

NSU UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

SPRING 2026

VIEWPOINT



**NSU College of Dental
Medicine Fellowship
Gives Students a Unique
Experiential Learning
Opportunity**

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SCAN TO VIEW

Within this issue, you'll see QR codes that—when scanned with your cellphone's camera—will direct you to videos illustrating the stories featured. If your camera doesn't have a built-in scanner, download a free QR code scanner app for your phone.

Our Mission

NSU University School fosters personalized excellence in academics, extracurriculars, and service. As an academic center of Nova Southeastern University, we provide a college preparatory education enriched by university resources, expert faculty, innovation, and experiential learning.

First Word



The ways our students learn, connect, and grow continue to evolve—shaped by our ever-changing world. At NSU University School, our responsibility is to guide them thoughtfully through challenges and milestones, preparing generations of leaders, creators, and innovators for whatever comes next.

In support of this mission, our program offerings for students of all ages encourage real-world connections through experiential learning opportunities. With new fellowship and internship programs in oceanography, dental medicine, research, sports management, and TV and radio—USchool's access to Nova Southeastern University connects our students with the resources, faculty, and professional settings of a world-class academic research institution. This unique exposure helps our Upper and Middle School students better understand their interests while developing the skills and knowledge to take the next step in their studies and professional pursuits.

Across campus, innovation is taking many forms. Our youngest learners are benefiting from new outdoor learning spaces designed to spark curiosity and expand the classroom into natural environments. In the Middle and Upper Schools, students are engaging in rigorous and collaborative activities, including Model UN competitions, the student radio station, a new journalism academic unit, and the popular rocketry league. Inside and beyond the classroom, USchool students are applying team-building and problem-solving skills to scientific projects and creative endeavors.

This year's school-wide Colen Family Summit on Human Dignity focused on one of the most pressing issues facing young people today: social media use and its impact on mental health and relationships. Through interactive workshops, guest speaker presentations, classroom lessons, and community volunteer work, students of all ages explored what it means to participate in digital spaces with awareness and responsibility. These activities helped students take a break from screen-based interactions to reflect on how they engage with learning, socializing, politics, culture, and entertainment—online and in person.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the approval of USchool's forthcoming multipurpose dining commons facility. Slated for a three-year development, this expansive, two-story building will serve as a flexible venue for lunches, assemblies, performances, and school-wide events. The new signature space will open new possibilities for scheduling, experiential learning, and NSU partnerships.

Each of our academic and co-curricular activities and spaces reflects USchool's commitment to educating the whole child—intellectually, socially, and ethically. To learn more, we invite you to enjoy this issue of *Viewpoint* and to see these moments firsthand at our upcoming campus and community events, performances, competitions, and celebrations. As always, we are grateful for your continued partnership in supporting our students and our mission.

Sincerely,

William J. Kopas, Ed.D.
Head of School

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Cover Photo

Sebastian Bendayan ('27) using CAD and 3D printing to create teeth in our new NSU College of Dental Medicine Fellowship.

Learning Extends Beyond the Classroom with New Outdoor Spaces

NSU University School’s youngest students are taking advantage of South Florida’s year-round warm temperatures in the Preschool’s new Outdoor Classroom.

The new outdoor learning space mirrors the structure of an indoor classroom for PK3 and junior kindergarten students. It includes a dramatic play area, an art center, large and small building blocks with ramps, a science and discovery area, and open space that allows students to engage in more active gross motor experiences.

“We can add more opportunities and experiences when learning takes place in the outdoor space,” said Lisa B. Chancey, USchool’s Preschool director. “For instance, games like hopscotch attached to a concept allows for the mind-movement connection. This type of activity is well-suited for the outdoors.”

Preschool teachers incorporate the use of this outdoor space into daily activities, encouraging children to explore concepts through hands-on, experiential learning. “Lessons in science, early math, language, and creative expression naturally emerge as children build, observe nature, garden, create art, and engage in imaginative play outdoors,” Chancey said.

In addition, an outdoor Sensory Garden designed for PK1 and PK2 students is under development and expected to be ready for the 2026-2027 school year.

“This will be a peaceful, immersive space designed for exploration and discovery,” Chancey said. Preschool students will soon be able to cross a small bridge and walk barefoot along a multi-textured sensory path surrounded by soft moss groundcover. The Sensory Garden will include areas for planting and gardening, a mud kitchen, a calming reading nook with books, a gentle water feature, garden gazing balls, and rain drums that create sound when touched by rain or children’s hands. A science and discovery area will encourage students to observe plants, insects, and other elements of nature.

The new Outdoor Classroom and forthcoming Sensory Garden support active play and movement while encouraging curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

“Both outdoor spaces are designed specifically for young children at their developmentally appropriate age and stage. Engaging with these spaces encourages preschoolers to practice critical thinking, develop their gross and fine motor skills, and explore,” Chancey explained. “The materials are hands-on, open-ended, and designed to provide transformative experiences that inspire our students. We continue to look for more opportunities for our students to explore their world and connect with nature.”



BREAKING NEWS:

Student Journalists Learn How and Why to Ask the Right Questions

NSU University School's fifth-grade recently launched a new journalism unit. When given a fictional "breaking news" story, students in each class took notes and interviewed an eyewitness so they could use multiple perspectives in their articles. The amateur reporters then orally rehearsed possible leads and wrote flash-draft articles that included the Five W's of Journalism: who, what, where, when, and why. Grade 5 teacher and team leader Kim Lieberman also included an "H" to underscore the importance of "how" news and events happen.

"Our students began the unit by learning to write an article from a journalist's point of view, incorporating the inverted pyramid method to help them organize their writing," Lieberman said.

"This method guides students by teaching them to first collect important information, ask why that information is important, and collect relevant background details," explained Cory De La Fuente, Lower School director.

The students then drafted their own breaking news stories and divided into news "beat" teams to focus on specific subject areas. "You can see the Beat Boards lining the fifth-grade corridor with beats including Lunch, Recess, Innovation/Technology, Arts and Entertainment, and Sports," Lieberman said.

Throughout the Journalism unit, the students studied mentor texts to develop a clear vision of the kinds of writing they wanted to create, recognizing that having a clear image of their goals helps them grow as writers. They used checklists to self-assess their writing and reflect on their work.

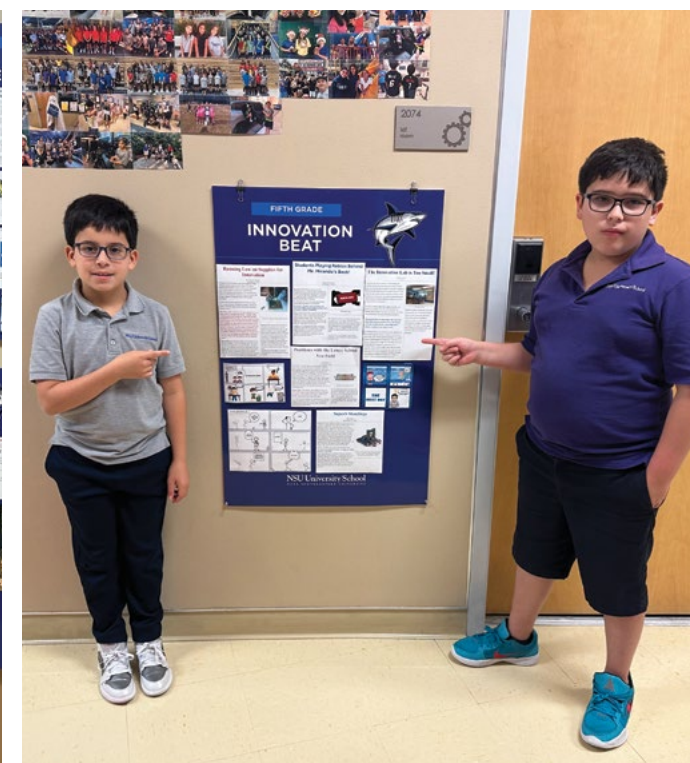
"As part of this unit, we want our students to learn how to write using different styles," Lieberman added. "Each fifth-grade class selected a science-related topic. My class selected natural disasters/weather," she said. "The students then chose specific

subtopics to research—floods, earthquakes, tsunamis. At the end of this unit, the students' scientific research essays will be bound into a special edition magazine that we will publish as a grade." The fifth graders also had the chance to hear from Matt Porter, a sports features/enterprise writer at *The Boston Globe*. He visited classrooms, sharing his passion for journalism, storytelling, and the power of strong communication.

"He reminded us that 'Clear writing is clear thinking is clear communicating,' a message that inspired our young writers to reflect deeply on how they express their ideas," Lieberman said.

Porter's visit validated the writing and reporting techniques the students are practicing. "He mentioned the importance of the inverted pyramid in his own award-winning work, bringing real-world relevance to our classroom lessons," she said. "Our students are now applying his advice directly to their own reporting. We're grateful for Matt Porter's insight and for giving our students an authentic glimpse into the world of professional journalism. His visit sparked excitement, curiosity, and a renewed commitment to clear, thoughtful writing.

"The Journalism unit enhances our curriculum and introduces students to writing styles they haven't been exposed to yet in their educational journey," Lieberman concluded. "We hope they develop an appreciation for objective, fact-based reporting."





Studying the Language and Culture of Modern-Day China

When selecting their foreign language elective, many Middle School students at NSU University School are choosing to study Chinese, the world’s most widely spoken language after English.

“Some of our students are already multilingual. They know how to speak Spanish and/or French, and they want to try something different. Other students choose Chinese because it feels unique, intellectually stimulating, and different from other language options,” said Middle School Chinese teacher, Hong Jia.

“They’re curious about the language, writing system, and culture. They recognize the growing global importance of Chinese and see long-term academic, cultural, or career benefits,” she said.

Because the Chinese characters and pinyin (spelling the sounds of the Chinese language using the Roman/Latin alphabet) are new to most Middle School students, some of them initially

assume that learning this language will be quite challenging. “They are often surprised by how engaging and enjoyable learning Chinese can be,” Jia said. “We break the language into manageable steps, emphasizing progress over perfection. Students see that Chinese follows patterns and rules, just like other languages. They quickly gain confidence as they realize they can understand, speak, and use the language in real-life situations. Many students take pride in mastering characters, tones, and cultural knowledge, and they become increasingly motivated as they see their own progress.”

USchool’s Chinese classes allow students to use the language in meaningful contexts. Students role-play scenarios, like shopping in a Chinese market and ordering food in a Chinese restaurant, and create projects entirely in Chinese, including digital storybooks about their families, cultural presentations, and short skits. “We also introduce them to cultural experiences, such as Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations.

Calligraphy, paper cutting, karaoke performances, fashion shows, and various kinds of games further deepen engagement and make learning memorable and authentic,” Jia explained.

Middle School Chinese classes focus on building a strong foundation through interactive activities, basic communication, and cultural exploration. “Our emphasis is on developing confidence, encouraging active participation, and fostering enjoyment in language learning so that students can transition smoothly to Upper School,” she said.

