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Florida Government Considers Cutting FRAG from Budget

By Tanya Parnes
NSU News Editor

The William L. Boyd, IV Florida Resident Access Grant more commonly referred to as FRAG, is a federal grant available for all Florida residents who attend nonprofit colleges and universities throughout the state. The Florida Department of Education regulates this grant pursuant to Florida statutes and administrative rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Each of the eligible institutions administers this grant on behalf of its students. The annual funds for the FRAG depend upon the General Appropriations Act made by the Florida Legislature each year. There are currently 28 institutions, including NSU, who partake in the FRAG program. Students who qualify are able to receive up to $3,000 in FRAG grants. According to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, NSU reported 2,662 undergraduate students as 2007 FRAG recipients. This amounts to approximately $7,986,000 in FRAG grants. Roughly 49% of the 2006-2007 FRAG recipients were first generation college students.

However, as of Jan. 31, 2008, when Florida Governor Charlie Crist and Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp released the Crist/Kottkamp Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2008-09, this grant may be unavailable for next year’s incoming freshman if not permanently eliminated. The $33.5 billion education plan proposed by Crist and Kottkamp would eliminate the $3,000 grant for one year, in order to help generate the necessary funds for improving public K-12 schools and public universities throughout the state. According to the Independent

FRAG Continued on pg.2

NSU’s fifth annual CommunityFest will take place on Gold Circle Lake on Feb. 23 from 12-4 p.m. CommunityFest, a festival designed to unite NSU students, employees, and their families, Michelle Mansley, a current NSU graduate student, created this event in 2004, with the intention of bringing the university community together while building school spirit on NSU’s campus. Since its inception, there have been over 3500 people in attendance each year.

The event involves the collaborative group efforts of NSU students, staff, local community businesses and organizations. During the festival, different departments and student organizations host a variety of activity booths where attendees can play games to win prizes. Some of the departments and organizations that will be featured include the Caribbean Student Association (CSA), Nova International Student Association (NISA), Phi Alpha Delta – NSU’s pre-law fraternity – the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, NSU’s Alumni Association, Student Counseling, and NSU Athletics. Live entertainment, games, food and drinks will also be provided throughout the event.

There will be several live performances during the course of the day including the NSU Cheerleaders, the Vocal ensemble, Chicks on Point, and the Sharkettes – NSU’s very own step and dance team. The event also features a live band performance by Libido, a local band that also performed at last year’s festival. Libido is one of South Florida’s up and coming professional commercial cover bands, that plays a wide range of music to satisfy all age groups.

Attendees will also have the chance to take part in a number of large scale games, such as Sumo Suits, a rock climbing wall, Extreme Air bungee and a 75 foot long laser tag dome. Expected vendors include Azteca Mexican restaurant, Davie Subs, Quarterdeck, Sonny’s BBQ, Cantina Laredo and Maggie Moos. There will also be a raffle to win prizes, including the Seaquarium, $100 Barnes & Noble gift cards, a 3 day 2 night stay in the Marriott Hotel, Flamingo Golden Passes, Contour Day spa packages, and much more. For more information please contact the Office of Public Affairs at pubaffairs@nsu.nova.edu.
NSU Students Demand More Diversity in their Coursework

Tanya Barnes, NSU News Editor

NSU is the largest independent university in the southeast and the seventh largest in the country, with a total student population of roughly 26,000 students. The university offers 36 undergraduate majors through the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, the Farquhar School of Education and Human Services, the College of Allied Health and Nursing and the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. 

Don Rosenblum, Ph.D, Dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, said that NSU adds almost 100 courses each year. "I am always very happy when students say they want more distinct and creative classes," said Rosenblum. "They shouldn't be looking at the minimum required to meet the degree but to craft a curriculum that celebrates discovery, exploration and their core curriculum and providing students with more choices. "Faculty are offering study travel opportunities and many are now working individually with their students to create their own courses," said Rosenblum. These unique courses are known as independent studies and they work one on one with their professors in a particular subject area that is of interest to them. Students have the chance to approach their professors with whatever topic they like and essentially create their own class with their own coursework for the semester, which can fulfill anywhere from one to six credits.

