

Rizza, Salvatore A.

From: Rizza, Salvatore A.
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:04 PM
To: families@lists.southernct.edu
Cc: Wrinn, Devon G.; Allen, Kimberly; Cruz-Alonso, Anay's M.
Subject: Parent and Family Update II Student Academic Concerns

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope this email finds you well!

As we head into the final weeks of the semester, we would like to encourage you to connect with your students and have a meaningful conversation regarding their academic progress. While we are continually working to connect with students to help them achieve their goals, we have shifted our focus and priorities even more so after mid-term grades were posted a few weeks ago.

Unfortunately, we have discovered that a large percentage of students at all levels are struggling academically. As we analyze the data we have found a higher number of failing marks at all levels from our first-year students to our seniors. Please understand that we have NOT been standing idle. Many of our offices and services including Academic Advising, Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, Residence Life, University Access Programs, Multicultural Affairs, Athletics and countless faculty and staff members have reached out using every method possible to ask students to engage with us to help them to improve. We are concerned that many students are not responding.

We know that our parents, families and supporters are committed to their student's success, and we want you to know that we are just as committed. As our most valued partner in your student's Southern experience, we would like to provide some ways that you can help your students achieve their goals:

1. Encourage students to review their mid-term grades which they can do through their Bannerweb. If they don't have a mid-term grade or have questions, they can reach out to their professors to learn more.
2. Often students are aware of the challenges they are having in their courses but aren't accessing the support that can help them progress. One of our outstanding resources is our Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services located on the 3rd floor of Buley Library. With over 200 academic specialists, the center offers tutoring, coaching, writing and countless other services. Visit <https://inside.southernct.edu/casas> for more information about the center and how students can make an appointment.
3. If your student received an email or text message from one of the many offices mentioned above, and/or an advisor, faculty member or staff member offering assistance, please encourage them to respond to the communication. We want to help!
4. Course registration for the Spring 2022 has begun. Be sure that your student has met with their advisor and knows their registration date.
 - a. Registration Date Information: <https://inside.southernct.edu/onestop/registration/dateandtime>
 - b. Advisor Information: <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising/who-is-my-advisor>
5. For some students, they may decide that it would be best for them to withdraw from a course. If so, please note that the deadline to withdraw from a course is November 17th and that we encourage them to discuss this with their faculty member and an advisor if they choose to withdraw to discuss the implications this may have on their progress towards earning their degree in a timely manner.

Lastly, Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement is another resource available to you and your students. **As such, we know that you have requested a Virtual Conversation to share your thoughts and concerns with us which we have**

planned for Wednesday, November 17th at 6pm. Please save the date. We will be sending the link and more information regarding this session in the next few days.

We are always available to talk to family members and supporters. While we wouldn't be able to discuss a student's specific academic record or progress we can help with understanding procedures, resources and services available to students. If we can be of support to you or your student, please email orientation@southernct.edu .

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

(Below are two emails that students received this week that may be of interest to you.)

Dear Southern Students,

We know that it is has been an adjustment to return to campus or to begin your first semester after the impact of the pandemic last year. It can be hard to find your routine, to commit the necessary time and energy to your classes, to learn to navigate your courses with the many other commitments on your plate. If your semester is not going as well as you had hoped, you might be considering your options.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Southern has returned to the permanent [Pass/Fail and Withdrawal catalog policies](#) and deadlines that were in place prior to March 2020 (COVID). To view the current Pass/Fail and Withdrawal deadlines, please visit the [Academic Calendar](#).

Pass/Fail Option: Deadline has passed (9/15 for full-term courses and 10/27 for second 8-week courses).

Withdrawal Option: If you are not able to successfully complete a course this semester, you may decide to withdraw from it. First, talk with your faculty member and be sure where you stand. This is a very difficult decision to make, as you will not receive a grade or credit for the course (a "W" will be recorded next to the course on your transcript). Before deciding to withdraw from a course, it is highly recommended you speak with your Assigned Advisor or [schedule a Same-Day Advising Meeting](#) to chat with an AAC Advisor, as withdrawing may impact your graduation timeline and/or financial aid.

