
The Current

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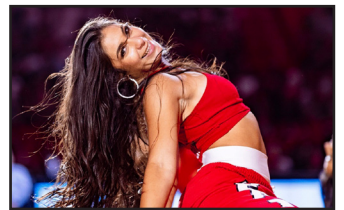
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Nova Southeastern University

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

Looking ahead: the NSU 2024 sports season



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

NSU women's basketball plays uptempo and finishes at the rim.

Women's basketball

Entering the new year, the women's basketball team achieved victories against Barry University, Palm Beach Atlantic and the University of Mount Olive, winning all three matchups by double digits. Leading the Sharks in scoring is graduate student Nicole Scales, averaging 13.3 points per game as well as the most minutes per game with 35.7. There are many crucial upcoming games for the Sharks as the NCAA National Championship approaches on March 25. Some opponents include Florida Southern College, the University of Tampa and Florida Tech.

Keep up with the women's basketball team on Instagram and X at NSU WBasketball.

Softball

The softball team starts its 2024 season on Feb. 2, with an away game against Auburn University Montgomery. The game holds high expectations, following an impressive 2022-2023 season where the Sharks achieved 43 wins and 16 losses.

See 2024 SEASON, page 12

By Bella Giaquinto and Abraham Velasquez

Coming off the most successful year in NSU Athletics' history, the Sharks won NCAA Division II National Championships in

women's swimming, men's basketball and men's golf, and placed 7th overall in the LEARFIELD Directors' Cup, awarded annually to colleges and universities with the most success in collegiate athletics.. There is much to look forward to in

2024. NSU's national champions will defend their titles while other sports such as softball, baseball and tennis are coming close to claiming their own national titles.

How to prepare for the upcoming presidential election

By Jules Batchker

With the 2024 presidential election on Nov. 5, many students will soon cast their ballots, some for the first time.

Charles Zelden, professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, said it's important for students to vote and to understand their eligibility, state requirements and candidate choices.

"[Voting] is where their voices are heard," Zelden said. "That's the only way politicians can hear what you want."

Zelden, who has written eight books on voting and elections, civil rights and judicial politics, emphasized the importance of this upcoming election.

"The 2024 presidential election is going to be one of the largest elections in American history

in choosing whether our country is going to remain Democratic or move more toward an authoritarian model of democracy and government," he said.

Zelden encouraged students who are first-time voters to stay updated on current events and to research the candidates tackling issues that matter to them.

So who's running in 2024?

There were originally 20 candidates, but 11 dropped out. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate, suspended his presidential bid on Jan. 21, endorsing Donald Trump. There are currently three Democratic candidates: Joe Biden, Dean Phillips and Marianne Williamson; three Republican candidates: Trump, Nikki Haley and Ryan Binkley; and three Independent candidates: Robert F. Kennedy, Jill Stein and Cornel West.

Before students vote, they'll need to register. Registration deadlines and necessary documentation vary by state and territory. Students can register to vote online, in person or by mail. Forty-one states offer online voter registration. Certain states, including Florida, also allow registration at the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Florida allows residents to register online and print out forms to register by mail at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov.

Some states participate in voter registration events. The website National Voter Registration Day provides a list of upcoming events by zip code.

For states that require registration by mail, students can print out a national mail voter registration form from the United States Election Assistance Commission

website under the "voting" tab.

Next, students can research parties, like the Democratic, Republican or Independent parties, and investigate their core values before aligning themselves with any one. States can allow open or closed primaries. Open primaries refer to voting without declaring a political orientation, while closed primaries require voters to choose a political party before casting a ballot.

Voting itself is simple. It is important for students to check local polling locations and hours if voting in person. If they are in line before closing, they cannot be denied the opportunity to vote. Depending on the polling location, ballots may be collected on paper or via touch screen.

See ELECTION, page 4

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 editors

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to a new semester! We hope you had a great New Year's and holiday season. We're happy to share with you the first issue of the new year.

Hopefully, your classes have gotten off to a smooth start. For many of you, this is your last semester at NSU. We hope you are able to have fun, make friends and enjoy your time as an NSU Shark.

One of our favorite articles from the issue is the front-pager about the upcoming presidential election. You can learn about the different candidates and what you should do to get prepared for Election Day. We hope you will learn a lot from this issue and have fun reading.

There are plenty of other stories you can find in this issue, including a spotlight on Associate Theatre Professor Dan Gelbmann, a profile of NSU student and Miami Heat dancer Madison Cantor, and a new artist interview by Mako Radio, featuring the singer/songwriter Jordan Lindley. Look through our stories and see what interests you the most.



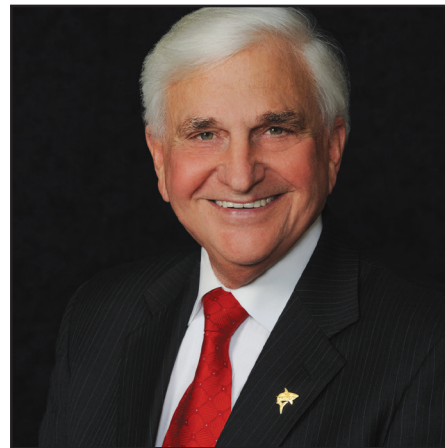
Bryce Johnson, editor-in-chief, and Nicole Shaker, co-editor-in-chief, of The Current.

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

Each of our reporters, photographers, editors and graphic designers came together to deliver the best paper we can. With the first issue of 2024, thank you for taking the time to read through it.

Happy reading,
Bryce Johnson and
Nicole Shaker

Celebrating 60 years of NSU



By President George L. Hanbury II

It's a new year and a new semester, but even as we move forward it's important to look back in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the founding of Nova Southeastern University.

We've come a long way from the downtown Fort Lauderdale storefront at 232 East Las Olas Blvd. where Nova University of Advanced Technology was housed in 1964. The university, which was then graduate only, welcomed its first class of 17 Ph.D. students. Compare that to the 3,096 graduate and professional students and 2,655 freshmen who joined NSU last fall, once again breaking our record for largest incoming freshman class. In total NSU now has nearly 21,000 students plus another 2,000 students attending NSU University School, our preeminent Pre-K - 12 academic program.

In 1970 we not only welcomed our first students, but we also moved to our present main campus in Davie with one building – the Rosenthal

Student Services Building. So, you see, since our very beginning, NSU has always been student centered – one of our eight Core Values.

Nova University slowly grew over the years at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, formerly known as Forman Field, a World War II auxiliary airfield that had been repurposed to create the South Florida Education Center. Perhaps the biggest development in the university's history came in 1994 when it merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to create the Nova Southeastern University we know today.

I don't know if those pioneers could have conceived how much the university would grow in 60 years, with 23,000 students on campuses across Florida, Puerto Rico and Colorado.

Do you believe they could have imagined that in 60 short years, the Rosenthal Student Services Building would be the first of more than 6 million square feet of classrooms, libraries, research and recreational facilities, residence halls, and offices for faculty and staff plus a \$1 billion external fundraising campaign we're now over 92% toward completing before the end of 2025? The story of the development of NSU has truly been an amazing story. You will be hearing more throughout the year as we celebrate this important milestone for NSU.

Fins up!

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

I'm white, I guess?



By Nicole Shaker

When I look in the mirror, I see dark brown eyes, dark curly hair and dark, bushy eyebrows. All on tanned skin, close to the color of caramel.

When I look at my job applications, I see white, Black, American

Indian, Asian and Native Hawaiian. All alongside empty checkboxes.

When I look in the mirror, I do not see a white person. But when I fill out my job applications, I check off the first box.

As an Egyptian person, I am North African. Middle Eastern and North African people are considered white, according to the U.S. government. However, we are often not white-passing, and thus often do not receive white privilege.

That is why it confuses me that my fellow Middle Easterners and North Africans are grouped in with this population that is so culturally and physically distinct. My Arabic-speaking family still gets unnecessarily scrutinized at airports, and my sisters' thick, unruly hair only tames with products by Black and Arab-owned businesses.

I don't mind the labels as much as the principle. It feels like my peoples' history and identity are

stripped away and ignored whenever I look at those checkboxes on my job applications. We are our own people, rich with tradition and culture. We are our own identity, not an afterthought to be grouped in with the first race listed.

