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The Current

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## The Current - Volume 35 Issue 4

Nova Southeastern University

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Bilingual programs at Miami campus help international students learn English



Much ado about mochi donuts



Women's tennis is ready to defend its national title



# THE CURRENT

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

## University Housing makes front-desk staffing changes in residence halls

By Anaum Hussain

This semester, the student front desk staff at the resident halls work new hours from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. Their hours were previously from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

From 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. on weekends, Allied Security, a third-party company, will staff the front desk.

During the hours when no staff is at the front desk, Allied Security conducts foot patrols around the residence halls.

The affected residence halls are Mako Hall, The Commons, Rolling Hills and Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall.

Victoria Myer, director of University Housing, said residence hall students have to scan their SharkCards when entering the building.

“Now, residential students have access, no matter where you live, to every residential hall. That actually is going to help us in terms of knowing who's exactly in the building,” Myer said.

Commuter students have to be let in by a student who lives in the residence

hall. Previously, commuter students would need to be signed in at the front desk. Now, there is a QR code at the desk that residence hall students can scan. Through the code, residence hall students log who they're letting in, so the Office of University Housing knows who is in the residence halls at what time.

Myer said the QR code works better because more residence hall students are using it.

“Students weren't stopping to sign in their guests, and we found that our student staff weren't really being, I don't want to use the word 'aggressive,' but they really weren't, no matter how much we trained them,” Myer said. “Some of them were a little bit uncomfortable with stopping people. So now having the scan in, it's actually giving us a much better idea of who's coming in and who's actually here in the building.”

See UNIVERSITY HOUSING, page 3

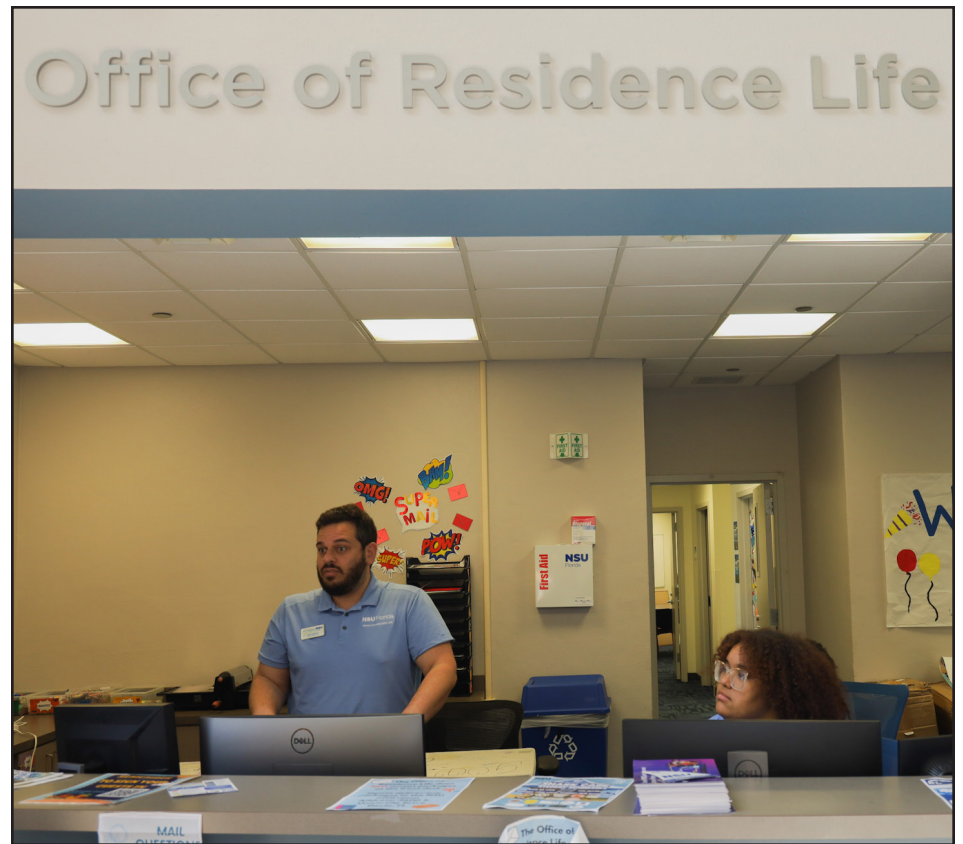


PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Tom Converso, director of residence life, and Alba Vargas-Rodriguez, senior legal studies major who is a student assistant for the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall, work at the front desk.

## College Radio Day



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Alex Hernández, senior double major in international studies and national security, and Shanti Bruce, chair of the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts, introduce NSU Provost Ron Chenail.

See COLLEGE RADIO DAY, page 10

## Award-winning dancer choreographs DanceWorks

By Bryce Johnson

Mika Santo, co-director of the dance organization STYX The Company, is a guest choreographer for this year's DanceWorks, an annual series of dance performances held by the Department of Communication, Media, and the Arts. DanceWorks will take place in the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center on Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

Madison Cantor, senior dance major, remembers when Santo came to the DanceWorks auditions in August. Santo led the students through improvisational dances and gave them dance prompts.

“It has been very exciting. It's been something different, getting to work with someone who is in the professional environment in terms of owning their own dance company down here in South Florida,” Cantor said. “It



COURTESY OF MIKA SANTO

Mika Santo, co-director of STYX, poses for a photo.

was so exciting to see her get excited watching us as we were moving and almost feel inspired to move herself.”

See GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER, page 9



# THE CURRENT

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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.

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**Correction:** "Meet the people working hard to make voting easy" published on Sept. 26 incorrectly stated Joe Scott's title. His proper title is Broward supervisor of elections. The article also mistakenly credits a Broward board of elections. There is no board of elections, only the Supervisor of Elections Office.

## Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Hello Sharks! Thank you for reading The Current, NSU's student-run newspaper. My name is Bryce, The Current's editor-in-chief. This issue has plenty of stories, from news, the arts and sports.

With mid-term week finally over, I hope they weren't too stressful for you. The semester's already half-way done, and the year will be over before you know it. If you're feeling stressed, try to take things day-by-day, and I'm sure everything will turn out ok. If you need ways to relax, maybe you can play the word search game on the back.

Thank you to everyone who came out to College Radio Day on Oct. 4. We appreciate those who helped us support the community, and we're excited to do more events like this in the future. You can read more about College Radio Day in this issue.

Also in this issue, some of the topics we covered are, the housing situation and what's going on with the front desk staff, interim head coach of women's rowing, events you can go to hosted by the Center for Academic and Professional Success and e-senses technology that could help diagnose diseases.

The Current is part of Mako Media Network, also home to Mako TV, NSU's student-run newscast, and Mako Radio, NSU's student-run radio station. If you have the time



Bryce Johnson,  
editor-in-chief of The Current

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.

Thank you for all the support you've given The Current. I hope you're able to see how much care went into this issue. Stay tuned for our next issue on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

**Happy reading,**  
Bryce Johnson

### 2024-2025 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

**OCTOBER 19**

COMEDIAN  
GUS CONSTANTELLIS

**OCTOBER 20**

HAUNTED ILLUSIONS

**OCTOBER 23**

SCREEN MOVIE

**OCTOBER 27**

SEX N' THE CITY

**NOVEMBER 12**

ANNE BEING FRANK

**NOVEMBER 20**

THE ELF MOVIE

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# Don't force us to buy flood insurance



By Anaum Hussain

This year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has changed Florida's flood maps. Starting in

August, the number of homes in flood zones has increased and a lot more inland houses require flood insurance.

