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## The Current - Volume 34 Issue 8

Nova Southeastern University

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**FEATURES** | p. 6  
Dips4You open for business at NSU



**ARTS** | p. 9  
Art professor featured in five exhibits



**SPORTS** | p. 13  
Josh Leatherman: the voice of NSU Athletics



THURSDAY  
Feb. 8, 2024

# THE CURRENT

VOLUME 34  
ISSUE 8

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

## CommunityFest NSU's feel-good festival

By Bryce Johnson

The Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement will host the 20th annual CommunityFest on Saturday. The festival will be held at the Gold Circle Lake from noon to 4 p.m.

Kyron Defreitas, vice president of Communications for the Inter-Organizational Council, is proud that CommunityFest has been running for 20 years.

"It makes me happy to know that this was the 20th event, bringing the community together, allowing the community to come together, even

for one event," Defreitas said.

Ritchy Laguerre, graduate assistant for Student Engagement, gave an interview with Mako TV, NSU's student-run news station, about the event.

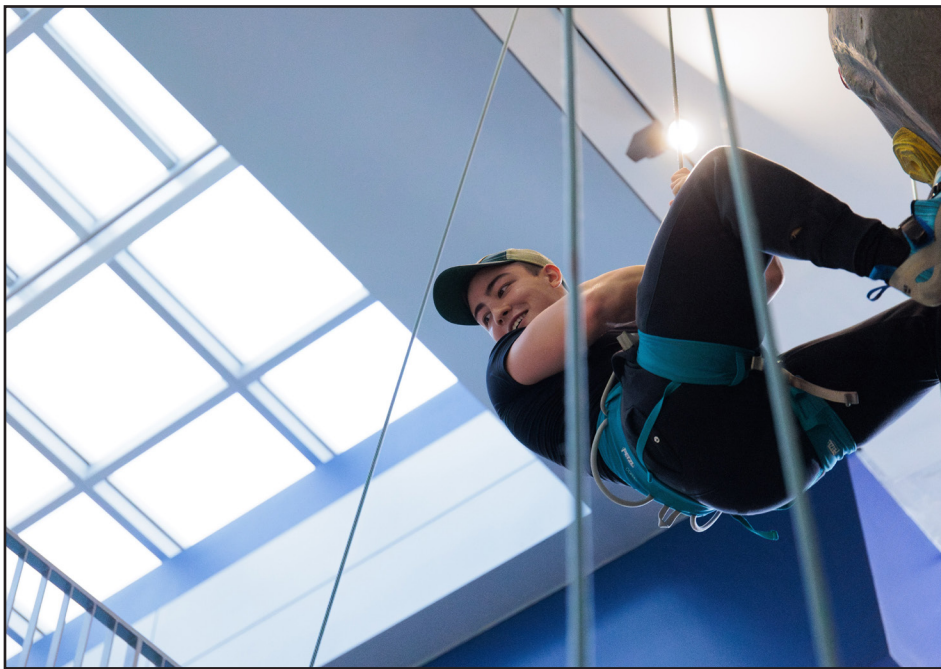
"You can expect attractions, you can expect music, you can expect lots and lots of food. You can expect a lot of people bringing in their families," Laguerre said. "Not only is this event for NSU students and the NSU community, it is open to the town of Davie."

See **COMMUNITYFEST**, page 4



COURTESY OF CAMPUS LIFE AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT  
Attendees visit a large inflatable shark at last year's CommunityFest.

## Iron Sharks take fitness to new heights



COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON

President of Iron Sharks Thomas Steckman, sophomore business major, smiles down at club members while rock climbing at the RecPlex.

By Brielle Aguayo

Samantha Cicardo, junior nutrition major and philanthropy chair of Iron Sharks, joined NSU's weightlifting club to help people feel welcome at the gym.

"As a female that does lift, I know how intimidating that environment can be, especially as a female where you're told that your body is supposed to look this way, and you can't do certain kinds of strength training because it's going to make you look like a man," Cicardo said. "The gym is an intimidating place, and I don't think a lot of people know that our club is for everyone. If you're new [to the gym], the club is made to help people and make it a safe space for everyone."

The club has 267 members.

Iron Sharks, founded last year, focuses on physical fitness and connecting students who have a passion for going to the gym.

Thomas Steckman, sophomore business marketing major and president of Iron Sharks, wants to have more events and engagement on campus. Currently, the club does activities like 5K runs, rock wall competitions and bench competitions.

"We like to do anything with physical fitness, so it's not really just a gym club," he said. "We also want to have community events for our members, like dinners, and anything based around health and fitness."

See **IRON SHARKS**, page 8

## TechCon 2024: TD Bank grows partnership with NSU

By Nicole Shaker

TD Bank hosted its annual technology conference TechCon for the first time in South Florida at the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation on Jan. 30. This is the only TD TechCon that has invited college students.

Ninety one NSU students attended, taking advantage of the

unique opportunity. Attendees listened to tech-centered talks by TD executives, participated in workshops and discussed technology trends and innovations.

"TechCon is a good opportunity for jobs and different coding experiences that could build up on my resume," said Joshua Listrom, sophomore information technology major.

TD hosts the conference to encourage learning and career exploration. It featured many stands from TD vendors, including GitHub, Slack, IBM and Dell.

Faris Allaf, sophomore computer science major, said he gained career insight.

"I learned more about what's going on with the bigger companies and how internships are going

to look from a more realistic standpoint," he said.

This event is usually only meant for TD employees.

Kate Gittleman, NSU director of STEM initiatives and outreach, said the bank did all the planning. It was her job to get the students there.

See **TECHCON**, page 4



# 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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at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. The Current reserves the right to edit.

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

# Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new issue of The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. I'm Bryce, The Current's editor-in-chief, and I'm happy to share with you our latest stories.

There are exciting events coming up, like CommunityFest on Feb. 10 from noon to 4 p.m. The event is a longstanding tradition featuring games, food, paddle boats, a bungee trampoline and mini golf. Be sure to stop by the Gold Circle Lake if you get a chance.

Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day! Whether you're spending it with family, friends or taking time for yourself, I hope that you feel loved and appreciated.

If you're curious how students feel about dating apps, you can read "To swipe or not to swipe: Students' dating app stories," an article where students share their experiences with sites like Bumble and Tinder.

This issue has stories with a range of topics, like the Senior Art Exhibition on Feb. 15, a student with four medals from the World Pole & Aerial Championships in Poland and the misuse of Ozempic



Bryce Johnson,  
editor-in-chief of The Current

for weight loss.

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 the UC in room 328.

We at The Current appreciate you taking the time to interact with the paper, whether it's reading the stories, giving us interviews or playing the games on the back page. On behalf of our dedicated staff, thank you for your support.

**Happy reading,**  
Bryce Johnson

## 2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 17

CELTIC ANGELS IRELAND



FEBRUARY 24

THE SECOND CITY:  
COMEDIAN RHAPSODY



MARCH 1

MOTOWN MEETS  
THE SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES



MARCH 15

THE MAGIC OF BILL BLAGG LIVE!



MARCH 16

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DENVER



MARCH 29

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# My study abroad adventure made Greece forever a part of me



COURTESY OF KATIE SEDA

Francesca Abarca, senior communication major, and her friends take in the sights of the Palamidi Fortress in Athens, Greece.



By Francesca Abarca

When I applied to study abroad, I never knew how attached I would become to a place that I had never been before, a place that I would soon consider home. As I packed my bags at the end of last semester, I realized that it was harder to leave

Greece than it was to leave Florida to get there.

Before leaving, my friends told me, “Go live your 'Mamma Mia' life for me” and “I plan on living vicariously through you.” This made me excited, but nervous. I was the one that everyone was going to be watching; that meant that I had to have a good time. Thankfully, I achieved this goal and then some.

I do not remember the day that I arrived in a small part of Athens called Agia Paraskevi. I was fighting jet lag after my 11-hour flight and my program, ISA by WorldStrides, had so many events planned for us that made us stay up that first day.

Throughout the semester, my program held many events that allowed us to immerse ourselves into Greek culture, including a Greek dancing class.

