Greetings from Erin

Howdy Ags!

The spring semester is in full swing! Hopefully you are taking advantage of this semester and aiming to make it the best one yet. As you may recall I put forth a challenge last month for you to pay forward good will that comes your way this year. I encourage you to keep up with this challenge and to encourage your friends to do the same. Spring Break is right around the corner and would provide a wonderful opportunity to give something back to your community. Now is a great time to start planning! I wish you continued success this semester.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator

February 3rd
Panda Social – RSO Profit Share at the MSC Panda Express

February 3rd
General Meeting at 7:00pm in Rudder 504

February 8th
Brazos Valley Food Bank from 10:00am-12:00pm

February 11th
Study Social

For additional information regarding RSO activities, students may email the RSO Board at rso@rso.tamu.edu.

Other Important Dates

February 15
Aggieland Saturday

February 17-20
FAFSA/TASFA Renewal Workshops

February 23
Deadline to renew or cancel on-campus housing for 2014-2015 academic year

February 24
“Money Talks” Informational for Study Abroad Programs

Housing Decision 2014

If you are currently living on campus, you need to participate in Housing Decision 2013.

Go to reslife.tamu.edu to complete your renewal or cancellation no later than February 23rd. Talk to your resident advisor or the Housing Assignments Office (979)845-4744 for more information.

Peer Academic Services

Peer Academic Services (PAS) provides academic support free of charge to all Texas A&M students. It offers Supplemental Instruction (SI), tutoring, transfer student services, and Independent Study Labs for developmental education students. PAS also provides training for SI leaders, tutors, and peer mentors.

PAS is located in room 200 of the YMCA building. Students are encouraged to utilize the PAS website, located at slc.tamu.edu, to stay informed of events and sign up for workshops, tutoring, and other services.
FAFSA/TASFA Renewal Workshops

In order to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2014-2015 academic year, students must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2014. The Scholarships & Financial Aid Office encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 15, 2014 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
- 2013 W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
- Student’s 2013 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2013 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 17th  11:00am-12:00pm  Pavilion 106
- February 18th  3:00-4:00pm  Pavilion 106
- February 19th  9:30-10:30pm  Pavilion 106
- February 20th  4:00-5:00pm  Pavilion 106

Registration is required.
To register, visit sfaid.tamu.edu/workshops.
Information retrieved from studentaid.ed.gov.

Career Center Workshops

Are you undecided about your choice of major and/or career path? Take advantage of the workshop, sponsored by the Career Center:

Strengths and Careers
Monday, February 17th
1:00pm in Koldus 146

Undeclared but not Unprepared: Choosing a Major / Career
Tuesday, February 18th
5:15pm in Koldus 110

Money Wise Aggie Workshops

The Money Wise Aggie will be facilitating two series of workshops during the semester. Workshop attendees will be eligible for scholarship drawings at the end of each five workshop session.

Attend for a chance to win a scholarship!
$500 | $250 | $100

The Money Wise Aggie is offering a workshop series to assist students with financial literacy topics such as money management, repaying your student loans, and more. For each of the five workshops you attend you have greater chance to be one of three students to win a scholarship.

Scholarships will be offered after each of the two sessions.

Session I | Feb. 19th – Mar. 26th | Every Wednesday
(excluding Spring Break) from 11:00am–12:00pm
Session II | Mar. 18th – Apr. 15th | Every Tuesday
from 12:00-1:00pm

Only 36 seats available for each session.
For registration and more details, email moneywise@tamu.edu.

Words of Wisdom

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.”

- Christopher Reeve
Spring Semester Timeline For Landing A Summer Job Or Internship

Want to land an extraordinary summer job?
College career counselors have some blunt advice for you:
Get going. Now.

“I emphasize with job searchers that it takes three to five months to find a summer job,” says Andrea Dine, associate director of the Career Development Center at Macalester College. Becky Hall, Central Career Development Coordinator at the University of Minnesota and a consultant with the university’s Health Careers Center, concurs. “There are a lot of career fairs happening on campuses right now. If students don’t get on the ball, they’ll miss out on a lot of good opportunities.”

