Mark Your Calendars

• January 11: Spring 2016 registration for undergraduate and non-matriculating students begins
• January 14: Winter session 2016 ends
• January 18: Last day for full-time students to withdraw with a 100% tuition refund
• January 19: First day of classes
• January 25: Last day to add/drop; last day to change status from full-time to part-time, or part-time to full-time
• March 14: Second eight-week classes begin
• March 20: Registration begins for Summer 2016 and MayMester
• April 2: Accepted Students Day
• April 6: Career Fair

Student Enrollment: Continuing the Investment

Building stability in enrollment begins with ensuring that we have adequately executed our best efforts in communicating all that Southern has to offer prospective students, as well as investing in well-planned strategic activities and processes.

We must deliver on our promises, and continue to invest in students once they enroll. Re-recruitment of students is a major component of retention. Our ultimate goal is to create an environment that meets or exceeds a student’s expectations. This includes making sure that finance needs are met, the student has completed the expected coursework and followed the student code of conduct.

Everyone on campus — regardless of division or assignment — has the opportunity to make Southern all we say it is — from the prospective student’s first phone call, until their commencement march.

Join us in making this more of a reality by building upon the rich commitment here at Southern.

SCSU Alum joins Career Services

Aimee Piccin, ‘06, ’11, recently joined the Office of Career Services. Aimee comes from the Career Office at Sacred Heart University, where she was the Director of Career Development, and has over 10 years of experience in higher education, with a focus on all aspects of career and professional development of students. Aimee is passionate about aiding students in the multifaceted transition from college to career, and is very excited to return to her alma mater.

John Giordano, Assistant Director, has dedicated over three decades to financial aid, where students affectionately refer to him as “Mr. G.” John is a member of numerous associations, including the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (since 1984), and the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (since 1977). He has helped thousands of students secure on- and off-campus federal work-study positions. John is also recognized for his willingness to step in when needed, and for demonstrating the spirit of teamwork.
Recruitment and Outreach Initiatives

The Admissions Office recruitment travel for the fall is complete, with visits to 160 Connecticut and out-of-state high schools, as well as 150 in-state and regional college fairs.

In November, we hosted the 3rd Annual School Counselor Appreciation Day, welcoming 77 counselors for a day of fun and information! The counselors enjoyed a Crescent Players performance, an outstanding student panel, a brief campus tour, including our newest Science Building and renovated Buley Library, as well as a round-robin of informational sessions about academics, student life, and support services. We received overwhelmingly positive survey responses, and the Admissions Office greatly appreciates the faculty, staff, and students who participated.

Southern continues to see an increase in freshman applications in our second year of participation in the Common Application, and our relationship with Royall & Company. Fall 2016 has drawn nearly 5,000 applications submitted to date, which is 10% over the previous year at this time. The first wave of more than 1,200 fall acceptance letters were delivered to students via email and printed letters utilizing FolderWave during the week of December 14. Admission notifications will continue to be sent on a rolling basis, as applications are completed and reviewed. In addition, applicants can view the materials we have received, the outstanding remaining items, and upload documents directly into the system, utilizing the new Application Status Check portal.

Retention and Persistence

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) means ensuring that students are progressing through their academic programs at an acceptable pace, while maintaining an acceptable cumulative grade point average (GPA) to retain financial aid.

Federal and state guidelines require students to demonstrate minimal standards prior to receiving aid each year. The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships is collaborating with Student Affairs and other offices to develop earlier "warning" outreach and support for students who might otherwise not be able to continue their education as a result of less-than-optimal academic performance, excessive dropping of classes, or exceeding the allowable credit hours due to indecisiveness of majors or disproportionate transfer credits without a degree.

More than 500 students did not maintain SAP in 2014-2015. Warning emails were sent to students at the end of December. These students will continue to receive their aid along with guidance — to ensure they utilize the vast array of services before their aid is revoked at the end of the spring semester. Additional information about SAP standards may be found here.
Improving Student Success

The Academic Revitalization and Renewal project is well underway. With a focus on improving the success of students and their outcomes, a cadre of faculty and staff were identified, and they have begun the heavy lifting.

Six Engagement Teams were identified in November. These teams will focus on:

- Implementing a more user-friendly and robust EAB advising tool
- Examining Southern’s various advising methods
- Developing scalable and sustainable faculty and professional staff advising structures, supporting this important component of retention

For additional information on this collaborative effort, please contact Dean Breese, Dr. Sass, or Dr. Tyree.

