
The Current

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

Local Haitians feel impact of gang violence in their home country



PHOTOS BY NICOLE SHAKER

Local artists display their work in the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. Images from left: "The Revolution" by Analea Adam Rabel, "Nature's Natural Beauty" by Shania Fare and "Fille de Grace" by Andrelle Oubel.

By Nicole Shaker

Anne Sylvie Jean Louis, junior psychology major, is proud to be Haitian.

"There's just so much that Haiti has done," she said, recalling when a Greek student told her that Haiti was the first nation to recognize Greece as an independent country. "Haiti has been a very colorful, vibrant and loving country."

It saddens her to see her country racked with intense gang violence, which spiraled after the 2021 assassination of the country's president, Jovenel Moïse. The country has no active government, as Prime

Minister Ariel Henry resigned after getting stranded outside the country in early March.

Gang violence, which is concentrated in Port-au-Prince, the capital, has killed more than 1,500 people this year, according to the United Nations human rights office. Haitians across the city face displacement, hunger, injury and loss.

"[There are] unmanned hospitals and people essentially dying by the side of the road. You're talking about a desperately poor country where anyone who can get out is getting out and the people that are left are struggling to survive," George Nelson Bass III, assistant

professor of history and political science, said. "It is a tragedy, especially here in South Florida, where so many of our fellow Floridians can trace their roots back to Haiti. It's incredibly sad that it's not met with more pressing urgency."

Jean Louis is feeling the impact. She was born in Port-au-Prince and moved to the United States when she was 3.

"I unfortunately haven't been back since just because every time that we've tried to go back, there's been some kind of unrest or situation in the country that hasn't made it safe enough to travel there," she said.

A lot of her family still lives in Haiti.

"We know people involved in the politics of Haiti, so it gets especially scary for them," she said. "Most of what's going on is largely centralized in Port-au-Prince, so it's mostly affecting people that are within that area, but everyone is feeling at least a bit of an impact."

Jean Louis is active in Little Haiti, a Miami neighborhood. She spent a summer working at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex.

See LOCAL HAITIANS, page 4

Champion swimmer Trieschmann concludes athletic career at NSU



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS
Emily Trieschmann, graduating property management and real estate major, is at the starting platform ready to race.

By Bella Giaquinto and Roberto Zuniga

Leading the NSU women's swimming team to the 2023-2024 NCAA Division II National Championship, Emily Trieschmann ends her swimming career with numerous records and is ready for a new chapter.

"I'm grateful for everything it's brought me, but I'm ready to close the chapter of swimming," Trieschmann said.

At the age of 5, Trieschmann built a love-hate relationship with swimming, but ultimately found herself stuck to the sport.

"I started and I absolutely hated

it, so I started taking up basketball and I had to choose between the two," Trieschmann said. "But through it all, I always came back to swimming and ended up liking it and enjoying it so that's how it stuck."

The Lake Worth-native swam throughout high school at St. Andrews School in Boca Raton from 2017-2021. During her senior year, Trieschmann faced a major injury that impacted her college commitment decision.

"I was actually committed to Northwestern, and I had to decommit," Trieschmann said. "My shoulder just kept falling out of place, so

they went in and tightened it up in surgery."

Trieschmann attended Florida State University as a freshman from 2021-2022 but quickly found her way to NSU one year later. The property management and real estate major and swimmer was surprised when she discovered she was allowed to train for distance swimming at NSU, which wasn't allowed at FSU.

See TRIESCHMANN, page 15

THE CURRENT

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Letter from the editors

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue 12 of The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. We're Bryce, editor-in-chief, and Nicole, co-editor-in-chief, and we're proud to deliver the last issue of the semester.

Congratulations to the women's swimming team for winning its second NCAA National Championship title! In this issue, you can find an article about Emily Trieschmann, graduating property management and real estate major, who was named Swimmer of the Year for the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America.

Also in this issue, you'll find an article about a new Davie hotline launched with the goal of preventing mass shootings. Read about this new help line on Page 5.

You'll also be able to gain insight about how the conflict in Haiti is affecting the local NSU community and what college students can do to help. See the front to learn more.

NSU will be hosting many events this month that you can look forward to, like the Student Choreography Showcase on April 12-13 and the Spring Concert on April 19. You can learn more about these events in this issue as well.

With final exams in a couple weeks, we wish you the best of luck as you prepare for the end of the semester. If you're looking for a playlist to vibe out to as you study for exams, look no further than the Music page, where you'll find The



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

Current staff's favorite tracks for studying. We hope they help get you in the zone!

The Current, alongside Mako TV and Mako Radio, is part of Mako Media Network. On April 12, you can watch the latest episode of Mako TV on its YouTube channel, and listen to Mako Radio's B-Side podcast at noon on 88.5FM WKPX Sunrise. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or story pitches for any of the branches, you can find us in the UC in room 328.

Thank you for picking our paper up. Whether you're graduating or coming back next semester, we hope you make the most of your summer.

Happy reading,
Bryce Johnson and
Nicole Shaker

Who is the voice of the STUEYs?



PHOTO BY MIA ALVARADO

Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network.

This year, the STUEYs were voiced by Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network.

Lynn won the student of the year for the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences in 2022. He also was a

nominee for overall student of the year in 2022.

Lynn has started his NSU journey as a student in 2016 and was a STUEYs co-host in 2019 and 2020.

JK Rowling once again proves her Wizarding World is not for everyone



By Anaum Hussain

JK Rowling, author of the "Harry Potter" book series, was instrumental in many people's childhoods, including my own. I still have a Hermione Granger interactive wand from Universal Orlando Studios. Rowling's Wizarding World seemed like it was for everyone who wanted a place in it.

A lot of people who have been labeled "different," including

those in the LGBTQ+ community, have identified with Harry Potter throughout the years. A boy who is never accepted is whisked away to a new world with people like him. It's obvious why the story is so popular with people who feel like the boy in the cupboard under the stairs.

But Rowling has made one thing abundantly clear throughout the years: her world is not as accepting as we once thought.

On April 1, Rowling criticized Scotland's Scottish Hate Crime Act on X, formerly known as Twitter. The act criminalizes hate against people based on their race, religion, disability, sexuality or gender identity. In response to the act, Rowling posted a thread calling out several transgender women and referring to them as men.

This is not new behavior for Rowling. On March 13, Rowling denied on X, that Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute For Sexual Research was burned by the Nazis for housing research on transgender people,

calling it a "fever dream" when another user compared her to the Nazis due to her transphobic ideologies about gender.

It's clear that Rowling's sinking deeper into dangerous ideologies.

I once considered myself a proud Potterhead, or a Harry Potter fan. I would read fanfiction, purchase merchandise, and my old online username even had "Ravenclaw" in it.

I will always appreciate Harry Potter for bringing magic into my childhood, for bringing me joy and adventures. I am not exaggerating when I say that if it hadn't been for Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, I would not be the person I am today.

But now, with how Rowling has been acting, I've stopped all interaction with Harry Potter. I've changed my usernames. I don't interact with the fandom. I don't buy merchandise. I can no longer enjoy the magic of the Wizarding World without thinking of how any

money and attention I give to Harry Potter, which was such an important part of my life, shows Rowling that I agree with her views.

On March 12, Rowling spoke on an episode of "The Witch Trials of JK Rowling" podcast.

"A ton of Potter fans are still with me, and in fact a ton of Potter fans are grateful that I'd said what I said," Rowling said on the podcast.

I cannot be that fan. I cannot allow my adoration of her work to blind me. If she had stayed silent, she could have died as one of the most beloved authors of our generation. But now, all she can do is keep doubling down and sliding further into dangerous rhetoric.

And all I can do is watch as someone I once looked up to has betrayed everything we all thought her books stood for.

Anaum Hussain, freshman communication major and practicum student, is a contributing writer for The Current.

Well, it looks like I'll be living in a cardboard box



By Francesca Abarca

Attending NSU as an out-of-state student, the first question that everyone has is, "Where am I going to live?" For the past two years, I have gotten lucky with being able to live on campus, but now because of the new housing policy, I will probably live in a cardboard box.

To start, NSU's housing policy changed after the pandemic, prioritizing housing for lowerclassmen. With this, the seniors were expected to find off-campus housing because NSU "has limited space available."

As the 2023-2024 housing policy states, "no one over 20 is guaranteed to live on campus or can room with someone who is not in their same class." So seniors cannot live with sophomores, freshmen cannot live with seniors, etc.

NSU has also significantly increased the prices of living on campus. In the 2023-2024 academic school year, the price for one room within a four-bedroom apartment in Rolling Hills was \$4,660 per semester, and now for the upcoming school year, the price has increased to \$4,995.

As NSU continues to accept more freshmen than we have space, more

upperclassmen are going to be forced off campus. With the acceptance of more freshmen, most of the on-campus housing options have been turned into freshmen living spaces, which allows fewer and fewer upperclassmen to live on campus.

Typically, seniors can choose from whatever rooms are left over after the juniors and sophomores make their selections. However, this year all the rising seniors who filled out housing contracts on time received emails stating "unfortunately the 2024-2025 returner self-selection process is now closed for all upperclassman communities (Rollings Hill A, Rolling Hills C, and University Pointe)."

As someone who is from out-of-state and does not drive, I cannot afford to get an off-campus apartment. Most student loans do not cover off-campus housing.

What does not make sense to me is how students who live in the tri-county area, 15, 30, 60 minutes away, are more likely to get housing than many upperclassmen who come from different states or even different countries, simply because they are freshmen.

Local students still have a place to stay and go back to during the school year, but for us students from out of state, we are expected to just figure it out and hope that we can afford to live down here and continue attending NSU.

Even if I had someone to live with, because I do not have any source of sustainable income, living off-campus would not be feasible. So, it looks like I'll be living in a cardboard box.

Francesca Abarca, senior communication major, is a features writer for The Current.

NEWS

Pinning ceremony to celebrate nursing graduates

By Bryce Johnson

On May 2 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., NSU's Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing will host a pinning ceremony after commencement for pre-licensure nursing graduates at the Rick Case Arena. Alongside receiving the nursing pin, the undergraduate students will light a lamp and take a pledge.

Stefanie La Manna, dean and associate professor in the Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing, said more than 150 students

from across the Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Fort Myers campuses will receive a pin. Although the ceremony happens twice a year, this will be the first time it combines three campuses.

"I'm looking forward to our graduating nurses becoming professional nurses to help our shortage," La Manna said. "We're super excited. I'm excited for the students as they enter the nursing profession."

All students are welcome to attend the ceremony.



COURTESY OF COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nursing graduates celebrate after last year's pinning ceremony.

Scan this QR code to RSVP by April 22.



FROM THE FRONT

LOCAL HAITIANS

"It really makes a big impact," she said. "Growing up, there's so many Haitians around here. I get to eat Haitian food with my family and do what I can to share my culture."

The Little Haiti Cultural Complex includes a Caribbean Marketplace, an art gallery for local artists to display their work, and a theater.

Jude Guilliam, who is from Haiti, has been a security guard at the complex for a year.

"I'm satisfied with this place. This building, I'm comfortable in," Guilliam said.

His family is still in Haiti.

"My cousin, my uncle, my auntie, my friends, my two kids, I'm trying to bring them here," he said.

He said he misses his children and wishes they were with him.

"I talk every day with my kids. I love my kids so much. This place is better," he said.

Sweat Records, a full-service record store, is just down the street from the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. Lolo Reskin opened the shop in 2005, when she was 22.

