
The Current

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Nova Southeastern University

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

Veterans Resource Center helps servicemen transition to civilian life

By Veronica Richard and Alexandra Acevedo

Zachary Vasquez served as a sergeant, squad leader and indirect fire infantryman in the army for five years. Now he is studying psychology at NSU.

Vasquez remembers how difficult the transition was from being an active member of the service to being a veteran living a civilian lifestyle.

"The hardest part is the meaning," Vasquez said. "You come back and you find it hard to find that meaning you felt in the army. So I decided to come to school, to help me fill that void."

More than 1,000 veterans and members of the military have attended NSU. To help assist veterans in their transition from military to civilian life, NSU has established the Veterans Resource Center.

Located on the first floor of the Carl DeSantis Building Atrium, in room 1045, the Veterans Resource Center, has a variety of resources to aid in this transition.

Avalyn Crosson, freshman law and international studies major, works at the Veterans Resource Center as a coordinator. Crosson became a member of the VRC staff because her father, Major Jeff Crosson, served in the U.S. Army for 20



COURTESY OF JAMES PROFETTO
NSU ROTC cadets begin Veterans Day celebration.

years before retiring.

"For veterans specifically, we [the VRC] help them with a variety of tasks that help in their transition," Crosson said. "One of the main tasks we do here to help them is connecting them with the right resources. A lot of the time, veterans do not really know what to do when it comes to resources in the area. So they call our office and ask about specific resources they need assistance with, and we point them in the right direction."

Vasquez uses a resource through the VRC called the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefit. This benefit assists in providing employment to veterans who suffered injuries during their service that may impact their work after leaving the military.

"For me, I have a bad back. So with the benefit, it helps me find services I can work with without using my back. I'm studying psychology at Nova, and that does not require my back, so it helps," Vasquez said.

See VETERANS, page 3

Overdosing: A reality for students

By Lauren Do Nascimento

When Jules Batchker, senior political science major and multimedia reporter at The Current, was in high school in New York City, she learned firsthand the effects of drug use on students. She lost two of her best friends to overdoses.

Eli and Maxwell passed away between 2020 and 2022.

"When Eli had relapsed after three years of being clean, one of the first things that I did was tell him to get to a pharmacy to acquire something called Narcan, which is an opioid overdose reversal. A lot of the advice that I had given Eli in his final days was mainly surrounding harm reduction. Don't use dirty needles, test your substances, get a test kit," Batchker said. "A lot of

what I had done for Eli in his final days was finding him health care in places where he could safely withdraw or find an alternative, such as Suboxone, which is a substance that's used to help get people off of heroin."

Like her friends, college students all over the nation are dealing with the issue of drugs and overdose.

Michelle Weiner, clinical assistant professor at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine and director of integrative pain management at Spine and Wellness Centers of America, blames major pharmaceutical companies for the rise of drug-addicted young adults.

The problem needs to be addressed and resolved, she said.

"Physicians are scared to treat pain now. They're scared of opioids

and a big problem that we have is people who are on chronic opioids. We don't have other solutions for them that are covered by insurance," Weiner said. "We've created an opioid epidemic because if you go to a pain doctor a few years ago, when you state you have pain and you do physical therapy and maybe some injections and it doesn't help, eventually they just give you opioids and then now you are dependent on these medications, and it's very sad."

Weiner said that in order to treat drug addiction, doctors have to treat both the body and mind.

"The opioids make them more sensitive to pain, or they just didn't learn how to manage their pain because they were given a medication too quickly. So now their

brain doesn't know how to handle pain. A lot of it's educating how the mind and the body are connected," Weiner said.

Weiner added that people also refuse to be comfortable with their own emotions, and this leads to the impulse to take drugs.

"I think the bigger issue is the fact that we're not teaching people to sit in their discomfort, and they're too quick to use a substance to change their mood. I think that people are just used to knowing now that they can take medicine or use a substance to alter their minds so that they don't have to feel what they're feeling. I think that's such a disservice," Weiner said.

See OVERDOSING, page 8

THE CURRENT

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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.

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Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Hello! Thank you for reading The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. I'm Bryce, and as the editor-in-chief, I'm excited to announce Nicole Shaker is back as the co-editor-in-chief of The Current alongside me! Here is some of what we have in store this issue.

Nov. 19 is International Men's Day, and the theme for this year is Zero Male Suicide. As 76% of suicides are men, the Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Council will host a Zoom panel today, Nov. 16, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., sharing what can be done to support men and prevent male suicide.

Nov. 23 is Thanksgiving! Hopefully you get a chance to cook and eat your favorite foods while giving thanks for the people in your life. Whether you're staying home, traveling or spending time with family, I hope that you're able to celebrate and do something that makes you happy.

Dec. 4 is the start of finals week, and if you're stressed about exams, you can download HealthiestYou, a free app you can use to meet with a therapist from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. You can have appointments by phone or video.

How do you feel now that the semester is coming to an end? There are only a few more weeks until winter break. If it was your first semester at NSU, I hope it was



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

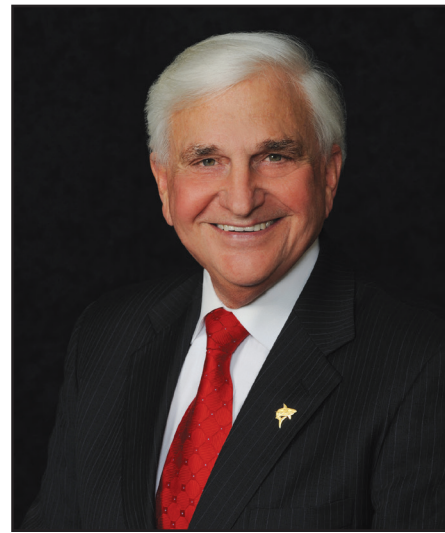
able to live up to your expectations. If it's your last and you're graduating, congratulations on pulling through and making it to the end. All of you have worked hard to make it this far, and you should be proud of your accomplishments.

The Current, alongside Mako TV and Mako Radio, is part of Mako Media Network. If you ever have any questions, comments, concerns or story pitches, you can find us in the UC in room 328.

This is our last issue of The Current until next year. On behalf of The Current staff, thanks for sticking with us so far. We look forward to seeing you again when we come back next semester. Happy holidays and see you in 2024!

Happy reading,
Bryce Johnson

A time to refelct



By President George L. Hanbury II

As the fall semester winds down, many of us will be going our separate ways to spend time with family for the holidays. I hope you've had a great semester and will enjoy the winter break – after all, you've earned it!

The end-of-the-year break is an opportunity for rest, but I also like to use it to reflect on the year. Many of us set goals at the start of the year, but the trick is following through on those commitments. That makes the end of the year the ideal time to take stock of what you have achieved, what you didn't, and what's in the works.

Progress never stops, whether it's at the societal or individual levels. The goals you achieved this year should lead to new goals for 2024.

I always encourage everyone at NSU – students, faculty, and staff – to keep their aim beyond their reach. The difficulty in achieving a goal is what makes it worth pursuing, but so is the satisfaction that comes with finishing what you set out to do.

Celebrate what you did achieve, but at the same time, question the things you didn't. Was there something you could have done differently? Is this a goal you can add to your list for next year? I would also encourage you to check in regularly with your progress several times a year, and not just at the end of the year. You may need to course correct or adjust the goal depending on the circumstances.

When you return in 2024 for the winter semester, I hope you all feel not only refreshed from the winter break, but ready to enthusiastically pursue your new goals and enjoy being with family, friends and those you love.