Right now, Middle Easterners and North Africans are invisible. Look at virtually any published study examining the effect of an issue on social populations. We are never our own category.

When issues like illnesses, homelessness and access to education are studied, people can observe disproportionate effects on minorities like American Indians, for example, and thus advocate for appropriate policy. But because Middle Easterners and North Africans are never represented as their own category, we can never know our place in national problems, in which we could very well be disproportionately affected.

This feels unfair. I know putting "white" on my job applications is probably only helping me in this society we live in, and I probably don't have any right to complain, but still, I feel I have to bring attention to this thing that makes no sense. I feel like this racial label that has been put on me is a lie.

I don't know how jobs would look at me differently if I checked off the theoretical "Arab" box. But I want this box to exist, for people like me with brown skin and dark features and an identity that is so much deeper than many know.

Nicole Shaker, senior double major in computer science and communication with a concentration in journalism, serves as the co-editor-in-chief of The Current.

Peace? Why bother?



By Terry Savage

Throughout history, universities and other institutions of higher learning have been places in which ideas could be articulated - passionately - and contested. Ideas about everything! Love. Sports. Poverty. Wealth. Slavery. Who gets to vote. Beauty. Sexuality (and sexualities). Manhood. Women in society. Limiting violence when at war, and seeing when and how to make peace.

The list is endless. And often, so is the exasperation and outrage we feel when hearing each other's views. Occasionally, one sees the trust and good humor of classmates who debate each other's ideas endlessly - and yet realize how much they have to learn from the exchanges.

University means many things to

many people: an opportunity to get skills, get ahead, get access to work you find meaningful; a chance to embrace the joy of learning; a reason to hope! And above all, university is about creating an agreed 'safe space' with each other, a space in which all honest ideas are always welcome. In a world wrenching apart with polarizing politics, a university has to be a zone of peace.

On many campuses in the United States, conflicts have flared up that could have opened up innovative thinking. Instead, many of these debates have turned nasty. Personal. Vitriolic. Violent. Fine minds have been destroyed in a frenzy of self-righteous mobbing and mayhem.

How do seemingly decent people become so convinced they are right that they turn so spectacularly destructive of other people?

One legend in the field of Conflict Resolution, Johan Galtung, depicts violence as a triangle. The apex represents the visible manifestation of violence (which he calls 'direct violence'). This is the punch that gets thrown or the words intended to degrade and diminish what another person holds meaningful: their bodily dignity, the memory of a grandma, a personal story of resilience, the ideas by which - right or wrong - they make sense of the world.

What makes this violence possible, according to Galtung, are two, more latent forms of violence that

constitute the bottom half of the triangle. One is 'structural violence' - the social institutions, policies, and societal arrangements that consistently block people's ability to meet their needs. The other is 'cultural violence'. This refers not only to forms of violence steeped in tradition, like whale hunting or sports hooliganism. Crucially, cultural violence refers to those parts of a culture that make both any form of violence feel right, make it feel 'called for' - understandable and even imperative.

It is a scary concept because it asks the hard question: what is it in our attitudes, assumptions, prerogatives, and even our established the cherished identities to which we are loyal that condones acts hurtful to people around us?

Globally, demands are growing for a better understanding of peace. Beyond the absence of violence, what is peace? What would we see if we were looking at it?

On campus, peace is in the mix of enjoyment and focused work one sees, all around, when walking into the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. It is there in the palm-treed peace, the kindness of our friends, and in the patience with which we wait while a classmate fumbles trying to say what they really, really, mean, and, as we teach in Conflict Resolution, creating peace in debate is about understanding and drawing on what

others in the room have said before you in order to express your view more powerfully.

Internationally, an initiative has been launched by a coalition of organizations and global leaders - civic, military, political, and academic - to build a set of principles that define peace and can serve as a guiding framework for peace-making efforts everywhere. Two of the eight "Principles for Peace," as they are called, comprise an ethical commitment to "dignity" and "solidarity", and a third, labelled "humility," involves striving to be empathetic and respectful.

Dignity, solidarity, and a humble respect and empathy toward others: these are values glaring in their absence from the passionate debates of our time - on campuses, and in the political rhetoric that produces battlefields and rubble where once there were lives.

Conflicting ideas can be a driver of innovation. Conflicting points of view can open up new insights bring people together in mutual cooperation. Conflict can be creative. It takes a zone of peace to make that happen.

Terry Savage is an associate professor in the Halmos College's Department of Conflict Resolution Studies and serves on the United Nations' Peace and Development experts roster.

FROM THE FRONT

ELECTION

The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is an official polling site, but registered voters are required to vote in the precinct of their legal residence in Florida. Residents can look up their designated polling location online at the Florida Division of Elections website under the tab "for voters."

For students who may not be able to go in person, absentee ballots allow voting before Election Day by

mail or dropbox. Every state allows absentee voting, but deadlines and eligibility rules vary. Some states automatically send voters absentee ballots before each election. Students can check their state's official website or the National Conference of State Legislatures website for more information on qualifications for and methods to request an absentee ballot.

To request a vote-by-mail/absentee ballot, students can contact their local supervisor of elections.

Supervisors of elections by county can be checked on the My Florida Elections site. Requests can be made in person or by mail, email, fax or phone.

Vote-by-mail ballots can be dropped off in drop boxes at early voting sites. Consult with the Florida Division of Elections website under the "for voters" tab to find nearby secure dropbox locations.

Requests for vote-by-mail/absentee ballots must reach the local supervisor of elections office no

later than 5 p.m. on the 10th day before the election.

Zelden encouraged students to find the candidate who they feel is worth their vote.

"In this particular election, [students] have a choice to make," Zelden said. "Decide what it is you want for the future, find the candidate who gives you the best chance of getting the future you want, and vote for that candidate."

For more information:

National Voter
Registration
Day Events:



U.S. Election
Assistance
Commission:



National Conference
of State Legislatures:



Florida Register
to Vote:



Florida Division
of Elections:



My Florida
Elections:



Shark Dining introduces new fast-service options

By Danna Bertel and
Kayla McGee

Isabella Dell'Api, junior legal studies major, believes the new Razor's Bite experience brings more choices for students and could be expanded.

"I'm glad that there are more options, I think they should have more maybe in other buildings, but I'm pretty happy with the vending machines," Dell'Api said.

Students were welcomed with a new dining experience in Razor's Reef this semester. Razor's Bite offers fast service and hot food through 24/7 vending machines, with the return of the Yo-Kai Express Machine and the addition of Just Baked.

Yo-Kai has been on campus since fall 2022, but went out of

service shortly after it was open. This semester, Yo-Kai reopened and is now one of the vending machines in Razor's Bite. Its menu includes ramen bowls, pho and soups.

Dell'Api said Yo-Kai's ramen is surprisingly good.

"I thought it was actually pretty good quality, considering that it's just less than five minutes. For to-go ramen, I was pleasantly surprised," Dell'Api said.

Victoria Arutunian, junior legal studies major, hopes the Yo-Kai machine is restocked regularly because she often finds the food is sold out.

"The food is pretty good," Arutunian said. "But half the stuff is sold out most of the time, so they would have to work on restocking things faster probably."

New to the Reef is Just Baked

Smart Bistro, which includes two vending machines. One offers burger sliders, pizza squares and burritos. The second one offers desserts, such as cinnamon rolls.

Students can use the kiosk to place an order and pay, or download the mobile app and scan the QR code at the kiosk to order.

Not only were vending machines added, but also three microwaves.

Vanessa Gonzalez, junior chemistry major, feels that microwaves are beneficial and more convenient to commuters.

"Before I would have to wait maybe 10 to 15 minutes just to heat my food and it was a little bit inconvenient, and now I don't have to wait at all to use a microwave," Gonzalez said.

According to Shark Dining, Chick-fil-A is also still being worked



PHOTO BY PARKER LEE

Anshu Mehta, sophomore cardiovascular sonography major, uses one of the Yo-Kai vending machines to enjoy a hot bowl of ramen.

on and is expected to open either later in the semester or during the summer.