In the dance class, taught at the Dora Stratou Greek Theatre, we learned a dance, originating from

Cyprus, that was described as musical chairs with a broom. This dance is normally meant for children, but I can safely say it's fun for adults too.

We also had the opportunity to participate in a cooking class, taught by a well-known cooking company called CookinAthens located in downtown Athens. We learned how to make traditional Greek food, including fresh tzatziki, baklava and pastitsio, which is the Greek version of lasagna.

One of my best experiences was becoming friends with a local Greek person. Her name is Greg, and she worked at the gelateria that I visited almost daily. We started speaking about classes and how different it was to be in Greece versus in America. We ended up becoming best friends, traveling all over Athens together doing things that only the locals would do.

My ultimate Greek moment was

when I watched "Mamma Mia" at a rooftop oceanfront restaurant where some of the movie had been filmed.

I believe that I adapted to the Greek culture enough that Greece will forever be a part of who I am. I formed impactful relationships with people I will call friends for the rest of my life. I learned to appreciate the little things and to spend money on experiences, and not as much on material things.

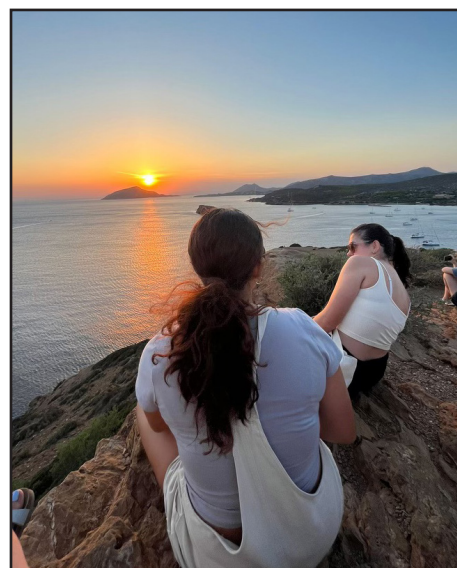
Now that my experience is over, I recommend studying abroad to anyone who has the ability to do so. The world is waiting for you to explore it.

*Francesca Abarca, senior communication major with a concentration in journalism and a double minor in theatre and strategic communication, is a features reporter for The Current.*



COURTESY OF SABRINA LEITE

Francesca Abarca, senior communication major, overlooks the mountain of Acropolis at Athens.



COURTESY OF SABRINA LEITE

Francesca Abarca, senior communication major, watches the sunrise in Greece.

### For more information:

Students interested in studying abroad can make an appointment with a Sharks Abroad Peer Advisor at:





## FROM THE FRONT

## TECHCON

"It's their event," she said. "And they just said, 'Hey, we're having this amazing event. We want to continue to build our partnership with NSU, their students and the Levan Center. We're only going to open it to you.'"

TD's relationship with the Levan Center, located on the fifth floor of the Alvin Sherman Library, began in 2022 when the company established an office and hub there. The Levan Center, a partnership between NSU and Broward County, is a 54,000-square-foot innovation center with the primary goal of assisting startups with their growth.

Jaap Donath, assistant executive director of programs at the Levan Center, said the tech hub is a "one-stop shop for entrepreneurs" and focuses on innovation.

"The idea is that entrepreneurs

try to solve a major problem, use the technology, and then build a company from it," he said.

Startups and big companies alike have begun forming relationships with the Levan Center in search of innovative solutions and fresh talent. TD established itself there partly to explore vendors in South Florida, an area where banking hubs are not as common, according to John Lopez, TD senior manager for information security.

At the event, TD employees were happy to connect with students.

Justin Hayes, TD senior information security analyst, said, "We met a lot of students who expressed a lot of interest in what we do, which is heartening."

One of the TD vendors present was Protiviti, a global consulting firm that works with a large chunk of the Fortune 500, which are the

500 largest companies, according to Fortune magazine.

Mary Cosgrove, associate director within tech risk and resilience at Protiviti, was glad to introduce students to different career areas.

"Being at TechCon has been a great opportunity to meet some of our TD Bank partners and also to connect with students and let them know a little bit more about consulting and a little bit more about how their education can really set them up for success at a consulting firm," Cosgrove said.

Lopez enjoyed seeing TD and its vendors getting involved with NSU.

"It's good to see that a lot of these Fortune 500 companies are immersing themselves on the campuses," Lopez said. "It's nice for the students here to get that opportunity."

Christiaan Veerman, AVP of

engineering and head of developer experience at TD, said TD is looking to deepen its relationship with NSU. He said he will be communicating with NSU\_eHACKERS and ACM, student organizations focused on cybersecurity and coding.

Gittleman is also hoping to continue collaborating with TD, tapping into areas that go beyond just recruitment. She said she'll be meeting with TD representatives within the next couple of weeks to begin planning more opportunities for NSU students.

"One of the things we try to provide is hands-on experience, whether it's a hackathon, simulation or capstone project idea," she said. "But we can get really creative sometimes and figure out ways to provide experiences."

## FROM THE FRONT

## COMMUNITYFEST

Michelle Manley, NSU alumna and former assistant dean of Student Development, started CommunityFest in 2003 to celebrate each member of the NSU family, including students, faculty and staff.

"She came, she executed the event," Laguerre said. "It's crazy to think that in 20 years, this event is still going on."

The event will include free activities like mini golf, Jenga, a petting

zoo, a rock wall and a balloon artist. There will also be tables where people can learn more about NSU departments, student clubs and organizations.

Defreitas said vendors like Little Caesars, Pizza Hut and The Magic Cow will be at CommunityFest.

"CommunityFest will be a hodgepodge of different parts of the community coming together. A lot of organizations will be there," Defreitas said.



COURTESY OF CAMPUS LIFE AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Attendees enjoy food and the atmosphere at 2023 CommunityFest.

Defreitas expects around 5,000 people to attend this free event.

## The rise of artificial intelligence at NSU

By Bryce Johnson and Kayla McGee

Roxana Seoane, junior computer science major, saw artificial intelligence when she met Pepper, an AI robot, in the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation.

"It interacts with you. And then you press on it, and it literally just is a robot. And it was exciting honestly," Seoane said.

AI can range from robots and computers, to generative AI like deepfakes, chatbots or art generators.

Sumitra Mukherjee, professor in the College of Computing and Engineering, has seen AI grow significantly throughout recent years. He said people have already used AI for machine learning with the creation of the internet and self-driving cars.

"As far as I'm concerned, I see no difference between Google search and using a language model like ChatGPT or Bard [Google's generative AI chatbot]," Mukherjee said. "And that's one part I thought I wouldn't see in my lifetime. I thought it'd take another 40, 50 years to reach the state."

Mukherjee has worked with AI and machine learning since attending graduate school at Carnegie Mellon in 1988.

"My professor, the person I wanted to work with, he was developing a

chess-playing machine. And that's kind of considered art. How can you teach a machine to play chess, so that it can beat grandma? That's an example of an application of AI," Mukherjee said.

ChatGPT is also used for Julie, NSU's virtual assistant available through SharkLink, for general questions. Students can ask Julie NSU specific questions about financial aid, registration, scholarships, GPA and more. With broader questions, Julie uses a more secure version of ChatGPT, Azure OpenAI, to generate a response.

James Drew, director of Innovation and Information Architecture, said Julie has roughly 14,000 conversations a month. She was designed to be outgoing, empathetic and formal, and she can track facial and voice patterns when the camera and microphone are on.

"When we did the 2.0 update for her, the look and feel, we actually went out onto campus and we talked to over a hundred different students about what they'd like to see," Drew said. "We need people to use her and let us know how she could be better."

John Wensveen, NSU chief innovation officer and executive director of the Levan Center, thinks it's important to understand and grow with AI as it continues to be used to assist others.

"Artificial intelligence is really the collection of data that gets smarter as it's trained to do so," Wensveen said. "We decided that to become fully educated and aware of what AI really is, and what it will be in the future, we wanted to reach out to certain companies around the world so they can also educate us."

The Levan Center is partnering with Dell Technologies to create the AI Digital Cities Lab.

"Dell is one of the world's leaders in the creation of Emergent Technologies around artificial intelligence and Digital City Lab," Wensveen said. "That means our lab is going to be a one-of-a-kind in this region of the country where you can walk into a highly secure environment, and you can master design an entire city from the ground up using artificial intelligence applications."

