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The Current

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## The Current - Volume 35 Issue 3

Nova Southeastern University

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

## The Crossings: A skirt, a movement



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Damaris Ferrer, adjunct professor in NSU's Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, and "movers" perform a "crossing" at the opening exhibition of "The Crossings."

By Francesca Abarca

For almost three years, across the globe, people donned a giant 20-foot red velvet skirt for improvised performances with no set choreography and no set rhythm. Created by Damaris Ferrer, associate lecturer

in NSU's Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, this project is known as "The Crossings."

"The Crossings: A Global Movement Experience" is a multimedia exhibition that features photos and videos of "The Crossings" performances. It is on display from Sept.

12 to Nov. 3 at the Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery and Exhibit Hall in Pembroke Pines.

"The Crossings" is an art movement that reframes dancers as "movers" and the audience as "witnesses." In the improvised performance, "movers" are connected in a

20-foot red velvet skirt made up of eight waistbands.

"I had to eliminate everything that would keep somebody from entering the work. Instead of dancers, I offered it to movers. So if you breathe, you can do it. I got rid of the audience," Ferrer said. "What if people just witness something? There was no more theater. There were no costumes. There was no choreography, it is just improv and it's timid."

Ferrer said the improvised performances teaches movers to be in the moment and not plan anything.

"It really is in the moment. You either surrender to that, or you don't and you're going to fall," Ferrer said.

The movement started in Davie in November 2020, amid COVID, when artists struggled to express themselves due to isolation and lack of an audience during the pandemic.

As the project continued, the concept grew, and this red skirt made its way around the world in a duffel bag that is on display at the exhibition.

See THE CROSSINGS, page 11

## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at NSU

By Luqman Gbenro

To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, the Center for Applied Humanities is hosting "Viva El Futuro," a four-event series that honors the Hispanic community.

Marlissa Santos, professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics and organizer of the Hispanic Heritage series, said the events are centered on the future that Hispanic Americans are building today.

"Our idea here is looking toward the future. So what's the promise? What are the hopes, wishes and plans for Hispanic communities?" Santos said.

Each event provides a different perspective on the overarching theme of looking to the future. The next event, at 5 p.m. on Sept. 26, is a discussion

on "One Hundred Years of Solitude," a novel by Gabriel García Márquez. The discussion will be in the Adolfo and Marisela Cotilla Gallery in the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.

"We wanted to focus on what communities envision [for] their future. Every single event can be connected with that idea of looking toward the future and celebrating the life of the future," Santos said.

The first event was a discussion with Alexandra Alessandri, Colombian-American children's book author, on Sept. 16. The next two events are a discussion on Spanglish on Sept. 30 and a performance by Marinera en el Mundo Florida on Oct. 10, both in the Cotilla Gallery.

See HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, page 4

## NSU unveils #SharkCounty brand

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto and Bella Giaquinto

This season, NSU Athletics is introducing #SharkCounty, a new brand campaign aimed at uniting the university with the local community.

"We are the only NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] sports program in Broward County, so we wanted to take this opportunity and engage our local audience," said John Sung, interim director of athletics.

To mark the beginning of #SharkCounty, all adult tickets for NSU athletic events will cost \$9.54, and season tickets and sports passes will also end in 954, as an ode to the Broward County area code.

"Similar to how universities in Miami-Dade County, like FIU, use the 305-area code, 954 is a main area



code in Broward County and it's our university area code as well, so this way people in Broward can associate NSU as Broward's team," Sung said.

This ticketing concept sparked the creation of the brand campaign.

See #SHARKCOUNTY, page 13

# THE CURRENT

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## Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Hello Sharks! I'm Bryce, The Current's editor-in-chief. Thank you for picking up our latest issue of The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. If you picked it up from one of our newsstands, you might notice their new designs. We're growing so much across campus, and it's thanks to your support.

Sept. 15 marked the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout the month, NSU is hosting multiple events to celebrate the Hispanic community, like the "Figuration in Latino American Art" exhibit in the Cotilla Gallery, a roundtable discussion on Spanglish on Sept. 30, and a performance by Marinera en el Mundo Florida on Oct. 10.

If you're looking for more events on campus, there are plenty across different departments and organizations. Today, Sept. 26 at 5 p.m., the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts is having the opening reception of a new exhibit by guest artist Mwanel Pierre-Louis. On Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m., Fort Lauderdale United FC will have its home opening game at its new stadium at NSU.

Also, College Radio Day is Friday, Oct. 4. Mako Radio, our student-run radio station, will be the official state headquarters, representing more than 150 community and college radio stations



Bryce Johnson,  
editor-in-chief of The Current

in Florida. Be sure to stop by the Rosenthal building from 12 to 1 p.m. for the kick off and 4 to 7 p.m. for games, performances and live DJs from the station.

The Current is part of Mako Media Network, also home to Mako TV, NSU's student-run newscast, and Mako Radio. If you have the time and want to talk with us, our newsroom is in the Don Taft University Center, Room 328. Feel free to stop by during the day.

I hope you enjoy reading our stories and playing the games on the back as much as we've enjoyed making them. Stay tuned for our next issue on Oct. 17.

**Happy reading,**  
Bryce Johnson

## MAKO NEWS WEBSITE UPDATES

By Allen Worrell

Mako Media Network has made several updates to its Mako News website.

The "Work for MMN" and "About MMN" pages now give more information about job opportunities, MMN's mission statement and how the outlets work together.

The color of the headings has been updated to be black, teal, gold and orange. This design choice was

made to show the cohesion of the outlets at MMN and to make the website look more professional. The staff page was also updated to include the staff from Mako Radio, Mako TV, Mako News and the leadership/advisers for MMN.

These updates were designed with viewers' feedback in mind to make their time on the site more enjoyable. Be sure to check out these new updates and give feedback at makomedia.nova.edu.

The Current serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in room 328 of the Don Taft University Center. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting. All community members are invited to contribute.

Editorials, commentaries and advertisements in this publication reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or its officials, The Current or other advertisers. The Current will not publish unsigned letters except under special circumstances

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

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

**Correction:** "NSU has a new home for finance and trade" published on Sept. 12 incorrectly stated how funds were distributed. The \$5 million was raised for the trading floor, but \$2.5 million went into construction. The other \$2.5 million is going into an endowment to support the trading floor.

## Regional campuses update

The NSU Palm Beach Campus 1-Year MBA program has 60 students enrolled from NextEra, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and other local municipalities. Students learn about a variety of business topics and gain knowledge they can transfer back to their respective workplaces. The program will have a second launch in May of 2025.

*This information was provided by Minerva Jaimes, senior director of Graduate Admissions.*

### For more information:

Contact Millicent Kelly,  
Campus Director, Palm Beach, (561) 805-2323  
mkelly3@nova.edu.

# Canceling scholarships on short notice increases students' stress



By Francesca Abarca

As a student who wanted to attend college in states other than Georgia, where I am from, I was and still am entirely dependent on scholarships.

When I applied to NSU, I was awarded almost \$160,000 for all four years. I would not be here if it weren't for those scholarships.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to become an NSU Shark.

As a second-semester senior, I can see the light at the end of the metaphorical tunnel, with graduation and a big-girl job being so close.

But what would happen if I lost my scholarship before finishing my degree?

That was a real question that came up when all of my scholarships were randomly canceled in July 2024. I started to freak out. How would I be able to graduate, attend NSU or even afford to move back down here without them?

On July 26, students like me received an email from the Office of Financial Aid and Academic Records with the subject line reading: "2024-2025 Institutional Scholarship Cancellation Notice."

In this email, students were told that their institutional scholarships, including the Dean's, Shark Legacy, Achievement Award and Undergraduate Financial Aid Grant, were being canceled due to a "failure to maintain a 2.0 GPA and/or a failure to earn at least 12 credit hours per semester during the 2023-2024 academic year."

This academic year, NSU also implemented a new policy that tuition must be paid in full for the semester by Aug. 1 or students risk being dropped from classes

and being prevented from moving into residence halls. Scholarship students on payment plans were informed that "installment payments will be adjusted accordingly" if scholarships are canceled.

As a student who has maintained above a 3.0 GPA and has always taken at least 15 credit hours a semester, I was confused and frustrated when I received this email. How can they randomly take away \$15,000 and give me five days to come up with that money to pay for tuition?

I was scared that I would not be able to graduate on time because of my inability to pay full tuition.

Luckily, after a lot of phone calls and email exchanges with the financial aid office, I received all but \$500 back.

Most of the other students I talked to were also worried about paying tuition. But money is a complex issue, and they stopped talking about it after some of their scholarships, like mine, were partly reinstated. I think they are probably reluctant to speak up for fear of losing their scholarships again.

But not me.

After speaking with the scholarships department on Sept 24 for a comment on this story, they reiterated that the reasons scholarships were canceled were described in the original email and felt that my article was a threat. The only positive was that the office reinstated the last \$500 that I was missing from my scholarship while I was there. I hope this threat of losing scholarships doesn't happen loosely anymore.

I can't help but wonder what if I didn't get it back? Would I still be able to graduate or even attend NSU anymore?