"We love the neighborhood. I live in the neighborhood. The culture's amazing. We wish it got more support from the larger community and the local governments," Reskin said. "We wish the Caribbean Marketplace up the street was bustling all day every day. As neighborhoods go, it has so much to offer, but it's also neglected in a lot of ways."

Jean Louis said maintaining the community is important to her.

"Little Haiti is currently facing a lot of gentrification within Miami, a lot of trying to urbanize the area, raise the prices, kick people out," she said. "It's so important to pay attention to things like that, because, especially as someone that has not been able to go back to the country, Little Haiti is the closest that I have gotten, and the closest that for the foreseeable future I will get, to being home."

As the situation in Haiti grows more dire, smuggled guns from the U.S. are continuing to make their way into Port-au-Prince, according to the United Nations.

"Oftentimes you'll find [guns] in old cars, for example, that are

being exported to Haiti, guns that were purchased legally here, but are being exported illegally," Bass said. "In many ways we are partly responsible because we have such lax gun laws. So if we really wanted to work on this, I think we'd have to think about reforming our own gun laws here in the United States, about what sort of identification and background checks are necessary for purchasing firearms, but that's something that Florida in particular has been unwilling to do."

Bass said that U.S. troops are not likely to intervene in Haiti to mitigate the situation.

"The United States would like to see Haiti stabilized, but the federal government's also unwilling at this point in time to commit U.S. troops," he said. "The United States doesn't want to take on that role for a large variety of reasons, but if not us, then who?"

The nation has rarely seen a peaceful period since its birth in the early 1800s.

"Haiti has had an incredibly tragic history, starting out as the first successful slave revolt and an inspiration to much of the world, and ever since has been under the thumb of either the French or the British or the United States," Bass said.

But the region wasn't always like this. Bass said it was an extremely rich colony, and when it revolted successfully, the French made it pay exorbitant reparations.

"The French, when they lose the war of Haitian independence, essentially get together with the other European heads of States and the United States and make it clear that nobody wants to lose their colonies, and so they should make an example out of the Haitians," he said. "They force them to essentially pay for their freedom."

Bass said this was only the start of Haiti's troubles.

"Add that in with a series of natural disasters, and you'd understand why it's been so hard for them to develop," he said. "The tragedy has been thus that Haiti has suffered this curse over the years of instability."

Jean Louis grew up following news from her home, mostly through word of mouth.

"I've definitely been invested in what's going on within my country throughout my life, but honestly, I would say less so through the news, and more so through my family," she said. "A lot of times, it's very easy for information about Haiti to be biased, to just consistently paint it in a negative light."

She said she's still impacted by every negative development.

"When you grow up with it, it can be very easy to become numb or desensitized to it. I do still very much feel anything related to Haiti. I can feel it in my chest," she said. "Yes, it's another year and more things are happening, but that also means another year that I have not been able to step foot back into my own country, the place that I was born."

She said social media has been especially helpful.

"I follow a lot of different Haitian accounts because it's more varied in the information. I can hear what's going on in the country negatively, but I can also still see the pictures and videos and hear about the amazing things that are still happening within the country," she said.

Bass said it's important to stay informed on the situation, recommending The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian and Al Jazeera.

"I understand, especially for your generation, it's overwhelming, because [it's] constant news. You can't fix everything. You can't know everything, but you can focus on a handful of things where you want to see change in the world," he said.

He said a great first step students can take to support Haitians in this time is contacting their elected representatives.

"Right now we're talking about an absolute humanitarian disaster, so get your senators and your representatives from Florida to start talking about this more," he said.

He said it would be beneficial for the government to take up the cause.

"There's a vested interest in our political class taking this up anyways. Those people are suffering, and they're going to be trying to get here because who wouldn't? So if you want to ease the strain on the immigration system that I hear so much about, part of it is creating stable and secure places where people feel like they can live with dignity and not be a victim of crime or malnourishment, in this case. That's the underlying problem with everything you hear about immigration: so many places in this hemisphere becoming untenable for working class people," he said.

Jean Louis said one of the best ways to show support right now is learning about Haiti.

"Make sure to really do the research, but not necessarily just about the bad. Educate yourself on the history of Haiti. It's very easy for people to be like, 'Oh, Haiti's a third world country,' 'Oh, it's developing,' 'Oh, it's struggling,' and not know or take the time to learn about all the rich things about Haiti," she said. "It was the first free black republic within the Western hemisphere. It's a big part of who I am. So I just implore people to, when they're learning about the country, when they hear about the country, to make sure that they try looking at it holistically."

As the situation develops, she remains proud of where she's from.

"I remember growing up and being faced with different stereotypes, people being like, 'Oh, you're from Haiti. I'm so sorry for you.' Why? I'm not sorry to be from there," she said. "I think every country has its struggles, has things that it needs to work past, but Haiti has such a rich history and such a rich culture that's still thriving and vibrant today."

Free course on religion, politics and conflict offered in English and French/Creole

Ernst Pierre Vincent, a doctoral graduate from the Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, will lead "Understanding the Dynamics between Religion, Politics and Conflict," a free online four-session course for students, faculty and staff sponsored by the Latin America and Caribbean Working Group and NSU. The course, which is offered in English and French/Creole, began on March 30 and will be offered every Saturday until April 27. The English sessions are from noon to 2 p.m., and the French/Creole sessions are from 2 to 3:30 p.m. To sign up for a session, scan the QR code.



PHOTO BY NICOLE SHAKER

Lauren Chue works at Sweat Records in Little Haiti .

Shark Surge party wins student government presidential election

By Bryce Johnson

The Undergraduate Student Government Association announced on March 29 the election winners for its upcoming 37th administration.

Daniyal Baig, junior business major, was elected president.

"We put a lot of hours and a lot of time into this and it was very stressful in the beginning because it's always a journey," Baig said.

Arun Jagarlamudi, junior public health major, was elected executive vice president.

"In my position, I'm looking forward to working with my president and my e-board. Just get legislations done next year and have fun as well as, as EVP, make changes to the constitution and the amendment," Jagarlamudi said.

Jagarlamudi and Baig ran as the Shark Surge party. They campaigned against the DRIVE party (Diversity, Resilience, Innovation, Vision, Excellence), of which Anne Sylvie Jean Louis, junior psychology major, ran for president.

In Shark Surge, Ava Crosson won veteran senator, Mitchell Thenor won international senator, Morgan Trinh and Aleena Jabi won law senator, Amurtha Venkat won academic senator of Osteopathic Medicine, Ziv Nachmani and Sreejani Jonnolagada won computing and engineering, Lassaya Vemparala and Ilan Nedjar won Halmos senator, Divya Komorpora and Preetam Gopu for psychology senator, Ria Verma and Jonah Varghese won business senator, Khushu Faldu for



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

The Undergraduate Student Government Association announces the winners of the election on March 29 in the Flight Deck.

residential senator, Sammara Siddiqui for commuter senator, Alina Andrews and Anthony Marzouk for upperclassmen senator, Emily Gurguis for non-traditional senator, Harris Siddiqui for diversity senator, and Kristy Basily for athletic senator. In DRIVE, Ann-Chloe Daniel won education senator.

Manas Peddiboyina, senior public health major and current USGA

president, encourages students to make the changes they want to see on campus, regardless of whether they are involved with USGA.

"At the end of day, USGA's primary goal is to make change on campus," Peddiboyina said. "If you win, you lose, it doesn't matter."

The new administration will begin in the 2024-2025 school year.

The newly elected members will be sworn in on April 17 at 3 p.m. in the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation.

Hotline for mass shooting prevention launches in Davie

By Jules Batchker

On April 6, two people were killed and seven others were injured in a shooting at CityPlace Doral. In the wake of recent tragedies that have rattled communities across the nation, preventing mass shootings has become a massive social concern, prompting people like Sean Canonie of Davie to take action.

Canonie launched the first mass shooting prevention call center in January. By calling 605-667-4668, those considering this act of violence can speak with trained call-takers. People who suspect someone is planning a mass shooting can also call the hotline and report anonymously. The hotline is headquartered in Davie and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, a mass shooting is an event where at least one attacker injures/kills four or more people with a firearm in the same general area and time. It reports that there have been more than 120 mass shootings in the United States in 2024.

Eleven of those were in Florida.

For Canonie statistics like these are frustrating because he believes that mass shootings are preventable.

"If we can get to the shooter, we can de-escalate and bring them services," Canonie said.

Debbie Espinoza, a former Broward County public school teacher, works with Canonie on the hotline. Espinoza finds it especially devastating that mass shootings have been normalized for young people.

"It is really upsetting to me that [young people] are being raised in a time where everywhere they go, they have to watch for this type of activity—a club, a church, the mall, a concert, school, the grocery store," Espinoza said.

Espinoza stressed that there needs to be more resources for people thinking about carrying out acts like mass shootings.

"We can offer a non-judgmental person to say, 'listen, we hear you, we see you, there's value in you, there's value in your life, it's not going to solve any type of problem

that you have,'" she said.

Danielle Rittman, senior accounting major at Florida State University, survived the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on Feb. 14, 2018. Seventeen students and staff lost their lives.

Rittman liked the idea of a preventative hotline, but expressed that further government action is also needed.

"I think a hotline is a step in the right direction, but it's not enough," she said.

She feels politicians in Florida are ignoring the problem for profit.

"If politicians can focus more on the tragedies that have occurred rather than money in their pocket from the NRA [National Rifle Association] or from different lobbyists, they maybe can accept that it's happening and do something about it," she said. "It could be their children or grandchildren one day."

In April 2023, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed HB 543, a bill permitting adults aged 18 and older to purchase firearms without background

checks, training or licensure.

Alexis Lass, senior political science major, thinks Florida politicians have failed survivors in the years following the tragedy at Douglas.

"Setting more stringent policy on who has the right to own a gun is probably the most effective way to prevent mass shootings, but the most difficult way because no one can agree," Lass said.

She agrees with Rittman that a hotline is just the beginning of a bigger solution.

"I don't think a hotline is enough," she said. "I do think it's a start, but it comes down to effective policy and legislation."

Lass encouraged students who wish to see changes in gun control policy to vote in the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

"People need to vote this election because the president that's in office will determine the type of legislation that's going through the house and the senate," she said.



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

Deborah L. Plummer, psychologist and author of "To My White Friends Who Know Me," leads a discussion with Arnetta Pierce, member of the BEDI council.



PHOTO BY BRYCE JOHNSON

The actors dance during the second act of "To My White Friends Who Know Me."

Diversity Week culminates with performances of "To My White Friends Who Know Me"

By Bryce Johnson

On April 5, the Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Council hosted two showings of "To My White Friends Who Know Me," a play that emphasizes having conversations about race, at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

"This is a very special production. This is our grand finale of our Diversity Week," Eileen Petzold-Bradley, member of the BEDI Council, said.

Diversity Week ran from April 1 - 7. Some events included Cultural Expressions Day on April 4 and the film premiere of "Open Dialogues: Gen QueerZ" on April 2.

The play is based on the life of Deborah L. Plummer, psychologist and author of the play. Broken into three acts, "To My White Friends Who Know Me" is about building strong, healthy cross-racial relationships.

"That second act with the four Black women talking, that's a

window into the kind of things that Black people say when white people aren't around and their own awareness and work that we have to do in terms of racial identity," Plummer said.

Around 160 people attended the play. Bill Adams, professor in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, enjoyed watching the performance.