For students who want to advance their study of the language, Upper School Chinese classes offer increased rigor, deeper grammatical understanding, elevated reading and writing assignments, and higher expectations for independent communication and critical thinking. These students engage in more complex discussions and real-world applications of the language, preparing them for AP and college-level Chinese classes.

“Beyond language skills, I hope our students develop cultural curiosity, global awareness, and confidence,” Jia said. “I also hope they gain respect for cultural diversity, an open mindset toward the world, and the confidence to communicate across cultures.”



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 SHARK SCHOLAR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Shark Scholars are recognized for their scholastic achievements as current eighth grade students who have attended NSU University School for both their seventh and eighth grade years. The Shark Scholar Society aligns with the College Board’s National Merit framework, placing the greatest weight on PSAT 8/9 scores in reading and writing. Advanced coursework, grade point average, and integrity are also considered in the selection process, with only the top percentage of students earning this distinction each year.

Pictured left to right: Victoria Bassin, Saige Case, Abigail Cavendish, Lincoln Davant, Emiliano Del Rio Hernandez, London Del Rosal, Ziva Dhillon, Addison Hawkins, Leia Landress, Martin Landrove, Sebastian Law, Siena Lee, Leann Monastyrskaya, Eleni Moumoutjis, Klara Nelson, Maksym Nikolayev, Pari Patel, Valentina Pathak, Carolina Pochinki, Hannah Ruppel, Izadora Schlachtman, Annabel Unger, Alejandro Vazquez, Hawk Wallace-Ross, and Jagger Wallace-Ross



Rocketry League Takes Student Engineers to New Heights

NSU University School’s newest club, the Rocketry League, is inspiring students to think bigger, take risks, and explore the possibilities of aerospace and engineering.

“Some students came to the Rocketry League with an interest in engineering and flight, but for many, that passion truly takes off once they begin building rockets,” said Kristan Davalos, USchool Middle School teacher, who oversees the club. “The moment they realize they can design, construct, and launch something of their own is when everything changes. It becomes real, exciting, and incredibly motivating as they work through the engineering process and prepare for flight opportunities.”

The Rocketry League has already attracted many participants, and the interest continues to grow as more students learn about the program. “Middle School student Jibran Kassim came to me with the idea of starting with Rocketry League,” said Pascaline Papillon-Ivey, director of The R.E.E.F. “It is inspiring to watch his idea come to life.”

The club members are developing a strong foundation in engineering design, problem-solving, testing, and data analysis. “Beyond that, they learn how to think critically, adapt through trial and error, and collaborate as a team,” Davalos said. “They



take on roles, communicate ideas, and work together toward a shared goal—skills that extend far beyond the classroom.”

Club activities focus on hands-on learning and the chance for students to compete at the American Rocketry Challenge, the world’s largest student rocket competition. Earning a spot at this national competition would be an opportunity for USchool students to apply their rocketry skills in a high-level, real-world setting while competing alongside teams from across the country.

Model UN: Preparing Students to Negotiate World Peace



As educators, we model the qualities and skills we aim for our students to develop and uphold beyond the classroom. The Model United Nations program, which began in the United States in the 1940s, is grounded in the same principle—with the goal of preparing future generations of world leaders to collaborate and find common ground.

Model UN is a challenging and competitive simulation of real-world international diplomacy. It enables NSU University School students in grades 6 through 12 to roleplay as diplomats representing various nations around the world.

“The goal of Model UN is to help students understand global issues and work together to negotiate solutions that can bring about permanent peace,” said Michelina Carbonara, who oversees the program. “Participation exposes our students to international politics and humanitarian issues, and it encourages them to find a joint resolution to global problems. Our students develop skills including public speaking, analytical thinking, collaboration, teamwork, negotiation, diplomacy, and policy writing.”

Throughout the school year, our Model UN students participate in five conferences. “My team creates their own in-house conferences in the fall and spring that are intended to bring awareness to our club and encourage students to get involved,” Carbonara said. “We also compete at a local conference at NSU and then travel to two out-of-state competitions. One is

held by the University of Chicago in early February. The other conference, the National High School Model UN, is held in New York City and is one of the largest in the world.”

“Our Model UN team has become a powerhouse, with several national victories last year,” said Jaimie Crawford, Upper School director. At the national Model UN conference, USchool won two Awards of Distinction, the highest honor possible: one for Research and Preparation and another for Overall Performance.

The Model UN experience extends to our Middle School students with a mentoring program created by our student co-secretary generals. “We use the same nomenclature as the real United Nations,” Carbonara pointed out. These student leaders hold mock conferences and guide our younger students through the Model UN process. “They teach their fellow team members how to best research and present arguments, and give pointers on how to out-smart their opponents,” she said.

“I encourage every student to join Model UN because it builds confidence, leadership and academic skills, and global awareness—all while giving them a supportive community and experiences that prepare them for college and future careers,” Carbonara said. “Their negotiation and problem-solving skills can be carried into any professional field and will prepare them for whatever is thrown their way.”

Congratulations to our NSU University School Robotics Team

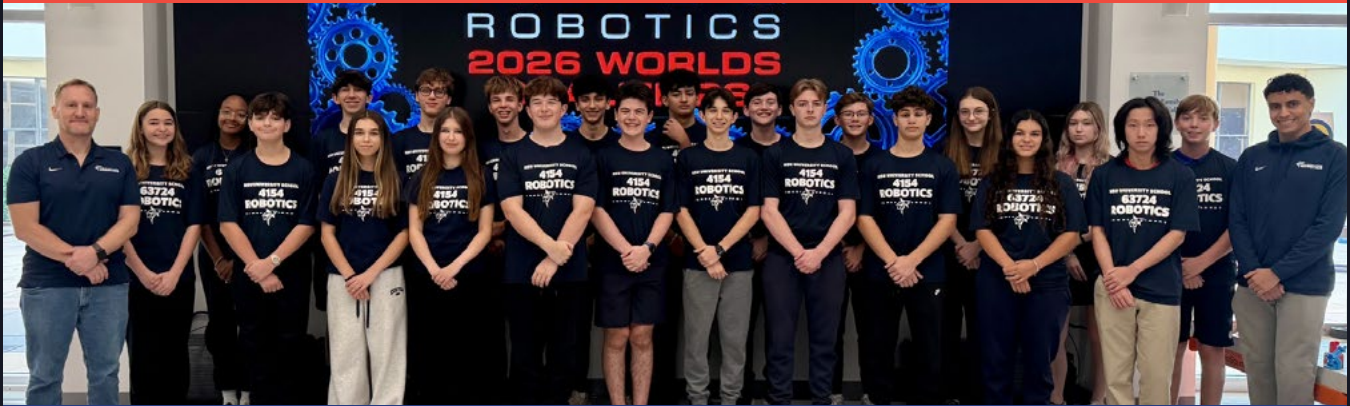


STATE CHAMPIONS

8X
State
Champions
5 consecutive wins

**Team 4154R
was Named
Tournament
Champions**

**Team 4154R
Won the
Think Award**
A prestigious honor that recognizes
excellence in robot programming
and coding strategy



WORLD QUALIFIERS for 13 Consecutive Years

Three teams qualified to compete in the
2026 VEX Robotics World Championships

Visiting Author Discusses Literature and Art as Forms of Civic Engagement



As part of NSU University School's Author Talk series, Angelo Letizia, author, poet, and associate professor at Notre Dame of Maryland University, visited campus and met with students in early March.

In advance of his visit, students were asked to read Letizia's scholarly writing. "Our students had the opportunity to engage with the piece and the scholar who wrote it," said Ann Sellers, director of Student Academic Services, who helped bring Letizia to campus. "The students came to these workshops having read and annotated the reading and ready to ask meaningful questions. They were curious about the processes of researching, writing, revision, and publishing."

For the Social Movements workshop, USchool students in grades 11 and 12 read some of Letizia's poetry and one of his scholarly articles, "Poetry at the End of Democracy: Envisioning Democracy Through Poetry." The article Letizia wrote shows how "students can use poetry to strengthen their current democracies and imagine new political and social arrangements when those democracies end."

While analyzing and discussing the article with the author, the students learned about citizenship and civic duty and how the arts can encourage the exploration of ideas through poetic inquiry. "Our students had a lively discussion about how art—including, but not limited to, poetry—is a part of civic engagement," Sellers said.

For the Advanced Studio Art workshop, USchool students in grades 11 and 12 studied elements of graphic novels, which are literary comic books, and reflected on this form of visual storytelling. During a critical reading and discussion of graphic novels selected from the USchool library, the students learned terminology related to this medium.

"This workshop taught our students that comics can be used to explore ideas and respond visually to historical events," Sellers explained.

Showcasing what they had learned—and their creativity—the students designed their own literary arts magazine (called a zine) and then shared their original work in a gallery walk.

For the Speech and Debate workshop, USchool students in grades 8 through 12 read and analyzed another of Letizia's scholarly articles, "Turning Neoliberalism on Its Head: A Historical and Pedagogical Analysis." Using their critical reading and thinking skills, the students synthesized the text and then created and supported their own arguments.

During this workshop, the students realized that "research can serve as a snapshot in time, as they contextualized this article, which is nine years old," Sellers said. "They learned how to use research as a discussion by making texts talk to each other."



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Prepares Students for Academic and Professional Success

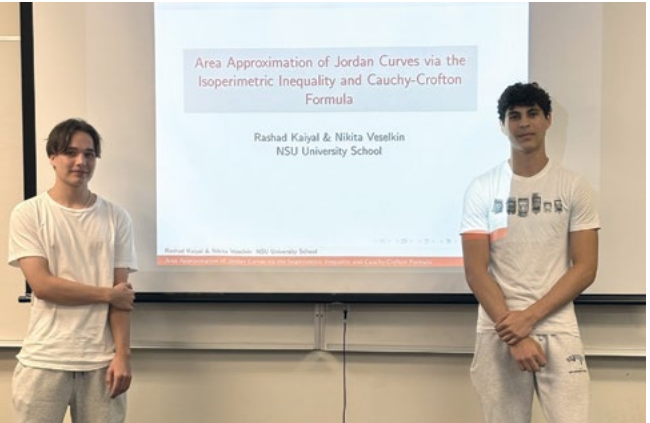
At NSU University School, experiential learning transforms the traditional classroom into a gateway for real-world discovery. Through competitive internships, prestigious fellowships, and professionally guided seminar series, Upper School students step beyond textbooks and into the fields they are passionate about — working alongside industry leaders, exploring potential career paths, and developing the critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills that define tomorrow’s professionals. These programs are not simply academic add-ons; they are transformative experiences that challenge students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, build authentic connections, and gain firsthand insight into the careers that inspire them. Whether dissecting complex challenges in healthcare, technology, law, or the arts, students emerge from these experiences with a clearer sense of purpose, a stronger professional foundation, and the confidence to turn their ambitions into action.