Student Employment moves under CAPS

By Angeline Gilliard,
Elizabeth Franklin and
Yasmin De Andrade Rodrigues

Mignon Bissonnette, assistant dean for the Center for Academic and Professional Success, was happy when CAPS took over Student Employment in July 2023.

"It was just a natural fit for Student Employment to move from financial aid over to a very student-based department. This change is more student-friendly," Bissonnette said.

CAPS aims to provide students opportunities for jobs, internships and experiential learning and also assists students with their academics and preparation for job interviews.

Student Employment used to fall under Enrollment Management and Student Services. When

Brad Williams, who was vice president for Student Affairs, was promoted to senior vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, various departments, including Student Employment, moved to Student Affairs.

"Student Employment used to fall under financial aid. So, it used to be Enrollment Management and Student Services," Bissonnette said. "Everyone used to know it as ESS and over the summer, there was a big transition at the university."

Bissonnette said that by integrating student employment services into CAPS, NSU created a one-stop destination for academic, career and financial support, including career guidance and on-campus job opportunities.

For some students, working on campus may be more desirable and practical.

Niemah Butler, director for Student Employment and Employer Relations, said that on-campus jobs allow students to gain experiential learning opportunities, develop skills for their future careers and enhance their resumes, all while making money to support themselves.

"Everyone has different needs, whether it's for money or for building experiential learning opportunities," Butler said.

The transition of Student Employment to CAPS also brought in a larger team to serve students seeking on-campus job opportunities.

"I'm hoping that it helps more students get jobs on campus," Bissonnette said.

Butler said this expansion addresses both the needs of students searching for jobs and the departments offering on-campus

employment.

"We have lots of students eager and excited to get on-campus opportunities," Butler said.

Any student is eligible for employment on campus, including international and graduate students. To begin exploring employment opportunities, students can visit the CAPS office in the William and Norma Horvitz Administration Building.

For more information:
Visit the CAPS website.



Sharks Speak: How are you making the most out of your time at NSU?



"I try to seek out the different events happening on campus, especially the more social events that help me to interact more with my classmates," said Madisen Romero, sophomore art and design major.



"I make the most out of my time at NSU by making friends and trying to have fun while staying productive on campus," said Rene Brito, freshman psychology major.



"I'm trying to stay as involved as possible with the different events so that I won't regret anything or feel like I missed out," said Kristiana Oureilidis, sophomore psychology major.



"I like to attend informational meetings that the school provides and use all the studying resources available," said Syed Hussain, junior psychology major.

BY JENNIFER GRIGGS

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER GRIGGS

Job application tips for seniors

By Jules Batchker and Nicole Shaker

For some students, this semester will be their last. Graduating seniors will say farewell to NSU this May. For them, the job search starts now.

Many companies are rolling out offers for positions beginning this summer, so students have started refining resumes and writing cover letters.

Monique Cole, an edge adviser from the Center for Academic and Professional Success, encouraged students in need of assistance to reach out to the CAPS office, which is located in the Horvitz Administration Building behind Gold Circle Lake. Appointments can be made by phone or through Navigate.

"We help students conduct job interviews, work on their resumes, and explore different internship opportunities," she said.

CAPS has many tips students can use to consistently produce quality applications and lessen the stress that goes along with it.

Job search tools

When it comes to looking for jobs, Cole recommended that students use the Handshake platform. NSU works with Handshake to make the search easier for students.

"We have an amazing employer relations team that works with different organizations and businesses to provide students with opportunities," she said.

For students to learn about job opportunities, regardless of their graduation date, Cole also encouraged them to attend the Recruit a Shark Career Fair on Feb. 13. The event will be on the fifth floor in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. Students can register for the

event through Handshake.

Other tools students can use to look for jobs include LinkedIn, Indeed and WayUp.

Eric Puentes, CAPS edge adviser, recommended students take time to refine their profiles on these platforms.

"Specifically with LinkedIn and Handshake, I would encourage students to build out their profiles so that the experiences being suggested to them relate to their experiences, skills and industries," he said.

Cole also suggested that students take advantage of LinkedIn Learning, which they have access to through NSU. LinkedIn Learning offers personalized instructional videos to assist users in building their professional online profiles.

Resume and interview tips

Amber Paquette, senior legal studies major, graduates this May and has been refining her resume at the CAPS office.

"I revamped my resume working with my CAPS adviser," she said. "I had a draft. She helped me revise it and referred me to a lot of resources."

Cole suggests using more than one resume.

"It's really good to have a master resume, especially when you're applying to different job positions," she said. "We encourage students to pull keywords from the job's description to tailor their resumes toward each position."

Cole also warned against using templates from websites such as Canva as they can often have unexpected formatting issues when sent to employers.

Puentes also encouraged students to use generative artificial intelligence to build their resumes and help prepare for interviews.

"Students can ask AI tools to generate interview questions that relate to that specific job role," he said.

Puentes said AI could also aid students in determining key skills relevant to specific roles, so that students can highlight those skills in their resumes.

He also recommended students record themselves answering questions to build better interview skills.

Cover letter tips

Puentes advised crafting unique cover letters.

"Students' cover letters shouldn't be a regurgitation of their resume," Puentes said. "Students should focus on no more than three skills that aren't highlighted within their resume. The cover letter should be where a student goes in depth with how they exemplify a given skill."

He recommended that when writing their cover letters, students should introduce themselves, explain how they'll be an asset to the company, and state what they hope to gain from that specific job opportunity.

Cole also suggested that students check out the resources tab on Handshake for assistance in developing their cover letters.

Email etiquette tips

Cole emphasized the importance of email etiquette for students applying to jobs.

"Students should follow up with the point of contact and let them know that they've submitted their application," she said. "That's the student showing the employer they're going the extra mile and showing that much more interest in applying to the position."

She also said that if students are sending emails, they should send them during working hours.

"Time makes a difference," she said. "Business hours, between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., are professional times to be sending an email to someone."

Cole also advised students to create an appropriate email signature and voicemail. Specifically for graduating seniors, she strongly recommended creating a professional email address in case they lose access to their NSU emails after graduation.

Schedule an appointment with CAPS through Navigate here:



Register for the Feb. 13 Recruit a Shark Career Fair here:



For more information: Center for Academic and Professional Success

Horvitz Administration Building, 3301 College Ave., Davie, FL 33314
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Dive into research at the Oceanographic Center



PHOTO BY JENNIFER GRIGGS

Matthew Gassmann, sophomore marine biology major, browses through books at the Oceanographic Center.

By Jennifer Griggs

NSU offers a variety of research opportunities for students. The Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center is the hub for marine research.

The NSU Oceanographic Campus Library is where students can learn about the different research opportunities and resources offered. Resources include electronic journals, databases and a collection of books that marine biology students may find pertains to their areas of interest.

Librarian Lisa Ferrara said that the OC's library can help a variety of students.

"For undergrads, we are more teaching about how they do research, find articles, search a database, evaluate an article, and cite an article. For the graduate students, there are still basic research instructions along those lines, but we are also helping them find more obscure sources since their research is more advanced than the undergraduate needs," Ferrara said.

The OC helps graduate students find archived documents and

specifically, species records.

Librarians also assist faculty with finding sources and compiling articles relating to a specific topic for research or class purposes.

Students also have access to technological resources. Both the Alvin Sherman Library and the OC library offer access to a KIC scanner. The KIC scanner allows students to scan their books and documents to turn them into audio files, editable PDFs or Word documents. This is beneficial for students who are auditory learners, have visual impairments or prefer to not carry textbooks with them.

The OC library offers two 3D scanners. These devices scan specimen bones that students may have caught on their own or for a class assignment. Students can use these devices to scan fish skulls, bird skulls, shells and coral.

The computer software offered at the OC library helps students like Thyre Bielfeldt, junior marine biology major, with their research assignments.

"If you are looking to do research at the Alvin Sherman Library or Oceanographic Center, depending on your major, [if you are] mainly marine bio-based, I would recommend the Oceanographic Center because they have a very good number of resources," Bielfeldt said.