"I loved it because they were so honest, and they brought these social issues to light in a theatrical

way," Adams said. "All the actors were super strong and likable and believable."

After the play, Plummer and Arnetta Pierce, member of the BEDI Council, led a discussion on the play's themes. The Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center, Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, and the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs cosponsored the play.

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**BROWARD
COUNTY
FLORIDA**

Alumna shares her experience as an NBC 6 reporter with NSU students

By Bryce Johnson and Ellen Ely

Johanna Torres, news, traffic, lifestyle and sports reporter for NBC 6 South Florida Today, graduated from NSU in 2006 as a business administration major and communication minor. During her time at NSU, Torres was the assistant station manager and a DJ at Radio X at the time, now Mako Radio.

"I've always enjoyed telling stories and interviewing people and being part of my community. I think at a young age I was exposed to that and I found it interesting," Torres said.

Since July 2023, Torres has worked in NBC 6's Morning Show, covering stories related to traffic, lifestyle and sports. Torres also covers other stories featured on the Morning Show and sometimes hosts South Florida TODAY at 12:30 p.m.

"I arrive anywhere between 3:30 to 4 a.m., and then our first show starts off at 5 a.m. So from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., we are live on TV and I'm doing normal cut-ins and different story pieces as well," Torres said. "Then after that, we do cut-ins in between the Today Show. So between 7 a.m. to about 9 a.m., we're doing cut-ins every 25 minutes."

Paulina Riojas, content producer at NBC 6 and former general manager of Mako TV, graduated from NSU in 2023. Riojas works with Torres every morning on the traffic reports. Torres started working at NBC 6 shortly after Riojas.

"I felt like I was the new kid on the block, but then she came in and she was a new traffic anchor, so it



PHOTO BY DANNA BERTEL

Johanna Torres, NSU alumna and reporter for NBC 6 South Florida Today, discusses her experience in the news industry with communication practicum students.

was nice to know that I had someone who was new as well starting the morning shift with me," Riojas said. "She's always really good and awesome at explaining different parts of not just traffic, but entertainment, sports. She has so many incredible talents in her hat that it's insane to me and I really look up to her."

One of Torres' favorite stories for NBC 6 was interviewing Kingsley Ben-Adir, the lead actor in "Bob

Marley: One Love."

"I know that Bob Marley is such a huge icon, so being able to sit down with the family, sit down with the main actor and put that story together, I think was a lot of fun and a very memorable moment for me," Torres said.

Before NBC 6, Torres worked at WSVN 7 News and WPLG Local 10. She also worked in Georgia as a multimedia journalist and anchor.

For students looking to get into

journalism, Torres said it is important to know how to produce, shoot, and edit your stories because a lot of big markets require that now.

To get that experience, Torres encourages them to apply for internships, have a set goal in mind and learn from their mistakes.

"If you mess up, just get right back up and know that your next shot is a new opportunity to shine again instead of letting it get to you," Torres said.

Sharks Speak: What are your plans after graduation?



"My plans for after graduation are to work hopefully for NSU in admission counseling for undergraduate admissions or in marketing," said George Tarke, senior marketing major.



"After graduation, I commission May 17 as a second lieutenant in the army and I branch finance, so in September I will go to finance basic officer leadership course, and then continue my leadership abilities in Vicenza, Italy," said Amber Hockaday, senior legal studies and political science major.



"After graduation, I plan to relax as much as possible before continuing my education at the Shepard Broad College of Law at NSU in the fall," said Steven Stabile, senior history major.



"I will be taking a gap year and working as an SPLA before furthering my education and going to graduate school," said Paige Wayner, senior speech-language pathology major.

STUEYs 2024: A tribute to President Hanbury



PHOTO BY MIA ALVARADO
President George L. Hanbury II reminisces on stage.

By Bryce Johnson and
Francesca Abarca

Deanna Skowronski, fourth-year dental student, won the 2024 Student of the Year award at the 26th annual Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYs) on April 9 in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

"I'm so happy with my education at NSU. The dental school is just amazing. We have by far the best faculty in the world. They care tremendously about their students and I would not be here unless it was for them," Skowronski said.

The STUEYs is an annual award show that celebrates NSU staff, faculty, alumni, students and athletic teams. NSU President George L. Hanbury II, who has attended every one, announced last September that he was stepping down as president and CEO, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

"I've been at the university going on 27 years, but tonight was the most choreographed, rehearsed and professional demonstration of talent at NSU that I've seen," Hanbury said.

At the STUEYs, Hanbury remembered first coming to NSU and talking to Brad Williams, founder of the STUEYs and senior vice president for enrollment management and student affairs.

"Dr. Williams had been here a few short years before and I said, 'Brad, what's the most important thing you think at NSU?' And he said, 'Well, it's all about the students.' And that's the way I've lived my life for the last 27 years," Hanbury said.

Khijani Kaheim Williams, sophomore business administration major, received the Juan Pablo Correa Memorial Scholarship Award. Melissa Dore, director of academic support and administration in the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences, won 2024 Administrator of the Year. Barri Litt, professor of accounting in the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, won 2024 Professor of the Year. Gerard Wheeler, assistant dean of student engagement, won 2024 Executive of the Year.

"I am a big believer in giving students a voice, to give them purpose, to give them hope when they don't have hope, and to believe in them when no one else believes in them," Wheeler said.

The STUEYs also featured a video tribute to Hanbury, a flash mob with a Shark Talent performance of "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay, a piano performance of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" by Amanda Almeida, a dance performance to Adele's "Love in the Dark" by Rachel Harris, and a performance of The Chiffons' "One Fine Day" by Shark Gold.

'It's all about the students.'
- Dr. Brad Williams

Below is the full list of 2024 winners:

Graduate Organization of the Year:

Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) - Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Corporate Partner of the Year:

HCA Florida Healthcare

NSU Athletics Team of the Year:

2022-2023 NSU women's swimming team

Undergraduate Organization of the Year:

Stage for Change

Student Government of the Year:

Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy Student Government Association

Cocurricular Adviser of the Year:

So Yeon Sharon Lee, O.D. from the College of Optometry

Administrator of the Year:

Melissa Dore

Regional Campus Student of the Year:

Taylor O'Byrne

Staff Person of the Year:

Ryan Ishmael, M.P.H.

Professor of the Year:

Barri Litt, Ph.D.

Alumni of the Year:

Douglas McIntosh, J.D.

Executive of the Year:

Gerard Wheeler

Overall Student of the Year:

Deanna Skowronski

Juan Pablo Correa Memorial Scholarship Award:

Khijani Kaheim Williams



Gerard Wheeler, assistant dean of student engagement, accepts the award for 2024 Executive of the Year.



Shark Gold performs the song "One Fine Day," by The Chiffons.



Nominees for Student of the Year are announced at the beginning of the show.

Student researchers to investigate droughts in national park this summer

By Antonio Miguel Escorzon

This summer, Paul Baldauf, professor in the Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, is taking student volunteers to aid in the research for the Badlands Working Group, a team of experts from different universities around the United States. Student volunteers from these universities investigate the long-sustained droughts in Badlands National P

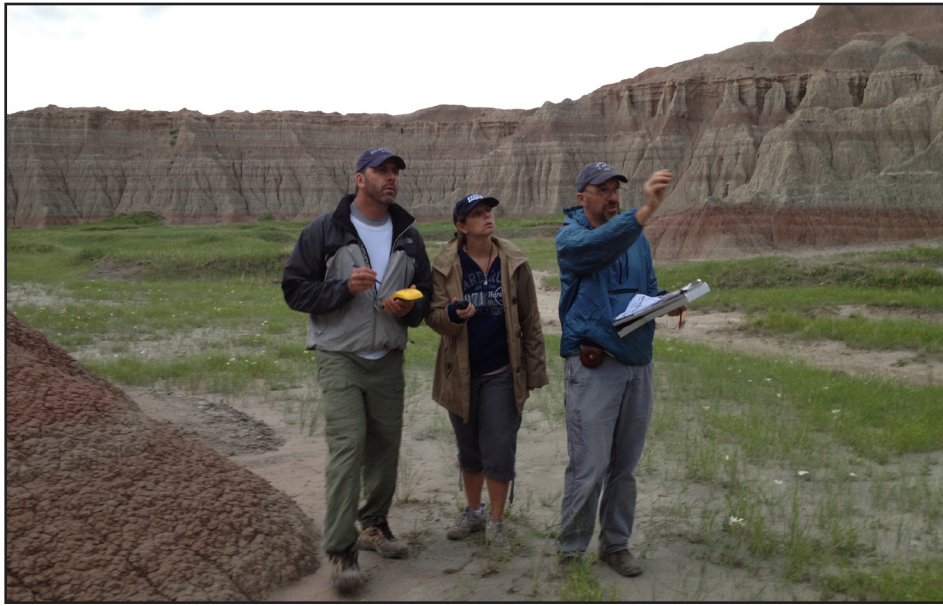
Alongside Baldauf are undergraduate student volunteers John Nichols, Amanda Altree, Corinne Renshaw, Ritka Vonguru and Lillie Suthers. Baldauf and his students work together with Professor Patrick Burkhardt and his students from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania, as well as Professor Gregory Baker from Colorado Mesa University.

“Despite the geographical distance between the universities, science still brings the group together,” Corinne Renshaw, junior environmental science and marine biology major, said. “I am happy to be part of that legacy.”

During the 2023 to 2024 academic year, Renshaw worked on mineralogic identification, geochemical analysis and particle size analysis.

“I bring it up in class and welcome environmental science majors and non-majors to volunteer,” Baldauf said.

Baldauf has been working with the BWG for 15 years. He frequently speaks to his students about the BWG because he thinks this independent research opportunity can help them regardless of their chosen field.



COURTESY OF PAUL BALDAUF

The Badlands Working Group map rock formations in the White River Badlands in around 2018.

“I feel that I have really benefited from working with other students who are so passionate about this project,” Amanda Altree, freshman environmental science major, said. “Their research not only adds to our collective understanding, but fosters new ideas and conversations within the group.”

Altree has been working since September 2023 in comparing particle size to identifying the origin point of the sediment.

Baldauf brings student volunteers to the Badlands to work on the research from May to June. Baldauf understands the importance of developing early networking and work experience through this research investigation.

“It is the obligation to mentor the next generation of scientists, encouraging them to network and

participate,” Baldauf said.

The BWG uncovered three periods of extraordinary droughts when digging the sand dunes in the Badlands.

“These are not continuous for hundreds of years, but probably are closely spaced enough that they changed the ecology dramatically, shifting the region from temperate to arid,” Baldauf said. “It results in loss of vegetation and sand dunes becoming active.”

The BWG formed a profound idea of the existence of a megadrought culminating in these periods. The BWG collect samples of sediment from the dunes to further the research.

“We analyze our sand samples using the OSL [Optically Stimulated Luminescence] to determine how long the sand has been buried,

which we interpret as the time since the end of the drought,” Baldauf said.

In order to study what the environment was like at the time the dunes were active, the BWG found snail fossils in the samples. Using a sieve separates the snails from the individual grains in the samples.

“I took off on sieving snail fossils from the Red Dog Table Loess sediment from the Badlands,” Renshaw said. “The passion for investigating the snails’ use as temperature proxies from isotopes has really moved along our understanding of this area.”

From there, the snails are identified by David Grimley, gastropod expert from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The BWG uses carbon-14 dating on the snails to interpret the period from when these snails were alive.