"As much as I celebrate that there are good options, I agree that we need more diverse courses," said Rosenblum. "Course diversity makes a great difference and students may want to gain access to knowledge through these classes. I'm always eager to hear from students regarding this issue." While Rosenblum appreciates the significant strides that have been made, he recognizes that there is always room for more and that is precisely what he hopes to bring to NSU in the future. "I think the offerings are good and they're beginning to get better," said Rosenblum. "When you have more students, you have more faculty and they want more diversity." 

Cherelle Henry, a sophomore and criminal justice major, said that she has to take about twenty required courses for her major and six electives, only three of which are required. "They don't offer any fun classes or courses that I'm interested in," said Henry. "NSU focuses on the medical and business majors and diverts the other programs, so the courses I'm interested in I can't take until graduate school." Henry feels as though the options for the other majors are much greater and more diverse than her program. Henry is also unhappy with the times at which she has to take her classes. "I have two classes from 6 to 10 p.m. because there simply aren't any openings," said Henry. "I don't think they treat the other majors fairly. Henry would like to see more course offerings in psychology, education, business and entrepreneurship, as well as more diverse courses offered in the humanities and social sciences. "I really like the class sizes here," said Raza. "The average class size at NSU is about 21 students and most do not go beyond 30. "What's sort of disturbing to me is that you have these great professors, the benefits of small class sizes, and very little diversity in the courses themselves," said Raza. 

"When students ask for more, I realize they want more diversity, more time offerings and more seats or availability in courses," said Rosenblum. "We're adding as many faculty as we can every year and they always come in saying they will teach the core courses but may be allowed to bring in some creative ones as we grow."
Classes

well." Rosenblum said that all courses at NSU are taught by faculty members instead of TAs or graduate students. However, he always welcomes feedback. "Students should let someone know if there are classes they are interested in," Rosenblum said. "Faculty members love to hear from students, and recommendations from the students will help to raise the quality of courses." The lecture will begin at 6 p.m. in the second floor of the Malvin-Hollywood Building. For more information, contact the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences at (954) 262-8236.

HelloGoodbye Concert: Come see power-pop band HelloGoodbye perform live as part of this year’s homecoming week festivities. NSU students and faculty can purchase tickets for $10.00 for general admission and $12.50 for floor seats. The rest of the community can purchase tickets for $15.00 for general admission and $17.50 for floor seats. The concert will take place at 8:30 p.m. in the University Center. For more information, please call 954-262-7193 or e-mail studentengagement@nova.edu.

Spring Fling: Come dance away your pre-final exam stress with the Department of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement! The dance will take place at 8 p.m. at the Flight Deck in the University Center. For more information, contact Kathryn Brimmer at kbbianco@nova.edu.

Some classes students may be interested in are:

- Women in the Arts, Myth and Art
- Fundamentals of Chinese Medicine
- Torture Violence & Trauma: The Age of Dinosaurs
- Interviewing, Interrogation and Report Writing
- Corrections in America
- Dinosaur Fundamentals of Chinese Medicine
- Interviewing, Interrogation and Report Writing
- Corrections in America
- Dinosaur
- Interviewing, Interrogation and Report Writing
- Corrections in America
- Dinosaur
- Interviewing, Interrogation and Report Writing
- Corrections in America
- Dinosaur
NSU Students Share Leadership Experience
Kristine Belizaire, Current Affairs Editor

The Pursuit of Leadership is an interactive event that brings students together to listen to community leaders, faculty members, and administrators as they share their experiences about their paths towards leadership. For the first time ever, the NSU students’ Union Tawil and Shane Johnson have been chosen to speak about their leadership experiences on campus at this year’s event.