With AI being in many different fields, Seoane has seen an increased interest in her field of study.

"I definitely do think AI is really interesting to people, and they want to know more. And it's definitely engaging them to [become] tech students. Before, a lot of people weren't computer science majors. And now it's a more common thing," Seoane said. "Obviously, there's pros and cons to too much technology. But for the most part, I'd say it's really helpful."

Mukherjee recommends students

take advantage and fully utilize AI but is also concerned about what it could mean for the future.

"If there's any task that ChatGPT can do better than me, no one's going to pay me to do that job. They're going to get ChatGPT to do it at a much lower cost," Mukherjee said.

Seoane agrees that utilizing AI is beneficial to students. But it can also take away skills they need going forward, setting them up for difficulties. Seoane is concerned that AI is not based on human interaction.

"People will get too comfortable with it that they won't know how to do anything themselves. I think sometimes people take that for granted too much. They lose their whole life around it," Seoane said.

The Levan Center of Innovation's Volumetric Capture Studio was featured by national correspondent, Sam Brock, on The Today Show on Feb. 2. Scan here to watch the segment.





# To swipe or not to swipe: Students' dating app stories

By Danna Bertel and Luqman Gbenro

Valentine's Day is around the corner and it seems Cupid has swapped out his arrows for swipes. Many singles today turn to dating apps like Tinder, Hinge and Bumble for the sake of convenience.

Jennifer Griggs, junior communication major, met her current boyfriend on Tinder. The two matched not expecting things to last long. However, they were both happily surprised to be proven wrong.

"I can kind of just say it was luck in a way. I didn't go on Tinder expecting to get into a relationship. To be honest, I didn't really even want a relationship. But when you're not looking for it, it happens," Griggs said.

Still, people wonder if computer love is worth the bugs that come with it.

At first, Griggs didn't think of dating apps as a good way to find a relationship. Griggs logged on out of boredom and interacted with all kinds of people just to see what was out there.

"My friends had been on [Tinder] as a joke in a sense, so I didn't think of it as a good way to meet people," Griggs said. "You get to talking and then sometimes people are there as a joke or just to hook up and they don't really want a

relationship, but then you get guys who are really genuine."

Other students like Jake Stefanski, freshman business major, have had a different experience with dating apps.

"One time I hit up a girl and she matched with me, and she said she liked how much money I had and not about my personality or anything," he said. "Don't go on dating apps unless you're like 6'5. It's just a lot of hurt feelings besides that."

Deciding to give dating apps a chance, Viandra Robinson, sophomore psychology major, went on Bumble not having dated anyone before. Robinson went on a date with someone she met through the app.

"It was fun, went to the movies two times. I met his parents while I was dropping him home and they invited me to come inside and I stayed until 10 p.m. and we never spoke again," Robinson said.

Dating is not always the end goal, as other students use dating apps to build connections with other people.

Kamil Rodriguez, sophomore business major, has had good experiences with dating apps.

"I've never had a bad experience. I think if used responsibly, if you are an outgoing person, you can definitely meet some cool people, friends and maybe even business connections," Rodriguez said.

## 2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

 <p><b>JANUARY 31</b> STATE OF RODEO</p>	 <p><b>FEBRUARY 3</b> MAN IN THE MIRROR: A MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE AS SEEN IN "THE GREATEST SHOWMAN"</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 7</b> CROSS THAT RIVER: STORY OF A BLACK COWBOY</p>	 <p><b>FEBRUARY 9</b> THE GREAT DUBOIS MASTERS OF VARIETY</p>
 <p><b>FEBRUARY 16</b> COMEDIAN GUS CONSTANTELLIS</p>	 <p><b>FEBRUARY 17</b> CELTIC ANGELS IRELAND</p>

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## Sharks Speak: What are your thoughts on dating apps?



"After my last breakup, I was unsure about dating apps, and I had a negative view on them, but I gave it another try. I used Hinge, and I found a really good partner. So, I would say that if you go in with the right intentions and right filters, you can find someone," said Aliesha Boodram, senior public health major.



"Personally, I don't use them. I like to meet people in person and try to have a relationship with them, but it seems to work with other people. I tried two years ago, but I didn't like it that much. I don't know if I'm willing to give it another try," said Kyle Hannan, sophomore psychology major.



"I don't use them a lot, because ones like Tinder are mainly for hookups, and the chances of getting anything long-term is zero to none, but that depends on the app you use," said Tyona Jackson, freshman psychology major.



"Well, I met my long-term boyfriend on Bumble. I think they're pretty good, but I wouldn't recommend to everyone. But when it works, it works," said Lewis Reid, senior biology major.

BY ALEXANDRA ACEVEDO AND ELLEN ELY

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA ACEVEDO



# Film series highlights diverse Hispanic and Latinx voices



PHOTO BY RONALD MARTINEZ  
Attendees of the Spanish Film Series watch "Everybody Leaves" on Feb. 1.

By Ronald Martinez and Anaum Hussain

The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center will screen the film "Parallel Mothers" in room 4009, from 2 - 4 p.m. on Feb. 11 as part of its Spanish Film Series, an event created to share less mainstream

Spanish movies with NSU students and the surrounding community.

Yvette Fuentes, associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, is happy that the festival showcases more obscure films.

"We're trying to get students access to something they probably

will not be familiar with. We have a Spanish program, and a lot of students have a minor in Spanish," Fuentes said. "We want these students to be able to watch films about Latinos and Spanish language, but we also want to connect with the local community."

The film series began Jan. 16 and consists of five films. The films showcase Spanish-speaking cultures through different lenses. Movies screened include the musical "In The Heights," which explores experiences in a New York City Latino neighborhood, and "The Future Perfect," an independent film about a Chinese woman attempting to acclimate to Argentina.

The idea for this film series was born before the pandemic, but this is the first year the event became reality.

"It's being co-sponsored. Alvin Sherman Library is the main co-sponsor, but a lot of the student clubs like Fin Films, Spanish Club, Alpha Mu Gamma and Foreign Language Honor Society, are paying for the snacks," Fuentes said.

The event is also sponsored by the Halmos College of Arts and

Sciences, Pragma, SPAIN arts & culture, Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte), V/Centenario la Vuelta al Mundo, the Secretary of State for culture of Spain, and Broward County.

The films are followed by discussions.

Ying Ma, assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, led the discussion for "The Future Perfect."

"It's good to create this kind of community outside of the classroom because in the classroom, you only talk to people from the same class," Ma said. "But for this, you will talk to people from other majors and you will definitely see different perspectives."

Carlos Lombardero, senior biology major at NSU, enjoyed the movies presented so far as well as the discussions.

"The discussion afterwards was entertaining, and I learned some stuff from it," he said. "I also learned about who to contact to get more movies like this, and I actually found that interesting."

## FOOD

# Dips4You open for business at NSU

By Jennifer Griggs

Sean Mungin, junior finance major, has enjoyed making hummus since he was a kid.

"My mom had taught me to cook, and I had always been around home-cooked meals growing up," Mungin said. "One of the first things I ever learned was hummus, and I would take it to my baseball games."

Making hummus gave him the idea to found Dips4You, a student-run business at NSU that sells chips and dips. Mungin runs the business with his partner, Aden Bentov, junior finance major.

Dips4You is a part of the Huizenga Business Innovation Academy 3+1 program, where students earn both their bachelor's degree and master's degree in four years. Students in the program pitch and develop their own business in their third year.

Dips4You offers a variety of dip options that can be eaten as appetizers, entrées or desserts. Mungin and Bentov work together to create the menu.

The menu includes hummus, buffalo chicken dip, garlic parmesan chicken dip, Oreo cheesecake dip and strawberry cheesecake dip. Dips4You sells trays of dips, full-size dips or small 4-ounce sample dips.

Ethan Courtney, sophomore sports management and marketing major, said his favorite item



PHOTO BY JENNIFER GRIGGS  
Sean Mungin, junior finance major, talks to customers at his business Dips4You.

is the buffalo chicken dip with cucumbers.

"It kind of gave a different element that the chips weren't able to give. I think it was very different, unique and ambitious for them to do so," Courtney said.