The OC library's computer software is free for students and helps them complete their research, including graduate theses. Students can use the software for many research functions, including performing statistical analysis, editing 3D models, visualizing data, creating graphics or artistic renderings and processing and analyzing geospatial data and imagery.

"Our public computers have a

lot of software that is not available on most computers on most campuses, things like ENVI, Primer, ArcGIS and a whole bunch of software that's available on our public computers that students can come in and use." Ferrara said.

Bielfeldt said some of the most helpful resources at the OC are the people.

"They are not limited to anything and even the professors are willing to help answer questions that you have," Bielfeldt said.

Emma Brennan-Ross, graduate academic adviser and adjunct professor, is the program coordinator for the Department of Marine and Environmental Science, which includes undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students. Each academic year has its own phase of research.

"Students will have to seek the opportunities out themselves. Even though it is something we set up, basically you have to shine in your classes and really stand out," Brennan-Ross said. "The undergraduate has to make that connection with the faculty and see if they have space."

Independent studies allow undergraduate students to get involved with research at the OC. Students can work in labs studying topics ranging from marine mammals and stable isotopes to parasites, apex predators and coral labs.

Undergraduate students can also help graduate students with their theses projects.

"Sometimes we send out emails to our students, like the undergraduates, if a graduate student needs help with their research," Brennan-Ross said.

At the OC, graduate students can conduct independent research on

any scale using the lab.

Brennan-Ross encouraged all students to get involved with research at the OC.

"Research, regardless of how young you are. By just by getting involved, even if you don't want to do research, it just makes it better because then you can go on and educate other people about what you've learned," she said. "Research is critical and crucial. With everything changing at a rapid pace, just being able to communicate that with the public is crucial so they become involved, educated, and can help spread the news of what is happening, and maybe something can be done about it."

Students not part of the marine biology or science-focused programs at NSU can be a part of the OC community by joining beach cleanups. Non-science major students would need to email or call the OC library for a parking pass to have access to the building.

For more information:

Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center, 8000 North Ocean Dr., Dania Beach, FL 33004.

oclibrary@nova.edu
954-262-4600

To learn more about OC labs and programs, contact Emma Brennan-Ross at eb1185@nova.edu.

Visit the OC website here:



NSU Math Club secretary answers all Math Corners correctly



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

Mashfiqur Rahman, freshman double major in math and computer science, solves The Current's Math Corner.

By Bryce Johnson

Mashfiqur Rahman, freshman double major in math and computer science, decided to study math during Sharkapalooza 2023.

"One of the clubs there was the Math Club, and they had a Math Jeopardy. I participated in that,

and I was in the top three, so I got a gift card," Rahman said.

Now, as the secretary of the Math Club, Rahman has correctly answered every question of The Current's Math Corner so far.

"I decided to give it a shot. And after that, I just grabbed the paper every time there was a new one and

I completed each question," Rahman said. "It wasn't that hard. I just spend some time in the library doing it. I just enjoy solving these puzzles and riddles in general."

The Math Corner is on The Current's game page. Each issue features a new question, and the student who answers the most correct from August to April will win a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card from the Department of Mathematics.

"Just try to solve one of them. I mean, it doesn't hurt to try. And then, you will naturally develop some of the skills needed to solve the riddles," Rahman said. "When I was a lot younger, I watched the Ted-Ed riddles, and I always found them to be super daunting, but then one day, I just made an attempt."

For Rahman, math is about more than equations and calculations, but rather critical thinking and problem solving. He hopes that math will become less stigmatized and

more engaging in the classroom.

"When I was in high school, I played a lot of 'Valorant' and one of the questions in the 'Valorant' community that people debated on is, which gun is better? The Phantom or the Vandal?" Rahman said. "I use math to answer that question, 'Which is better?' pretty much. So if we do stuff like that in the classroom where we engage the students and use math with something that they'd be interested in, then people would see what math is really all about."

Rahman spends much of his time at the Math Club's events, such as Jeopardy, karaoke or game night.

"I encourage everyone to come to the Math Club game night and karaoke. It's pretty fun. We don't sit there and do algebra tests there," Rahman said.

For more information about the Math Club, visit its Instagram page, @nsumathclub.

FOOD



PHOTO BY GABRIELLA FIDANZE

NSU's Delta Phi Epsilon sorority members dance on tables at Tavern Opa.

Tavern Opa offers an authentic Greek experience

By Gabriella Fidanze

Hoping to show local Floridians what Greek culture, cuisine and atmosphere is all about, Peter Tsialiamanis opened Taverna Opa in 1998.

"The original owner, Peter, came from Greece with nothing, just a piece of bread in his pocket. His dream was to recreate a little bit of his childhood and make America feel like home," Gabriela Cabrera, the restaurant manager at Taverna Opa, said. "He wanted to show Americans what Greece on a plate looks like, smells like, feels like, is like."

Tsialiamanis, who immigrated to the United States from Greece, has done just that. The restaurant is known for its electrifying and authentic Greek atmosphere and its authentic food.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. The restaurant closes when the party dies down for the night, which popularized its slogan, "Till the Ouzo Runs Out." Its busiest time is after 7 p.m. during the late dinner service.

Guests can opt in for two different experiences at Taverna Opa. They can come for lunch or dinner and enjoy the beautiful waterfront

location on Hollywood Beach, Greek music, scrumptious food and peaceful coastal environment. Or they can come for the late dinner service and be met with belly dancers, a mix of Greek music and popular hits, dancing on tables, servers and customers throwing napkins, celebrations and constant shouts of "Opa!"

"My favorite part of the restaurant experience is the atmosphere because I love that we can get up on the tables and throw napkins while we dance and that they have belly dancers that interact with the crowd," said Rachel Gruboy, junior biology major. "They pull you up on the tables with them and teach you the dances while everybody claps and cheers you on. It is just such a fun environment."

Taverna Opa's authentic Greek cuisine is also a draw for the restaurant. Popular food packages are offered daily. There's the Apollo for \$40 per person, the Aphrodite for \$45 and the Zeus for \$55. These packages offer a tasting of the menu, including Greek salad, cold pikilia, hot pikilia, cheese saganaki and three different meat platters.

"I would recommend Taverna Opa because it is a great place to go in South Florida for the best deal price-wise for the amount of food you get," Gruboy said. "My favorite

thing to get is the \$40 family style meal and the lamb gyro," she said.

The restaurant also has popular stand-alone dishes such as lamb chops, roasted lamb, octopus and calamari. The menu is 90% gluten-free, and offers a variety of vegetarian and dairy-free options.

Cabrera said that the food is homemade cuisine, noting that they make their dressings in house daily, and they only use fresh ingredients.

"The restaurant is very different from any other. It's homemade Greek food just like grandma used to cook. It's a very real experience with the authentic music, food, and dance," Cabrera said.

The restaurant staff is extremely close. The servers and dancers work in unison to promote the celebratory atmosphere of the restaurant by throwing napkins, dancing and shouting "Opa," but also finding times to pause to bring food and drinks to customers. The restaurant staff manages the outdoor seating, a main dining room, a bar, an outdoor host stand, a valet and a DJ. There are many moving parts that the staff coordinates to give customers a smooth experience.

Cabrera has worked at the restaurant since 2007, after previously working for another Taverna Opa affiliated restaurant. Cabrera said it is a great place to work with happy

and friendly owners where the staff treats her like family. Her restaurant policy is "happy staff, happy restaurant," and customers say it shows.

"The service is wonderful. Carlos has been our server every time we eat at Taverna Opa. He treats us like family. He is the best server there is and we request him every time because he goes above and beyond," Gruboy said.

For more information:

Hollywood Address:
410 North Ocean Drive,
Hollywood, FL 33019

Phone number:
(954) 929-4010

Price range:
\$7 - \$60

Monday - Thursday:
Open at 12:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Friday
Open at 12:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
Open at 2 p.m.

The surprising connection between physical and mental health

By Daja Long

Joseph Matthews, second-year bioengineering major, likes to alleviate stress by playing basketball or piano.

“I know that my mental health and physical health are connected due to how much working out and doing other healthy things helps me feel better mentally about myself,” Matthews said.

The winter season brings colder temperatures, drier air and a new semester for college students, creating an environment and opportunity for respiratory illnesses to easily spread.