Fins up!

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

FROM THE FRONT

VETERANS

Another resource available to veterans is the Veterans Access Clinic and the "Veterans Access Clinic Grant," jointly sponsored by NSU and the State of Florida Department of Health.

"The Veterans Access Clinic, VAC, has a grant for veterans and their spouses, which allows them to get free help with optometry, hearing, dental, mental health services and more," Crosson said. "Many do not know about benefits like this, so we [the VRC] help in informing them and providing them help in civilian life in any way we can."

The VAC also hosts events for veterans on campus that connect them with more resources in person.

"We previously hosted an event called the Veterans Affairs Stand Down. The Veterans Affairs team

orchestrates the event with different organizations in the area that help veterans. We had organizations specializing in assisting homeless veterans or veterans in need of jobs all available for them in one spot for them to learn about," Crosson said.

Crosson encourages all students to attend, regardless of their background or knowledge of the military.

"We at the Veterans Resource Center would love for students to come out to our events. Even if you don't know anything about the military, we would still love for you to come and learn, become more educated, and just enjoy time with the veterans," Crosson said.



COURTESY OF ZACHARY VASQUEZ
Sergeant Zachary Vasquez in his army combat uniform.

International Men's Day panel held on Nov. 16

To celebrate International Men's Day on Nov. 19, the Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Council will host a panel today, Nov. 16, to raise awareness on male suicide prevention. Since 76% of suicides are men, the panel will have experts from the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office, who will share how people can support the men closest to them. The Zoom event will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Please visit:

<https://www.nova.edu/bedi/events.html> to register.

Writing in the Wilderness course to be offered next semester

By Bryce Johnson

Nicole Shaker, co-editor-in-chief of The Current and senior double major in computer science and communication, has not had the chance to write as much as she wanted during her college years. Until now.

Next semester, Shaker is planning to write in the wilderness along with other students enrolled in WRIT 4900: Special Topics: Writing in the Wilderness, a grant-funded course by the Modern Language Association. Students will explore the relationship between writing and nature.

It is the first time NSU is offering a course where students will write and interact in wild spaces, visit local parks and go on field trips. They will learn about how writing impacts and benefits the environment.

"I am really looking forward to spending time writing because it's one of my hobbies, and I don't really get to do it because of my class workload," Shaker said. "I'm excited for the travel portion because I love nature, and this will give me an excuse to get out more."

Claire Lutkewitte, professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, designed the course and is looking forward to teaching it. Lutkewitte was awarded a grant from the MLA, which covers the cost of the course.

"It is an ExEL class, and students are going to be working on several major projects in which they investigate the ways in which writing can have an impact on our environments," Lutkewitte said.

Some of the projects include writing a proposal, using writing to address challenges faced by the local environment and social

media's influence in wild spaces.

Lutkewitte is arranging a guided tour through a local park in Broward County.

"We're going to be joined by someone who works in the field for the Department of Parks in Broward County, who is going to be taking us on this guided hike to talk a little bit about the history of the park, to talk about the wildlife that calls that park home, and then talk about the challenges that that park faces moving forward and how perhaps writing could help mitigate some of those problems," Lutkewitte said.

Lutkewitte was drawn to the class because of her interest in writing, technology and local wildlife areas.

"With the challenges that the world faces, one being climate change, for example, I think that writing can play an important part of solving those challenges,"

Lutkewitte said.

Lutkewitte said students across all majors can join the course.

"There's not a career on this planet that doesn't involve writing, and preserving natural wild areas should be a concern for everyone," Lutkewitte said. "I think this class could certainly benefit everyone in that regard in terms of sharpening their writing skills."

The Writing in the Wilderness course will meet on Thursdays from 3 to 5:50 p.m. in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research and Information Technology Center, starting on Jan. 4. The only prerequisite is COMP 2000.

For more information:

You can register for the course by looking up the Course Reference Number (31766) in the Self Service Banner.

Graduate student conducts research on breast tissue

By Bryce Johnson

Yousef Alharbi, third-year student pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular medicine and pharmacogenomics, first came to NSU not knowing what his final project would be. He met Jean Latimer, director of the NSU AutoNation Institute for Breast Cancer Research and Care, who taught courses related to genomics and breast cancer.

"I was impressed at that time, how the genes inside the cell's pathways may affect the treatment choice, affect the progress of the disease," Alharbi said. "And I think Dr. Latimer's lab was the correct choice for me at that time."

Inspired by Latimer's work, Alharbi is now studying the effects of arsenic and glyphosate on breast tissue of both African American

women and non-Hispanic white women.

Alharbi's study is based on a report from Miami University, which found that there is a high percentage of Black women in South Florida with advanced breast cancer.

"We, in our studies, will examine the relationship between ancestry or ethnicity and environmental chemicals," Alharbi said.

Alharbi's first step in the study is to expose breast tissues to the chemicals.

"By using RNA sequencing technique, we can see if there are variations or differences between the transcriptomic change between African ancestry and non-Hispanic women," Alharbi said.

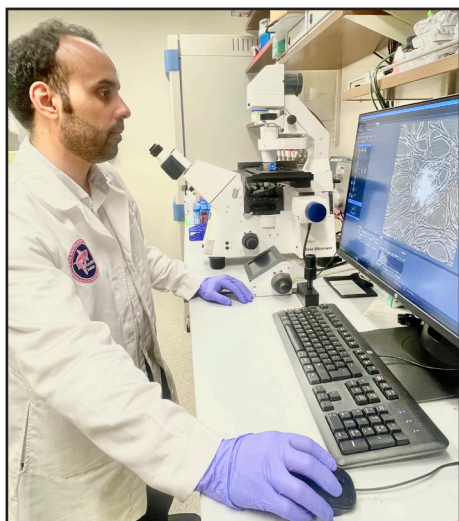
Alharbi hopes to keep contributing to the work of breast cancer

research and eventually continue work in his home country, Saudi Arabia.

"I was planning to do something related to a new approach of treatment, which is precision medicines that provide treatment and care based on genetic profiles and history of the patients, and make specific treatment," Alharbi said.

For students looking to start their own research, Alharbi recommends they read literature reviews related to their area and take advantage of NSU's labs, libraries and tutors.

"Finding a good mentor will help you to focus more on the research and find something that you can do a great job on," Alharbi said. "For any students that are willing to conduct research, they must be passionate, curious and they have to be organized."



COURTESY OF YOUSEF ALHARBI
Yousef Alharbi, third-year student pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular medicine and pharmacogenomics, continues his research at NSU.



Business Courses for NON-BUSINESS MAJORS

Business courses can open a variety of career opportunities for students in all majors.

NSU's Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship is offering four exciting new courses in the winter semester.

BUS 1000	Introduction to Business	W1
MKT 2000	Meet the Metaverse	W1
MGT 2020	Learning to Lead: Women in the Workplace	W1
ENT 2010	Entrepreneurship for STEM	W2

**Contact your CAPS Advisor or register for a class!
Visit Course Wizard for course descriptions.**

Scan Here





PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU students gather outside the Don Taft University Center after the Parade of Flags on Nov. 13.

International students find a home at NSU

By Danna Bertel and Michael Silva

Lucia Di Pietro, freshman entrepreneurship major, knew she wanted to study in Florida since the sunny weather and heat are the opposite of Canada's colder climate. After considering all her options, she applied to NSU because of its business program.