Dips4You first caught Courtney's attention on social media.

"I know they have a pretty big following on Instagram, and I really love the fact that their presentation on Instagram makes it appealing

and makes me want to check out the place," Courtney said.

Valeria Toro, sophomore communication major, first saw Dips4You in front of Mako Hall. Even though she is not a big fan of dips and hummus, she said that Dips4You still provides great customer service and fosters community.

"They seemed very chill, very nice, and were promoting it very well," Toro said. "The one I did want to try they ran out of, but I did try

another one and it was really good. For me, not being a fan of hummus, it was wow."

For Mungin though, Dips4You is about more than just the food. He has many positive memories of his time at the business.

"My favorite memory is seeing people be open and getting to hear cool stories and talking about people's day. The whole experience has been something memorable," Mungin said.

Students can find Dips4You, as well as Mungin's dog Cheech, in front of the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I've been enjoying the whole process and I'm glad people are enjoying it," he said.

Mungin said that he would like to hear more feedback, connect with more people, and build a community around Dips4You.

"When I'm thinking about ideas, I'm thinking about what would be best for the Nova community," Mungin said.

### For more information:

Contact @dips.4you  
on Instagram

Email: Sean Mungin,  
sm4004@mynsu.nova.edu



# Attention all graduating seniors!



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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

**NSU**  
Florida



FROM THE FRONT

# IRON SHARKS



COURTESY OF JAROD JOHNSON

NSU Iron Sharks hosts a rock wall competition on Jan. 22, in the RecPlex.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

President of Iron Sharks Thomas Steckman, sophomore business major, hands an energy drink to a fellow competitor during a bench press competition.

Iron Sharks strives for friendliness and inclusiveness at the gym.

"I wanted a club where it could foster more of a community with NSU students that maybe only know how to talk about the gym or only really go to the gym and don't know where else to fit in," Steckman said.

Iron Sharks is currently planning a dodgeball tournament, in which there will be eight teams, and more bench press competitions.

The club will also have a table at Community Fest on Feb. 10, where it will host a push-up contest, and give out Rice Krispie Treats.

Douglas Witzack, freshman pre-nursing major and Iron Sharks

IOC chair, finds the club to be a place where he can help others.

"I wish that the NSU community would know that we're more than just a gym club, that we are welcoming people with hearts, that we accept all walks of life and all people," Witzack said.

### For more information:

On Iron Sharks' upcoming events and how to join:

Visit its  
Instagram  
[@ironsharks.official](https://www.instagram.com/ironsharks.official)

## Teens use diabetes drug for weight loss

By Adam Sadik

Doctors have begun prescribing Ozempic, a drug for Type 2 diabetics, off label to adolescents for weight loss.

"Off-label" refers to the use of a medication for a purpose that lacks approval from regulatory agencies, like the Food and Drug Administration.

The off-label use of Ozempic to treat weight loss has seen a surge since last year, when the American Academy of Pediatrics published a guide on managing pediatric obesity. The AAP recommends aggressive treatment of the condition, including the use of weight-loss medications such as semaglutide, which is the active ingredient in Ozempic.

Robert Speth, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is concerned about potential consequences for teens using the drug with off-label prescriptions.

"While the off-label prescribing of Ozempic in adolescents may seem tempting for weight loss, it poses

potential dangers as the potential risks and long-term effects on this age group remain uncertain," Speth said.

Semaglutide is also the active ingredient in Wegovy, a drug meant for chronic weight management.

Novo Nordisk, a massive Danish pharmaceutical company, faced challenges with Wegovy shortages, which subsequently led to Ozempic shortages due to patients substituting Wegovy with the diabetes drug, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Haley Florez, sophomore biology major, is frustrated with the ongoing off-label use of Ozempic. Her grandmother has Type 2 diabetes.

"My grandma had issues with trying to find Ozempic. We had to travel a little farther to find a pharmacy that had it supplied," Florez said. "I did not even know that Ozempic was in shortage for that reason."

Samantha Martinez, fourth-year student at the Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy, is a pharmacy technician at the NSU

Clinic Pharmacy. Martinez said using Ozempic for reasons other than diabetes is risky.

"[Ozempic] works by satiating appetite and allowing patients to break down glucose," Martinez said. "The box itself warns against use due to an increased risk of pancreatitis and slowdown in metabolism. Patients that already have a slow metabolism will then not be able to digest properly. Additionally, anyone with a familial history of [medullary] thyroid cancer can have that cancer reappear."

Side effects of Ozempic if taken by people without Type 2 diabetes can include hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels), shakiness, sweating and loss of consciousness, according to WebMD.

Speth is also concerned about the supply of Ozempic for Type 2 diabetics.

"Since it is in short supply, the people who need it are not able to get it," Speth said. "I am big on social justice issues and very concerned that the people who need it most are the ones that [Ozempic] is

least accessible to."

Martinez can testify to the impact of the Ozempic shortage.

"The pharmacy completely ran out of Ozempic around nine months ago, but now it comes and goes, especially the extra strength ones," she said.

Alternative weight loss medications, such as diuretics, diet pills and laxatives, are also garnering attention with adolescent teens, especially in popular media. Healthline published "The Risks and Effectiveness of 5 Popular 'Budget Ozempic' Alternatives for Weight Loss" on Jan. 17.

These medications do not require a prescription.

Speth calls for regulation of these alternative weight loss products for minors, similar to the U.K. banning the sale of stimulant laxatives to minors in retail settings in 2020.

"These drugs are available to anyone," he said. "Tighter regulation of these should be put in place to protect our youth."





PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

Noelia Olivero, sophomore theatre major who plays Kayleen in the play (left), and Brooke Bowser, junior theatre major who plays Doug in the play (right), rehearse a hospital scene.

This cast will perform on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

Jyllian Brown, junior music major who plays Doug in the play (left), and Ashley Goehmann, sophomore communication and theatre major who plays Kayleen in the play (right), rehearse a hospital scene.

This cast will perform on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.

# Play tackling mental health issues to open at the Black Box Theatre

By Danna Bertel

Noelia Olivero, sophomore theatre major, plays Kayleen in the upcoming "Gruesome Playground Injuries" production.

"I find it really interesting to have to get into the mindset of an older person and how they would react in a certain situation, especially a vulnerable one," Olivero said. "The content is really personal to me, and I just related a lot to Kayleen specifically, so I really wanted the opportunity to play her."

The show "Gruesome Playground Injuries," presented by the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, is coming to the Black Box Theatre in the Don Taft University Center from Feb. 16 - 18.

Alex Alvarez, assistant professor in DCMA and director of the play,

chose "Gruesome Playground Injuries" hoping it would excite both the students and the department.

"It's bold but it's also sweet, tender and funny. It can be outrageous. It may even be uncomfortable for some," Alvarez said.

He said the play focuses on the relationship between two people throughout different stages of their lives. It depicts some mental health issues.

"It's about the relationship between two people, who met when they were 8 years old. And it chronicles pieces of their relationship until they're about 38," Alvarez said. "We see how they tried to connect with each other, and how they tried to help each other through certain challenges in their lives both effectively and ineffectively."

Brooke Bowser, junior theatre

major who plays Doug in "Gruesome Playground Injuries," said the play touches on topics like depression, sexual assault and self harm.

"It's very rewarding to be able to tell such a story that is just so complex and so beautiful at the same time because the whole show touches on a lot of subjects that I feel are very important," Bowser said. "I think a lot of people, especially our age, I feel like it would really speak to them and I think it would be really good for them to come out and watch it."

The play will have four showings with two alternating casts, each cast consisting of two students.

"It's going to be interesting for people to see the same story with two different actors. Each set of actors brings a new perspective," Alvarez said.

Dr. Aimee Sanchez-Zadak will lead talkbacks after each performance to help the cast and audience unpack the themes explored in the play.

### For more information:

"Gruesome Playground Injuries" will be performed at the Black Box Theatre on Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.

Admission is free.

**Warning:** This play includes ableist language, some graphic imagery of injuries, self-harm, and allusions of sexual assault.

# Art professor featured in five exhibits

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

Kandy Lopez, associate professor and program director of Art + Design in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts showcases her art in multiple exhibits.