- **W Deadline for Full-Term Courses: Wednesday, 11/17**
- **W Deadline for Second 8-Week Courses: Wednesday, 12/1**

Incomplete Option: After discussing your progress towards course completion with your instructor, and if the instructor has determined that you have a valid reason for not meeting a particular requirement prior to the end of the semester, you may request an [Incomplete Contract](#) to allow you more time to successfully complete the course.

Please reach out if you need help or if you have questions about any of these options:

- Undergraduate students - Contact Academic Advising at advisement@southernct.edu or [schedule a Same-Day Advising Meeting](#).
- Graduate Students - Contact your Academic Advisor, Program Coordinator or Department Chairperson

There are many people who want you to succeed and are available to help you in whatever way you might need it. But, we can help you if you don't let us know.

Best,

this week @ Southern

Bus Trip Sign-up

Palisades Mall Trip

RSVP [HERE](#)

Join ProCon on Saturday, November 13th as we take a trip to the Palisades Mall in NY! This is a magical mall that features tons of stores and other attractions. Get your holiday shopping done early! Open to the first 36 students to RSVP. The bus will leave from Hickerson Hall at 10:30am.

Sponsored by: Program Council

Monday, November 8

11:00am-12pm

Wellbeing Workshop

Schwartz 100

An in-person interactive 6-week workshop series will guide students in learning skills and strategies to enhance wellbeing and will cover a variety of topics to help students THRIVE in college. This workshop is offered weekly and covers the same topic on Mondays and Thursdays, so students can choose which day they'd like to attend during the week. Some example topics may include: communication, relationships, stress management, self-care, resilience, mindfulness, health and gratitude. Group will be capped at the first 8 attendees due to space limitations. Check in at lobby desk at Schwartz Hall 100. Masks required.

Sponsored by: The Wellbeing Center and Counseling Programming and Outreach

11:00am-12pm

Virtual Lounge

Access Event [HERE](#)

Let's hang out! Join VPAS Center staff in our virtual lounge for some fun check-in questions and games. Come have fun and bring your friends!

Sponsored by: Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center

12:00pm-2pm

Commuter Luncheon

ASC Ballroom

Join the OSILD for our last commuter luncheon of the semester!

Sponsored by: Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development,

12:00pm-2pm

Mending Mondays

Buley Library Makerspace (Ground Floor)

Learn how to replace buttons, fix torn hems, and cover old rips to make your clothes like new again!

Sponsored by: Buley Library

12:00pm-2pm

1st Generation Owl Day

EN B121

Are you a first-generation college student? You are not alone! Let's celebrate your success together and meet other first-generation students, faculty, and staff.

Sponsored by: University Access Programs, Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, Office of Residence Life, Multicultural Center, and Career and Professional Development

1:00pm-2pm

Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader? with ProCon

ASC Theater

Come and join ProCon for a fun filled body meeting where will be giving out stuffed bread and salad, while competing in Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader. Can you prove to us you are smarter than a fifth grader for the chance to win a gift card?

Sponsored by: Programs Council

1:00pm-2pm

Monday Small Group

ASC Room 311

A group designed for anyone of any faith background exploring challenging spiritual questions.

Sponsored by: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

2:30pm-4pm

Create T-Shirts for the Clothesline Project

Adanti Student Center and Wilkinson Hall

Join VPAS to write messages on t-shirts to increase awareness of relationship violence and to honor a survivor's strength. T-shirts and markers will be provided along with FREE Insomnia Cookies as a snack!

Sponsored by: Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center

3:00pm-4:30pm

Hike West Rock

West Rock

A hike up West Rock to get some exercise and make new friends. Contact Nina Robertson at robertsonn3@southernct.edu for meet-up location.

