



# THE LINK

## fsc parent newsletter

### Student Spotlight: Student Body President, Zion Virgil

My name is Zion Virgil, I am an international student from the Bahamas, and I have the incredible pleasure of serving as the Student Body President for the 2024-2025 academic year. I realize the privilege I have being in this position and assure you that it is not something I take lightly. I am grateful to represent the rich history of Florida Southern College and strive to promote the betterment of our campus community.



The Student Government Association is off to a fantastic start to the 2024-2025 academic year. Our student leader training allowed for greater collaboration between student organizations, unique leadership-building opportunities, and a focus on making every student feel a sense of belonging through all we do. I am pleased to say that this training has allowed our team to go above and beyond in such a short amount of time.

Our annual Blast Off event had an estimated 1,500 attendees and 109 student organizations, campus partners, and community partners; the largest the event has been in the last five years. For the second time, we hosted our Student Leader-led Convocation. At this special convocation, we shared information about the revival of our Pack the Bus initiative, a partnership with Student Life that provides safe shuttling services to and from our home ice hockey games. We also announced that we now have an FSC-themed red velvet with gummy snakes milkshake available through a new partnership with Steak n' Shake. This event was a huge success, and we are looking forward to it becoming even better next year. Additionally, we have fully elected our body of 36 senators as well as committee heads for the academic year. The early conclusion of senator elections allowed for more engagement and progress to be made early on in our Senate Body and the introduction of a new event 'Ballin' with SGA.' This event was designed as an opportunity for the student body to meet and converse with their senators through games of volleyball. There was resounding attendance, and we hope to continue the event for year. As you may know, our Red Friday Every Friday Campaign successfully launched last year and is still in full swing. First-year students learned about this campaign and received their shirts during orientation weekend. The first Really Red Friday of the year received nearly 200 attendees (150% increase). Lastly, the financial tier system for grant funding has been refined to allow SGA-recognized organizations to have fair and better access to funding, as well as expedite the approval of our grant application process.

In the SGA acronym, the most important letter is "S," because we serve students. I cannot wait to continue to share all that comes from SGA this year.

– Zion Virgil, Class of 2025

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### Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving Break is Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29. Residence Halls remain open during this time. Your Moc should check the [Portal](#) for dining location options and hours during Thanksgiving Break. If your Moc is flying out of Tampa (TPA) or Orlando (MCO), FSC Shuttle Services are available. Students must register for this service at least 3 business days in advance. For more information and registration, please click here: [Airport Shuttle Services](#)

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### Final Exams

Final Exams for Fall 2024 classes are December 9-11. Since some students will be taking college exams for the first time in December, we asked our Student Success team to share advice.

**Q:** *As we near semester exams, should students' study habits change?*

**A:** Students should only consider changing study habits if their previous study methods have been unsuccessful or if their final exam is in a different format than tests they've taken for the class(es) already.

**Q:** *Is there a best way to prepare for exams?*

**A:** The best way to prepare for exams is to create a study plan that allows for multiple weeks of studying rather than cramming the week before or night before the exam. Students can work with a Peer Academic Success Coach through the Academic Fuel programs for assistance in developing a study plan. Students may also attend instructor office hours, Academic Fuel sessions, instructor supplemental sessions, as applicable, work in study groups, and/or create a study guide. Instructors may also offer study guides – it never hurts to ask!

**Q:** *What preparation resources do students use in Academic Fuel during exam time?*

**A:** Academic Fuel programs operate through the last week of classes each semester. Students can attend sessions for peer tutoring, supplemental instruction, writing assistance, and academic coaching – all opportunities are free and support students as they prepare for final exams.

**Q:** *What kinds of exams will students encounter? Are exams always cumulative?*

**A:** Instructors determine the type of exam and whether the final will be cumulative or not. To prepare for the type of exam and know whether it will be cumulative, students should attend classes, ask instructors during class, office hours, or before/after class, as appropriate. Often, students will encounter multiple choice, short response, matching, essay, or a hybrid of multiple exam styles during finals. Some final exams may be oral or written rather than an exam students sit for during finals week.