Lopez's artwork, which is meant to portray minorities, includes fiber portraits, collages and stained glass pieces.

"My art represents education, power, perspective, change and hope," Lopez said.

One of her recent exhibitions ran from Dec. 5 through Jan. 22 in the Historic Hampton House Museum of Art & Culture.

Others include "Roving" in Gallery 221, open until Feb. 28, which also features two other artists, and "Conceptually Green," a group exhibition of 22 artists that is meant to explore the cultural narrative of the color green.

Another group exhibition is "As We Move Forward" at the Augusta

Savage Gallery at the University of Massachusetts, which runs until May 10. This exhibition honors the work of Augusta Savage, an educator and sculptor. Seventeen emerging female artists were picked for this exhibit.

Lopez is also part of solo exhibitions such as "(in)visible: Nephantla," which will include her new fiber portraits exploring the experiences and environments of marginalized individuals.

Another solo is "Our Shadow Remains," at ARLO Wynwood. Its opening reception is at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 with the exhibit running through May 15.

"Exhibitions are one of the ways my art can be shared with people. The students also have the ability to see their professor doing her thing currently. It's a mentorship relationship that I enjoy. They get real-world experiences from someone who is doing it," Lopez said.

After taking several art classes, Margeaux Miller, senior Art + Design major, feels impacted by



COURTESY OF KANDY LOPEZ

Exhibit attendees view Kandy Lopez's "Court Room Sessions IV" exhibition at Court House Cultural Center, Stuart, Florida in December 2021.

Lopez's teaching.

"As a senior, I feel that she has truly been a mentor for me over the past four years. She is very hands-on and involved with all her students, and it is very evident that she wants the best for us and will

help us reach it," Miller said. "She is making time to meet with all seniors one-on-one to help get us ready for the our next steps as artists in the real world."



# Theatre alumnus cast in Broward Center production

By Bryce Johnson

Bill Adams, professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, learned Spencer Carlisle, NSU alumnus, was cast in "Tony n' Tina's Wedding" when Carlisle's mom emailed him.

"[I am] super happy for him and certainly proud of him, proud for the school, that what we're doing is working and there's a success of what we did," Adams said. "But mostly it is just great for him that he'll get to take what he's learned here into the real world and figure out how it goes."

Carlisle will play Johnny Nunzio, Tony's little brother, in "Tony n' Tina's Wedding" at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. The play runs from Feb. 14 - 25.

"I can hardly still believe it right now. I am so amazed and honored to be able to be in a show at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts because that's one of the biggest stages in Fort Lauderdale," Carlisle said.

"Tony n' Tina's Wedding" is an immersive play where the cast interacts with the audience, like making jokes or dancing with them.

"It is a play of huge audience interaction. So that is very much encouraged. Definitely, if you plan to go, dress up as if you were actually going to a wedding," Carlisle said.

Carlisle, who took his final courses at NSU last semester, learned about the auditions through Facebook. He said his audition was challenging but fun.

"What was required in the audition was just to see if you could do improv and be able to hold a made-up scene together with other actors," Carlisle said. "I basically did that on Zoom and had a great time doing it. And luckily they were impressed."

Carlisle credits the late Mark Duncan, former NSU theatre professor, and his participation as a student in Shark Talent and Improv Jam with preparing him for his professional career.

"This is Improv led by NSU alumni Angelica and Alexandra Zadak also helped me with improv by practicing with me and employing me as well," Carlisle said.

Adams, who taught Carlisle since he was a freshman, said that Carlisle was an important part of NSU theatre.

"Spencer's a super, super nice guy to work with. He does his homework, he comes, he's prepared and he's always in a good mood," Adams said. "I always want to make it clear how dependable he is, what a good person he is."

For students wanting to pursue acting, Carlisle encourages them to put themselves out there.

"I know it can be daunting to

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Spencer Carlisle as the Brother of The Groom

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do that because it's a big field out there. There's lots of competition, but while you can come up with any reason why you couldn't get the part, you could also be exactly what they're looking for," Carlisle said. "And if you get discouraged, you just got to keep on saying, 'Thank you next,' and don't let any of it bog you down."

## Art + Design program hosts 13th annual Senior Exhibition



COURTESY OF ARIA TAN

Senior Art + Design students Gabriella Neves and Samantha Sigler paint the walls for the opening reception.

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

Rebecca Fazio, senior Art + Design major, is one of the artists in the 13th annual Senior Exhibition.

The theme for this year is "Identity," with each student curating an area of the gallery.

"Everything's selected based on each individual's style," Fazio said. "We put up works that best represented us."

Hosted by the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, the Senior Exhibition will display the artwork of 15 graduating students.

"My section in the gallery has my Disney and bright colored artwork

to show my identity as an artist," Fazio said. "I think it's super unique this year with everyone's identity being shown."

The opening reception will be held on Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. and the exhibit will remain open until March 15 in Gallery 217.

The art displayed includes photographs, ceramics, graphic designs and paintings.

"I'm more than excited about this year's showcase because of the diversity of the artwork being presented. I get attached to the seniors as I have seen them grow through the process," Kandy Lopez, associate professor in DCMA, said.

The students selected are typically art majors, but art minors can



COURTESY OF ARIA TAN

Senior marketing major Aria Tan's painting "Boyhood" explores individual stories about fish markets.

be selected as well.

Aria Tan, senior marketing major and studio art minor, will showcase narrative-based oil paintings titled "Market Fish" which focus on community, connection and silence.

"It's going to be the first time I'm putting the work, like work that I'm proud of, that I think that is more polished," Tan said. "I interviewed friends, strangers and faculty members. I asked them what a fish market meant to them and I got to weave their stories into all the paintings, so it became this collection that feels bigger than myself."

The 13th annual Senior Exhibition features work by:

Charlotte Carter  
Rebecca Fazio  
Luciana Fernandez  
Angelica M. Guerra  
Gabriel Hidalgo  
Benjamin Jennette  
Valentina Jimenez  
Jacqueline Matos  
Margeaux Miller  
Gabriella Neves  
Julianna Patalano  
Samantha Sigler  
Aria Nicolette Tan  
Juliana Vallone  
Marilyn Yanes Perez



MUSIC

# Mako Radio interview with viral "WYD Now?" artist Sadie Jean



PHOTO BY DAJA LONG

Daja Long, sophomore psychology major and DJ show coordinator at Mako Radio, interviews singer-songwriter Sadie Jean.

By Daja Long

Sadie Jean, a young artist who went viral on TikTok, hails from Orange County, Calif. After releasing "WYD Now?" in 2021 and seeing it blow up online, Jean began to focus more on her music career. In 2023, she went on tour with various artists, including Johnny Orlando and Rod Wave. She also landed on the Billboard charts and dropped her debut album, "Simple Like 17."

Read the full interview with Mako Radio below.

**How do you feel after having a phenomenal past year of accomplishments?**

"Yeah, it's definitely been the craziest last year of my life. It feels good. It's kind of just hard to process. It feels like none of it happened. Honestly, it feels like a dream or something. It's been good to be home from the tour and try and process it all."

**People might recognize you from your first single "WYD Now?" which blew up on TikTok. However, you've**

**previously collaborated with other artists in the past. How long have you pursued music before this?**

"I've always been writing music for as long as I can remember. I probably started taking it more seriously once I went to college. I went to NYU for music. That's the first time I met other songwriters and other people with big dreams that were similar to mine. That was when I started to feel like I could actually do it. I feel like when I was in high school, and before that, I didn't grow up in a place where I was very encouraged to do anything. Not like conventional. I think college helped me a lot with that. It was a long time in the making, for sure."

**What does your writing process look like?**

"It kind of depends. Sometimes, I'll play something on guitar or piano until I love it. Then, I start writing whatever I'm feeling. Sometimes, I'll work with my producer and other writer-like friends. A producer I work with a lot is my

next-door neighbor. So sometimes, I'll walk over to his studio and together, we'll maybe make a beat or something. Honestly, I would say most of the time, my writing process is to start on an instrument, and then just focus on making a good song. Then think about the production and everything else later."

**How did you take the leap and transition from pursuing music in an academic setting to fully pursuing your passion for music?**

"I was lucky that my school was also about music which made that transition a little bit easier. It was definitely weird. My song came out in finals week. It was like the most stressful week. It was nice to have my friends. I wrote that song with my friends in college. We all could experience it together, which was special."

