From:	Sal Rizza, Director of OTFE <rizzas1@southernct.edu>
Sent:	Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:01 PM
To:	Rizza, Salvatore A.
Subject:	Welcome to the Spring 2026! Week 1!

ORIENTATION, TRANSITION & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Family Update: January 21, 2026

This email contains the following:

- Message from the Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
- Weekly Feature
  - Residence Life Floor Meeting Summary
- News and Notes
  - Email from the Registrar's Office
  - Email from SCSU IT Department
- This Week at Southern
  - Week of Welcome

- Resources

Dear Owl Families,

Happy New Year and Happy First Day of Classes!

We hope that you and your students have found some time to rest, reset and celebrate. A new semester brings opportunities for growth, learning, and connection, but it can also present challenges as your student balances academics, co-curricular activities, and personal responsibilities.

Today is the first day of classes!

We want to begin this semester by highlighting a few ways you can encourage your students to pursue their goals:

- o For some students, they are entering their final semester and preparing for graduation. Visit the Commencement Website for some preliminary information.
- o Students focusing on life after graduation would benefit greatly by connecting with the Office of Career and Professional Development as they prepare for the job search, apply to grad school, or exploring internships.
- o And the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services (CASAS) can help all students achieve their academic goals. While many

students wait until they experience challenges, students should consider seeking guidance early whether that be to pursue accommodations for disability, work with an Academic Coach to manage their college work and lives, or seeking out tutoring to better understand course content.

o   This week is also the Week of Welcome! We host a week filled with activities, events and programs to celebrate the beginning of the semester. See the This Week section for more info.

Please know that our office is here to support not only students, but all of you! If we can be of support, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sal Rizza
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement

Weekly Feature

↓ READ MORE ↓

Spring 2026, Residence Hall First Floor Meeting Summary
Each semester the Residence Halls begin their semester by holding floor meetings on each floor. Below is a summary of the information shared at their meetings. We think this is important to share with all of you as there are often questions regarding polices, processes and procedures in Residence Life. Resident Advisors (RAs) held the first floor meeting of the spring semester to welcome students, build community, and review important campus and

housing information. Students had the chance to introduce themselves, participate in icebreakers, and reconnect with their RA and Hall Director. RAs reviewed expectations for successful community living, including cleanliness in shared spaces, being respectful of one another, and completing or revisiting roommate agreements. They also clarified their role on the floor, as community builders, resources, mediators, and policy enforcers and that they are students and members of the community too! They reminded students about RA duty hours and availability.

The meeting covered several key policies and procedures, including:

- **Health & Safety Checks:** Conducted monthly and unannounced by two RAs. Rooms must remain clean, safe, and in compliance with university policies.
- **Guest Policy:** Residents may host up to three guests at a time, with roommate consent. Overnight guests are limited to one per night, for up to two nights per week.
- **Safety Protocols:** Students must keep ID cards with them at all times, follow fire evacuation procedures, avoid tampering with smoke detectors or equipment, and use only main entrance doors except during emergencies.
- **Campus Expectations:** Southern remains a tobacco- and vape-free campus, and alcohol/drug policies are strictly enforced.
- **Facilities & Technology:** Lounge and room furniture must stay in designated areas, trash must be disposed of properly, and students should not tamper with installed Comcast equipment. Wi-Fi information is available through each student's MyHousing portal.

Students were also reminded about housing work orders, the online **Guide to Living on Campus**, and the process for room changes. Parking regulations, pet restrictions (fish in tanks 10 gallons or smaller are allowed), and use of community spaces were also discussed.

The Office of Residence Life shared upcoming **employment opportunities**, including positions for Summer Associates, Conference Assistants, Resident Advisors, and Desk Attendants.

Academic reminders included checking registration times, meeting with assigned academic advisors, and following the university's Registration Checklist. RAs also emphasized the importance of mental health and encouraged students to seek support when needed.

Finally, students were invited to upcoming **WOW/All-Hall events**, offering fun ways to connect and engage with their residential community.