“They were chosen because of the passion that they had within them” said Marcse Washington, Graduate Assistant for Leadership Development. Tawil is a junior and the current president of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and the program assistant for NSU’s Student Union Board (SUSB). Johnson, also a junior, is a resident advisor in The Commons residence hall, founder of NSU’s Step It Up initiative, and president of the Caribbean Student Association (CSA).

Tawil began her leadership path at NSU during her freshman year. When Tawil initially attended NSU’s club and organization fair, she was disappointed with the small number of clubs and organizations available to the student body at large. Tawil felt as though student life was greatly lacking on NSU’s scattered campus, and immediately decided to become more involved with the university. Tawil worked her way up to the leadership roles that she now holds. Tawil joined Delta Phi Epsilon and met many people who have had a great impact upon her life, such as Brad Williams, Ed D., Dean of Student Affairs. Tawil believes that she has helped to make things bigger and better than ever on campus. Tawil’s mother has also provided her with a constant source of support and backup, especially when she had to make some tough choices such as her decision not to attend law school. “Make your presence known,” said Tawil. “No leader is born. I challenge you to do more than just the average.”

Johnson’s path towards leadership has followed a much different route. In high school, Johnson learned how to lead on the field as captain of both his football team and his varsity baseball team. Upon arriving at NSU, Johnson further built upon his personal understanding of the qualities that make a great leader. Johnson did not anticipate becoming the founder of an important organization on campus, however, after he had proposed the idea of the Step It Up initiative and it was considered by several administrators, his suggestion for improving campus awareness about the various aspects of the political process quickly came to fruition. Johnson also believes that his mother has played a key role in his path towards leadership because she pushed him from the very beginning to get more involved in various activities during high school, despite his protests. Johnson feels that there are many key qualities, like faith, passion, compassion, patience, determination and ambition, that help to make you become a better leader.

The Pursuit of Leadership is sponsored by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, and co-sponsored by the Office of Career Development. For more information please contact Marcse Washington at 954-262-7256 or online at mwashington@nova.edu.

NSU Homecoming Week Attempts to Unite NSU Community
Bibi Mannattuparampil Staff Writer

Homecoming 2008 is focused on bringing the members of the NSU community together for a weekend filled with exciting and interesting activities. There are a number of events taking place on campus beginning with the Inaugural Homecoming Concert on Thursday, Feb. 21 featuring Feelgoodbye and other local bands. Tickets are selling for $10 general admission and $12.50 floor seating, and are available to all NSU students as well as to the community at large. They can be purchased in the ASA building or online at ticketmaster.com using the promotion code “homecoming” to access the NSU discounted tickets.

Friday is NSU’s annual school spirit day. Students are encouraged to dress up in their NSU gear and show off their school pride. There will also be a series of campus tours available to students throughout the day in order to fill them in on the many improvements and changes that have already taken place as well as the future developments to come on NSU’s rapidly growing campus. Students will have the opportunity to show off their golf skills at the second annual Dennis Dannacher Golf Outing, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., for a fee of $60. Once the tournament is over, students will have the chance to relax for the evening with a pair of denim jeans, blues music, and champagne at the third annual Blues and Bubble Alumni event.

NSU’s homecoming dance will take place later that evening at 9 p.m. at Revolutions Nightclub in Riverfront, which is located in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. Students are required to “dress to impress” because the dance is a red carpet affair. Tickets are available to all NSU students and can be purchased from any of the SGA senators for $25.

The greatest number of events is taking place on Saturday, Feb. 23. Students will have the chance to enjoy eating breakfast with the Dean of Student Affairs, Brad Williams, Ed D., from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building Atrium. Immediately following breakfast, there will be many courses and seminars available to students in the same building including Re-energize Your Career, Estate Planning 101, Pharmacology Update, Effective Negotiating—Controlling Information in the Bargaining Process, and many more.

On the same day, students can head over to the Gold Circle Lake at 12 p.m. for NSU’s Community Fest, an annual celebration that seeks to unite the NSU community for a day filled with food, fun, games, activities and live entertainment. At 4 p.m., a special Time Capsule Unveiling event will take place at the north end of the University Center. 2008 will mark the beginning of the 50 year countdown.