Flood insurance costs an average of \$781 per year, according to Market-Watch. For my home, it would cost \$2,800 a year, and many homeowners, including my own parents, don't want to buy it. Why should we need to? In the 11 years we've owned this house, we've been through more hurricanes than I can think of and it's never even come close to flooding.

Flooding is a big problem in certain areas of Florida, but not all of them. And housing prices down here are already terrible. Why add to them by making us buy insurance that we just don't need? The insurance for being in

an area that's considered "high-risk" is also much more expensive than in an area that's lower-risk, and with a sudden change like this, it could change people's financial situations. Many just don't have the money to spend on a large unexpected expense like that.

Even in the scenario that these flood zones need to be increased, is the best option really to pass on the insurance costs to the consumer?

You can't fix the root of the flooding problem without environmental regulation.

If there's nothing we can do about the risks of rising sea levels, then our tax dollars should be going to better infrastructure rather than forcing us to give money to private companies if we

want to live in our homes.

Overall, it's simply greedy of these private companies. We're forced to buy their insurance, and they jack up their prices because they know we have no other choice.

One is left to wonder: Is this really about safety and protecting your investments in case of a flood, or just an attempt to funnel money from regular people into private companies knowing full-well that some people just don't want or need flood insurance?

*Anaum Hussain, sophomore communication major, is a reporter for The Current.*

## NEWS

FROM THE FRONT

# UNIVERSITY HOUSING

Jaime Valdez, junior computer science IT major who used to work at the front desks, feels that the change was for the best.

"It's not really making a big difference since a lot of these students didn't really watch the desk that well, and the third party could do the job way better at midnight," Valdez said.

Valdez heard student front desk staff were reduced because the system wasn't working as intended.

"As far as I'm aware, they just wanted to cut back, and they found that the front desk staff was not as useful, since a lot of the staff was either hard to come by or not doing their job properly," Valdez said.

With the front desk change, there will still be some student staff during the day. Security will be present during the hours when incidents are more likely to occur.

"Looking at statistics, we found that pretty much every single instance that



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Sarah DeSousa, junior finance major, works the front desk at the Mako Hall residential building.

occurred over the entire academic year happened between 7 p.m. and 2 a.m., so there was pretty much really nothing happening in terms of the daytime," Myer said.

Myer said that the change is proving to be a safer alternative.

"Anytime we try something new, we wait for feedback, we see how it's going based on what we've seen,"

Myer said. "We're always willing to try new things. Whatever our students want to do, we'll work with them. But from a safety perspective, I think it's working out better."

# Inclusive Communications and Technology Day promotes tools for people with disabilities

By Bryce Johnson

The Disability Inclusion and Advocacy Law Clinic will host Inclusive Communications and Technology Day on Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Knight Auditorium. The day will show how technology, such as captioning and generative artificial intelligence, can be useful for people with disabilities.

The event is co-sponsored by the Shepard Broad College of Law, Belonging Equity Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council and the Office of Innovation and Information Technology.

Matthew W. Dietz, professor in the Shepard Broad College of Law and clinical director of the DIAL Clinic, said the beginning of the event will be demonstrative and share tools that

are available for people.

Dietz also said Brissa Quiroz, Microsoft director of Accessibility Education, will share how Microsoft promotes accessibility, through technology like screen readers, voice recognition and the Xbox Adaptive Controller.

The event will conclude with OIIT, where the office will share how accessible learning can be improved in the future.

"We'll be having discussions about why this is important, why this is the future," Dietz said.

Eileen Petzold-Bradley, member of the BEDI Advisory Council, said the purpose of Inclusive Communications and Technology Day is to have discussions about a more equitable future via the use of technology.

"One of the goals is to enhance the

development of people with learning, communication, cognitive disabilities," Petzold-Bradley said. "I hope people gain an understanding of the challenges that people face and how

we can make it better."

The event is open for everyone to attend, either in the Knight Auditorium or via Zoom.

**Inclusive Communications and Technology Day**

*Building a More Accessible Campus at NSU*

This event explores applications, tools and technologies to enhance accessibility and inclusivity for everyone, especially those with disabilities.

Register here

**Date: October 25, 2024**

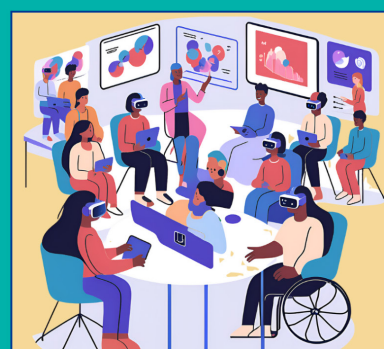
**Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**Location: Knight Auditorium**

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# Two new members join real estate school's advisory board

By Bryce Johnson

Evgeny Munkov, a new advisory board member in the Terry W. Stiles School of Real Estate Development, completed two of NSU's Master of Business Administration programs in 2014 and 2016, one in Finance and Financial Management Services and another in International Business. He didn't expect to get into real estate or come back to NSU eight years later.

"As I was going through my MBA program in finance, I met, at that time, the director of the real estate program, who started introducing me to some people in the industry," Munkov said. "Now, 12 years forward, it was interesting to be joining the advisory board for that same program that gave me a head start in real estate business."

Munkov, along with David Udine, were added to the advisory board on Sept. 12. Munkov is currently the director of investments at BBX Capital, while Udine is the director of development at Cymbal DLT.

For the past few months, Udine and Munkov have been working closely with the Master of Science in Real Estate Development program at NSU. So far, they've enjoyed the experience and getting to work with students.

"I've got to collaborate with a ton of



COURTESY OF THOMAS WUERZER  
Evgeny Munkov, director of investments at BBX Capital, is a new advisory board member.

different professionals in South Florida that have dealt with the real estate development space. And I have been able to collaborate with students on their capstone projects, and was able to at least coach, guide and mentor some of them in their development plan for NSU," Udine said.

Thomas Wuerzer, director of Terry W. Stiles School of Real Estate Development, said the advisory board is composed of leaders with experience in law, finance, affordable real estate and more. Board members in the



COURTESY OF THOMAS WUERZER  
David Udine, director of development at Cymbal DLT, is a new advisory board member.

MSRED program work on the capstone project with students. In the capstone project, which is designed to be a comprehensive business plan. In the capstone project, students analyze the market, look at rental prices for retail compared to residential, and build and present a report of their findings.

"This year, we did the capstone with [Munkov and Udine]. They have been absolutely fantastic in leading the students, giving them advice, giving them real world access to data, to

information," Wuerzer said.

Board members are also mentors to students.

"This also differentiates us from other programs here in South Florida. The development character, not just crunching spreadsheets, and that really high-profiled, high intensity mentoring idea that our board members are available at any time. So Evgeny and David are absolutely perfect for that," Wuerzer said.

Udine hopes the MSRED program will grow by expanding its curriculum.

"We're going to grow it by offering best in-class courses, tailoring the courses to ensure that our students are being taught the correct material in order to get the leading jobs in the industry and compete with some of the best schools in the nation," Udine said.

Munkov, who was the co-founder of the Association of Latino Professionals For America chapter at NSU, also looks forward to seeing how the MSRED program will develop.

