



THE LINK

fsc parent newsletter

Wright At Home: FSC Homecoming and Presidential Inauguration

If you are an FSC alum, mark your calendar for February 12-15 and feel “Wright at Home” as you return to campus for an unforgettable celebration. Please visit the [Homecoming page on the FSC website](#) for details.



In addition to the Homecoming events, the College is also celebrating Dr. Martin’s FSC **Presidential Inauguration** with a series of exciting events designed to honor this special occasion and collectively celebrate. Please note: The events below are for current FSC students only.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Founders Day Convocation (Required for All Students)

Students will be a part of this historic celebration, as we honor the rich traditions of Florida Southern College and celebrate Florida Southern College’s 18th President, Dr. Jeremy P. Martin. This year’s Founders Day Convocation will feature a keynote address from Robert Gates, former United States Secretary of Defense, offering his unique insights and perspectives.

Time: 10:50 AM* – 12:00 PM

Where: Branscomb Auditorium

Attendance: **Required** – excusals can be requested through Engage at [this link](#).

**The program will begin promptly at 10:50 AM. Students are encouraged to arrive early to allow sufficient time for check-in and seating.*

Really Red Inauguration Day

Students can show their Moc pride by wearing red all day to celebrate FSC’s Presidential Inauguration! Let’s paint the campus **red** in honor of this historic occasion and demonstrate the pride of our Florida Southern community. Go Mocs!

Dr. Martin’s Favorite Foods Dinner (“JPM Favs”)

Your Moc can use their Snake Bites to enjoy a special menu featuring Dr. Martin’s favorite foods, including Chick-fil-A sandwiches, Fred’s Market Restaurant mac-n-cheese, banana pudding, and peach cobbler with ice cream. Favorites will be available while supplies last, so don’t miss out! We look forward to celebrating this historic occasion with school spirit, great food, and community fun!

When: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Where: Wynee’s Bistro



Summer Scholars: Summer 2025 Courses and Housing

Is your student considering remaining on campus for summer 2025 to take classes? Being a Summer Scholar allows students to live on campus, fast-track their path to graduation, and even lighten their course load for the upcoming fall

The Mocs Milestone: Graduation Ready!

The Mocs Milestone: Graduation Ready! is an online, non-credit Canvas course for graduating seniors in their final semester. It provides a place for graduating students to easily locate all of their final semester, non-academic graduation-related requirements and information in one centralized place. It includes information about the graduation check and application information, two career planning activities, graduating student survey information, commencement information, and more! Eligible students will be notified via email and automatically enrolled in the corresponding Canvas course. Students may e-mail questions to careercenter@flsouthern.edu.



Attention Parents of Spring 2025 Graduates: The website is now live for students to order their **graduation regalia and more!** You can visit the link here: [Order Your Graduation Regalia](#). The site will remain open and take orders until **March 14, 2025**, so make sure your Moc doesn't wait too long to secure everything they need for their special day. Let's get ready to celebrate this incredible milestone in style!

Spring Commencement will be held on May 3 at Lakeland's RP Funding Center. Graduating seniors will receive an email (via their FSC email account) from the Registrar's Office during the week of Spring Break with Commencement details. Attending family members must have tickets, which will be distributed to graduating students. More information will be shared in upcoming issues of *The Link*.

Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)

Colleges use the FAFSA form to determine how much financial aid (which could include grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans) students are eligible to receive. Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA annually. The 2025 FAFSA is now open and we encourage your student to visit the FAFSA website ([link](#)) and complete the federal government's updated 2025 paperwork. If your student has questions, please have them contact FSC's Financial Aid Office: financialaid@flsouthern.edu

Housing Selection

Housing Selection for 2025-2026 is just around the corner, and the Office of Community Living is working hard to prepare presentations that ensure students and families understand the process. Community Living will host the following webinars for parents and students:



Housing Selection 25-26 Live Webinars

Wednesday, February 19th, at 4:00 PM | Please register in advance by [visiting this link](#).

Thursday, February 20th at 4:00 PM | Please register in advance by [visiting this link](#).

Note: The presentation will be recorded and posted for any families who cannot attend the live session.

Group Advising and Pre-Registration

On Feb. 26, students will engage with their academic departments in Group Advising, an annual precursor to course registration. At Group Advising, students will connect with peers and explore opportunities for research. Students should watch their FSC email for Feb. 26 meeting locations and times. Students will meet individually with their advisors over the subsequent month for personalized guidance.

Following their required meetings with their Academic Advisor, registration begins at 7:00 AM ET on the following dates:

- March 31 (for students with 93+ hours, all Honors students, and Hollingsworth Scholars)
- April 3 (for students with 60+ hours)
- April 7 (for students with 30+ hours)
- April 9 (for students with 0-29 hours)

Academic Advisors and the Center for Student Success are here to actively support students in reaching their goals - students are encouraged to connect with them anytime for guidance and resources.

Spring Break

March 3-7, during Spring Break, residential students will be able to remain in their place of residence, if they are not traveling. During Spring Break, meal plans are paused and on-campus dining is limited; meal plans resume on Monday, March 10. If your Moc is staying on campus during the break, please encourage them to explore optional Discover Florida trips that will be offered that week ([link](#)).