Later that evening, both the women’s and men’s basketball teams will be playing against their rivals from Lynn University. The women’s game starts at 5:30 p.m. and the men’s begins at 7:30 p.m. NSU students should go out and support their basketball teams to help them ensure victories on homecoming night. After the games, the NSU community is invited to attend a comedy show that will take place at the Flight Deck. Appetizers and drinks will be served, and they will be accompanied by a night filled with entertainment from the hilarious comedic lineup.

For more information about Homecoming 2008, students should contact Kathryn Blanco at kbblanco@nova.edu.

Starting up a new club or organization? Desperately searching for new members? How about placing an ad in

Contact our Business Manager at knightad@nova.edu to discuss our rates.
Government Notice:  

Student Loan Alert

Pursuant to an agreement with the New York State Attorney General's Office and the Florida Attorney General's Office, Student Financial Services, Inc., doing business as University Financial Services, is pleased to announce that it has adopted the New York Attorney General's new code of conduct for direct marketing of student loans.

The code of conduct gives students important protections when they shop for student loans directly from marketers and lenders. Here are some ways that you can protect yourself when shopping for student loans:

1. Make sure to consider all of your federal loan borrowing options before turning to more expensive private loans.

2. Don't be fooled by mailings from marketers or lenders that are designed to look like they come from the federal government.

3. Don't be enticed to take out loans from marketers and lenders who offer you prizes or sweepstakes. These incentives could distract you from learning the key terms of the loans these marketers and lenders are offering.

4. Beware of "teaser" or introductory interest rates; find out the actual interest rate and whether that rate will change.

5. Make sure a lender answers the following questions before you take out a loan:

   ✓ What will my interest rate be? Lenders often advertise their "as low as" rates, but that may not be the rate you will get.
   ✓ Will the interest rate change? If it will change, is there a cap on the interest rate?
   ✓ What fees must I pay when the loan is disbursed?
   ✓ What is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
   ✓ What will my estimated monthly payment be?
   ✓ What is the total amount I will have to repay?
   ✓ Is there a penalty if I repay the loan early?
   ✓ Can I defer payments when I am in school, or if I am having financial difficulties?
   ✓ How is unpaid interest capitalized (that is, added to the principal amount of the loan) during periods when I am not paying interest?
   ✓ What benefits or rate discounts are offered, and what conditions do I have to meet to obtain the benefits?
   ✓ If benefits are offered based on a certain number of "on-time" payments, how is "on-time" defined?
   ✓ What will happen if I am late with a payment?
   ✓ Will my loan be sold to another lender?
   ✓ If my loan is sold, will the borrower benefits and interest rate discounts be lost?
March 12, 2008  Time: 12pm – 8pm

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N. Miami Beach, FL 33162
(954) 262-4200

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
College of Optometry
Shark Softball Sweeps Northwood

Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU’s Softball Team (5-3) was sparked by a starting roster dominated by freshmen while taking on the Northwood Seahawks for a doubleheader on Feb. 7, taking a sweep on the day with scores of 14-1 and 3-1.

Freshman speed demon Rachel Talenfield kicked off game one with a splendidly placed bunt, registering the first of many Shark hits for the day!

The second inning of game one was an RBI fiesta for the Sharks as Talenfield knocked in junior Katie Pepper and freshman Noemi Luciani with a 2-run single just before game one’s starting senior pitcher, Ashley Baker, crushed her 2nd triple of the season, driving in 3 RBI’s of her own. Once the bases had been cleared, Baker sat alone on 3rd in anticipation, but not for long however, as sophomore Brittany Lamb didn’t waste any time bringing Baker in on an RBI single.

Not only did the Sharks dominate the game in the batter’s box, but NSU also took over the base path, by stealing 4 bases, 3 of which were swept up by Talenfield. Talenfield, along with fellow freshman Brittany Phillips, led the Shark’s offense for the day, each going 5-8. Baker cranked her first, of what is expected to be many, homeruns during the 2008 season, working in collaboration with Phillips to give the Sharks a solid lead of 2-0 in game two. Freshman Lexi Sarradet worked hard in the pitcher’s circle for game two, quickly making a name for herself as she clutched her 3rd win of the season.