"I wanted to apply here. I like it. It's different, especially from the Canadian schools, and I like that there are a lot of international students because then you get a taste of everything," Di Pietro said.

Throughout her first semester at NSU, Di Pietro feels that it's been easy to find a community as an international student.

"There's a lot of clubs and

programs for international students and that makes it more homey because everyone's from everywhere, so everybody wants to meet new people," Di Pietro said.

After spending some time in Florida, Di Pietro enjoys the weather, palm trees and the beach.

This love for Florida is also apparent in Andrew Rose, MBA student and social media manager for Mako Media Network.

Rose comes from Barbados and discovered NSU through a family member.

"My aunt did a course here in psychology, and from there she told me and my parents about it. I decided to do my undergrad and now my master's at NSU," Rose said.

After residing in Florida for some time, Rose feels that the state is

nice, tropical and could be his new home.

"I feel like my heart is at home and the people here are pretty cool," Rose said. "I think when I finish my master's, I will probably move to Florida. I mean compared to home, there are more job opportunities here, so that's my goal."

With the Thanksgiving break coming up, some international students use the time to spend it with other family members or friends.

This is the case for Di Pietro.

"I'm going to go to New Jersey to see my mom who also has family there. So I'm probably going to go there for Thanksgiving," Di Pietro said.

Ester Ferreira, an international student from Brazil and senior communication major, will also spend

the break with a family member.

"I'll probably spend it with my sister because my sister also just moved to Florida for college, but she lives in Orlando. So we'll probably spend it together, either over here or over there in Orlando, I'm not sure yet," Ferreira said.

Unlike the others, Rose will spend the Thanksgiving break with a friend's family.

"I never really experienced Thanksgiving before, so it's going to be a good and new experience," Rose said.

Sharks speak:

How will the Jan. 3 semester start date affect you?



"I just think it's annoying to have New Year's on the first and to come back two days later. Some people live out of state or out of the country, so you have to figure out how to come back so quickly. It would be nice to have more time to settle in and get back to school," said Shavonne Adaka, junior psychology major.



"I, personally, think it's a very good time. We get time off the whole break, and we go right into getting things in motion again and we need to be ready for the next semester," said Will Watson, freshman biology major.



"It doesn't affect me. I don't believe it's too early. I kind of wish it was not in the middle of the week, but I understand why they have it on the third, and it's not like the exact day after New Year's, so I think it's fine," said Dekeisha Duncan, senior child development major.



"I believe the semester should start later. It would make more sense to start the following Monday, not right in the middle of the week on a Wednesday after New Year's," said Mohammed Farque, senior biology major.

NSU hosts Homecoming Nov. 5 - 12

Homecoming is NSU's annual week of celebration that brings students, alumni, faculty and staff together for various events, including the Homecoming Parade, the Greek Stroll Off, the Bleed Shark Blue Pep Rally, the Shark Bites International Food Festival and the 32nd Annual "Anything that Floats" Raft Race, the oldest NSU Homecoming event.



PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

Contestants in the Homecoming Parade throw balloons from their float, Lab Lords.



COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON

The winning raft race team, NSU Wake, poses with President George L. Hanbury II after receiving the first-place check.



COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON

NSU students race across Gold Circle Lake for NSU's 32nd Annual "Anything that Floats" Raft Race.



PHOTO BY JULES BATCHKER

DCMA dancers perform at the Bleed Shark Blue Pep Rally.



PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. celebrates after winning the Greek Stroll Off.

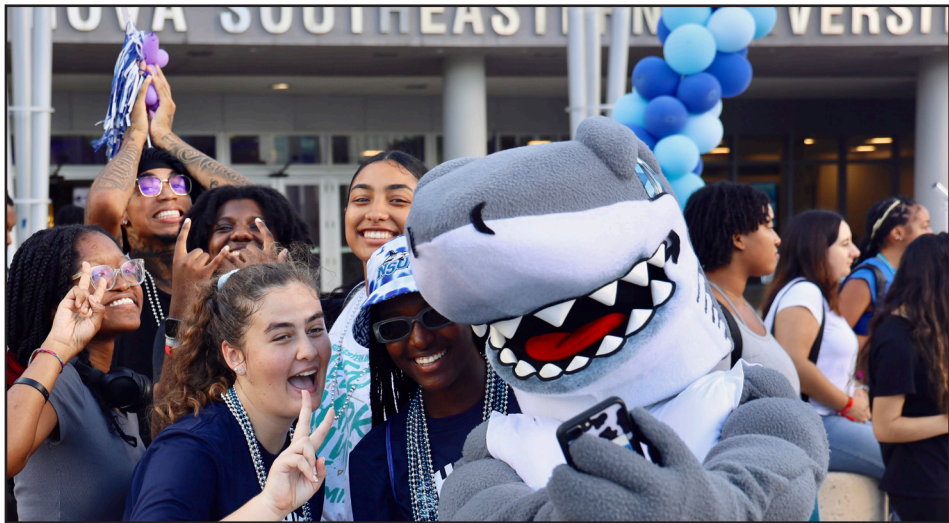


PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

NSU students take a photo with Razor, NSU's mascot, to commemorate Homecoming week.



PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER

NSU students show off their float in the Homecoming Parade.



PHOTO BY JULES BATCHKER

NSU students line up for funnel cakes outside the Don Taft University Center during the Shark Bites International Food Festival.

FOOD: A taste of Italy in South Florida

Lively Vivace



PHOTO BY LUQMAN GBENRO
Customers enjoy the ambiance of Vivace.

By Luqman Gbenro and Daja Long

Nestled in central Plantation, there is an intimate eatery where guests are greeted by swinging jazz and a swanky feel. This restaurant is Vivace, and true to its name, the place is lively.

When Vito DiSalvo opened Vivace he wanted it to be an extension of the life he was already leading.

“I wanted to have a fun place where my wife and I would go out to dinner,” DiSalvo said, “I didn’t want it to be overly fine dining. I wanted it to be someplace that had really good food, but also someplace fun and lively where I’d like

to go to dinner myself.”

Vivace’s menu pulls from various parts of DiSalvo’s background. It’s a hodgepodge of the elegant eateries he cut his teeth in, and the home-spun recipes he grew up making.

“I spent most of my career working for the best chefs in the world, including some experience working for some great restaurants in Italy,” he said.

Customers can taste this culinary excellence in dishes like the black truffle pizza with truffles, white mozzarella, and ricotta. While dishes like the bombolone, a homemade doughnut filled with cannoli cream and drizzled in chocolate, represent the recipes that are

rooted in culture.

“When I first moved to South Florida, [Vivace] was the first place I ate at, and as soon as I went in there and tasted my first bite, it tasted like a bite of home,” said Mario D’Agostino, frequent Vivace guest and friend of the owner.

DiSalvo’s passion extends beyond the plate. So much of what he does is birthed from who he is. He says his work is a labor of love.

“I just love [it], every day is a new challenge, and to see it evolve from where it started to where it is now. It’s not only a passion, but it’s very rewarding,” DiSalvo said.

For more information:

Vivace Gourmet Pizza and Pasta (Plantation)
9763 W Broward Blvd, Plantation, FL 33324

954-440-2189

Price range: \$6-\$56

Hours:

Monday – Thursday
11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Fridays
11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturdays
4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Sundays
4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Authentic [Bru-sket-ta]

By Kayla McGee

At least once a week, Marie Masa, a native Floridian, goes to

[Bru-sket-ta], a family-operated Italian restaurant, located in the heart of Pembroke Pines.