I love being a Shark, and I don't want this type of email scare to prevent me or any other student from being one.

Students should feel secure speaking about anything that can affect their education and ability to learn. And educational institutions, in general, should be careful of the impact of irresponsible communication.

*Francesca Abarca, senior communication major, is The Current's feature writer.*

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## FROM THE FRONT

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The setting of this celebration is also key to its purpose. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage in an academic setting bridges the gap between those studying the experience and the wider community living the experience.

"We are very indebted to the library for providing a space for our activities. Since the library is open to the public, that's a wonderful bridge between academia and the community. We have faculty who help plan

these events and are experts in some fields, [and] two scholars from outside of NSU [who] are coming. We have wonderful resources of faculty knowledge and facilities to make [this event] happen," Santos said.

The importance of Hispanic heritage is seen in more than one department on campus. Iliana Uribe, the office manager of Campus Life and Student Engagement, sees the celebration as an opportunity for progress.

"To bring Hispanic culture to the forefront, we should actively educate ourselves and immerse ourselves in its rich traditions and values. By participating in these events, we contribute to a more inclusive and culturally enriched academic community," Uribe wrote in an email response to *The Current*.

Uribe's approach to advocacy is tied to her work at Campus Life. Affecting change isn't in her job description, but she still takes steps

to make an impact.

"As an employee of Campus Life, I promote events that provide insight into the Hispanic community [and] foster an inclusive environment. We can enhance cultural awareness and ensure that all students feel welcomed and represented by creating and supporting [these] events," Uribe said.

## Students look for easy parking on campus

By Bryce Johnson and Jahan Durdyeva

Kelly Zhen, sophomore biology major, often has trouble finding a free parking space on campus.

"It takes forever, especially in the garage, as I always have to go to the fourth floor as all other floors are occupied," Zhen said.

St Aubyn Lue, special event manager and parking enforcement in Public Safety, said that students have access to about 10,000 parking spaces, including in the Carl DeSantis Building parking lot, the Library and Main Student Parking Garage, the Residence Hall Parking Garage and the Health Professions Division parking garage.

Lue advised students to look for other spaces on campus if the spot they prefer to park in is taken. He also said students can use the Shark Shuttle system to get around campus.

"By registering, you can park

anywhere on campus, just not restricted areas, like future parking or anywhere that has signs or those gate items that lift off," Lue said.

To register their cars on campus for free, students can go to the NSU parking portal on Public Safety's website. They can have two cars registered at the same time for free.

Daniel Lopez, sophomore communication major, was able to register his car online.

"Registering online was very efficient and easy, because then I just picked up the sticker and that's it," Lopez said. "It's nice that they let you know when you have to renew it via email."

Lopez often finds parking easily. Sometimes, depending on the building, he has to park farther.

"Most of the time, I find parking, that's not really a problem," Lopez said.

However, Mateo Castano, senior biology major, sometimes drives around in circles looking for an

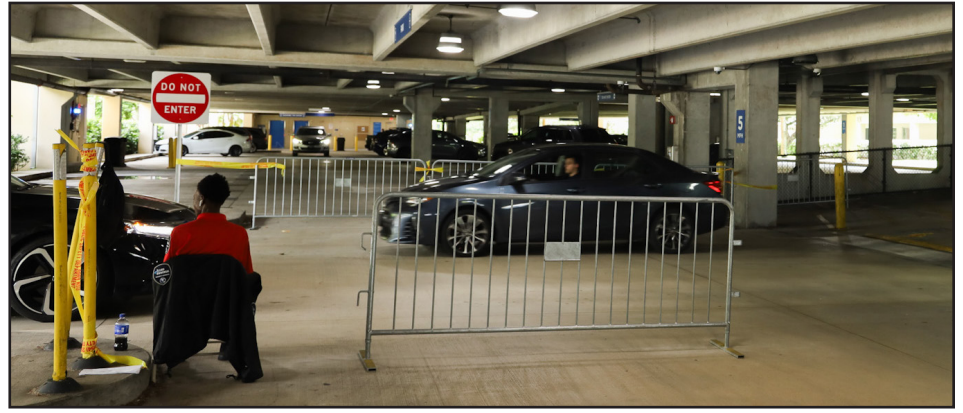


PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Laneatra Brown, Allied Universal security guard, monitors traffic in the library parking garage.

empty space. He finds more empty spaces when he comes to campus at 8 a.m., compared to when he comes at 11 a.m.

Castano suggests NSU implement a system similar to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, where there are red and green markers that indicate whether a parking space is available or not.

"A lot of times, people are just doing laps. They're doing circles trying to find a parking spot because we can't see it. We can't see if the parking spot is open unless we get close to it," Castano said. "Compared to the airport here in Fort Lauderdale, you know there's a parking spot because it'll give you a green sign and you could see it very far."

## Haitian American students react to Donald Trump's pet-eating claims



By Bryce Johnson and Luqman Gbenro

Nathan Tibert, junior criminal justice major, was born and raised in Haiti. Tibert watched the presidential debate live on Sept. 10. He heard former President Donald Trump say Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating household pets.

"They're eating the dogs. They're eating the cats. They're eating the pets of the people that live there," Trump said during the debate. "And this is what's happening in our country, and it's a shame."

Tibert thought it was an absurd statement.

"When I first heard it, I honestly just chuckled because of how ridiculous it sounded, especially when he was fact-checked," Tibert said. "It was just complete hearsay. He was just relaying false information,

which he had no proof of."

The claims have been debunked by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck and David Muir, one of the presidential debate moderators. In response to the claims, more than 30 fake bomb threats have been called in to Springfield schools and government official buildings, including Perrin Woods Elementary School and Roosevelt Middle School.

JD Vance, Trump's nominee for vice president, acknowledged the claims were false in an interview with CNN on Sept. 15.

"If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do," Vance said in the interview.

Jihny Palmer De Giles, Haitian senior international studies major, watched the debate live. When she heard Trump's claim, she called her best friend, who is also Haitian.

"I asked her, 'Girl, did you hear what he just said?' And she was like, 'Yes, I cannot believe it.' Her whole entire household was like, 'This is crazy,'" Palmer De Giles said. "I think it's really sad for a politician representative, who's trying to run for president again, to say stuff like

that."

Although Tibert hasn't been personally affected by the claims, his family members, who just came here a few months ago, have been impacted.

"They feel like their life's threatened. They feel like they're all constantly being judged simply because of where they come from, who they are. And I feel like that's wrong," Tibert said.

Palmer De Giles, who plans to have a career in international relations, is worried that the statements could impact her profession.

"Going towards my career and knowing someone like this could one day, hopefully not, represent the country, and I would be working for them and with them, it's not a good pill to swallow," Palmer De Giles said.

Henry Severe, Haitian senior film major at University of Central Florida, first heard about the claims on social media.

"I first heard it on [X, formerly] Twitter just when it started happening about two weeks ago," Severe said. "A lot of people have kind of acknowledged that it's untrue and false. I think it's annoying to constantly see it on social media."

Severe said social media plays a key

role in spreading misinformation.

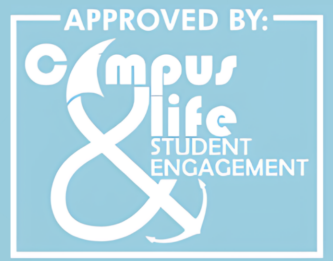
"With social media, you can easily curate it to be this kind of echo chamber of things that keep validating the kind of harmful stereotypes and the harmful rhetoric that you already believe," Severe said.

Tibert is hopeful that the rumors will eventually die down.

"I feel like the Haitian people, they're so resilient because they always find a way to stand back up no matter what they're going through. And I know that, even with this current situation, the same thing's going to happen," Tibert said.

For students who want to show their support for Haitians, they can research and be wary about the things they come across online.

"If you're not Haitian, please look into Haitian culture. It's a beautiful culture with amazing food and great music," Severe said. "There are amazing people within this community, and I would hope that you don't let social media and the negative things that politicians are saying about the whole community deny you from making really positive connections with people."

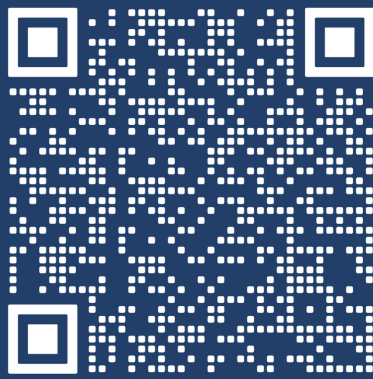


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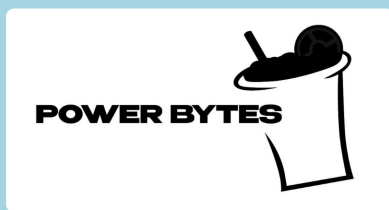
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COURTESY OF JORDAN MERRITT  
NSU students present their research projects at The Division of Research Retreat.



COURTESY OF ABRIL CHAO  
Abril Chao, senior biology major, and Emily Bernard, senior chemistry major, present their research project about the effects of chronic stress on the lives of college students.

