

Room and dining changes occur on campus

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Since the semester started, significant changes have been made for resident students and students with meal plans. All changes for the residence halls were put in effect this fall and will continue until Spring 2025.

One of the biggest changes made was the triple rooms now being offered to students in Schwartz Hall.

Previously, Schwartz did not have triple rooms. However, there have been instances where some of the rooms in Schwartz were quads, with four beds in a room.

“Universities like SCSU continuously evaluate housing needs based on enrollment trends and other factors,” Director of Residence Life Stephen Sweet said.

Sweet said that the decision for this change reflects the adjustments the Office of Residence Life makes to meet the needs of students.

Another big change made for resident students was the number of credits required to stay in some residence halls.

Credit adjustments were made to Brownell Hall and Schwartz Hall.

Resident students are now required to have a minimum of 28 credits to live in Brownell Hall and 36 credits to live in Schwartz Hall.

“We continuously

evaluate our policies and procedures to ensure that we can provide the best possible experience for students here at Southern,” Sweet said.

All other residence halls still require the same credits as last school year, which can be found on the university’s website on the housing options page.

Sweet said he encourages any students with questions about housing options on campus to contact the Office of Residence Life.

At Connecticut Hall, there have also been adjustments implemented. The dining hall’s hours were extended to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

Wyatt Cannon, the marketing manager for Sodexo at the university, said that this extended time was made to cater to students.

“Last year, after gathering student insight, the decision to extend dining hours in Connecticut Hall was made with the university to provide students an ‘all you care to eat’ dining experience later into the evening,” Cannon said.

Cannon said this change benefits students, as they can get the most out of their swipes.

“Now, students, regardless of their meal plan size or structure, are able to eat as much as they’d like for one swipe,” Cannon said.

While the dining hall hours of operation have increased, the hours in

the Adanti Student Center have decreased.

Dining options such as Tres Habaneros, Peking Plate, and The Grill now close at 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:30 p.m. on Friday. SubConnection closes at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

“Since the student center food court is structured like most retail locations, one swipe or a specific price equates to a set amount of food; by extending Connecticut Hall’s hours, we avoid limiting our students’ portions for that one swipe,” Cannon said.

Along with extended hours, the university also worked to accommodate students by working to lower costs of the meal plan.

“During the 2023–2024 academic year, the university and student representatives worked together to keep meal plan prices from increasing year over year,” Cannon said. “To achieve this goal, these parties identified areas of the meal program that were driving up the cost of plans.”

Cannon said that these modifications included removing under-utilized programs such as the green to-go containers and guest swipes.

These eliminations can help to enhance dining options for students who commute.

“And introduce a new Food Loot plan for commuters looking for a lower-cost option to get meals during their busy schedules,” Cannon said.



The outside entrance of Schwartz Residence Hall.



Students walk by Connecticut Hall on Monday, Sept. 30.

Students suffocate due to poor air conditioning in Morrill Hall

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

Fall has begun, yet heat is rising in Morrill Hall.

Morrill is experiencing air-conditioning problems which are wreaking havoc on classrooms, learning and teaching as the sweltering heat rampages through.

The second floor of Morrill has a separate air-conditioning system from the first floor and basement that was replaced in the last year.

Morrill Hall opened in 1961 and is the home of computer science, journalism, geography and earth science. The other air-conditioning systems in Morrill Hall were between 35 and 40 years old and have finally stopped working.

Eric Lessne, the associate vice president for capital budgeting and facilities operations, has worked in his position for almost four years.

“The air conditioner in the building is on its last leg,” Lessne said. “We fixed it dozens of times,

and the ultimate fix is we have ordered new equipment.”

This project of changing the cooling system is in a timely matter, since classes are in session and facilities need to close off certain classrooms in the basement.

The new air-conditioning system was ordered in the fall of 2023 and is due to arrive in October.

On top of that, the grueling cost the university will have to shell out will be heavy financially.

The new air conditioning will cost, “around \$150,000 to \$200,000,” Lessne said.

The parts were ordered last fall but have not been delivered to the university due to the pandemic effecting shipping.

“We are working on it,” Lessne said. “People just think because they don’t see immediate action, they don’t think we are working on things.”