“It’s authentic, from the owners

and cooks to the beautiful décor details. Everything is superb,” Masa said. “I love it and will come back many times.”

Like Masa, many locals visit [Bru-sket-ta] on a regular basis, as well as tourists who learn about it during their trips to South Florida.

Megan Yant, a Tallahassee native and new timer to [Bru-sket-ta], said the restaurant makes her feel like she’s in Italy.

“The pizza is cooked to perfection, and the sauce is bursting with flavor. Each bite is a taste of Italy. It feels as if I am on the streets of Rome,” Yant said. “This may be because the ingredients are shipped straight from the country.”

[Bru-sket-ta], known for its authentic Italian cuisine, imports many ingredients from Italy.

Modestina Cariati, owner of [Bru-sket-ta], said the dishes reflect her family’s hometown and their culinary backgrounds.

“Our recipes are from South Italy, where we come from, a little town called Rota Greca near Cosenza. They are full of flavor and color,” Cariati said. “We are coming from a family with a lot of experience in the restaurant business. My husband is a pizza chef, and I am coming from a culinary background, Cordon Bleu, in French pastries degree.”

There are a variety of appetizers, main courses, and desserts to choose from.

To start the meal, there are the “insalates” and “antipasti.” Main dishes include homemade pastas, ranging from lasagna to ravioli, and the traditional thin crust pizzas. For desert, tiramisu and Panna Cota are customers’ favorites, along with the cake of the day.

“Everything you taste will be freshly made and rich in flavor and texture,” said Yant, adding that the service at [Bru-sket-ta] is as enticing as the food.

“This is a great spot with a welcoming staff and cozy interior that makes you feel right at home,” Yant said.

Elizabeth Franklin contributed to this story.

For more information:

[Bru-sket-ta]
12111 Taft Street Pembroke Pines
FL, 33026

954-391-9319

<https://www.bruskettaitalian-caffe.com/>

Hours:

Wednesday – Thursday
11:00AM – 9:00PM
Friday – Saturday
11:00AM – 9:30PM
Sunday
12:00 – 9:00 PM



COURTESY OF [BRU-SKET-TA]

A [Bru-sket-ta] cook and the owner’s daughter cook together.

FROM THE FRONT

OVERDOSING

Batchker also witnessed this emotional disconnect in her friends who struggled with addiction.

"I think that a lot of people don't realize that addiction doesn't necessarily look or sound or feel like a particular kind of person or stereotype. It can really happen to anyone," Batchker said. "We're talking about boys that came from a more privileged background than most people with parents that lived on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. These aren't kids that grew up in poor impoverished areas."

Weiner also believes that there is a rise in drug use because of a lack of knowledge and awareness of the problem. She said that many college students feel as though long-term consequences won't impact them with recreational drug use.

"They think they're young and healthy, and they're just going to take the substance and they have that mentality that it's not going to affect them," Weiner said.

Weiner said that having a support group is as crucial as being educated

on irreversible drug combinations.

"I think group work is very helpful. Being with other people who maybe have the same challenges and being able to discuss that allows them to see they're not alone," Weiner said.

Batchker agreed and said it's important to be aware but also pro-active.

"Educate your friends on the dangers of the combination of benzodiazepines [depressants that relieve anxiety] and opiates [natural opioids like heroin and morphine] because that is the most common nonreversible overdose," Batchker said. "Do wellness checks on your friends, tell their parents, tell people who can help them, consult with an addictions counselor, find your local AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] or NA [Narcotics Anonymous] chapter and look for the lowest cost health care options in your area."

The Addiction Awareness Association at NSU strives to raise awareness of the problem of drug overdose and teaches prevention to

graduate students studying psychology and doctoral trainees.

Madison Roopchand, graduate student in clinical psychology, and president of the organization, said the first step to raising awareness is removing the taboo over drug addictions.

"It's asking questions, first of all, and it's asking the right questions. It's normalizing that experience and decreasing stigma," Roopchand said. "I think the more we talk about anything and the more we get familiar with anything, it takes away the taboo."

Roopchand said finding the right resources is key.

"Try to find services with them and offer your support by connecting with groups and organizations, like us," Roopchand said. "We can help you find resources as far as local facilities that will offer individual therapy and outpatient therapy depending on the level of care that you might need."

Below is a list of phone numbers to call in case of a drug or overdose crisis:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hotline:
1-800-662-4357

Narcotics Anonymous Florida hotline: (844)-623-5674

Florida National Rehab hotline: 866-210-1303

If you see someone overdosing, try to wake them up by shouting and shaking them. If they don't respond, immediately call 911. Then spray Narcan nasal spray halfway up each nostril and repeat every three to five seconds. Perform CPR until emergency help arrives and stay by the person's side until they wake up. Turn the person on their side to prevent choking.

RSV: An unwelcome visitor

By Adam Sadik

Matei Popescu, sophomore biology major, could barely study for an exam. All he could do was sleep all day. He was dealing with Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

The symptoms lasted about two weeks.

"I was bedridden for days. I felt so stuffy and could not go about my daily routines," Popescu said. "It sucked because I had a test I could barely study for since I knew I needed the rest."

Mark Cayabyab, associate professor in the College of Dental Medicine, is a virology and immunology specialist. He teaches The Edge: Covid-19, Mpox, and RSV for the Farquar Honors College.

Cayabyab said it is not uncommon for viruses to spread particularly fast around the holiday season.

"Since it is wintertime, people tend to spend more time indoors as it gets colder, and this can lead to increased close contact with others," Cayabyab said. "This proximity facilitates the transmission of the virus from person to person."

Cayabyab recommends taking caution during this time.

"RSV can be especially dangerous to infants and elderly adults, which can develop into more severe problems, like bronchiolitis and pneumonia and may require hospitalization."

High school teachers, like Jessica Sanchez, honors biology

professor at Nova High School, are concerned about the spread of the virus for her students.

"I recently got sick [with RSV] about a week and a half ago. A lot of kids have also been contracting something," she said. "We emphasize the importance of good hygiene in the classroom to keep the RSV and other viruses at bay."

Methods to reduce the transmission may be as simple as frequent hand washing.

"It does not take a lot to help combat the spread of RSV. Staying indoors while sick and avoiding close contact with others can protect yourself and others," Cayabyab said. "A vaccine for the more susceptible groups recently became available to help prevent lower respiratory tract disease inflicted by RSV."

Cayabyab said the Covid-19 pandemic indirectly delayed and suppressed the timing of RSV infections, as CDC guidelines mitigated the spread of the viral infection.

"With Covid-19, the public health guidelines by the CDC with the implementation of social distancing and remote learning and work reduced contact between people that can help spread the virus," Cayabyab said. "Now that schools and work returned, we can expect to see a surge of cases."

2023 - 2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

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 <p>FEBRUARY 3</p> <p>MAN IN THE MIRROR: A MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE</p>	 <p>FEBRUARY 9</p> <p>THE GREAT DUBOIS MASTERS OF VARIETY</p>

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PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Dance students perform original choreography by Alonzo Octavias Williams, "I SEE SCREENS: THE GHOSTLY GRASP OF TECHNOLOGY."



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU and Broward dance students perform "Stir," original choreography by artist-in-residence, Jennifer Nugent.

DanceWorks showcases innovative, interpretive choreography

By Danna Bertel and
Brielle Aguayo

DanceWorks, a fall dance show featuring original choreography by guests and faculty in the Department of Communication, Media and the Arts, was held on Nov. 10 in the Performance Theatre.