“Working as a team, meeting new people and developing ideas are important ways for students to experience the value of collaboration,” Baldauf said.

There are opportunities for student volunteers to not only help in the research, but present the results during conferences. The NSU research team in the BWG present their findings during the annual Geological Society in America conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in October.

“I not only talk about what we are researching, but about how to communicate with other researchers, how to organize presentations and other invaluable skills that I would not have had much exposure to, if it was not for the Badlands Working Group,” Altree said.

The NSU Archives chronicle the university’s history

By Bryce Johnson and Ronald Martinez

NSU President George L. Hanbury II, who plans to release a book reflecting on his time at NSU, hopes to use the NSU Archives in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center as one of his sources.

“I’ve gone over there quite often just to look at some of the old history. And as a matter of fact, I’ll use some of it when I’m writing my book,” Hanbury said.

The archives feature documents, memorabilia and more spanning over 50 years of NSU’s rich history, including how it originally started as Nova University of Advanced Technology.

Gena Meroth, university archivist and director of the Department of University Archives Institutional Scholarship and Resource Sharing Services, heads her small team of archivists in preserving the historic documents and artifacts, ranging

from course catalogs, brochures, commencement programs, photographs, The Current newspaper and more.

Alongside the archives is NSUWorks, a digital repository of uploaded paperworks.

“A born digital item might be something like one of the open access journals that we host in the repository. Conference proceedings from conferences that we host in person will be in the repository. And then paper-based collections that we’ve digitized,” Meroth said.

In addition to historic documents and artifacts from NSU, the archives have accepted special collections through donations like a bayonet from the Civil War, a copy of “Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant” signed by 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant himself, and personal work from artist Conni Gordon.

Some of Gordon’s artwork was donated to the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale and her personal

collection is in the archives. Gordon was named in the Guinness Book of World Records as the “World’s Most Prolific Art Teacher.” She died on May 2, 2017.

“I like, just in general, when we’re able to build a story about the university when people will email me or call and say, ‘I’m looking for the first date that NSU did something.’ ‘Can you confirm that we had this program or this event on a certain date,’ and we can reach back into our archival collections and say, ‘Yeah, look,’” Meroth said.

Whether it’s for NSUWorks or the physical archives, Meroth explained how they have stringent requirements on what they can accept, such as gently worn documents or specific collections relating to NSU, the Davie/Fort Lauderdale or special interest items. The archives attempt to also keep donations in the order they were received with minimal changes.

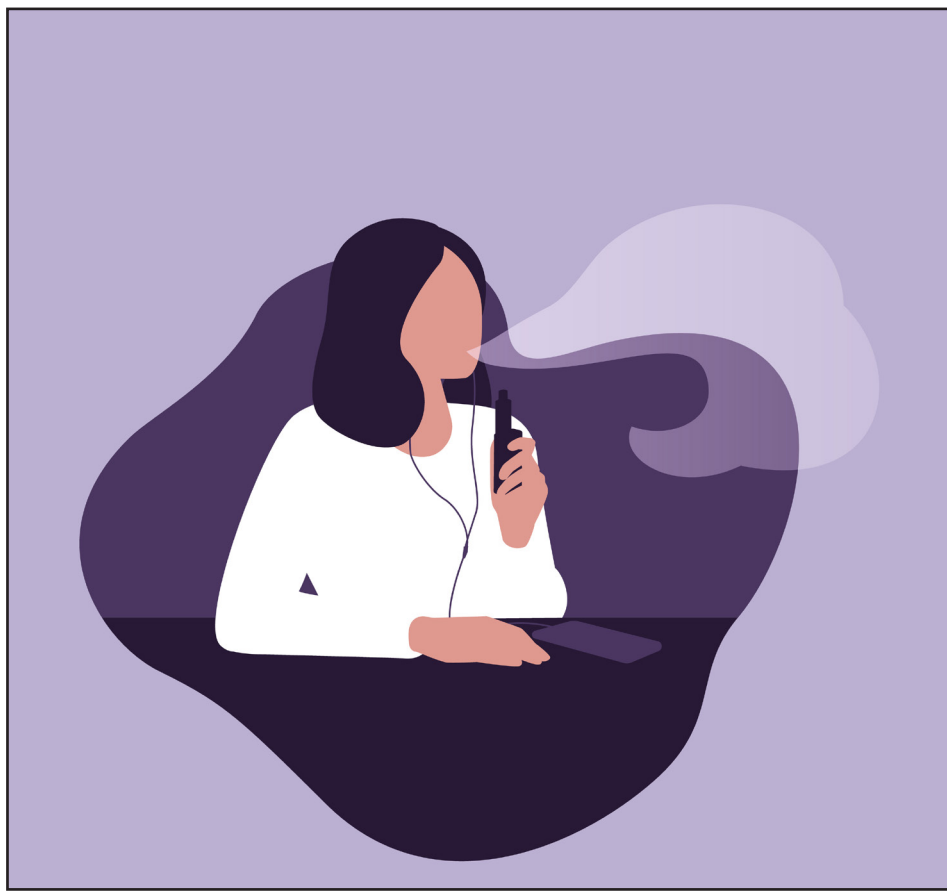
“Our motto is, if in doubt, don’t throw it out,” Meroth said. “If you’re

a faculty member and you’re going to donate papers or your research from your tenure while you were here, if it’s a community member donating something that they’ve collected over the years, we’d like to see it in its original form because it’s really important when you archive items.”

The NSU Archives is on the fourth floor of the Alvin Sherman Library. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If students are looking for something specific, Meroth suggests sending an email to nsuworks@nova.edu.

“We’re also putting on faculty and student scholarships and attempting to broadcast worldwide what NSU is producing in terms of research. It’s really, really important. I want to say is that I want people to know about us and to know what we’re doing here, you know, that’s really, really important,” Meroth said.

Concerns about the long-term effects of vaping continue to grow



By Ellen Ely

Mauricio Danckers, clinical associate professor of medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences, is concerned about the yet-to-be-discovered long-term effects of vaping on youth.

“The evidence on vaping is still growing. We don’t know the long-term effects, but we do certainly know the short-term effects,” Danckers said. “There is a conception that it’s not as harmful as smoking tobacco. But science has

proven to us that vaping is not healthy.”

Danckers said e-cigarettes come in different shapes and forms, making them easier to use.

“You don’t see in a party, students saying ‘Hey, I’m going to go outside for a smoke.’ They just grab their device and smoke,” Danckers said. “Different from the combustible cigarettes that you have to go outside and smoke.”

Results from the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey in 2023 found that more than one in four

(25.2%) of current youth e-cigarette users use an e-cigarette product every day. Why have e-cigarettes caught the attention of youth?

For Kristina Hankinson, freshman psychology major, people start using e-cigarettes because they think it is cool to smoke.

“I have watched my family trying it. I have watched my friends trying it. And I have just watched people suffer from addiction. They think it is cool and their friends are going to think it is cool. They think it is a cool thing to do, so they start and can’t stop,” Hankinson said.

Danckers said the nicotine found in e-cigarettes has been associated with changes in mood, deteriorated cognitive performance, seizures, mood disorders, anxiety, depression, increased appetite and having sometimes a hard time sleeping.

“The act of vaping is mostly the delivery of a highly addictive substance, and that substance is called nicotine,” Danckers said. “When you smoke one regular tobacco cigarette that you combust, that’s usually I will say 4 milligrams of nicotine. E-cigarettes, each of the little vials that you put on, you can have a starting of 50 milligrams.”

However, nicotine is not the only problem found in e-cigarettes. Danckers said even e-cigarettes without nicotine are still unhealthy.

“There are e-cigarettes without nicotine, but there are still other substances that we know will be harmful for the lungs and that are associated with cancer in animals, kidney injury, changes in skin and

dental teeth, in oral ulcers,” Danckers said.

Hankinson said the dangers of smoking e-cigarettes often do not provide enough motivation for young people to quit.

“I think [the fruity flavor] is a cover up and a good excuse for younger people to condone using vapes because it is said to be better than cigarettes so they are not doing something as bad as smoking a cigarette, but really, they are or it is even worse,” Hankinson said.

Sheri Schour, NSU Area Health Education Centers senior project specialist, said there are resources available free of charge at NSU AHEC to those who want to quit smoking any type of tobacco, including e-cigarettes.

“It is a four-week program with in-person or virtual sessions. You can come back three times within the year and get more patches, gum or lozenges free of charge,” Schour said.

The AHEC program, partnered with Tobacco-free Florida, has helped people since 2007, with more than 280,000 attendees to date.

“People that want to quit don’t jump right in. They need to prepare themselves to quit. It is not easy,” Schour said. “This program offers support by highly-trained specialists to create goals, help manage withdrawal symptoms, and work with trigger urge to smoke.”

Mental health buckles under the weight of student loans

By Adam Sadik and Ellen Ely

John Kim, sophomore business major, is worried about the amount of student debt he’s taken during his time at NSU.

“It bothers me a lot about the debt I have right now. I am paying some of it back with my paychecks from work, but it does not seem like it is going down at all,” Kim said. “I feel like it affects my mental health because I think about it quite often and the burden that I have from it.”

In the United States, students collectively owe more than \$1.727 trillion, according to statistics published on March 3 by Melanie Hanson, research analyst at Education-Data.org.

Madhavi Menon, professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at NSU’s College of Psychology, thinks student loans have more impact after students graduate, when you start paying back the loan.

“I am not sure every student is ruminating over the loans they have to pay when they graduate, but it

can affect students during college. The difficulties arise if things don’t go according to plan and you don’t get the kind of job you were planning to get to pay back your loan,” Menon said. “You have a prevailing sense of perceived failure and it is problematic. It starts negatively impacting you.”

Isabela Serna, senior legal studies major, is not stressed about her student loans because they helped her get the education she wouldn’t get elsewhere, she said.

“I come from Colombia, and my mom is a single mom head of household. I didn’t want my mom to worry about coming up with that money. Almost anyone that wants to study can, which is different from where I came from,” Serna said

Menon said a lot of students think an education loan is a positive loan. However, it is linked with the development of the prefrontal cortex, which is what governs decision-making.

“It is not like you get the loan to buy fancy shoes or anything. But at the end of the day, you need to say whatever loan you are taking,

can you pay it back?” Menon said. “As 18 years old, we are not really looking so far ahead. The prefrontal cortex is only fully developed and mature by the time we are 21 or 22 years old.”

Menon said loans can affect decision-making in the future.

“Depending on the person, it is going to determine the kind of job you take, where you choose to live, when are you going to ‘settle down,’ getting married or having children. It has a domino effect,” Menon said.

Serna notices how students around her pay for college and how it impacts them.

“My boyfriend’s parents set up a fund for him, and he does not stress over paying for college. It puts us in different positions when making life decisions. He is not worried, but for me, I am always thinking about that money aspect,” Serna said.

Menon said student loans affect more first-generation college students.

“First-generation students may apply for a loan or grant in a field that is not going to give ‘the power’ for them to pay back the loan, which

really increase the stress levels,” Menon said. “If you are going to get a loan and you plan to major in engineering, the chances are higher that you are potentially going to be able to pay off that loan than if you are majoring in the liberal arts.”

Menon explained why universities struggle to have a solution for the ongoing student debt problem.

“There are universities that are tuition-free, but it is not always possible for all schools to offer those sorts of means because at the end of the day the university also has to stay afloat,” Menon said. “It makes a dilemma in terms of what we can do. It is something that needs to be tackled at a much more macro-systemic level.”