## Seniors present research on the stress of college students

By Bryce Johnson

Abril Chao, senior biology major, and Emily Bernard, senior chemistry major, presented their research on college students' stress at the 2024 InterLACE Research Showcase and the 2024 Division of Research Retreat.

"We were able to look at their data and see, depending on their parasympathetic and their sympathetic nervous system, what years were more stressful, what times or what things made life a little bit more stressful," Bernard said.

Their research focuses on how chronic stress impacts students' heart rate variability. They gathered information from students in both undergraduate and graduate school, focusing on their academic

year, whether they were a first-generation student and whether they were working in addition to being a student.

"We're both big on trying to get into research, but also being able to do it together was really fun for us," Bernard said. "We've been like partners for a lot of things since freshman year and we're now in senior year, so this was like a really cool way to kind of sort of wrap up our experiences together."

Chao and Bernard were inspired by their anatomy professor, Chinenye Anako, who left NSU before this semester due to personal reasons. Chao and Bernard analyzed data from their professor's previous research and found out how so many things can impact students' stress.

For students working while attending college, the data showed their nervous system regulation looks very different from students who don't work. Stress impacts the heart, which could lead to dysfunction.

"For me at least, being a first-generation here in the US and working and being engaged in so many things, it was just crazy to see what might be happening inside of myself, and how my systems might be working and I might not know about it," Chao said.

After their research, Chao and Bernard hope that students take their stress seriously and understand how harmful it can be.

"We always like to say that there's healthy stress, the stress that motivates you to go forward and achieve

your goals and follow your dreams and that's good," Chao said. "But know when to stop and know your limitations and understand how much it can affect you behind the scenes."

For students who want to do their own research, they encourage them to create bonds with their professors and jump on research opportunities they come across.

"NSU has amazing faculty and they're super approachable and they're nice and they want you to succeed. And that's something they need to take advantage of. But if they just sit in a class and they don't talk to the professor, they don't show interest, then it's going to be super hard," Chao said

## Meet the people working hard to make voting easy

By Luqman Gbenro

Paul Baldauf, professor in the Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, remembers going door-to-door to encourage people to register to vote.

"I went door-knocking, and I forced my daughter to come with me. This was eight years ago, and she really, absolutely hated it and frowned the whole time. But when the results came in, she was glad she went out and really tried to make a difference," Baldauf said.

Baldauf is the faculty adviser for Epsilon Eta, NSU's environmental conservation honors fraternity. Epsilon Eta is gearing up for a voter registration event in the UC Spine on Sept. 30. Attendees can come to register to vote, update their voter record and ask general questions about the election.

Baldauf works alongside countless people on campus and in the wider Broward community to ensure voters are equipped, educated and enthusiastic about voting in the upcoming elections.

"We've tried to make it a habit to host a voter registration every couple of years. It keeps the group active and gets them thinking about the consequences of voting," Baldauf said.

Baldauf credits the Broward Board of Elections with some of the success of his voting initiatives.

"It's really the case that Broward Board of Elections is really interested in reaching out to students, and they've been incredibly gracious every time we've asked them to come. It doesn't matter to them whether they got five registrations or 200 registrations; they come," Baldauf said.

The board's penchant for outreach is fostered by Joe Scott, Broward election supervisor.

"I got myself prepared in terms of everything I need to learn to make sure that we're able to provide the people of Broward County with the type of elections they deserve," Scott said.

Scott is coming into this election with three years of experience, and his focus this time around is keeping the voting public informed. New legislation has caused statewide

shake-ups, and Scott wants people to be aware of the changes.

"The state of Florida has changed the voting laws three different times since the last presidential election. We're putting new systems in place to make that as easy as possible for people, also with drop-boxes, even with the new requirements and new restrictions," Scott said.

Voting accessibility has also increased since the last election, and Scott wants Broward voters to take advantage of these services.

"We have 29 early voting sites, whereas in the last presidential election, we had 22. These are locations where people can drop off their vote by mail ballots. In addition to that, we went from having two office locations to nine. These are places where you can drop off your ballot when early voting is not going on," Scott said.

Broward voters also have access to resources before they reach the ballot box. The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is one option available for uncertain voters.

"We have different books about voting [in] elections; we have all types of databases; I have a whole library guide that explains the different election dates and things to know around registration," said Sarena Hicks, outreach librarian at the Alvin Sherman Library.

Hicks works especially close with NSU students. Her information sessions are geared toward all students, but first-time voters and out-of-state students typically learn the most. Out of state students can register to vote. All they need is a mailing address in Florida.

"You need to make sure you're registered if you want to vote in Florida. You can use your local address to register to vote. I've had students ask, 'How do I decide [what state to vote in]?' Where do you think your vote might be more impactful is what I tell students," Hicks said.

# Professor relates research to Ukrainian relief aid

By Antonio Miguel Escorzon

Johnathon Vsetecka, assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, is conducting research investigating the Holodomor, a Ukrainian famine between 1932-1933. He shared with his students his research on Ukraine and the impacts of forPEACE, a humanitarian non-profit organization he helped found.

“I first found out about the famine during a lecture as an undergraduate student at the University of Northern Colorado,” Vsetecka said.

This lecture affected him to where he investigated the event further as he earned his master’s degree and doctorate. He continues to research the Holodomor.

Vsetecka’s research focuses on the history of the famine, how Ukrainians dealt with its hardships, and the aftermath of the Holodomor. Vsetecka found the Soviet Union downplayed the existing famine. At the time, Ukrainians quietly resisted through written accounts disguised as poetry. In Vsetecka’s research this aspect of dissent connects to transitional justice.

“During the Cold War, with the fall of the Soviet Union came a transition to a democratic government for Ukraine by 1991,” Vsetecka said.

Also in Vsetecka’s research, transitional justice shows how society undergoes governmental transitions as well as investigating the significant impacts to society, such as genocide and famine. Aside from the dissenting poetry, transitional justice looks at the psychological

impacts Ukrainians had in the aftermath of the famine and the formal implications of questioning if the Soviet Union committed genocide, which gave Ukrainians voice to testify, heal from the trauma and to be institutionally recognized by the United States, Canada and Europe.

Vsetecka used his research to aid forPEACE, which he became involved in 2022 during the Russo-Ukrainian War.

“When the war started, I was evacuated to Poland and lived with family and a friend,” Vsetecka said.

Thus, forPEACE decided to help by giving rides out of Ukraine, delivering food, giving medical supplies and bringing warm clothes to Ukrainians in Ukraine. Additionally, forPEACE recently conducted the clean water program, where they shipped portable water filtrations to Ukraine, giving people access to clean water.

“As a scholar and a professor, it is my duty to talk about, spread awareness of and get people informed about history and knowledge of the past,” Vsetecka said.

The Russo-Ukraine War has shown relevancy to Vsetecka’s 1932-1933 research because awareness of a gruesome past now has a global platform where the research and event can be seen internationally. The similarities are mass violence, destruction and famine among the Ukrainians.

Vsetecka shared his research and humanitarian experiences in his class discussions, especially in the course HIST 3140 – The Holocaust. One of his students, Eleni Angelos, senior interdisciplinary studies



COURTESY OF JOHNATHON VSETECKA

Johnathon Vsetecka, assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics, finishes a lecture at the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine.

major, shared her thoughts about Vsetecka’s work.

“It is fascinating work because the professor is looking into the social and emotional effect of a famine and as a nutrition minor, I look into the physical health of malnourished people,” Angelos said. “I learned the physical and emotional effects go hand in hand.”

Another of Vsetecka’s students, Sophia Wehle, senior international studies major, expressed how HIST 3140 brings a new perspective on the Holocaust and the 1932-1933 Ukraine famine.

“There were similar effects between both tragic events,” Wehle said. “Both show that there are mass extinctions, famines, and the

departure of many refugees.”

Vsetecka encourages students to be involved in his research and the forPEACE non-profit.

“If they are interested, students will get hands-on experience,” Vsetecka said. “Students will experience immersion in Ukrainian and Russian languages.”

*Antonio Miguel Escorzon, junior law major, is a contributing writer for The Current.*

## Sharks Speak: How will you prepare for midterms?



“I’m not preparing yet, but I will be trying to study a little bit every day. Especially for me, it is biology and chemistry, so I need to get ahead of it. I will be practicing more problems for chemistry and also trying to understand better than just memorizing,” said Cristina Galardo, sophomore biology major.



“I haven’t prepared yet, but just studying ahead. Being on top of my classes, so there is not much to review. Just studying a little bit every day. This year I’ll try to not spend as much time and to not procrastinate as I have done in past midterm weeks,” said Pierce Azan, sophomore public health major.



“I haven’t started preparing yet, but I usually just go through my notes kind of reviewing. I make questions using flashcards. For my arts minor, I usually spend a week in the studio and then I try to finish all my projects before the exam,” said Pratha Rattan, senior neuroscience major.



“Right now, I am not preparing, but probably next week, I am going to make sure I can book as many study rooms as I can to really lock in. Review presentations from class lectures, do some practice problems for chem, use flashcards and recorded presentations that help me study too,” said Andrew Oestmann, sophomore exercise and sport science and neuroscience major.