FELLOWSHIPS



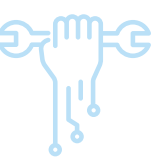
NSU Halmos College of Science Oceanographic Fellowship: This year, USchool introduced the Oceanographic Fellowship that enabled students to work alongside NSU scientists as they conducted independent research, created research posters, and presented their findings to the community. The fellowship’s activities included measuring water pH, conducting forensic pathology on sea turtles, preparing food for sea turtles, and analyzing sand samples under a high-power electron microscope.

“The Oceanography Fellows were able to identify microplastics in our local sand and tie that analysis to patterns of human activity on the beach,” said Jennifer Berne, USchool’s director of Experiential Learning. “Next year, they will design research projects to improve scientific outcomes at the Marine Environmental Education Center. Their work will have real impact.”



NSU Research Scholars Fellowship: This two-year fellowship gave select students the opportunity to study research methodology and engage in advanced academic research. Research Fellows explored disciplines such as behavioral science, biomedical engineering, physics, and mathematics, and they developed independent research projects in their second year that advanced to full studies, presentations, and publication.

This year, two fellows were invited to present their work at NSU’s Mathematics Colloquium Series, sharing applied research that used advanced calculus and modeling to develop more accurate measurements of brain tumor size. “The students were mentored by Dr. Paksoy, Professor of Mathematics at the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine.



NSU College of Dental Medicine Fellowship: “This was the first year we offered the Dental Fellowship, and it was incredibly hands-on,” Berne said. The program enabled Dental Fellows to mix compounds, build models, use CAD and 3D printing to create teeth, train with virtual reality tools to drill teeth, and administer anesthesia to virtual patients. “They were dressed in gray scrubs and worked alongside NSU’s first-year dental students,” Berne explained. The Dental Fellows also traveled to Miami to see and test the only FDA-approved dental robot.



NSU Leadership & Peer Mentoring Fellowship: USchool’s Leadership Fellows worked directly with Jennifer Vigille, USchool’s director of School Engagement, and stakeholders to design projects to improve the community. “The goal was to teach leadership styles and empower our students to create positive change,” Berne said. “We held a leadership panel with NSU President Dr. Harry K. Moon, Dr. Chad Perlyn, Mayor Dean Trantalis, County Administrator Monica Cepero, and CEO of Encompass, Marcel Haywood. One of our Leadership Fellows moderated the discussion, and about 100 student leaders attended, representing student government, athletes, and the arts.” Students shared that meeting these leaders was both inspiring and impactful for them as future leaders.



NSU College of Psychology Fellowship: The Psychology Fellowship provided students with hands-on experiences across clinical, academic, and applied psychology settings. Fellows collaborated with Nova Southeastern University’s (NSU) College of Psychology, Memorial Healthcare System’s Behavioral Health Clinic, and the NSU SELS (Social-Emotional Learning Specialists) program to explore human behavior, mental health, and social dynamics. Students engaged in dissection labs, sports psychology, nerve potential studies, and therapy assessments. Additionally, students paired with NSU mentors to develop and conduct original research in their specific areas of interest, while cultivating empathy, analytical thinking, and real-world application skills in research and assessment.

NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine Fellowship: The Medical Fellowship remained a cornerstone of USchool’s fellowships program. The Medical Fellows completed HIPAA training and then learned clinical skills, such as intubation, extubation, CPR, and suturing. At NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, the students learned how to formulate aspirin, conducted patient intakes, and completed clinical rotations with NSU professors.





“The virtual reality lab was a standout experience. Using VR headsets, the Medical Fellows worked with a computer-generated body,” Berne said. “In the spring, students rotated among clinical rotations: pediatrics, internal medicine, family medicine, optometry, dentistry, pharmacy, and osteopathic principles and practices. Being in the room with the doctors was a privilege, and the students treated it as such. They took ownership of their schedules, wore their white lab coats, and conducted themselves with true professionalism.”

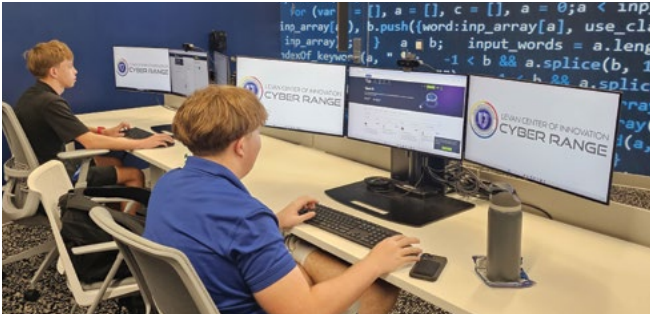
NSU H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business Fellowship: This year, USchool’s Business Fellows competed in the Guy Harvey Ocean Exchange Competition. “All three of our groups were accepted into the competition,” Berne said. “One group won the \$1,000 prize, and another placed third.” The winning group created an underwater manta ray-shaped drone with sensors to detect pollution of various kinds, including noise, oil, chemicals, and microplastics. The drone featured solar panels and could transmit data using AI. “The students built a website to track the data and certified safe seafood zones,” she said. The Business Fellows learned from NSU professors how to pitch their ideas effectively and then presented them at the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation. They also visited the Signature Bridge project to study the business of government and saw firsthand the operation of both large-scale projects and smaller local businesses, like design company Oliver Gal.



NSU Shepard Broad College of Law Fellowship: The Shepard Broad Law Fellowship immersed students in legal analysis and appellate advocacy through hands-on, mentor-guided experiences. Working closely with NSU law students, fellows learned to read case law, analyzed legal briefs, and developed persuasive arguments grounded in public policy. Throughout the program, students refined their reasoning, writing, and public speaking skills. This intensive training culminated in a formal moot court appellate argument, which students presented in the NSU Shepard Broad College of Law courtroom.

INTERNSHIPS AND SEMINARS

TV, Film, and Radio Internship: In the arts and media space, the TV, Film, and Radio Internship allowed students to explore broadcasting and podcasting at USchool’s new radio station, WBIT The Bite. Students participating in this internship were given a unique opportunity to work alongside industry professionals in the fields of television, radio, and film. Designed for aspiring media creators, this program provided hands-on experience in real-world production environments. From concept development to post-production, students explored the creative and technical aspects of media while building a professional portfolio and gaining valuable industry insight. Whether behind the camera, in the radio studio, or in the editing bay, students sharpened their storytelling skills and prepared for careers in broadcast, film, and digital media.

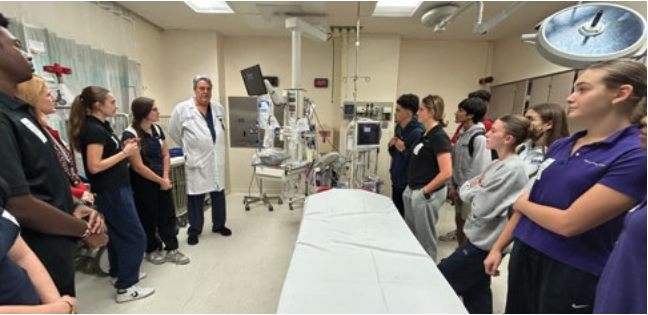


Levan Center for Innovation Cybersecurity and AI Internship: Our Levan Center for Innovation Cybersecurity and AI Interns had the privilege of learning from top cybersecurity professionals in the state-of-the-art, secure Levan Center for Innovation CyberRange room, which had been used by Pentagon officials. Our interns learned and practiced hacking techniques in a safe “sandbox” environment, along with using AI to create code and problem-solve. Ultimately, students demonstrated their skills in a Who Wants to Be a Cyber Millionaire Capture the Flag simulation scenario and completed their internship with a Cybersecurity and AI certification.



Legal Learning Seminar Series: Our Legal Professional Learning Seminar Series was led by practicing attorneys and legal experts who provided students with valuable insight into the dynamic world of law. Seminars offered a range of engaging experiences. Some sessions featured guest speakers from diverse legal fields, while others took students beyond the classroom to explore the justice system in action. Opportunities included visits to the County Courthouse to observe proceedings and meet with judges, as well as on-campus workshops that introduced students to legal reasoning and case studies.

Medical Seminar Series: Our Medical Professional Learning Seminar Series was taught by professionals and leading physicians, surgeons, researchers, and providers in multiple specialties who gave valuable insight into the world of healthcare. Sessions included hands-on activities with visiting medical professionals and educational trips to doctors’ offices. Students visited the Broward Health Medical Center to tour the trauma bay, the NSU College of Optometry to practice conducting eye exams, and the NSU College of Dental Medicine to practice drilling in their augmented reality lab.



- Fellowships:**
- NSU College of Dance Fellowship
 - NSU College of Dental 3D Dental and Prosthodontics Fellowship
 - NSU College of Psychology Fellowship
 - NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine Fellowship
 - NSU Engineering and Design Fellowship
 - NSU H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business Fellowship
 - NSU Halmos College of Science Oceanographic Fellowship
 - NSU Leadership & Peer Mentoring Fellowship
 - NSU Research Scholars Fellowship
 - NSU Shepard Broad College of Law Fellowship
 - NSU Sports Management Fellowship

- Internships:**
- Behavioral Health Internship
 - Levan Center for Innovation Cybersecurity and AI Internship
 - Sports Medicine Internship
 - Trading and Investment Internship
 - TV, Film, and Radio Internship

- Seminar Series:**
- Business Seminar Series
 - Legal Seminar Series
 - Medical Seminar Series
 - STEM Seminar Series



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026
VALEDICTORIAN AND
SALUTATORIAN



VALEDICTORIAN

David Liebowitz

Attending
University of Pennsylvania



SALUTATORIAN

Jeffrey Zhang

Attending
Washington University in St. Louis



USchool
Lifers



Congratulations to the graduating seniors who entered NSU University School
in junior kindergarten or kindergarten and attended USchool for 13 or more consecutive years.

