

*Compassion. Dignity. Respect.
Civility. Kindness.*

The Reflection Garden Project was conceived to support our campus and neighboring communities' shared experiences of joy and sorrow through the creation of a public garden highlighting access, social justice, and service to others. Campus garden spaces connect us as neighbors with each other and with the natural world.

The SCSU Reflection Garden is an emerging public garden that will celebrate community-university partnerships through the lens of social justice. The Remembrance Garden is the first garden room within the SCSU Reflection Garden and was designed by the Julie Moir Messervy Design Studio (JMMDS) as an area of compassion.

Based on Carly Barnes' original design for a memorial to honor the four Southern alumnae – Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, M.S. '97, 6th Yr. '98; Anne Marie Murphy, M.S. '08; Mary J. Sherlach, M.S. '90, 6th Yr. '92; and Victoria Leigh Soto, '13 – who perished in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, JMMDS's project designer Jana Bryan, together with sculpture consultant Richard Duca, worked closely with Carly and the community to further develop the sculpture design and create a suitable garden space that would be its home. To ensure its enduring presence on our campus, Brooklin Boat Yard built the sculpture using specialized techniques typically reserved for building the finest wooden boats. In addition, freshmen carpentry students from Eli Whitney Technical High School assisted in building the memorial bench for the garden. This sculpture and area of compassion serve as a memorial to our four heroic alumnae and a reminder that we are all part of a connected community and we must be the positive change that we wish to see in the world.

For more information: reflectiongarden.SouthernCT.edu

Remembrance Garden



AN SCSU
*Reflection
Garden*
Area of Compassion

Friday, May 4, 2018 • 5:00 p.m.



Southern Connecticut
State University

“Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.”

– *Nelson Mandela*

Dr. Rita Landino, '64

For much of her 35-year career — first as an English professor and later as a counselor — Rita Landino championed women’s causes on campus, helping launch both the Southern’s Women’s Center and the SCSU-AAUP Committee W, a union advocacy group for female faculty members. “We sought to provide places for women students and faculty to feel safe, and also where they could be celebrated for their contributions to campus life,” says the emeritus of counseling services, who retired in 2001.

When Rita learned about plans for the SCSU Sandy Hook Alumnae Remembrance Garden in memory of four educators killed in the December 14, 2012, school shooting, she knew she could get behind it, feeling a special bond with her fallen “sister educators.”

Rita has long supported her alma mater. She previously established a scholarship in her family’s name for students studying to become English teachers. More recently, she approached Southern about a gift to memorialize her son Michael, who died tragically in a 2011 car crash at age 21. The more she learned about the remembrance garden project and its purpose, the more convinced she became that it was the perfect channel for her philanthropy. “For me, this memorial takes the pain of my personal grief, and my more general grief over the deaths of my sister educators, and transforms it into a monument of beauty and memory.”



Program

Garner Recital Hall

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

- SCSU Wind Trio • *Sue Zoellner-Cross, director*
Mikayla Hickman, flute • Victoria Dahm, flute • Katharine Buckheit, bassoon

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

- Greetings – *William Faraclas, Professor of Public Health and Co-chair of the Reflection Garden Council*
- Welcome – *Joe Bertolino, President*
- Comments – *Stephen Hegedus, Dean, School of Education*
- From Vision to Reality – *Julie Moir Messervy, Julie Moir Messervy Design Studio*
- Creating an Area of Compassion – *Video by Vern Williams, Assistant Professor of Journalism*
- A Gift for Southern – *Rita Landino, '64, Emeritus of Counseling Services*
- Alumnae Tribute Video – *Louise Spear-Swerling, Professor of Special Education and Reading*

Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting at the Remembrance Garden

6:00 p.m.

- Universal Prayer for Peace – *SCSU Students*
- Comments – *Stephen Hegedus*
- Ribbon Cutting – *Joe Bertolino, Stephen Hegedus, Rita Landino, Carly Barnes, '13, Jana Bryan, Julie Moir Messervy*

Please join us for hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and desserts following the ribbon-cutting dedication of the Remembrance Garden.

*Special thanks to the **School of Education** and the **SCSU Alumni Association** for sponsoring the post-ribbon-cutting refreshments.*