BY MARTINA VALDOVINOS



# Ed Fitzpatrick, the man behind the scenes



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Ed Fitzpatrick, performing and visual arts facility manager, answers emails in his office located in the Performing and Visuals Arts wing of the Don Taft University Center.

By Brielle Aguayo

NSU's campus is home to many different organizations, clubs and departments. The Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts is home to programs like theatre, dance, music and art. But it is also a second home for Ed Fitzpatrick, performing and visual arts facility manager.

Fitzpatrick started working at NSU in February 2007. Before he came to NSU, Fitzpatrick attended college at Culver Stockton in Canton, Missouri. He originally majored in accounting, but later switched to theater due to a newfound interest in it. Instead of playing it safe, he decided to choose a major that matched his interests.

"I did a little bit [of theater] in high school, just a couple of shows, and I also ran the light board for the community theater because I got listed as a lighting tech on the first high school show I did," Fitzpatrick said.

When Fitzpatrick first began working on the technical side of shows, he said he did not know what he was doing but decided to stick with it. To this day, he calls himself a technician and the "behind-the-scenes guy."

Fitzpatrick's first job title at NSU was theatre technical director.

"I had that position for about a year-and-a-half, and then they opened the facilities manager position because we were still dealing with growing pains and just getting the building ready for the start of the expanded Performing and Visual Arts. When I started, we were just a theatre program," Fitzpatrick said.

The other programs -- visual arts, dance and music -- were added in fall 2008. With the new addition to the performing and visual arts programs came more responsibilities,

which Fitzpatrick now handles on a daily basis.

Ysabella Lupercio, senior dance and business management major, is grateful for Fitzpatrick's extensive knowledge.

"I think that is what's so great about Ed. I think he balances so much and he does it in a very calm and poised manner. I could literally be freaking out about a room that didn't get reserved, now I have nowhere to go. But he has so much knowledge and [will say] we can just move you over here or we can just do this instead," Lupercio said.

Fitzpatrick handles room reservations and puts out "little fires" wherever they spring up. He's helped many students, including Emily Bernard, senior chemistry major.

"He's helped me with everything. When I need to get myself organized for meetings that I would host, when I did the Mayfly [production] he was there to help me book all the rooms. He talked me through things. When I was working in the [Barry Robbins] Scene Shop he also taught us a couple things when we would build stuff. He's a really good mentor," Bernard said.

Fitzpatrick's favorite thing about being in the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts is interacting with students, faculty and staff, he said.

Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network, appreciates Fitzpatrick.

"You can count on him for everything. For example, installing the Mako TV image onto the anchor desk or moving all of the equipment from Mako TV studio up to the third floor. Ed puts the work in and he gets it done right every single time. Quality and efficiency is his go-to for everything he does," Lynn said.

When Fitzpatrick isn't helping

out in the PVA wing of the Don Taft University Center, he enjoys spending time with his family, which includes his wife Carolyn Fitzpatrick. She also works at NSU in the H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship as an instructional designer and a UNIV professor.

Ed and Carolyn Fitzpatrick first met at college when he was a senior and she was a sophomore.

"[We met] at a party in a warehouse that was hosted by a fraternity that he didn't belong to, and I didn't know a lot of people there. I was instantly interested in him and I knew some people who were in theater, and so I started hanging out with them more, so that we could hang out more," Carolyn Fitzpatrick said.

After their initial meeting, Carolyn Fitzpatrick realized she had a class with Ed Fitzpatrick. She did not realize it at first because he was always sleeping in class due to him staying up late doing theater work.

Carolyn and Ed Fitzpatrick got married 10 years later, but before they got married they were in a long-distance relationship for two years.

"So, for two years we visited maybe once a year, and other than that we just wrote letters like pioneer people back and forth, and that's what we did for two years. Then, after I graduated I moved down to Florida," Carolyn Fitzpatrick said.

Carolyn Fitzpatrick still has her love letters because she said it's something that she can go back and reread as many times as she wants, as opposed to a FaceTime call where it's gone and you never have that again.

Ed Fitzpatrick enjoys spending time with Carolyn Fitzpatrick and his daughter Catherine Fitzpatrick, 12. When he gets home from work, they eat dinner together and watch television.

"Outside of work, I like to go for bike rides with my daughter. We went to Tennessee near Dollywood this past year with extended family. Also, [some things I do are] looking at Tumblr and playing stupid video games on my phone," Ed Fitzpatrick said.

Ed Fitzpatrick has worked for the department for more than 15 years and said the person who inspires him the most is Mark Duncan, founder of NSU's Theatre Program.

"Mark's dedication to the arts programs was amazing. I believe it was just a few weeks before his death that he met with Dean Baumgartner, continuing to advocate for the arts programs. I am privileged to play a part in continuing his legacy here at NSU and I also aspire to his unrivaled level of sarcasm," Ed Fitzpatrick said.



COURTESY OF CAROLYN FITZPATRICK

Ed and Carolyn Fitzpatrick wrote love letters to each other when he was in Florida and she was in Canton.

# Public Safety holds tour for U-School students

By Bryce Johnson

For National Campus Safety Awareness Month in September, around 92 first-grade students from NSU University School visited NSU's Public Safety Office on Sept. 18.

The students took a tour through four stations Public Safety set up. Inside the building, students visited a locksmith room where keys to NSU are held, a dispatch room with access to cameras on campus and a photo booth with balloons.

Outside, officers from the Davie Police Department showed students their cars and trucks.

Zulema De La Cruz, community relations coordinator, said Public Safety has access to more than 1,000 cameras, which the students got to see.

"They put all the cameras pointing at the U-School today," De La Cruz said.

Teresa Crawford, manager of training, said the students were invited to show them how Public Safety protects them.

"It shows them that Public Safety is friendly and we're here to support them," Crawford said.

Lihi Elmakias, senior psychology major and dual admission law student, is a public service aide for NSU. Elmakias helped make the decorations for the photo booth.

"Everyone was excited to do it. It's like a break. We can unleash our creative side instead of just doing paperwork. We get to like paint and decorate, so it was fun," Elmakias said.

Melanie Gomez, emergency

management coordinator, enjoyed the questions and the students' reactions. When Gomez asked them why Public Safety has so many cameras, one of them answered, "to catch bad guys," and another said it was in case accidents happen.

"I am glad that he said that because I don't want them to think that what we do is only because there's bad people out there," Gomez said. "I'm glad that at such a young age, he's aware and completely 100% understands that accidents do happen."

## FOOD

# The inside scoop: Davie's Argentinian gelato shop

By Francesca Abarca

Davie-resident Jackelynn Leones and her family moved from Argentina to South Florida two months ago. They have been looking for restaurants that offer Argentinian food to help them feel closer to home.

Più Argentinian Ice Cream was the first restaurant they found where the owner and all the employees are Argentinian and make gelato the way it is made at home.

"When someone moves out of a country, the first thing they miss is the food because that's what they grew up with, and [at Più] as soon as I heard their accents, I knew we had found the place that could be our connection to home," Leones said in Spanish.

On April 13, Più Argentinian Ice Cream opened its doors in the University Pointe apartment complex.

The owner, Ramiro Alvarez, got into the food business because of his love for sweets, especially ice cream. He noticed that there was a lack of dessert places in Davie and the University Pointe Complex.

"Argentinians love ice cream. We'll eat it in rain, shine or even snow, and when I moved down to Davie, I



PHOTO BY ROSE JEAN-PIERRE

Più employee talks about the different flavors of gelato in the restaurant while customers decide which one they want.

realized there were not many options for ice cream that was not basic like Häagen-Dazs. I saw this as an opportunity to practice my English and share my love for ice cream with the community," Alvarez said in Spanish.

With ingredients imported from Argentina, Più Argentinian Ice Cream offers flavors that bring the Argentinian culture to Davie, including dulce de leche, lemon and blackberry.

Customers like the Leones family

praise the restaurant for its authentic taste, fresh ingredients and kind employees.

"This gelato tastes just like the fruits that we have at home. It's fresh and delicious," Jose Leones, Jackelynn Leones' husband, said.

The restaurant decor establishes a peaceful, joyful energy that resembles a modern café. The colors of the restaurant leave customers wanting more, which ties into the name. Più means "more" in Italian.

"We believe that this word means more growth and motivation to serve the best quality service possible," Alvarez said.

The restaurant prides itself on its authentic ingredients and kind service.

"When we walk in here, you can smell the fresh fruits that are being used to make the gelato," Leones said. "I will continue to come here and support my fellow Argentinians."

### For more information:

**Location:** 6310 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314, United States

**Phone:** (954) 261-0081

Follow @piuicecream on Instagram

### Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 2 - 10 p.m.,  
Friday, noon - 10 p.m.,  
Saturday, noon - 10:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 - 10 p.m.

# Shark Dining brings Grubhub app to campus

By Anam Hussain

NSU's dining hall is going through some changes this semester thanks to a Grubhub collaboration.

Now, food can be ordered at the new kiosks in front of the restaurants and through the Grubhub app on mobile devices.

Mike Alkurdi, resident district manager for Chartwells and Shark Dining, said the new Grubhub collaboration is an effort by Shark Dining to improve the dining experience on campus.

