

From: [Rizza, Salvatore A.](#)
To: families@lists.southernct.edu
Subject: Parent/Family Update: : March 4th, 2021
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:13:53 AM
Attachments: [image008.png](#)

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope this email finds you well!
Below is the content included in this email:

1. Message from Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
2. **Federal Grant Awards for Students****
3. **Important Financial Aid Information****
4. Message from Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
5. Summer and Fall Registration Update
6. COVID 19 Update
7. Resources

Message from Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Happy March!

****First, you'll notice that I've highlighted the first two sections of this email as we would ask you to pay particular attention to these.**

As the semester continues, we know that you and your students will continue to have many, many questions and I'd like to ask that you consider the following ways to seek guidance, support and advisement.

1. First, I'd like to ask that you utilize the Parent/Family Facebook Page as a place to seek guidance and support from one another and on occasion, know that we are there to help answer your questions. However, this platform should be seen as an additional means to seek out support but not a primary source. Just this week alone, I have missed at least three posts and two private messages as it is growing increasingly difficult in managing the questions. Of course we are here and want to be supportive!
2. Make sure your students are engaging with their resources! I know that some of you have shared concerns with timely responses. In those cases, I'm happy to help direct your students to the appropriate individuals that can help them resolve these issues whether that be allowing the individual a bit more time to respond or reaching out to a supervisor or different person from that area/department.
3. Please ask your students to utilize the links to resources provided at the bottom of this page. Some examples include:
 - a. Visiting a departments website and/or social media which often contain information needed.
 - b. For residential students to connect with their Resident Advisors or Hall Directors. In many cases, a conversation within their residence hall can provide valuable information and resolution.
 - c. Sending my office an email either to rizzas1@southernct.edu or orientation@southernct.edu or visiting our office on the third floor of the library.
 - d. So much more! Our campus is filled with caring and helpful individuals!!

I truly hope that the tone of this email conveys our great desire to be helpful and supportive and some of the ways we can do so which are more for efficient and effective. More than anything, we are best when we can help students directly as we are able to really understand what they are experiencing and how to guide them to find success.

We thank you and as always, we are here to help!

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza
Southern Connecticut State University
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
Phone: (203) 392-5189
NODA Region IX Regional Coordinator

Federal Grant Awards for Students

Greetings Southern Owls,

In December the federal government passed the CRRSAA (also called HEERF II) that provided additional funding to help students pay for educational costs incurred because of the pandemic shut down. Southern has received its portion of the federal funding dedicated to this purpose and we are pleased to be able to distribute it to our students.

Funding is available for students matriculated and enrolled at Southern as of February 15, 2021, who are not funded through certain waiver programs such as employee tuition remission, high school students, and senior citizens, and who are US citizens.

For those of you who have filed a FAFSA, your eligibility for the award will be automatically determined and, if you are eligible, the grant will be automatically awarded. You don't have to do anything further to receive the money. For those of you who did not file a FAFSA and who would be otherwise eligible for the grant, a citizenship attestation form will be sent via email. Just open the email, answer the single question, and submit if you want to participate in the grant program.

Award amounts vary by the number of credits you are taking, your student level, and your Pell eligibility. Disbursement of the awards is scheduled to be complete by March 18th.

Because of our limited access to campus under the closure guidelines for the State of Connecticut, printing and mailing checks can be significantly delayed. Direct deposit is touchless and the quickest and easiest way to receive refunds. Students enrolled in direct deposit will see their funds in 1-3 business days. For students who are eligible for the grant payment and who are not enrolled in direct deposit, checks will be printed on March 18, 2021. To sign up for direct deposit:

- Go to login.southernct.edu
- Select "Billing/Payment"
- Click "Sign up for Direct Deposit"
- Select the Refund tab
 - Enter your account number
 - Enter your routing number

Please be safe as we continue to work together for a successful spring semester.

