Howdy Regents’ Scholars!

If you are planning on changing colleges at the end of the fall semester, it is imperative that you let Casey Gros, the Coordinator of the Regents’ Scholars Program, know. This will enable us to ensure that you are in the correct Academic Success Program in the Spring. Should you fail to notify the Regents’ Scholars Program staff of your college change, you will no longer be meeting the requirements of the Regents’ Scholarship.

Responding to this email does not act as an official change of college. **YOU MUST VISIT WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR TO OFFICIALLY CHANGE COLLEGES!** Please only submit actual college changes. If you are only thinking about changing colleges, speak with your advisor first to determine if you can.

Please submit the following information to me by December 15, 2012 if you are planning on changing:

- Name:
- UIN:
- Fall 12 College:
- Fall 12 Major:
- Spring 13 College:
- Spring 13 Major:

Upon receipt of this email, the Regents’ Scholars Program staff will assign you to a new Academic Success Program which you must continue to participate in the spring in order to receive funds. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Casey by email at casey_gros@tamu.edu.

**Free Academic Resources**

Don’t forget - There are plenty of FREE on-campus academic resources as well as several individuals who are here to help you succeed.

- **Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) schedule**: [http://slc.tamu.edu/supplemental-instruction/schedule/](http://slc.tamu.edu/supplemental-instruction/schedule/)
- **Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring**: [http://tutor.tamu.edu/](http://tutor.tamu.edu/)
- **University Writing Center**: [http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/](http://writingcenter.tamu.edu/)
- **Mathematics Department Help**: [http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/helpsessions.html](http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses/helpsessions.html)
- **Study skills and time management workshops**: [http://scs.tamu.edu/academic/](http://scs.tamu.edu/academic/)
- **Student Learning Center Drop-In Tutoring**: [http://slc.tamu.edu/tutoring/](http://slc.tamu.edu/tutoring/)
- **Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**: [http://sacnas.tamu.edu/](http://sacnas.tamu.edu/)

**Continuing Student Scholarship Application is Up!**

https://scholarships.tamu.edu

Below is a listing of all the dept/colleges that participate with our one application:

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
  - Department of Horticultural Sciences
- College of Education & Human Development
  - Department of Health and Kinesiology
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Aerospace Engineering
  - Department of Chemical Engineering
  - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
  - Department of Mechanical Engineering
  - Engineering Study Abroad
- College of Geosciences
- College of Science
  - Department of Chemistry
  - Mays Business School
  - Department of Information & Operations Management
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Department of English
- International Student Services
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation

**Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 2 to win A&M goodies!**
Home for the Holidays!

You are on the way to completing your first semester at Texas A&M University and now it is time to go home for the winter break. Sometimes returning home can be as disruptive to a family as your initial departure to college. Just as you have adjusted to being away from home, your parents and families have adjusted to your departure. They may have started reocusing their attention on your little brothers and sisters, other activities, may have made changes in their own lives and schedules, or may have moved to a new home or city.

Just as your family has changed their behaviors, you have grown as an individual. These changes occurred gradually over time. However, when you are away from home, you and your family might have not been aware of these changes until you come home for your winter break. This is a natural phenomenon, so don’t stress it!

Before you return home, we want to provide you with a few tips to make your transition back home enjoyable.

- Your habits may have changed. Your family and friends from home might have changed too; recognize this and talk about it.
- Realize that your family may expect you to follow your old curfew, rules and chores.
- Be flexible when balancing time with family and friends.
- Relax and enjoy the break!

Information taken from: “Aggie Connection, Fall 2005”

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FAFSA/ TASFA Renewal Workshops

In order to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2013-2014 academic year, students must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2013. The Scholarships & Financial Aid Office encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 1, 2013 to receive priority in awarding. To expedite the process, students are encouraged to file their tax returns as early as possible.

In order to complete the FAFSA, students will need:

- Student and parent social security numbers
- W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
- Student’s 2011 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2011 federal income tax return
- If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process for the student, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the spring semester. Students are encouraged to attend these workshops if they need assistance filing their FAFSA. These events are scheduled for:

- February 18th 3:00-4:00pm Pavilion 236
- February 19th 1:30-2:30pm Pavilion 236
- February 20th 9:30-10:30am Pavilion 236 2:30-3:30pm Pavilion 236
- February 22nd 11:00am-12:00pm Pavilion 236

Registration is required. To register, students should visit http://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.