Lifers (alpha order): Noah Avellanet, Chloe Banner (not pictured), Lotem Blives-Krespy, Maya Bowers, Ava Charno, Mattia Coccia, Giada Colombo, Miles Ellman, Madison Gianos, Contessa Gilley, Rashad Kaiyal, Rubi Katz, Randi LaRocca, Emma Leffin, Andrew Lyons, Sydney Margolis, Theo Meltzer, Aleix Murphy, Joseph Novelli, Max Olivieri, Eitan Peretz, Dylan Poliakoff, Emma Rodriguez, Noah Salazar (not pictured), Ruby Sas, Ethan Scharf, Sydney Scharf, Sara Shumanis, Ashley Singer, Samantha Stewart, Hallie Turner, Raven Wallace-Ross, Derrick Wiley Jr., Brayden Zaroff, Jeffrey Zhang

CLASS OF 2026
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Abilene Christian University
Adrian College
Allegheny College
American International College
American University
Anna Maria College
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Augsburg University
Augustana College
Austin Community College
Babson College
Baldwin Wallace University
Barry University
Belmont University
Bentley University
Berklee College of Music
Berry College
Binghamton University
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brevard College
Broward College
Bryn Mawr College
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Chicago State University
Clark University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Coe College
Coker University
College of Charleston
Colorado College
Columbia University
Concord University
Cornell College
Cornell University
Dalhousie University
Davenport University
DePaul University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Earlham College
East Carolina University
Eastern University
Eckerd College
Edgewood College
Elmhurst University
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emerson College
Emory University
Eureka College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fisher College
Flagler College
Florida A&M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida Polytechnic University
Florida Southern College
Florida SouthWestern State College
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Florida State University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Goucher College
Grinnell College
Hartwick College
Haverford College
Heidelberg University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Houston City College
Howard University
Hult International Business School
IE University, Madrid

Illinois State University
Indiana University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Kennesaw State University
Lawrence University
Lehigh University
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lesley University
Lewis University
Lindenwood University
Lively Technical College
Long Island University, Post
Loras College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Lycoming College
Lynn University
Macalester College
Manhattan University
Marymount University
Maryville University of Saint Louis
McDaniel College
McPherson College
Miami Dade College
Michigan State University
Midland University
Millikin University
Millsaps College
Montclair State University
Morehouse College
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Nichols College
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
NYU Shanghai
Oberlin College
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Ohio State University
Oklahoma City University
Oxford College of Emory University
Pace University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Piedmont University
Post University
Presbyterian College
Purdue University
Queen's University Kingston
Queen's University of Charlotte
Reichman University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rider University
Roberts Wesleyan University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Saint Francis University
Saint Leo University
Santa Clara University
Santa Fe College
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Simmons University
Skidmore College
Southern Arkansas University
Southern Illinois University
Southern Methodist University
St. John's University
St. Olaf College
St. Thomas University
Stetson University
SUNY, Binghamton
SUNY, Geneseo
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
Tallahassee State College
Tel Aviv University

Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas State University
The New School
Towson University
Trinity University
Troy University
Truman State University
Tufts University
Tulane University
United States Air Force Academy
United States Naval Academy
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Arkansas
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Colorado, Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Dubuque
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hartford
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Indianapolis
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Memphis
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of Mount Union
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Florida
University of Northwestern St. Paul
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Redlands
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of Scranton
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin
University of the South
University of Toronto
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Western Ontario
University of Wisconsin
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Western Michigan University
Wheaton College
Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University
Wingate University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wright State University
Xavier University

*As of May 15, 2026

Colen Family Summit on Human Dignity



THE 2026 COLEN FAMILY SUMMIT ON HUMAN DIGNITY

The world has moved online, and there’s no turning back. In response, parents, educators, and mental health professionals are letting go of “back in my day” nostalgia for the pre-digital age with the goal of helping young people grow up healthy, safe, and well-adjusted IRL (that’s internet slang for “in real life”).

At NSU University School, we’re not shying away from online resources and next-gen technology. We are proactively staying ahead of the curve, preparing students of all ages to ethically and intentionally use the internet as a learning tool to inform, unite, and inspire.

This forward-thinking approach to technology inside and beyond the classroom also means teaching our students how to be responsible, mindful members of the online community. To help students thrive in the digital world, it’s essential that we support their mental wellbeing, sense of identity (on and offline), and healthy engagement with social media.

“Students in high school are at a critical period in their identity formation and self-esteem,” said Jaimie Crawford, USchool’s Upper School director. “The ubiquity of social media in students’ lives often leads to distraction and toxic comparison.”

“Teaching digital literacy, healthy boundaries, and coping strategies can lead to resiliency and help students protect their mental health,” she said. “Our goal is to raise awareness of responsible social media use and to empower students toward compassion for themselves and others.”



With these goals in mind, USchool focused this year’s school-wide Colen Family Summit on Human Dignity on the relationship between social media and mental health. The annual summit is supported by and named after USchool donors James and Lisa Colen. This year, the event empowered students to prioritize their mental well-being and engage in responsible social media use. The summit involved students in kindergarten through grade 12 and members of our local community, encouraging a culture of digital mindfulness and dignity—both online and face-to-face.

The summit included more than 20 hands-on activities that explored these topics as they relate to diverse academic disciplines and community service.

INTERACTIVE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Guest Speakers from Minding Your Mind (for grades 8–10)

Minding Your Mind is an organization that provides mental health education to students, fighting the stigma associated with mental health issues. By increasing help-seeking behavior, this program moves away from crisis-based response to prevention through education. As Crawford explained, “These guest speakers have graduated from college and faced similar challenges as our students—navigating social media in an environment of high pressure from academics, sports, and social interaction.”



Student Workshops

School counselors and our on-campus psychologists hosted workshops on digital media consumption, including a Positive (social media) Feed Curation Workshop held during lunch.

Earth Day Engagement

Upper School students led Earth Day activities for K-Kids on the back patio of the Sonken Building. The older students helped the Lower School kids plant seeds, complete a relaxation exercise, make bracelets from recycled materials, and engage in other screen-free activities.

Community “Longest Table” Healthy Meal and Conversation

“This year, we brought this event inside our cafeteria and within the school day,” Crawford said. “Students had lunch with a sweet treat and enjoyed each other’s company without the distraction of their phones.”

Puppy Yoga

This relaxing session guided students through gentle stretches, yoga poses, and meditation with the company of emotional support dogs.

Stress-level Measuring

Held during lunch, this event showed students how to take a breather to observe and assess their own stress levels. The activity was sponsored by HOSA, an international student-led organization that empowers future health professionals to become leaders in the global health community.



CONNECTING THE SUMMIT TO THE CLASSROOM CURRICULUM

Throughout the summit, USchool students were immersed in interdisciplinary learning experiences that examined the topics of social media and mental health through various lenses, connecting this universal issue with their academic courses.

In math classes, students analyzed real-world data related to screen time, sleep, and stress using course-specific math skills including graphs, charts, stats, and percentages.

In science classes, students used data from their math class to examine the neurological and physiological effects of screen time, including attention, dopamine response, and sleep cycles.

In social studies classes, students examined the global and national impacts of social media, including mental health awareness, legislative policies, civic engagement, and attention economy. In addition, USchool alumnus Grant Besner (’15) spoke to social studies students about his community initiative, Month Offline, that challenges adults to trade their smart phones for flip phones for a month.

In English classes, students analyzed social media influencers’ effect on mental health and wrote reflections about the various lessons they learned during the summit.

In world language classes, students researched how social media and mental health are understood and addressed in countries where the class’s language is spoken.

In art classes, students used creative expression to explore personal and global experiences connected to social media and mental health.

Theater students joined USchool alumnus and theater coach Carlo Feliciano Ojeda to produce the one-man play *Every Brilliant Thing*. The play’s central character responds to his mother’s mental health struggles by making a list of every brilliant thing in the world. The performance was attended by Upper School psychology and theater students.

TAKING THE CONVERSATION OFFLINE AND INTO THE COMMUNITY

Mental Health Care Kits

USchool students and teachers assembled mental health care packages for 120 children at HCA University Hospital, Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, and Holtz Children’s Hospital. Within a drawstring bag, each care kit included 27 items focused on mental wellbeing, positive self-image, mindfulness, and healthy relationships. Lower School students made motivational art projects, while Upper School members of Key Club, Letters of Love Club, International Friendship Club, and Art from the Heart Club created cards, flowers, bookmarks, and other items. The remaining care kit items included store-bought journals, stress balls, motivational cards, ear plugs, and other comforting keepsakes. USchool students from the Kits for Care Foundation delivered the care packages to hospitalized children, spreading cheer and positivity to our local community.

Night at the Opera

Following our Screen Time Reduction Challenge, the winning students attended a night at the opera to celebrate their progress beyond the screen.

This year’s summit theme is not just a trending topic. How we navigate and respond to social media will have a lasting impact on young people for generations to come. USchool is in a unique position to help educate students about the influence of the internet and empower their personal responsibility to act ethically and thoughtfully—online and IRL.



Scan To View More

Student Radio Station Inspires Tomorrow's Media Leaders

Student-run radio has come a long way since the early days of college AM stations spinning local bands. As part of NSU University School's media production and broadcast journalism program (USchool Network or USN), Upper School students manage WBIT 95.3 FM The Bite, Florida's only student-operated high school terrestrial FM radio station. USchool Radio is also accessible online and on campus, allowing students to create content for both a real public audience and a school-based learning environment.

WBIT reaches a wide and varied audience with a combination of student-produced music, news, sports, and shows. Listeners in the surrounding South Florida area tune in to 95.3 FM via old-school, terrestrial radios. Online listeners can stream live or access archived content on Spotify and on the station's website.

"Our students quickly develop professional confidence and ownership when they realize they are broadcasting to a real

audience beyond their school walls," said DJ Paradis, who runs USN and serves as the radio program's instructional leader, ensuring the station operates as a professional-level media outlet. "For many students, this hands-on experience is where they first see themselves as creators rather than consumers of media. They bring their own interests—including music, sports, culture, social issues—to the station."

As part of this engaging experiential learning activity, students take on authentic, production-level roles at the station, including:

- on-air hosts and DJs
- show producers and content editors
- audio engineers
- technical directors
- programming and scheduling coordinators

The students in leadership roles at the station are responsible not only for the programming content, but for training their peers, managing airtime, and maintaining broadcast standards. Moving forward, the radio program will include younger students (in grades 6 through 8) at an introductory level, allowing them to grow into leadership roles over time.

"Our executive producer, Dylan Poliakoff ('26), and station manager, Max Bratter ('28), oversee content, delivery, and transmission," Paradis said. "Since the beginning, Dylan and Max have been involved in helping to set up the radio station."

According to Danny Swerdlow, director of Arts at NSU University School, "Our students develop a blend of technical, creative, and professional skills that directly translate to college programs and real-world media environments. But they leave with something deeper," referring to the students' shared sense of responsibility and an understanding that their voices matter when they're used with intention and care.



What do students learn by participating in the USchool Radio program?

- audio production
- live broadcast engineering
- script writing, interviewing, and storytelling
- clear and thoughtful communication
- public speaking and audience awareness
- media ethics
- FCC guidelines adherence
- professional accountability
- project management under real deadlines
- teamwork

Tune in to WBIT 95.3 FM at uschoolradio.com.





