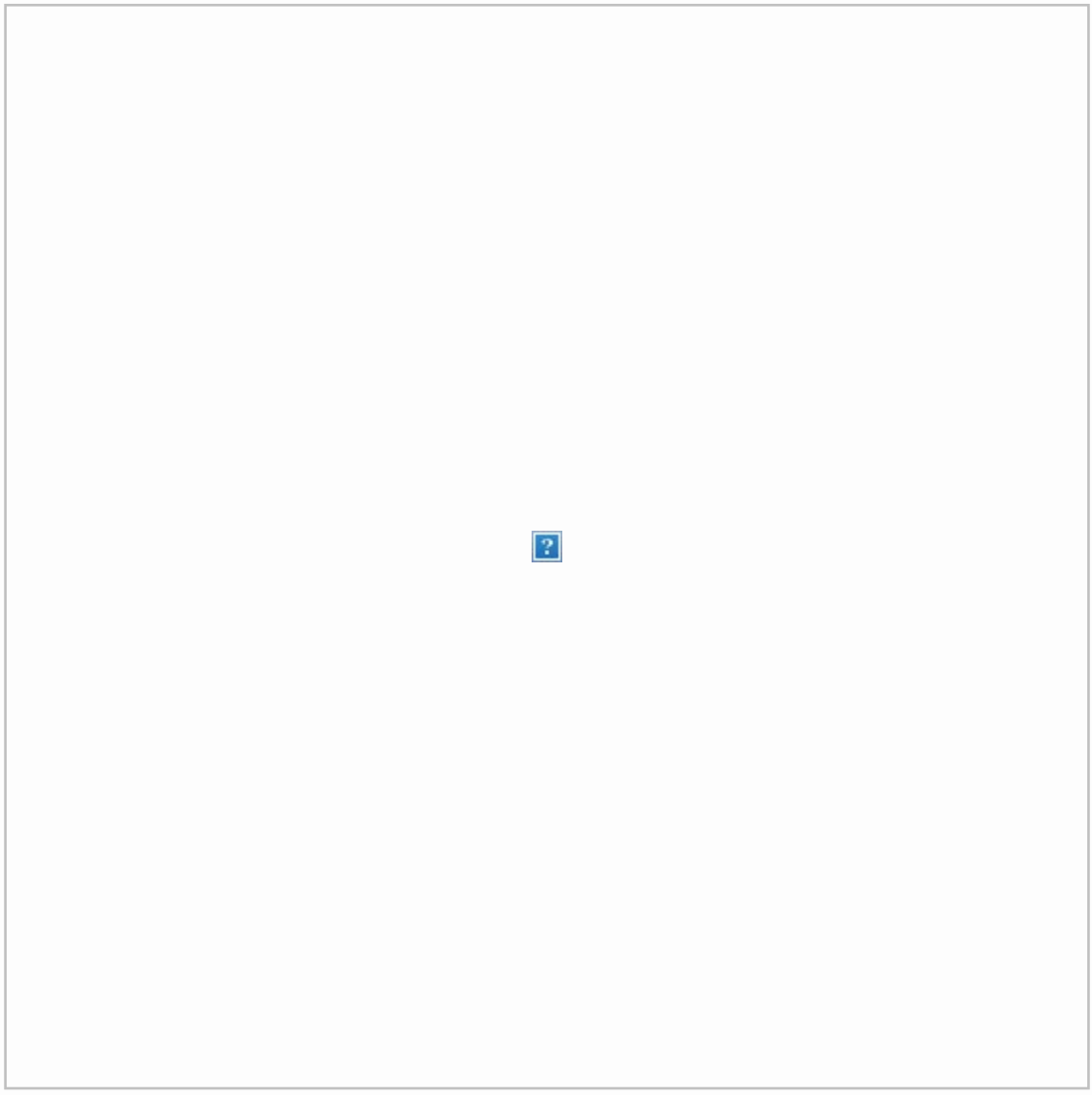
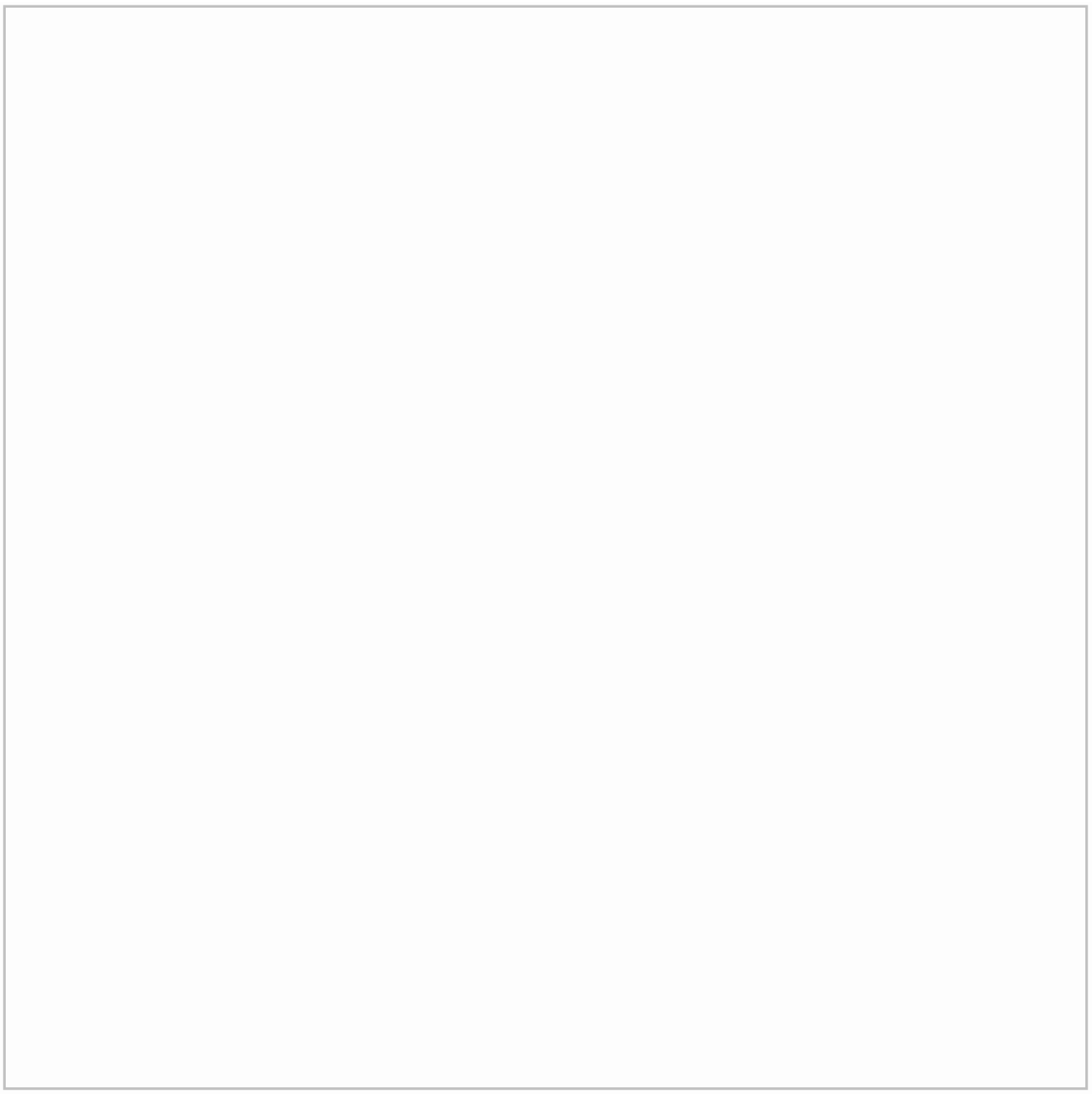
From: Dr. Sal Rizza, Director of OTFE
To: Rizza, Salvatore A.
Subject: Owl Family Update: Week 12
Date: Monday, November 9, 2026 10:56:47 AM