"One of the reasons I joined the board is that I do see NSU as a very progressive institution," Munkov said. "It's an honor to be on the advisory board for the real estate program. It's something that 12 years ago when I was a student at NSU, I wouldn't think of as a possibility for me to do."

## Bilingual programs at Miami campus help international students learn English



COURTESY OF GEORGINA ARGÜELLO  
Students at the Miami campus study in the bilingual programs.

By Bryce Johnson

Originally from Venezuela, Leopoldo Cordova Romero, graduate student in the Curriculum, Instruction, Management, and Administration program, is a doctor in Miramar with experience in pediatrics. CIMA, which is one of the bilingual programs offered at NSU's Miami campus, gives Cordova Romero the chance to learn English in a collaborative setting.

"Many students are of Latin American or other countries. Our English is no good. We improved the English in the university. This, I am very happy, because I never understood English in the past, in my school in Venezuela. And here I had the opportunity," Cordova Romero said.

Since the early 2000s, NSU's Miami campus has offered several programs with support in bilingual education, including CIMA, Master of Science in

Spanish Language Education, Master of Science in Exceptional Student Education and Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership.

Georgina Argüello, assistant dean for academic and faculty affairs for bilingual programs, said the target audience for the masters' programs are Hispanic students who earned bachelors' degrees in other countries. Students in the programs can go on to become teachers in local public schools.

"English is not their first language. In these masters' programs, the purpose is for them to start getting acquainted to the English culture, the English language," Argüello said.

Argüello said that the programs were started because of the rising immigration to Miami from Latin America.

Argüello looks forward to seeing how the programs can grow and continue to help international students.

"We see a lot of potential because a lot of immigrants from Spanish-speaking countries are coming in, especially to South Florida. So we have a lot of potential to continue growing these programs," Argüello said. "This population down here in Miami, especially the West Kendall area, Homestead, Doral. It's a magnificent location that is growing immensely."

Classes are taught in English, with bilingual support in Spanish, both online and in-person. They're offered on Saturdays in the fall, winter and summer.

### For more information:

Students can contact Georgina Argüello, assistant dean for academic and faculty affairs for bilingual programs at [deheredi@nova.edu](mailto:deheredi@nova.edu).



# What CAPS can do for students seeking employment

By Luqman Gbenro

The Center for Academic and Professional Success is hosting a series of career events meant to bridge the gap between students and prospective employers. Some of the events are Finance 101: Managing Money in College featuring Northwestern Mutual on Oct. 22 at 12:30 p.m. and the NSU Graduate and Professional School Fair on Oct. 30 at 11 a.m.

The CAPS office is the university's home for career and academic advising. Johnny Kevorkian, associate director of employer relations, considers its work to be a key part of the college experience.

"College isn't just getting good grades. It's about building your network, building experiences and building your resume, because you don't want to graduate and have

nothing on your resume," Kevorkian said.

Industry employers from the Emma Bowen Foundation, rbb Communications and Big Reach PR attended CAPS's recent event, "What Can I Do with My Major? Communications Edition," on Sept. 17. The employers spoke about the skills that lead to professional success and the traits that make future hires stand out. They also offered several opportunities for employment at the end of the event.

"[In] the future, we're looking to bring more companies from around the United States who have some virtual opportunities," Kevorkian said. "There are so many opportunities; companies need accountants, people [who study] public health and graphic designers."

Students like Kamil Rodriguez,

junior music major, are eager to be part of these programs to learn about careers related to their major. Rodriguez thinks it's helpful having companies with knowledge about his major on campus. He prefers having them here because it's easier than having to look for them off campus.

CAPS works to alleviate stress students may feel when thinking about postgraduate plans. For students like Vanessa Norona, junior public health major, these CAPS career events help ensure a track will be laid for life after graduation.

"The career fairs are getting kind of important right now. I want to go into PA school, so it's very vital for me to get connections and network," Norona said.

Norona believes these events would benefit from a larger presence

on social media.

"Getting more involved with the social media, I think, that's how you reach a lot of people, at least at NSU," Norona said. "I think just making [posts] interactive and making it fun will make students feel more comfortable to be in front of it."

Rodriguez echoed these sentiments. He believes CAPS should focus more on cultivating an inviting social media presence compared to sending emails about the events.

"They [need] different ways of promoting it where it looks like something fun and not like more academic stuff, which I'm sure most students already have a lot of," Rodriguez said.

## Sharks Speak: What is your favorite fall food or recipe?



"Maybe the pumpkin pie from Starbucks. And as for a recipe, maybe something basic like Thanksgiving turkey and all of the different foods for that festivity. I am originally from Puerto Rico, and I am trying to get used to American food for the fall," said Isabelle Ashby, second year law student.



"Probably a Haitian food that is mainly rice with a special kind of mushroom that makes it black and gives it a particular flavor, and some pork fried up on top. I am from New Jersey, so I like to order that dish when it starts getting cooler in the fall," said Eishmel Dort, sophomore psychology and education major.



"Probably like a pie, I would say apple pie. I love everything that is related to pumpkin in fall, too. So, I would say pumpkin pie, pumpkin latte. All of those are just super common in my family in that time of the year," said Mariana Herman, sophomore international studies major.



"Honestly, because I bake, probably either a tart or pumpkin pie. Pumpkin pie would be just a classic even though a lot of people might not like that. If you are more inclined towards sweets, I kind of like a sweet tart, which could be lemon, pumpkin or even berry," said Liam Diaz, freshman biomedical engineering major.

BY MARTINA VALDOVINOS

## Indie duo Cults reflect on latest album

By Alex Hernández

Indie duo Cults, comprised of Ryan Mattos, who uses Brian Oblivion as a stage name, and Madeline Follin, recently sat down with Mako Radio to discuss their latest album, "To the Ghosts," and the ups and downs of touring. Known for their dreamy, introspective sound, Cults has captivated audiences since their debut in 2010, and their new album is no exception.

"It's about revisiting the things we leave behind," said Oblivion, discussing the themes of "To the Ghosts."

The album delves into memories and loss, capturing a nostalgic, yet

eerie, feeling.

"We wanted it to feel like walking through memories," Follin added, describing the project as an emotional journey that blurs the lines between the past and present.

"To the Ghosts" has been on heavy rotation at Mako Radio, resonating with its diverse student audience.

"The reception has been incredible," Oblivion shared, reflecting on the album's reach.

The pair agreed that the record marks an evolution in their sound, both sonically and lyrically.

"It's more personal this time," Madeline said. "We're digging into the emotional layers we haven't explored before."

But behind the album's success is the grueling reality of life on the road.

On Nov. 4 - 6, they'll tour in the United Kingdom. On Nov. 8 - 9, they'll tour through Europe.

"It's been incredible, but exhausting," Oblivion said, sharing the toll that touring can take. "We've been doing back-to-back shows for weeks."

Still, they were quick to express gratitude for their fans.

"Their energy is what keeps us going," Follin added, with a smile.

One standout moment during the interview came when Oblivion discussed how rapper J. Cole sampled Cults' song "Bad Things" in a

freestyle.

"It was wild hearing him rap over it," he said. "I didn't expect something like that to happen."

The surprise collaboration brought new attention to one of their early tracks, introducing their music to a broader audience.

"It's cool how different genres intersect like that," Oblivion said.