Alyssa Francois, freshman public-health major, doesn't always feel like herself during the winter term.

“I usually feel ill during the colder months which causes my bones to ache. I then become more easily stressed and this affects my grades,” Francois said.

Students like Francois or Matthews may become stressed if they notice their physical health declines.

Christi Navarro, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health, said physical health issues can impact a person's mental health, and vice versa.

“Having a negative mood is associated with higher levels of things like inflammation, and then overall feeling ill, which for some people could be respiratory symptoms or bloating or just some sort of immune response that your body gets,” Navarro said.

Aya Shigeto, associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, said mental health issues that individuals might experience daily, such as anxiety or depression, can be

associated with a stressful lifestyle.

“It is safer to say that depression is associated with events that have happened already,” Shigeto said. “This can be in the form of ruminative thinking. You think about the same thing repeatedly, but there is nothing you can do about it, because it already happened. Then, you ruminate over this negative aspect of it and when you do that, you obviously feel sad.”

Compared to depression, Shigeto explained how anxiety relates more to worrying about the future.

“Anxiety tends to come from things such as low self-esteem, or low self-efficacy,” Shigeto said. “You worry whether you can cope with the stress or not, which has not come yet. This is maybe because you do not believe in your ability to cope with it or maybe because it was not successful in the past, you tend to respond to stress that way.”

Certain lifestyle changes and habits can directly help boost immunity, but these same emotion-focused coping mechanisms can potentially alleviate stress and other mental issues.

Jennifer Maizel, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health, said prioritizing mental health can improve physical health.

“Things like meditation, going to psychotherapy [if needed], journaling and having a social support system are going to be helpful to you,” Maizel said. “Trying to find a social support system can be hard for some people. But try to reach out to other students on campus, try to reach out to any other resources here or at home that you can leverage to get some kind of support.”



2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 31

STATE OF RODEO



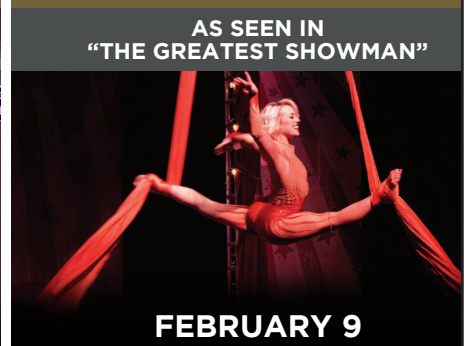
FEBRUARY 3

MAN IN THE MIRROR:
A MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE



FEBRUARY 7

CROSS THAT RIVER:
STORY OF A BLACK COWBOY



FEBRUARY 9

THE GREAT DUBOIS
MASTERS OF VARIETY



FEBRUARY 16

COMEDIAN
GUS CONSTANTELLIS



FEBRUARY 17

CELTIC ANGELS IRELAND

For more information:

NSU offers services and counseling through the Center For Student Counseling And Well-Being By Henderson Behavioral Health.

Contact:

Office: 954 - 424 - 6911

Fax: 954 - 424 - 6915

Hotline: 954 - 424 - 6911

(available 24 hours, 7 days a week)

Location:

3300 S. University Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL,

33328-2004

Student Affairs Building, 3rd Floor

Davie, FL 33314

For more information visit:

www.MiniaciPAC.com

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PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON
Spectators watch the performance of "Menopause The Musical 2" in the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON
The cast of "Menopause The Musical 2" performs in the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center bridges the professional world with NSU programs

By Bryce Johnson and Nirvana Rojas

Roughly five years ago, Shannon Hall became the general manager of the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

"I, of course, thought that was a great opportunity. I love the college campus atmosphere, and it suited my personality. I'm a people person, and I'm good with numbers, so it was a great fit," Hall said.

The Miniaci Center is a venue connected to the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. Affiliated with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the theater at NSU was funded by the Miniaci family, who often donated to the university and South Florida.

"It's important for me that it's more than just a theater. It's an expression of the caring of the Miniaci family," Brad Williams, senior

vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, said. "They are amazing people. They give to the community. They give to Nova Southeastern University. This university is such a better university because of them."

Dan Gelbmann, associate professor of technical theatre and design, has hosted several events there and recommends the space.

"We have done musical theater there. We've done music concerts, with various instruments. We've done dance concerts, and then they have actually employed me in the past to be a sound engineer and a lighting designer for them," Gelbmann said. "We, as a department, try to use that space at least a couple times a year if possible."

Williams oversees several events that take place in the Miniaci, including the Student Life Achievement Awards.

"For 25 years, I've watched

students, faculty, staff, administration and alumni go up on that stage and receive that award," Williams said.

Williams also organized Life 101, a series that brought celebrities and guests to the Miniaci Center to speak with students. Some of the people included James Earl Jones, Alyssa Milano, Gabrielle Union and Michael Phelps.

"This program got way too expensive, and we ran out of funding for it. But we used to bring some really cool people to campus, and we would do these programs in the Miniaci," Williams said.

The Miniaci Center hosts events outside of NSU, including plays, comedy shows and ballet performances.

One of Hall's favorite shows is "Mutts Gone Nuts!," which will be performed on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

"I don't know if it's the title or the show or what, but it's a lot of fun.

There's a comedian that tours with them. It's all ages. So I think that's a really cool thing," Hall said.

For student organizations looking to host events in the Miniaci Center, they can contact the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement.

"Check out the website, www.miniacipac.com. We're constantly updating it with shows and events," Hall said. "I'm just looking forward to the future and how we can build and partner between the university and the Broward Center."

For more information:
Visit the website.



Associate theatre professor supports students and the arts

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

Alex Manganello, senior music major, remembers meeting Dan Gelbmann, associate professor of technical theatre and design in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, as a senior in high school while attending Shark Preview.

"I was here by myself, traveling alone for the first time to come down here for the interview, and I was really nervous and he made it seem like there was nothing to be nervous about," Manganello said.

Today, Manganello is the president of Razor's Edge Shark Talent, a scholarship program for music, theater, dance and art, which he runs alongside Gelbmann.

Gelbmann has been running Razor's Edge Shark Talent for four years. As the president of Razor's Edge Shark Talent, Manganello feels Gelbmann has

added familiarity and unity to the program.

"I think he has added the familial aspect of wanting everyone to work together as a giant arts family," Manganello said. "I think this year has been the best because we are now working together to bridge all of the disciplines like art, music, dance together into one actual thing instead of everyone being off on their own island."

Before coming to work at NSU in 2007, Gelbmann studied at the University of Hawaii, earning his master's degree in theater design.

"It was awesome. I spent three years at the University of Hawaii at Manoa," Gelbmann said. "I was working at a company in Honolulu that was doing show installs for theaters. We were rigging, we built sets and did stuff all over the Hawaiian Islands."

Gelbmann's love for theater design came during his undergraduate studies while designing sets for

his college. He describes sets as the perfect canvas he gets to construct.

"To me, it is the perfect canvas because it is all canvases, so it is sculpture, painting, full construction and everything that you build is actually physical and tangible. So everything you get to build, you get to play with and you can sculpt it, paint it, construct it and do all of it," Gelbmann said.

As the associate professor of technical theatre and design, he wants his students to have hands-on experience and be able to take that experience outside NSU.

"I want them to learn hands-on practical experiences and get actual physical experience doing those designs even if they're theoretical that they can actually bring into any graduate program or into anywhere," Gelbmann said. "Technology can be different and so we're constantly trying to work on that, but I want my students to be able to walk into any of those situations



COURTESY OF DAN GELBMANN

Dan Gelbmann is an associate professor of technical theatre and design.

equipped to do the job."

Emily Bernard, junior chemistry major, took a tech theater course with Gelbmann.

"I can say that he tries to stick up for his students. If anything was going on with us or if we needed something, he would always try and support us in any way possible," Bernard said.

ReMARKable night for NSU arts

By Bryce Johnson

On Jan. 19, the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts hosted Improv Jam 14 and a reception to support the Mark Duncan Endowment for the Arts.

Shanti Bruce, chair of DCMA, looks forward to seeing how the endowment evolves.