The show, which lasted just over

an hour, included six dance pieces.

The first piece, "This Bitter Earth" was choreographed by Sandra Christie, a guest choreographer who is the Musical Theatre Dance Instructor at Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach. Performed by five NSU students, the dance showcased the bitter reality of pain and loss but finding hope in

the end.

Madison Cantor, junior dance major, choreographed and performed her own piece that mainly consisted of improvisation, which helped capture the meaning behind her dance piece

"My choreography is actually improvisation and does not have a structure, but there is a structure in terms of where I wanted different energy levels and specific movements to help capture the story of the solo. I chose to improvise because the story of my piece is of a dancer finding her flow while dancing and it naturally takes her to another dimension," Cantor said

Alonzo Octavias Williams, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, choreographed the third piece, "I SEE SCREENS: THE GHOSTLY GRASP OF TECHNOLOGY." With dancers chanting "Please get off your phone" at the beginning of the performance, the piece highlighted William's message about the despair brought on by the intrusion of technology into family lives.

"I loved being part of Alonzo's piece," said Kyra Triepke, sophomore human nutrition major. "I like it because the message is to not be on your phone all the time, and to get away from technology and I

think that's really important right now because everyone is always on their phone. It just gives a really good message to the crowd," she said.

Other choreographed pieces by faculty in the Department of Communication Media, and the Arts included "Limit of Time" by Damaris Ferrer, adjunct professor, and Associate Professor and Dance Program Director Elana Lanzci's "Nexus."

The final performance, "Stir," was choreographed by Artist-in-Residence Jennifer Nugent and featured dancers from both NSU and Broward College.

Olivia Knerr, sophomore dance major, said that her favorite part about performing in DanceWorks was getting to work with Nugent.

"Her piece is very creative and there's always a surprise in the dance when we do it," Knerr said.

Lanzci, who coordinated the event, also encouraged the audience to consider donating to the Mark Lindsay Duncan Legacy Endowment for the Arts, a fund created to support the arts at NSU.

"We created that fund as a way to help support the arts here and, also, to continue Professor Duncan's legacy of support for the arts. He was one of our beloved theatre faculty members who passed," Lanzci said.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Madison Cantor, junior dance major performs her solo "In the Flow."

Adoption → Evolution exhibition

By Danna Bertel and
Kayla McGee

The Adoption → Evolution exhibition will open on Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. featuring artwork by Kolos Schumy, assistant professor for the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts.

The Faculty Art Exhibit: "Adoption → Evolution" will be open to the public from Nov. 30 to Jan. 19 in Gallery 217 in the Don Taft University Center. The opening reception will provide food for guests and open to the public free of charge.

"The art I make, I always love to show to the people around me or in my environment, I wanted it to fit their needs. I love to entertain and I love to express my ideas to the people around me. So first I adopt

and then I evolve. That's the idea behind the concept," Schumy said.

The exhibition will include digital art including digital paintings, animations and 3D sculptures. The digital art will be showcased in print and there will be TV screens and iPads to showcase digital projections.

"I'm happy to have the print version because it's interesting to see your art enlarged," Schumy said. "It's going to be a nice presentation of my progress, my adoption and evolution throughout the last four to five years."

Kandy Lopez, associate professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, said in her eight years at NSU, this is the first time a solo faculty exhibition will use TV screens and projectors

at the same time.

"It's exciting because he has a really open concept when it comes to the medium and what he wants to express. So being able to not just have flat things on walls, but 3D things and digital things is exciting," Lopez said.

A lot of the art exhibited was created during the pandemic. His inspirations came from watching movies and reading history. He then started making art using public figures.

"I'm kind of putting together with my own reality and I pick characters from recent time periods and real people and I'm making art with them. I'm kind of learning and meeting new people through my art like politicians, musicians and actors," Schumy said.

The exhibition artwork holds a message Schumy would like to share with all who attend.

"Be open-minded, make friends and build up your own reality. Make your own truth, study, adopt, learn, and evolve and make art representing you," Schumy said.

The Faculty Art Exhibit: "Adoption → Evolution" will hold an opening reception on Nov. 30 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Gallery 217 in the Don Taft University Center.

For more information:

Contact Kandy Lopez, associate professor of art and design in the Department of Communication, Media, and Arts at klopez1@nova.edu.

Digressions open for student submissions

By Jennifer Griggs

Digressions Literary & Art Journal, a yearly collection of students' artwork, poetry, short stories and photography, is accepting submissions until Dec. 1.

Yasmeen Hughes, second-year communication major and student editor of *Digressions*, encourages all students to submit their creative work.

"Even if we do not select you, we have your work, and it can be for another issue because we try to match it with the theme. It's worth it because you can see all of your work in a journal," Hughes said.

Janine Morris, associate professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts and faculty adviser of *Digressions*, said that it is an outlet for students for all things creative, including music, poetry, short stories and photography. Each year, *Digressions* accepts 40 to 45 pieces to publish in the journal.

"What stands out the most is just seeing how the student involvement allows the journal to reflect the students at a moment in time," Morris said.

Morris works alongside Mario D'Agostino, adviser of the Sports Desk for *The Current* and assistant professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, who has been working with *Digressions* for about five years. Both Morris and D'Agostino emphasized how crucial it is for students to submit their pieces to *Digressions*.

"The first month [of the semester] or so is getting the message out that we need reviewers and are open for

submissions. Our review process is so incumbent on the submissions coming in," D'Agostino said. "The students are the lifeblood of this journal. If we do not have students submitting or writing about it or taking an interest in it, then we do not have a journal at all."

Since it is a student-run publication, they work alongside many students including Hughes, who first got involved with *Digressions* as part of the communication major's Practicum course.

"It's an expressive journal for everyone on campus. They are pretty flexible with what you can do. I would recommend it for commuters because it can accommodate to your schedule," Hughes said.

Hughes encourages students to volunteer. She said the *Digressions* staff understands the stress and responsibilities that college can bring and is willing to work with their other time commitments. There is even a Zoom option for commuter students who might have a hard time being involved in clubs on campus.

The submissions deadline for *Digressions* is Dec. 1. Students can submit up to eight pieces of creative writing and 10 works of photography. Submissions can be made through NSU Works by searching *Digressions* and creating an account with the NSU student-login information. Despite the Dec. 1 deadline for this year's publications, *Digressions* is always looking for submissions.

The theme for *Digressions* is based on the first 22 to 23 pieces submitted and is usually determined around January or February. Once the theme is chosen, graphic



design students create potential covers, and the *Digressions* staff chooses one of them for the journal.

"The theme is important because oftentimes it speaks to what I think the artists are concerned with at the time they are creating the work for that particular year's journal. It's something that happens totally organically," D'Agostino said. "We almost never go into it thinking about a certain theme. It's whatever tends to come out of the art or poetry that we accept. That's usually how the themes are determined."

Every April, *Digressions* hosts a launch party where students and faculty come together to celebrate the publication of the journal. The publication process takes about eight months to complete, and this year's anticipated publication date is April 1.

"We're in charge of this now, but

we kind of inherited 20 years of history. You are kind of picking up along the way and inheriting the legacy and finding things as you go and maintaining the expectation or standard for the journal," D'Agostino said.

For more information:

Visit
<https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions/>

or contact

Mario D'Agostino
(mdagosto@nova.edu), Janine Morris
(jmorris2@nova.edu) or
Yasmeen Hughes
(yh216@mynsu.nova.edu).