For more information:

To listen to Cults' earlier and recent tracks, visit [www.cultscultscults.com](http://www.cultscultscults.com)



# Science Alive reaches community with hydrogardens and other efforts



COURTESY OF EMILY SCHMITT LAVIN  
Science Alive takes care of a hydrogarden.

By Bryce Johnson

Science Alive, a non-profit organization, started in the 2000s. Emily Schmitt Lavin, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, wanted to promote STEM activities across

elementary schools.

Schmitt Lavin, as well as Aarti Raja, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and The Current's science/health desk adviser, used Science Alive to give more opportunities to their own children.

Now, Science Alive is working on its hydroculture initiative, which grows plants in gardens using water-based nutrients instead of soil.

"This gardening project started with the formation of Sigma Xi, which is the Research Honor Society. They have outreach grants. So we talked to one of the teachers at Nova Blanche Forman Elementary School and she wanted to grow gardens inside," Schmitt Lavin said.

They enjoyed the project so much that they wanted to spread the hydrogardens across campus. There are more than 20 hydrogardens in places like the Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, the Department of Biological Sciences, the Panza Maurer Law Library and NSU University School.

The next goal is to get them in the residential halls like The Commons.

Science Alive also became a club at NSU last year. Pranav Madadi, senior double major in chemistry and biology, is the president of the Science Alive club. He helped get the funding to start the club because he became interested in the hydrogardens.

"It's super easy to use. I'm terrible at gardening, but anyone can use one of those hydrogardens. You don't even have to worry about planting, because it comes in pre-seeded pots. All you do is put in a little water, a little plant food every two weeks," Madadi said. "It's a really easy way to promote sustainability, as I say. You can just get your veggies right then and there."

Science Alive also regularly visits Nova Blanche Forman Elementary School to teach students about different topics, including hydroculture, astronomy, physics and ecology.

Vir Patel, senior biology major and physics group leader of Science Alive, enjoys going to the school because it helps connect him with the community. He remembers during one session, students got

excited when he made his hair stand up using a balloon.

"It gives you a very unique opportunity to just connect with the community, help these kids find their passions," Patel said.

Ohm Patel, senior biology major and kinesiology group leader of Science Alive, not related to Vir Patel, once did an activity with a Hot Wheels track and remembers how excited the students were.

"It's moments like that where you feel like you made an impact on someone. For us, it doesn't matter that they can do whatever they want. They can go into the STEM field or do any other interest, but it's really to make an impact on someone. For me, that's the most important thing."

## For more information:

Students interested in Science Alive can send an email to Lickchina Jeanlis, senior public health major and Science Alive treasurer, at [lj939@nova.edu](mailto:lj939@nova.edu).

# NSU celebrates 20th annual block painting

By Brielle Aguayo

On Sept. 21, the 20th annual Block Painting Arts Festival took place in the Alvin Sherman Library Quad from noon - 5 p.m., featuring food, music and activities. During this event, clubs, organizations and programs painted a block outside to represent themselves.



Caroline Rodriguez, junior biology major, and Martina Maldonado, senior biology major and president of Diversity Student Council, paint their block during the Block Painting Arts Festival.



Caribbean Student Association members and president Imani Christian, junior marketing major, paint blocks during the Block Painting Arts Festival.



Hands-On Healthcare member and president Sonia Gazi, junior public health major, paints a block to represent the organization's logo.



NSU Razor's Edge Shark Talent members Ainsley Andoscia, freshman marine biology major, Reagan Singer, sophomore Elementary Education major, and Kyli Hammerton, freshman law major, pose for a photo of their program's completed block.

PHOTOS BY ALLANA POPHAM



FOOD

# Much ado about mochi donuts



The decorative plushies surround the donut display at MaMa YaTai & Donuts.

By Francesca Abarca

Rachel and Luis Estrada, married Davie residents, first walked into MaMa YaTai & Donuts on Oct. 24, 2023. They've since fallen in love with mochi donuts, and they're getting them for Rachel Estrada's 50th birthday celebration on Sept. 27.

They spent a week beforehand sampling different donut flavors to see which ones they would want for the celebration.

"This is just research. I want to choose five to 10 different flavors, and we're just going to spend the week sampling different ones. Honestly, this is such a difficult decision because all the flavors are so tasty," Rachel Estrada said.

Since their first time walking into the shop, they have returned 10 times, referring friends and family to the shop.

"I like bringing friends here and supporting local restaurants with the important people in my life," Rachel Estrada said.

MaMa YaTai & Donuts is an Asian bakery that sells treats like mochi donuts, churros and strawberry

cream croissants.

On Dec. 16, 2022, it opened its doors in Carriage Hills Plaza on Stirling Road.

Xavier Felipe, kitchen manager, said that the main attraction of the shop would be the authentic flavor of the mochi donuts and the Japanese/Vietnamese inspiration for the decor.

"First, everyone that walks in here asks to buy the plushies on the wall, and we have to sadly tell them no. All of our plushies are just for decoration. But most people come in here for the sweets, the aesthetic decorations and a desire to try all of the flavors of donuts," Felipe said, in Spanish.

The owners, Loc Nguyen from Vietnam, and Ly Chau, 2017 NSU alumna from Japan, got into the food business because of Nguyen's mom, Trang Do, known as MaMa.

The restaurant gets its name from the Japanese word for street food, YaTai, and MaMa because of Nguyen's mom, who owned a pastry shop in Vietnam, which is the inspiration for all of its recipes.

"We wanted to bring her recipes and culture to the United States,"



MaMa YaTai & Donuts bakes homemade bread and has corn dogs of different flavors.

Chau said

The menu offers 24 different mochi donut flavors including matcha, taro and passion fruit. The menu also includes eight different flavors of its Japanese corn dogs, including flavors not typically found in Japanese corn dog restaurants, like blue heat, ramen and Tokyo chicken. It also offers tanghulu, which is a caramelized fruit kebab.

"Our most popular dish is the guava and cheese donut, and the grape tanghulu, that always leaves people wanting more," Chau said.

One customer, Rebeka Lopez, loves coming to the donut shop with her children.

"It's a good way to stay connected to our kids because they're in their 20s. Coming with them the first time made this place a part of us as a family. When one of us says, 'We're going to go,' then we'll come together, so it is just a good memory," Lopez said.

Felipe said the restaurant decor contributes to the family friendly environment and focuses on Vietnamese culture.

"All over the walls are aesthetic pictures of Vietnamese culture and plushies that can be more commonly seen within Asian culture," Felipe said. "Little kids will come in and just stare at the wall admiring."

The shop staff pride themselves on their familial values and fresh-tasting

food everyday.

"All of the food: flavors, toppings and dressings, are all made in-house. During any holiday, we try to decorate our donuts to bring more attention to them. For Halloween, we are decorating donuts with pumpkins," Chau said.

Customers like Luis Estrada enjoy going to the donut shop for the food, as well as for the chance to support a local business.

"It's just a place that always brings smiles to our faces because we know that no matter what, it's going to be delicious, and we're just going to feel good supporting [a local business], and they make you feel good," Estrada said.

**For more information:**

**Location:** 6477 Stirling Road, Davie, FL 33314, United States

**Phone:** 954-287-1950

Follow @mamayatai.donut on Instagram

**Hours:**

Monday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Rachel de la Vega, front counter cashier, writes the names on the display case of the donuts for sale.