CONGRATULATIONS

to our NSU University School students who received
14 CAPPIE NOMINATIONS for their production of

9 to 5 The Musical

Our students are honored to have received the following nominations:

CORA RODRIGUEZ*
Sound

**SOFIA CASARES
& RUBI KATZ**
Choreography

**SOFIA CASARES
& EVAN GILBERT**
Costumes

**ANTONELLA DEL PERCIO
& LEOR SAFFAR**
Hair and Make-up

9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL*
Musical

RUBI KATZ*
Lead Actor in a Female Role

HADLEY MANTELL*
Comic Actor in a Female Role

SEAN LONGMAN*
Supporting Actor in a Male Role

LEOR SAFFAR
Dancer in a Female Role

JACKSON GODDARD
Dancer in a Male Role

**CAROLINE ELLSLEY,
EVA LEDERMAN,
LIS TARGINO SILVEIRA,
AND CREW***
Stage Management and Crew

**ZOEY CONNOR
& CAROLINE ELLSLEY**
Properties

JACKSON GODDARD*
Set

MATTINGLY ZONIS
Sophomore Critic

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR CAPPIE NOMINEES AND WINNERS
FOR AN EXCELLENT AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

*Denotes Cappie Award Winner

SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS



Gold Key in Drawing (top left)
Olivia Thurman, grade 9

Silver Key in Drawing (bottom left)
Jackson Goddard, grade 9

Honorable Mention in Photography (bottom right)
Cooper Pearl, grade 10

Gold Key in Journalism
Lane Stabinski, grade 12

Honorable Mention in Journalism
Lane Stabinski, grade 12

Honorable Mention in Screenplay and Scripts
Nicole Janoff, grade 12

Honorable Mention in Short Story
Nicole Janoff, grade 12



HOMECOMING

An annual tradition featuring football, school spirit, and timeless alumni pride



Scan To View More

UTOPIA

An annual celebration featuring student-run game booths, food, and live student performances



Scan To View More

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



RACHEL FRANK
Upper School Teacher

Rachel Frank brings energy, high expectations, and a relationship-centered approach to her role as an NSU University School Upper School mathematics teacher.

In her classroom, Frank emphasizes curiosity, perseverance, and problem solving. She instills a love of learning by bringing genuine passion to each lesson, showing students that math is both meaningful and empowering. She believes enthusiasm for a subject is contagious. By encouraging critical thinking and framing mistakes as part of the learning process, she helps students build confidence and resilience in their abilities. Through strong relationships and consistent encouragement, Frank ensures her students feel supported and inspired, fostering not just success in math, but a lasting appreciation for learning.

“While I’m proud of the work that happens in my classroom, I love that our students are surrounded by so many opportunities beyond math—whether that’s in the arts, athletics, or other extracurricular activities,” she said. “They are encouraged to explore their interests and challenge themselves in many different ways. These experiences help them develop confidence, leadership skills, and creativity.”

She finds the most meaning in both the small and significant moments of teaching—from helping a student grasp a difficult concept to watching graduates move on to future successes. She has also been actively involved in student life, sponsoring clubs and student government and helping to plan events such as prom, Homecoming, and school trips—showing up for her students outside of class. Those moments show students they are valued not just for their academic performance, but for who they are as individuals.

As the parent of two alumni who began in the Lower School, Frank is part of the USchool community as both a parent and educator. This perspective shapes her commitment to supporting students across all aspects of their development, inside and beyond the classroom.

“The most memorable moments for me are the times when former students return to visit and share how much my class impacted them,” Frank said. “Hearing about their experiences, their successes, and how something they learned made a difference in their lives is incredibly meaningful.”



SUSIE MARQUES
Preschool Teacher

Susie Marques brings a child-centered, hands-on approach to her role as a junior kindergarten teacher and team leader at NSU University School. With 14 years of experience, she is focused on creating an environment where young learners feel supported, curious, and confident as they begin their educational journey.

Marques was drawn to teaching through her desire to work with children and support their growth. Her connection to USchool began as a parent when her two sons entered in kindergarten and grade 1, an experience that deepened her appreciation for the school’s community and inspired her to join as an educator.

In her classroom, creative expression plays a central role. “My goal is to inspire children to fall in love with art while providing memorable, hands-on learning experiences that support their growth in multiple ways,” Marques said. “Art is such an important part of early childhood development because it encourages creativity, self-expression, problem-solving, and fine motor skills, while helping children build confidence and curiosity.”

She spread this message to the Florida Council of Independent Schools, where she co-presented on USchool’s innovative, multidisciplinary programming while discussing ways to meaningfully integrate art with environmental science in the curriculum.

By connecting classroom lessons to real-world experiences and celebrating effort, Marques fosters a space where students feel safe to take risks and develop a genuine love of learning. She also aims to meet students where they are developmentally, balancing academic learning with social-emotional growth.

A key part of her contributions at USchool is her support of the collaborative faculty culture. As a team leader, Marques has helped strengthen co-teaching practices and cross-grade alignment. She said she loves being part of a school community where teachers are deeply passionate about helping students thrive.

“I want to help students discover their potential, to create a safe and supportive space for learning, and to make a difference not only in their education but also in their confidence and character,” she said. “Teaching allows me to combine my love of learning with my passion for service, and every day I am reminded why I chose this path.”



KEREN PASTERNAK
Lower School Teacher

Keren Pasternak brings more than 25 years of experience to her role as a kindergarten teacher at NSU University School. Her path to education began unexpectedly during college, when she accepted a position teaching Hebrew and discovered a passion for working with young learners. That early experience shaped a career defined by curiosity, connection, and a commitment to student growth.

“USchool aligns perfectly with my vision of what education should look like: innovative, supportive, and committed to both academic rigor and the wellbeing of its students,” she said. Pasternak appreciates the trust and flexibility she has to design learning experiences tailored to her students’ individual needs, rather than adhering to a one-size-fits-all approach. This freedom allows her to be creative, incorporate innovative strategies, and adjust instruction in ways that foster engagement and growth. “It’s empowering to work in an environment where educators are valued and encouraged to use their expertise to create meaningful learning experiences,” she said.

Every day, she is reminded that education is more than academics. It’s also about building confidence, fostering curiosity, and helping students discover their potential. In particular, “Kindergarten is such an important stage,” she said. “Being part of that journey—helping children develop confidence, independence, and a sense of wonder—is what makes this role so meaningful to me.”

Pasternak’s teaching style is student-centered and interactive, grounded in the belief that children learn best when they feel engaged and supported. She combines structured instruction with hands-on and collaborative learning experiences to meet students’ diverse needs. Her classroom emphasizes curiosity, critical thinking, and meaningful discussion, helping students build both foundational skills and a lasting enthusiasm for learning.

She also credits her students as a driving force in her continued growth as an educator. “Their perseverance inspires me to dive deeper,” Pasternak said. “It reinforces my belief that every child deserves instruction tailored to their unique needs. Teaching is challenging, but the impact you make lasts far beyond the classroom.”



KARIN SINGER
Middle School Teacher

Karin Singer’s passion for teaching began early, inspired by a fourth-grade teacher who made science and math come alive for her through hands-on learning. Today, that same emphasis on student engagement defines her role as a teacher at NSU University School.

Singer began her career at NSU’s Baudhuin Preschool before transitioning to USchool, where she started as a first-grade teacher. Over time, she has taught every grade from JK through grade 7, bringing her student-centered teaching philosophy to every classroom she leads. Using a wide range of educational strategies—including gamified practice, learning stations, small group instruction, hands-on activities, AI-created digital environments, and project-based learning—Singer aims to support students’ diverse learning styles.

She is particularly focused on making math approachable and meaningful for students, prioritizing real-world applications and student engagement. “We recently completed a Geometric Garden project in which students used their knowledge of parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids to design a garden and calculate area using decimals,” she said, noting that experiential learning help students connect math to everyday situations.

One of Singer’s most significant contributions to USchool is the redesign of the Lower School’s TLC (The Learning Center) support program. By incorporating data-driven instruction, establishing measurable learning goals for each student, and expanding services to include writing support for kindergarteners, she strengthened the program’s impact on student growth.

Singer also values USchool’s unique position on a college campus, a learning environment that helps students grow into confident, collaborative, and capable young adults. Whether through sports, clubs, volunteering, internships, or advanced academics, USchool students are supported in pursuing a well-rounded education, she noted.

After more than 30 years at USchool, Singer describes the school’s community as a lasting source of support and connection that extends to her own family. As her own son advanced from the Lower School to the Upper School, Singer was able to engage with his education in a truly special way. “Being an effective teacher is much harder than it looks from the outside. Good teachers make it look easy, but it’s not,” she said. “The key is to learn from others, take risks, and keep learning.”

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



MEET USCHOOL’S NEW DIRECTOR OF PARENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

As a proud USchool lifer, I started in junior kindergarten and graduated with the Class of 2010. Some of my favorite memories and lifelong friendships were formed here, so stepping into the role of director of Parent and Alumni Relations feels like a full-circle moment.

This past year has reminded me how unique the USchool community truly is and how strong our connections remain long after graduation.

Through this section of *Viewpoint*, we hope to celebrate our alumni, share your stories, and keep our community connected. Please don’t hesitate to reach out, share an update, or stop by campus to say hello. We always love seeing alumni back on campus.

Best regards,

Stephanie Hyman Kaminoff ('10)
Director of Parent and Alumni Relations

✉ sk2098@nova.edu
📞 (954) 857-3497



ALUMNI VISITS

We always enjoy when our alumni come back to USchool for a tour or just to say hello! It was great to see Class of 2025 alumni Tommy Abramzon, Nicholas Marques, and Matias Winterman; Zay Flowers ('19); Aneesh Deshpande ('04); and Louis Sarmiento ('03).



CLASS REUNIONS



UFO PRESIDENTS RECONNECT

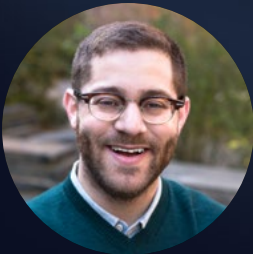
NSU University School’s University Family Organization (UFO) past presidents were invited back to campus to reconnect and see how much USchool has grown over the years. Guests met with school administrators, toured the campus, and learned about new programs and initiatives. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for UFO past presidents to catch up with one another, share memories, and celebrate their lasting impact on the USchool community. It was a meaningful day of connection, reflection, and celebration for everyone involved.



ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Last December, NSU University School had the honor of inducting two new distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame members: Luke Katler and Jared March. The reception celebrated the accomplishments and life stories of these esteemed alumni—which serve as an inspiration to the USchool community.

Thank you to the Neufeld Family (Marla ‘99, Jason, Ethan ‘32, and Asher ‘32) and All Year Cooling and Plumbing for their support of the Alumni Hall of Fame.



Luke Katler (Class of 2011) is a Tony Award®-winning Broadway producer whose passion for theater began during his earliest years at USchool. After graduation, he attended Dartmouth College, where he served as artistic director of the Shakespeare company, The Rude Mechanicals, and participated in various committees centered on student life, harm reduction, and creating safe and inclusive communities for his peers.

Luke’s recent work as a theater producer includes the revival of Stephen Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*, starring Daniel Radcliff and Jonathan Groff, which received seven Tony Award® nominations and won four. His additional Broadway credits include *Slave Play* (Tony Award® nomination for Best New Play, 2021), *POTUS* (BroadwayWorld Audience Award for Best Play, 2022), and David Byrne and Fatboy Slim’s musical *Here Lies Love*. Beyond Broadway, Luke has produced several acclaimed Off-Broadway projects, including *Safety Not*

Guaranteed (New York Times Critic’s Pick), *King of Pangea*, and *Jewish Plot*. He is currently developing The Empyrean Club, a mid-sized Brooklyn theater dedicated to next-generation theatergoing.