Family Update: November 9, 2026

This email contains the following:

Message from the Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
- Weekly Feature
  - WellStreet Journal
- News and Notes
  - Thanksgiving Break Information for Residents
  - Big Week for Athletics
- This Week at Southern
- Resources





Dear Families,

Happy Veterans Week!

Our area, **Orientation, Transition, & Family Engagement**, is home to the **Veterans Center** and **Veterans, Military, and Adult Learner Services**. As Veterans Day approaches, we extend our sincere thanks to all who have served, as well as to the families who support veterans and those currently serving in the military.

I'd also like to highlight two special events this Wednesday. At **1:00 p.m.**, we'll host our **Veterans Day Ceremony** in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. Later that day, we'll dedicate the **Veterans Center** in honor of its founder, **Jack Mordente**, a Southern legend whose vision established Connecticut's first campus Veterans Center more than 50 years ago. We're proud to celebrate his lasting impact on generations of student veterans.

Week Twelve Check-In

We are now in week twelve of the semester and and deep into the second half of the semester. While I'm certain many of your students are thriving, we know that some may be facing struggles in their lives and courses. The next two weeks are incredibly important especially for students who are struggling in their courses.

Here are just a few resources to support students:

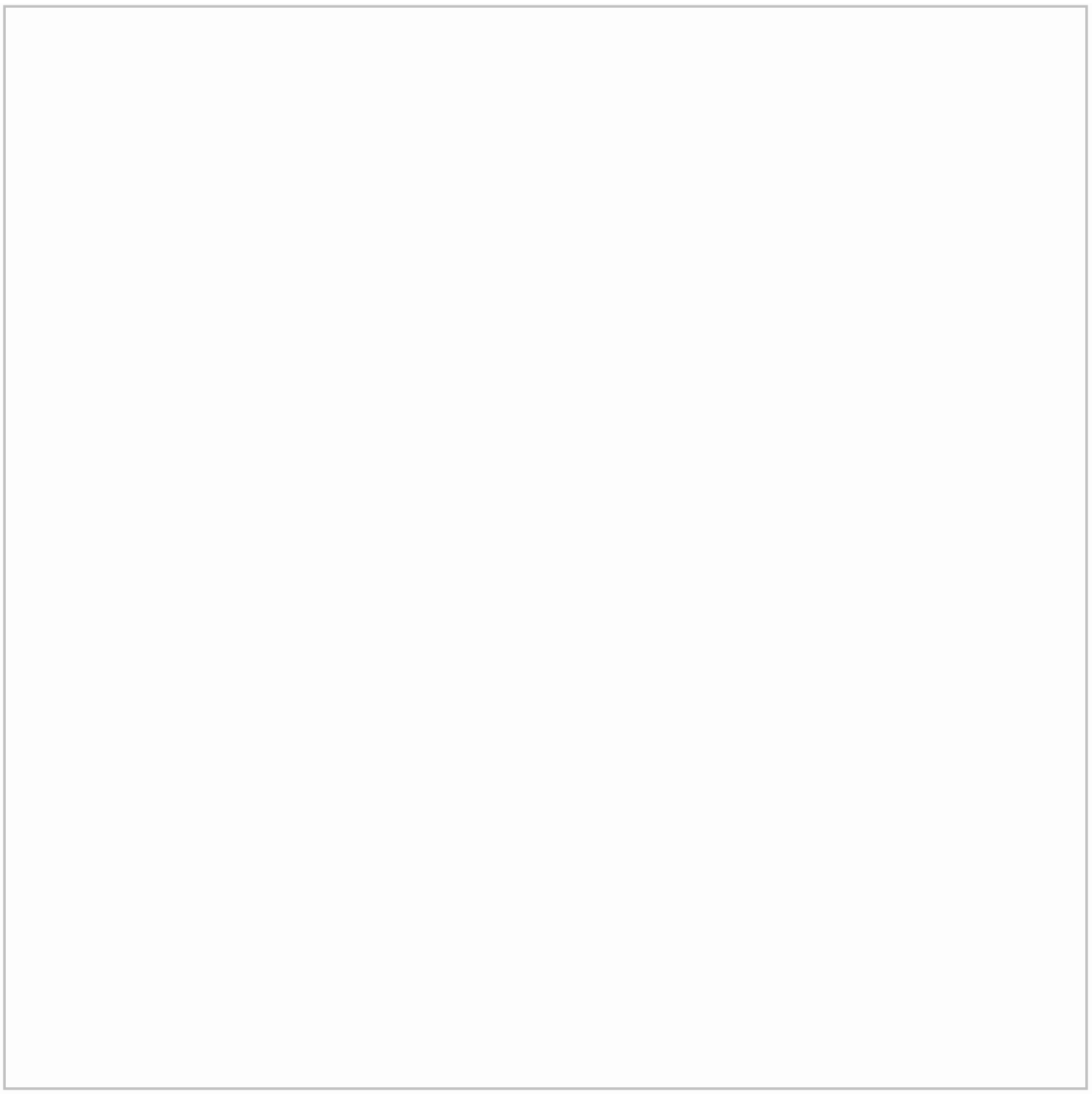
- With regard to their academic progress, almost weekly we discuss CASAS (Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services) which provides tutoring, accommodations, and student success support to all students.
- We always encourage students to connect with their professors to discuss their progress or any challenges they may face in their courses as well as to simply build relationships!
- Our Counseling Center and Wellbeing Center are wonderful resources to support students with their social and emotional wellbeing.
- And, Recreation and Fitness is a great way to stay focused on physical health!

Sometimes, despite their best intentions, students realize that continuing in a course may not be the best path forward. **Monday, November 16, is the last day to withdraw from a course.** Students who withdraw by this deadline will

receive a **"W"** on their transcript, which does not impact their GPA. We strongly encourage students to speak with their advisor before withdrawing to ensure they understand the potential implications for their academic plan.