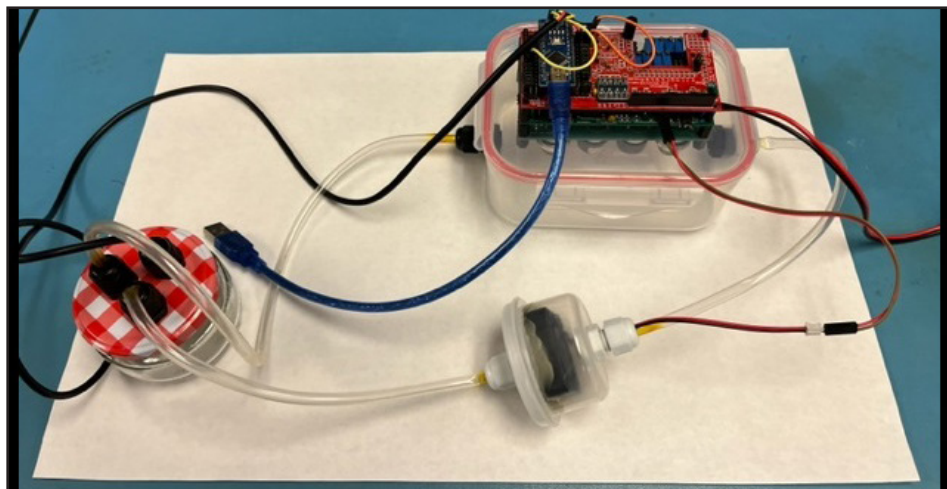


Zuleyka Grau, donut decorator, assembles the cream and fruit bun donuts before the store opens.

PHOTOS BY BRIELLE AGUAYO



# Professor leads research on e-senses technology



COURTESY OF JOSE RAMOS

Jose Ramos, professor in the College of Computing and Engineering, uses this electronic nose to detect volatile organic compounds.

By Sneha Subhash

Srika Talanki, sophomore biology major, has a family history of several diseases. She is hopeful for noninvasive technology that could detect them earlier.

"I recently experienced a loss from cancer, and it has deeply impacted me and my family," Talanki said. "The idea that we could use noninvasive technologies to detect cancer earlier and more accurately gives me a lot of hope for the future."

Current medical diagnostic tools rely on invasive procedures and costly equipment. However, developing research from NSU College of Computing and Engineering has provided a potential use of e-senses technology, where diagnoses can become as simple as breathing, tasting or seeing. A single device can analyze health through scent, taste and color without any need for needles or complex procedures.

With his research team, José Ramos, professor in the College of

Computing and Engineering, has been exploring the use of e-senses technology in medical diagnostics, using three devices: the electronic nose (e-nose), the electronic tongue (e-tongue) and the electronic eyes (e-eyes).

Ramos started his education at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez in civil engineering, before completing both a master's and Ph.D. at Georgia Institute of Technology in hydrosystems engineering.

"E-senses technology leverages a combination of different instruments to analyze chemical signatures," Ramos said. "We use an electronic nose, which features eight gas sensors to detect volatile organic compounds, much like a fingerprint for odors."

The electronic nose works by capturing data from these sensors, which are then processed to recognize patterns associated with different smells. This data is analyzed using machine learning models to achieve high accuracy in odor detection.

In addition to the electronic nose, Ramos' research incorporates the electronic tongue and electronic eye. The electronic tongue,

equipped with an array of eight electrodes, mimics the human sense of taste through electrochemical analysis. Meanwhile, the electronic eye uses a combination of small spectrometers to analyze color variations, which also feeds into machine learning models for further analysis.

"By combining data from the electronic nose and electronic tongue, we can create a comprehensive machine learning model," Ramos said.

But the technology is not without its challenges.

One of the primary limitations is the variation in sensor readings due to environmental factors like temperature and humidity. Newer smart sensors have been developed to address these issues, improving the accuracy of the readings.

"The non-invasive nature of these tests is a major advantage," Ramos said. "Patients undergo less stress and discomfort compared to traditional methods, and the lower cost of the technology means that it can be integrated into more diagnostic settings."

The use of this technology is currently undergoing further research and development.

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FROM THE FRONT

# GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER

Santo, 25, started dancing when she was 5. Since then, she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance at New World School of the Arts and choreographed for a dance convention, The PULSE on Tour. She also choreographed a music video for Becky G and KEVVO and co-founded STYX The Company in 2022.

"It's been an amazing experience so far and I'm excited to extend my knowledge and my creativity to the dancers at Nova and to whoever attends DanceWorks," Santo said.

Elana Lanczi, associate professor and director of DCMA's dance program, was able to watch Santo work with students as they prepare for DanceWorks.

"I got a sneak peek, and I think that she's really challenging them, and I think the piece is going to be really beautiful. It features obviously our dancers, but it also features some of the members of her company as well," Lanczi said.

Santo describes her work as authentic, playful and unique. She's excited for people to see her choreography at DanceWorks.

"I feel like whenever you go to a performance, you are opening up your

heart and your mind to whatever the dancers and the choreographers have to share," Santo said. "I think the audience can go in with no expectations and just absorb all of the real information and performance that the dancers have to give."

Cantor enjoys working with someone from a professional dance company and thinks it provides more opportunities and insights for NSU students.

"Having someone like Mika bring that knowledge in, I think is just so amazing. It's just great. I really hope that people take advantage of that, and I hope that she also enjoys working with us," Cantor said.

For students who are interested in learning how to dance, Santo suggests that they start with what feels good.

"Something I've learned a lot, I feel like in my more recent years of dance, is that dance has to feel good. You can't force it, and never be afraid to be a beginner at something," Santo said.

Santo encourages people to attend the DanceWorks performances in November.

"I hope to see more people pulling up for the community and supporting live arts, because without the arts, we are nothing."



COURTESY OF MIKA SANTO  
Mika Santo, co-director of STYX, performs a dance.

## Move N' Groove with Shark Talent

By Francesca Abarca

Razor's Edge Shark Talent will host its semiannual student-led art exhibition and showcase on Oct. 18.

The art exhibition, which features paintings, sculptures and photography pieces from 15 contributing artists, begins at 6 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. The showcase follows at 7 p.m. in the Performance Theatre on the first floor of the Don Taft University Center.

This year's showcase theme is Move N' Groove and will include 19 acts featuring dancers, singers, instrumentalists and the drumline.

Shark Talent is one of five Hochberg-Miniaci Razor's Edge Scholars Programs. Ysabella Lupercio, senior dance and business major and Shark Talent president, said that Shark Talent helps strengthen artists' skills.

"This is a program that helps nourish young artists to build their artistic side and where they want to go in the arts and alongside their

collaborative and leadership styles, [the program] helps grow leaders within the arts," Lupercio said.

Kyra Triepke, junior human nutrition major and dance minor, is the performance vice chair for Shark Talent.

"We have a bigger, better opening number and lots of cool collaborating acts, with dancers and singers that have worked really hard to put on a great show," Triepke said.

At the showcase, Jaime Valdez, junior computer science major and Shark Talent scholar, along with 13 dance students will perform a rendition of Tom Holland's Lip Sync Battle of Rihanna's "Umbrella."

"Everyone is really excited to perform this piece as it will bring smiles to the audience," Lupercio, one of the dancers said.

Valdez will dress up as Holland and dance with an umbrella with his background dancers, adding their own spin on the original piece.