"I appreciate how many faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the NSU community came together to support the Mark Lindsay Duncan Legacy Endowment for the Arts, which is designed to provide professional development opportunities for NSU students," Bruce said.

The reception had a silent auction featuring the talents of DCMA faculty, including a vocal lesson with Professor Bill Adams, original art by Associate Professor Kandy Lopez, pottery and drawing lessons and original art by Theatre Technical Director Pablo "Tony" Alvarez, piano lesson with Adjunct Professor

Jihong Park, original composition and music lesson by Assistant Professor Bill Withem, live drawing and hologram sculptures by Assistant Professor Kolos Schumy, and dance lessons by Adjunct Professor Alonzo Williams.

Many DCMA alumni attended. They also contributed items to the auction in support of the endowment, including original art, gift baskets and ghost tours.

The Mark Lindsay Duncan Legacy Endowment for the Arts was started in 2023 to honor the late NSU theatre professor who founded the undergraduate academic arts programs: art + design, dance, music and theatre.

Duncan's mother, Wanda Rivadeneira, who attended the event said, "It's very special. I think Mark would be so touched. He would never in a million years imagine that an endowment would be in his name," Rivadeneira said. "He worked really hard for this program, and it was his passion.

Because of that, it was my passion."

Carey Courson, DCMA administrative coordinator, was part of the team that organized the reception.

"This was a wonderful event to honor a wonderful man," Courson said. "The money from the auction tonight goes directly to the Mark Lindsay Duncan Endowment. That goes to the students directly."

With the money donated to the endowment, students in the arts programs will be given the chance to attend national conferences and meet other artists in the field.

Nelson Bass, assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, was also at the reception. Bass was happy to see the students and faculty Duncan impacted.

"I think it is an amazing way to remember a colleague who was so dedicated to his students. And I'm just thrilled to see such a great turnout to honor his legacy," Bass said.

After the reception, Stage 2

Productions held the 14th annual Improv Jam, where students improvised acting scenes based on suggestions from the audience.

The Improv Jam was hosted and directed by sisters Alex and Angelica Zadak, NSU alumni.

"Mark really cared about all his students," Angelica Zadak said. "We all felt like a family and it was definitely because of the faculty here and Mark Duncan."

For more information:

To donate to the endowment, scan this QR code.



Dan Gelbmann, associate professor, looks over the buffet at the reception.



Alex and Angelica Zadak introduce the next game of Improv Jam 14.



The cast of Improv Jam introduces themselves during the opening of the show.



Assistant Professor Kolos Schumy live draws a student at the reception.



Razors Edge Shark Talent students mingle by the auction table.



Angelica Zadak starts the next game of Improv Jam 14 where the audience interacts with Giavanna Gun, sophomore accounting major, and Ashley Goehmann, sophomore majoring in communication and theatre.

PHOTOS BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

MUSIC

Jordan Lindley on navigating creativity, nostalgia and the journey of music



COURTESY OF ALEX HERNÁNDEZ

Alex Hernández, junior international studies and national security major, interviews singer/songwriter Jordan Lindley over Zoom.

By Alex Hernández and Mike Lynn

Jordan Lindley, up-and-coming alternative/indie artist, has a musical journey that spans a diverse range of genres, from emo and pop punk to folk and indie rock. His voice, once dominated by energetic yells, has evolved throughout the years to his most recent album, "Maybe It'll All Work Out Part 1," released on Nov. 17, 2023.

"I grew up listening to a lot of emo and pop punk. That's all I used to do – yelling and stuff a lot," Lindley said.

His later experiences in high school and college introduced him to the world of folky indie rock, including artists like Manchester Orchestra and Joni Mitchell.

The cover art of his latest EP

"Maybe It'll All Work Out Part 1" features an image that looks like it was taken with an older film camera. Lindley expressed a fondness for the film aesthetics of older photos.

"I've always had a love for the film look of older, nostalgic-looking photos. Anytime I find something I really love, I like to lean into it," Lindley said.

He said that he spent more than a year working on the album, and his favorite song from it is "Dust."

"Those (songs) were written over the course of like a year and a half, maybe two years," he said.

Weston Clark, freshman computer science major and music director of Mako Radio, listened to Lindley's music as part of his job. Clark is given music from promotional companies and shares them

with Mako Radio DJs.

"Giving these newer artists a spot gives them a chance to be heard more," Clark said. "I believe doing interviews like this and [adding him to the North American College & Community Radio Charts] gives him the opportunity to be heard and spread around the country as much as he possibly can."

Lindley is already looking forward to his upcoming projects.

"I've got the next single, 'Ugly,' coming out in mid-February," he said. "Beyond that, there will be a couple more singles, and the album will follow at the start of the summer."

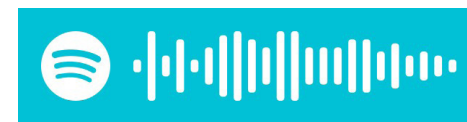
Lindley encouraged aspiring music creators to get their voices out there.

"If you have something to say and you keep saying it, and you don't

stop saying it, the right people will hear it," Lindley said. "I don't think that there will ever be an instance of, 'Oh, this was a mistake.'"

Listeners can hear Lindley's songs on most mainstream music streaming platforms.

Alex Hernández, Mako Radio station manager, interviewed Jordan Lindley on Jan. 10.

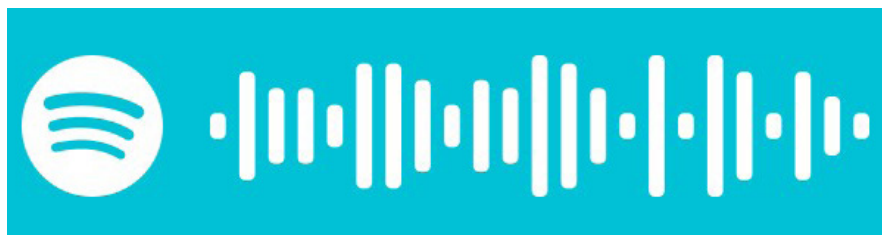


Listen to Jordan Lindley on Spotify here.

CURRENT PICKS

Want to know The Current staff's favorite songs to get hyped for the new year?

Check out Current Picks, our collaborative playlist!



Monday

12-1 PM
DJ RAY: 90S-2000S ROCK

6-8 PM
DJ MUSI: SAD
HIP-HOP/ LATIN URBAN

8-10 PM
DJ SHORTY: K-POP

Tuesday
12:30-1:30 PM
DJ SIRENA:
INTERNATIONAL

6-8 PM
DJ BLOSSOM: SOCA

8-10 PM
DJ LYRIC: POP

Wednesday
6-8 PM
DJ ANT: INDIE,
DJ MYSTICMELODY: INDIE

8-10 PM
DJ RAY: 90S-2000S ROCK

Thursday
12:30-1:30 PM
DJ ANT: INDIE

6-8 PM
DJ NEPTUNE: INDIE/POP,
DJ VENUS: JAZZ/SOUL

8-10 PM
DJ MR. E:
ALTERNATIVE ROCK/POP

Friday
12-1 PM OFF THE RECORD,
B-SIDE

6-8 PM DJ ONYX:
ALTERNATIVE

8-10 PM
DJ FAITH:
COUNTRY-FOLK/BLUES

MAKO RADIO
DJ SCHEDULE

FROM THE FRONT

2024 SEASON

NSU will compete in 53 matches this spring, with 21 of those matches being played at the AD Griffin Sports Complex.

The softball team will begin preparation for the NCAA South Regional Tournament in May.

Keep up with the softball team on Instagram and X at NSU_Softball.

Men's basketball

The Sharks have been off to a fast start now that they are halfway through the 2023-2024 season. Coming off a 2022-2023 NCAA Division II championship, the basketball team has only three months until it competes for yet another title. Some future opponents for this season include Florida Tech, Barry University and the University of Tampa. Currently, Shane Hunter leads the Sharks in scoring, averaging 16.5 points and 6.9 rebounds per game, along with 29 total blocks.

Keep up with the basketball team on Instagram and X at NSU_MBasketball.