"For over a couple of years, we've been exploring and searching for digital solutions that can help and deliver [a better] kind of experience to our student population," Alkurdi said.

Students at NSU have mixed feelings about these new kiosks.

"I like [the kiosks and app], but me and my friends have been noticing that they are glitchy. So my friend is gluten-free, and she went to order something gluten-free, but the app didn't let her know that it was out-of-stock," said Katie Rysdeck, freshman marine biology major.

If students have concerns with their diet when ordering food, Alkurdi said that they should immediately ask for assistance.

"Students shouldn't come across an experience that could be risky or unsafe, dietary-wise. My advice to students in that situation would be to get a manager on duty right away. Don't wait. There's always supervisors and managers on duty,

just politely ask [the employees] for someone."

There is also a text line, Text-to-Chat, that goes directly to all of the Shark Dining managers if one of them cannot be found at the moment. Students can text 954-398-5398 and the managers will receive their message and will be there as soon as possible.

Rysdeck also said that swiping her SharkCard sometimes takes multiple attempts.

Alkurdi said the scanners are sensitive, and it may take multiple swipes for the purchase to go through.

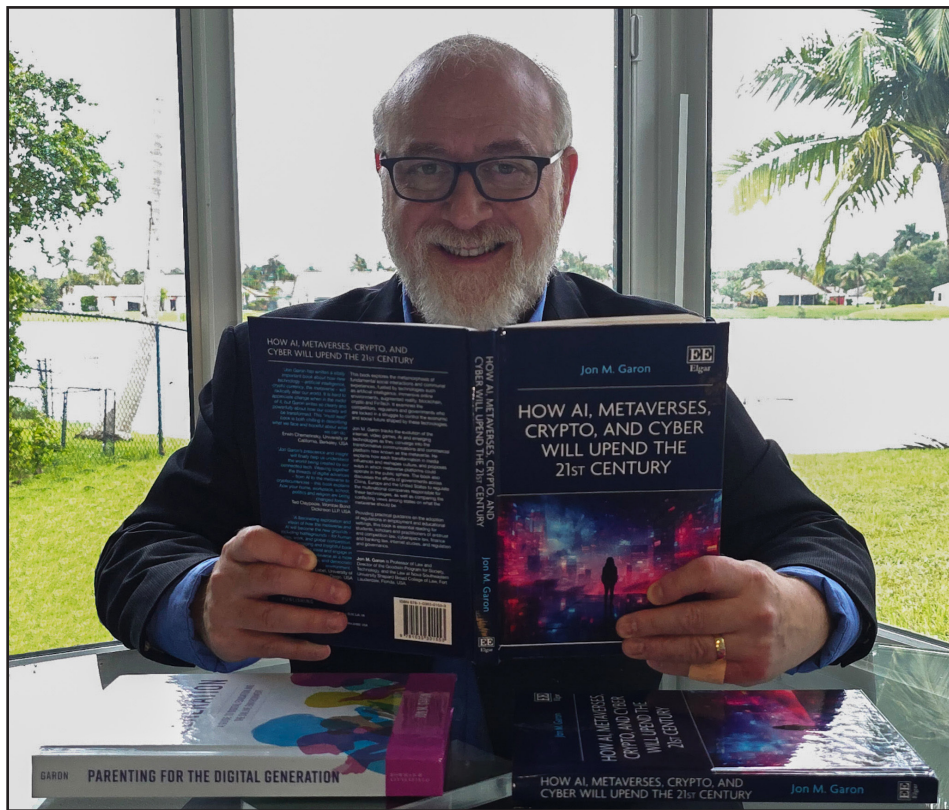
"I noticed some students swipe their cards, and it gets declined or doesn't work because students are not selecting the right tender. You

have to select the meal plan that has money, because you have multiple meal plans. Some of it says zero, and some of it says the actual amount. So if you don't have money in the right [plan], it gets declined," Alkurdi said.

Despite some concerns, Shark Dining staff is optimistic about the future and believes that they will keep improving the app and kiosks.

"As you launch any new technology, there's always some kinks in the beginning that you try to work out and fix as you go. I feel like we're in a very good standing at the moment," Alkurdi said.

# Law professor publishes book on effects of emerging technology



COURTESY OF JON M. GARON

Jon M. Garon, director of the Goodwin Program for Society, Technology, and the Law reads "How AI, Metaverses, Crypto, and Cyber will Upend the 21st Century."

By Antonio Miguel Escorzon

Olga Zaynetdinova, third-year student in the Shepard Broad College of Law, believes understanding artificial intelligence can help in the professional fields.

"Artificial intelligence can be applied to society, as it holds potential across a wide range of fields," Zaynetdinova said. "The question is not whether we need it, but rather if we have the understanding to apply it effectively."

Zaynetdinova said this after reading "How AI, Metaverses, Crypto,

and Cyber will Upend the 21st Century," the latest book by Jon M. Garon, professor of law in the Shepard Broad College of Law and director of the Goodwin Program for Society, Technology, and the Law. Edward Elgar Press published the book on Aug. 7.

"How AI, Metaverses, Crypto, and Cyber will Upend the 21st Century" is a culmination of years of work on the regulatory and social effects made by emerging technology. Garon has developed this book for more than two years during his 10-year teaching career at NSU.

Previously, Garon wrote a series of law review articles, on which his book is based.

Garon explores the development of technology, from the printing press to the internet.

"I started the conversation with the printing press, which was the most important invention of the modern age," Garon said.

After the printing press, technology then developed toward phones, television, computers, then social media.

With new technology, it becomes harder for people to protect privacy.

"The data economy has destroyed privacy," Garon said, after being asked about modern challenges.

Rather than trying to protect privacy, Garon recommends disallowing companies and governments from misusing the data of people, focusing on protection from harm over protecting of information.

"This approach would lead to significant policy changes in policing, insurance, education, healthcare, employment, housing and finance," Garon said. "As we create technology and use social media, these tools we use change the nature of society."

Garon saw during his practice as an entertainment lawyer that his clients were switching over to the internet.

"My first internet-based client was in 1994, shortly after the Mosaic Browser released for the internet," Garon said.

The legal field reacts and society changes, as innovative technology emerge and blend into the everyday life of society.

Eric Finkelstein, third-year

student at the Shepard Broad College of Law, believes while AI can positively affect wider society's facets, there is still a large, persistent issue.

"Artificial intelligence is a tool that generates responses through its systems by input and feedback," Finkelstein said. "We must be cautious, do our own work and not be over reliant on artificial intelligence."

Garon said that technology has generally benefited education, particularly the student-teacher relationship.

"Texts, learning management systems and online meetings mean that faculty are available to students much more easily," Garon said.

Now, for educators, there are online videos and publications, which add to materials in the learning environment. Students can provide feedback easily through online forums, commenting and email. Involving communication-based technology gives students opportunities to meet national experts over social platforms and take part in lectures remotely. Additionally, resource databases have aided law students in attaining knowledge on case law and Florida statutes.

"As technology evolves in the legal side, there is the helpful aspect on communication and legal research," Finkelstein said.

*Antonio Miguel Escorzon, junior law major, is a contributing writer to The Current.*

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Nationwide listeria outbreak linked to Boar's Head products

By Adam Sadik

Since July 2024, a listeria outbreak linked to Boar's Head products has raised alarms nationwide, in which recalls have been issued for a variety of deli meats and cheeses. This situation concerned consumers and health officials alike.

Many students, like Adhika Saravanan, junior biology major, are worried about the safety of their meals and the potential health risks associated with consuming listeria contaminated products.

"I have heard of listeria and its severity. Although I do not eat all types of meat, I think it is scary to hear about it in Boar's Head deli products," Saravanan said. "It should be advertised more to make

sure those that are eating there are educated on the potential of contracting it."

Aarti Raja, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and The Current's health desk adviser, agrees that the bacteria should be a cause for concern.

"It is basically a condition of the GI tract where the person can have abdominal cramps and any kind of gastrointestinal problems that go hand in hand with listeriosis," Raja said. "There are certain people that are more prone to this disease, especially pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. The usual problems are fever, muscle ache, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting."

Boar's Head shared on its website

that the cause for this outbreak has been traced to its Jarratt, Virginia plant.

"Usually the organism [*Listeria monocytogenes*] is naturally found in the soil and sometimes water samples that may be contaminated with the fecal material," Raja said. "It is usually from the machines that they use to kind of cut the meat and if the organism is just there, it has the ability to spread around."

For students who are concerned, Raja recommends them to clean out their refrigerator and avoid eating the recalled products listed on [www.boarshead.com](http://www.boarshead.com).

"Pay attention when you are buying your dairy and meat. Grocery stores tend to put out recall information, but it is best to check the

FDA and USDA's website for more information," Raja said. "Clean up the refrigerator where you might have kept that product that you bought. Disinfect it, remove all the food, clean it out entirely and then put the rest of your food back in."

### For more information:

Visit the official websites of the Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or consult your local health department for the latest updates.

FROM THE FRONT

# THE CROSSINGS



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

NSU dance students admire the story of how “The Crossings” came to be.