"As someone who is a musician, doing a very dance-heavy piece

has been an interesting experience so far. I've learned to let loose and appreciate the work others are doing around me," Valdez said.

This is the largest amount of non-Shark Talent students participating in the show. There are six students not in Shark Talent.

"Sometimes, we have to reach out to students to fill in spots in different acts to allow our performance to be as amazing as possible," Triepke said.

In addition to the non-Shark Talent scholars, two student-run businesses, La Creperia and Sabroso,

will be selling their products outside of the Performance Theatre.

Valdez said the performances will be exciting and encourages everyone to attend the art exhibition and showcase.

"Go into [the show] with an open mind and excite the crowd, as everyone has been working hard to put on a great show," Valdez said.

This event is free for all NSU students, faculty and staff.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU's singing group Shark Gold performs the song "Dancing in the street," at the showcase rehearsal on October 15, 2024.

COURTESY OF NSU RAZORS EDGE SHARK TALENT



MUSIC

BY ALEX HERNÁNDEZ AND MARLEE CARD

# College Radio

On Friday, Oct. 4, Mako Radio hosted College Radio Day, representing more than 150 college and community radio stations as the Florida headquarters for the event. Based on the theme, "The Soundtrack of Democracy," Mako Radio aired unique segments every hour from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. on WKPX 88.5 FM Sunrise. The live radio segments included an interview with Ron Chenail, NSU provost, students from NSU Digressions Literary & Art Journal and a game show hosted by Eric Mason, The Current's digital faculty adviser. College Radio Day also featured performances outside of the radio station located at the Rosenthal Student Center during a kickoff event from noon -1 p.m. The kickoff included a speech from Provost Ron Chenail, a performance by NSU's Mako Band, NSU Drumline and DCMA Dancers. College Radio Day also featured 17 performances from student DJs, DCMA student performers and local artists from 4-7 p.m. Mako Radio partnered with nonprofit organizations, vendors and HBIA student businesses, reflecting NSU's core value of community engagement.



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM

Diana Gutij, sophomore entrepreneurship major, sells her hair oil and wooden brushes to NSU students on College Radio Day.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

Mike Lynn, assistant director of Mako Media Network, NSU Provost Ron Chenail, and Kevin Dvorak, executive director of the Writing and Communication Center, discuss the importance of College Radio Day.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU students crowd around in front of the Don Taft University Center to watch performances from noon to 1 p.m.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU's Mako Band performs on College Radio Day from noon to 1 p.m.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO

NSU's Drumline performs on College Radio at the Shark Circle during the kickoff.

## MAKO RADIO DJ SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Noon - 1 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Ray: '90s - 2000s Rock</p>	<p>12:30 - 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>That's News to Us (Oct. 22)</p>	<p>12:30 - 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Naty: Latin Music (Oct. 17)</p> <p>DJ Lyric: Indie/Pop (Oct. 24)</p>	<p>Noon - 1 p.m.</p> <p>The B-Side (Oct. 18)</p> <p>Off the Record (Oct. 25)</p>	
<p>6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Neptune and DJ Onyx: New Wave/Alternative</p>	<p>6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>DJ shuffle (DJs change weekly)</p>	<p>6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Mojo and DJ Romi: EDM/House</p>	<p>6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>DJ Ray and DJ Rupee: Rock Alternative</p>	<p>6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>DJ VibeZ and DJ G: International RNB (Oct. 18)</p> <p>DJ Ant and DJ Venus: Indie/Jazz (Oct. 25)</p>



# Day: a true success



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM  
NSU's dance group Veera performs on stage at College Radio Day.



PHOTO BY MARLEE CARD  
Estella Bruno, senior music major and Mako Radio's production engineer, and Ryan "Romi" Romero, freshman communication major, DJ outside the Don Taft University Center.



PHOTO BY ALLANA POPHAM  
Churros & Ice Cream hands out free samples at College Radio Day.



PHOTO BY BRIELLE AGUAYO  
DCMA Dancers perform on College Radio Day from noon to 1 p.m.

## The Chart Buzz

The NACC Chart reflects the most popular music and artists that are gaining traction on college and community radio stations across North America. They offer insights into the ever-evolving taste of younger, experimental listeners who gravitate toward authentic and fresh sounds. This issue's top five artists are from the week of College Radio Day, which highlights the emerging talents and represents a blend of themes and genres that resonate with many college-age students.

### 1. MJ Lenderman - Manning Fireworks

This week on the NACC Chart, Mark Jacob Lenderman, abbreviated as MJ Lenderman, quickly reached the top spot. His sound combines an interesting mix of indie rock and alternative country, with raw authentic lyrics. Fans of indie rock or country will find his most recent album "Manning Fireworks" especially interesting as many of these songs featured on the album represent themes college students will enjoy. Lenderman's emotional story-telling in his song lyrics creates a space for listeners to feel seen in their own struggles and joys. This up-and-coming album speaks to the uncertainties, anxieties and the highs and lows to which many young adults relate.

### 2. Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - Wild God

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds shows an enormous amount of creative evolution, with a range of contrasting musical styles. Formed in the 1980s, the

group continues their historic success by placing second on the NACC Chart with their newest album from September 2023, "Wild God." Cave's album features the band's signature blend of rock, blues, and experimental sounds, characterized by dark, poetic lyrics. The common theme in many of the songs in the "Wild God" revolve in life, finding your identity, and intertwining concepts of mythology and folklore. By encouraging listeners to engage in self-reflection, this album would be found enjoyable by any college student or young adult interested in tunes beyond the mainstream music.

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

Remaining as one of the top five artists for yet another week, Beatrice Kristi Laus, known as beabadoobee, and her newest album, "This Is How Tomorrow Moves," 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 are similarly navigating their journey into adulthood and challenges around identity, responsibility and self-awareness.

### 4. Ginger Root- SHINBANGUMI

Ginger Root's newest album, "SHINBANGUMI," features fun and funky sounds, providing a retro feel that took inspiration from Japanese city pop, American disco, and funk. The artist behind Ginger Root, Cameron Lew, refers to the album's genre as

"aggressive elevator soul," highlighting his unconventional musical style and witty lyricism. Tracks like "Better Than Monday" show the album's care-free energy while reflecting themes of personal growth and self-reflection. The catchy beats and lighthearted tone makes the album a perfect playlist to listen to if college students are looking for something upbeat and with substance. With its blend of nostalgia and forward-thinking production, the album is great for unwinding, studying or adding energy while hanging out with friends.

### 5. Suki Waterhouse - Memoir of a Sparklemuffin

Capturing the fifth spot on the NACC Chart, "Memoir of a Sparklemuffin" by Alice Suki Waterhouse, known as Suki Waterhouse, offers an eclectic '90s indie-pop sound while diving into her experiences as an artist, model, and songwriter. If you enjoy Lana Del Rey, you'll likely appreciate Waterhouse's vocal style and romantic lyricism, which creates a similar style, but with her own distinctive flair. It features both acoustic and electric guitar riffs, powerful vocals and explores themes of heart-break, self-discovery, and reclaiming one's narrative. Tracks like "Model, Actress, Whatever" and "Legendary" show Waterhouse's growth as both a songwriter and a vocalist. Waterhouse's authenticity and ability to capture feelings many young adults face in a catchy and relatable way make this album appealing to those who enjoy introspective music with emotional depth.