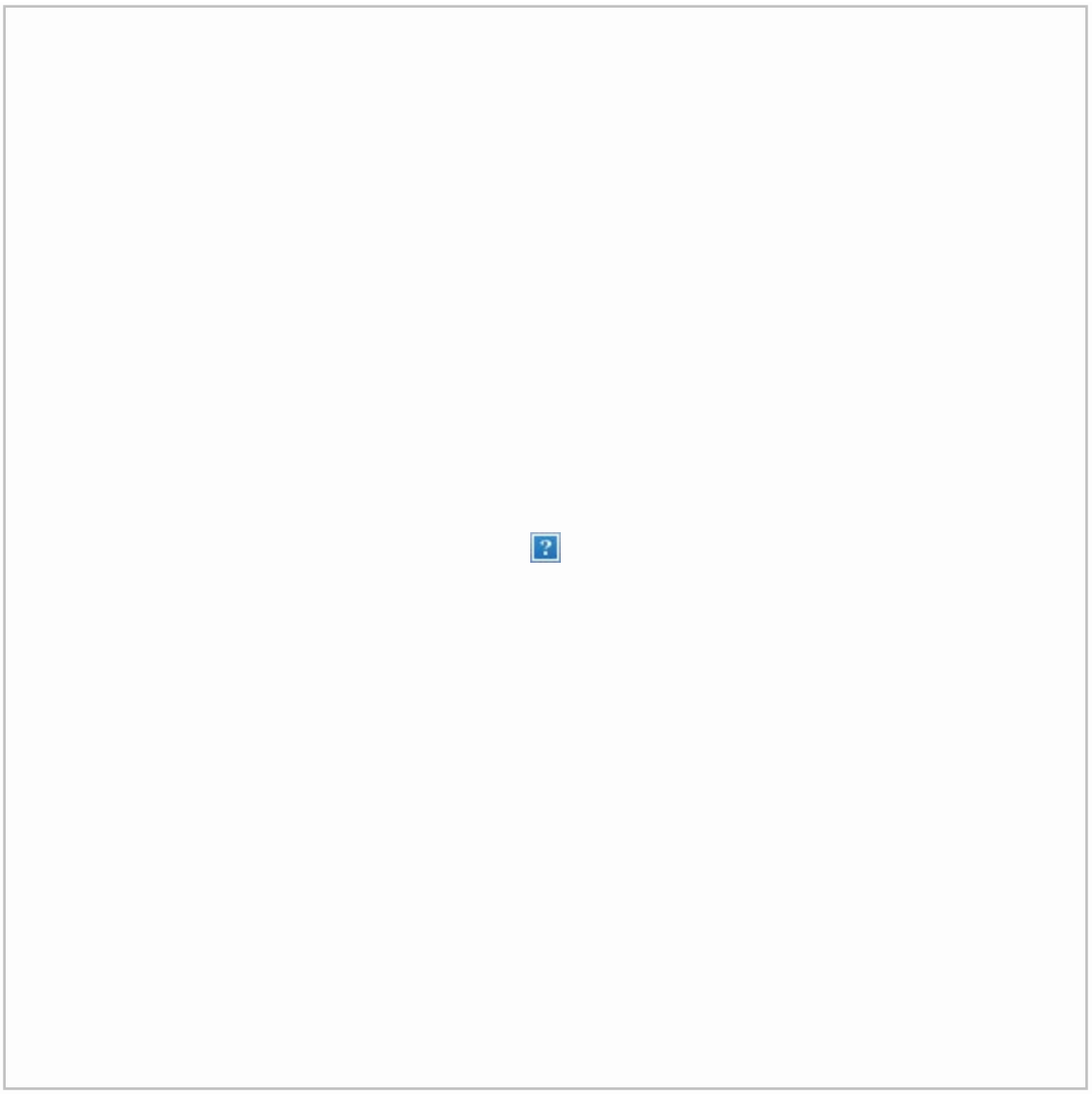
Sincerely,

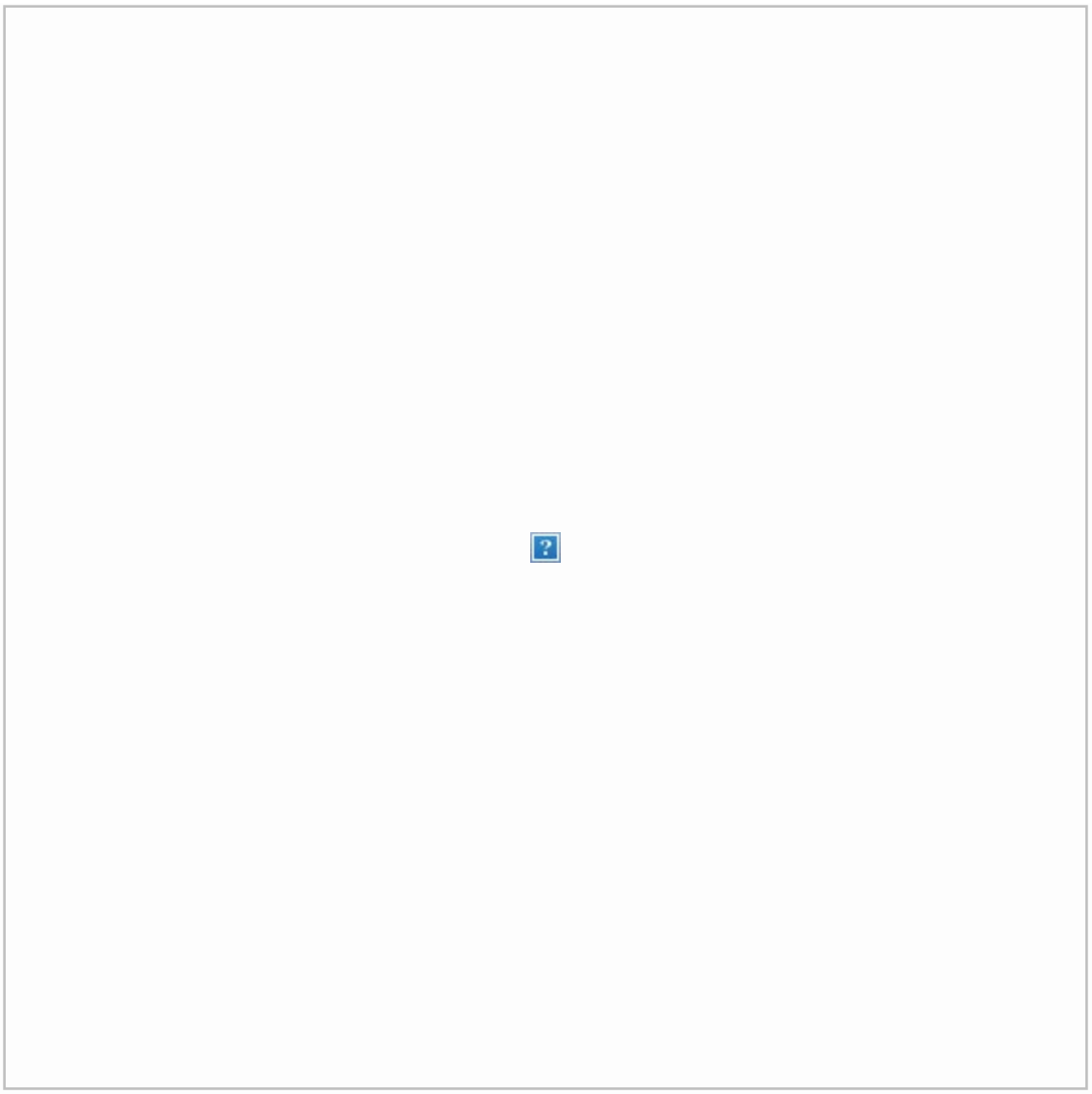
Dr. Sal Rizza
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement