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Thursday, February 28th at 6 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale - Davie (Main Campus)
Men's Basketball Drops 4th Game in a Row
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU's men's basketball team (9-13, 4-7 SSC) had an unfortunate week as they dropped two regional games, one to Christian Brothers University by a score of 81-48 and the other to Eckerd College with a score of 81-63, which resulted in the Sharks being dropped down to a 7th place ranking in the SSC.

Despite these losses, two Shark athletes managed to stand out apart from the rest. Senior Kevin Chester and junior Josh Wood worked really hard to pick up the team's slack, giving two of their best individual appearances thus far during the 2007-08 season.

Senior Kevin Chester and junior Josh Wood not only executed with excellent defense during both games, but also racked in a whopping 20 points against the Tritons and 15 points against the Buccs.

Women's Basketball is Back in the Game
Tim Coenraad, Staff Writer

NSU's #6 regionally ranked women's basketball team (16-6, 9-2 SSC) got back into their winning ways upon defeating Eckerd College's Tritons on Feb. 9 with a comfortable score of 70-56, maintaining their tie for the first place SSC slot with the University of Tampa.

Sophomore Stephanie Narros led the Shark's, scoring once again with 26 points, evenly distributed in each half, while grabbing down nine rebounds. Senior Amber Bishko had a commanding impact with 10 points and seven rebounds as well, while sophomore Lashawna Edwards remained offensively reliable, nailing 12 points of her own.

Tim Coenraad Named To CoSIDA/ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District Team
Tranell Mesa Sports Editor

NSU's #9 nationally ranked women's golf team kicked off the 2008 season with a slam as they took home a solid 2nd place finish in the Tusculum/Kitawah Island Intercollegiate Tournament. The men's Gold Team didn't do too badly either, placing 5th at the Matlock Collegiate Classic.

Defending her title as NCAA Div. II Women's Golfer of the Year, sophomore Maria Garcia Auad, gave an outstanding performance of the day, finishing first going 13 under shooting 73 and 74 in the first and second rounds, respectively. The Sharks finished 2nd amongst the 18 competing teams for the tournament, shooting 295 to round one and 310 in round two, falling right behind 2007's national champions, Florida Southern, who shot 294 and 305.

Junior Constantin Betnerz led the Women's Golf Team.
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Wlifting in the West features Will Oldham's "Loudest" tracks
Stefani Rubin Staff Writer

Will Oldham, better known under the moniker Bonnie "Prince" Billy, is renowned for his interesting and enthusiastic stage shows. Oldham released his first live album, Summer in the Southeast, in 2006 and now, two years later, has just released his second one entitled Wilding in the West.

Unlike Summer in the Southeast, which was clearly recorded in places like Florida, the Carolinas, and other similar locations, Wilding in the West is described as having been recorded in central coastal California. After learning that fact, it is fairly easy to see what Oldham is trying to do. For many folk-artists like Oldham, live shows in personal settings are the preferred venue of choice. With that comes a personal experience for every member in the audience, and by not revealing where the album was recorded, Oldham is offering the at-home listeners a chance to get "in on the action."

It comes as no surprise that most of the tracks are from his most recent and critically acclaimed album, 2006's The Letting Go, and from 2003's Master & Everyone. However, these tracks are not the originally recorded versions. Dawn McCarthy, Oldham's recording partner and backup singer on The Letting Go, showed up to assist him with these songs, but instead of the intricate string arrangement that were in the original recordings, they use a bold electric piano arrangements and an electric guitar.

The best of these newer live versions of The Letting Go material would be "I Called You Back" and "Then the Letting Go."

