:                    | Brain Function:   |
| Hippocampus                      | Long-term memory formation and retrieval.   |
| Amygdala                         | Emotional regulation.   |
| Hypothalamus                     | Controls autonomic functions: body temperature, hunger, blood pressure and sleep. |
| Prefrontal cortex                | Regulates thoughts, actions, decision-making and complex cognitive behavior.      |



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# Behind the scenes of 'Now.Here.This.'



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO  
Bianca Texidor, senior exercise science and dance major, tapes the main wall of the production.

By Danna Bertel and  
Luqman Gbenro

The Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts is bringing a new play to campus this fall: "Now. Here. This." A show that takes place in a natural history museum and follows the adventures of four nameless friends as they travel through time, hoping to answer life's big questions with humor and humanity.

"I could call it a semi-autobiographical piece about four friends. They are hanging out at the Natural History Museum. Where each exhibit seems to inspire a little bit of recollection and memory and storytelling, they work through this kind of desire to want more for themselves and more for their life," said Alex Alvarez, assistant

professor and director of "Now. Here. This."

Molly Sullivan, senior health and wellness major, plays one of the four nameless protagonists who embark on a Night at the Museum-esque adventure.

"It's a very funny script. We're always telling jokes. There's a moment where we actually pretend we're dinosaurs," Sullivan said.

The production had a clear vision, and it was on Alvarez and his cast to put everything into place.

"We find people who can sing the parts, we find people who can move and we find people who can act. Because you're picking from so many people, then well, who fits the part?" Alvarez said.

This approach points toward Alvarez's emphasis on connection.

Alongside the other performers, Brandon Ysibido, junior engineering major and cast member of the show, took his role naturally as if he was playing a version of himself instead of a character.

"I think we're a lot like our characters, which is kind of scary-good how close the director got to choosing who we became," Ysibido said.

This sense of connection is alive in the rehearsal processes as well. Ysibido described the learning phase as "stumbling together." The cast had to lean on each other due to the show's tight schedule.

"This is a fast turnaround production, so we have less than two weeks before we jump into tech week. We learned all the music in less than a week, and now we're

working a little bit on choreography and blocking," Sullivan said.

It was normal for cast members to spend extra time rehearsing.

"They are a really dedicated bunch. We'd finish rehearsals and they're singing together. Every time they leave they seem to sing a song from the show, so that they can kind of refresh themselves and get better each time," Alvarez said.

For Alvarez, the thread of connection needed to be woven into the narrative as well as the rehearsal. Alvarez stressed the importance of being tuned in to the world outside of work and school.

"You can get so caught up in the desire for more that you forget to

live. Our lives are built in a way that we have to work. But what you find is that you [must] strike the balance between being present with the people that you enjoy and being present in the environment, good or bad," Alvarez said.

As a performer himself, Alvarez is familiar with the grind that is honing your craft.

"The only thing that's promised is right here, right now, and this. So how do we become more present in our lives?" Alvarez said.

"Now. Here. This." will be performed at the Black Box Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 6-7 and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 8. Admission is free.



COURTESY OF JAQUELINE MATOS  
The cast, Bradon Ysibido, Antonella Lalinde, Molly Sullivan and Lucas Zayas, rehearses for its rendition of "Now.Here.This."

## Dance Awareness Day returns to NSU

By Danna Bertel

The Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts presents Dance Awareness Day, offering a series of free dance classes to the

community on Oct. 18. The event is also open high school and college students to those in the tri-county area.

"We have people from Broward College come and join, we also

invite high school dance programs. We have schools coming from Wellington and Miami, so from all over the tri-county area," said Elana Lanczi, NSU associate professor of dance.

The event will feature a variety of dance styles such as hip-hop, jazz and tap and will be taught by NSU dance faculty. NSU dance majors will also get the opportunity to lead some workshops.

Madison Cantor, junior dance major, will be teaching her favorite dance style, jazz-funk.

"Jazz-funk is definitely my favorite style since I can express high energy and my sassier side," Cantor said. "It is an important event, it helps promote dance, the arts and the program, but also allows students to take classes in a very judgment-free space or explore new styles that they've never done

before or even just explore dance in general as a way of movement and exercise in a comforting space."

The event will take place on Oct. 18, the dance classes will occur from 9 a.m. to noon. Classes will be held in the Don Taft University Center room 233, Performance Theatre and the Miciaci Center from 1 to 2 p.m. There will be an informal presentation in the Performance Theatre followed by a Q&A where the faculty will talk about different careers and opportunities in dance.