Sincerely,
Mark Rozewski

Important Financial Aid Information

Dear Southern Students:

To help you prepare for Fall 2021 registration, which opens Monday, April 5, we wanted to make you aware of a few important updates from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Starting in mid-March, all current students with a completed FAFSA on file for the 2021/2022 award year will receive a financial aid offer to their Southern email for the upcoming year. Please complete all financial aid requirements outlined with your offer, so you can enjoy the summer break worry-free. Certain aid programs have deadlines that come after March, so your aid award may be adjusted later if you receive any of these additional funding sources. For more information, visit [Financial Aid for Returning Students](#) for a complete list of these programs as well as other helpful information.

NEW FOR 2021-2022: Starting in late April, students will receive notifications to their Southern email about courses on their Fall 2021 registration that may not be eligible for aid. To be eligible for financial aid, courses must count towards a student's program of study; otherwise your aid award may be prorated. For most students, this should not have any impact because you are only registering for courses required by your degree. You may review your degree evaluation (in your Banner Web Portal) at any time to review courses listed in the "excess" block that are not considered aid eligible. For more information on the Course Program of Study requirements, please visit the [Course Program of Study Degree Evaluation](#) website or check out this [video](#).

We sincerely hope you have a great Spring semester. You may [contact us](#) with any questions.

Sincerely,
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Message from the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Honoring our Past and Inspiring our Future

Dear Members of the SCSU Community:

Today, we launch the [new website for the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#) with [a special tribute to Mr. James Barber](#), acknowledging his leadership and dedication as well as the work others have done prior to the creation of the DEI Division.

This is an ideal time to reaffirm our commitment to social justice while reflecting on our history and the legacy of Mr. Barber’s impact and influence. His work continues to pave the way towards advancing social justice and anti-racism work at Southern and the Greater New Haven communities.

Today we also begin the second season of the [Diversity in Education podcast series](#), led this semester by Jamil Harp, student activist, and KC Councilor, professor of communication, media, and screen studies. By openly engaging faculty and student perspectives on issues of racism, bias, and discrimination, we hope to provide listeners with “Real Talk” – a place to struggle with challenging topics and learn from one another’s experiences.

Though we have a long way to go, these are two powerful tools for communicating and measuring our success, and for formally and systematically integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our organization. The website, in particular, will reflect an understanding of DEI and anti-racism as intrinsic to every aspect of our work -- who we are, what we do, and how and why we do it.

With gratitude,

Diane M. Ariza
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



James Barber (left) working with students in the Organization of Afro-American Students (OAAS) in 1977; and (right) Vice President for DEI Diane Ariza with student and alumni panelists in a virtual forum on anti-racism in September 2020

Summer and Fall Registration Information

Good morning all,

The issue has been resolved and the class schedules are available.

Thank you for your patience.

Hi Owls - Here are a few important announcements about the upcoming registration cycle.

REGISTRATION

The [class schedules](#) are now available online to assist with planning for the coming year. For fall registration, students register by class starting at different time blocks throughout the day. For more information about how to look up your current class standing and time block please visit [Find Your Registration Date/Time](#).

Summer Registration	
All students may register starting at 8 a.m.	Monday, March 22 nd
<i>Note: There is no pin required to register for summer classes.</i>	
Fall Registration	
Graduate and post-baccalaureate matriculated students	Monday, April 5 th
Seniors	Tuesday, April 6 th
Juniors	Monday, April 12 th
Sophomores	Wednesday, April 14 th
Freshmen	Monday, April 19 th
Graduate non-matriculated students	Wednesday, April 21 st
Undergraduate non-matriculated students	Monday, August 2 nd
<i>Note: A pin is required for undergraduate registration for fall classes.</i>	

SCHEDULE PLANNER NEW!

Schedule Planner empowers students to easily find the perfect class schedule! Plug in the courses you need, add in customized breaks around other life obligations such as work, sports, or family, and review all your schedule options. Schedule Planner streamlines the search process, saves you time, and alleviates frustration. Utilize your degree evaluation to review outstanding requirements and preload your favorite course schedule (and a backup or two!) to prepare for your advising appointment.