If students have extensive issues with student debt that may affect their mental health, there are ways to seek professional help.

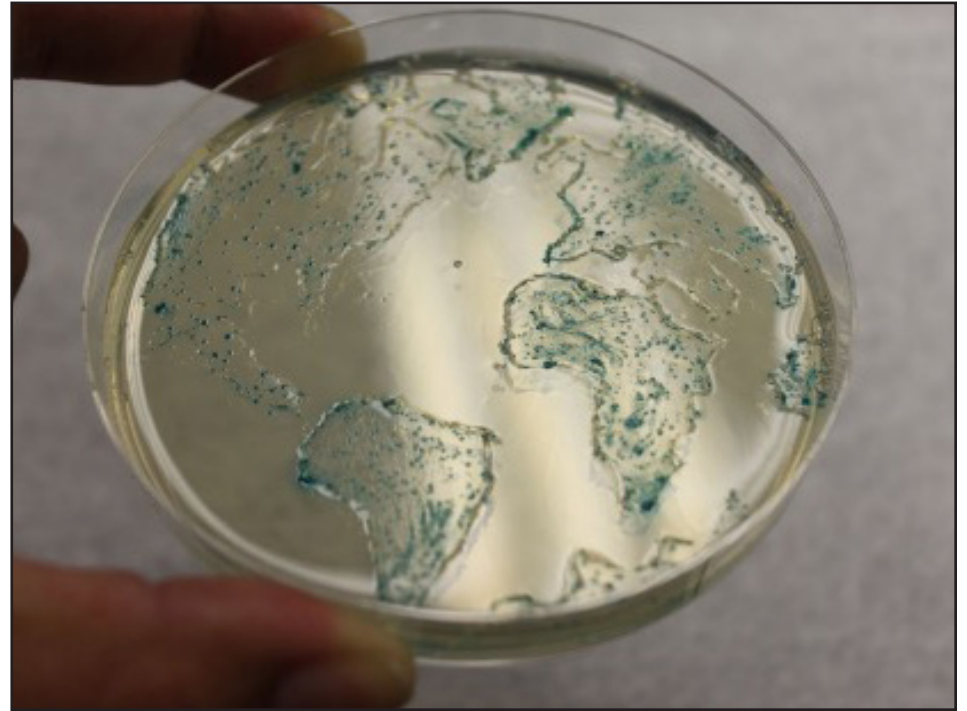
The NSU Center for Student Counseling and Well-Being provides student counseling sessions partnered with Henderson Health to ensure mental and physical well-being for NSU students.

Agar art: Common ground for art and science students



COURTESY OF KANDY LOPEZ

Agar art on starch-iodine plates, created by NSU student Breanna Jones in 2020.



COURTESY OF KANDY LOPEZ

Agar art on a nutrient agar plate, created by NSU student Pallavi Samudrala in 2020.

By Alia Yiskis

Trillions of bacterial cells live both inside and on the surface of the human body and are essential for bodily functions. Recently, bacteria are also being harnessed in another field: the arts.

Julie Torruellas Garcia, microbiologist and professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, described agar art as using different strains of bacteria to create colorful artworks on agar, or bacteria food.

“Agar art is creating artwork using bacteria as your paint and Petri dishes with agar as your canvas,” she said. “Typically, people prefer to use bacteria that have pigmentation of different colors, *Serratia marcescens* [is] red, or *Micrococcus luteus* has that golden yellow color. We [always] use safe bacteria that are not going to cause

disease to humans, even some that are naturally found on or in the human body.”

Agar art is a component of Art Lab (ARTS 3030), an art class created and taught by Kandy Lopez, associate professor and program director of Art + Design in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts. Lopez said Art Lab aims to connect the fields of art and science.

“I think all students need to be able to see themselves and their future within their major. That includes the arts and the sciences. And since we're under the same umbrella for our college, and I've worked with various doctors and science disciplines, it only made sense to create a course that will benefit all of us,” she said.

Kayle Mederos, junior biology major, experienced making agar art in an Intro to Drawing class and is

currently taking Art Lab.

“I thought it was interesting how different bacteria interacted with different agar colors, [and] as a biology major, it felt like a class that was right for me, as a combination of art and science,” she said.

For her upcoming Art Lab assignment, Mederos hopes to illustrate the life cycle of a bacteriophage, a type of virus that infects bacteria, within her Petri dish canvases.

In 2023, for the first time, artwork created by NSU students over the past eight years were compiled into an exhibition dedicated to agar art, which was displayed in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

Garcia said the exhibition had been a long time in the making.

“Since 2017, Kandy and I have been collaborating on agar art. [We] had published a research article in the journal for Microbiology

and Biology Education. People from the American Society for Microbiology offered us funding to do the agar art exhibition, [as] they wanted local agar art exhibits. Every year, we [also] enter the ASM annual agar art contest,” she said.

Lopez believes it's crucial for artists and scientists to exist in the same space.

“A lot of time, artists need the quantitative side, and scientists need the qualitative side, so they feed off of each other. It's easier to solve problems when there are different thinkers in the room,” she said.

Art and science students looking to try agar art or learn the techniques associated with plating bacteria can consider taking Art Lab even year winters or Microbiology (BIOL 3400) every fall and winter.

Tablet-form Epi-pen alternative in the works

By Adam Sadik and Sneha Subhash

Emergency treatments for anaphylaxis from allergic reactions are commonly handled by the Epi-pen, an auto-injectable device administering epinephrine. However, emerging research from Nova Southeastern University Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy has provided a potential alternative solution.

Mutasem (Mark) Rawas-Qalaji, founding director of NSU's Center for Drug Discovery and Development, and his research team have been looking at a sublingual administration of epinephrine, or placing a drug under the tongue, as an alternative to the injectable version.

Rawas-Qalaji started his education at the College of Pharmacy of Saudi Arabia and got his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Manitoba in Canada. He came to NSU in 2008 as an assistant professor.

“Patients don't like to inject themselves, so there's a fear associated with the injection,” Rawas-Qalaji said.

He said the stability of the Epi-penis is limited due to the epinephrine being in a solution form.

“[The tablet form] revolutionizes the whole idea of the delivery of the molecule. You do not have to worry about stability because we show in our work that the tablet is way more stable than the injectable,” Dr. Rawas-Qalaji said.

Robert Davis, junior psychology major, has allergies and is hopeful for the development of the sublingual version of the Epi-pen.

“I am deathly allergic to peanuts. Sadly, it is in a lot of things, but I know pretty fast if I accidentally had some, as I will break out into hives and have trouble breathing,” Davis said. “I have one [Epi-pen] in my bag right now. It is a little inconvenient as I have to carry it wherever I go, but it has saved my life. A tablet version sounds a lot more convenient to carry around.”

Rawas-Qalaji emphasized the importance of rigorous testing and regulatory approval in order to determine and ensure the efficacy and safety of the sublingual epinephrine tablet. Currently,

it yields similar results to injections.

“An injection into the muscle or a tablet under the tongue resulted in similar concentrations at a similar time,” Rawas-Qalaji said.

Studies have been conducted and shown to have a promising safety profile in ex vivo (cell and tissue cultures).

“A series of studies done in the lab, animal models, and human studies have been done to check the properties of the tablets with FDA approval,” Rawas-Qalaji said.

Currently, the tablet form is not available for sale as the product is still under development for manufacturing.

NSU's Spring Music Concert to follow themes of dreams and happiness



PHOTO BY DANNA BERTEL

The Bossa Nova Chorale practices the opening song "A Million Dreams" during rehearsal.

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

The NSU Mako Band and the Bossa Nova Chorale are coming together to perform in the Spring Concert on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center.

Bill Adams, professor and music and theatre program director in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, said this is the first time that the concert will be held there.

"That's a big shift for us because

it's a traditional theater and everything is designed for the audience to be able to see and hear and for us to be positioned in such a way that it all works together," Adams said. "We're really super excited that it will be in the Miniaci and everybody should be able to hear and see better."

This year's theme revolves around the song "A Million Dreams" from the movie "The Greatest Showman." Other songs in the concert include "Don't Stop Believin'," "Sweet Dreams" and "Vienna," as well as an Abba medley. The songs

were chosen to follow a theme of dreams and happiness.

"What a nice message for us to say as musicians that we would like everybody to have a million dreams. So come and enjoy the concert and just share these dreams with us," Adams said.

Despite rehearsing separately, Mako Band and Bossa Nova Chorale are enjoying the process of coming together and rehearsing for the upcoming concert.

"It's always really enticing and then of course, we go from a room to the actual performing space and

that excitement also builds even for a lot of these students that have been doing it for years, some of them decades," said Carlo Ricchi, adjunct faculty and director of Mako Band.

For more information:

Contact Bill Adams at wadams@nova.edu.

NSU Spring Music Concert is free and will take place in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center on April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Miami Film Festival hosts "The Idea of You" movie screening



PHOTO BY DANNA BERTEL
Michael Showalter, director of "The Idea of You," participates in a Q&A.

By Danna Bertel

The Miami Film Festival hosted a screening of the romantic comedy "The Idea of You" starring Anne

Hathaway and Nicholas Galitzine. The director of the film, Michael Showalter, attended the screening on April 8 and received the Art of Light award that night at Regal South Beach.

"It's a very big honor. I'm very flattered and humbled by it and I am just excited to be here and for people to see the film," Showalter said.

Attendees got the opportunity to watch the film before its exclusive streaming release on May 2 on Prime Video. After the screening, Showalter was part of a Q&A session where the audience was able to ask questions.

The film is based on a book by the same name, "The Idea of You," and centers on Solene, played by Hathaway, a 40-year-old divorced mother who begins an unexpected romance with 24-year-old Hayes Campbell, the lead singer of a popular boy band. The film delves into the challenges of a relationship with an age gap and unwanted attention due to Hayes's superstar status.

Showalter was initially interested

in directing the movie because Hathaway was cast as the lead actress.

"I love Anne Hathaway. I was really excited to work with Anne and I also love romantic stories and it felt like this was a story that I haven't seen before in a movie, so I was really excited to bring it to life," Showalter said.

Showalter is no stranger to romantic comedies as he is both a fan of the genre and has directed other films in the genre before.

"Many of my favorite movies are romantic comedies, and I feel like they are, as a filmmaker, they can be funny, they can be dramatic, they can be romantic. I think they're cinematic," Showalter said. "At the core, this is just a very entertaining commercial story but we get to also say something about people and about the kind of people that we hope to be."

Fans of the book attended the screening. Olee Fowler was excited to see the book come to life as she enjoyed reading it during the

pandemic.

"I wanted to see the movie compared to the book and the movie deviated a little but the core of the story was still there," Fowler said. "The movie was great. It was a really refreshing take on a romcom and a lot funnier than what I was expecting."

Another fan of the book, Virginia Gil, liked the changes made in the movie.

"I thought it was good. It was faithful, the ending of the book was sad and kind of heart wrenching but this was more uplifting, which I appreciated," Gil said.

Madison Hurtado, NSU senior communication major, resonated with the relationships portrayed in the movie.

"Even though I have never dated a pop star, I can say that I have found love and there are highs and lows and she [Anne Hathaway] portrayed that really well," Hurtado said.

Musicians form friendships through Mako Band

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

Lavan Naveh, 24, senior computer science major, has played the drums for 17 years. He found the opportunity to keep playing in Mako Band.