"I hope that people feel encouraged to come out and try something new, meet new people and hopefully gain a greater appreciation for all the different styles of dance," Lanczi said. "For our high school students, we hope that they can experience what it's like to dance in college."



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO  
Dance students participate in a masterclass taught by Jennifer Nugent, artist-in-residence.

For more information:

Contact  
Elana Lanczi at  
lanczi@nova.edu

MUSIC

# Get ready for College Radio Day

By Danna Bertel

College Radio Day is an international event spotlighting college radio stations and diverse individuals. Following the theme “Where all the voices are welcome,” the event will take place on Oct. 6, starting at 10 a.m. NSU’s Mako Radio WKPX 88.5 FM Sunrise is ready to celebrate in the booth and around campus.

Mako Radio will have different segments, host guest artists like rapper and songwriter 2Rare, and play music related to the central theme inside the booth in Rosenthal room 140. As part of the event, there will be interactive spots for students to learn how to DJ and queue up music.

“College Radio Day is the voice of the students around the nation who are listening to music that may never have been heard,” said Station Manager Alex Hernández, junior double major in international studies and national security major.

Hernández added that College Radio Day will go over the history of music, college radio, Latin jazz and other forms of music from different backgrounds.

Mike Lynn, Mako Media assistant director, explained how this



PHOTO BY ERIKA FOTI

Alex Hernández, junior international studies major, and Meadow Gallegor, freshman medical sonography major, practice interview questions in the Mako Radio station.

event is important for more than just NSU.

“College radio gives a chance for students to share what they feel is important,” Lynn said. “And up-and-coming artists share their different ideas about each annual topic and share a unified experience, gaining the airwaves across the country for one day.”

Hernández hopes this event helps students get more involved with

Mako Radio.

“College Radio Day is a great opportunity for students to get plugged in with the community and plugged in with the local music scene,” Hernández said. “Some of the best music started on college radio and this is a chance to showcase that.”

For more information visit:



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# Joey Marino, men's head golf coach, shows no signs of slowing down

By Bella Giaquinto and Isabella Fernandez De Cueto

Joey Marino, Nova Southeastern University's head men's golf coach, holds high expectations for this season after leading his squad to an NCAA Division II National Championship title last year.

Entering his sixth year as head coach at NSU, Marino knows exactly how to use his ample experience and passion for golf to bring the best out of his players.

Marino's introduction to golf started at a young age when he participated in junior golf tournaments. Continuing his passion, Marino played collegiate golf at the University of North Florida where he was a four-year letterwinner and landed his first job within UNF's athletic department. While he enjoyed his position as assistant director of athletic development, Marino missed the camaraderie that team sports provided.

"Once I started working in a different field, I realized how much I love being around a team environment which pulled me into coaching," Marino said.

Marino joined NSU as the men's assistant golf coach in 2016, branching off one year later to coach the women's golf team as well. The chance to coach at NSU and be closer to family was an opportunity Marino couldn't pass up.

"After going to school in North Florida and living in Jacksonville for about eight years, this was an opportunity for my wife and I to come back home to where our families are," Marino said.

Marino's hard work and dedication to NSU was rewarded in 2018 when the school extended him the men's golf head coaching position. During his tenure as head coach, Marino has led the Sharks to a regional championship every year, setting numerous records for the program.

Unique to Marino, one reason for his undeniable success is his personalized coaching style.

"Every kid has a different attitude and personality, so I take the time individually to work with them one on one. Being able to bring them together to understand a team concept in an individual sport is something I prioritize," Marino said.

For Marino, coaching doesn't end on the links and he prioritizes helping his players succeed beyond athletics.

"Outside of golf, I love developing people and getting to know them as they grow up. You can get students for a four-year period, and in some cases five years. It's amazing to get that window to teach these young men how to grow up and be prepared for life," Marino said.

As reigning national champions, Marino and the Sharks look to build off the team's success from last season. Marino is proud of this year's team and is confident they can bring home another national title.

"My expectations year in and year out don't really change. We've been able to be a top ranking golf program in the time I've been here and I don't anticipate anything less going forward," Marino said.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS  
Joey Marino, men's head golf coach.