As of right now, Room 014 has a temporary air-conditioning system

that sits behind the projector. The temporary air-conditioning system is loud and can be a nuisance when professors are speaking.

Sociology major Leilany Cruz, a sophomore, has a journalism class in the basement of Morrill.

“During class, I can’t really focus because I am just too hot and get too overwhelmed,” Cruz said.

Social work major Dayna Smith, a sophomore, has had classes in Morrill.

“Morrill does get pretty hot. Always a struggle to walk all the way there to then sit in class and be dying from how hot it is in there,” Smith said.

Hopefully the new air-conditioning system will be installed during winter break and up and running for the spring semester.

Until then, the temporary air-conditioning system in the basement will have to do, and hopefully the humidity dies down as the weather becomes chillier.



Air conditioning in Room 014 in Morrill Hall.

Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off at the Multicultural Center

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Graduate Intern Gian Melendez of the Multicultural Center, MCC, who is a first-generation Puerto Rican, said that he has a deep connection to the annual Hispanic Heritage Month, held from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

“It means everything,” Melendez said. “It’s a time for us Hispanics to really just kind of come out and embrace where we come from.”

The celebration commemorates and celebrates the rich and diverse histories, cultures, languages, customs and contributions of people whose ancestors originated in Hispanic nations.

During this celebration, the university’s students, staff and faculty can immerse themselves in a wide array of cultures and traditions through events to honor the vibrant and rich culture of Latino culture that is deeply rooted on campus.

Melendez gives the inside scoop on upcoming events where he expressed that students can “rep their flag,” and create crafts, as he believes it can “bring back memories from home.”

The annual celebration was launched on Sept. 16 with the Hispanic Heritage Kickoff.

The lively event displayed all 33 flags from Hispanic countries and highlighted information about the culture and country belonging to each flag.

Melendez said the following event was Coaster for Cultura, where students crocheted

their own custom coaster of their flag.

While Melendez is not new to the annual celebration, it is his first time working behind the scenes in creating events at MCC for the occasion.

The graduate intern said that he utilizes his own identity and being bilingual to craft unique programs.

“I’m definitely adding my little spice in there,” Melendez said. “I have kind of tried to weave in my own things that I’ve learned in my culture into it, but then also being open and flexible with all the other cultures and kind of adding what I know about them.”

Biological anthropology major and forensic science and art and design minor Kristian Marroquin, a junior, is also no stranger to adding his own spin to things.

Marroquin, who is is Guatemalan, Puerto Rican and Mexican, is heavily involved on campus and allows his background to shine through all he does.

He is MCC’s diversity, equity and inclusion ambassador, a F.A.C.E, Fashion, Attitude, Creativity, and Elegance, model and a member of Alpha Pi fraternity as well.

“With my fraternity stuff, I like to incorporate some Hispanic events, and for F.A.C.E, I usually bring different Spanish types of clothing and like to incorporate some Spanish backgrounds in it with the color-coding,” Marroquin said.

Marroquin, who also works alongside Melendez, is excited about the upcoming events in MCC.

“I love music, and I’m excited for the food,” Marroquin said. “Me personally, I love everything with Sazón and Adobo.”

Over cultural food and refreshments in MCC, Hispanic students can mingle and exchange customs and backgrounds with one another.

Marroquin said that these events are an opportunity for Hispanics to “educate themselves on other cultures and really learn more about their own culture as well.”

While these events are in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, all students and staff from various backgrounds and cultural ethnic groups are welcome to celebrate.

Exercise science major Dawin Magloire, a senior, who is of Haitian descent said that he plans on celebrating in the MCC.

“I think from an outside perspective we could appreciate their heritage as well and be aware of what they do culturally,” Magloire said.

“Also, letting them know that we have similarities in terms of how we do things culturally.”

Various ethnic groups can thread together through Hispanic Heritage Month.

These cultural spaces can be viewed as learning opportunities for non-Hispanics as well.

“It can help to understand us a little bit more, to understand our culture, our music, how we speak and how each one of our countries are very different from each other,” Marroquin said.

“We’re underneath the same umbrella, but we’re very different raindrops.”