"I didn't really know about Mako Band when I first came to Nova, and then someone told me that there was a band that I could do voluntarily and not even have to sign up for as a class. I still wanted to continue my musical progression, just not professionally," Naveh said.

NSU's Mako Band is composed of 11 students who play a variety of instruments, such as piano, drums, trombone, bass, guitar, trumpet and clarinet. Carlo Ricchi, adjunct faculty and director of Mako Band, said anyone is welcome to play as long as they attend the 4 p.m. Tuesday meetings in room 309 in the Don Taft University Center.

"Learning how to play an instrument is ideal. Being really good at



Mako Band practices alongside the Bossa Nova Chorale to prepare for the upcoming spring concert.

PHOTO BY DANNA BERTEL

it is also ideal," Ricchi said. "You don't have to be a music major, music minor or theatre minor or anything. As long as you're there and you know your parts, we'll work with you."

Mako Band has performed at

"Peace 2023: A Musical Celebration" and "The Golden Hour," and will perform at the spring concert on April 19 with the Bossa Nova Chorale, NSU's choir ensemble.

The members of Mako Band come from different musical

backgrounds, but all come together in rehearsals.

"You have a lot of people that have either marching band background, jazz background or musical theater background. They'll come in the same room and just hash things out," Ricchi said. "The background doesn't really matter where everybody wants to go, and the fact that everybody wants to work together is really the biggest factor."

Through Mako Band, Naveh got the opportunity to play with others and also form friendships.

"You can listen to music all the time, but you don't really ever get the opportunity to always play with people. So having that opportunity here at NSU has been life-changing. We meet here only once a week but these are friends, as well," Naveh said.

For more information:

Contact Carlo Ricchi at cr939@nova.edu.

Student Choreography Showcase presents dance students' original work



COURTESY OF ELANA LANCZI
Abigail Mas, senior dance major, performs a dance routine.



COURTESY OF ELANA LANCZI
Jazmin Calle, senior speech, language and communication disorders major, poses during a dance routine.

By Danna Bertel and Kayla McGee

NSU dance students will present original choreography pieces in the Student Choreography Showcase on April 12-13 at 7:30 p.m. The showcase will take place in the Performace Theatre in the Don Taft University Center.

This showcase will have 14 pieces, which will include two solos and 12 group dances. There will be a variety of dance styles such as hip-hop, jazz, salsa and contemporary.

Ysabella Lupercio, junior dance and business major, said the showcase allows for students to be creative and put on a show at a professional level.

"It's an opportunity for student

choreographers to get into the creative process and have the tools they need to do so," Lupercio said. "We can do props if we want props, we can do lights, we can do sound. There's everything you need to do a mainstage show as a student."

Lupercio will be participating in the showcase with her contemporary group piece "Built Back up Again," as well as working behind the scenes.

"'Built Back up Again' is surrounding the idea of regaining something that you've lost, whether that's an emotional thing or whether that's a physical. It's like taking the reins and being like, 'this is my life, this is what I want to do,'" Lupercio said.

Olivia Knerr, sophomore dance and sports and exercise science

major, will also be present an original group musical theater piece in the showcase.

This is the first time Knerr has choreographed a group dance. One challenge for her was incorporating chairs into her choreography.

"When I was putting it together, I knew I wanted chairs right away. I knew the chairs would be a good prop, but I didn't really know how hard it would be to maneuver around the chairs, because not only did I have to set formations for the dancers, I had to act like the chairs were dancers as well," Knerr said. "That was a little bit hard, but overall, it's been a really lovely process."

Compared to last year's showcase, Knerr is excited at the variety of dance styles incorporated into

this showcase.

"That's what I'm most excited about this year, because last year, it seemed like the student choreography was kind of sad. All the pieces were just very heavy on the emotional side. It's going to be so much variety so you'll get a taste of everything when you go and watch," Knerr said.

For more information:

Contact Elana Lanczi at lanczi@nova.edu.

This event is free and open to the public.

MUSIC

Keeping in tune with Mako Radio

By Daja Long,
Luqman Gbenro and
Weston Clark

Sound of the Station

This week, the station's spotlight shines on Faye Webster once again, as she claims the No. 1 spot. Webster's indie-pop tunes continue to mesmerize listeners with her captivating sound. Recently, Webster graced Miami Beach with a live performance, sharing her music with South Florida. If you haven't experienced her music yet, now's the perfect time to tune in. Alongside Webster, this week's lineup features a diverse array of artists including San Fermin, Tish Melton, Storyteller, Omni, Kiss Bang, and TR/ST. With their unique blend of indie, hip-hop

and pop, these artists promise a listening experience like no other. If any of these genres resonate with you, don't hesitate to give them a listen. Your support plays a crucial role in helping emerging artists expand their horizons.

Off The Record

Next week's Off the Record is set to deliver an assorted lineup, offering something for everyone. Carey Courson will delve into the Art of the Matter, while Anthony Greaves will keep you up-to-date with the latest sports news. Get an insider's perspective on an NSU athlete's journey Behind the Scenes, and don't miss an engaging interview with a student-led business. Stay tuned for updates on Campus

Life, a lively discussion on pop-culture news, and captivating music recommendations.

In The Know

The latest installment of In The Know delved deep into the intricate concept of generational trauma, shedding light on the profound impact it can have on individuals and communities. With a focus on breaking the cycle and fostering inner healing, the episode offered valuable insights into the transformative power of addressing unresolved issues from the past. Join us for the next episode of In The Know, airing April 11 during lunch hour, as we continue to explore thought-provoking topics and provide guidance on navigating life's

complexities.

The B-Side

The next episode of The B-Side will feature special guests from Mario D'Agostino's Honors Course, The Protest Song in America. In this episode, Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network, and Mario D'Agostino, The Current's faculty sports adviser, will discuss how blues music set the foundation for many genres of music - including protest anthems - that can be heard on Mako Radio today. This episode can be heard tomorrow from noon-1 p.m. and on our livestream at makomedia.nova.edu/mako-radio.

Sirena's Aux



By Alex Hernández

Enter "Rewind," a first-of-its-kind collaboration between Feid and Blxst. This collaboration expands Blxst's musical horizons within the Latin music space and demonstrates the importance of global musical richness. "Rewind" is a new venture for Blxst and Feid, as this West Coast Hip Hop cross-genre flows with Feid's Colombian reggaeton style. As both artists venture into new territory, the captivating blend of summertime beats and vibrant tones draws listeners in and showcases the evolution of their

music. This is a fun and refreshing addition to Sirena's Aux and Mako Radio. Blxst and Feid have crafted the perfect global concoction by embracing the bilingualism of this Spanish English fusion. "Rewind" is an electrifying and innovative collaboration between Feid and Blxst that showcases the beautiful diversity of global music.

This collaboration is just the beginning of exciting new releases from Blxst and Feid, setting the stage for a bright future of global musical richness.

Listen to Blxst and Feid's new single here:



DJ Spotlight

By Daja Long and
Luqman Gbenro

Welcome to the DJ Spotlight, a series of stories dedicated to highlighting the people who shape Mako Radio's sound and keep college radio cool.

For this spotlight, Mako Radio's most mysterious host will have his day in the sun. Yosef Nahon aka DJ Mr. E talks love, loss, and the significance of connection. Yosef has the longest tenure at Mako Radio. He's been on the air for three years, and in his time he's picked up a useful set of skills.

"Knowing how to adapt quickly and keep the [show] going, keep the waves going, is all very important and knowing how to be on the fly," Nahon said.

Nahon's show is a curated experience. Every song builds on the overarching theme of romance.

"I like indie some, I like pop-rock meets heavy metal to some extent. So when I composed my theme for my show, I tied it around the loss of love and different ways of saying 'I miss my ex.'"

Like most creatives, Nahon's expression comes from personal experience. For him, "sad boy" isn't an aesthetic; it's an outlet.

"The most prevalent emotion in my life is sadness and the way I cope with it is listening to sad music. It is a way of kind of getting the tears out. I want to express it in my show's theme," Nahon said.

Late nights with DJ Mr. E are as much about the listening experience as they are about the connection. Every week Nahon carves out a space where it is okay to not be okay.

"Those that do come and enjoy the show are those that also like to share the moment, not just enjoy but make the most of it. A person who wants to [listen to] my show wants to get out of the tears just as much as I do. It's almost kind of like a group dump session," Nahon said.

Nahon's best memories at the station are steeped in the theme of connection. He said the best nights are the ones spent with friends in the booth.

Tune into WKPX 88.5 FM every Thursday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. to get to the bottom of DJ Mr. E.



COURTESY OF YOSEF NAHON
Yosef Nahon, volunteer DJ
at Mako Radio.

Monday
Noon-1 p.m. - DJ RAY: 90s-2000s Rock
6-8 p.m. - DJ MYSTICMELODY: Indie
8-10 p.m. - DJ SHORTY: K-pop

Tuesday
12:30-1:30 p.m. - DJ SIRENA: International
6-8 p.m. - DJ BLOSSOM: Soca
8-10 p.m. - DJ LYRIC: Pop

Wednesday
6-8 p.m. - DJ ANT: Indie,
DJ MYSTICMELODY: Indie
8-10 p.m. - DJ RAY: 90s-2000s Rock

Thursday
12:30-1:30 p.m. - In the Know (Week A), DJ VENUS: Jazz/Soul (Week B)
6-8 p.m. - DJ NEPTUNE: Indie/Pop, DJ VENUS: Jazz/Soul
8-10 p.m. - DJ MR. E: Alternative Rock/Pop

Friday
Noon-1 p.m. - Off the Record (Week A), The B-Side (Week B)
6-8 p.m. - DJ ONYX: Alternative
8-10 p.m. - DJ FAITH: Country-Folk/Blues

MAKO RADIO DJ SCHEDULE

Want to know Mako Media staff's favorite songs to study to during finals?



FROM THE FRONT

TRIESCHMANN

“That was a great thing that the coaches let me do and I was honestly shocked about how hard the practices were,” Trieschmann said. “They were a lot harder here than they were at Florida State.”

Trieschmann was pleasantly surprised with her swimming performance at NSU after comparing her swimming times to previous years.

“In all honesty, I went so much faster in Division II,” Trieschmann said. “I wish I came to Nova my freshman year. I wish I didn’t think that I had to go to a Division I school to swim fast.”

After officially becoming a Shark in 2022, Trieschmann went on to become the first NSU swimmer and third overall to win SSC Swimmer of the Year twice, earned four individual and one relay national championships for the Sharks at the NCAA Championship, and set the NCAA record in the 1000-free-style with a time of 9:38.98.

“She was setting school and NCAA records in a multitude of events, so I just feel that she had a total and complete championship this season,” said head swimming coach Ben Hewitt. “It’s definitely

one for the books and one we will always remember.”

During the NCAA Division II National Championship, Trieschmann won titles in the 200 Free, 500 Free, 1000 Free, and 1650 Free, and was a part of the 800 Free Relay team.

Hewitt highlighted how Trieschmann inspired her teammates with her unique mentality while in and out of the water during the championship.

“She’s got an all gas no breaks mentality,” Hewitt said. “She’s really good at keeping us on our toes and getting us to think big and think a little bit opportunistically.”

After coaching and building a relationship with Trieschmann for two years, Hewitt learned a few things from the star swimmer.

“She has taught me to not be afraid to challenge someone in a unique and individual way,” Hewitt said. “She can make a lot of people better just by being herself and setting a high standard.”