**Q:** *How do faculty help students prepare for exams?*

**A:** Faculty help students prepare for exams by providing an overview of information to be learned during class, being available outside of class for additional support, providing students with resources, as appropriate, and sharing information that will help students develop their understanding of course information overall. Course instructors are the first resource students should seek when looking to gain better insight about exams and course knowledge.

### **Academic Support Needs?**

*Students can see the Academic Fuel schedule on the Portal and schedule an appointment.*

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## **Residence Communities Close for Christmas Break**

Residence Communities close for Christmas Break on Thursday, December 12th at 1:00 pm and will reopen Sunday, January 5th at 12:00 pm. Please review [Checkout Procedures](#). For other information about Community Living please visit the [Community Living website](#).



### **Interested in Sending a Care Package for Thanksgiving or Final Exams?**

Send a Brain Boost Care Package or Birthday Party package to your favorite Moc. The [Mocs Love Care Package site](#) makes sending student-designed care packages for any occasion a cinch. And there's no better way to say thinking-of-you than with a package delivered directly to residence halls.

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## **December Graduation**

FSC's Commencement Ceremony will be held in Branscomb Memorial Auditorium, 1100 Johnson Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803, on December 14, 2024, at 10:30 am. Tickets will be required for admission into the ceremony.

Each graduate will receive six tickets for guests.

Tickets can be picked up (by graduates only) Monday,



December 2, 2024, through Friday, December 13, 2024, in the Registrar's Office, located in the Buckner Building. Tickets may be picked up from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Cap and gown orders will be available for pick up beginning **Monday, December 9, 2024**, at the FSC Bookstore. Please contact or visit the Bookstore with any questions: (863) 680-4186.

**Congratulations and best wishes to our FSC December graduates!**

## REMINDERS

### Important Upcoming Dates

- November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break
- December 7: [Florida Southern College Christmas Gala](#)
- December 9-11: Final Exams
- December 12: Winter Break Begins (see above for more details and links)
- January 5-6: Students Return to Residence Halls
- January 7: Spring Semester Begins
- [Full Academic Calendar Link](#)

### Did You Know?

- **2024-2025 Resident Advisor Applications are live!** The application for the '25-'26 Resident Advisor Team is now open; students can log on to Engage to apply. Applications close on December 18th.
- **Summer Scholars: 2025 Courses and Housing:** Is your student considering FSC summer classes? Please refer them to the [Summer Scholars website](#) for comprehensive information about the summer experience. Registration is available in the portal for Summer A (May 8-June 20), Summer B (June 23-August 1), and Summer C (May 8-July 31) terms, with flexible housing options.
- **Florida Southern's Counseling Center** offers Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Crisis Management Counseling, Wellness Education Workshops, Case Management and Mental Health Screenings. Encourage your Moc to reach out to the counseling center for any of these services.



## RESOURCES



For upcoming important dates, please access the academic calendar.

CALENDAR



#### DINING ON CAMPUS

Twelve venues offer everything from home-style meals to healthful on-the-go options, keeping our Mocs happy and healthy.

MENUS



#### EMERGENCIES

If weather causes cancellations, closings, or other school-related emergencies, we will alert the community via the text message system.

OPT IN  
HERE

### **Parent & Family Page**

Florida Southern has a page for parents and family members.

### **Counseling Services**

Florida Southern offers free, confidential, individual counseling and support groups.

### **Student Health Center**

In partnership with Lakeland Regional Health, FSC provides quality, accessible health care. Walk-ins are welcome.

### **Student Accounts**

### **Community Living**

### **Bookstore**

### **Academic Center for Excellence**

### **Athletics**

To see updates & reminders throughout the week, follow our [Parent Facebook page](#).



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