Students receive a monthly newsletter from our Wellbeing Center with strategies to focus on health.

Click here to view the most recent issue!





This is a big week for Southern Athletics!

WEEKLY PREVIEW: NE10 Tournament Action, Basketball Season Openers Highlight The Week
11/9/2026 | General

SCSU Athletics' week features SCSU Volleyball's NE10 Championship First Round matchup against Saint Anselm on Tuesday, Nov. 10. SCSU Swimming & Diving host WPI on Friday, Nov. 13 while SCSU Women's Basketball will host a four-game, season-opening Classic on Nov. 13-14. SCSU Men's Basketball also opens the 2026 season at Brigeport's tournament against Post on Friday,

Nov. 13 and against Bridgeport on Sunday, Nov. 15, while SCSU Football plays its final game of the season at American International on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Residential students received the following email from The Office of Residence Life regarding Thanksgiving Break:

Dear Owls,
The holiday season is upon us!
The university will close for Thanksgiving break at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, November 24th, 2026. Normal university operations will resume on Monday, November 30th, 2026.
The Office of Residence Life offers students the option to remain on campus during Thanksgiving Break. Please see below for the available Thanksgiving Break housing options:

- **Entire Break:** Tuesday, November 24th through Sunday, November 29th.
- **Custom Dates of Stay:** Select the dates you will be staying on campus between Tuesday, November 24th and Sunday, November 29th.

If you plan to stay for the break, please complete the Thanksgiving Break Housing Form and select one of the break housing options above. The Thanksgiving Break Housing Form is now live in *MyHousing* and closes at noon on Monday, November 23rd.

To reach the form:

- Log in to your Banner Student account.
- Select *MyHousing*.
- Next to the Residence Life logo in the top-left corner, click the three lines.
- Select *Applications*.
- Click *Thanksgiving Break Housing Form*.

Before You Leave for the Break:

- Please be aware that your Residence Hall Director and Resident Advisors will be conducting health and safety room inspections the week of November 23rd.
- To report a maintenance issue, fill out the online form.

If you are leaving for the break, please do the following to prepare your room:

- Take home any valuables or anything that you will need (such as medications) during Thanksgiving break. Please understand that housing

and facilities staff may enter rooms to complete work orders.

- Clean your room and take any garbage to the dumpsters adjacent to your residence hall.
- Remove and discard any perishable items from your refrigerator that might spoil during Thanksgiving break.
- Lock your windows and close your curtains/blinds.
- Unplug everything within your room except fish tanks, your cable modem, and your refrigerator.
- Make sure your room door is closed and locked.

<u>If you are staying for this break, please be aware of the following:</u>

- Meal plans will not be active during the break, and food services will not be available.
- Please be sure to carry your student ID to ensure access to your building because the front desks are not staffed during this time.
- You must abide by all the regulations that are contained in the Academic Year Housing Agreement and the Guide to Living on Campus. Please be aware that failure to follow these rules and regulations will result in disciplinary action and possibly removal from housing.
- All trash must be discarded in the dumpster located adjacent to your residence hall. You may not discard trash in the utility room during this period. Additionally, should you use common area lounges, kitchens, etc., please remember to clean up after yourself, as custodial staff is not in the residence halls daily during break.
- Please be aware that you are **not permitted to have any overnight guests** during the break period. Additionally, no guests from outside of your residence hall may visit unless they are also approved to live on campus during the break.
- **Alcohol is not permitted in the residence halls during intersession breaks.**
- The whiteboard in the lobby of your residence hall will note the Residence Hall Director and staff member on duty each day; please contact this individual to report any problems, concerns, or issues that arise during the break.
- If you see someone who does not belong in the residence hall and/or something that looks suspicious**, please do not hesitate to contact the staff member on duty, your Residence Hall Director, or the University Police at 203-392-0186.** During the break period, it is everyone's responsibility to work to ensure that our residence halls remain safe and

secure living environments.

A Note About Packages During the Break:

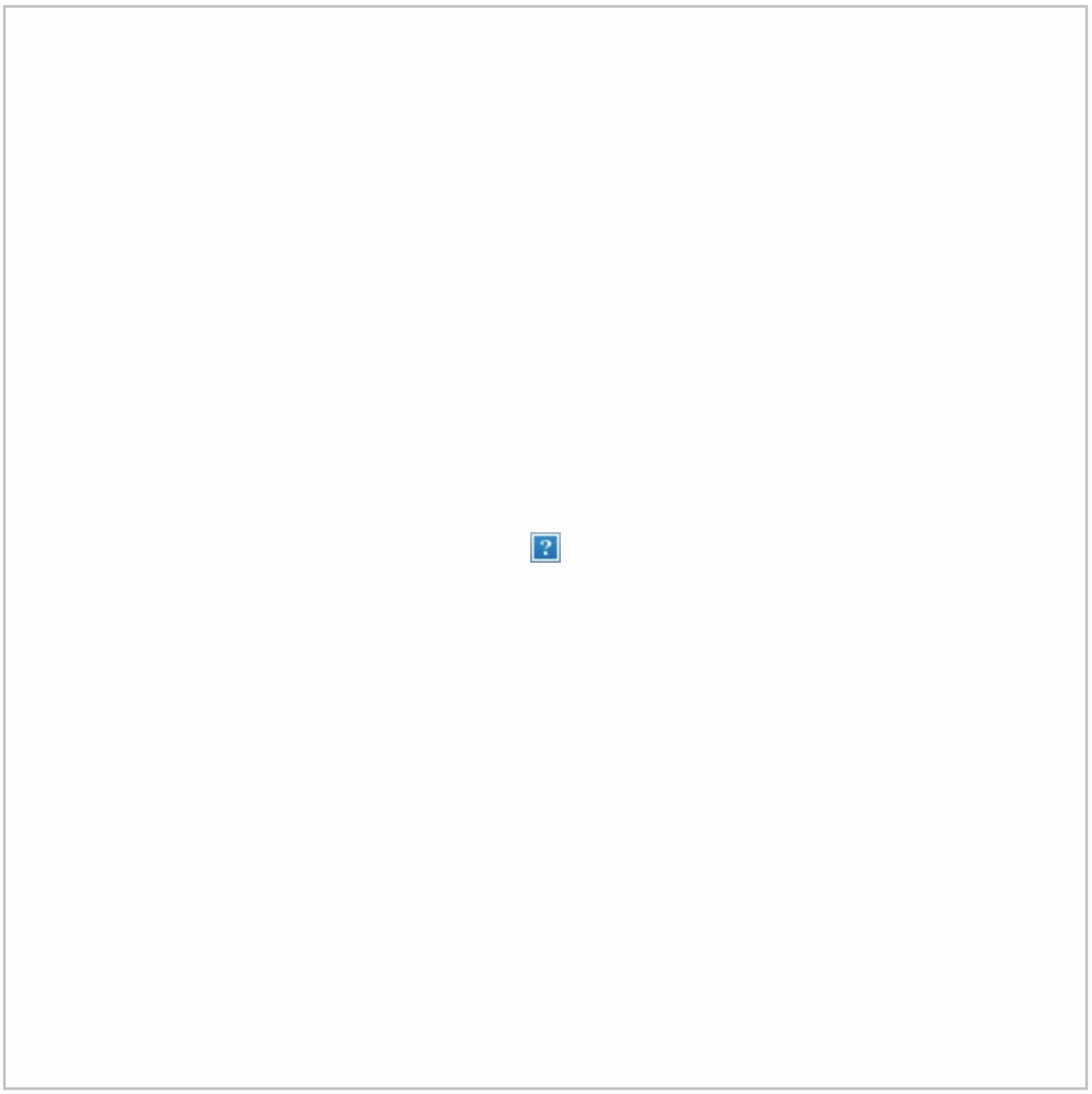
Please note that packages delivered during the break period will be held at Facilities until the week of November 30th. If you need to receive items during the break, please ensure that you update your delivery address to your break address/location. We also recommend pausing or delaying deliveries until after the break, if possible.

If you have any questions regarding Thanksgiving break, please do not hesitate to contact your Resident Advisor, Residence Hall Director, or the Office of Residence Life at (203) 392-5870 or send us an email at reslife@southernct.edu. We are open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

We hope you all have a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving break, and best wishes for the remainder of the semester!

Sincerely,

The Office of Residence Life
Office of Residence Life ***I*** *Southern Connecticut State University*
501 Crescent Street ***I*** *New Haven, CT 06515*
T: *203.392.5870* ***I F:*** *203.392.5867* ***I E:*** *reslife@southernct.edu*
W*: www.southernct.edu/residencelife*



Every week, Southern sends an email to all students highlighting the events for the week. We will share a selection of those events here.

The semester is moving quickly. As the pace picks up in anticipation of the end of the semester, the stress may also be picking up. Please take advantage of your resources — Counseling Services, Wellbeing Center, CASAS, your faculty office hours, Residence Life staff, etc. — if you need a listening ear or extra help.

Monday, November 9th

9:00am-11:00am

Free Commuter Breakfast

ASC 217 - The Nest

Join us in the Nest for a free breakfast. You can grab and go or hang back and relax with a Community Navigator.

Hosted by: OSILD

12:30pm-2:30pm

Nursing Career Connect Tabling Series

HHS Lobby

Stop by the Health and Human Services Lobby to meet directly with healthcare recruiters in a relaxed, informal setting. Each Nursing Career Connect session features one employer, giving you the opportunity to ask questions, make a meaningful connection, and explore:

- *Part-time and student employment*
- *Internships and fellowships*
- *Nurse residency programs*
- *New graduate nursing opportunities*

Hosted by: Career and Professional Development

1:00pm

Celebrate the 251st Marine Corps Birthday

Engleman A014

Join us for cake and celebrate the 251st birthday of the United States Marine Corps!

Hosted by: Veteran, Military and Adult Learner Services

1:00pm-2:00pm

PEP Talk Presents: Strategic Leadership for Sustainable Growth and Influence

SOB 122

About the Professional Enrichment Program

The School of Business Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) brings industry professionals to campus every Monday and Wednesday to share real-world insights, career advice, and valuable business knowledge. Free lunch is provided at each session, and students can earn certificates by completing three talks within the same PEP track.

Hosted by: School of Business

2:15pm-3:15pm

Sew What? Drop-in Sewing Help

Buley Makerspace

Learn to sew, by hand or machine. Get advice and help repairing, altering, or embellishing clothing and accessories.

Hosted by: Buley Library

4:00pm-6:00pm

Thrifty Owl Reuse Store

North Campus Midrise Gameroom

Looking for FREE dorm essentials? Stop by the Thrifty Owl Reuse Store, your go-to spot for gently used items to help make your SCSU space feel like home—without spending a dime!

Browse our selection of household goods, decorations, school supplies, and other dorm essentials—all available FREE to SCSU students.

Have items you no longer need? Pay it forward and donate to the Thrifty Owl! We accept clean, gently used items throughout the year and welcome donations that help keep the store stocked for fellow students.

Hosted by: Sustainability Office

4:00pm-5:30pm

Deen vs. Culture: What Does Islam Say?

ASC 303

Join us for an engaging discussion on the difference between Islamic teachings and cultural practices. Together, we will explore common misconceptions, reflect on how culture shapes our perspectives, and learn how to distinguish between what comes from Islam and what comes from tradition. Open to everyone and encouraged for thoughtful conversation and learning.

Hosted by: Muslim Students Association

5:00pm-6:00pm

Orientation Ambassador Info Session

Engleman A120

Interested in learning about the Orientation Position on campus? Want to become a student leader and welcome first year and transfer students to campus? Attend an OA Info Session to learn more details about this position and receive an application! An info session is mandatory to attend to receive

the application!
Hosted by: Orientation, Transition and Family Engagement

5:30pm-7:30pm
Leading in the AI Era: AI, Digital Transformation & the Future of Business
SOB 102
How is AI changing business, technology, and leadership? Join Sachin Lulla, EY Americas Industrials & Energy Vice Chair and creator of LLMs™: Lulla's Leadership Mental Models for Leading in the AI Era, and Alan Machuga, Executive Vice President, Digital Strategy and AI Transformation at Rheem Manufacturing and adjunct faculty member at Southern Connecticut State University. Together, they will explore how AI is changing business and technology, and what it means for students preparing to enter the workforce. Drawing on real-world leadership experience and concepts explored in BIS 370, the session will look at how organizations are using AI, how jobs and ways of working are evolving, and the skills and perspectives students will need to succeed in an AI-enabled world. The presentation will be followed by an open Q&A, giving students the opportunity to ask questions, engage directly with the speakers, and explore what these changes could mean for their careers and the future of business.
Hosted by: School of Business

Tuesday, November 10th

9:00am-11:00am
Free Commuter Breakfast
ASC 217 - The Nest
Join us in the Nest for a free breakfast. You can grab and go or hang back and relax with a Community Navigator.
Hosted by: OSILD

10:00am-2:00pm
Vaccine Clinic
Morrill Breezeway
Flu, COVID, HPV, and Other Vaccines. Vaccines available to those who are eligible. Students, Faculty, and Staff are welcome. Bring Rx/Insurance cards. In collaboration with CVS Pharmacy
Hosted by: Health Services

2:00pm-4:00pm

Treats & Letters

ASC 217 - The Nest

Join us November 10 from 12–2 PM to write heartfelt letters to veterans and those who have served or are currently serving in the military! Enjoy cookies, drinks, and sweet treats, make your own dog tag also while spreading kindness and showing our appreciation.