**Was there an opportunity window? Or was it a natural transition?**

"I think there was some pressure because the song just started going crazy online. All the labels and everyone were starting to hit me up. I could feel the pressure of having to put it out soon. That did feel like a window. I moved quickly. We wrote the song at the end of October. I posted it at the beginning of November. It came out Dec. 1. Normally, you're supposed to submit a song seven or eight weeks before it can come out. It's a really slow process when releasing music. We definitely expedited that song because of that window of time where I was like, 'I don't want people to forget about me.'"

**Who would you say inspired your musical creativity?**

"I love Coldplay. I'm a huge Coldplay fan. I love Carole King. I think my biggest musical songwriting influences are anyone on the radio when I was little. I listened to the radio a lot. I think that really affected my songwriting. Katy Perry was a big musical influence on me. Also Taylor Swift. I'll hear it now and be like, 'that made an impact on me growing up.'"

**Your music has landed you on tour with artists like Rod Wave. How does it feel to be on stage in front of a larger audience?**

"On the tour before the Rod Wave tour, I was playing for like 200 people. I was still nervous about that. To me, that's still a lot of people. A few weeks later, it was like 16 to 20,000. That was a big jump and I didn't know if I would be able to do it. I do sometimes struggle with stage fright. It happened, and I did like 32 shows. I'm proud of myself for not panicking on stage. It was cool of Rod Wave to give me that opportunity."

*Listen to the interview on Friday Feb. 9 at noon on Mako Radio at WKPX 88.5 FM Sunrise or on [nova.edu/makoradio](http://nova.edu/makoradio)*

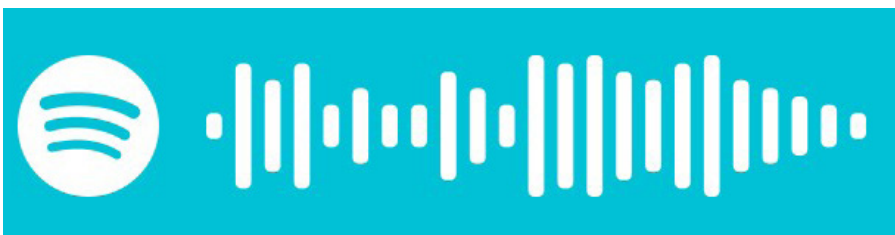
**Listen to Sadie Jean's debut album "Simple Like 17" on Spotify here:**



## CURRENT PICKS

Want to know The Current staff's favorite love songs?

Check out Current Picks, our collaborative playlist!



**Monday**  
Noon-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 MUSI: SAD  
HIP-HOP/ LATIN URBAN

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  
IN THE KNOW,  
LIFE IN THE INDUSTRY WITH MUSI

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

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

**Friday**  
Noon-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**



# Freshman brings home four world medals



COURTESY OF KARYNA MYKHALINA

Karyna Mykhalina, freshman business management major, competes during the 2023 World Pole and Aerial Championship.

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto and Abraham Velasquez

When Karyna Mykhalina, freshman business management major, was 14 years old, attended her uncle's wedding in Ukraine, where she was born, she was unaware that it was here where her life's passion would be ignited.

"There was a challenge for all the wedding guests. Whoever did the coolest trick, any kind of trick, got a prize," Mykhalina said.

She then watched in awe as one of the guests did an aerial stunt on a pole.

"I saw her do this amazing trick and told myself I want to do the same thing," Mykhalina said.

Mykhalina would go on to win four medals with Team USA at the 2023 World Pole & Aerial Championships.

When Mykhalina started doing aero gymnastics and pole sports at 14, she had no intention of attending competitions.

"I did not want to compete at first.

Two months after I started, though, I went to my first competition and got last place, so I told myself this is just for fun," Mykhalina said.

Mykhalina was born and raised in Ukraine but has grown to love the United States and embrace it as her home.

She lived in Boston during the fall of 2021 and Miami during the summer of 2022. She stayed with host families and attended school to learn English.

"I enjoyed this country when I lived in Boston. Then I went to Miami and loved it, and decided I wanted to go to college here," Mykhalina said.

Following her summer in Florida, she returned to Ukraine for six months. In this time, she and her family were forced to flee due to the war with Russia. Mykhalina found a new home in South Florida.

"I really wanted to live in Miami because I love the culture here. We had to move somewhere when the war started, and my family and I decided to move here," Mykhalina

said.

During all the traveling she did, Mykhalina was still training every day and working hard on her craft.

"I was training every day, no matter what. During COVID, I couldn't go to my studio, so I ordered a pole to my house so I could continue training at home," Mykhalina said.

Mykhalina's dedication led her to attend the 2021 US Pole & Aerial Championships, but she did not qualify for the World Championships. The following year, she qualified but was unable to attend.

Finally, in 2023, Mykhalina qualified for six categories: Pole sports, pole sports double, aerial hoop double, aerial hoop sports, aerial pole sports, and artistic aerial pole.

"I trained every day before the World Championships for about four to five hours a day. I went to every studio in Miami to prepare," Mykhalina said.

Mykhalina relied on her work ethic and determination, which she credits to her coach Kristina Ganatauskaite.

"I love to train because of my coach. I've had so many coaches throughout the years, but none as great as her," Mykhalina said.

The World Pole and Aerial Championships took place in Kielse, Poland in October 2023. She won first place in the artistic aerial pole and pole sports double categories, second place in the aerial pole sports category, and third place in the aerial hoop sports category.

"I wasn't expecting to do as good as I did. I was shocked but happy every time my name was called," Mykhalina said.

Despite her Ukrainian roots, Mykhalina was proud to be a part of Team USA.

"I was so happy to be representing the United States, and even happier to say I was able to bring home medals for this country," Mykhalina said.

Mykhalina is now preparing for the next U.S. Pole & Aerial Championships in July, looking to qualify again for the World Championships.

## SPORTS EVENTS

Feb. 9, 6 p.m.  
Baseball vs.  
Erskine College

NSU Baseball  
Complex

Feb. 10, 11 a.m.  
Women's Tennis vs.  
University of Tampa

NSU Tennis Complex  
at Rolling Hills

Feb. 10, 1 p.m.  
Baseball vs.  
Post University

NSU Baseball  
Complex

Feb. 11, 1 p.m.  
Baseball vs.  
University of Mount Olive

NSU Baseball  
Complex

Feb. 16, 4 p.m.  
Baseball vs.  
Lander University

NSU Baseball  
Complex

Feb. 16, 7 p.m.  
Baseball vs.  
Lander University

NSU Baseball  
Complex



# Coach LeMaire brings winning culture to NSU softball

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto

Softball head coach Julie LeMaire begins her ninth season after leading the Sharks in 2023 to its first regional championship and World Series appearance in program history.

LeMaire grew up on a farm outside Quincy, Ill. She played four seasons of collegiate softball at Quincy University, where she set single season and career records in home runs and was named a Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-Region and All-Great Lakes Conference Selection in 2004.

During her youth softball career, LeMaire knew coaching was something she wanted to do. But, it wasn't until she experienced college athletics that she realized this was the path she wanted to take.

"I feel like I knew at a young age, but once I started college, I immediately had an interest in becoming a coach. I knew this was what I wanted to do," LeMaire said.

LeMaire's coaching career began at the University of North Dakota as a graduate assistant. She went on to coach at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fort Hays State University, and Emporia State University.

Despite being from the Midwest and coaching there for several seasons, LeMaire had always intended to return to Florida. When a position opened at NSU, it was an easy decision for her.

"With NSU's weather and location, along with the great resources we have here, it was a no brainer for me to come back down to South Florida. It's been a great move," LeMaire said.

LeMaire has seen major changes in the program during her tenure. She went from a 12-39 record her first season in 2015 to the program's first-ever Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year, Sunshine State Conference title, Super Regional appearance, Regional Championship, and World Series berth in 2022 and 2023.

LeMaire's success may be attributed to the hard work she puts in and expects from her players.

"I have high demands for my student-athletes, so it's important for me to set the standard. If they see me work hard for them and the program, it makes it easier when I expect and demand it out of them," LeMaire said.