## For more information:

To keep up with the men's golf team and watch Marino lead the Sharks, follow them on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Instagram @NSU\_MGolf

## NSU soccer finds a new home

By Angeline Gilliard

NSU's men's and women's soccer teams are getting a new home. The former Miami Dolphins training facility is undergoing renovations to meet the needs of its student athletes, and will also serve as the future home for the men's and women's lacrosse programs, set to begin in 2025.

The new soccer complex has state-of-the-art locker rooms for players and visitors, a video training and analysis room, and more equipment space. In addition to meeting the many on-field needs of its student athletes, the complex prioritizes team building with many rooms where students can study, hold meetings, and strategize for upcoming matches. The Athletics Department hopes that this space will help foster teamwork and fellowship between athletes, coaches, and staff, ultimately leading to on-field success.

"The new facility will allow us to utilize multiple fields, build some new locker rooms, as well as a satellite athletic training room, a satellite equipment space. Basically, a home for those teams," said Associate Director of Athletic Operations Ryan Romero.

In the past, NSU's soccer teams had to make do with locker rooms inside the University Center, which although centralized in location, weren't always operationally convenient because they were on the other side of campus. The impact of the new soccer complex on overall athletic performance for NSU athletes is already evident according to Romero.

"It's very hard to build a team culture when you don't have a central location for a team to play. It's a huge boost for team moral," Romero said.

With on-site locker rooms for both teams conveniently located next to the soccer field, the complex

provides a comfortable space for athletes to foster fellowship before practices and games. One of the key features of the new complex is the video room, a place for NSU teams to analyze game highlights and establish unity.

"It creates that community sense and a real strong team culture where the boys are able to go to hangout, to be with each other before practice, before games in a comfortable environment," said Matt McArthur, men's soccer team assistant coach.

The development of the new soccer complex also addressed several challenges faced by the previous facility. The new complex provides improved infrastructure and drainage systems, ensuring that games can proceed even in inclement weather, addressing a longstanding issue of rain delays or cancellations.

"At the other complex, if there was a lot of rain, there was a good chance that our games would get canceled or delayed. With the new

complex, the pumps turn on and that field is dry in a matter of minutes," Romero said.

As construction continues, NSU anticipates a future where this complex becomes the foundation of athletic excellence and team culture.

"The fact that we are all together will increase that team chemistry and culture. That location is key. It has everything we need to be successful," McArthur said.

The complex will go through multiple stages of construction. According to Romero, Phase 1, which includes the Team Building facilities and three sections of the bleachers for spectators, is complete.

"It should be one of the nicest facilities at our college level and in the NCAA," Romero said.

## SPORTS EVENTS

Oct. 11, 6 p.m.  
Women's Soccer vs. Eckerd College

Fort Lauderdale

Oct. 13, 3:30 p.m.  
Women's Volleyball vs. Florida Tech

Rick Case Arena

Oct. 14, 4 p.m.  
Women's Volleyball vs. Rollins College

Rick Case Arena

Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
Men's Soccer vs. Rollins College

Fort Lauderdale



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Nadia Lindner leaps for a hit in the Sharks volleyball match against the Barry University Buccaneers.

## Sports shorts

By Joshua Leatherman and  
Jonathan Day

### Men's soccer, Sept. 20

NSU's men's soccer tied the Lynn University Fighting Knights 2-2 in a thrilling match. The scoring started early in the match with goals by Alessandro Salvadego and Zyan Andrade.

### Women's soccer, Sept. 20

NSU's women's soccer triumphed over the Lynn University Fighting Knights with a final score of 3-0. Powering the Sharks offense was Tabea Schutt (1 goal) and Sophia Suarez (2 goals).

### Women's volleyball, Sept. 23

NSU's women's volleyball secured its second sweep of the season with

a three-set victory over the Eagles from Embry-Riddle. The victory was the Sharks third in a row. Taylor Stockman and Nadia Lindner (14 kills) along with Madison Cook (40 assists) fueled the Sharks to victory.

### Women's tennis, Sept. 24

No. 2 ranked NSU's women's tennis began the ITA South Regional Championships. Natalie Espinal and Freya Davies will represent the Sharks in the final match of doubles competition. Lexie Weir will represent the Sharks in the championship match for singles competition.

### Cross-country, Sept. 24

NSU's men's and women's cross-country teams competed in the STU College Meet. Both teams secured first-place finishes. Bella

Scott powered the women's team with a third-place finish. Adrien Zambaux and David Mahnke finished second and third respectively for the men's team.