# Fort Lauderdale United FC: Inspiring the future of women's sports



Adrienne Jordan, defender for Fort Lauderdale United FC, holds the ball for a throw-in.



Fort Lauderdale United FC teammates celebrating excellent play on the pitch.

By Bella Giaquinto

The landscape of women's sports has evolved dramatically in recent years, and the Fort Lauderdale United FC is at the forefront of this transformation.

Fort Lauderdale United FC is part of the USL Super League, a professional women's soccer league.

"The league came about based

upon the need for additional opportunities in women's sports, especially soccer," said Tommy Smith, co-founder and chairman of Fort Lauderdale United FC.

Established in partnership with NSU, the team is a direct response to the growing demand for more opportunities in women's athletics. The staff is united by a common goal: to foster the growth of

women's sports.

"I'm super passionate about coaching within this league, because it's just giving so many more opportunities to young girls that rightfully deserve it," said Ali Rogers, associate head coach.

Rogers brings six years of coaching experience at the NCAA Division 1 level with an extensive playing background. She has a successful record of leading teams to championships and developing top-tier talent, both in the club space at Dartmouth and at Florida Gulf Coast University. Rogers' coaching journey led her to Fort Lauderdale United, where her passion for developing female athletes aligns with the team's goals.

"My passion's always just been coaching females," Rogers said. "Fort Lauderdale United reached out to me to see if I was interested and it was a no-brainer at the end of the day since our visions just aligned."

Fort Lauderdale United FC's commitment to fostering the next generation of women's soccer is a key component of their vision. With a strong emphasis on youth development, Smith believes that the recent growth in women's sports is a direct result of investing in young athletes.

"There's been a big investment in women's sports," Smith said. "I think it's been a long time coming and I think youth sports has a big thing to do with that whether it's youth soccer or youth volleyball on the women's side."

Smith also recognizes the importance of equality in women's sports and strives to provide Fort

Lauderdale United FC athletes with the highest level of support and resources.

"[Women face challenges of] equal pay and just really mainly being treated at the highest standards," said Smith. "I think that's one thing that we pride ourselves on as Fort Lauderdale United is giving the proper player experience."

Echoing Smith's ideals, Rogers emphasizes the significance of player experience and instilling a culture within the girls that is more important than winning a game.

"We all want to win and obviously we plan on putting a really good product on the field, but it's far much more than that," Rogers said. "We make sure to do a lot of workshops within our culture, making sure that the girls are spending time together. We're instilling character traits within these girls and when talking to our girls and talking to our owners, it all aligns within their mission."

John Sung, NSU's interim athletic director, believes that Fort Lauderdale United FC is a mutually beneficial partnership.

"That's going to mean better game day operation for our student athletes and then for the fans, they're going to be able to come and see soccer games and hopefully other events," Sung said.



Nia Christopher, midfielder for Fort Lauderdale United FC, keeps control of the ball.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UNITED FC



# Interim head coach aims to steer the rowing program to success



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

The women's rowing team competes in a dual-race during the 2023-2024 season.

By Bella Giaquinto

Following the September resignation of NSU's head women's rowing coach, Kim Chavers, the program welcomes Nicholas Iliadis as interim head coach.

Just one month after joining the rowing program as assistant head coach in August, Iliadis was appointed head coach.

"These past two weeks have been fantastic," Iliadis said. "We're starting to get into a groove and we're moving up and up."

While this was a surprise for Iliadis, he is confident in his ability to lead the team to a successful 2024-2025 season.

"This is the perfect timing for everything," Iliadis said. "I heard that the team was coming back after getting cut previously to COVID restrictions so I'm excited to help grow it."

During the 2023-2024 season, former head coach Chavers and the team navigated new challenges as the rowing program resumed operations at NSU following the COVID-19 hiatus. The Sharks earned two victories at the FIRA Championships last

season, two student-athletes were recognized to All-Sunshine State Conference teams and six were recognized as CRCA Scholar-Athletes.

Despite competing and being reinstated last season, this year marks the first full season for the rowing program. With 19 current rowers and eight incoming following recent tryouts, Iliadis aims to build upon last season's successes and revitalize the program.

"I'm calling this period of rowing in NSU the revenge tour, where we're researching and looking to make a name for ourselves," Iliadis said.

Amanda Bogle, senior environmental science major and rower, shares her experience with Iliadis following the coaching staff change.

"When I first met him, I thought he was really nice and I really liked him," Bogle said. "Then he started coaching us more and we got to know him and I was like 'oh this guy's a really good coach and he gives us really good feedback right away,' which I was really thankful for."

Chrysta Snair, junior pre-law major and rower, shares

similar views to Bogle, showing appreciation for Iliadis' feedback and encouragement.

"He listens to everything we have to say and he's very good at giving feedback and helping us make improvements," Snair said. "He's very attentive to that and he's definitely pushing all of us to work harder because I think he knows that we can do more than what we did last year and even what he's seeing right now."

Beyond offering constructive feedback, Iliadis strives to foster a fun and competitive environment that the team embraces.

"I pride myself on the mentality that this is supposed to be fun," Iliadis said. "We provide a fun and competitive environment that the girls want to buy into."

Iliadis acknowledges the challenges associated with a new coaching staff but expresses gratitude for the support he has received from the athletic department.

"The administration is being extremely supportive of the transition, getting us everything we need," Iliadis said. "We're overcoming a lot, anytime there's a problem that

arises there is someone for it which I'm finding very helpful."

Prior to NSU, Iliadis was a NCAA Division 1 rower at La Salle University in Pennsylvania from 2017 through 2021, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in political science. He served as the assistant rowing coach at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania for two seasons, where he helped guide the men's novice 8+ team to gold in the Head of the Schuylkill in 2023. Iliadis also assisted the men's team in earning two appearances in the grand finals of the Dad Vail Regatta in 2022, as well as earning bronze in the 8+ races at the 2023 Knecht Cup.

"I'd want my legacy at NSU to be of growth," Iliadis said. "We take what was given to us and we grow and we run with it."

## For more information:

To keep up with Sharks Rowing, be sure to follow on Instagram at NSU\_Rowing and X at NSU\_WRowing.

## Sport Shorts

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto

### Women's soccer, Oct. 13:

The women's soccer team competed to a 1-1 draw on the road against conference rival Barry University. The Sharks were led by Sofia Suarez, who scored the game-tying penalty kick goal with six minutes left in the match.

### Women's cross-country, Oct. 12:

The women's cross-country team placed fourth at the UAH Chargers XC Invitational. Jillian Thorning led the Sharks with a 6th place finish and a time of 21:04.80, making her second in school history in the 6k.

### Men's cross-country, Oct. 12:

The men's cross-country team placed 26th at the UAH Chargers XC Invitational. Jaime Blazquez led the Sharks with an 86th place finish and a time of 25:25.1.

### Men's soccer, Oct. 12:

The men's soccer team beat conference rival Barry University in a thrilling 3-2 victory. Markus Rokseth scored all three goals for the Sharks, with the game winner being in the last three minutes of the match.

### Women's swimming, Oct. 11:

The women's swim team defeated Florida Atlantic University 132-130 and Barry University 221-35 in a tri-meet. The defending back-to-back national champions were led by

Kristina Orban, who placed first in the 200-medley relay, 100 free, 100 fly, and 400 free relay, and Maya Esparza, who placed first in the 200-medley relay, 50 free, and 400 free relay.