Luke credits USchool with nurturing the spark that became his life’s work. His love of theater began in sixth grade when he performed at the Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center as Charlie Cowell in *The Music Man*. Throughout Middle and Upper School, he acted in more than 20 productions, directed his first musical, and traveled the country with USchool’s Speech and Debate Team. His involvement across campus life made him a STUEY Student of the Year finalist, one of NSU’s highest recognitions for scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, and integrity. He was also part of a team that won multiple Student Excellence Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, including first-place honors in Sound and Directing.

Some of Luke’s fondest memories include time spent rehearsing in USchool’s Speech and Debate Suite, walking hallways filled with music he helped bring to campus as Student Council President, and classes with Jake Glickman and Rob Koreman.



Jared March (Class of 2013) passed away on January 27, 2024, after his battle with cancer. He is honored by the Alumni Hall of Fame, not only for his professional accomplishments as a producer and philanthropist, but for the love, generosity, and spirit he shared with all who knew him.

After graduating from USchool, Jared attended New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he pursued internships and worked his way up to producing for Paramount. His professional journey reached a personal milestone when he became a producer on his favorite television show, MTV’s *The Challenge*. His work took him around the world, including to South Africa, where he helped produce a season of the series.

Jared found early inspiration and support in his film classes at USchool, where his TV production teachers, Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Mullen, became mentors who nurtured his talent, refined his skills, and helped set him on the path toward a career in film. At USchool, Jared earned numerous honors, including serving as class president and receiving the Dr. Cy Gruberg Key Club Award, Save the 2012 Children Scholarship for Advocacy Day, University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology, Special Projects and Community Service Award, and Excellence in Directing Award.

In 2021, Jared was diagnosed with cancer, which he faced with courage, optimism, and grace. He founded the Team Jared Foundation, dedicated to easing non-medical financial burdens faced by cancer patients and their families. Through Memorial Sloan Kettering, the foundation has raised more than \$850,000, providing support for expenses including transportation, housing, childcare, and eldercare. Jared designed the foundation’s apparel, which features two original characters that symbolize his perspective on life and approach to battling cancer. The Elephant and the Tiger are now key symbols for the foundation and for Jared’s legacy. Central to his message was the idea of the “tiger mentality,” a commitment to living with intention and finding meaning in every moment.

Jared is remembered by his family, friends, and former classmates and teachers as deeply curious and endlessly imaginative, with a gift for bringing people together through humor, empathy, and authenticity.

CLASS NOTES

1982

David Buck got married in July 2025 and started a new job as vice president of assets and risk at Exuma Capital Partners.

1995

Mandel Ilagan was featured in the inaugural issue of *ONE NSU Magazine*. As vice president of game shows for Sony Pictures Television, he and his team develop and produce original shows plus reboots and spinoffs of classics including *100,000 Pyramid*, *Wheel of Fortune*, and *Jeopardy!*



1998

Lior Levy transitioned from the Broward State Attorney's Office, where he served as a prosecutor in the domestic violence unit, to the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor in Miami. He now serves as an ICE attorney in his role as assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security.

2000

Steven D. Cohen, is a professor at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. Cohen has been quoted in media outlets including the *Financial Times*, *Forbes*, *Slate*, *Vanity Fair*, *New York Magazine*, and NBC News. He was also featured in the BBC Radio documentary *Churchill's Secret Cabinet*.



2003

Seth Gilson owns a dental practice in Aventura, Florida, focused on holistic, biological, and biomimetic practices, bridging the gap between conventional clinical dentistry and natural healing modalities.

2008

Annie Gordon Career performed with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in December 2025 as principal flute in *The Nutcracker*. She launched Flute Club Cincinnati, a flute choir for adult amateur flutists. She also founded a nonprofit organization called Do It Yourself Darlin that has transitioned into a business that creates an accessible, inclusive space for homeowners, renters, and underrepresented communities to learn the basics of home repair and renovation.



1995

Jessica Bentley founded Sports Talent Link, an athlete development company partnering with schools, facilities, and national brands to support pickleball players of all ages, their families, and coaches.

1997

Danny Swerdlow, USchool director of Arts, was announced as the Student Television Network's Teacher of the Year. This national organization recognized his dedication to the profession and high level of achievement in all areas of teaching broadcast journalism, film, and media. This honor is bestowed to teachers who display creative and media skills, classroom effectiveness, and strong leadership.



1999

Ellice Martinez serves as executive director for the American Heart Association in Broward County. She leads strategic initiatives to advance the association's mission to build healthier lives free from cardiovascular disease and stroke, while fostering partnerships that drive meaningful community health outcomes. Previously, Martinez was assistant vice president of community engagement for HCA Florida Healthcare's East Florida Division.



2002

Andrew Kirsner completed a fellowship as a body MRI radiologist. He also moved to Iowa, near Maharishi International University, to practice transcendental meditation as part of a group that aims to create peaceful coherence for the world through a phenomenon called the Maharishi Effect, named after Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

2004

Alexis Resnick Schuber earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. As a licensed psychologist, she serves pediatric, adolescent, and adult patients. Her school-aged children, Easton and Hudson, are attending and enjoying USchool (classes of 2039 and 2041, respectively).

2008

Rose Borday Wagoner is an air vehicle lead engineer at Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), where she leads efforts in avionics, sensors, and mission systems across NAVAIR-affiliated programs. Previously, she served as NAVAIR's MRO-engineering dynamic components branch head and drive systems engineer. She received her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration in thermal fluid systems from Villanova University.



CLASS NOTES

2010

Chase M. Book works with Miami-Dade County’s International Trade Consortium and balances family, travel, and community projects. His son, Avery, will begin USchool in the fall.



2010

Jeffrey Freeman and his children, Rocky and Harley, reconnected with USchool teacher Evan Grosz and his son, Tavish ('35), at the ice hockey rink.



2014

Aku Acquaye, a strategy consultant at BCG in Chicago, serves as a human-centered designer and strategist with experience in ethnographic research and design-thinking methodologies. She received a joint M.B.A. and M.S. in Design Innovation from Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Business and Segal Design Institute. Previously, she conducted market research within the food and beverage industry at Nielsen.



2014

Gaston Becherano Cohen is the founder of Smorgasburg Miami, a 50,000-square-foot, open-air food market inspired by the original locations in Brooklyn and Los Angeles. The Miami edition features more than 60 top food vendors and draws more than 10,000 visitors each weekend.



2017

Matt Steiner recently joined the team at Fanatics, a sports merchandising and collectibles online platform. As a senior manager of social media, his role centers on growing the company’s sports and entertainment channels and developing new ways to showcase trading cards, collectors, and the culture driving the hobby forward.



2019

Former Georgia running back Kenny McIntosh became a Super Bowl champion with the Seattle Seahawks, who defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LX on February 8, 2026.

2010

Hayley Brooks is the founder of Your Storyline, a consultancy that helps clients strengthen their personal brands through professional resume writing, LinkedIn profile optimization, personal statement editing, and college application essay assistance. Her work was recently featured in the *Daily Memphian*.



2011

An alumnus of Emory University School of Law, Stefen Smith is a co-founder, managing member, and legal recruiter at The Standard Legal Recruiting. He partners with law firms and in-house legal departments to identify and place top legal talent across a range of practice areas and experience levels.



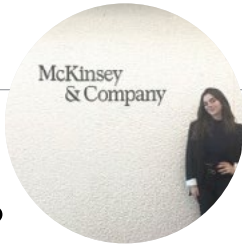
2014

Jessica Dolberg Brenker is a seasoned educator who joined USchool this fall as a third-grade teacher in the Bridges program.



2014

Jordan Gumberg had an incredible finish at the DP World Tour’s Genesis Championship professional golf tournament in South Korea. Heading into the final hole of the season, he dropped it in from 58 yards for eagle—securing his spot for 2026.



2018

Andrea Victoria Bedoni is currently finishing the Master of Science in Biotechnology and Enterprise degree program at Northeastern University. She plans to join McKinsey & Company as a consultant.

CLASS NOTES



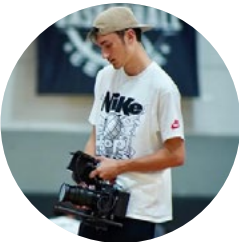
2020

As an undergraduate engineering student at the University of California—Santa Cruz, Liam Asayag designed drones to deliver medical supplies and traveled to Ukraine to deliver them. After graduating last year, he began pursuing a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Most recently, he joined the robotics innovation company Boston Dynamics.



2021

Marcus Tate signed with the Philadelphia Eagles, earning his spot on the team’s offensive line after a standout performance at rookie minicamp. During his time at Clemson University, he started 37 of 42 games and logged over 2,500 snaps.



2024

Ben Chitoff is a summer intern with Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL). He produces video content for a Nike-sponsored high school basketball series, for which he films games featuring some of the country’s best high school basketball players. Chitoff is also majoring in marketing at Florida Atlantic University, where he serves as a creative content intern for FAU Athletics.



2021

Jonah Lubin recently graduated from Rice University with a double major in sports analytics and sports management with a concentration in law. While at Rice, he completed internships with the Houston Texans, Wasserman Agency, Rice Football, and Rice Baseball. He now works fulltime with the Las Vegas Raiders as a football data science assistant, focusing on player evaluation and analyzing performance data on professional and collegiate athletes.



2023

As an operations assistant and stage manager for CBS Sports, Gabi Egozi has a front row seat to March Madness. Her role supports the network’s televised live sporting events, enabling her to work alongside producers and talent, ensuring the productions run smoothly.



2024

Former USchool band members Amanda Stewart and Matthew Czerenda (’19 and currently on staff at the USchool Business Office) took the field at the Florida State University Homecoming game, held at Doak Campbell Stadium, as members of the FSU Marching Chiefs and Marching Chiefs Alumni bands.

Wherever you are, you remain an important part of the NSU University School family, and we want to know what you are doing. If you have contributions, achievements, or announcements that you would like to share, please contact Stephanie Kaminoff, Director of Parent and Alumni Relations: ✉ sk2098@nova.edu 📞 (954) 857-3497

CONGRATULATIONS

AND WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Danielle Motola (’13) gave birth to her second child, Joshua Bernard Klasfeld, on May 29, 2025, at Mount Sinai Miami Beach.



Annie Gordon (’08) welcomed daughter Elianna Zinnia Gordon on July 18, 2025.