Sponsored by: Public Health Society

4:30pm-7pm

First-Gen Night

Multicultural Center Room 234

Come and join us on a talk on being a first-generation college student!

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center

Tuesday, November 9

8:30am-10:30am

Good Morning Commuters

ASC Resource Room 217

Good Morning, Commuters! Stop by ASC 217 for a free hot breakfast before you take on your day! Mingle with other commuter students and learn about different departments on campus.

Sponsored by: The Office of Student and Involvement and Leadership Development

10:00am-2pm

Get Yourself Tested!

Student Health Services

Stop the spread of sexually transmitted disease. Make an appointment online at StudentHealthEHR.Southernct.edu.

Sponsored by: Health Services

11:00pm-12pm

Weekly Writing Sprints

EN 253D

Come join Bookmarks English Club for weekly writing sprints in November! Inspired but unaffiliated with National Novel Writing Month's official write-ins, our writing sprints will involve writing together online or in the English Common Room for 15-20 minutes, taking a short break, and then doing another writing sprint together. Though the sprints were designed to help novel writers, anyone else writing essays, short stories, poems, etc. are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us.

Sponsored by: Bookmarks English Club

4:00-7pm

BINGO

ASC Room 234 OR [Click here to join the fun](#)

Join us for a fun game of Bingo! We will play both in-person and on-line – your choice!

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center

6:50pm-7:50pm

Mind, Body and Soul

ASC 309

Steppin' Up Drill Team will be hosting a self-care event with Professor Dianne Frankel-Gramelis. We will be meditating and talking about different ways we can take care of ourselves.

Sponsored by: Steppin' Up Drill Team

7:00pm-8pm

Second SIA Informational

Access Event [HERE](#)

Join the Hermanas of the SCSU Colony of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. and learn more about our Precious and Rare sorority.

Sponsored by: Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc.

7:30pm-10pm

Taco Tuesday

Farnham Programming Space

Come join Procon for a fun night filled with delicious food, fun music and an opportunity to spend time with friends and meet new people! This event will take place from 7:30 pm-9:30 pm and there will be free tacos for everyone!

Sponsored by: Programs Council

Wednesday, November 10

10:00am-11am

Owls 4 Earth

Access Event [HERE](#)

Climate solutions include just and equitable transitions to clean, affordable, reliable supplies of energy, water, food, education, and pathways for community and climate resilience in a changing climate. Southern and CSU have earned provisional observer status to send a small delegation to the second week of COP 26, or the United Nations Conference of Parties in Glasgow, Scotland, November 8-12. This is the largest climate conference in the world and almost all of the 195 countries around the world will be represented, including governments, non-profit organizations, business and industry, and universities. Among many purposes and with experts from all sectors and disciplines, COP 26 is the venue for negotiating the Paris Climate Accord.

Sponsored by: Office of Sustainability and Office of International Education

10:00am-12pm

PROJECT BLUE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

Academic Science Building Atrium

Come see the student teams working to make the world a better place through the utilization of KELP! Shark Tank Pitch Competitions will have 6 student groups showcasing their businesses. #KelpSaveTheWorld

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Veterans Day Ceremony & Resource Fair

Adanti Student Center - Theater

Honoring our veterans in recognition of Veterans Day. Veterans Resource Fair: 12-2 p.m. Veterans Day ceremony: 1-2 p.m.

1:00pm-2pm

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

Drama Lab

Join us for help from the Theatre Department faculty in refining and polishing your resume, cover letter, and portfolio! This workshop is specifically geared toward students looking to apply to jobs in theatre, but all are welcome to join. Bring what you have and be prepared to ask questions!

Sponsored by: Crescent Players

1:00pm-2pm

Sisters Halaqa

ASC 309

Come join us on our weekly discussion in room ASC 309! This week's topic is "Ignoring Ones Ignorance", as Muslims we strive to be our best all the time, but are we blind to our own ignorance and how does that change our lives and the lives of people around us. This is a heavy topic, but an important one as we start to work on ourselves to become the best version of ourselves. Hope to see you all there!