### Men's swimming, Oct. 11:

The men's swim team defeated Florida Atlantic University for the first time in school history 141-121, as well as Barry University 191-69 in a tri-meet. The Sharks were led by Luca Alessandrini, who placed first in the 1000 free and 500 free, and Gustav Henriksen, who placed first in the 100 back, 200 back, and 200 individual medley.

### Men's golf, Oct. 7-8:

The No. 11 men's golf team finished third and fourth at the Sharks

Invitational. The NSU "A-Team" placed third, led by Elias Mardeni (-3/71/66/73) who finished in seventh place. The NSU "B-Team" placed fourth, led by William McGhie (-1/70/74/68) who finished in 13th place.

### Men's and women's swimming, Oct. 6:

Luca Alessandrini of the men's swimming team and Kristina Orban of the women's swimming team earned Sunshine State Conference Athlete of the Week honors for their performances at the TYR Fall Classic.



# Women's tennis is ready to defend its national title



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Tennis team prepares for a match during the 2023-2024 season.

By Isabella Fernandez De Cueto and Bella Giaquinto

Coming off a historic NCAA Division II National Championship win in the 2023-2024 season, NSU's women's tennis team is starting the 2024-2025 season strong.

The Sharks had a successful first tournament on Sept. 13-15 at the PBA Invitational, where they faced off against St. Thomas University, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Hillsborough Community College.

"We had some tough matches, but we came through in all of them, so it was great to see the girls competing," said Freya Davies, graduate assistant coach and member of the national championship-winning team. "It gave us things to work on and it was good, especially for the newcomers, to get that experience and see the level we compete at."

Davies' appointment as an assistant coach has the potential to be a game-changer for the team this season. During her one year as a player for the team, she was a part of the top double tandem in the nation, having won the ITA Doubles Cup in October 2023. She also went 4-1 in the NCAA Tournament and won a point for the team in the National Championship match.

"I was literally just in their shoes so I can really resonate with them and what they're feeling and going through," Davies said. "I'm able to provide good advice based on what me and last year's team did last season that led us to winning a national championship, so hopefully I can pass all of that onto the current team."

Outside of Davies, returning to the court this season are three key players from last year's championship team. Their experience will be valuable in helping the team maintain their high level of play.

"Our three returners are really helping this team by showing the level that we play at and showing just how hard it is to do what we did last year," said Douge Neagle, head women's tennis coach. "It's good for the rest of the team to have this example,"

Fresh off its championship win, this year's team feels a renewed sense of pressure and confidence as they prepare for the upcoming season.

"Even though we don't have the same team as last year, we feel that we have more pressure now since we just won the title, but we also have more confidence than we did last year because we just won the title," said Ita Habekovic, returning

member of the women's tennis team and senior psychology major.

Recognizing the significance of team chemistry in their championship win last season, the program has now made it a priority.

"I think one of the big reasons why we did what we did last year was because of the team chemistry and how they all worked together," Neagle said. "They were a very special group."

Although the season is still in its early stages, the team is already building positive relationships and strong chemistry.

"I feel like we're all connecting and getting along really well," Habekovic said. "I can see the relationships starting to form, which is

good for us and also important."

The team hopes to defend its title and have another dominant season in 2024-2025.

"One thing that helps us is keeping our goals as vague as possible," Neagle said. "We just want to work hard to get better every day and let the results of that happen organically."

## For more information:

To keep up with the women's tennis team, follow it on Instagram and X @nsu\_wtennis.



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETICS

Tennis team huddles up before a key match during the 2023-2024 season.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

THURSDAY

17

**Pieces of Pride**

4 p.m. DEIB Resource Center

**Fluorescent Beast Movie Night and Director Q&A**

6 p.m. Mailman- Hollywood Auditorium

**Guest Artist Workshop: Mwanel Pierre-Louis**

6 - 7:30 p.m. Don Taft University Center, Gallery 217

**Coco & Comida: A night of culture and cuisine**

8 p.m. Rolling Hills, 2nd floor lounge

THURSDAY

24

**Expressing Culture Through the Arts**

4 p.m. Don Taft University Center, Performing Visual Arts Theatre

FRIDAY

25

**Fusion Fest: Cultural Remix**

6 p.m. Don Taft University Center, Shark Fountain

FRIDAY

18

**Hidden Figures Movie Night**

6 p.m Parker Building 204

**Shark Talent Presents Move N Groove Art Gallery & Showcase**

Gallery - 6 p.m. and Showcase - 7 p.m. Don Taft University Center, Performing Visual Arts Theatre

**A Flock of Seagulls Concert**

7:30 p.m Culture Room

SATURDAY

26

**Shark Saturdays at LIME**

6 - 10 p.m. The Fountains

**Stage 2 Presents: Mayfly**

7:30 p.m. Don Taft University Center, Black Box Theatre

SUNDAY

27

**Ricky Montgomery Concert**

7 p.m. Revolution Live

**Sex N' The City: A Musical Parody**

7:30 p.m. The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY

19

**Volunteer with A Day for Children**

10:30 a.m. Alvin Sherman Library Quad

**Comedian Gus Constantellis**

8 p.m The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

MONDAY

28

**Boo-tiful Pumpkin Painting**

11:45 a.m. Don Taft University Center Spine

SUNDAY

20

**Haunted Illusions**

3 p.m. The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

MONDAY

21

**What's Da Wybe?!**

6 p.m. Knight Auditorium

**UGC Pumpkin Carving**

6 p.m. Flight Deck Backyard

TUESDAY

29

**Let's Taco 'Bout it**

12 p.m. Don Taft University Center Spine

TUESDAY

22

**Sharks in the Sea: Marine Biology & Environmental Science Mixer**

5 p.m. Don Taft University Center, 2nd Floor Lounge

WEDNESDAY

30

**Halloween Drag Show Charity**

6 p.m. Knight Auditorium

WEDNESDAY

23

**Scream Movie Night**

7 p.m. The Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center

THURSDAY

31

**Trunk or Treat**

4:30 p.m. Alvin Sherman Library Quad



# WORD SEARCH

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

INTERVIEW  
PAINTING  
ROWING  
FLOOD  
DONUT

SHOWCASE  
TENNIS  
SOCCER  
HYDROGEN  
NITROGEN

ADVISORY  
SENSES  
CHART  
MIKA  
CAPS

# 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 Tuesday, Oct. 29. The correct answer to this question will appear in the next issue of The Current.

All members of the NSU community are invited to submit their answer and participate. Every member of the NSU community who submits at least one answer during the 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.

“On the television show, “The Big Bang Theory,” Sheldon Cooper invented an extension of a classic game which he called “Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock.” In this game, each of two players simultaneously make one of five different hand gestures. In this game, if players make different hand gestures, winners are determined as “Scissors cuts paper; Paper covers rock; Rock crushes lizard; Lizard poisons Spock; Spock smashes scissors; Scissors decapitates lizard; Lizard eats paper; Paper disproves Spock; Spock vaporizes rock; Rock crushes scissor.” If each player makes the same hand gesture, the game ends in a draw. John and Kelly are playing three rounds of this game. Find the probability that all three rounds end in draws.

Answer to prior issue:  $2345 + 2112 = 4457$  as a final answer.

# THE CURRENT'S COMIC



ESPRESSO (MAKO'S VERSION)

BY NICOLE GOMEZ