### Women's volleyball, Sept. 29

Nova Southeastern University's women's volleyball team was defeated in three sets by the Tampa Spartans in Sunshine State Conference play. The lady Sharks were led by Nadia Lindner (9 kills) and Kate Mihacevich (8 kills).

### Cross-country, Sept. 29

Nova Southeastern University's men's and women's cross-country team competed at the FSU XC Invitational. Both teams competed admirably among several Division I schools. Leena Saidi and Ally

Jakubiak led the women's team with top-50 finishes respectively. Marcus Tortorella led the men's team with a top-52 finish in 8k competition.

### Men's soccer, Sept. 30

Nova Southeastern University's men's soccer suffered a devastating loss against Florida Southern University. The men's team fell 1-0 on a goal scored in the final seconds regulation play.

### Women's soccer, Sept. 30

Nova Southeastern University's women's soccer extended their winning streak with a 3-0 win against Florida Southern University. Tabea Schutt led the lady Sharks in scoring tallying a hat trick.

## FROM THE FRONT

# GOLF

With a national title under the program's belt, the team has reached the top of the mountain and is looking forward to continuing the climb.

Joseba Torres, senior business and sport management major, is optimistic about what this season brings.

"While it's an adjustment to compete with new faces, the team has clicked nicely already compared to some previous years. The new guys are coming in with the right winning mindset, knowing the

expectations," Torres said.

Similar to Marino, Torres expects nothing less out of himself and the team this year than high-level tournament play. Returning from a championship season has pushed and motivated Torres to make his final season memorable. Torres will never forget what made last season's national title achievable.

"The toughest round had to be round two against Barry University. We go against these guys all year, so they know us and we know them. It all came down to the last

play. Achieving that win gave us the push we needed to know we could bring the title home," Torres said.

Following graduation, Torres plans to return to his home in Spain and pursue golf professionally.

Micheal Hay, graduate exercise and sport science major, is looking forward to the sportsmanship and dedication the team brings this season.

"Unlike other years where there has been a disconnect felt early on amongst the team, all the new guys have bonded nicely and are coming

in with the same mindset," Hay said.

Hay and Torres plan to serve as leaders for the team while using their skills to give the team the push they need in tournament play.

"It's not practical to come into a season with the immediate intention of a championship. The goal is to perform at a high level consistently and open the possibility of returning to postseason play once again while throwing in a couple wins throughout," Hay said.

# Athlete Spotlight: NSU basketball welcomes Isaiah Fuller

By Joshua Leatherman

Isaiah Fuller, a graduate student transfer from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is excited to be playing his final collegiate basketball season at NSU. Born in Oak Park, Ill., Fuller began his athletic career as a football player, though he credits his brother for helping him find his true passion: the game of basketball.

"I fell in love with the game of basketball after attending one of my brothers' practices," Fuller said.

Fuller was excited to play at the collegiate level for Coach Bob Sundvold, though he admits that his ultimate decision to play at USML was due to its close proximity to family.

"It was close to home and my dad is from St. Louis, Coach Sundvold

showed a lot of interest in me back in high school," Fuller said.

Fuller comes to the Sharks basketball program after an impressive four-year stint at USML. Fuller led the Tritons to the Elite Eight in 2022-23, started in 34 out of 35 games, and tallied a career-best 15.6 points per game on 53% shooting from the field. Fuller's outstanding season led to numerous awards and accolades, winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year, Regional Championship MVP, as well as being selected All-Defense Team, First-Team All-Conference, All-Tournament Team, Second-Team Midwest All-Region, and Second-Team All-Midwest District. The Sharks basketball program is excited for what Fuller can bring to

the program and he sees the team as a perfect fit.

"Coach Jim Crutchfield and Nick Smith showed a lot of interest and it's hard to turn down a chance to play for the National Champions in South Florida," Fuller said.

For the upcoming 2023-24 basketball season, the goal is simple for Fuller.

"The goal for the year is to repeat as National Champions, I am focused on helping the team over my own individual performances," he said.

Fuller hopes to bring energy, passion, experience and skill to the floor as he will lead the Sharks into a new season filled with high expectations.



COURTESY OF ISAAH FULLER

Isaiah Fuller, graduate student, drives the ball.

## OPINION

# The future of AP Psychology in Florida high schools remains uncertain

By Jules Batchker

In a controversial decision, Florida high school students were initially barred from taking Advanced Placement Psychology, one of the most popular AP courses offered, for its "foundational content on sexual orientation and gender identity" violating state law. The state ultimately decided that the course can be taught in its entirety, but many schools are still opting to remove it for fear of violating laws governing classroom discussions about sexuality, gender and race.