Strength in Black Families: Film Festival

Racquel Tagon Variety Editor

It is Black History Month and a cache of longevity, perseverance and strength, analogies, stories and films are traveling through the channels of communication, invigorating the meaning of the month. This significant month is not only honored by African-Americans but by all individuals who believe in the importance of civil liberties in the United States and, by extension, throughout the world.

Debra Nixon, Ph.D., from Family Planning at NSU, is hosting a series entitled: The Strength in Black Families Film Festival. The first showing for the festival took place on Friday, Feb. 15. The movie Akeelah and the Bee, starring Angela Bassett (How Stella Got Her Groove Back), Laurence Fishburne, (Matrix Trilogy) and Keke Palmer (Jump In: Donny Channell) was the push off film for the series. The film tells the story of an 11-year-old girl from southern Los Angeles who tries to make it to the top in the National Spelling Bee. The movie also explores the issue of education within the black community and suggests that achievements are possible when there is support from family and friends as well as perseverance and love.

The film festival continues this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, and will conclude on the last Friday of the month on Feb. 29. On that day, there will also be a discussion centered on Black consciousness in today's society. The Film Festival is being held at the Carl DeSantis Building and begins at 7:30 p.m.

The black struggle has long been and still remains a source of constant controversy. However, it also symbolizes unification. Its paradoxical ideal has strengthened many causes while demolishing others, because there is still this pervasive mentality of an underlying weakness within the Black consciousness. This weakness is sometimes likened to the squash for defeated men and women, providing them with the strength to work hard, knowing that all men are created equal and that they have the power to do anything. This same weakness can also be seen as the kryptonite that continually drains the people's power and will to maintain and keep up with progress and change. As with any mentality, it can be altered and with the right encouragement, forever changed for the better. Nixon hopes to engender this change through the ongoing film festival.
Editor's Note
Michael Bergbauer Interim Editor-in-Chief

On my way to class last week, I was hailed by a fellow student. "You know what you should write about next?" he asked. "Professors that just don't care!"

Since I've been here at NSU for a while, I think I can safely say that NSU is home to a wide variety of professors. They run the gamut of passionate, fun, strict, laid back, way-too-laid-back-to-be-professor, personable, jerk-wad and many more, which I am sure is common at just about any university.

To say there are some professors that truly do not care... well, I don't think I can agree. I would definitely consent that there are several professors who only care about as much as the student does. That statement sounds a little more believable. The whole situation can be explained through several clichés. Like anything else in life involving more than one person, teaching is a two way street. You only get out of your education what you are willing to put into it. When confronted with adversity, one must rise above. I would imagine that those seemingly uncaring professors don't actually realize that they are coming off as such to their students. The very nature of the position is to nurture the minds of their students. But that's not to say that professors are infallible in their methods. I believe that my list of adjectives covered that. If I could suggest something to both sides, it would be to never stop asking questions.

Students must continually ask to show their interest and dedication. Besides, there's always that "A" for effort. In the same vein, professors too, must ask to keep students from constantly having to approach the one who controls academic destiny. Also, if questions are asked in advance, then they are answered before they get too big. It's like I'm always saying here at the newspaper: two-way communication is key.

Opinion

On The Scene
Kristine Bellizzi Current Affairs Editor

"Yes, because student government is throwing it, and Andre Dennis, the campus entertainment director, throws the biggest and best parties."

Philip Ortiz Junior, Finance

"Yes, I'm going to have fun and support the school's student government."

Daniela Reyes Sophomore, Communications Studies

"Yes, I'm going to homecoming to entertain the crowd with my superfly dance moves."

Jimmy Deane Junior, Theater

"No. I have to go away with my family."

Chelsea IlleckFreshman, Nursing

"Yes, because it's a school event and I thought I'd support it."

Tucker Comester Freshman, Pharmacy

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Classifieds

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Office of New Student Orientation, Rosenthal 202
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Athletics and Student Affairs Building, ASA 103

Applications are due by February 29, 2008 at 5pm (Rosenthal 205)

For more information, contact the Office of New Student Orientation at 954-262-8050 or via email orientation@nova.edu