Email from the Registrar's Office

Welcome Back, Owls! We're excited to kick off Southern's Spring 2026 semester and hope you had a restful winter.
As you settle in, please take a moment to review these important deadlines to help you stay on track.
For the full academic calendar visit: https://southernct.edu/calendar.
- Jan. 21 – spring classes begin
- Jan. 27 - last day to add a course
- Jan. 27 -100% refund deadline for dropped classes (part-time students)
- Jan. 27- 90% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Jan. 27 – last day to change billing status to full-time or part-time for students in full-semester and first-session classes only
- Feb. 3 - last day to drop a course (no 'W' grade)
- Feb. 3 - 60% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Feb. 3 - 60% refund deadline for dropped classes (part-time students)
- Feb. 17 - 40% refund deadline for university withdrawal (full-time students)
- Feb. 17 - 40% refund deadline for dropped classes (part-time students)
- Apr. 14 – last day to withdraw and receive 'W' grades or to request pass-fail

Add a Class

You can add classes online in Banner Student during the first week of the semester. First-semester freshmen must consult their advisor.

Drop a Class

You have a two-week window to drop a class in Banner Student without it appearing on your transcript or affecting your GPA. Be sure to act by the refund deadlines noted above if you're seeking a refund.

Thank you,

The Registrar's Office

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Email from the SCSU IT Department

Owls,

We are excited to have you join us this semester! Please take a moment to review the helpful list of some of our popular technology offerings, online services, and resources that will be helpful on your path to success!

To make it easier to find what you're looking for, here is a numbered list of the topics that are covered on this page:

1. **IT Help Desk Support**
2. **MySCSU (My Apps)**
3. **Email on Your Phone**
4. **Password Information**
5. **Wireless Networks**
6. **Microsoft Teams**
7. **Blackboard Learn 9 with Ultra Base Navigation**
8. **Classroom Technology and Training opportunity**
9. **Free and Discounted Software on personally owned computers**
10. **Phishing Alert**

1. IT Help Desk Support

Check out our Help Desk Knowledge Base and AI Chat Bot! The IT Help Desk is here to help if you need assistance with your SouthernCT.edu account, Microsoft Teams, Microsoft OneDrive, Blackboard Learn 9, and more!

Call: 203-392-5123 (Available 24/7)

Email: **HelpDesk@SouthernCT.edu**

Self-Help Portal and Chatbot: **https://HelpDesk.SouthernCT.edu/**

Walk-in Support: Buley Library 1st Floor

- o   Monday – Thursday: 8:00am - 9:00pm
Friday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Reference the **Buley Library Hours/Calendar** for updated hours of operation. Walk-In support hours are limited to the building hours of operation.

2. MySCSU (My Apps)

MySCSU is where you can access Banner Web, Email, Blackboard Learn 9, Microsoft Teams, Word Online, and much more! Use any web browser to visit **http://login.southernct.edu/**, then use your full SouthernCT.edu email address and password to login.

These video tutorials will show you how to access some of the commonly used services, as well as the main portal itself:
MyApps Portal
Outlook Web app (OWA)
Teams
OneDrive

3. Email on Your Phone

For instructions on how to add your SouthernCT.edu email account to your smartphone or tablet, see our tutorials below:
Apple iOS **VIDEO PDF**
Android **VIDEO PDF**

For detailed information and resources on SCSU email, visit our **IT Help Desk article**.

4. Password Information

All Southern Connecticut State University students, faculty, and staff are issued University accounts, which can be used to access most technology resources by logging into the MySCSU web portal, hosted by Microsoft's MyApps service.

After logging in, you will be prompted to set up Multifactor Authentication (MFA), which is a security feature used to protect your account.
We advise that after logging in, you reset this default password to one of your choosing.

For more information and instructional guides on these processes, **click here**.

5. Wireless Networks

Eduroam is Southern's official secure wireless network for faculty and staff to connect their personally owned laptops, phones, and tablets. As a global federation, the "eduroam" network will provide you wireless access at **any participating institution**.