Hosted by: Programs Council

3:00pm-5:00pm

TKE Talk

Engleman Rotunda

Swing by and kick it with the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon at our TKE Talk Grab some candy, answer a debate question, share your take, and get to know some of the brothers. Whether you're just passing by or looking for a place to hang between classes, pull up and spend a little time with us.

Stop by for some interesting conversations, good vibes, and a chance to meet TKE.

Hosted by: Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity

3:30pm-4:30pm

Prism Jeopardy!

ASC 303

Join Prism for a fun game of queer-based Jeopardy!

Hosted by: LGBTQIA+ Prism

5:00pm

SCSU Volleyball NE10 Championships - First Round

Pelz Gym

*Cheer on the Owls as they take the **first step towards an NE10 title** against Saint Anselm!*

Hosted by: SCSU Athletics and Recreation

Wednesday, November 11th

9:00am-11:00am

The Study Spot Cafe

ASC 217 - The Nest
Community Navigators invite you to The Study Spot Cafe for a quiet study session. Set a goal, then enjoy coffee and snacks. Achieve your goal for the day and be entered for a chance to win an Amazon Gift Card!
Hosted by: Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Development

11:00am-1:00pm
Drop In Crochet Classes
Buley Makerspace
Stop by on Wednesday's from 11am to 1pm for drop in crochet lessons! No prior experience or materials required. Additionally, you can bring a project you need help with!
Classes Include:
-How to Hold a Hook
-Stitches: Single Crochet, Half-Double Crochet, and Double Crochet
-Beginner projects including granny squares, scarves, and hats
-Support with more complex projects including amigurumi
-How to create gauge swatches
-How to read and follow a pattern
-Yarn types and how to determine corresponding hook sizes
We look forward to seeing you!
Hosted by: Buley Library

11:00am-1:00pm
Paw-Ject Runway: DIY Dog Accessories
Buley Makerspace
Get crafty in the SCSU Makerspace! Join CASAS Connect to design and create adorable pet accessories, from bandanas to bowties. Your creations will take center stage at our upcoming dog fashion show featuring Guiding Eyes' dogs! Drop in anytime from 11:00AM - 1:00PM at the SCSU Makerspace.
Hosted by: CASAS Connect & Guiding Eyes Puppy Raising @ SCSU

12:00pm-2:00pm
News Show
Earl Hall 122
Level Up Your LinkedIn!
Come and watch or take part in our News Show!
Hosted by: SCSU TV

1:00pm

Campus Veterans Day Program

ASC Ballroom

Join Southern Connecticut State University as we come together in recognition of Veterans Day and as part of SCSU's Week of Veterans Programming, a week dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans and military-connected community members.

This year's program will feature a special panel of SCSU alumni veterans who will share experiences and perspectives on military service as they reflect in conversation with us about life beyond the uniform. ***The program will also feature a keynote address from Giacomo "Jack" Mordente, an SCSU Veteran Legend, whose legacy of service and commitment to the veteran community continues to inspire generations of Southern Owls!*** *Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the greater campus community are encouraged to attend as we recognize those who have served and reaffirm Southern's commitment to supporting our veterans and military-connected students.*

Hosted by: Veteran, Military and Adult Learner Services

1:00pm-2:00pm

PEP Talk Presents: Fortune 500 series-Internships/NBC Sports

SOB 122

Join NBCUniversal / NBC Sports professionals for a conversation about career opportunities and how to stand out in a competitive industry. Discover: Freelance, part-time, full-time, and internship opportunities. Insights on building your experience and gaining a competitive edge. Career journeys and advice from SCSU alumni and former interns.

Hosted by: School of Business

1:00pm-3:30pm

Know Your Status. Take Control

Granoff Hall

Free Rapid HIV Testing and education with Student Health Services and Fairhaven Community Health Center. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are recommended.

Hosted by: Health Services

4:00pm-6:00pm

Relax and Reset
Engleman B121
Relax and Reset after midterms! Join Programs Council and make your very own slime and stress balls! Take home your very own self-care kit including bath bombs, chapstick, facemasks, and more! Stick around to the end and win self-care prices!
Hosted by: Programs Council

Thursday, November 12th

9:00am-11:00am
The Study Spot Cafe
ASC 217 - The Nest
Community Navigators invite you to The Study Spot Cafe for a quiet study session. Set a goal, then enjoy coffee and snacks. Achieve your goal for the day and be entered for a chance to win an Amazon Gift Card!
Hosted by: Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Development

11 AM – 12 PM
Fresh Perspectives Counseling Group
Counseling Services Engleman B219
Fresh Perspectives is a group for Freshman/Sophomores/Transfer students that will focus on life at SCSU. Freshman and Transfer students will learn from Sophomore students about life on campus such as support for academics as well as how to build community on campus. Students will learn about the many ways to get involved while learning effective strategies to maintain balance as they also do their best to thrive academically. Students will use the group as an initial way to build community through making connections with one another and explore ways to gain a fresh perspective as they navigate developmental challenges at SCSU.
Hosted by: Counseling Programming and Outreach

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
PB&J Thursday
Engleman B121 Breezeway
Thursdays just got a whole lot better! . Join ProCon on campus for PB&J Thursdays!
Stop by, grab a free PB&J, enjoy snacks, a refreshing drink, and take a well-

deserved break from your busy day!
Hosted by: Programs Council

11:50am
Campus RUCK March
Buley Library Patio
Join us as part of Southern Connecticut State University's Week of Veterans Programming for a Campus Ruck March, bringing our campus community together in recognition and support of our veterans and military-connected community!
For those unfamiliar, a ruck march is a military tradition involving walking a designated distance while carrying a weighted backpack, or "ruck," symbolizing endurance, resilience, and teamwork. Our campus ruck march will feature an approximately ***3.5-mile route (three laps around campus)****, with optional hills and stairs. Participants are encouraged to wear military-inspired apparel or SCSU gear; backpacks and added weight are completely optional!*
All members of the Southern community are welcome! *Whether you complete the full route or simply join the group for one lap in solidarity, we hope you'll come out to the event to connect with others and show your support for those who have served!*
Hosted by: Veteran, Military and Adult Learner Services

1:00pm-2:00pm
Life in Motion - Apartment Hunting
Buley 449
Prepare for independent living by learning how to search for apartments, compare housing options, understand lease agreements, and budget housing-related expenses. This session will help you feel more confident navigating the rental process.
Hosted by: CASAS Connect

3:00pm-5:00pm
AniThursday
ASC 306
Anime movie night for anime lovers and any curious anime watchers.
Hosted by: Anime Society

3:30pm-5:30pm

Thrifty Owl Reuse Store

North Campus Midrise Gameroom

Looking for FREE dorm essentials? Stop by the Thrifty Owl Reuse Store, your go-to spot for gently used items to help make your SCSU space feel like home—without spending a dime!