Despite the reversal, the governor still effectively cultivated enough panic to elicit self-censorship. The political right has long sought to control public education by scaring voters with rhetoric that portrays public schools as the nations heart of left-wing indoctrination. Educators and administrations in Florida are being forced to prioritize catering to the feelings of the conservative population rather than teaching factual information.

On July 1, 2023, HB 1069 expanded the provisions of HB 1557 to ban discussions of sexuality and gender from pre-kindergarten

through eighth grade. Under HB 1069, the use of pronouns that do not align with K-12 students' assigned sex at birth, with exceptions for intersex students, are now prohibited. HB 1069 requires students to be instructed on "the benefits of a monogamous heterosexual marriage," and abstinence from premarital sex as the standard for pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease prevention. This bill outlines more procedures for reviewing library books and classroom materials as well. Gov. Ron DeSantis expertly presented this legislation to Florida voters as a reasonable course of action against elementary students having conversations about sex to attempt to deprive students of age-appropriate, evidence-based information.

The denial of the existence of LGBTQ+ students will foster an environment of fear and resentment in Florida's public schools. Also, withholding information about STD and pregnancy prevention will do a major disservice to low-income teens who are disproportionately impacted by these issues.

In Palm Beach County high school, racial micro-aggression among high school students were commonplace, mentions of birth control by students were shut down in sex education, we were frequently told false or misleading information about controlled substances in state-mandated health classes, and a select minority of teachers were outwardly homophobic and transphobic toward their students on several occasions.

Some students aren't even fully aware of the repercussions associated with the removal of this course.

Madeline Hsu, sophomore psychology major, who took the course in high school, wasn't aware of the consequences of AP Psychology being removed from Florida's classrooms.

"I'm not entirely sure if this is correct," she said. "But I think AP Psychology has modules or topics that are kind of related to things like sex and gender identity. Florida officials don't like it and they want to either get rid of those types of topics from the course to be taught in Florida, or just get rid of the course in general."

Her knowledge is a reflection of many students' understanding of the circumstances surrounding the AP Psychology course.

She also expressed concerns about incoming freshmen lacking transfer credits.

"Before students get to college, they won't have that type of background or as many credits as other peers that had the option of taking these courses," she said.

This is not just a ban on AP psychology, it is also the systematic censorship and denial of accurate information that disagrees with a far-right political agenda. Bullying on the basis of race, sexuality, and gender will rise, and we'll likely see an increase in STD and teen pregnancy rates, as well.

If politicians can influence curriculum, what other kinds of crucial information will be censored next?

The future of AP Psychology and education in Florida is uncertain.

For more information on the bills, visit:

Florida House of Representatives, HB 1069, 2023 Legislature <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1069/BillText/er/PDF>  
Florida House of Representatives, HB 1557, 2022 Legislature <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1557/BillText/er/PDF>

# OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

5

**Shark Tank Thursday**

Oct. 5, 12:30 p.m.  
UC Spine

**Soca N' Sweat**

Oct. 5, 8 p.m.  
PVA Theater

6

**Now.Here.This**

Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

**Ashnikko Concert**

Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Revolution  
Live at the Backyard