'Peace: A Musical Celebration' returns to NSU

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

The "Peace Concert 2023: A Musical Celebration" is an annual concert that celebrates not just the holidays, but also peace and coming together.

The "Peace Concert 2023: A Musical Celebration" will be held in the Performance Theatre on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Bill Adams, professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, thought of the Peace Concert during the holidays in Florida.

"I wanted something to be a little bit broader than that. I wanted to include things that were about peace and world peace. And so we've always tried to do songs like John Lennon's "Imagine" and things like that, which is all about all coming together to make the world better for everybody. That's



PHOTO BY DANNA BERTEL

Bossa Nova Chorale rehearses with Bill Adams, professor in the Department of Communication, Media and the Arts.

why it's the peace concert."

The concert will include a variety of music performed by the Bossa Nova Chorale, four students who will have solos and the Mako band, who will be joining the concert this fall. Some songs that will be performed include "Carol of the Bells,"

a Gregorian chant mixed with Christmas carols; a piece called "Amani" (A Song of Peace), and many more.

One of the students performing a solo is Emily Bernard, junior chemistry major, who offered to sing "We Are the World."

"It's a really good song, considering everything that's going around in the world right now. So I'm really excited for that and we get to sing that alongside the band," Bernard said.

Rehearsals for the concert started in August, and as the date for the concert draws near, performers rehearse together uniting the band, choir and solo performances.

"We'll move downstairs after Thanksgiving. We'll move to the Performance Theatre and have our rehearsals down there, so we can get a sense of a different acoustical environment," Adams said.

With a bigger ensemble for this year's concert, Bernard feels rehearsals are especially important.

"It's coming together and everybody's really working together and giving out opinions and helping each other out," Bernard said.

MUSIC



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

The Undergraduate Student Government Association joins host Eric Mason, associate professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, for Mako Radio's "That's News to Us" show.

Interactive radio show 'That's News to Us' debuts on Mako Radio

By Alex Hernández

Eric Mason, associate professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, has launched a new radio segment on NSU's student-run station, Mako Radio, titled "That's News to Us."

"I think my role in my department is that I'm the kind of person who's most invested in making new things. Innovation is one of the core values of NSU. And so, I think I'm always looking for opportunities to do new things that we haven't done before," Mason said. "The idea that we can add to what our radio station has seemed like a great opportunity, especially during the College Radio Day when we first tried this."

Participants in "That's News to

Us" will listen to fake and unusual-sounding news stories, and they will have to determine which one of them is real.

Mason drew inspiration from his long-time admiration for NPR's news-related quiz shows. His interest began with the renowned "Car Talk," featuring Tom and Ray Magliozzi, where listeners sought advice for their automotive problems.

The "Car Talk" show's puzzler segment sparked Mason's fascination with quizzes and puzzles. The name "That's News to Us" emerged, reflecting the show's intention to present news in an interactive manner.

Mason is also a faculty coordinator at the Writing and

Communication Center. As faculty coordinator, he provides resources to faculty and graduate students. Mason also facilitates and hosts the center's podcast, "The Writer's Edge."

In the show, Mason challenges the guests to identify the real news story in a group of otherwise fictional news stories that he writes.

"The show itself requires a lot of writing," Mason said.

He said that emphasizes the importance of staying informed about current events and world affairs. He believes that providing a platform to discuss real news, fake news, and peculiar news stories is a valuable tool for educating students and faculty members. By engaging with news in a playful and

interactive way, the show aims to draw in individuals who might not otherwise be inclined to follow current events closely.

While "That's News To Us" primarily features one faculty guest per show, the segment also includes faculty members and students from different backgrounds, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and insights. This includes faculty members like Kevin Dvorak, executive director of the Writing and Communication Center, and Professor Kandy Lopez.

"That's News to Us" airs once a month on Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on WKPX 88.5 FM Sunrise.

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Spotlight: Natalie Espinal dominates the court

By Bella Giaquinto and
Josh Leatherman

Natalie Espinal, graduate finance major and tennis player, won a third Intercollegiate Tennis Association Doubles Cup last month.

While Espinal has played remarkably in this tournament, she also has three teammates who have played a pivotal role in her success: Freya Davies, Fatima Bizhukova and Sarah Wardenburg. Wardenburg and Espinal competed in the ITA cup for the first time in program history in 2019, securing a Division II doubles title for NSU.

“Competing in the ITA Cup with multiple partners has been a unique experience as each of my doubles’ partners had their own playing style and strength. I had to learn to adjust my game to complement their strength,” Espinal said.

As an international student-athlete from Honduras, Espinal has faced challenges in balancing her academic and athletic career.

“Keeping up with my training sessions, matches, rehabbing, and traveling, all while keeping my grades up is not easy,” Espinal said.

Espinal has maintained her three-time ITA Doubles Cup winning reputation though she credits her teammates for support both on and off the court.

“It’s been a great journey getting to know all of my teammates as all of us are international student-athletes so getting to know their culture and building that trust on and off the court is something really special,” Espinal said.

Espinal values what she has learned throughout her Shark career, including the challenges she and her teammates have overcome.

“From fighting for every point, some tough losses, and great victories, these experiences helped us perform better as a team. Most importantly, it helped us create an incredible friendship that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life,” Espinal said.

Doug Neagle, head tennis coach, also pushes Espinal to achieve her athletic goals.

“Coach Neagle has helped in my development as a tennis player during my time at NSU as he is very adaptable, understanding. He taught me the importance of discipline, techniques to stay positive, and how to stay composed under pressure,” Espinal said.

Espinal’s Sharks career has also included being a four-time All-SSC first team (singles) selection (2019-2022), three-time All-SSC first team (doubles), All-SSC second team (2019), the 2019 SSC Freshman of the Year and 2021 SSC Athlete of the Year.

To keep up with
Espinal and the Sharks,
follow them on Instagram
and X, formerly known as
Twitter, @nsu_wtennis.



PHOTO BY INDAYA BYER
Natalie Espinal prepares to serve during a match.

NSU prepares student athletes for life after sports

By Angeline Gilliard and
Devin Johnson

Transitioning from competition to professional job placement can be challenging for student athletes when their athletic careers end. NSU provides student-athletes with career development resources that extend beyond their playing days.

While acknowledging the challenges of transitioning to a professional career, Rachel Fineberg, associate athletic director for student-athlete support services, emphasizes the university’s role in equipping athletes with essential career skills. Recognizing that each student-athlete is unique, NSU provides individualized support services from academic success coaching to personalized check-ins.

“Our focus here at NSU is very solely on providing academic support to the student athlete in conjunction with CAPS, and providing the student athlete with resources

that are more traditional in career development,” Fineberg said.

Career fairs, employer information sessions, and networking events play a role in preparing athletes for careers after graduation. Mignon Bissonnette, director of career development, revealed that these events serve as platforms where employers actively seek out athletes due to their specialized qualities.

“Athletes have strong time-management skills and employers love that,” Bissonnette said.

Career events provide a bridge that connects athletes with potential internships or full-time employment opportunities. Bissonnette noted that NSU tracks the post-graduation journeys of all students, including athletes, through the First Destination Survey. The survey captures valuable data on where graduates head after leaving NSU, showcasing diverse paths taken by students, including those who transition into professional

careers outside of sports.

“It’s always a good thing when we can help connect our athletes with potential internships or full-time offers. We want everyone to be able to go and achieve their dream, but everyone’s dream looks a little bit different,” Bissonnette said.