Discover Florida Trips

Junior Journeys

International travel is a benchmark students often recall as a time that was essential to their self-discovery. Students interested in traveling abroad with their FSC peers and faculty to immerse themselves in new cultures and experience engaged learning in diverse environments are encouraged to sign up for a Junior Journey. FSC faculty design trips—which take place over spring break, summer, and fall break—as passion projects, with curriculum and clear learning objectives that incorporate local resources, offering students opportunities to earn between one and six credit hours. Destinations for May 2025 include Dominica, Europe (Paris and London), Germany, Honduras, Italy, Latvia, Spain (France and Italy). Visit the [Office of Student Travel](#) for more information.

Students qualify to take advantage of significantly discounted prices once they've completed four semesters at Florida Southern—hence the name *Junior Journey*. Transfer students qualify for the same discounts after completing three semesters at FSC.

For more information, students should plan to attend the Junior Journey Showcase on Thursday, February 29 from 10 AM - 3 PM in Honeyman Pavilion. Students may also explore options via the Travel tab in the Portal, and families are encouraged to read more on [FSC's Office of Student Travel page](#).



Black History Month Events

BSU Spelling Bee

Wednesday, February 5, 6-7 PM
Simmons Center

Celebration of Black Jazz Composers Volume 4

February 12 at 7:30 PM
Branscomb Auditorium
Directed by Jeffrey Benatar

In honor of Black History month, The Florida Southern College Jazz Program will feature classic compositions by the greatest Black Jazz composers. The concert will highlight all FSC's Jazz ensembles.

General admission tickets, \$10 children / \$20 adults. Free for FSC Faculty, Staff and Students with ID. Call 863-680-4296 for more information.

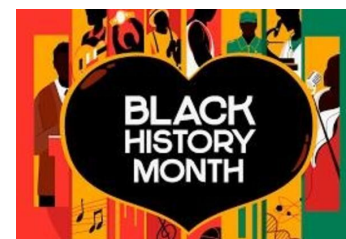
[Visit this link to get your tickets.](#)

Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels

Monday, February 17, 11:00am - 4:00 PM
Hollis Room

BSU Family Feud

Thursday, February 20, 6-9 PM



Pippin

Directed by Jim Beck
Musical Director: Christianne Roll
February 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 (7:30 PM), 16 and 23 (2:30 PM)
Loca Lee Buckner Theatre



There's magic to do when a prince learns the true meaning of glory, love, and war in Stephen Schwartz's iconic and unforgettable musical masterpiece. Winner of four 2013 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, this updated circus-inspired version of Pippin continues to captivate and appeal to the young at heart throughout the world.

Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by Roger O. Hirson. Pippin is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

General admission tickets, \$10 children / \$20 adults. Free for FSC Faculty, Staff and Students with ID. Call 863-680-4296 for more information.

[Get your tickets](#)

Events in Lakeland

[Black History Festival 2025](#) | City of Lakeland | City of Lakeland, February 15, 10am-2pm

[Caribbean Carnival](#) | Bonnet Springs Park | February 22, 5-9pm

[Lakeland History and Culture Center Lecture Series](#) | LibCal | Lakeland Public Library

REMINDERS

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 4 – March 14: Orientation Leader Applications Open
- February 7: 15th Spencer Symposium: Careers in Chemistry
- February 12: Dr. Martin's Presidential Inauguration & Founders Day Convocation (*current students and staff only, please*)
- February 12-15: Homecoming
- February 14: Really Red Friday
- February 17: Sankofa African American Museum Event
- February 19 and 20, 4:00 PM: Housing Selection Information Webinars
- February 21: Sophie's Birthday Celebration
- February 25: Love Your Neighbor: A Diverse Dining Experience
- February 25: SGA Town Hall
- March 3 – March 7: Spring Break
- April 18: Good Friday Holiday – No Classes
- April 28-30: Final Exams
- May 3: Spring Commencement
- [Full Academic Calendar Link](#)

Did You Know?

- **The Squeeze:** A free golf-cart shuttle servicing downtown Lakeland, now has a convenient stop located by the ROTC building on campus, making it easier than ever for students to easily access downtown Lakeland. This service runs Friday through Sunday, giving you a reliable and free way to explore local shops, restaurants, and events without the hassle of driving or parking. Whether you're heading out for a weekend adventure or just want to experience more of what Lakeland has to offer, the new Squeeze stop is here to make it happen! [Click here to learn more.](#)

- **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.
- **Work Order:** If your Moc's residence needs service—whether it's a repair, wireless connectivity troubles, or if something needs facilities' attention otherwise—students must submit a Work Order. Work Order links can be found on the students' single sign-on page and a "Contact Us" tab on the student Portal, to improve accessibility. Work Order submissions ensure a prompt response and allow the College to identify patterns and trends to scale appropriate solutions.

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.

[Send a Mocs Care Package](#)

Sending a care package to your college student is a thoughtful way to show you're thinking of them, no matter how far away they are.

[Student Accounts](#)

[Community Living](#)

[Bookstore](#)

[Academic Center for Excellence](#)

[Athletics](#)

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