

Salvatore A. Rizza

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

Director of New Student and Sophomore Programs

September 2014- Present

- Provide strategic leadership and vision for the communication, programming, and intervention initiatives to support the success of first-year and transfer students as they enter SCSU.
- Identify, develop, and implement initiatives to better engage and support second-year students.
- Supervise the Coordinator of Veterans and Military Services and provide oversight for the programs and services provided to veteran and military students.
- Collaborate with University Access Programs and other colleagues to support the success of first-generation students.
- In collaboration with the Office of Academic and Career Advisement, First-Year Experience Office, Office of Residence Life and various other university departments and offices, coordinate the planning and implementation of the New Student Orientation, Transfer Student Orientation and Welcome Weekend programs.
- Coordinate on-line registration for approximately 2100 incoming new and transfer students annually and their families for New Student Orientation.
- Assist in the development and implementation of assessment outcomes and instruments for the New Student Orientation and Welcome Week programs

Associate Director of Student Life

January 2004- September 2014

- Provided leadership and expertise in developing priorities, policies and a strategic vision for the Office of Student Life in collaboration with the Director of Student Life.
- Supervised all aspects of the Southern Connecticut State University Greek Life program consisting of 6 National organizations and 4 local organizations (approximately 265 students).
- Updated hazing resources and hazing education for the Division of Student Affairs to align with best practices across the country.
- Developed and implemented student leadership programs including the First-Year Student Leadership Program, student leadership conference, recognition ceremonies and various leadership based programs, events and activities.
- Partner with local community agencies including the New Haven Police Department and New Haven Parks and Recreation Department in planning service projects for students. .
- Develop, support and advise various student organizations including the Student Government Association, Greek Life Council, Leadership Commission, Service Commission and National Society of Student Leadership and Success.
- Assist in daily operation of Student Life office.
- Render assistance to students through advising, mentorship and referrals regarding questions and concerns about Clubs, Organizations, or general student matters.
- Assist in developing the student activity budgets (approximately 1.5 million dollars annually).
- Supervise and mentor Graduate Student Interns,
- Supervise student/office workers and clerical staff.

Adjunct Professor

- **First-Year Experience-** Instructor, INQ101: Intellectual and Creative Inquiry *Fall 2009- Present*
 - In addition to providing classroom instruction, academically advise, guide and support students in navigating the university, utilizing resources and identifying opportunities for student involvement.
 - Offer and provide continual academic advisement and support in subsequent semesters.
- **Recreation and Leisure Studies-** Instructor, REC120: Leadership Development *Spring 2014- Present*

Assistant Director of Housing/ Area Coordinator/ Residence Hall Director

October, 2002- December, 2003

- Assisted in the supervision of seven residence hall directors in carrying out their responsibilities to Office of Residence Life
- Rendered assistance to residents through counseling, advising, and referral.
- Served as the on-site administrative contact in crisis situations.
- Investigated reports of misconduct and resolve or eliminate sources of conflict among resident students.
- Coordinated the daily operations of the residence halls.
- Served as the residence hall director for a coeducational hall of 274 upperclassmen students.

Assistant to the Director of Housing/Resident Hall Director

October, 1998- October, 2002

- Served as the director of a traditional straight-line residence hall (October, 98-July, 02) of 260 residents and of an apartment complex (July, 02 to December, 04) of 275 residents.

EDUCATION

Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

Bachelor of Arts, English, 1998

Master of Science in Recreation and Leisure Studies May 2008

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

- New Student Orientation Steering Committee, *May 2004-Present*
- Strategic Planning Steering Committee, *September 2013- May 2015*
 - Academic Excellence Sub-Group- Co-chair, *November 2013- May 2015*
- Facility Usage Committee, *January 2010- September 2014*
- Administrative Faculty Senate, *September 2011- 2014*
- Residence Hall Director Search Committee- Chair, *Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014*
- American Cancer Society, Relay for Life at SCSU, *September 2004- April 2014*
- Student Success Task Force, Campus and Community Engagement Workgroup, *Spring 2013- Fall 2013*
- Enrollment Management, *November 2002- December 2003*
- Media Board, *September 2005- 2012*
- Homecoming, Chair, *September 1999- 2012*
- Spring Week, Chair, *January 1999- 2012*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

- NODA (Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention), 2007- Present
 - NODA Connecticut State Coordinator, February 2013- Present
 - National Annual Conference Advisory Committee, October 2012- October 2014
 - Region IX Conference Planning Committee, Spring 2010- Present
 - Region IX 2017 Conference Planning Committee Co-Host
- NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, 2001-2003, 2007- Present
- Association of Judicial Affairs, February 2001- February 2003
- Association of Fraternal Advisors, November 2004- October 2007
- Association of Judicial Affairs, February 2001- February 2003
- National Association for Campus Activities, September 2001- September 2004
- National Conference on Student Leadership Advisory Board, January 2008- December 2010

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

- NODA, Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention, National Conference, October 2007, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015
- NODA Regional Conference, Annual Attendance, 2009-2016
- NASPA National Conference, March 2001, March 2008
- NASPA, Regional Conference, November 2012
- Association of Fraternal Advisors, National Conference, November 2005, 2007
- Northeast Greek Leadership Association Regional Conference, Annual Attendance 2002-2011, March 2014

PRESENTATIONS

- NODA National Conference
 - 2015- *Speed Data-in: How to Improve your Orientation Program in Five Days or Less*
- NODA Regional Conference
 - 2011- *From Dollar Stores to Difficult Conversations*, presented with Denise Bentley-Drobish, Director of Student Life
 - 2012- *Schooling Mom and Dad*, presented with SCSU Senior Orientation Ambassadors
 - 2013- *The Art of Conversation*
- Northeast Greek Leadership Association Regional Conference
 - 2010- *The 24/7 Student: Learning to Take Time for Yourself*
 - 2012- *Appetite for Strength*, presented with Susan Zarnowski, Graduate Assistant, University of New Haven
- University of Bridgeport
 - February 2013 and February 2014- *Living History and Practicing Values* (an anti-hazing program)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- University Merit Award Recipient, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2013