Browse our selection of household goods, decorations, school supplies, and other dorm essentials—all available FREE to SCSU students.

Have items you no longer need? Pay it forward and donate to the Thrifty Owl! We accept clean, gently used items throughout the year and welcome donations that help keep the store stocked for fellow students.

Hosted by: Sustainability Office

6:30pm-8:00pm

Brushstrokes & Bars

ASC 217 - The Nest

Brushstrokes & Bars will be a fun, relaxed, and interactive creative event where residents can take a break from school, meet other residents, and enjoy an evening of painting, music, food, non-alcoholic mocktails, and self-expression. Students will have the opportunity to create their own canvas while enjoying a build-your-own mocktail station, food, and music throughout the event. The event will also feature an open mic where residents can get on the mic and express themselves through spoken word, slam poetry, rap, karaoke, storytelling, music, or any other form of creative expression. The goal is to create a welcoming space where residents can be themselves, share their voices, and connect with others.

Hosted by: Schwartz Hall, BROSE & ASA

7:00pm-11:00pm

Noche de Gala

ASC Ballroom

Join the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) for our annual Noche de Gala, an evening celebrating the vibrant culture, music, food, and traditions of Latin America! This year, we are proud to honor Brazil and showcase the beauty and diversity of Brazilian culture. Get dressed up and join us for a night filled with Latin music, dancing, delicious food, live performances, games, and more! Whether you're already familiar with Brazilian culture or simply looking to experience something new, everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us. Most importantly, Noche de Gala is a fundraiser supporting Latin American

students at Southern Connecticut State University. A portion of the money raised will go toward sponsoring the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education scholarship. Come celebrate, dance, eat, and help make a difference with OLAS!
Hosted by: OLAS

8:00pm-10:00pm
NFL Watch Party
Farnham Programming Space
Come watch the New York Giants take on the Washington Commanders! Bring your friends and enjoy the game with delicious finger foods, good vibes, and a chance to win a surprise prize through our giveaway for the winning team!
Hosted by: Programs Council

Friday, November 13th

10:00am-3:00pm
On The Ground: A Day of Learning, Dialogue and Community Building Around Structural Racism
Adanti Student Center
Join us for a campus-wide event bringing together SCSU students, faculty, and staff with regional Groundwater Approach participants, invited peer institutions, and community.
Hosted by: Innovation Hub & Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

3:00pm-5:00pm
Planetarium Movie Night
Morrill Hall Planetarium
Get the movie theatre experience at the planetarium! (Star Wars Revenge Of The Sith Will Be Playing)
Hosted by: Physics Club

4:30pm-6:00pm
Shabbat
English Lounge, Engleman D253
Join Hillel for our weekly Shabbat!
Hosted by: Hillel - Jewish Students Organization

5:00pm-7:00pm
Music Club CONCERT
Garner Recital Hall - ENGC112
Come one and all! Music Club members are truly so creative and wonderful and talented, and we should all totally support them! With money! And baked goods! And compliments!
Hosted by: Music Club

6:30pm
Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving vs Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Hutchinson Natatorium
Cheer on the Owls as they take on Worcester Polytechnic Institute!
Hosted by: SCSSU Athletics and Recreation

Saturday, November 14th

9:00am-3:00pm
NABA FALL DAY
SOB 122
Join us for a career workshop with NABA Professionals.
Hosted by: SCSU NABA

10:00am-4:00pm
SCSU Ultimate Tournament
Jess Dow Field
Come check out SCSU Ultimate in their first home tournament of the year!
Hosted by: Recreation & Fitness

1:00pm
Women's Basketball vs Georgian Court University
Moore Fieldhouse
Cheer on the Owls as they take on Georgian Court University!
Hosted by: SCSU Athletics and Recreation

7:30pm-10:00pm
Fall 2026 Fashion Show: NFL X Runway SZN
ASC Ballroom
This is our annual fall fashion show. This year's theme is NFL, we will be

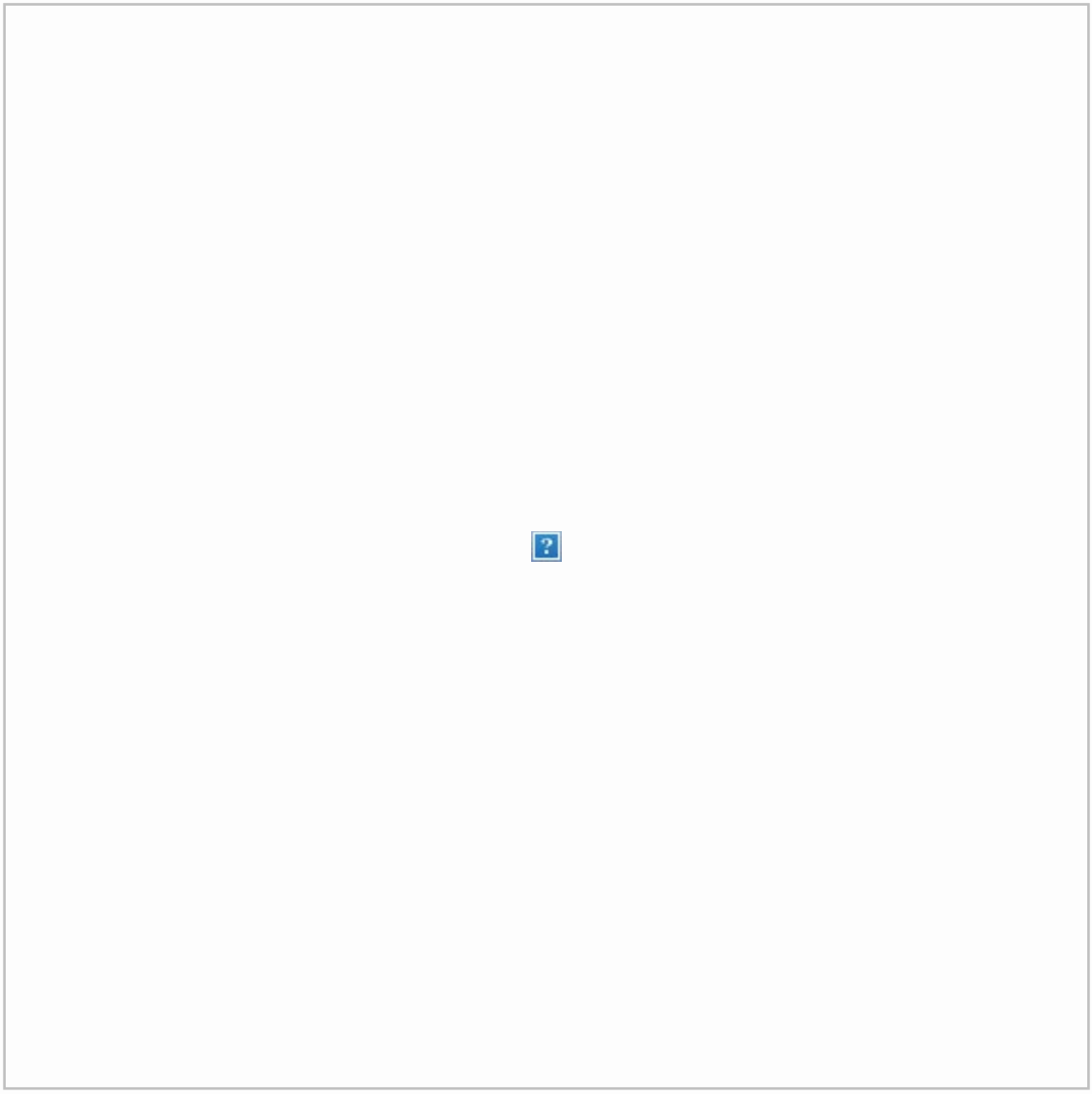
utilizing the ballroom as our runway. Since the theme is football this is where football meets fashion, and the runway becomes our field. Get ready for bold looks, fierce walks, and a show you won't forget!
NON STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A TICKET FOR $10.00.
Purchase tickets HERE
NON-STUDENTS MUST SHOW PAYMENT CONFIRMATION AT THE DOOR.
Hosted by: F.A.C.E. Models

