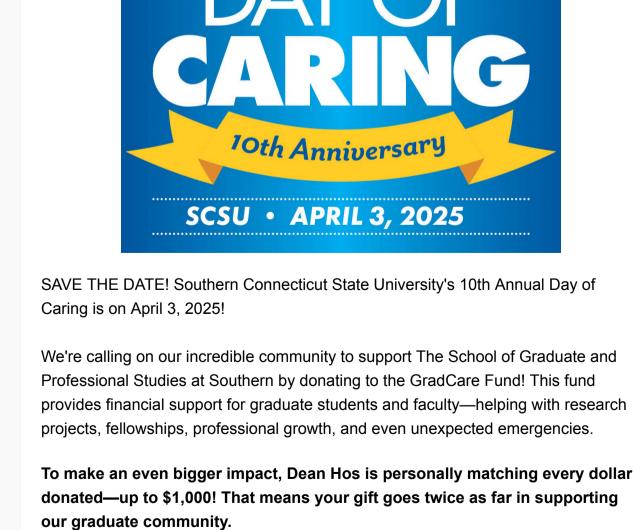
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY **MARCH 2025 Graduate Monthly** School of Graduate & **Newsletter Professional Studies DID YOU KNOW?** The month of March is named after the Roman god of war, Mars. In ancient Rome, March was considered the first month of the year. As the bridge from winter to spring, March carries strong symbolism of growth, rebirth, and transformation! **IMPORTANT DATES** Last day to withdraw and receive "W" grades (first eight-week Tuesday, March 4 courses only) Monday, March 17 -Spring Recess, No Classes Sunday, March 23 Monday, March 31 Fall graduate/post-baccalaureate registration begins Tuesday, April 15th Last day to withdraw and receive "W" grades March Holidays & Events **WOMEN'S HISTORY** MONTH All Month Women's History Month National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month National Irish American Heritage Month Friday, February 28 Ramadan Begins (Sundown) (Muslim) Resource Guide Tuesday, March 4 Mardi Gras Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday (Christian) Saturday, March 8 International Women's Day Sunday, March 9 **Daylight Savings Time Begins** Thursday, March 13 Purim (Jewish) Holi (Hindu) Friday, March 14 Friday, March 14 Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Pi Day Friday, March 14 March 17 - 23 Neurodiversity Celebration Week Friday, March 21 World Poetry Day Saturday, March 29 -Eid al-Fitr (Muslim) Sunday, March 30 Monday, March 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility **Share Your March With SGPS!** We know that March is full of all kinds of "madness!" Feel free to send us a photo of what you're up to this March for a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter. :) **Survey Link - Share Your March! Graduation Commencement 2025 -Registration Now Open!** Are you eligible to graduate this May? Check your Southern email account for an email with "SCSU Graduate Commencement – Register Now" in the subject heading (sent on February 13). You will need to fill out a form to verify your name, participation, and collect your guest tickets. If you did not receive an email and believe that you are eligible to graduate this spring, please contact your graduate coordinator or advisor. For more information about 2025 graduate commencement and ordering regalia, see https://grad.southernct.edu/commencement/. **Graduate Spotlight: Rick Raucci Defends Dissertation, Building Family and School Partnerships** (Dr. Jess Gregory, Advisor) On February 18th, Rick Raucci defended his dissertation, Building Family and School Partnerships: A Qualitative Study of Adult Education ESL Family Literacy Participants and the Connection to their Child's School. Advised by Dr. Jess Gregory, Raucci examined the perceptions and lived experiences of participants in an adult education family literacy program with a focus on English as a second language (ESL). His research explored how participants described their engagement and sense of partnership with their child's PK-12 school(s). Through his research, Raucci applied Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory to the experiences of families/parents who participated in an adult English language learning program. Findings from the study revealed that these programs were overwhelmingly positive and transformative, with participants crediting the program with an increased ability to engage and effectively partner with their child's PK-12 school(s). Raucci's dissertation was sponsored by Dr. Jess Gregory, Professor and Chair of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department. Her research centers on student engagement and teacher evaluation; focusing on trust, power, motivation, urban education, instrument development as well as teacher attitudes towards inclusion. As an Ed.D. candidate, Raucci has been instructed by Dr. Gregory since the beginning of his doctoral program. Speaking to her experiences as his dissertation sponsor, Dr. Gregory shares that she "knew from these earlier experiences that Rick was very hard-working with consistent attention to detail as well as a view of the larger picture. He was committed to doing work that mattered, not just completing a task to advance his career or earn a credential." Dr. Gregory also emphasizes the importance of Raucci's work: "His work is being made more important every day by the changes happening in Washington DC and the pressures policy makers feel to ensure that tax dollars are supporting worthy programming. The knowledge that an adult education program focused on learning English can have such wide reaching, positive effects for the families it serves bolsters the work we do at SCSU and supports our mission." On behalf of the Graduate School, we congratulate Rick Raucci for his successful dissertation defense and excellent educational research! Click to watch Rick Raucci's defense! **Resource Spotlight: Center for Academic Success** and Accessibility Services (CASAS) THE CENTER ACCESS