While her swimming career comes to an end, Trieschmann plans on beginning a career in property management and real estate



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Emily Trieschmann, graduating property management and real estate major, is at the starting platform ready to race.

development in West Palm Beach, while also pursuing her master’s at NSU in real estate development.

Hewitt is confident that Trieschmann will be successful in

anything she chooses.

“The determination that Emily possesses in general and all aspects of her life is really unparalleled,” Hewitt said.

NSU women’s hoops is a family affair



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Kailyn Terrell, freshman point guard and business administration major, lines up her shot at the free-throw line.

By Bella Giaquinto and Emily Potter

The NSU women’s basketball team’s culture is cultivated through a unique relationship between head coach LeAnn Freeland-Curry, and freshman point guard and business administration major Kailyn Terrell.

“She’s just always there and you could always count on her,” Terrell said about Freeland-Curry.

After earning her third Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year honor, there’s no doubt that Freeland-Curry has done an exceptional job leading her team to victory during the 2024 season. Freeland-Curry knows her players well but holds a different connection with Terrell due to her friendship

with her mother, Daria Terrell, dating back to their college years at the University of Southern Indiana in the 1990s.

“I understand her DNA a little bit more because I was close with not only her mom, Daria, but also her dad, Sam,” Freeland-Curry said about Terrell. “She’s very tough, very gritty and I know that she’s ready for any challenge.”

Prior to coaching at NSU, Freeland-Curry coached at the University of Indianapolis from 2006-11 where she owned the highest winning percentage in program history at 89-35 while taking the university to three-consecutive NCAA Tournaments.

Terrell attended Brownsburg High School where she started all 26 games her senior year, averaged

10 ppg, 4.1 apg, 3.5 spg, while also shooting 84% from the free throw line. Freeland-Curry and Terrell both found their way to NSU from Indiana at different times.

“I had no plans to leave the University of Indianapolis, but I heard so many great things about NSU that I had to at least come check it out,” Freeland-Curry said.

Freeland-Curry was pleasantly surprised when visiting the campus.

“I came down for the interview and fell in love,” Freeland-Curry said. “So when they offered me the job, it was kind of a no-brainer because I felt like it was an amazing opportunity and a gold mine in NCAA Division II.”

After coaching at NSU for more than a decade, Freeland-Curry reached out to Terrell during her junior year of high school, informing her of the opportunities at NSU.

“I loved the sound of what she could do with the program, then when I had a visit, I loved the campus,” Terrell said. “I got to meet the players, understand what her goal was, the coaching style, and it just fit along with what I wanted.”

Terrell has enjoyed her experience playing for NSU so far, contributing most of her team’s success to their chemistry.

“We’ve been playing good together,” Terrell said. “Our team chemistry is amazing and I think that’s what’s getting us the championship.”

Freeland-Curry is aware of the talent her players possess throughout the season, leaving her confident in their performance.

“I knew the talent we had in the room and the highly competitive spirits that they were,”

Freeland-Curry said. “To motivate is a different beast, so we’re very fortunate and that’s why we’ve been so successful because the players are motivated from within.”

Currently, Terrell ranks fifth on the team overall, while also earning Sunshine State Conference Freshman of the Year for the 2023-24 season. That makes Terrell the third women’s basketball athlete from NSU to win Freshman of the Year since 2016-17.

“I wouldn’t have got this award without my teammates and coaches,” Terrell said. “I’m grateful to play with such amazing players, they always encourage me every single day, and they give amazing vibes, just like my coaches.”

Freeland-Curry shares that Terrell’s spirit will carry her far throughout her basketball and academic career.

“I don’t think there’s any challenge she’s ever had or will ever back down to,” Freeland-Curry said. “She has that fearless spirit that will serve us well in this post-season run, but also for the next three years of her career here and at school.”

Freeland-Curry also expresses her gratitude to the team, as they secured 20 consecutive wins throughout the regular season, making program history.

“The players were amazing throughout the whole experience in terms of just being gritty and tough,” Freeland-Curry said. “A few games they only had nine players active, but those nine players got it done and we’re excited looking forward to the postseason.”

Outfielder perseveres to make major impact for NSU baseball

By Joshua Leatherman

Justin Wachs, a redshirt junior exercise and sports science major, is in the midst of a breakout season with the Nova Southeastern University baseball team.

Wachs came to NSU from West Broward High School in the fall of 2020. Since joining the Sharks under the previous coaching staff, he hoped to be an impact player, but now, under the guidance of new head coach Adrain Morales, Wachs has become a premiere player for the program.

Wachs redshirted in his first year with the program and rarely saw the field in the following two years of play, appearing in just 28 games with 41 at bats. With the new coaching staff, Wachs received a clean slate to prove himself in the fall.

"I was hired so late in the year that we tried to keep everyone we could; otherwise, we wouldn't even have a team. That being said, nobody had a job, and everything would be determined by what they did in the fall," Morales said. "Since the fall, he's been hitting, and I think he has the confidence and trust from us to know that he has earned the job and it is on him to keep it."

Wachs is proving himself to the new coaching staff and learning a new position. Wachs, a career catcher for the Sharks, made the transition to the outfield for the 2024 season.

"It's definitely been an adjustment moving to the outfield, but working with our outfield coach and taking my reps in the outfield during batting practice seriously, I'm getting more comfortable out

there," Wachs said.

Morales highlights the effort that Wachs has taken to put the team first.

"In our fall exit meeting with Justin, I told him that if he wanted to get into the lineup, it was not going to be as a catcher, which he took very well and told us that he wanted to do whatever it took to get in the lineup. That's when we looked at the outfield after he earned the opportunity offensively," Morales said. "A big part of his success has been confidence. When you're hitting, especially the way that Justin is, it is easy to go out there and play defense and stay engaged."

The biggest challenge and adjustment for Wachs has been the mental side of baseball. Alongside Wachs, Morales learned how to boost his confidence and is proud of his growth.

"Mostly it's just letting Justin know that he is a really good hitter and instilling that confidence in him, because he is one of our guys and we've really needed him," Morales said. "He has been so receptive and open to our process, and has completely bought in. For us as coaches to earn his trust like that as fast as it's been, which is not an easy thing to do, is a big credit to who he is."

The 2024 season has been great for Wachs, as he is currently leading the team in on-base percentage (.515) and stolen bases (6) while being second for the Sharks in batting average (.379), hits (39) and home runs (5).

Wachs is currently leading both the team and the Sunshine State Conference in hit-by-pitch (17),



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Justin Wachs, junior exercise and sports science major, prepares to swing.

which is the third most in NCAA D2 Baseball. Wachs is one of fifteen qualified players in the SSC with a perfect fielding percentage (1.000). Wachs' great play has helped the Sharks to a 17-13 overall record in 2024. As the Sharks face a challenging back end of the season, the emphasis is on making winning

plays.

"The biggest thing is knowing that if you do your job and find a way to help the team win, you're going to be back in the lineup the next day," Wachs said.

Game day operations: the Sharks behind the scenes

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto

While leading the Sharks through a remarkable 2023-2024 season, the NSU game day operations staff is often invisible to the public, yet crucial for athletic success. From coordinating competitions and managing logistics, the game day operations staff manages everything related to NSU Athletics events.

"Our job is to make sure all of our on-campus sporting events are provided with the necessary equipment and follow the necessary procedures to run smoothly," said Ashley Holt, athletic operations graduate assistant and previous student athlete at NSU.

Holt was on the track and cross-country team from 2018-2020 at NSU where she started off as a student worker to get involved with game operations. Tommy Barberi, athletic operations and event manager, also was a previous student athlete at NSU, playing

baseball from 2014-2019. Barberi sought involvement within game operations as well, where he worked as a graduate assistant before landing his full-time position with the athletic department. This experience helped them tremendously in their work.

"Going from student worker to graduate assistant to my current job has given me a lot of experience and helped me really understand the system we have here for gameday operations. It helps even more when I have a coworker who's also been a part of our system because we're always on the same page," Barberi said.

The operations staff highlights some of their pregame responsibilities.

"On game days, we arrive three hours early. We make sure whatever equipment that's needed is functioning properly. We then set up our ticket booths, sound systems, and scoreboards to make sure they are ready for the game,"

Barberi said. "We also make sure restrooms and concession stands are stocked up."

There are also responsibilities outside of the physical set-up of a game or competition.

"We are also in charge of setting up uniforms and locker rooms, as well as meeting the visiting team and game officials to ensure they have everything they need," Holt said.

The fast pace and vast obligations of gameday operations calls for those working in the field to have certain skills.

"Anything can go wrong at any given moment, so it's important to be able to think quickly on your feet and overall have good problem-solving skills," Holt said.

Game-day operations are crucial in providing a safe and enjoyable game-day experience for athletes, coaches and fans.

"All of the preparation we do is so the players and coaches can just focus on their game and not worry about anything else. By the same token, it also helps the fans enjoy the game without any distractions or concerns," Barberi said.

Although they are unseen, the operations staff takes pride in the impact they have on NSU's athletic program.

"We have a very successful athletic program here, and being able to help our talented athletes and coaches succeed by facilitating the areas they compete in is why we love our job," Holt said.

The staff consists of Ryan Romero, associate athletic director for Athletic Operations; Tommy Barberi, athletic operations and event manager; and Ashley Holt, athletic operations graduate assistant. The operations department also utilizes student workers to help staff their events.

For these basketball players, the key to a successful season is one another

By Bella Giaquinto and Emily Potter

The NSU men and women's basketball teams have something in common—trust.

“We have trust from the top guy to the bottom guy and I wouldn't even say there is a bottom guy, but there's a lot of trust in one another that we can do the job,” said Ryker Cisarik, junior forward for the men's basketball team and sport management major.

While both teams pushed toward the NCAA Division II National Championship title, the men ended the season with an overall record of 32-3 and the women concluded with an overall record of 25-6. The women's season was cut short when they lost to the University of Tampa during the NCAA South Region Championship. The men carried themselves through the NCAA Division II National Championship game against Minnesota State, but lost 88-85 at the final buzzer.

Men's basketball head coach, Jim Crutchfield, and women's basketball head coach, LeAnn Freeland-Curry, are ready to lead the Sharks to greater success during the 2024-2025 season by developing not only a new team, but a new family.

“When I go recruiting, I look for guys who are team orientated,” Crutchfield said. “I know that when you're winning it's easy to promote that family atmosphere since everyone is happier but it comes down to the type of guys we have here and the type of guys we sign here.”

Similar to Crutchfield, Freeland-Curry ensures that her current and incoming players prioritize teamwork.

“We really look for tough players who know how to win, players who really want to win, and players who want to prioritize a team concept,” Freeland-Curry said. “There are a lot of great players out there, but sometimes players play for themselves.”

Crutchfield and Freeland-Curry's consistent efforts to build a close team can be seen through each player's positive mindset and performance.

“We were always motivated and wanted to be our best selves,” said Morgan Kane, forward for the women's basketball team and exercise and sport science graduate student. “I can only account for my performance based on my teammates because it's a team sport, so my success is their success and their success is my success.”

While the men's basketball team brought in 10 new players this season, Ryan Davis, sophomore guard for the men's basketball team and communication major, highlights how the team adjusted to the new faces.

“The new players all were great guys this year, so it really helped that they were all team players and knew how to win before they got



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

The women's basketball team celebrates after a win against Valdosta State on March 16.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

The men's basketball team wins the third consecutive Sunshine State Conference Championship tournament on March 10.

here,” he said. “We had to trust each other on the court so that's what we did.”