Men and women's swimming

The swim teams waste no time diving back into the pool for 2024, as they competed in a tri-meet against West Chester University and Indian River State College on Jan. 12. Featured meets leading up to the Sunshine State Conference Championships, starting on Feb. 14, include Florida Southern College, Keiser University, and Rollins College. The Sharks will then compete for a NCAA National Championship title starting on March 12.

Keep up with both men and women's swim teams on Instagram and X at NSU_Swim.

Men's golf

Coming off of a 2022-2023 National Championship Title, the golf team continues its 2023-2024 season with upcoming tournaments against Matlock Collegiate, Saint Leo University, Georgia College, and Barry University leading up to the Sunshine State Conference on April 21. To keep its championship title aspiration alive, the Sharks must dominate up until the NCAA National Championship

Tournament on May 19.

Keep up with men's golf on Instagram and X at NSU_MGolf

Women's golf

The women's golf team continues its 2023-2024 season with its first tournament of the new year beginning Feb. 4. Some featured opponents include Florida Southern College, Lynn University, and the World Golf Invitational. The Sharks will compete in the Sunshine State Conference Championship Tournament starting on April 13, followed by the NCAA National Championship on May 21.

Keep up with women's golf on Instagram and X at NSU_WGolf.

Women's tennis

The tennis team enters the 2024 season with new faces and transfers, including junior Ita Habekovic and junior Sofia Shing. The Sharks wrapped up a successful fall 2023 schedule, showcasing strength in the Shark Bite Invite and ITA South Regionals. Upcoming matches include a scrimmage against Hillsborough Community College on Jan. 28, Palm Beach

Atlantic University, the University of Tampa, and Florida Southern College. The Sharks will prepare for the Sunshine State Conference Championship Tournaments starting on April 26, followed by the NCAA National Championship on May 20.

Keep up with women's tennis on Instagram and X at NSU_WTennis.

Baseball

The baseball team's opening weekend starts Friday, Feb. 2, and concludes on Sunday, Feb. 4.

NSU hosts the first game of the season against Tusculum and Catawba in a doubleheader starting at 4 p.m. The newest addition to the 2024 squad is Head Coach Adrian Morales. The Sharks ended its 2023 season with a Sunshine State Conference series victory over the Florida Tech Panthers, finishing with an overall record of 26 wins and 23 losses. The season's success was highlighted by four student-athletes earning postseason honors in the Sunshine State Conference.

Keep up with the baseball team on Instagram and X at NSU_Baseball.

NSU dance major shares her story as a Miami Heat Dancer



COURTESY OF MADISON CANTOR

Madison Cantor, junior dance major, performs at a Miami Heat home game.

By Angeline Gilliard

Madison Cantor, junior dance major and Shark Talent Scholar, secured a spot on the Miami Heat dance team in August 2022. Her journey reflects not just a series of auditions, but a commitment to her passion for dance.

Cantor first auditioned for the Miami Heat dance team in August 2021 but didn't make it.

"I was devastated. It was one of the first nos I received in my dance career. And after being sad and eating food for a week straight, I think I realized that everything happens for a reason," Cantor said. "And I was able to take that year to build my connections here at Nova, and also starting to find who I wanted to be as a dancer and build my brand to help figure out what I wanted to represent."

She faced various challenges in the audition rounds. The initial solo routine and group auditions covered jazz and hip-hop styles. The interview process was equally demanding.

"I went through boot camp, which was probably the hardest thing I've ever gone through in my life. Mentally, physically, emotionally," Cantor said.

The week-long training tested her both physically and mentally, pushing her to her limits.

"Boot camp is the most intense process you can ever go through in pro dance. It just requires a lot of mental and physical strength because we're putting our bodies through a bunch of choreo, workouts," Cantor said.

As a Shark Talent scholar, she not only immersed herself in her academic pursuits but also embraced

the opportunities for personal and professional development. The scholarship program allowed her to focus on her studies, connect with peers and professors, and grow as a dancer.

"I really focused on building my training here and my education, really getting to know my professors, knowing what my program was requiring of me, being involved in school, and building friendships and relationships that I knew I wanted, regardless of making it into the Heat or not," Cantor said.

Earning her spot on the Miami Heat dance team during her second audition in August 2022, Cantor was happy to showcase her dedication and passion for dance.

"I love dancing, I love performing, and I will never say no to any opportunity that gets it to me," Cantor said.

Her favorite styles, such as "jazzy hip-hop," contemporary and the dancing in heels, reveal her unique approach to dance.

"My favorite style right now is dancing in heels. I pop on heels, and I feel like a whole different person," Cantor said. "I've always been who I am."

She embraces her individuality, as she emphasizes the importance of being hardworking and kind while encouraging everyone to find their unique strengths.

"I think the dance community is tough in that regard just because they want a dancer to be able to have x, y and z dance skills and look and dance a certain way, and almost make it seem like you'll only succeed if you're a certain type of

dance. And I always knew that was never going to be me," Cantor said. "I loved how I moved and how I performed. And I was always going to succeed just being myself and nothing less or different."

Her advice to aspiring dancers is to pursue their dreams and remain undeterred by external obstacles.

"I think for any dancer that's wanting this to be a career, if you want it, then go and do it because no one's stopping you but yourself," Cantor said.

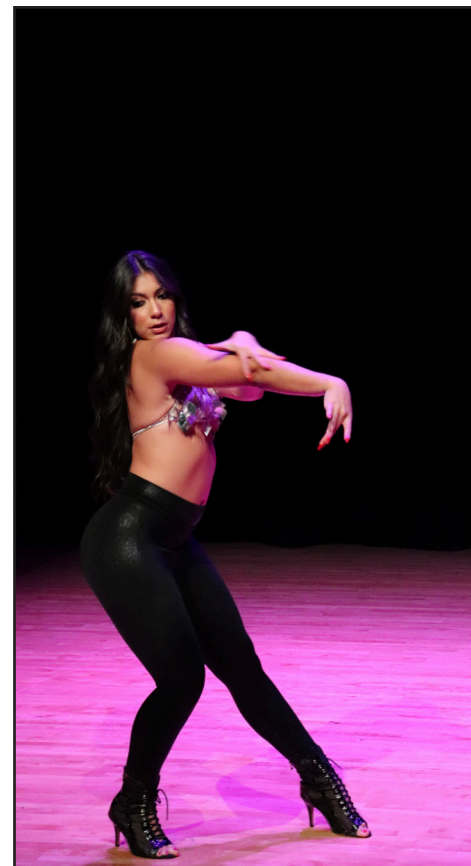


PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Madison Cantor performs her routine "Alien superstar" during the Razor's Edge Shark Talent Showcase.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Fifth-year guard Trey Doomes powers through a Spartan defender on his way to the basket.

Men's basketball continues to break records, despite win streak ending

By Bella Giaquinto,
Josh Leatherman and
Abraham Velasquez

On Nov. 5, 2022 the NSU men's basketball team began, what would eventually become a memorable season, with a 101-81 victory over the Chargers from Alabama-Huntsville. The victory over Alabama-Huntsville set into motion a remarkable winning streak lasting 431 days.

Since the start of the 2021-22 season, the Sharks won back-to-back Sunshine State Conferences and South Region championships, culminating in the sixth ever undefeated national championship winning season in 2022-2023, with an overall record of 36-0.

In defeating West Liberty, NSU broke the NCAA Division II record for points scored in a national championship game with a final

score of 111-101.

Jim Crutchfield, head coach, has led the program since 2017, bringing it to new heights with an overall record of 147-22.

Crutchfield attributes much success to his team, as he expresses great pride and appreciation of their performance. "These guys came out every single game, and played every game like it was a championship game," he said.

Crutchfield has been named SSC Coach of the Year three times since his arrival and in back-to-back seasons. In 2023, Crutchfield was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Coach of the Year and the Clarence Gaines Coach of the Year.

An important contribution to Crutchfield's success was RJ Sunahara, who was named Division II player of the year last season. Sunahara averaged 18.9 points, 5.4

rebounds, and 2.4 assists this past season. He later transferred to the University of Georgia to compete in Division I basketball.

"I chose Georgia because of the coaching staff and the opportunity to play the best of the best," Sunahara said.

