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The Division of Enrollment Management (EM) is pleased to introduce our inaugural periodic newsletter. Our goal is to provide the campus community with updates, important information on upcoming events, reminders, and share departmental accolades.

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Achieving desired enrollment is a complex compilation of many factors. A campus-wide discussion on what we collectively and individuially must do in each of these areas began this fall. Look for additional details in future EM Newsletters.

From the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

During my first four months at Southern, I have convened or attended over 330 meetings, in order to educate myself about our students, faculty, offices, strategic direction, and goals.

I am committed to improve the efficiency of the EM operations and communication strategies, and am working with various stakeholders to determine how the campus can better position itself to support the enrollment outlook and strategic plan.

Please feel free to contact me at Sass@southernct.edu or 203-392-9999.

- Dr. Terricita Sass

Click here to read the press release announcing Dr. Sass' appointment.

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OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT
WINTERGREEN BUILDING | 203-392-6343 | EM@southernct.edu

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Secretary Maria Vasquez is the primary EM contact and support for Dr. Sass. Prior to joining the EM team, Maria spent seven years in Academic and Career Advising. Maria recently completed two in-service trainings: The 21st Century Administrative Professional: Developing Yourself as a Strategic Partner, and Outlook In-Depth. She is recognized for her positive disposition, “can do” attitude, willingness to learn new concepts, and commitment to self-improvement.

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TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MARIA VASQUEZ

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Mark Your Calendars

- Through January 25: Continuing student registration
- Friday, December 10: Reading day
- Saturday, December 12 – Friday, December 18: Final Exams Week
- Friday, December 18: 2:00 PM: Undergraduate Commencement 7:00 PM: Graduate Commencement
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Financial Aid Reminders

- Monday, December 14: Spring 2016 balances are due
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- Students will be notified at the end of December if they are at risk of losing financial aid if they did not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards
- Student loan borrowers graduating in December will receive an email from financial aid to complete exit counseling
- Prior authorization/approval required from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for students wishing to work during the winter session

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Recruitment and Outreach Initiatives
With a successful start to fall 2015, the Admissions Office is already off and running to enroll the fall 2016 class! Admissions staff spend the fall semester visiting high schools and community colleges, attending college fairs, meeting with school counselors, and speaking with students around the Northeast about the highlights and advantages of attending Southern.

Our largest recruitment event of the year is the Fall Open House that was held on Sunday, October 18, a beautiful day highlighted by a surprise snow shower! We welcomed 740 prospective students and their family members to campus to explore our academic programs and support services, to meet our faculty, staff, and students, and to see for themselves why Southern is an outstanding choice. We used a new online registration and scanning check-in technology that allowed us to track our visitors and follow up with them.

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the day, and a big congratulations to our table display winners: academics: Nursing, Theatre, and Physics; student services: Sustainability, Disability Resource Center, and Multicultural Affairs.

As admissions travel season winds down this month, we turn our attention to reviewing application files, a process which will be greatly enhanced by our recent implementation of FolderWave.
Majors Expo
On October 14 the Academic and Career Advising Office held its annual Majors Expo, designed to educate students who are still deciding on a major. The expo offers the opportunity to explore options, connect with faculty, and learn more about all the academic programs available. The expo also provides an opportunity for declared majors to meet faculty from their major prior to advisement. Each undergraduate department was represented, and over 650 students attended the event. This represents more than a 40 percent increase from 2014. A hearty thank you to all of those throughout the campus for their enthusiastic support.

Financial Literacy
In an effort to improve enrollment outcomes, Lew DeLuca, Coordinator of Student Financial Literacy and Advising, leveraged resources to save 45 students from the fall 2015 drop list. He also conducted more than 100 “Paying for College” student and family meetings, and conducted over 27 financial literacy presentations, NSO, TSO, NOW, and INQ classes, and “Maximize Your Potential” programs at area high schools. Lew is currently working on new online resources for students.

Students seeking financial advice can set up an appointment with Lew by calling 203-392-8862 or by email at DelucaL2@SouthernCT.edu.

More information on financial advising can be found at SouthernCT.edu/financial-advising.

SCSU recently received official notification of the lowest three-year cohort default rates for federal loans at 4%. Students who borrow are paying back their loans. This positive sign is worth celebrating!
Recently the SCSU and You Customer Service Committee began to restructure and refocus how it supports professional development. Rather than having one large annual event, the committee decided to focus on repetitive seminars aimed at improving customer service among the enrollment services division. These “Coffee Talks” aim to provide professional development through a more direct and ongoing approach.

- On September 23 the committee hosted its first seminar with a discussion by Christopher Piscitelli from the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility. The seminar, titled “Be Prepared,” highlighted how employees can empower themselves in potentially disruptive situations.
- On November 11 the committee hosted “Stop. Listen. Reflect. Respond,” presented by Denise Zack of Counseling Services. This interactive workshop outlined effective steps to managing challenging students.

Electronic Transcripts Now Available
The Registrar’s Office is pleased to announce the launch of Parchment, an online system for the ordering and electronic delivery of official transcripts. Parchment is student friendly, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Acts (FERPA) compliant, and allows students to request transcripts and have them delivered, as a PDF file, to the email address of choice within 24 hours of your request.

Degree Works to Launch in 2016
Degree Works is a tool for students and their advisors to track progress toward graduation. This new tool builds upon the current functionality within Banner by including a Percentage Complete Tracking bar; Student Educational Planner, in which students can plan out future semesters; a transfer equivalency self-service module; and a robust tool for easy processing substitutions and waivers. We are on schedule for launching Degree Works in Fall 2016.
Everyday Superheroes

In October, all university departments, offices, and residence halls were invited to decorate their areas based on this year’s Homecoming theme, “Superheroes.” Congratulations and thank you to the Registrar’s Office and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for representing Enrollment Management in this year’s contest!