OUT ACCESS

OUT ACCESS inside.southernct.edu/casas 203-392-6828 SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Need help with a project? Brainstorming an outline? Struggling with citations? **CASAS** has a tutor for that! Come to Buley 303 to take advantage of graduate-level peer tutors who excel in writing to provide support with master's program material. Our tutors can help in a variety of academic disciplines, and are available throughout the week to assist you! **Graduate Writing Tutor Availability:** Mon: 9am-4:30pm, 5:30pm-8:30pm Tue: 12:30pm-3pm, 6pm-9pm Thur: 9am-4pm. 6pm-8pm Sun: 4:30pm-8pm Students can make appointments at the Academic Success Center via SSC Navigate from their MySCSU apps page, or by calling 203-392-8967. They can also stop by the Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Buley Library during our normal operating hours. Hours: M-W 8:00am-9:00pm R 8:00am-8:00pm F 8:00am-4:30pm Sun 4:30pm-8:00pm More about CASAS: The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services promotes equal access to the collegiate learning environment so that students can excel socially and academically. The Center supports students in gaining confidence and independence as college students. We do this through developing academic skills, mastering course materials, enhancing self-advocacy, and promoting social and emotional well-being. CASAS Webpage **Virtual Exchange Opportunity - TU Braunschweig:** Picturing the Unimaginable The Office of International Education (OIE) and the Graduate School are **NEW HYBRID COURSE** very excited to share an opportunity to PICTURING THE UNIMAGINABLE: EMPOWER CRITICAL THINKING AND INSPIRE UNITY AND HOPE take a virtual class through our partner Course Dates SoSe 25 Picturing 15.04 - 13.06.2025 in Braunschweig, Germany, Technische Universität Braunschweig. 15.04-27.05.2025 April -July 2025 SCSU students can enroll in a course Workshop Days 10.06 & 11.06.2025 on visual Holocaust children's literature through TU Braunschweig, entitled Picturing the Unimaginable - New mixed-discipline hybrid course designed by Dr. Tatia Gruenbaum in cooperation with the Institute for English and American Studies.
 Explore the contribution visual Holocaust children and young adults' literature can make Empowering critical thinking through Explore the contribution visual Holocaust Children and young adults literature can make
to supporting global citizenship education and promoting the United Nations Convention
on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
 This course shares its name with the 2024 graphic novel edited by Erik de Graaf and
Christine Braun. This publication serves as the course foundation, alongside its traveling
exhibition organised by Camp Westerbork, set to be displayed at TU Braunschweig in visual Holocaust children's literature (picturebooks and graphic novels) to This course concludes with a group project (Workshop Days) which will be streamed during the closing event for online participants and supporting organisations & individuals. inspire unity, resilience and hope. Online-only option available for students residing abroad. This course consists of five online sessions (three synchronous, two asynchronous), complementary online book talks (attendance is optional) and will conclude with a two-day face-toface/on-site workshop. During the workshop, students will work on a group project assignment, focusing on the graphic novel featured in the course title (Picturing the Unimaginable). For international students, there is an online-only option for the workshop. The online sessions will start on April 15th and will take place on Tuesdays from 4.45 - 6.15pm UTC+2 (11:45am-1:15pm EST). For more information and to register, please contact Erin Heidkamp, heidkampe1@southernct.edu. **Graduate Student and Faculty Excellence Awards** The Annual Graduate Student & Faculty Excellence Awards honor the dedication, passion, and hard work of our graduate students and faculty. Nominated by students, staff, and faculty, award recipients are recognized for their exceptional contributions to