Alexis Resnick Schuber (’04) gave birth to her third child, Londyn, in July 2025.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

NEW GIFTS, ACTIVE PLEDGES, AND LEGACY GIFTS

Ruby Shark Society

\$1 million–\$4 million

All Year Cooling and Plumbing

Tommy and Erin Smith

Richard Quadracci and Emilio Cabrera

Greg Ward and Jany Martinez-Ward

The Ward Law Group

The Windhover Foundation

Diamond Shark Society

\$500,000–\$1 million

Victor Kuznetsov

Michael (‘87) and Lainie Zager

Gold Shark Society

\$250,000–\$500,000

Morgan Stanley Impact Funding Trust

Olga Slivnyak and Family

Silver Shark Society

\$100,000–\$250,000

Anonymous

Yoni and Evelyn Ashurov

Shree and Aly Fiebrantz Awsare

Elizabeth Brennan

Government Law Group, LLC

Jacob and Milena Khotoveli

Peter and Vicki Parthenis

Jennifer Pearl

Keith (‘93) and Candy Poliakoff

University Family Organization

Fellows Society

\$50,000–\$100,000

Anonymous

The Ellman Family Foundation

Lance and Caryn Ellman

Lauren and Steven Geduld

Eric and Claire Gleit

GS Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund

for Wealth Management

The Mary Jane Harlow Charitable Trust

Igor and Julia Krivor

Todd and Robin Leader Landau

Natalia and Adolfo Rosendo

Ross (‘98) and Marisa Zelnick

Mako Society

\$25,000–\$50,000

Anonymous

Ryan and Francesca Case

Randy and Sharon Katz

Vania and Beny Lederman

Matt and Catherine Mandell

National Charitable Endowment

Stefan and Lori Miller (‘96)

Championship Society

\$10,000–\$25,000

Anonymous

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Jake Glickman and Ann Sellers

Landmark Companies

Brian and Malini Mangan

Modera Academical Village

JP Morgan Charitable Giving Fund

Juan de Olachea and Irene De Romana

Leadership Society

\$5,000–\$10,000

Anonymous

Leonardo Brea and Mercedes Sucre

DAF Giving 360

Heather and Randy (‘93) Gilbert

Evan (‘94) and Hillary Glasser

Sandra Gulden & Leon J. Goldberger

Gulden Private Foundation

Marie Houlin-Hourii

Lia and Nathan Janoff

Chauniqua Kiffin and Maurice Davis

Kari (‘99) and Jeffrey Meran

Tatyana Roshko

Ana Sanchez-Gal

Danielle Scott

Fabiola Valle and Cesar Aran

Head of School Society

\$2,500–\$5,000

Anonymous

The Banner Family Foundation

Nicole Castaldi and Family

Frank and Lizbeth Castle

The Community Foundation of Broward

Chip Derrer and Wendy Wood Derrer

The Ellsley Law Firm, PLLC

Chad and Yasmin Frank

Rob and Susan Georgiou

Adam and Elaine Gibb

The Jewish Federation of Nashville

and Middle Tennessee

Sher and Paul Klein

Lytal, Reiter, Smith and Fonrath

Marla and Eric Morningstar

Marla (‘99) and Jason Neufeld

Tamara Beliard Rodriguez

Daniel Sanchez

Joan Schwiep

Monique Thomson

Elaine Wallace and Jill Wallace-Ross

Meiqin Wang

Blue Society

\$1,000–\$2,500

Anonymous

Abel Aronovitz

All Florida Youth Orchestra, Inc.

Ivan Babenko

Jenny Bajaj

Andrei Barysevich

The Ben Law Firm, PLLC

Andy Ben (‘05)

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Victoria and Clayton Capeletti

Wendy Diaz-Agero

Energy Control Consultants, Inc.

Michelle Fischer

Florida Youth Lacrosse Foundation, Inc.

Keith Gama

Cynthia Gross

Toni Harris

Elizabeth Jacobs

Robyn Kaiyal

William and Robin Kopas

Tammy Knight

Cori and Randy Kritzer

Adrienne Lauzon

LND Hoops, LLC

Michelle Mandelbaum

Susanne and Bret Marshall

Ron and Maida Midei

Amanda Miller (‘15)

Dora Modi-Young

Steven Morrison (‘96)

Marina Murallo

Stephen Nesi

Joey Novelli (‘26)

Rachel Novelli

Maisa Penha

Prestige Wealth Partners

Marisa Riestra

Elisha Robinson

Debra Rogers

Yohana Santamarta

Amanda Shear

Lisa and Joel Slingbaum

Robert Stanton

Douglas Stein

Laura Tirado

Shona and Brad Tuckman

Stephen and Jennifer Wallace

Wolper Law Firm, PA

Silver Society

\$500–\$1,000

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Trevilla Arnold

Lisa Berg

Alberto Crespo

Guy Gino

Helen Greenberg

Wayne Law

Camila Levy

Barry Liebowitz

Glenn Mackie

Eliza Manuel

Jason Manzon

Dana McDonald

Allison and Peter Musso

Anastasiya Nikolayeva

Marni Orlove (‘93)

Susan Palmer

Yanira Pena-Rosa

Pro Shine Maintenance Corp.

William Rosenberg Private Foundation

Henriette Schafenacker

Michael Sher

Jeffrey and Dawn Tartack

Abby Wilentz

Avivit Yudkevich-Gino

Law Offices of Marc J. Zee, PA

Fin Club

\$1–\$500

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Aaron Abelto

Jose Acosta

Jesse Aeropagita

Isabella Alexander (‘26)

Michael Allen

Gabriela Altamirano

Courtney Anastas

Rafael Arechabaleta

Anais Armada

Danielle Arnold

Noah Avellanet (‘26)

Iris Avigal

Danny Ayala

Alexa Baez

Belva Baines

Morena Molina Barea

Micaela Baredes

Melanie Grant Bassin

Bernadette Carnegie Baugh

Naomi Berry (‘00)

Malgorzata Biardzki

Michael Biggins

Olga Blanco

Anabelle Blum

Monica Botimer

Richard Bowden

Elizabeth Braegger

Jordan Braswell

Eduardo Brender

Katherine Briggs

John Broderick

Esther Bromberg

Vitalii Bronfman

Marguerite Brown

Mary Burshtein

Ismael Caballero

Nicole Cabarga

Fabienne Cadet-Laborde

Dennis Cairns

Mattia Coccia (‘26)

Erica Campbell (‘10)

John Canter

Anthony Carnaggie

Bernadette Carnegie-Baugh

Sofia Casares (‘26)

Rory Case

Karol Castellanos

Jessica Cavan

Shari Cedar

Lisa Chancey

Dorrie Chandler

Ilyse Chang

Sharon Chin

Elena Chubarova

Monica Cepero

Nicolle Clark

Pamela Clark

Lisa Colen

Peter Coletti

Dara Collazos

Cody Cook

Melissa Cooperman

Richard Corbyons

Victoria Costello

Denise Courter

Kelli Covet

Jaimie and Rob Crawford

Michele Crites

Matthew Czerenda (‘19)

Edward Danetz

Avery Danforth

Angelina Davalos

Jennifer Davidtz

Ilona Davies

Deerfield Beach Outpatient Surgical Center, LLC

Sarah De Flesco

Beatriz Spirito Pereira De Freitas (‘26)

Cory De La Fuente
Nicole Delimitros
Renata Del Percio
Fanya DeMaria
Kevin Dibert
Elizabeth DiBiase
Latrebah Dixson
Melissa Dominguez
Michelle Doyle
Richard Drucker
Taylor Dumas ('17)
Rachel Dunn
Kim Dyer
Elise Egozi
Krashonda Eiland
Omar El Hamdani
Electric Shade Company
Patrizia Elia
Tara Ellsley
Nathan Ellsley ('25)
Amanda Elm
Energy Control Consultants, Inc.
Nancy Erickson
Brittani Favuzza
Rena Ferrara
Sophia Ferris ('26)
Kristen Flores
Kaureen Francois
Stacey Freeman
Maria Fernandez Freire
Leila Fried ('26)
Jodi Frier
Jaclyn Friedland
Stephanie Furlough-Morris
Andrea Garcia
Maria Garcia
Brett Gaylis
Joan Gdasi
Dimitrios Giarikos
Elaine Glasser
Reese Glasser ('25)
Christina and Joseph Glendale
Kathleen Glickman
Global America Title Services, LLC
Patricia Gomez
Milena Gonos
Cristina Gonzalez
Debra Gonzalez
Julio Gonzalez
Stacey and Paul Gonzalez
Scott Gorman

Georgianna Grant
Great Florida Insurance
Amy ('99) and Lonnie Greenberg
Anouska Greene
Miriam Greener ('89)
Luc Habib
Kirsten Habibi ('26)
Elizabeth Haglund-Pye
Samantha Haimo
Athena Hall
Corbin Hallaran
Weiwei Han
Scott Hannes
Cindy Hatton
Bianca Hawkins
Rachel Heery
Traveon Henry
Paul Herfurth
Jessica Hernandez
Mairim Hernandez
Viviana Hernandez
Kathy Hiciano
Jennifer Hochman
Ricki Hollander
Lori Horvitz
Sonja Houston
Ethan Hyman ('25)
Andrii Ivanov
Olivia Janvier ('26)
Myriame Jean-Baptiste
Marie Jeudy
Hong Jia
JJ and Lana, LLC
Jolanta Johnson
Gabriella Kadosh ('26)
Joseph Kadosh ('26)
Rashad Kaiyal ('26)
Simone Kakar
Jake ('09) and Stephanie ('10) Kaminoff
Umma Kannayan
Selin Karahanoglu
Ethan Keller
Safiya Khan
Lislie Kivilcim
Sher and Paul Klein
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Patty Kopelman
Andrew Kopf ('25)
David Palatnik ('26)
Irina Korneeva

Julieta Krinickas
Randy Kritzer
Jaime Krohn
Lorena LaMorgia
Michael La Pietra
Nicole LaRochelle
Nathalie Laroussi
Cynthia Leconte
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Melissa Longman
Alana Lopez
Samantha Lucas
Stefanie Ludington
Daniel Luque
Darren MacGillivray
Alex Makaranka ('26)
Brittney Malave
Marc Mandelbaum ('26)
Mercy Marinoff
Alix Markoff
Susana Marquez
Stephen Marten
Karen Martin
Maranda Martin
Stephen Martin
Daniel McGraw
Marykate and Matt McManus
Robin Mendelsohn
MET Roofing, Inc.
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Aimee Miessler
Dale Miller
Cheza Miranda
Jorge Miranda ('19)
Sofia Miranda ('26)
Kelly Mitchell
Patricia Mitchell
Nekisha Mohan
Rebecca Montero
Janine Morris