- How to use Schedule Planner [PDF Flyer](#)
- How to use Schedule Planner [Video](#)

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Do not delay in signing up for required academic advising prior to course registration. Academic advising procedures differ depending on your major and class, ranging from group advising sessions to individual meetings with your assigned advisor. You will receive an email from your major department or assigned advisor explaining their advising procedure.

- If you are a **Freshman in your first semester** (regardless of major), will meet individually with your INQ instructor for course registration advising and to receive your registration PIN number.
- If you are a **second-semester freshman, sophomore, junior or senior**, you should follow the academic advising procedure detailed by major department or assigned advisor for course registration advising and to receive your registration PIN number.

If you are not contacted by your advisor/department about advising by March 5th, please contact your major department ([contact information](#)).



CAMPUS COVID-19 DASHBOARD

The University's COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated regularly throughout the spring semester, providing cumulative and current data related to the prevalence of COVID-19 within our campus community. More than 1,200 residential students, athletes and other selected groups will be tested on a weekly basis. You can see the latest figures [here](#). Please use the [Self-Report Form](#) to notify the COVID Coordinator if you are COVID positive or have been exposed to someone who has COVID. For any other questions about reporting, please email the [SCSU COVID-19 Coordinator](#).

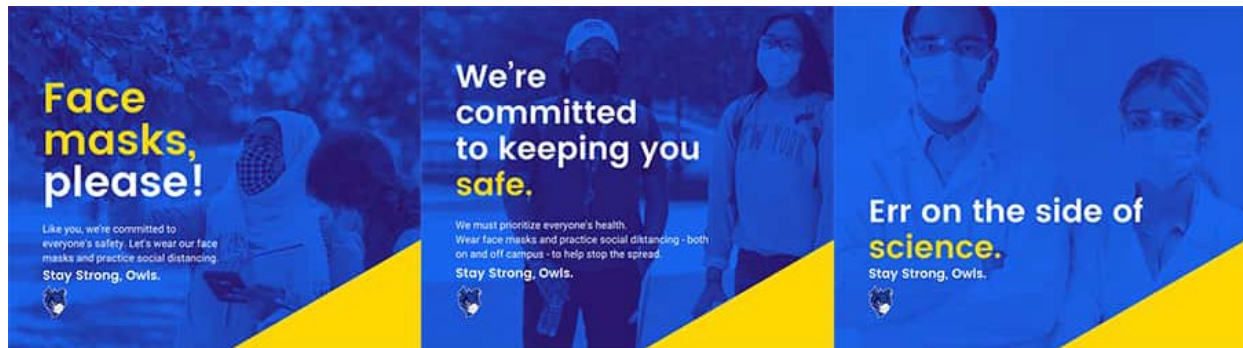


EMPLOYEE VACCINATION UPDATE

We know that the vaccination schedule has been a little confusing as the state determines its rollout plan for Connecticut. Several weeks ago we compiled a list of everyone who comes to work on campus, because we were told that colleges and universities (along with several other sectors) would be included in Phase 1b. We are not given permission to upload our data, but we had it ready for submission when we were given the green light to do so.

However, as the state moved through Phase 1A, it was realized that the next sector would be much too large for the number of vaccines that would be available statewide. And so the approach was changed to focus largely on age groups. Early childhood and K-12 educators are included in the current phase with individuals aged between 55 and 64. However, colleges and universities are NOT included in this phase.

Members of our community will continue to be eligible based on age, as outlined by the state. Current plans call for individuals 45-54 to begin scheduling vaccines on March 22, 35 to 44 on April 12, and 16 to 34 starting May 3. You can keep up to date on the latest eligibility requirements and schedule your vaccine appointment [here](#).



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about any of these items, or other aspects of the University's reopening plans, you may submit them here or visit Southern's [Reopening 2020](#) website.

Resources

We would also like to provide a number of links which have really good information that answers many of the questions you may have.

Helpful Links- <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/helpful-links>, these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- <https://inside.southernct.edu/inside-southern>, these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Reopening <https://inside.southernct.edu/reopening>, this provides information on the reopening of campus for the fall semester.

Residence Life- <https://inside.southernct.edu/residence-life>, with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>, information regarding academic advising.