Collaboration is at the core of CAPS’ strategy. Bissonnette highlighted the close partnership with academic departments and graduate and professional programs. This collaboration streamlines information, resources, and support, aiding athletes in aligning their academic and career aspirations.

Suzan Kinran, communication major and forward for the NSU’s women’s basketball team, finds the career counseling services particularly valuable.

“The career counseling services are very beneficial. The workshops are usually interactive, which helps me get a better understanding of what to expect upon my graduation from NSU,” Kinran said.

Athlete Student Support Services and the Office of Career Development recognize that athletes may need coaching beyond their playing days.

“You always need a coach. You always need someone to help push you to be the best version of you or push you to that next level. They have their support system within their own athletic unit. They have all the tools and resources to be as successful as they possibly can,” Bissonnette said.

For more information:

Visit the official website for athletic academic services

<https://nsusharks.com/sports/2020/6/1/academic-services>

SPORTS EVENTS

Nov. 20, Noon
Women’s Basketball vs.
Purdue University
Northwest

Rick Case Arena

Nov. 25, Noon
Women’s Basketball vs.
Daemen University

Rick Case Arena

Nov. 26, 2 p.m.
Men’s Basketball vs.
Bluefield State University

Rick Case Arena

Nov. 29, 5:30 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs.
Lynn University

Rick Case Arena

Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Men’s Basketball vs.
Lynn University

Rick Case Arena

Championship aspirations drive women's golf's early season success



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS
Ellen Andersson prepares to hit a golf ball.

By Bella Giaquinto and Isabella Fernandez De Cueto

The women's golf team has started the season strong coming off a finalist finish at the NCAA DII National Championship last season.

The Sharks began their season at the South Regional Preview in Tennessee early this semester where they finished in first place. They continued this success with another first-place finish at the Saint Leo Invitational in October.

During the most recent two tournaments at Flagler Fall and the National Preview, they placed third and fifth. Previous accomplishments have proven to push the team's championship aspirations forward, framing its winning mindset.

"After seeing that we are capable of competing at the highest level for a national championship, we have a lot of confidence and hunger to perform even better this season," said Ellen Ramstedt, captain of the women's golf team and business administration graduate student.

Ramstedt is among five upperclassmen in the tournament lineup. "The lineup being all upperclassmen helps us a lot. We tend to play the same tournaments every year,

so the girls feel familiar with these courses," said Heather Wall, head coach of the women's golf team.

While having so many returning golfers can influence the team's success in competitions, it also has an impact on the development of this year's new players.

"The upperclassmen are also using the knowledge they've gained through their years to lead the younger players, which has been going great," Wall said.

The Sharks also place importance on team chemistry and culture.

"In recent years, I've emphasized team culture and building to make us stronger. This year the chemistry is great throughout the team, creating one of the best atmospheres that I've been a part of since being at NSU," Wall said.

Transfer graduate student and golfer Maia Samuelsson can feel the strength of the team culture after only a few months at NSU.

"NSU is the third university I've attended and compared to the

other two teams I've played on, this has been the best atmosphere and team chemistry I have been a part of," Samuelsson said.

The Sharks are excited to keep working to maintain their success throughout the remainder of this season.

"Everyone on this team is hard-working. We push each other to get better every day and we will continue to do this until we achieve our goal," Ramstedt said.

A National Championship is the goal for the Sharks and they are confident in their ability to bring home a title.

"We know we're one of the best teams, so we just have to stay focused and not get too ahead of ourselves. If we do that and stick to our game plans, it will be a great season," Wall said.

To keep up with the women's golf team, follow them on Instagram and X @nsu_wgolf.

Exhibition celebrates 40 years of NSU Athletics



PHOTO BY PARKER LEE

John Sung, associate director, looks at pictures of NSU athletics from the past and present.



PHOTO BY PARKER LEE

Robert Baroniell, manager of revenue generation, marketing and promotions at NSU Athletics, reads the biography information of Director of Athletics Michael Mominey's history with NSU's athletics.

By Bella Giaquinto

To honor NSU's 40th anniversary of collegiate athletics and sports excellence, the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is featuring an exhibit on the second floor of the Cotilla Gallery, open to the public until Jan. 8.

"This is a space that tells the story of our department and history," said Robert Baroniell, manager of revenue generation, marketing and promotions at NSU Athletics.

While exploring the exhibit, visitors will be taken back to 1982 when NSU's athletic programs were first developed. The exhibit highlights the careers of student athletes alumni, professional athletes

affiliated with NSU, and displays various athletic achievements through trophies, photographs and sports memorabilia.

"Starting 40 years ago, it's exciting to learn about how well our sport programs performed as the Knights as a part of National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to now becoming the Sharks in a Division II powerhouse," Baroniell said.

The Sharks continue to instill a winning culture at NSU and, most recently, made history with their most successful year of competition, placing 7th amongst 311 Division II universities in the 2022-2023 campaign, while also bringing home four Division II National Championship titles.

While the exhibit brings attention to NSU athletics' history of success, the exposure means the most to the university's student athletes.

"The exhibit allows newcomers like myself to know the true history behind being a Shark since it involves pictures and memorabilia that paints an amazing story behind my new home at NSU," said Alana Ellis, junior communication major and guard for the women's basketball team.

Baroniell said that Athletics is especially thankful for the careful work done by the Alvin Sherman Library, as this type of recognition wouldn't be feasible without its support.

"If it wasn't for the library offering to do this then it wouldn't have

been possible. That space gets used frequently, opening doors for even more opportunities in athletics," Baroniell said.

Ellis said the exhibit is an inspiration for current athletes.

"The exhibit sets the standard of being a Shark. We have to walk around with our heads held high every day, so we can continue to reach goals, break records and make history," Ellis said.

For more information:

Visit <https://libguides.nova.edu/nsu-athletics>

Sport shorts: Game recaps

By Josh Leatherman and
Jonathan Day

Men's soccer, Nov. 1

The men's soccer team dropped its regular-season finale against the Lynn Fighting Knights 2-1. The Sharks were led by a penalty kick goal from Alessandro Salvadego.

Women's cross country, Nov. 4

Leena Saidi made history at the NCAA South Region Championship, finishing fourth with a school record time in the 6K. Saidi also qualified for the National Championship meet, taking place in Joplin, MO on Nov. 18.

Women's volleyball, Nov. 4

The women's volleyball team

pulled off an impressive victory over the second-ranked Tampa Spartans in five sets. NSU ended Tampa's 24-match winning streak. Nadia Lindner and Kate Mihacevich led the Sharks offense, recording 17 and 16 kills respectively.

Women's soccer, Nov. 6

The women's soccer team dropped a thrilling overtime game to Florida Southern. The loss marked the Lady Sharks exit from SSC quarterfinal play.

Women's soccer, Nov. 8

The women's soccer team standouts Luana Grabias, Emma Brown, Tabea Schutt, Sofia Suarez and Maja Henriksson were honored as All-Sunshine State Conference members. Grabias and Brown were

named to the All-SSC First Team, while Schutt and Suarez were named to the second team. Henriksson earned a spot on the third team.

Men's soccer, Nov. 8

The men's soccer team standouts Zyan Andrade, Tobias Pello and Alessandro Salvadego have been named as All-Sunshine State Conference members. Andrade and Pello were named to the All-SSC First Team, while Salvadego was named to the second team.

Men's soccer, Nov. 9

The men's soccer team dropped the SSC Semifinal rematch against the Barry Buccaneers 4-3. The Sharks were led by a two-goal performance from Alessandro Salvadego.