\$30-\$75

7

**Now.Here.This**

Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

**Assemble the  
K-Poppies**

Oct. 7, 10 a.m.  
Mailman Auditorium

**DD Osama**

Oct. 7, 11 p.m.  
Revolution Live

\$27

8

**Now.Here.This**

Oct. 8, 2 p.m.  
Black Box Theater

10

**Spanish Tile and  
Azulejo Workshop**

Oct. 10, 6 p.m.  
UC, room 356

11

**Luis Miguel Concert**

Oct. 11, 8 p.m.  
Kaseya Center

\$101-\$207

13

**OH! Fashion Patch  
Workshop**

Oct. 13, 3 p.m.  
Carl DeSantis Building

**Fin Films Movie Night**

Oct. 13, 6 p.m.  
Carl DeSantis Building

**Luis Miguel Concert**

Oct. 13, 8 p.m.  
Kaseya Center

\$101-\$207

14

**Cafe Tacvba with  
WONDERFOX**

Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Revolution Live

\$50.50

**Jonas Brothers  
Concert**

Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Kaseya Center

\$35-\$225

18

**Dance Awareness Day**

Oct. 18, 9 a.m.  
Black Box Theater

**Yoga with Ariana  
Cintron**

Oct. 18, Noon  
PR Meditation room on  
the third floor

**Photography  
workshop with  
Lauryn Lawrence**

Oct. 18, 12:30 p.m.  
Gallery 217





# GAMES

## WORD SEARCH

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

SORORITY  
 MIDTERM  
 RICHARD  
 ALLERGIES  
 BRAIN

PEMBROKE  
 COIN  
 SHORT  
 GERARD  
 CAPS

PLAY  
 HANBURY  
 FACILITY  
 GOLF  
 BASKETBALL

## MATH CORNER

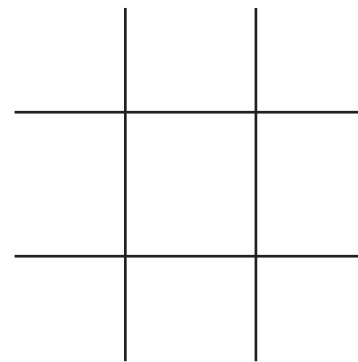
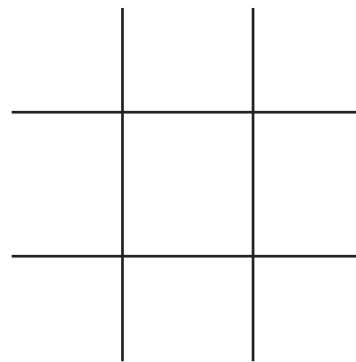
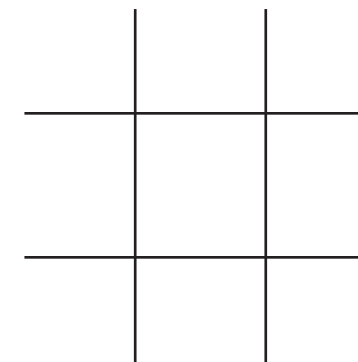
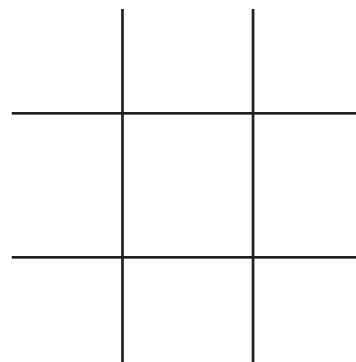
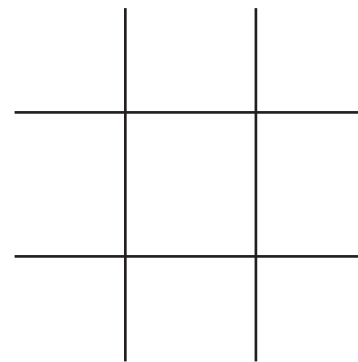
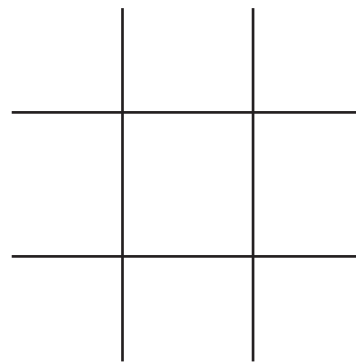
## TIC TAC TOE

### Directions and Rules:

Please send your answer (no need to send any additional scratch work or justification) to Dr. Jason Gershman, chair of the Department of Mathematics, at [jgershma@nova.edu](mailto:jgershma@nova.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The correct answer to this question will appear in the next issue of The Current.

All members of the NSU community are invited to submit their answer and participate. Every member of the NSU community who submits at least one answer during the 2023-2024 school year will be invited to attend a celebration in April as part of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

The undergraduate student who submits the most correct answers during the contest year will receive the grand prize of a \$50 gift card courtesy of the Department of Mathematics. If, at the end of the contest year, multiple students are tied for the contest champion, a tiebreaker question to determine the grand prize winner will take place where the fastest person to answer correctly wins the grand prize.



Student Sally Current wishes to withdraw \$2,400 from a bank teller. When asked in which denomination she wants her bills, Sally tells the teller, "I need exactly 100 bills which consists only of \$5, \$10 and \$100 bills and the number of \$100 bills must exceed the number of \$5 bills."

How many of each bill must he give her to satisfy her requirements?

Answer to last issue's question: 0110 (Delta is the soothsayer, Beta and Omega are the liars, and Gamma is Omega's sibling.)