“The Crossings’ is an invitation to embrace the intentional journey forward, trusting in the transformative power of collective artistic action, and celebrating the boundless potential of movement to unite, narrate and inspire,” said Sophie Bonet, exhibition curator. “The skirt became a vessel of shared

experiences, its significance varying with each group, representing ritual, connection, femininity or even political symbolism, depending on the concept [and movers].”

The movement was inspired by a theatrical staged piece that used the concept of the skirt with a reminder: “you are always attached

to someone that will ground you and that one never knows where life will take them,” Ferrer said.

Ferrer created the concept of this collaboration between artists from watching a theatrical piece of people crossing a bridge. She thought this would be a poetic, creative way to bring people together.

“As a choreographer, [this movement taught] me not to hold something so precious and to not allow the unfolding of the unknown. I guess that’s the most beautiful part of it,” Ferrer said.

This exhibition allows viewers/witnesses to experience art in a non-traditional way and change their perspective on movement. It displays the journey of the skirt throughout time and different places of the world, including Davie, Bogota, Colombia, Athens, Greece, Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

“This breaks boundaries in every sense, not only geographical boundaries, but emotional boundaries and cultural boundaries. It’s a project

that is free, that is just very fluid,” Bonet said. “This 20-foot skirt with eight waistbands has traveled the world. There’s something powerful and special in collaboration.”

**For more information:**

Panel discussion with “The Crossings” artists will be located in the University Center Room 354 on Sept. 26, 1:30 - 2:50 p.m.

Cost: Free

**For more information:**

“The Crossings: A Global Movement Experience” will be located in the Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery and Exhibit Hall 601 City Ctr Way, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025 from Sept. 12- Nov. 3.

Cost: Free

## City Theatre Miami and NSU Theatre collaborate on seven short plays

By Francesca Abarca and Kayla McGee

City Theatre Miami is partnering with the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts to perform “From Page to Stage,” a collection of five plays and two musicals, at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 and 5, and 2 p.m. on Oct. 6 in the Black Box Theatre.

The plays are “Misdialed,” “Stiletto Envy,” “Telephones and Bad Weather,” “The Forgotten Place” and “Work It, Bitch.” The musicals are “Baked Goods” and “Warped.” The program will last around 75 minutes.

Twenty-two NSU students are acting in the production and sixteen students are part of the crew.

Alex Alvarez, assistant professor in DCMA, is the director of “Warped” and “The Forgotten Place.” Alvarez said students benefit from collaborating with professionals outside of the NSU community.

“NSU is always looking for professional partnerships for our theatre



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Anne Sylvie Jean Louis, senior psychology major (Anika), Jade Gomez, sophomore theatre major (Jenni) and Noelia Olivero, junior theatre major (Nikita) rehearse scenes from the play, “Work It, Bitch.”

[program] to help our students get practical experiences as education is the most important goal,” Alvarez said.

Amanda Alonso, senior theatre major, is the student director of “Work it, Bitch.” Alonso wants to

focus on comfortability and creating a safe space for everyone involved, whether through doing warm-ups or helping actors work with heavy topics including code switching and homophobia.

“Work it, Bitch” has heavy themes

like code-switching. Code-switching is when people speak differently depending on who they are relating to. Gender, race, culture, and profession, for example, can all prompt code-switching.

“I love all things psychological and ‘Work it, Bitch’ is about code-switching, specifically in a professional environment. So being able to incorporate my psychology background into this and working with a diverse cast was a fun idea,” Alonso said.

Alonso mentions that because the shows focus on different themes such as classism, drug abuse and cult-like behaviors, the actors can help shed light on heavy topics that are relatable.

“It’s one fun date night where a bunch of topics are covered and it will just be a lot of fun,” said Sebastian Baena, actor, sophomore theatre major.

Admission is free for NSU students, faculty and staff. The cost for other guests is \$5.

## Stage 2 presents RealityFly, a 24-hour theatre production

By Francesca Abarca and Kayla McGee

Ready, set, go. On Oct. 25, students will begin preparing for Mayfly 2024: RealityFly. Students will perform it 24 hours later on Oct. 26 in the Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Mayfly is an annual production by Stage 2, NSU’s student-run production company sponsored by the

Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts.

Mayfly is written and produced by students within 24 hours.

This year’s theme for the production is reality TV. The writers will create scenes based on shows like “Big Brother” and “Love Island.”

Stage 2’s tradition was inspired by the mayfly, a bug with a lifespan of 24 hours. Ella Elkoni, sophomore marine biology major and

production manager, said Stage 2 has a similar process to the mayfly bug.

“The production that’s going to happen on Oct. 26 didn’t exist 24 hours before, and 24 hours from the end of the production, it will no longer exist. It’s only one night, so just come and see what’s going on. It’s a lot of fun because every year it is completely different,” Elkoni said.

Writers will come in on Friday

at 7:30 p.m. and get assigned a theme. They write until 5 a.m. when the actors and directors come in to rehearse, until they are performance-ready at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“Everyone’s excitement is what is going to bring about a really good show because it is a night where expectations fly out the door,” Emily Bernard, senior chemistry major and theatre minor, said.

MUSIC BY ALEX HERNÁNDEZ AND MARLEE CARD

# The Chart Buzz

### NACC Chart Updates

The North American College and Community (NACC) charts highlight the most popular music and artists on college and community radio stations across the country. Mako Radio on 88.5 FM WKPX Sunrise, NSU's student-run radio station, also charts music from new and rising independent artists. The NACC charts are insightful for the ever-evolving taste of younger, experimental listeners looking for fresh and authentic sounds. The top five artists this last week highlight the emerging talents, representing a blend of themes and genres that resonate with many college-age students.

#### 1. beabadoobee - This Is How Tomorrow Moves

Filipino-born artist beabadoobee, or Beatrice Kristi Laus, released her new album "This Is How Tomorrow Moves" on Aug. 9. Within weeks, songs like "Take A Bite," topped the NACC charts with its rise in attention on social media platforms. Laus' album focuses on her journey into womanhood and personal accountability, offering an introspective take and highlighting growth and self-awareness. These themes resonate deeply within college students, who similarly are navigating their

journey into adulthood and challenges around identity, responsibility and self-awareness.

#### 2. Jack White - No Name

Jack White, who came to fame as the lead guitarist of The White Stripes, now records and releases music as a solo artist. White is on the second spot of the NACC charts with his newest album, "No Name." In this album, White combines funk blues and rock, including alternate versions of his songs throughout his career. This album provides a deep dive into the craft of songwriting, authenticity, and music composition. Encompassing an experimental side of acoustic rock, "No Name" is a favorite for college students who appreciate music history.

#### 3. Clairo - Charm

As Clairo's "Charm" drops down to the third chart, it delves into the complex dynamics of relationships between women, with connecting themes of femininity throughout her music. "Charm" heavily resonates with college students and those navigating the complexities of identity, friendship and intimacy. The combination of indie pop with soft electronic and lo-fi beats and an emotional approach to songwriting creates a space for vulnerability and

reflection within college students.

#### 4. Wishy - Triple Seven

Wishy's "Triple Seven" debut album ranks fourth on the NACC charts with the experimental fusion of indie rock and electronic sounds mixed with Midwest emo and 2000s pop sounds. Wishy's lyrics explore existential themes such as luck, chance and the chaos of modern life. The lyrics resonate with college students navigating the unpredictable world of early adulthood. Wishy's innovative production and sound challenge the everyday structure of rock and pop music, making it a truly intriguing listen for those interested in the future of alternative rock music.

#### 5. Illuminati Hotties - POWER

Fronted by the singer and songwriter Sarah Tudzin, illuminati hotties merges elements of soft punk and indie rock, encompassing an emotional vocal style in their new album "POWER." The opening song, "Can't Be Still," features the album's themes of resilience and empowerment from overcoming life challenges, such as fulfilling the needs of everything around oneself.



COURTESY OF NICOLE GOMEZ

## College Radio Day Oct. 4

This year, NSU's Mako Radio is the Florida headquarters for College Radio Day on Friday, Oct. 4. From 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., the station will be on air with new segments every hour based on this year's theme: Soundtrack of Democracy. The kickoff is at noon with NSU President-Elect Harry Moon and NSU Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Chenail. The celebration continues outside at the Shark Circle from 4-7 p.m. with live DJ sets, dance performances and a showcase of NSU student businesses.



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM  
Zach Mueller, sophomore engineering major, DJs in the library quad during Block Painting.

## Upcoming DJ events

### Off the Record

On Friday, Sept. 27, Mako Radio is airing the second episode of the semester, hosted by Jonesia Martimbor. On this episode, Jonesia and DJ Gentle are giving a recap of the latest news in The Current, an exclusive interview with one of NSU's student-run businesses, sports updates and highlights in pop culture.

### LIME Shark Saturdays

Come find Mako Radio's DJs at LIME Fresh Mexican Grill from 6-10 p.m on Saturday, Sept. 28 for Shark Saturday in the Fountains Plaza in Plantation. LIME Shark Saturdays feature giveaways, great music and activities to enjoy.