Sponsored by: Muslim Students Association

1:00pm-2pm

New Club Workshop

Access Event [HERE](#)

Join us to learn about how to start a new club. This is a mandatory step to starting any new student organization.

Sponsored by: The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development

1:00pm-2pm

After COVID: What's Changed in Career Planning

Register [HERE](#)

When it comes to the world of jobs, internships, and graduate school planning, new information, processes, and tasks have emerged. Discuss ways to prepare and set career related goals in the new normal after the effects of Covid-19. This workshop will be virtual. Please RSVP in JOBSs to receive the web link for the session.

Sponsored by: Career and Professional Development

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Panel Discussion: New Haven Mayoral Papers Collection Exhibition Team

Engleman Hall - Room C112

"Righting Urban Renewal: Four Mayors Grapple with the Legacy of Urban Renewal in New Haven." Members of the SCSU Mayoral Papers Team will discuss the importance of the papers and where additional research using the papers might focus.

2:30pm-4pm

Create T-Shirts for the Clothesline Project

Adanti Student Center and West Campus

Join VPAS to write messages on t-shirts to increase awareness of relationship violence and to honor a survivor's strength. T-shirts and markers will be provided along with FREE Insomnia Cookies as a snack!

Sponsored by: Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center

3:00pm-5pm

Sit Down & Write

Access Event [HERE](#)

Sit Down & Write is a "Facilitated Writing" session. The idea is that we can have a dedicated time, every week, devoted to writing...or any other quiet creative activity. By scheduling it, and having a group, we can motivate ourselves to actually Sit Down & Write. We're using the Pomodoro Technique, which consists of 25-minute working sessions and 5 minute breaks: a time-tested technique that helps many people focus and accomplish tasks.

Sponsored by: Buley Library

4:00pm-5pm

Weekly Writing Sprints

EN Room 253D

Come join Bookmarks English Club for weekly writing sprints in November! Inspired but unaffiliated with National Novel Writing Month's official write-ins, our writing sprints will involve writing together online or in the English Common Room for 15-20 minutes, taking a short break, and then doing another writing sprint together. Though the sprints were designed to help novel writers, anyone else writing essays, short stories, poems, etc. are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us.

Sponsored by: Bookmarks English Club

4:30pm-7pm

Study Session

ASC Room 324

Students will use the study lounge and the main office to study and interact with other owls.

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center

8:00pm-9pm

Hair State of Mind

ASC 305

Come join us as we discuss the history of hair in black culture, tips on how to care for your hair, and a judgement free space to open up about your hair!

Sponsored by: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Thursday, November 11

12pm-1pm

PB&J Thursdays

Buley Room 303

Come join ProCon and CASAS for FREE PB&J Thursday!

Sponsored by: Programming Council and Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services

1:30am-2:30pm

Wellbeing Workshop

Schwartz 100

An in-person interactive 6-week workshop series will guide students in learning skills and strategies to enhance wellbeing and will cover a variety of topics to help students THRIVE in college. This workshop is offered weekly and

covers the same topic on Mondays and Thursdays, so students can choose which day they'd like to attend during the week. Some example topics may include: communication, relationships, stress management, self-care, resilience, mindfulness, health and gratitude. Group will be capped at the first 8 attendees due to space limitations. Check in at lobby desk at Schwartz Hall 100. Masks required.

Sponsored by: The Wellbeing Center and Counseling Programming and Outreach

4:30pm-7pm

Curlz and Girlz

ASC 324

Learn how to maintain different types of curly hair.

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center

5:00pm-6pm

Weekly Writing Sprints

Access Event [HERE](#)

Come join Bookmarks English Club for weekly writing sprints in November! Inspired but unaffiliated with National Novel Writing Month's official write-ins, our writing sprints will involve writing together online or in the English Common Room for 15-20 minutes, taking a short break, and then doing another writing sprint together. Though the sprints were designed to help novel writers, anyone else writing essays, short stories, poems, etc. are welcome (and encouraged!) to join us.