the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. For more information about the awards and nomination deadlines, please visit the Graduate Excellence Awards page on the SGPS website! Graduate Awards Webpage **Upcoming Events Postponed: Grad Connect** March 6, 3:30-5pm This collaborative, in-person resource fair will provide an opportunity for new and current graduate and professional degree students from across programs to engage with each other while also learning more about the resources, offices, and organizations that help to support your development and progression at Southern. This event has been postponed - stay tuned for more Grad Connect events in the future! **College of Education Movie Night: Brother Outsider** March 20, @ 5:30pm LGBTGEQAIP2S+ Davis Hall, Room 223 The College of Education will be hosting a movie night full of meaningful conversation and snacks! We'll be playing Brother Outsider: The **BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE** Life of Bayard Rustin to celebrate the LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN intersectionality of black and LGBTQIA+ Please enjoy: Intersectionality Immersion, Racial/Sexuality/Gender Identity Discourse, and lots of Snacks! identities during the Civil Rights Movement. THURSDAY, MARCH 20 For more information/to RSVP, please contact AT 5:30 PM Sean Laragy, laragys1@southernct.edu. Davis Hall Room 223 For more information: laragys1@southernct.edu 33337ACCELERATE **Understanding Accelerated Pathways to Graduate Study** March 25, 12-1pm Graduate Student Lounge BU 438 (Buley Library, 4th floor) Learn how an accelerated pathway Accelerating Your Future: Understanding program can save students time and Accelerated Pathways to Graduate Study money while earning a bachelor's and March 25, 2025 • 12:00pm -1:00 pm Graduate Study Lounge, BU 438 master's degree in five years. Guest Learn how an accelerated pathway program can save you time and money while you earn your bachelor's and master's degrees in five years! speakers will be Dr. Meredith Sinclair, Faculty Director of Academic Advising; Dr. Meredith Sinclair, Faculty Director of Academic Advising Dr. Lisa Galvin, Associate Dean for Graduate Enrollment M Dr. Lisa Galvin, Associate Dean for Mr. Jordan Jones, Coordinator for Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Enrollment Management; and TOPICS · What is an accelerated pathway? Who should consider an accelerated pathway program? Mr. Jordan Jones, Coordinator for · What are the benefits? Interdisciplinary Studies. · How is graduate school different and why should I consider it? This event is for faculty, staff and students. **RSVP Here Grad Chats: Exploring Identity in Graduate School** March 25, 3:30-4:30pm Graduate Student Lounge BU **Exploring Identity in Graduate School** 438 (Buley Library, 4th floor) TUESDAY, MARCH 25 @ 3:30-4:30PM GRAD LOUNGE, BU 438 (BULEY LIBRARY, 4TH FLOOR) Join us as we dive into the intersection of gender, identity, and academic life! Drawing on insights from the field of OPEN TO Women's and Gender Studies, we will ALL! explore how gender and identity shape your grad school experience, and discuss strategies for creating inclusive, supportive spaces for all students! This event is open to all graduate students and faculty/staff, and will be iate School (203) 392-9670 o facilitated by Dr. Tricia Lin, Chair & Professor of Women's & Gender Studies. Light refreshments will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own snack or drink! For a reasonable accommodation to attend this event, please contact the Graduate School via email at gpsinfo@southernct.edu or call (203) 392-5240. **RSVP Here! Graduate School Information Session for Veterans (Virtual)** March 27, 5-6pm Join us for a discussion about graduate study at Southern. You will learn about what specialized support is available to veterans and their families, as well as what sets Southern apart from other institutions in how we value our veterans. **Opportunities for Grad Students** <u>Graduate Student Changemaker</u> Dr. Sandra Holley-Carter Award & D.C. With the Dean Graduate Student **Changemaker Award** The SGPS is seeking passionate and engaged graduate students to apply for the **Dr. Sandra Holley-Carter Graduate Student Changemaker Award!