After the 2022-2023 season ended, several athletes made the big jump to Division I programs. This expected migration of talent speaks volumes about the type of athletes Crutchfield cultivated during his tenure in the program.

Coach Crutchfield's unique basketball strategy and winning culture has led to multiple key players getting opportunities to transfer to the Division 1 level including: Sekou Sylla (Towson University), RJ Sunahara (University of Georgia), Jonathan Pierre (University of Memphis), Kobe Rodgers (College of Charleston), Dallas Graziani

(Samford University).

The Sharks continue to defend its home court at the Rick Case Arena. On the court affectionately dubbed "The Shark Tank," NSU has won 52 consecutive games with the remainder of the 2023-24 season ahead.

For more information:

For updated stats on NSU men's basketball, visit:



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Head coach Jim Crutchfield and his players watch the action unfold.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Fifth-year guard Trey Doomes leads the offense up the floor against Eckerd.

Former Sharks sign with the pros



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Former Shark's basketball player, Will Yoakum, rises over a defender in the 2023 Elite Eight game against University of Missouri-St. Louis.

By Bella Giaquinto and
Josh Leatherman

Aside from various record-breaking athletic achievements and exceptional program growth, the 2022-2023 season for NSU athletics brought two particular Sharks to the pros: Carlos Rey and Will Yoakum.

Carlos Rey, a 2021-2023 NSU baseball pitcher, was drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 17th round of the 2023 MLB June Amateur Draft, 505th overall selection. Will Yoakum, a 2022-2023 NSU basketball player, is now playing overseas for SC Rasta Vechta second Team in BARMER 2. Basketball Bundesliga ProA.

While Rey and Yoakum play two different sports, they share the same love for NSU and commitment to their future athletic success.

"What I love the most about NSU is the winning tradition and the family setting. The community is very tight and being a part of that is something I take a lot of pride in," Rey said.

Rey, a Hialeah native, started his baseball career at Miami Springs High School in 2016, where he accumulated 14 starts, 11-2 W-L, 67.0 innings pitched, 2.51 ERA, and 97 strikeouts. Rey brought his talent to NSU after graduating

high-school, where he became the eighth pitcher to record 100+ strikeouts for NSU, First-Team All-SSC Pitcher, and SSC Pitcher of the Week on March 6.

"A lot of people underestimate the SSC because it isn't Division 1, but the truth is, a lot of the teams that we play can compete at the highest level with those bigger D1 schools. The competition level within the SSC is incredibly high and feels similar to professional baseball," Rey said.

Throughout Rey's time at NSU, he learned many lessons and gained valuable experience which followed him into his professional career.

"The biggest lesson I learned was to embrace everything, both on and off the field. Memories and experiences are once in a lifetime," Rey said.

Similar to Rey, Yoakum made valuable connections and grew substantially throughout his time at NSU.

"Being at NSU allowed me to meet incredible people who made my experience fun and easygoing. Not just my teammates, but the coaches, faculty, and trainers," Yoakum said.

Yoakum, an Ohio-native, started his basketball career at Hayes High School in Delaware, starting 2013, achieving Delaware County Player of the Year as a senior averaging



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Former Shark's baseball pitcher, Carlos Rey, delivers to the plate against Palm Beach Atlantic.

19.4 points and 7.2 rebounds per game, along with two-time Ohio Division 1 All-District and All-Ohio Capital Conference.

After graduating from high school, Yoakum spent five years playing for West Liberty University, in West Virginia, where he became Division II Bulletin Freshman All-American, Mountain East Conference Freshman of the Year, First-Team All-MEC, and MEC Tournament MVP.

"I had a handful of Division II offers from around the area but chose West Liberty because I felt the up-tempo style of play fit my game the best. It was a great decision as I really enjoyed my time there," Yoakum said.

In 2022, Yoakum transferred to NSU as a graduate student, where he was a leading contributor to NSU's 2023 national championship season.

"I chose NSU because I knew I wouldn't have to adapt too much, other than the warm weather, and I knew what to expect basketball wise with Coach Crutchfield," Yoakum said.

Yoakum broke the NSU program scoring record totaling 727 points, finished sixth in Division II for points scored and led the country in three-point percentage. He also made Sunshine State Conference, South Region, and National

Tournament MVP honors, Second-Team D2CCA All-American Honors, and Second-Team All-SSC.

Today, Yoakum is learning the new culture of playing professional basketball overseas in Germany.

"Basketball in Europe is very different. It's very strategic with a lot of attention to detail. The teams here bring a lot of variety on the floor so we have to be able to react and adjust to different opponents every night," Yoakum said.

For more information:

Will Yoakum
basketball profile:



Carlos Rey
MLB profile:



SPORTS EVENTS

Jan. 27, Noon
Women's Swimming vs.
Rollins College

NSU Aquatic Center

Jan. 27, 2 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs.
Rollins College

Rick Case Arena

Jan. 27, 4 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs.
Rollins College

Rick Case Arena

Feb. 2, 4 p.m.
Baseball vs.
Tusculum University

NSU Baseball
Complex

Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
Baseball vs.
Catawba College

NSU Baseball
Complex

Feb. 3, 6 p.m.
Baseball vs.
Wingate University

NSU Baseball
Complex

EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

THURSDAY
25

Sunset Yoga
5 p.m. - Mako Courtyard

Colored Pencil Workshop + Lecture
4:30 p.m. 6 p.m. - UC Room 234

Mentorship Mixer
6 p.m. - HPD Building - Resnick Auditorium

Greek Week: Order of Omega Trivia Night
6 p.m. - Flight Deck Main Dining Area

FRIDAY
26

Chat N' Chew
Noon - Impact Zone

Billy Joel, Lady Gaga & Cher Dinner Tribute
10 p.m. - Tropical Acres Steakhouse

The International Beatles on the Beach
Noon - Delray Beach

Dumpling & Movie Night
5 p.m. - Mako Multipurpose Room

Spikeball Tournament
6 p.m. - Alvin Sherman Library Quad

SATURDAY
27

Indie Craft Bazaar: Art & Handmade Festival
Noon - Revolution Live

Zac Brown Band
12:30 p.m. - Au-Rene Theater at Broward Center For The Performing Arts

SUNDAY
28

Kansas: Another Fork In The Road
7:30 p.m. - Au-Rene Theater at Broward Center For The Performing Arts

Garden Photography
Noon - NSU Healing and Medicinal Garden

NSU Chess Club Open Games
7 p.m. - UC Razor's Reef Pit and Online

MONDAY
29

Carnival of Sound
Noon - HPD Clocktower Patio

Glow in the Dark Painting
5:30 p.m. - Commons, Room 123

TUESDAY
30

Ball of the Hall: Kan Jam
6 p.m. - Commons Residence Hall

WEDNESDAY
31

MSO Bracelet-Making social
Noon - Carl DeSantis Building

State of the Rodeo - Original Documentary Screening
7 p.m. - The Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY
2

Cultural Food Festival
4 p.m. - Don Taft University Center Spine

Fin Films Movie Night
6 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, room 1133

WEDNESDAY
7

50th Anniversary of Hip Hop
Panel Discussion
5:30 p.m. - Performance Theatre

Hip Hop Dance Class
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Performance Theatre

FRIDAY
10

Community Fest
Noon - 4 p.m. - Gold Circle Lake



GAMES

WORD SEARCH

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

APPLICATIONS
CHICK-FIL-A
ELECTION
VACCINE
DINING

EMPLOYMENT
PARKING
MINIACI
GREEK
IMPROV

BASKETBALL
WEATHER
STUDENT
MATH
DAN

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, Feb. 7. 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: Suppose that the NSU Florida Men’s Baseball team had a promotion whereby students who attend a home baseball game get a sealed trading card of one of 10 different players on the team. Each game attended yields one sealed trading card pack (containing one card) that would have to be opened to reveal its contents. Suppose student Razor Q. Shark attends home baseball games and collects these card packs but does not open any of them (thus not knowing whether he has unique cards or repeats among his collection.) On average, how many baseball games would he need to attend (and therefore how many card packs would he need to collect) to get one complete set of 10 unique cards (Hint: this is a variation of the classic “Coupon Collector Problem.”)