Sunday, November 15th

1:00pm
Women's Basketball vs Mercy University
Moore Fieldhouse
Cheer on the Owls as they take on Mercy University!
Hosted by: SCSU Athletics and Recreation

1:00pm
Remembering Mike Shea Celebration of Life
John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts
A celebration of the life, advocacy, and teaching of Professor Mike Shea, in words, art, and laughter.
Please join Professor Shea's current and former students, colleagues, family, and the wider SCSU and New Haven community for an afternoon of remembrance. Be ready to share your favorite story about Mike, the funnier and sillier the better. RSVP here
This event will be live-streamed. The link to the livestream will be available here on this calendar page on Sunday, November 15.
Hosted by: English Department

7:30pm
String Ensemble Performance
Engleman Hall - Garner - C112
SCSU students perform solo and ensemble pieces for string instruments of various styles, including original compositions.
Free admission
Hosted by: Music Department



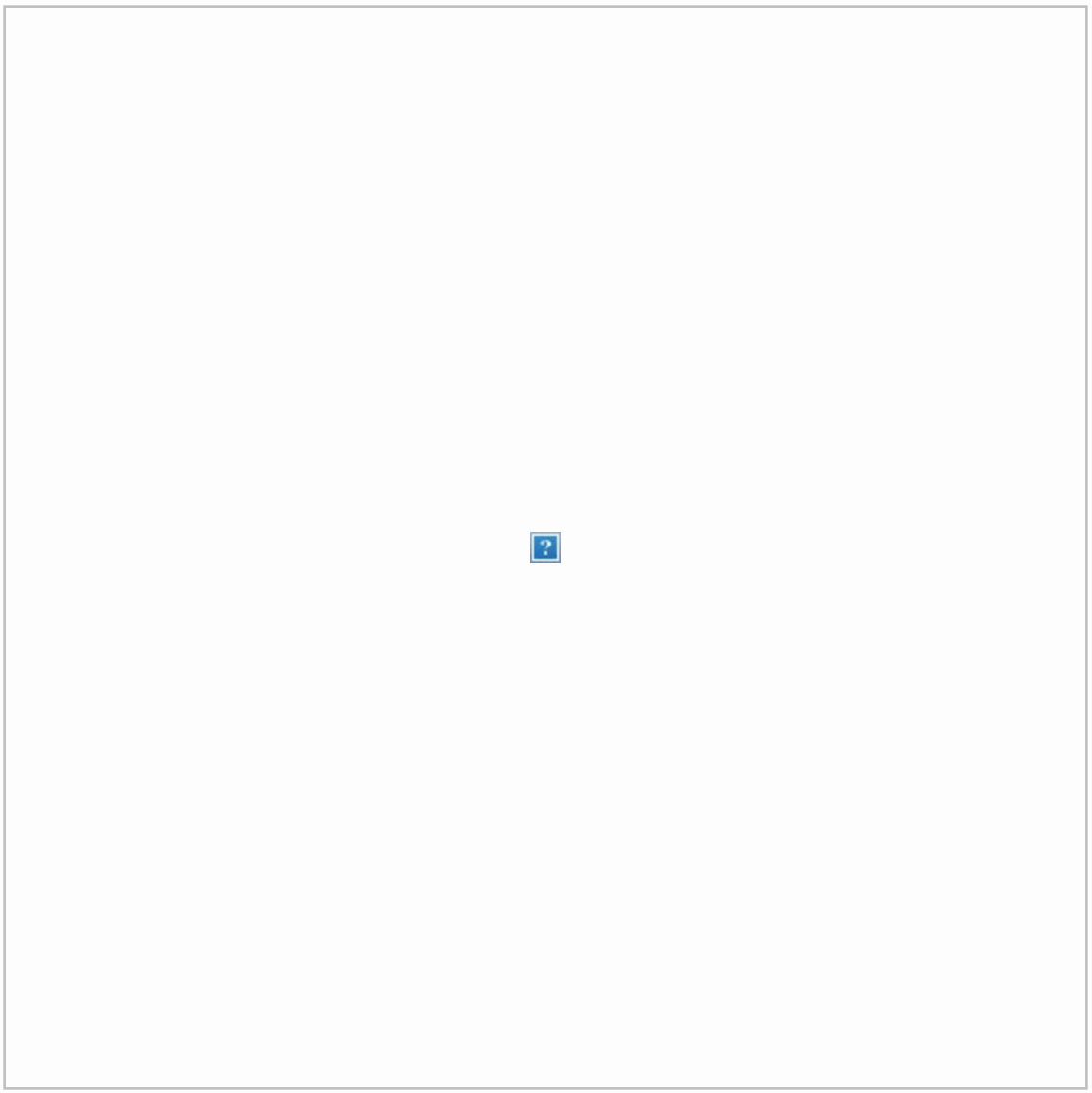


Helpful Links- these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

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.



orientation@southernct.edu
203.392.5168

501 Crescent Street
06515,New Haven

Unsubscribe

Mailin