** This prestigious award will be Apply for the Dr. Sandra Holley-Carter Graduate presented annually to graduate Winner(s) will travel to Washington D.C. with the Graduate Dean to attend the Council of Graduate Schools Advocacy Day on April 23, 2025! students who demonstrate a deep commitment to leadership, academic APPLY NOW excellence, and advocacy work in their **DUE 3/7** respective fields. bit.ly/3Ey81tb The recipient(s) will also be able to join the Graduate Dean at the annual **CGS Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.** on April 23, 2025, in partnership with the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS). This is a wonderful opportunity for graduate deans and students to meet with federal agency officials and Members of Congress to discuss issues impacting U.S. graduate education. **Application Form:** https://forms.office.com/r/3ZGZWfZxhR Nominations Due: March 7th, 2025 **Graduate Commencement** Graduate Commencement Student Speaker Competition 2025 STUDENT Are you graduating this May? The Graduate School is looking for an **SPEAKER** esteemed graduate student to address the Southern Graduate School COMPETITION community and deliver an inspirational Graduating this spring? speech to their fellow graduate Interested in speaking students at Commencement this May. at Commencement? Apply Now! Qualifications: bit.ly/4h7qCKR Must complete all graduation requirements by August 2025. Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Must be skilled in public speaking, with the ability to deliver a coherent and captivating speech within 2-3 minutes. **Application Form:** https://forms.office.com/r/kQH7qZJvjg Deadline: April 2, 2025 **Annual Graduate Student Survey Spring '25** The Hoot Spring '25 Call for Submissions! **ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS!** Fill out our form for a chance to be featured in the Spring '25 edition of Southern's Graduate Newsletter The Hoot! Article topics include... International Post-Grad Plans for **School Plans** Experience **Summer Break** bit.ly/43g7RAK **SUBMISSIONS DUE** Questions, suggestions, or concerns? MONDAY, Feel free to reach out to Jonah Junga, SGPS Graduate Assistant at APRIL 7! jungaj 2@southernct.edu. **Survey Link!** 



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Let's come together to empower the next generation of scholars and professionals.

Southern News

LaShante James, '04, MS '14, Named Connecticut High School
Assistant Principal of the Year

**Southern's 10th Annual Day of Caring!** 

LaShante James, '04, MS '14, assistant principal of Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, Conn., has been chosen as the 2025 High School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). James formerly served on the SCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and is the former president of the Board.

Click here for the full article!

Southern Connecticut State University Earns Prestigious

Carnegie R2 Designation — The First in Connecticut

Southern Connecticut State University has reached a significant milestone in its commitment to academic excellence, earning national recognition for its faculty and research quality. The Carnegie Foundation announced today that Southern has earned a 2025 Carnegie Classification for Institutions of Higher Education (Carnegie Classifications)

Southern is the state's first and only R2-designated university, and one of only 139 in the country. This is particularly significant for prospective students interested in research-driven careers. Yale University and the University of Connecticut are the only institutions in the state to receive a higher ranking, both R1.

Click here for the full article!

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Research Activity Designation - Research 2: High Spending and Doctorate Production -

placing it among an elite group of research-driven universities nationwide.