Although LeMaire can be tough on her team, she also makes it

a point to connect with her student-athletes and show her appreciation for them.

"I do show the players tough love, but I'm able to connect with them while also being their authority figure. I have been fortunate to have great girls put their trust in me to take them to the highest level," LeMaire said.

Alexis Smith, graduate student, sports science major on the softball team, said she appreciates LeMaire's tough love style.

"I would describe coach LeMaire simply as passionate. She's not only passionate about softball, but also about her players as women once they leave the program. She has so much experience at this level and really utilizes all of it to make her teams successful," Smith said. "Female softball coaches have a reputation of being 'meaner' than males, but she is a great balance of being tough on us and ensuring that we enjoy our experience with her."

LeMaire and the Sharks are excited to build off last season's success and have an even better season this spring.

"The last couple of years we finally got a taste of what championships



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS  
Julie LeMaire, softball head coach.

look like. We want to have an even better year than last year. We have veteran players and leaders who know what it takes and are willing to mentor the new players. It's exciting," LeMaire said.

### For more information:

To stay updated, follow the softball team on:

Instagram and X  
@nsu\_softball.

# Josh Leatherman: the voice of NSU Athletics

By Brielle Aguayo

Josh Leatherman, sophomore communication major, has always had a passion for sports.

He hoped to play baseball for Saint Thomas University.

But a shoulder injury got in his way. It prevented him from pursuing sports as a career, though not his dream of working in sports.

Leatherman is a member of NSU Athletics' broadcast team.

"I headed toward the broadcast booth where I originally started as a camera operator, and then I moved towards the microphone, which has been my home ever since," Leatherman said. "I found it to be a very enjoyable experience and it keeps me close enough to the field where I get my kick of athletics every week."

As the broadcasting coordinator for NSU's Athletics department, he attends all home-games, both indoor and outdoor, and is in charge of set-up. Leatherman is also the on-air voice during the games.

He said that he works hard and can't afford to make any mistakes in this position.

"Our sports do gain a lot of attention, and we get a lot of national publicity as well. So, our broadcast has to be up the par," Leatherman said. "We have plenty of people viewing our events wanting to keep track of our athletes. One of our broadcasts even had a clip put on

Sports Center as a top 10 play two years ago."

Leatherman and the rest of the coverage team fact check and take extensive notes.

He said it's a fast-paced environment he had to adapt to, and it wasn't always simple.

After getting his start in broadcasting at a small high school in Miami Gardens, Leatherman faced some challenges as a broadcaster at NSU. He said he was thrown into the fire of collegiate sports without extensive experience in the field.

He didn't know how to do many of the key aspects of his job, like giving play-by-play, researching different teams and interviewing players.

"Experience and growth is not something that you usually get at the same time, and I think I've had a pretty unique run through the Athletic Departments with that," Leatherman said.

He said he's thankful to be able to grow within his position and grateful to have someone to lean on, like his big brother Jon.

Jon Leatherman, manager of Athletic Communications, said he is proud of his younger brother.

"He's extremely dependable in everything that we do," Jon Leatherman said. "I know I can count on him."

Jon Leatherman has seen Josh's growth firsthand.

"He's been with us now for three



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS  
Josh Leatherman, sophomore communication major, broadcasts NSU baseball.

years, so just the steps he's taken as a broadcaster, as a producer, seeing him gain experience while he's getting his degree is great," Jon Leatherman said.

Josh Leatherman's goal for this year is to gain more viewers and have NSU athletes be more recognized.

"I'd love for our viewership to double. We get about 250 to 300 viewers for all of our basketball games. I would love, personally, to upgrade our live stream capabilities to get that number to double and potentially grow even farther

in the future," said Josh Leatherman, who sees college athletics as part of his future.

"I, personally, have fallen in love with the college realm," he said.

His brother agrees Josh has a bright future ahead of him.

"Every sport that we have here, I know he can cover anything on the fly. So just seeing his growth as a person and as a broadcaster just makes me incredibly proud to be his brother," Jon Leatherman said. "I know he's extremely smart, whether it's in producing or as a broadcaster for any sport."





COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Michael Dillon deals a pitch to the plate against Tusculum University in the Sharks' first win of the season.

## Sports shorts

By Josh Leatherman and  
Olivia Zolk

### Softball, Feb. 3

The fifth-ranked NSU softball team bounced back and earned two victories over the weekend. NSU started the day with a 6-4 win against West Georgia and finished with an 8-0 victory over West Florida.

### Men's Basketball, Feb. 3

The third-ranked NSU men's basketball team defeated the Eckerd Tritons 117-70 from the McArthur Center. Ryker Cisarik scored 20 points while shooting 77% from the field.

### Baseball, Feb. 3

Led by outstanding performances from Bryan Loriga (3-5, 3-R HR, 2B) and Ariel Garcia (1-4, 3-R HR), the NSU baseball team defeated the Wingate Bulldogs 9-3 on Saturday afternoon at the NSU Baseball Complex. Collin Rothermel earned the win, throwing five innings while striking out six batters and allowing three runs.

### Women's Basketball, Feb. 3

The Sharks took down Eckerd College in a double-overtime thriller from the McArthur Center. The Sharks have won 15 consecutive games, tying the NSU women's basketball record for most consecutive wins in a row since the 2013-14 season. Morgan Kane led the team with 23 points and 16 rebounds.

### Baseball, Feb. 2

The Adrian Morales-era began for NSU baseball on Friday evening. NSU hosted both the Tusculum Pioneers and Catawba Indians, starting the season with an 8-2 victory over Tusculum before dropping game two of the doubleheader to Catawba, 10-2.

### Softball, Feb. 2

The fifth-ranked NSU softball team kicked off its 2024 campaign at the Gulf Shore Invitational. NSU dropped a pair of non-conference matchups, falling to Auburn Montgomery 4-1 and West Alabama 7-6.

### Men's Basketball, Jan. 31

The third-ranked NSU men's basketball team won its fourth consecutive Sunshine State Conference game, defeating the Lynn Fighting Knights 109-93 at the de Hoernle Sports & Cultural Center. MJ Iraldi scored a career-best 30 points. Trey Doomes also achieved a career best in scoring, tallying 24 points.

### Women's Basketball, Jan. 31

The NSU women's basketball team won its 14th straight victory, defeating Lynn from the de Hoernle Sports and Cultural Center.

### Swimming, Jan. 29

The Sunshine State Conference announced the Athletes of the Week for the week of Jan. 22 - 28. NSU swimmers Emily Treischmann and Marcel Snitko earned honors following their outstanding performances.

### Women's Basketball, Jan. 27

The NSU women's basketball team defeated Tolling at the Rick Case Arena, 85-53. Nicole Scales led the Sharks with an outstanding performance, scoring 24 points in the impressive victory.

### Men's Basketball, Jan. 27

The sixth-ranked NSU men's basketball team defeated the Rollins College Tars 110-62 from the Rick Case Arena. Eli Allen, making his first collegiate start, scored 15 points in the win.

### Swimming, Jan. 27

The NSU men's and women's swimming teams hosted Rollins on Saturday afternoon at the NSU Aquatics Center. The Sharks women's team was victorious 196-66, while the men's team won 161-100.

### Swimming, Jan. 26

NSU Swimming traveled to West Palm Beach to take on the Keiser Seahawks in a dual meet at the Lake Lytal Aquatic Center. Both NSU teams were victorious, with the women's team winning 216-46, and the men's team winning 145-117.