Kelly Morris
Paula Moshe
Michele Murray
Sharon Najman
Ziv Najman
Michael Norman
Jan Northrop
Jennifer Nottingham
Shallie Olivieri
Maria Oqendo
Matty Oren
Paz Ortega
Tasha Osceola
Marci Osheroff
Jessica Parker
Maria Pascal-Daniels
Lillian Peirce
Daniela Peon
Yarom Peretz ('26)
Silvia Gonzalez Perrett
Lisa Perry
Kara Petty
Anthony Phillip
Oliver Pinkey
Jeanne Platonoff
Trevor Pletl
Plumbing Paramedics, Inc.
Monica Polanin
Josh Polsky
Barbara Pomper
Michelle Potter
Nicole Poulin
Leanna Prendergast
Donald Preston
Tathiana Priano
David Price
Gretel Rabczak
Mariah Rabideau
Hannah Rabinowitz
Jonathan Rabinowitz, Inc.
Noah Raisman
Kathryn Ramirez
Serome Ramnarain
Netalie Ran
Ann Reitman
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RowRecruit, LLC
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Ricardo Gutierrez Ruiz
Amber Ryan
Sarine Salama
Alicia Sanchez
Varinia Sanchez
Walkyria Sanchez
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Diane Sasser
Brett Scaglione
Allison Schwiep
Jordan Selinger
Jenny Serpas
Samantha Setton
Kara Shaoul
Karin Singer
Carolyn Shafa
Jillian Shenassa
Sara Shumanis ('26)
Alexander Shuster
Theodore Shuster
Robin Silvestri
Amy Sirvent
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Sharon Smith
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Marc Solodkin
Elizabeth Somerstein
Dean and Sonia Sorrentino
Whitney Sotolongo
Kate Spinelli
Jennifer Stahl
Kimberly Starks
Mason Starkman ('26)
Joan Steinberg-Gabriele
Beverly Steinman
Janet Steinman
Andrew Stephens
Lynn Stern
Tiffany Stewart
Carisa Stringer
Morgan Studnik ('26)

Maria Carolina Sutton
Lisbeth Swain
Daniel ('97) and Jennifer Swerdlow ('99)
Saul Sztam
Lynn Taylor
Mateo Boblin Tellez ('26)
Tantigra Thames
Leigh Tingue
Stephen Thompson
Rashwanda Toombs
Arnold Trevilla
Elena Treyger
Jacqueline Trott
Meredith Tucker
Paula Tude
Claudia Vainrub
Gabrielle Velardi
Samantha Velman
Iuliia Veselkina
Jennifer Vigille
Patricia Wade
Jennifer Wagner
Jennifer Wallace
Nicholas Wallace
Jennifer Waller
Aiden Wealcatch ('26)
Lauren Webb
Erik Weidenboerner
Chindarat Weiss
Heather West
Ashley Whitaker
Richard Whitmore
McKenna Wickman ('26)
Charlotte Schubert Willcox
Victoria Wiltshire
Catherine Wires
Lorrelie Manuel Wolf
Austin Wolfson
Lauren Wright
Brandon Young
Isis Zambrana-Diaz
Laura Zatkowsky
Karen Zorsky
Ula Zusman
January 1, 2025–January 1, 2026

CULTIVATING OUR CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY

The Ward Family



“Our kids are very happy here,” said Greg and Jany Ward, South Florida attorneys and USchool parents who recently made a generous donation to NSU University School.

Their nine-year-old twin daughters, Chloe and Kaylee, are both thriving academically and tell their parents that they “love” their third-grade teachers. “The quality of the teachers really stands out,” Greg said. “They work closely with the kids and keep the parents informed and involved. Even at the administrative level, there’s a personal connection. USchool feels like a family environment.”

Greg and Jany shared that they both grew up with little financial means and limited access to quality early education.

Jany immigrated to the U.S. from Cuba at age 14 and worked her way through school, eventually earning a full scholarship to the University of Florida. She later earned her law degree from the NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. “I know firsthand that education is the primary driver of success,” she said. “If you don’t have access to it, you start miles behind.”

Greg’s path was similarly shaped by perseverance. Raised in Baltimore, he recalls being told by a guidance counselor that trade school was his best option. “But, I didn’t go that route,” he said. “I went to college then law school and graduated at the top of my class. That experience reinforced the importance of access to quality education.”

The Wards’ shared belief in the lifelong value of education, coupled with their religious faith, has inspired them to make a

gift to USchool that supports student scholarships for families in need. “We want to open the opportunity of a great education to people who might not otherwise have it,” Greg explained. “You can change the entire arc of someone’s life with access to education, especially if it starts early.”

Jany added, “We want to ensure our impact is meaningful—that kids get a great education and have the opportunity to go on and contribute to society.”

Greg and Jany see that impact firsthand with their daughters. “They’re getting a better education at USchool than we had at their age,” they said. “It’s impressive what this school is able to bring out in kids at such a young age.”

For the Wards, giving back is also about caring for their community. This extends to their family business, The Ward Law Group, an auto injury law firm guided by service and advocacy, particularly for South Florida’s Hispanic population.

“We want people to know there are people out there who care about them and their future. We want to bring hope and opportunity to people we may never meet,” Greg explained.

The Wards emphasized that philanthropy isn’t reserved for the wealthy. Generosity of any kind can make a difference. “What matters is contributing to something meaningful to you and those on the receiving end,” Greg said. “Just giving your time and energy to show up for a student and encourage them can change their life.”

CULTIVATING OUR CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY

The Slivnyak Family



In 1989, Olga and Leo Slivnyak immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union with their five-year-old daughter.

Looking back, Olga explained how their interest in contributing to their new community led to their family business. “Twenty years ago, there were a lot of senior refugees in our community in Columbus, Ohio who really needed home-style meals. So, we started with home deliveries of Russian/Ukrainian meals then added kosher meals. As the interest in our company grew, we added different ethnic meals then American comfort foods,” she said. The Slivnyaks called their business Global Meals.

“We grew across Ohio, serving around 20,000 seniors. There was no marketing—only meals made with love, great employees, and word of mouth,” she said. The Slivnyaks sold the company in 2024, and Olga continues to consult for them.

Before the family business took off, “We had no money,” Olga said. “Our daughter, Mariya, had an opportunity to go to private Jewish school due to someone’s contributions. We never will forget this generosity. We strongly believe in sharing, supporting, and contributing.”

With these values in mind, the Slivnyaks made a donation to NSU University School, where their grandchildren are current students.



“School is where it all begins! USchool is like a second home for our grandchildren, Juliya and Jason Manzon. They get a great education, all the attention they need, sport activities, a social life, and amazing teachers,” Olga said. “We wanted to contribute to the school our family chose and to support the programs that will help other children develop extra skills.”

The Slivnyaks’ gift will support an academic business program for USchool students. “We believe in business,” Olga said. “I think that developing these skills during childhood can potentially bring success to these kids’ future. Through our gift, the business program will bring more knowledge, business skills, and future success for students.”

Olga wants to spread the message that philanthropy can make a difference—even if it affects only one student’s life.

“Our giving is also an example that success has to be shared, and it makes you feel great,” she said. “Once you start giving, you want to do it over and over. You just have to realize what’s important to you. We chose education and our local community, which made our life full of joy.”

CONGRATULATIONS

The 2025-26 athletic season showcased the depth of talent and competitive spirit that defines USchool athletics, with student-athletes delivering standout performances at the district, regional, and state levels.



Varsity Boys Basketball
FHSAA 3A District Champions
FHSAA 3A Regional Champions
FHSAA 3A State Semifinalists

Varsity Girls Basketball
FHSAA Regional
Tournament Appearance

Middle School Girls Basketball
South Florida Middle School Champions



Varsity Rowing
Rebecca Bronstein
Women's Varsity Single State Champion

Eva Steiner & Eleni Moumoutjis
Girls Freshman Doubles State Champions

Leo Olaechea & Bruce Ericksen
Men's Freshman Scholastic Doubles State Champions

Lev Zusman & Maverick Ross
Men's Varsity Scholastic Doubles State Champions



Varsity Boys Lacrosse
FHSAA District Finalists
FHSAA Regional Tournament Appearance

Varsity Girls Lacrosse
FHSAA District Tournament Appearance



Varsity Boys Soccer
FHSAA Regional Tournament Appearance, Palm League Champions

Varsity Girls Soccer
FHSAA Regional FHSAA Tournament Appearance

Middle School Boys Soccer
South Florida Middle School Champions

Middle School Girls Soccer
South Florida Middle School Champions

Varsity Football
SSAA State Semifinalists



Varsity Golf
FHSAA District Tournament Appearance

Varsity Girls Tennis
Abi Potter
FHSAA Individual District Champion

Julia Grandonico & Jenna Loeser
FHSAA Doubles District Champions



Middle School Track & Field
Klara Nelson
Qualified for 1500-Meter Race at Middle School State Championships

Iyene Issac, Klara Nelson, Harper Piersol, and Cienna Torres
Qualified for 4x400 Relay at the Middle School State Championships

Varsity Track & Field
Mackenzi Charles, Myla Lassiter, Te'a Starks, Mckenna Wickman
Seventh Place FHSAA State Championships (4x400 Relay)



Varsity Swimming
Juan Vallmitjana-Behrendt
FHSAA State Champion (200 Freestyle; 500 Freestyle)

Nai Di Sarno
FHSAA State Champion (100 Breaststroke)

Maria Camila Perez
Fourth Place at FHSAA State Championships (100 Backstroke)
Sixth Place at FHSAA State Championships (200 Individual Medley)

Nai Di Sarno, Wendy La Pietra, Sofia Papasakellariou, and Maria Camila Perez
Eighth Place at FHSAA Regional Championships (400 Freestyle Relay)

Varsity Diving
Andres Winterman
Runner-Up at FHSAA State Championships (One Meter Diving)

Mason Starkman
Fourth Place at FHSAA State Championships (One-Meter Diving)



Varsity Baseball
FHSAA Regional Tournament Appearance



Middle School Volleyball
South Florida Middle School Tournament Finalists



Varsity Volleyball
FHSAA District Tournament Appearance



Middle School Cross Country
Qualified for Middle School State Championship

Andres Ferris
Placed 21st in the Boys Race

Klara Nelson
Placed 21st in the Girls Race

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ACCREDITATION AND NONDISCRIMINATION

NSU University School is accredited by Cognia and the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS). NSU University School's Preschool programs are also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Our programs are among less than six percent of early childhood programs nationally that have achieved NAEYC accreditation, which represents the mark of quality in education. As the only university-based NAEYC accredited early learning center in Broward County, the faculty and staff of NSU University School Preschool continually work to ensure all children receive the highest quality early care and education.

NSU University School is also a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Educational Records Bureau, The College Board, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, the National Association of Laboratory Schools, the Independent School Experiential Educational Network, the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers, and the American Camp Association. NSU University School admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin.

SUMMER FUN at Camp Nova

JUNE 8–JULY 31

Guppy Camp (2–4 years old)

Minnow Camp (Kindergarten–Grade 1)

Shark Camp (Grades 2–9)

Teen Leadership Camp (Grades 9–11)

Two-week sessions are available.

Post-camp sessions run from August 3–7.

Camp hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Early morning care is available for an additional fee.



SPACE IS LIMITED!

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Camp Nova
NSU University School