Both teams also faced challenges during the season, ranging from injuries and sicknesses to loss of momentum. But, the Sharks remained supportive of each other and stepped up when needed.

“I will say the players did a great job stepping in and to different roles throughout the season when those types of injuries or illnesses occur and it was really difficult for all of us,” Freeland-Curry said. “But they had such a great belief in each other that we were able to continue to be successful, even though we had those types of setbacks.”

Aubrey Stupp, senior guard for the women's basketball team and psychology major, gives credit to her team's close relationship during the hard times.

“We were just really, really close, and I think that helped us push us so far into the tournament and see

how successful we were because we were able to stick together,” she said.

Crutchfield said that his team overcame challenges by remaining calm and taking each day one at a time.

“In mid-season, we lost a couple of games, struggled in a few more, and the challenge was if we have the ability to continue with this and go to the next level,” Crutchfield said. “It was a day-by-day grind. We did start to get better. We didn't hit the panic button and things started clicking a little bit better.”

Going into the 2024-2025 men's basketball season as a returning player, Cisarik emphasizes an important lesson he learned this season that he'll carry into next year.

“The only thing that matters is one game at a time and I think that's where we really succeeded,” he said. “The biggest thing I learned is to have faith. Have faith in the

system and in each other.”

Although both teams fell short of a NCAA Division II National Championship title during the 2023-2024 season, they both brought home various achievements and broken records. The women won a program-record 20 straight games, captured the Regular Season Sunshine State Conference Championship, and Freeland-Curry won her third SSC Coach of the Year honor.

The men accumulated a 99-4 record over the last three seasons, earned three Sunshine State Conference regular season and tournament titles, three NCAA South Region championships, three NCAA Division II Elite Eight appearances, a national finalist finish and the 2022-23 NCAA Division II National Championship.

“We came up short one shot so we're going to use that as motivation and try to win the national championship next year,” Davis said.

Sports shorts

By Josh Leatherman

Track and field, 4/6

The Nova Southeastern University track team completed racing at the South Florida Invitational over the weekend. Eden Toal led the way for the Sharks, finishing 10th in the 1500-run.

Softball, 4/6

The No. 25 ranked Nova Southeastern University softball team completed a series sweep over the Saint Leo Lions on Saturday afternoon from the AD Griffin Sports Complex. NSU took down the Lions 8-0 in game one and 6-1 in game two to secure the doubleheader sweep.

Men's baseball, 4/6

The Nova Southeastern University men's baseball team continued its Sunshine State Conference series against the Saint Leo Lions over the weekend. NSU was defeated by a final score of 6-1.

Rowing, 4/6

The Nova Southeastern University rowing team competed at the Miami International Regatta on Saturday morning, racing in a pair of events. NSU raced in the



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

The #25 ranked NSU Sharks softball team celebrates after their walk-off victory over Saint Leo.

collegiate 8+ as well as the collegiate 4+. In the Sharks first race of the morning, the collegiate 8+ boat of V Robinson, Chrysta Snair, Ysabel Ribeiro, Ella Riddle, Sejal Jain, Sophia Florez Venegas, Julianna Becerra, Triumph Perry and Anaiya Person (coxswain) placed second with a time of 6:16.358. In NSU's second and final race, the crew of Mollie Ireland, Camila Rodriguez, Jordan Maruskin, Emma Hickey, and Lauren Gray (coxswain) finished in second-place with a time

of 6:30.63.

Track and field, 4/5

The Nova Southeastern University track team kicked off racing at the USF Bulls Alumni Invitational on Friday evening. The Sharks had four top-10 finishes on the women's side and a lone top-10 finish on the men's side. Women's top-10 finishes included 5000-run - Leena Saidi (4th/17:57.13), Ally Jakubiak (6th/18:20.52), Isabella Grant (8th/18:30.37), Karina Gilson (10th/18:39.71). The lone top 10 finish for the men was David Mahnke (7th/15:20.23) in the 5000-run.

Softball, 4/5

The No. 25 ranked Nova Southeastern University softball team took down Saint Leo in walk-off fashion on Friday evening from the AD Griffin Sports Complex. Late-game heroics from Brenna Lokeinsky propelled the Sharks to the SSC victory over the Lions.

Men's baseball, 4/5

Despite opening the game with a four-run first inning, the Nova Southeastern University men's baseball team dropped the Sunshine State Conference series opener to the Saint Leo Lions by a final score of 10-9 in extra innings.

Women's tennis, 4/3

The Nova Southeastern University women's tennis team, under the direction of Head Coach Doug Neagle, has been voted the top team in NCAA Division II by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). The No. 1 Sharks have won eight consecutive matches and are 13-2 on the season.

Men's golf, 4/2

The No. 13 Nova Southeastern University men's golf team won its third event of the 2023-24 season and closed out the regular season with a five-stroke victory at the Battle at the Shores (Normandy Shores Golf Club). The Sharks (-17/273/282/280) led the field of 16, while Jorge Bera (2nd/-8/66/68/71) and Mike Hay (3rd/-7/67/69/70) placed inside the top-three of the tournament.

Women's golf, 4/2

The second-ranked Nova Southeastern University women's golf team wrapped up its regular season with a second-place finish at the Lady Moc Classic 2.0. NSU (T3/+21/287/299/299) moved up one spot in the leaderboard in the final round, while Maia Samuelson (T6/+1/71/72/74) placed in a tie for sixth-place.

Rowing, 3/30

The Nova Southeastern University rowing team continued action at the FIRA Championships on Saturday at Nathan Benderson Park. NSU competed in three races on Saturday, winning the Frosh/Novice 4+ event.

Men's basketball, 3/30

The top-ranked Nova Southeastern University men's basketball team dropped the NCAA Division II National Championship game to the second-ranked Minnesota State Mankato Mavericks, 88-85.

Softball, 3/29

The No. 25 ranked Nova Southeastern University softball team split a doubleheader matchup against #4 ranked Tampa on Saturday afternoon from the Naimoli Family Field. The Spartans took game one 8-1 but the Sharks bounced back with a 4-0 victory to close out the series. Tori Copeland led the Sharks in game two with a two-RBI outing.

Men's baseball, 3/28

The Nova Southeastern University men's baseball team returned to Sunshine State Conference action, hosting the top-ranked Spartans in a three-game series. NSU dropped the opening contest 11-1 on Thursday evening at the NSU Baseball Complex.

Men's basketball, 3/28

For the second consecutive season, the top-ranked Nova Southeastern University men's basketball team will play in the NCAA Division II National Championship. The Sharks won its 20th consecutive game, defeating the sixth-seeded California State-San Bernardino Coyotes 91-77 in the national semifinal at the Ford Center.

Softball, 3/28

After a great start to the season, Nova Southeastern University softball student athletes Alexis Smith and Alyssa Drogemuller have been named to the 2024 Tucci/NFCA Player and Pitcher of the Year Watchlist. Smith and Drogemuller are two of seven SSC athletes to be named on the watchlist.

Softball, 3/25






The Sunshine State Conference announced the Players of the Week for the week of March 18 - March 24, on Monday afternoon. Nova Southeastern University student athlete Alexis Smith (Softball) earned honors following her magnificent performances for the week.

2024 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

FEELING SOCIAL?

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 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">APRIL 12</p> <p style="color: white;">ALMOST ABBA</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">APRIL 13</p> <p style="color: white;">LYNYRD SKYNYRD 'A TRIBUTE'</p>
 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">APRIL 20</p> <p style="color: white;">PABLO CRUISE</p>	<p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">NEW DATE!</p>  <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">APRIL 27</p> <p style="color: white;">SAMANTHA RAMSDELL</p>
 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">MAY 10</p> <p style="color: white;">GIRLS NIGHT: THE MUSICAL</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">MAY 12</p> <p style="color: white;">BALLET & BRUNCH: A MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY EVENT</p>

For more information visit:
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PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

FRIDAY
12

Clothesline Project
9:30 a.m. - Black Box Theatre

Movie Marathon
11 a.m. - Alvin Sherman Library, Cotilla Gallery

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

Student Choreography Showcase
7:30 p.m. - Don Taft University Center, Performance Theatre

FRIDAY
19

Fin Films Movie Night
6 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 2064

NSU Music Spring Concert: A Million Dreams
7:30 p.m. - Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

Las Olas Wine and Food Festival
7:30 p.m. - Las Olas Boulevard

Be Our Guest: 90s/00s Disney Throwback Night
8 p.m. - Revolution Live

Gloria Trevi - Mi Soundtrack Tour
8 p.m. - Amerant Bank Arena

SATURDAY
13

Student Choreography Showcase
7:30 p.m. - Don Taft University Center, Performance Theatre

Law Moot Court Competition
1:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Shepard Broad College of Law

SATURDAY
20

Pablo Cruise
7:30 p.m. - Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

SUNDAY
14

Sunset Yoga Sessions
4 p.m. - Mako Lawn

Law Moot Court Competition
1:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Shepard Broad College of Law

SUNDAY
21

Sunset Yoga Sessions
4 p.m. - Mako Lawn

MONDAY
15

FinsFest Week: Vibes in the Villa
11:45 a.m. - Don Taft University Center Spine

Mental Health Monday
5 p.m. - Flight Deck Multipurpose Room

MONDAY
22

Yappy Hour
Noon - Flight Deck Backyard

WEDNESDAY
17

Dig into Spring: Flower Pot Painting
9 a.m. - Don Taft University Center Spine

Book Swap
Noon - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 2064

Gym Takeover - Iron Sharks
5 p.m. - Don Taft University Center, Recplex

Letters to St. Jude
5:30 p.m. - Carl DeSantis Building, Room 2065

Hero of 1000 Faces - Lecture
Noon - 1 p.m. - Cotilla Gallery in The Alvin Sherman Library

THURSDAY
25

Queen: Rock the Rooftops
6 p.m. - Conrad Beach Fort Lauderdale

FRIDAY
26

The Veronicas Concert
7 p.m. - Revolution Live

Miami City Ballet: Alexei Ratmansky's Swan Lake
7:30 p.m. - Au-Rene Theater at The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

THURSDAY
18

End of Year Party - Photography Club
Noon - Mako Multipurpose Room

Four by Four
7 p.m. - Lillian S. Wells Hall at The Parker

SATURDAY
27

The Wallflowers Concert
7:30 p.m. - Culture Room

Comedian Samantha Ramsdell
8 p.m. - Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

Bee Gees Now! The Tribute
8 p.m. - Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

WORD SEARCH

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

RESOLUTION
BADLANDS
CONCERT
ELECTION
BAND

GRADUATION
HOUSING
STUEYS
ARCHIVES
HAITI

MATH CORNER

The Current partners with the Department of Mathematics, housed in the Halmos College of Arts and Sciences, to offer readers a math-based riddle every issue.

Mashfiqur Rahman, freshman double major in computer science and mathematics, is the winner of the yearly challenge of who can answer the most Math Corner questions correctly. He has answered every question correctly this year.

On April 10, from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. in room 301 of the Parker Building, the Department of Mathematics held a celebration for graduating seniors, where Rahman received his gift card prize of \$50. The department also celebrated other achievements for the year.

Stay tuned for the next Math Corner question, which will be in our fall Orientation Issue.

Answer to the question in the prior issue:

- A: Albert Einstein
- B: Mae Jemison
- C: Brian Greene
- D: George Gallup

THE CURRENT'S COMIC



BY NICOLE GOMEZ