FAFSA Deadline is March 15

Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) each year to receive most forms of aid. Families may begin the process on January 1 to meet the priority deadline of March 15. Additional reminders will be showcased around campus to nudge students to file early.
New Team Role for a Familiar Face

Enrollment Management is pleased to welcome Kim Laing to the position SIS Banner/ERP Specialist. Reporting to Dr. Sass, Kim will work with all of the functional areas within Enrollment Management to assist with the implementation, maintenance, and upgrades of the Banner Student modules of the Student Information System. She will be responsible for maintaining and developing Banner/ERP solutions for business needs. Kim has held leadership positions and served in the office of the Registrar for over a decade. Prior to SCSU, she worked for the Associate CIO at Eastern. We look forward to her serving in this new expanded role.

In The Works

Technical projects currently in some level of planning and/or implementation include: FolderWave for undergraduate and graduate processes, EAB SSC Campus, Degree Works and TargetX CRM. Additional conversations regarding technology include: new automated processing of forms in the spring, an enhancement to facilitate a one-year calendar for classes, and student course scheduling tools.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

The first of a two-part Coffee Talk series on effective communication skills will be held on January 12 at 2 p.m. in ASC 201. This discussion will highlight physical communication, while placing emphasis on key areas such as paraphrasing back, speaking with feeling, and using positive and effective body language. Part two of the series is currently being scheduled for early spring semester. Stay tuned for additional information.

The team is also in the final phases of creating a recommended online customer service feedback survey. This survey would allow anyone, at any time, to share their experiences interacting with student service areas in Wintergreen and Graduate Studies. The survey, which is planned for launch in the spring, will provide insight as to how offices are doing, as we make improvements in processes and staff service delivery.
Let the moves begin!

Offices within Enrollment Management and Wintergreen are on the move with an expected completion of all moves in the late spring.

Financial Aid successfully relocated to their temporary space in the rear of the building in mid-December.

The Enrollment Management offices of Dr. Sass and Maria Vasquez will move permanently to Suite 120 during the second week in January.

Several members of Academic and Career Advising will temporarily relocate to Suite 118. They include Frank LaDore, Christine Barrett, Andrea Carlino, Trish Regan, and Joanne Mielczarski. Lew DeLuca, Coordinator of Financial Literacy and Advising, will also be temporarily located in this suite. Phone numbers will remain the same.

Admissions is expected to relocate from the “house” later in the spring.

What is High Morale?

Each EM unit has selected a peer to begin to answer the question, what is high morale? The team is comprised of Christine Barrett from Academic and Career Advising, Rondell L. Butler from the Registrar’s Office, Denise Berthiaume from Admissions, and Lucille Perry from Financial Aid. They recently reported their submission at the EM All-Hands group staff meeting.

EM describes high morale as a positive work environment within EM that celebrates the individual contributions of each team member where they are valued, respected, encouraged and appreciated while being held to a high standard of accountability at all levels.

Thank you for your service!

Recently SCSU recognized the valuable contributions of several team members. They include:

25 Year Recognition
- Paula Kennedy
- Harriet Buckman
- Jordan Jones

Continuing Appointment and Merit
- Christine Barrett
- Lewis DeLuca
- Robert Drobish
- Megan Hoffecker
- Frank LaDore
- Kimberly Laing
- Peter Leung
- Stephen Marcelynas
- Monica Raffone
- Anna Rivera-Alfaro
- Angela Ruggiero
- Lisa Siedlarz

“I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE A PERSON LIKE JOANNE [MIELCZARSKI] TO BE MY ADVISOR. SHE IS REALLY A TRUE PROFESSIONAL WHO KNOWS AND LOVES WHAT SHE IS DOING, JOANNE IS THE TYPE OF PERSON EVERY STUDENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FOR ADVISOR. I AM GRATEFUL AND ORTUNATE FOR WHAT SHE DID FOR ME AND I CAN’T THANK HER ENOUGH, SHE IS AN ASSET FOR ADVISEMENT CENTER DEPARTMENT... YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO HAVE AN EMPLOYEE OF THIS KIND [ON] YOUR STAFF.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

DID YOU MISS THE LAST EM IMPACT?
To read November’s newsletter, click here.