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What has been your favorite Aggie experience so far?

Send your answers to Ms. Erin Fisk at erinsfisk@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.
Email Etiquette 101

Email may be a quick way to communicate, but don’t forget your etiquette when emailing professors, instructors, scholarship and financial aid advisors, or other campus staff. Make a good impression with these tips:

**Always identify yourself**
Do not assume that your name will appear on the delivered message next to your email address. You need to identify yourself to the person you are emailing. That person cannot discern who you are based on your email address alone. Additionally, if you are attempting to contact campus staff, including the Regents’ Scholars staff, you need to utilize your TAMU Neo email.

**Do not type in all caps**
Writing in caps makes it seem like you are shouting, and some readers find it more difficult to read. If you want to stress a point, opt for underlining or putting it in bold font.

**Avoid abbreviations and emoticons**
Including an abbreviation like “FYI” or “LOL” or an emoticon like “:)” may be okay in an email to a friend, but they are inappropriate in formal emails. You wouldn’t include smiley faces in an important letter, so don’t put them in your important emails.

**Always fill in the subject line**
Your email’s subject line is the first impression your recipient has of your email. Make your subject line a clear and meaningful reflection of your email.

**Use a professional format**
You may think using a colored or unusual font, or a formatted background design in your emails makes them stand out, but don’t use them with official emails. They’re not professional and they make your message hard to read.

**Avoid sarcasm**
It’s difficult to judge tone in an email. Don’t use ironic or sarcastic language that may not come across as you intended in writing.

**Don’t use a “cute” or “inappropriate” email address for important emails**
An email sent from sweetiepie07@aol.com or thuglife14@yahoo.com will come across as unprofessional. Even if you have to create a new email account, use a more business-like address, like janesmith@aol.com, to be taken more seriously.

**Make your email clear**
Professors and campus staff receive a lot of emails. Make it easier for them to get your message by keeping a clear, concise format. Write short paragraphs and include a space between them so your reader can find the information they’re looking for quickly. Put your most important information in the first or second paragraph so your reader doesn’t have to scroll down to find it. Make your email as short and concise as possible; anything longer than half a page is too long.

**Know when to pick up the phone or schedule a meeting**
Email is convenient, but it shouldn’t completely replace phone calls or meetings. For important or complicated matters, pick up the phone.

**Ask before sending a large attachment**
Not only do attachments take up a lot of storage space in your recipient’s inbox, but many people won’t open attachments for fear of viruses. When possible, include all information in the body of your email. If you do need to send an attachment, ask the recipient if it’s okay.

**Double check before hitting “send”**
It only takes a few minutes to take another careful look at your email before you hit send but it could improve the impression your email makes. Use your computer’s spelling and grammar checks, but be aware that these don’t catch all mistakes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td><strong>Nursing Home</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their Thursday classes&lt;br&gt;<strong>RSO 4th General Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Redefined day, students attend their Friday classes&lt;br&gt;Last day of fall semester classes.&lt;br&gt;Women’s Basketball vs. LA Tech</td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Reading days, no classes.&lt;br&gt;Break Transit Service&lt;br&gt;Men’s Basketball vs. SFA</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>Fall semester final examinations for all students.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall Transit Service</strong></td>
<td>Fall semester final examinations for all students.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall Transit Service</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td>Fall semester final examinations for all students.&lt;br&gt;Student Senate Meeting&lt;br&gt;<strong>Fall Transit Service</strong></td>
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<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final grades for all students due.</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td>Men’s Basketball vs. A&amp;M Corpus</td>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
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<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter Solstice</strong></td>
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<td>No Transit Service begins (through Jan 2nd)&lt;br&gt;Men’s Basketball vs. Southern</td>
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Faculty and Staff holiday.</strong>&lt;br&gt;New Year’s Eve</td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>Faculty and Staff holiday.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Women’s Basketball vs. Prairie View&lt;br&gt;Men’s Basketball vs. Army</td>
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<td><strong>33</strong></td>
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