Every other Wednesday throughout October and November, Mako Radio DJs will be at The Joyful Farmers Market in the Alvin Sherman Library Quad from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## MAKO RADIO DJ SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Noon - 1 p.m. DJ Ray: '90s - 2000s Rock	12:30 - 1:30 p.m. That's News to Us (Oct. 22)		12:30 - 1:30 p.m. DJ Lyric: Indie/Pop (Sept. 26) DJ Naty: Latin Music (Oct. 3)	Noon - 1 p.m. Off the Record (Sept. 27) The B-Side (Oct. 18)
6 - 9 p.m. DJ Neptune and DJ Onyx: New Wave/Alternative	6 - 9 p.m. DJ Sirena and DJ Guppies: World Music	6 - 9 p.m. DJ Mojo and DJ Romi: EDM/House	6 - 9 p.m. DJ Ray and DJ Rupee: Rock Alternative	6 - 9 p.m. DJ Ant and DJ Venus: Indie/Jazz (Sept. 27) DJ Vibe and DJ G: International RNB (Oct. 18)

## FROM THE FRONT

# #SHARKCOUNTY

“A few of us in the athletic department were thinking about how to approach this new year and how to increase attendance, and we had the idea of using 954 on our tickets,” said Kacie John, coordinator for Revenue Generation and Business Development in Athletics. “As more people got to talking about this idea, it blew up and became more than just a ticketing campaign, but instead a full brand campaign to work alongside our current branding #HungryForMore.”

The #HungryForMore branding has been in effect for two years. NSU

Athletics has grown since then, winning five national championships and competing at the highest levels, thus prompting a shift in the overall program’s branding.

“Looking over the past two years since #HungryForMore was established, our teams have been doing better than ever. Now, even though we still want more, we’ve set that standard within all our sports and it’s a perfect time to start something new to build off the success over the past few years,” Sung said.

The goal of this brand campaign is to increase ticket sales and game

attendance.

“We had a big drop in ticket sales last year, so our goal with this campaign is to increase our ticket sales, viewership and social media exposure. If we can get a lot of fans at our games, it will make the environment fun and special for both students and members of the community,” Sung said.

#SharkCounty will be promoted in various ways throughout the year.

“We’re going to be doing a lot of #SharkCounty T-shirt giveaways at different NSU sporting events, and they’ll become like a collector’s item

because the shirts will be sport specific,” Sung said. “#SharkCounty will also be on all graphics and media day pictures, and we are also working on having #SharkCounty specialty events that will help bring in the local community.”

**For more information:**

To keep up with #SharkCounty and NSU athletics, follow them on Instagram and X @nsusharks.

## Mihacevich is ready for her final chapter at NSU

By Isabella Fernandez de Cueto

Senior volleyball captain Kate Mihacevich is entering the final chapter of her NSU volleyball career.

Mihacevich, a property management and real estate major, was born and raised in Brunswick, Ohio. Although she started her volleyball journey later than most, the sport has always been a big part of her life.

“I didn’t start playing until I was 13 years old, which is late, but my whole family plays volleyball. Both of my parents played in college and both of my sisters also play,” Mihacevich said.

Her family’s connection to volleyball helped foster Mihacevich’s love for the game.

“I immediately fell in love with the sport, and it was so special to do something I love with my family and develop my skills alongside them,” Mihacevich said. “That really motivated me as I got older.”

Mihacevich was drawn to NSU because of its location and weather, but those aspects of the university are no longer the most important thing to her.

“Location was a major factor in why I chose to come to NSU, but now I don’t even think about it anymore,” Mihacevich said. “Now, I love my team and the program we’ve built, as well as the size of the school. Everything I wasn’t

thinking about at first is what I now love about NSU.”

Starting her career at NSU in 2021, her freshman year came with challenges. Those challenges ended up making her stronger.

“I didn’t really play at all my freshman year, which was really hard for me at the time, but looking back on that time, it really shaped me into the player I am today,” Mihacevich said. “It showed me how hard I am willing to work for what I want, and it was one of the most important years of my life.”

The following year, Mihacevich had a breakout sophomore season. She led the team in kills, points, kills-per-set, and points-per-set, and earned All-Sunshine State Conference Third-Team honors.

“My favorite game in my entire volleyball career was sophomore year against the University of Tampa,” Mihacevich said. “They were reigning national champions and ranked first in the country at the time, and it was such an exciting game, so much fun, and a huge win for the whole team.”

During the 2023-2024 season, Mihacevich ranked third on the team in points and kills. She also became one of the captains of the volleyball team.

“She is a great captain,” said Juliana Imbuzeiro, junior psychology major and member of the volleyball team.



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS

Kate Mihacevich, senior property management and real estate major, jumps to spike the ball during the 2023-2024 season.

“She has a lot of passion and pride for this team, and she’s competitive, which always motivates and inspires the rest of the team. She cares about us, and constantly puts in effort to connect with us, I couldn’t imagine playing with another captain.”

Now, as a senior during the 2024-2025 season, she hopes to end her NSU volleyball career strong.

“I really want to win a conference championship this year, which I think this team can definitely do, and I also want to leave this program better than

I found it,” Mihacevich said. “I think I’ve worked hard over my years here to strengthen the team culture, and I want that to be the legacy I leave here.”

Her team can also sense Mihacevich’s determination to make her senior season the best one yet.

“We can see it in her eyes and the way she carries herself every day that she is going to put her heart and soul into this sport and this team in her last year,” Imbuzeiro said. “She’s turning it up a few notches, and she’s ready to leave it all out on the court.”

## Sport Shorts

By Isabella Fernandez de Cueto

**Women’s volleyball, Sept. 21:**

NSU’s volleyball team closed out the Lee Invitational with a 3-0 win over North Greenville University. Elizabeth Price recorded 11 kills. This 9-1 start marks the Sharks’ best start to a season under Kacie Ehinger, head coach.

**Men’s cross-country, Sept. 21:**

NSU’s men’s cross-country team competed at the STU Bobcat Invitational. Ryan Elfring led the Sharks with a 25th-place finish and a time of 30:39.8. The team did not place.

**Women’s cross-country, Sept. 21:**

NSU’s women’s cross-country team finished in third place at the STU Bobcat Invitational. Bella Ascone, Maggie Ragsdale, and Meghan McNabb finished in the top 20, with Ascone placing 12th with a time of 21:33.9.

**Women’s soccer, Sept. 21:**

NSU’s women’s soccer team fell 1-0 to Florida Tech. Alexa Berezcki, Tabea Schütt, and Maja Isaksson each took two shots, and goalkeeper Emilie Schroder had five saves.

**Women’s volleyball, Sept. 20:**

NSU’s women’s volleyball team opened the Lee Invitational with a

pair of 3-1 and 3-0 wins over Quincy University and Lee University. Taylor Stockman led the Sharks in both games with 16 and 14 kills, while Olivia Aniol had 11 blocks in Game 1, which is tied for fourth most blocks in a contest in program history.

**Men’s soccer, Sept. 18:**

NSU’s men’s soccer team tied 0-0 on the road against Eckerd College. The Sharks recorded 12 shots in the game, led by Kevin Rubaszewski who had four.

**Women’s golf, Sept. 15-17:**

The No. 7 NSU women’s golf team started its season with an eighth-place finish at the DBU Classic. Maria Torres-Lobato tied for third place with a

score of 211 and had the lowest round in the tournament by an individual (71).

**Women’s soccer, Sept. 15:**

NSU’s women’s soccer team defeated the University of West Alabama 1-0 on the road to earn its first win of the season. Alexa Berezcki led the Sharks with the second-half game-winning goal.

# NSU elevates McArthur to interim head men's soccer coach

By Bella Giaquinto

Matt McArthur, former assistant men's soccer coach at NSU, has been promoted to interim head men's soccer coach.

McArthur brings a unique blend of international experience, passion, and a commitment to building a high-energy, competitive team.

"We want to see a team giving energy and effort over the course of the full game," McArthur said. "Every time that they step out there and represent NSU, it's 100% and they're giving their absolute all and all pulling together to try and win."

Born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, McArthur's soccer journey began early in his home country, where he grew up playing for local teams. His love for the game carried him across the Atlantic in 2015, when he moved to the U.S. to become a student-athlete at the University of Mobile in Alabama.

During his four years at Mobile, he played collegiate soccer while earning a degree in kinesiology with a minor in education. McArthur applies what he learned during his time at Mobile to his coaching career.

"Being a student-athlete, managing different things, preparing properly—that applies into coaching

too," McArthur said.

After graduating, he transitioned into coaching, first as a physical education teacher and youth soccer coach, and then as a graduate assistant while pursuing a master's degree in business communication and leadership.

McArthur credits his early coaching experiences for shaping his leadership philosophy.

"I think over the course of eight years being involved in college athletics, I've just been pulling from all different angles, taking leadership things from all the coaches I've worked with," McArthur said.

In 2023, he took the opportunity to join NSU as an assistant coach, drawn to the competitive Sunshine State Conference and the chance to be part of a program he admired from afar.

"I knew about the conference and how competitive it was," McArthur said. "It's a top conference across the country and well-recognized. That kind of opportunity excited me, and I was ready for that challenge."