A methodical approach will boost your odds of success, Dine says. By planning now, you won’t have to settle for “just a job” or suffer through a last-minute summer job search. Use this timeline as your guide:

February & March
• Determine the type of summer employment or internship you want. Develop a list of criteria, including:
  o Where you want or need to get a job/internship
  o How much money you’d like to make
  o Key skills to build upon
  o Areas of interest and/or organizations to explore
• Assess your current skill set, either by yourself or with a counselor at the TAMU Career Center, to determine which key skills an employer might need this summer
• With guidance from the Career Center, develop a basic resume and cover letter to apply for summer positions
• Begin looking for specific job opportunities using online resources, city-specific resources, or friends/family/professionals who can direct you toward job opportunities

April
• Continue looking for job opportunities
• Start applying for jobs, being sure to follow the employer’s directions. Some companies require a resume and cover letter. Others want you to fill out a company application.
• Ask professors, previous coworkers and supervisors, and other who know you professionally if they will service as references. If possible, have each person write you a one-page letter of recommendation to give to prospective employers.
• Follow-up with companies you’ve applied to. Make sure your materials have been received and that each company has everything it needs to consider you.
• If possible, schedule interviews with companies of interest.
• Start researching housing options for the summer, if applicable.

May
• Practice answering summer job interview questions, either with a friend or a Career Center counselor. Research companies and jobs before the interview.
• Finalize summer living arrangements.
• Schedule job interviews.
• Go on job interviews, be on time, and follow up with thank-you notes.
• If the right job is offered, accept it.
• If you don’t have a solid line on a job, get some help from the Career Center –preferable before the spring semester ends if your summer plans will take you away from campus. You can also step up your networking efforts. Ask you parents, friends, professors, and others if they know of available summer jobs.

June
• Show up for your first day on time and prepared.
• Talk to your new supervisor about the skills you’d like to further develop.
• Go beyond the minimum to make a good, lasting impression on your supervisor and coworkers.

Adapted from career-advice.monster.com/job-search/getting-started/spring-semester-timeline-summer-job/article.aspx by Peter Vogt.
During my first few years of college, I didn’t know how to stay awake in class. I took an early morning psychology course with three girls I’d met in the dorms. Just before class we rolled out of bed, stumbled to the lecture hall class with our eyes barely open, and settled into a row of squishy seats in the lecture hall. Then three out of four of us would fall asleep. Whoever stayed awake would take notes.

Obviously, I did not get an A in that class—I was catching Z’s instead. So…how can YOU stay awake in class?

As a college student I can almost guarantee that you need more sleep, so you should start there. You probably don’t want to go to bed earlier, but you should. Give yourself an extra hour every night, and see if that helps. You might need more. Even a nap can help!

If you live in the dorms, making the above changes still probably won’t get you to sleep enough. So just in case, here are some things that worked well for me when I wanted to stay awake through a lecture:

**Take notes by hand**
When you take notes on a laptop, you tend to be much less focused, because typing is much more automatic. You also finish faster and sometimes drift off (or start IM-ing people). Taking notes by hand is slower, so it makes you focus on keeping up with the lecture.

**Eat healthy snacks**
Eating a snack—especially carbs and proteins—can help energize you. I liked taking a bag of healthy cereal to my very early or very late classes. I would eat the cereal one piece at a time—the carbs plus the act of making myself take one at a time really helped me stay awake. If you need a burst of energy, try eating fruit like sliced apples or grapes instead of a candy bar. Junk food, obviously, is not a good option.

**Drink water**
Dehydration can really wipe you out, so bring a water bottle to class with you. Neither soda nor alcohol (both of which are very dehydrating) are good substitutes for water to keep your body hydrated.

**Get interested in the lecture**
A lot of your interest in a lecture is affected by your attitude. If you go in thinking it’s going to be boring, you’ll probably be bored. Even if you’re taking a required class, try to get interested in the lecture each day; it will help you stay alert. Try to learn at least three things you didn’t know, and tell someone about them after class. It might sound kind of lame, but it will help you stay awake and learn.

Adapted from “How to Stay Awake During Class” by “Jamie”, located at www.survivingcollegelife.com/2007/09/24/how-to-stay-awake-during-class/.
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