Sponsored by: Bookmarks English Club

5:00pm-8pm

Movie Night: PJ's and Chills

ASC Theater

Come enjoy a movie night with OLAS in your PJ's! The entrance fee is \$5 at the door. Drinks and snacks will be provided, and additional snacks will be sold! CASH ONLY!

Sponsored by: The Organization of Latin American Students

6:15pm-7:15pm

School Psychology Career Discussion

EN A117

Access Event [HERE](#)

Join Psychology Club, Psi Chi, and our guest speaker Dr. Nuzzo for a discussion about the field of school psychology. Please join Psychology Club on OwlConnect to receive an email with additional educational materials for the meeting.

7:00pm-9pm

Murder Mysterty Party

EN Room D253

Come join the Bookmarks English Club for our annual murder mystery party! A murder has been committed in the English Common Room, and it's up to the rest of the partygoers to figure out who the culprit is before they strike again. Pizza will be provided, and costumes are very much encouraged!

Sponsored by: Bookmarks English Club

Friday, November 12

4:30pm-5:30pm

Hybrid Shabbat

Access Event [HERE](#)

SCSU Remembrance Garden

Join Rabbi Barbara and the Hillel E-Board for weekly Shabbat! Everyone is welcome, no matter your faith or experience! Come celebrate the end of the week with Shabbat prayers, learn about Judaism, and make new friends! We will be meeting at the Remembrance Garden, behind Engleman Hall and Morrill Hall (in case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Fireplace Lounge on the 3rd floor of the Adanti Student Center). We will also have a computer set up at the garden on Microsoft Teams if you would like to join virtually.

Sponsored by: Hillel

4:30pm-7pm

Movie Night

ASC Room 234

Join the Multicultural Center and others for an exciting movie night!

Sponsored by: Multicultural Center

7:00pm-9pm

Friday Night Programming

Farnham Programming Space

Stop by FPS for our Friday night program!

Sponsored by: Residence Hall Association

7:00pm

An Evening with Zakiya Dalila Harris

Lyman Center

Author of this summer's New York Times best-seller *The Other Black Girl*. * Please note, all attendees must wear masks and provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test within 40 hours of the event. Socially distanced seating available.

Sponsored by: Lyman Center

7:00pm-9pm

Volleyball versus Southern New Hampshire University

Pelz Gymnasium

Come join the Owls as they take on Southern New Hampshire University!

Sponsored by: SCSU Athletics

8:00pm-10pm

Movie Night with ASA

EN A120

Relax with our members, watch a movie and hang out before finals and end of the semester.

Sponsored by: African Student Association

Saturday, November 13

9:00am-1pm

Admissions Open House

This isn't just another Open House—it's a true Southern Owl welcome!

Sponsored by: Admissions

10:00pm-1pm

"Owl Gate"

Reslife Quad

This event will be hosted in the res-life quad two hours before the last home game. All students welcome! This event will include: Free hats to the first 100 people, inflatables, breakfast foods and more!

Sponsored by: Residence Hall Association and Blue Crew

12:00pm-3pm

Football versus Stonehill College

Jess Dow Field

Come join the Owls as they take on Stonehill College on their Senior Day!

Sponsored by: SCSU Athletics

3:00pm-5pm

Volleyball versus Stonehill College

Pelz Gymnasium

Come join the Owls as they take on Stonehill College on their Senior Night!

Sponsored by: SCSU Athletics

Sunday, November 14

3:00pm-5pm

Women's Basketball versus Bloomfield College

Moore Field House

Come join the Owls as they take on Bloomfield College!

Sponsored by: SCSU Athletics

7:00pm-9pm

Modeling Clay-n-Play

Build, mold, and create anything with modeling clay.

Sponsored by: Residence Hall Association