Men's basketball, Nov. 11

The men's basketball team defeated Alabama-Huntsville by a score of 105-84. Ryan Davis paced the Sharks offensive attack, scoring a team-best 19 points, while Isaiah Fuller (14), Shane Hunter (12), Ryan Walsh (14) and GianFranco Grafals (13) all recorded double-digit points.

Women's basketball, Nov. 11

The women's basketball team lost to Montevallo 77-69. Aubrey Stupp and Nicole Scales led the way for NSU, scoring 18 and 17 points respectively.

OPINION

The diaspora experience: It's hard to hang on to home

By Nicole Shaker

I quickly changed playlists as my friend entered my car. On the way to her house, I had been listening to Coptic Orthodox hymns.

Coptic Orthodox hymns are warm, traditional and deeply spiritual, much like the Coptic faith itself, which originated in Egypt. Both of my parents were born in Egypt and immigrated to America to — you guessed it — give their children better lives.

As I scroll through people-pleasing playlists, I reflect on what it would have been like if my parents had not left Egypt. I would be sweating in modest clothing, dirty, dusty and probably thirsty. But I'd definitely be listening to Coptic Orthodox hymns.

Living in South Florida as a Coptic Egyptian means I can't hang on to my culture as tightly as I want to. This region has a small Coptic population compared to my New



COURTESY OF MELISSA MARZOUK

Nicole Shaker, senior communication and computer science major, attends a meeting for Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries, an Oriental Orthodox Christian club for NSU students.

Jersey hometown. When I moved here to attend NSU, I let go of a massive community that held me accountable for staying connected to my roots.

For people who want to stay in touch with their culture but are surrounded by a very minimal or nonexistent community, it is a conscious decision every day. Do I eat grape leaves or chicken nuggets?

Do I listen to an Orthodox sermon or a true crime podcast? When I call my mom, do I speak Arabic or English?

These decisions come up constantly. It's my choice how connected I am with my culture because I can't immerse myself in it the way I can in New Jersey or, obviously, Egypt. I can take little tastes of Egypt throughout the day,

and the less I choose to do this, the further I grow distant from what I once considered my identity.

I have assimilated. I accommodate. I learned how to shut my Coptic Egyptian-ness in a closet, ready to be taken out, worn to church on Sunday morning and put back by 2 p.m.

Diaspora youth, separated from their family and their community, struggle to hang on to their traditions and values. I feel like I compromise my culture when I neglect the little tastes I have the option of taking — going to Coptic church, reading Coptic books, learning the Coptic language.

But I still strive to hang on to that thread that ties me back to Egypt.

I dropped off my friend at the end of the night, and I played Coptic hymns all the way home.

Nicole Shaker is the co-editor-in-chief of The Current.

Why do we have to wait until April?

By Lauren Do Nascimento

The year is coming to a swift end and for some students, our years at NSU are also coming to a close. Seniors are excited to spend the rest of the semester planning for graduation, but it's not really over for some of us because there is no commencement ceremony for seniors who graduate in December. Those who plan on graduating in the fall will have to wait until the end of April to walk the stage, even though we'd already have graduated.

All of my expectations for graduation burst as I realized I have to wait until next semester to walk the stage. This is very unfair, especially considering my current circumstances. I expected to graduate last April, but due to personal reasons, I had to miss that semester and thus miss graduation. I was already

forced to miss out on my last semester with friends and classmates, and I missed out on graduating with the people I've known for most of my time at NSU.

Now that I'm finishing up my degree this semester, I've gotten the opportunity to have different experiences and make new friends. I'm also more eager to graduate now because of the wait. It's not fair for one graduating class to wait on another class in order to walk the stage.

It's also very inconvenient for me, because I live almost an hour away, to have to come back six months after I finish classes for the ceremony. It's even harder for those who live out of state or out of the country. We now have to block out this time to come back, when we should have already done this ceremony, and that's assuming

everyone can return and participate, which is unlikely.

Other colleges like FAU, UF and FIU offer undergraduate graduations in December for those who graduate early (or later, like in my case). It doesn't make sense why NSU wouldn't do the same thing, especially considering that we have the space to do it and we will already be having graduations for graduate students during that time. There are also no high school graduations during the end of the fall semester, which means that NSU wouldn't have to divide the time and space with local high schools like they would in April.

Since I won't have graduation until April, I'll have to live my post-graduation life and think about everything other than graduation, only to be suddenly brought back here in order to get the peak of

the "college experience."

I, along with many other students, was already robbed of many college experiences because of the pandemic. This is starting to feel reminiscent of that time. I want to participate in graduation and then move on in my career, and I don't like that I will have to stop, go back in time for a little bit, participate in commencement and then go back to my post-college mentality. This feels so random and unnecessary.

NSU has the right venue, the right time and enough people to host a commencement ceremony at the end of the fall. So why do we have to wait until April?

Lauren Do Nascimento is the managing editor of The Current.

NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

16

Black in Business
6 p.m.
Don Taft University Center, second floor

Author Talk with Lauren Groff
7 p.m.
The Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

17

Sip and Paint
11:30 a.m.
Don Taft University Center Spine

Sigma Sweets
Noon
Shark Circle

Hygiene Kit Crafting Volunteering
Noon
Carl DeSantis Building

SAGE Hunger Games Night
6:30 p.m.
Carl DeSantis Building, rooms 3032 and 3035

19

Garba: Folk dancing
4 p.m.
Recplex

Sunset Yoga Sessions
5:30 p.m.
Mako Courtyard

NSU Chess Club Open Games
7 p.m.
UC Reef Pit
Basketball courts

20

Jeopardy Night
6 p.m.
Flight Deck

Fashion Beyond Boundaries
6 p.m.
Black Box Theatre

21

Chat n' Chew: Women's Rights
Noon
Rosenthal building, room 204

Cultural Quilt
12:30 p.m.
Don Taft University Center Spine

Doja Cat - The Scarlet Tour
7:30 p.m.
Kaseya Center
\$44.75 - \$164.50

22

Yoga with Ariana Cintron
1 p.m.
Meditation room, third floor

Matteo Bocelli
8 p.m.
Lillian S. Wells Halls at The Parker
\$44.50 - \$74.50

24

Fin Films Movie Night
6 p.m.
Carl DeSantis Building

Hot Mulligan
6 p.m.
Revolution Live
\$26.50

30

Celebrate Native American Heritage
9:30 a.m.
Adolfo and Marisela Cotilla Gallery

Adoption → Evoultion: Kolos Schumy
5 p.m.
Don Taft University Center, Gallery 217

1

Peace Concert
7:30 p.m.
Don Taft University Center, Performance Theatre

DECEMBER

GAMES

WORD SEARCH

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

VETERANS
GALLERY
DIGRESSIONS
DANCE
ROSA

HOMECOMING
GRADUATION
CULTURE
VIVACE
RAFT

MINIACI
EXHIBITION
MUSICAL
HERITAGE
FACULTY

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 no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29. 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.

Question: In a survey of students' likes for a cooked vegetable to be served at Razor's Reef,
71 liked carrots
43 liked broccoli
47 liked brussel sprouts
24 liked both broccoli and brussel sprouts
33 liked both carrots and broccoli
38 liked both carrots and brussel sprouts
20 liked all three (carrots, broccoli and brussel sprouts)

How many students were surveyed if all students surveyed liked at least one of these three vegetables?