Eduroam supports certificate-based authentication to enhance your wireless security, technology experience, and consistent connection. Once the certificate is installed, you're all set. More info can be found on our **help desk site.**

Southern CT managed computers will automatically connect to the enterprise "SCSU-Secure" wireless network while on campus. More info can be found on our **help desk site**.

Guests and affiliates without an SCSU account can connect using our Self-Registered Guest Wi-Fi. For more details, please visit our **Guest Wireless Access** portal.

6. Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams provides Faculties, Staff, and students with a variety of tools for collaborating, communicating, and learning. Your customizable space includes features such individual instant-messaging, group chat, video or audio calls, screen sharing, file sharing, scheduling voice/video meetings, and more! Access it through **MySCSU** or install it as a desktop application or smartphone app.

If you receive a link to join a Teams Meeting, simply click on "Join Teams Meeting" in your meeting invitation. This will direct you to a page where you can choose to join the meeting either via the web or by downloading the desktop app. If you already have the Teams app installed, the meeting will automatically open there.

Check out our **Help Desk article** for more information.

7. Blackboard Learn 9 with Ultra Base Navigation

Blackboard Learn 9 is SCSU's Learning Management System (LMS). You will use Blackboard Learn 9 to access and participate in certain courses, complete assessments, engage in discussions, join Collaborate sessions, view your assignment grades, and more. With Ultra Base Navigation, the system provides a modern, streamlined layout that makes it easier to find important course information and resources. To check out some helpful walkthroughs, please log into Blackboard Learn 9 (through **MySCSU**) and click on "Institution Page" in the left navigation bar.

8. Classroom Technology and Training opportunity

As we prepare for the new semester, the AV/IT team is offering training sessions to help you get acquainted with classroom technology. We provide both personalized one-on-one training and group sessions for departments. To schedule a session, please submit a IT Help Desk work order.

To help preserve classroom technology, please press the red "System Off" button on the touch panel at the end of each class and confirm by selecting "Yes." This simple action prolongs the equipment's life, saves power, and ensures the system is ready for the next class.

9. Free and Discounted Software on personally owned computers

The Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) can be downloaded on up to 5 computers for free by logging into **Office.com** with your SouthernCT.edu email and password and then clicking on "Install Office."

Software packages are available at a reduced price by creating an account with **OnTheHub**.

Microsoft Azure Dev Tools for Teaching is another no cost option that allows students, faculty, and staff to install Microsoft software on personal devices for instructional purposes.

10. Phishing Alert

Scammers are continually devising new fraudulent messages to deceive users. As a valued member of the Southern community, we urge you to be vigilant and responsible with your account. The most effective defense against these threats is your awareness and caution. If you encounter any difficulty

identifying a phishing attempt, please reach out to the Help Desk for assistance.

Please note: The IT department will **NEVER** ask you to relay your personal information in text or ask for access to your account.
For more information on Spam, Phishing, and Junk click here.

Thanks for reading!
SCSU IT Department

WEEK OF WELCOME!
Happy Spring Semester! We are welcoming our Owls for the Spring 202 semester! We want to help students get their semester off to a positive start. We hope they'll check out some events, meet new people, engage with various resources, and stay warm!

To see the complete list of WOW events, visit the Week of Welcome website by clicking HERE.

Here are a few events that we would like to highlight:

January 21
8:00pm
High Stakes BINGO!

ASC Ballroom A

January 22
8:00 pm
Squid Games - Season Three!
ASC Ballroom

January 23
5:00 pm
Life in Slices
Farnham Programming Space

January 26
12:00 pm
Involvement Fair
ASC Ballroom

7:00 pm
Meet the Greeks
ASC Ballroom

Resources

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- these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Residence Life- with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- information regarding academic advising.

Important Dates – Spring 2026

January 21 – First Day of Classes

February 13 - 16 – Presidents' Weekend Recess, No Classes

March 16 - 22 – Spring Recess, No Classes

April 3 - 5 – Holiday Recess, No Classes

May 11 - 17 – Final Examinations

May 22 – Commencement

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