### Women's Tennis, Jan. 24

The Sunshine State Conference released its 2024 preseason Women's Tennis Coaches' Poll. The NSU Sharks, last season's NCAA national finalists, were picked second in the poll for the fourth consecutive season. NSU, under the direction of head coach Doug Neagle, received three first-place votes.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Bryan Loriga drives in three runs on his first home run of the season against Wingate University.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

**FRIDAY**  
**9**

**Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate**  
11 a.m. - Library Quad

**BSU Lip Sync Night/ Phi Beta Sigma**  
5 p.m. - Flight Deck

**SAGE Game Show + DnD Night**  
6:30 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 3032

**Amore's Galentine's Day Party**  
6 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 3000

**Sleep out 4 the Homeless**  
6 p.m. - Library Quad

**WEDNESDAY**  
**14**

**Secret Sweets**  
Noon - UC Spine

**THURSDAY**  
**15**

**Spring Festival: Chinese New Year Celebration**  
Noon - HPD Clocktower Patio

**Memphis: The Musical**  
4:30 p.m. - Lauderdale Performing Arts Center

**MONDAY**  
**12**

**Love Is In The Air!**  
11:45 a.m. - UC Spine

**Self-Love: Craft & Chat**  
6 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Knight Lecture Hall

**FRIDAY**  
**16**

**BSU Game Night**  
5 p.m. - Mako Multipurpose Room

**Fins Films Movie Night**  
6 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 1133

**TUESDAY**  
**13**

**Candy Gram Fundraiser**  
Noon - Don Taft University Center

**Valentine's Poetry Writing**  
Noon - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 1133

**Valentine's Day Bracelet Making**  
Noon - Flight Deck Multipurpose Room

**Wildin Out**  
6 p.m. - Flight Deck Multipurpose Room

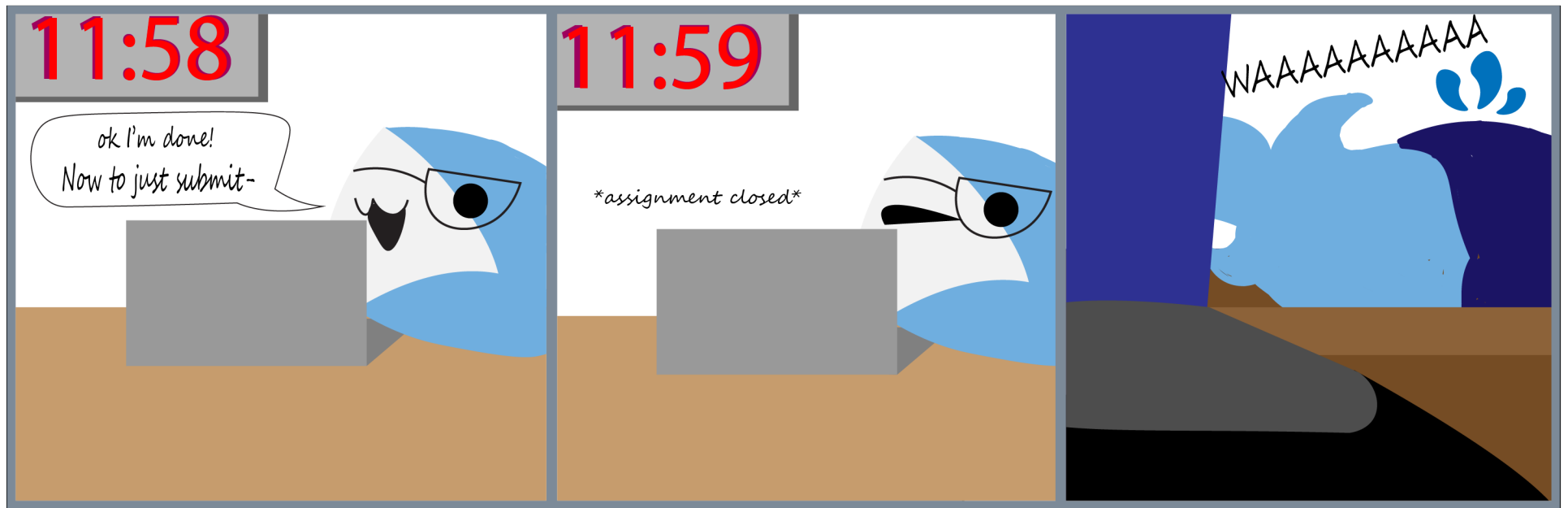
**Love & Sinatra**  
6 p.m. - Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach

**SATURDAY**  
**17**

**Celebrate Sound Walk with SAA**  
9 a.m. - T.Y. Park

**Slow Burn Theater Co: Sister Act**  
1 p.m. - Broward Center for the Performing Arts

### THE CURRENT'S COMICS



BY MADISEN ROMERO



# GAMES

## WORD SEARCH

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

EXHIBITION  
PERFORM  
DATING  
MEDALS  
TRAINING

GREECE  
HEALTH  
KANDY  
TECHCON  
ABROAD

ALUMNI  
JOSH  
DIPS  
IRON  
PLAY

## MATH CORNER

## TIC TAC TOE

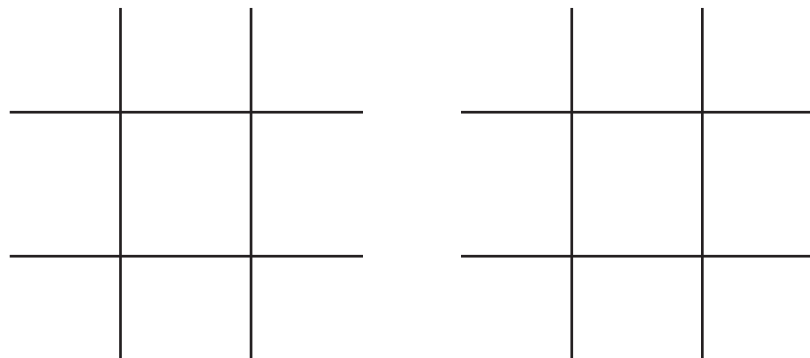
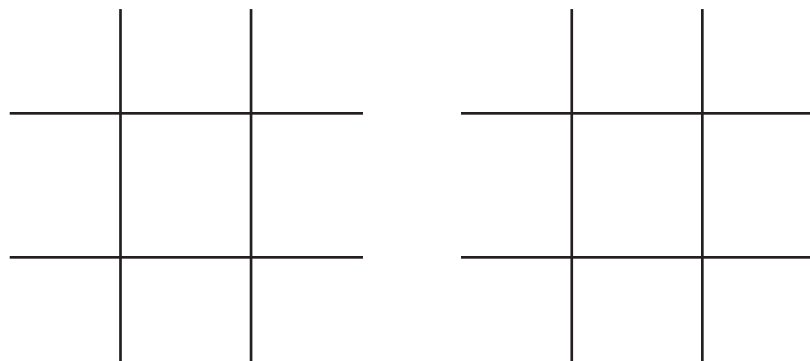
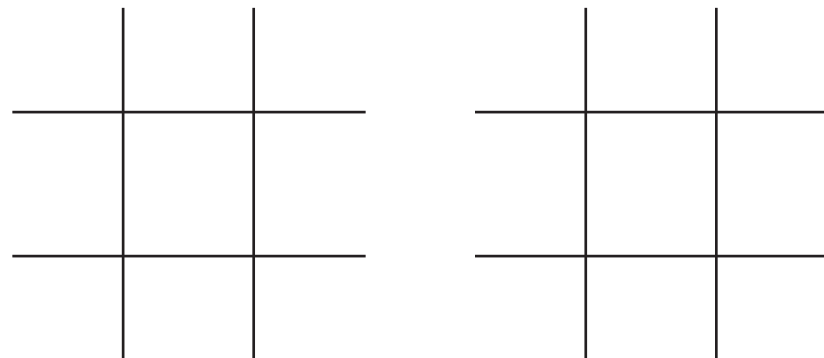
**Directions and Rules:**

Please send your answer (no need to send any additional scratch work or justification) to Dr. Jason Gershman, chair of the Department of Mathematics, at [jgershma@nova.edu](mailto:jgershma@nova.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21. 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 you are trying to determine how many bass call NSU’s Gold Circle Lake home. First, you catch a fixed number of bass at one time (you catch 30 bass.) Then, you tag these 30 bass and release them back into the lake. The tagged bass mix back into the population. The next day, you return to the lake and catch 100 bass. Of these 100 bass, exactly 12 of them have tags. Based on this information, what is your best estimate of the number of bass living in the lake?



**Answer to the question in the prior issue:** 30 cards  
packs; you expect to get 10 unique cards in  
(10/10 + 10/9 + 10/8 + 10/7 + 10/6 + 10/5 + 10/4 + 10/3  
+ 10/2 + 10/1) packs which is approximately 29.3 which you  
round up to 30.