Now, as the head coach, his focus is on elevating the team's performance and creating an exciting, fast-paced style of soccer that will energize both players and fans. Reflecting on the previous season, which saw the team finish 7-7-3, he acknowledges

there is room for improvement.

"We had a good team, but I believe we could have done better. This season is about improving on that and competing in every single game," McArthur said.

Alessandro Salvadego, senior soccer player and nutrition major, reflected on the team's performance during the 2023-2024 season, acknowledging some of the challenges they faced.

"I think that overall we did well and we could have done more in my opinion because the team was really good, but we had a couple injuries during the season," Salvadego said.

McArthur's vision for the 2024-2025 season is clear: a high-energy, competitive team that gives 100% effort every time they step on the field.

"We want every game to be full of energy, back and forth, with a lot of action," McArthur said. "That's the kind of soccer we're aiming for this year."

Salvadego hopes his teammates will remain loyal to each other throughout the upcoming season, as that will push them further in the competition.

"I think we should do a good job by sticking together, and that's the main thing for me," Salvadego said. "Be a team."



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS  
Coach McArthur gives directions on the field.

Aside from team building, McArthur emphasizes the importance of building relationships within the NSU community.

"I want to create a team that's not just competing on the field but one that the students and fans are excited to support," McArthur said.

As he leads the team into a new season with his combination of international experience, passion for the game, and commitment to high-energy soccer, McArthur is looking forward to the future of the program.

"This is an exciting time for the program," McArthur said. "We're building something special here, and I'm excited for what's to come."

# NSU navigates through the transfer portal

By Bella Giaquinto

The transfer portal has become a game-changer for college athletics, and NSU is experiencing its effects firsthand. The National Collegiate Athletic Association's one-time transfer exception, introduced in 2021, has led to increased roster turnover and heightened competition for top talent.

"The NCAA has made it easier where if you want to transfer every single year, you can, and that has become a little tricky in Division II," said John Sung, interim director of athletics.

While NSU provides a high-quality academic and athletic experience,

the combination of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deals and the transfer portal have created a more competitive landscape, making it challenging to remain on top. NSU's baseball, softball and basketball teams have been actively addressing these challenges and are determined to excel in their upcoming seasons.

Nick Smith, men's basketball assistant coach, helped guide NSU to the sixth undefeated National Championship season in NCAA Division II history during 2022-2023.

Smith explains how the impact of this previous victory has affected the team.

"With that comes live television on CBS and a chance for different college coaches and people around the world to see how good Division II basketball is, and next thing you know, they're [players] getting calls from schools that are offering unbelievable amounts of money," Smith said.

This season, there are two returning athletes to the basketball roster, Dallas Graziani and RJ Sunahara. They both played a major role in leading the Sharks to the national championship title, yet transferred during the 2023-2024 season to Division I universities.

"RJ Sunahara, who was part of our national championship team that year, transferred to Georgia on big NIL money and now he's coming back as our player development coach, but he came back and said, it's not about the money," Smith

said. "Dallas Graziani, same thing, he went to Samford and had a great year, but the old saying is the grass isn't always greener."

Graziani, returning to NSU after one season at Samford, explained the personal challenges he faced in the transfer portal after his championship season at NSU.

"I entered the portal just to see what was out there," Graziani said. "I think just the whole process is pretty stressful, so it's kind of hard to figure out where the right fit is, especially so fast." During his time at Samford, Graziani started in 33 games, finishing the season shooting 50% from the field, recording 81 assists and 50 steals. Despite an active season, Graziani ultimately found his way back to NSU prior to the start of the 2024-2025 season.

"At Samford we had a good year and everything, but it just wasn't exactly what I was looking for," Graziani said. "I have a bigger role at NSU, and I really enjoy being on the court and being able to play and win. That's what's most important to me, so having that opportunity at NSU is just a better fit for me."

Outside of Graziani and Sunahara, NSU's baseball team has experienced a significant roster turnover, with 22 transfers joining the team.

Head coach Adrian Morales outlines his approach to scouting transfer portal talent.

"It's about getting the guys who have flaws and then trying to develop them into having no flaws," Morales

said. "That's how you build, when you have kids who want to work and learn, you have some success."

Looking back on last season, Morales is optimistic about the potential he sees in his new team.

"Last year, we didn't know how to win late," Morales said. "In the sixth or ninth inning, we aren't good at winning, but this year, we'll have guys with more experience and we really like this group. This is going to be a special season for us and I'm excited to watch these guys compete."

As a whole, NSU Athletics aims to distinguish itself in the transfer portal by highlighting its unique culture.

"It's the culture that we have here, it's the leadership, we are winners and that's something people want to be a part of," Sung said. "Our players here really want to compete to win, they want to compete to be their best, and it takes a special student athlete to be here."

Smith contends that NSU's selling points can outweigh the large NIL deals offered in the transfer portal.

"It makes my job easy, being able to sell NSU on how great of an academic school we are, how great of a location it is, and how great coach [Jim] Crutchfield is," Smith said. "That's why I think we can still stay competitive in the transfer portal, even if it means we can't necessarily match these guys when they're getting big NIL deals."



COURTESY OF ATHLETICS  
Nick Smith greets the team as it comes off the court during the 2023-2024 season.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

## OCTOBER

THURSDAY  
**26**

**Citizen Voices: Navigating Book Bans**  
12:30 p.m. Alvin Sherman Library  
Cotilla Gallery

**Project Sunshine x Magic Cow Fundraiser**  
Magic Cow University Drive, Davie 4 p.m.  
(off campus).

**Mwanel Pierre-Louis Opening Reception**  
Gallery 217 5 - 7 p.m.

TUESDAY  
**1**

**Pumpkin Painting**  
12:30 p.m. DeSantis Room 2064

**Vice- Presidential Debate Watch Party**  
8:30 p.m. University Center Pit

WEDNESDAY  
**2**

**Connor Wood**  
7:30 p.m. Miami Improv Comedy Theatre  
(off campus)

**Galactic Moonlight \*Public Blacklight Event\***  
7 p.m. Painting with a Twist (off campus)

FRIDAY  
**27**

**Shark-Tastic Carnival**  
11 a.m. Flight Deck Backy

**Fin Films Movie Nights**  
6 p.m. Carl DeSantis Room 1124

**SOS Trip: Kehlani Concert**  
7:30 p.m. FPL Solar Amphitheater at  
Bayfront Park Miami, Florida  
(off campus)

THURSDAY  
**3**

**Stay A Float During Midterms**  
7 p.m. 2nd floor lounge Rolling Hills  
(off campus)

**Salsa Festival Weekend**  
9 a.m. Intercontinental Miami  
(off campus)

FRIDAY  
**4**

**College Radio Day**  
Noon - 1 p.m. Kick-off Shark Circle  
4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Shark Circle

**From Page to Stage**  
7:30 p.m. Black Box Theatre

SATURDAY  
**28**

**SOS Trip: Rapids Water Park**  
10 a.m. Riviera Beach (off campus)

**Nicki Nicole**  
7:30 p.m. The Fillmore Miami Beach  
(off campus)

SATURDAY  
**5**

**From Page to Stage**  
7:30 p.m. Black Box Theatre

SUNDAY  
**29**

**Hispanic Heritage Celebration**  
3 p.m. Sanctuary of the Arts, Coral Gables  
(off campus)

SUNDAY  
**6**

**From Page to Stage**  
2:00 p.m. Black Box Theatre

**Fort Lauderdale United FC Home Opener**  
7:30 p.m. 7510 SW 30th Street, Davie FL

MONDAY  
**30**

**Marando Farm Farmers Market**  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Marando Farms & Ranch  
(off campus)

WEDNESDAY  
**16**

**Dance Awareness Day**  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Miniaci Performance  
Theatre

THURSDAY  
**17**

**Coco & Comida: A night of culture and cuisine**  
8 p.m. Rolling Hills 2nd floor lounge  
(off campus)

**Pieces of Pride**  
DEIB Resource Center 4 p.m.





# WORD SEARCH

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

HISPANIC  
HOUSING  
THEATRE  
MCARTHUR  
GELATO

PARKING  
GRUBHUB  
MAYFLY  
SKIRT  
AID

REBRAND  
WEBSITE  
VOTE  
DELI  
FITZPATRICK

# MATH CORNER

Please send your answer (no need to send any additional scratch work or justification) to Dr. Jason Gershman, chair of the Department of Mathematics, at [jgershma@nova.edu](mailto:jgershma@nova.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16. The correct answer to this question will appear in the next issue of The Current.

All members of the NSU community are invited to submit their answer and participate. Every member of the NSU community who submits at least one answer during the 2024-2025 school year will be invited to attend a celebration in April as part of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

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

Let's define a number as "steady" if its digits (when read from left to right) are either strictly increasing or strictly decreasing. Let's define a number as "stable" if each of its digits appear the same number of times. For instance, 9842 and 1467 are steady while 1001 and 7722 are stable. Let X be the smallest steady number larger than 2024. Let Y be the smallest stable number larger than 2024. Find X+Y.

Answer to Question is Last Issue:  
23 (by the Chicken Nugget Theorem)

# THE CURRENT'S COMIC



COLLEGE RADIO DAY

BY NICOLE GOMEZ