Howdy Ags!

Who would have thought that November would get here this quickly? Mid-terms are over, pre-registration for spring classes begins soon, and final exams are just around the corner. Even though you have busy schedules, now is a great time to take a step back and put this semester into perspective. What are some of the things you have been doing this semester that are moving you closer to achieving your goals? What are some action items that you can focus on to better achieve these goals? Perhaps you will need to plan a study abroad program, apply for an internship, or are simply looking for ways to involve yourself more at Texas A&M and the Bryan/College Station community. Whatever your goals may be, there are a number of resources on campus that are here to assist you. Have a wonderful month!

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

~The Regents’ Scholars Program staff

Q-Drop Reminder

The last day to Q-drop a class for the fall 2014 semester is Friday, November 21st at 5pm.

Undergraduate students will normally be permitted four Q-drops during their undergraduate studies; however: State law prohibits students from having more than six dropped courses from all state institutions attended during their undergraduate career if they entered higher education as a first-time enrolled freshman beginning the 2007 fall semester or after. Q-drops in one-hour courses will not count in the Texas A&M limit of four but will be included in the State-mandated limit of six dropped courses. If a lecture and companion lab are dropped at the same time, this will count as one Q-drop rather than two. (Texas A&M University Student Rule 1.16.4)

Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisors to determine whether or not they wish to utilize a Q-drop and to prepare and submit appropriate paperwork prior to the November 21st deadline.

Regents’ Scholar Organization

11/3 General Meeting
11/4 Study Social
11/6 Ice Skating Social
11/21-11/22 Campout

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

Words of Wisdom

“I’m not telling you it’s going to be easy. I’m telling you it’s going to be worth it.”

– Art Williams
The University Scholarship Application is now open for current students. By completing the application, students will be considered for the continuing student scholarships and the Southerland Aggie Leader Scholarship through Scholarships & Financial Aid as well as scholarships within participating colleges and departments (see below).

The application deadline is February 1, 2015. Students can access the application through scholarships.tamu.edu.

Please note that there is no "submit" button on the application. The student should save as they go and can access their application at any time from now until the February 1 deadline. This way, they can edit and update as needed.

List of participating colleges and departments:

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Horticultural Sciences
  - Department of Nutrition & Food Science
  - Department of Poultry Science
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
  - College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Study Abroad Scholarships
- College of Architecture
  - Department of Construction Science
- Mays Business School
  - Department of Information & Operations Management
- College of Education & Human Development
  - Department of Health & Kinesiology
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Aerospace Engineering
  - Department of Chemical Engineering
  - Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
  - Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
  - Department of Mechanical Engineering
  - Engineering International Programs (Engineering Study Abroad)
- College of Geosciences
- College of Liberal Arts
  - Department of English
  - College of Liberal Arts Study Abroad Scholarships
- College of Science
  - Department of Biology
  - Department of Chemistry
  - Department of Mathematics
  - Department of Physics and Astronomy
  - Department of Mathematics
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  - Department of Biomedical Sciences
- International Student Services
- Residence Life
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation
If you are considering law, medicine, dentistry, health-related or other graduate programs, another excellent resource on campus is the Office of Professional School Advising (OPSA).

What exactly IS graduate school?
Graduate school encompasses master’s degrees, Ed.D’s. and Ph.D’s. Master’s degrees typically lead more directly to a career outside the university. The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) primarily prepares you to do research and teach at the university level, but in some fields, such as the life sciences, more and more opportunities are opening up in industry. The Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) prepares you for administrative or specialized positions in education, but is less common than the Ph.D.

How long does graduate school take?
The time required to complete an advanced degree can vary considerably. Most Master’s programs can be completed in 2-3 years. Because the earned doctorate is a specialized professional degree, often requiring original research, it can take 5-7 years.

Do you want to go to graduate school?
• It may be necessary for a career you’re interested in. If you’re not sure, ask people in that career—use the Aggie Network, talk to your professors about their graduate school experience or visit a Career Coordinator.
• It should not be a “fall-back” plan that you follow because you think you have no viable options without it. Graduate school is a very intense experience—and costly, in terms of money, personal time and emotional fortitude.
• You may need 2-4 years of related experience in your field to be admitted, depending on the graduate degree sought. For example, a Master’s of Business Administration often encourages or requires at least 2 years of business experience after the undergraduate degree before you can be admitted to a graduate program. Education doctoral programs may require that you have 3 or more years of teaching experience for admission.

How can I prepare myself for graduate school?
• Get excellent to stellar grades. Highly competitive doctoral programs may look for GPA’s of 3.8 to 3.9. Less competitive, but still demanding, programs will seek GPA’s in the range of 3.5 to 3.7. More applied master’s degrees will seek anything from a 3.0 to a 3.7. While it is possible to get into graduate school with less than a 3.0, it is not typical. Your best guide is to ask the advisor for the programs you are considering what the average incoming GPA was for their current class. Extenuating circumstances and related work or internship experience may help offset a lower GPA.
• Get to know your professors. You will need 2-3 letters of recommendation. Talk to your professors during office hours—ask for their advice. Let them know you are considering graduate school. Volunteer to help on research. Take an independent study course. The better you know your professors and they know your capabilities, the better your letters will be.
• Keep a file of written research or term papers. Some programs will ask for a copy of your best written work. Make any corrections noted by your professors, then submit the new, improved version. If you have not written a term-length paper (10-15 pp.), ask a professor to guide you through an independent study, with a paper suitable for graduate school applications. Ask your professors if a written work is usually asked for in your chosen area of study.
• Prepare for the entrance exam you’ll be taking—GRE, GMAT, etc. You can find out which one you will need by checking with the programs you wish to apply to. The weight given to test scores varies widely from program to program—ask what the incoming class’s average score is. Less-than-desired grades can be balanced by an outstanding test score. At the same time, a less-than-outstanding test score can be balanced by excellent grades. Independent companies offer test preparation classes, and there are self-help books and CD’s available in your library or any large bookstore chain.
• Formulate your personal statement. You need to tell the programs why you want to go to graduate school, how you have prepared yourself, and what

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you want to do with the degree. This is the time to explain extenuating circumstances that may help the admissions committee evaluate your file—difficult first year in college, better grades later on, family issues, illness, first-generation in college, etc. Writing this 1-2 page statement always takes longer than you think it will—start early!

How do I pick a graduate program?

• Pick based on what you want to study, not the university. Out-of-the-Way State University may have the #1 program in the country for nuclear physics. On the other hand, Historic Elite University may not have a good program in finance.

• Back to your professors—ask them who has the best reputation and who are the up-and-coming departments in the country?

• Popular business magazines often rank graduate programs, but the rankings may not validly measure a number of variables. These rankings are typically based on a very limited amount of information about the programs. That said, they do provide one more means to evaluate a program.

• Petersons.com and Gradschools.com offer additional information on graduate programs in an easily searchable interface. Here you can find information on schools, financial aid, tests and more.

• Books in the Career Center and Evans library.

What is the timeline for applying?

1. As a general rule, you will apply one year before entering graduate school. If you plan to start the fall after graduation, you will go through the application process during the fall of your senior year. Some programs will admit for the spring semester, but most start graduate students only in the fall.

2. Start the process early in the semester that your applications are due.

3. First, find application information online for the programs you’re applying to. Check their deadlines. Deadlines may run from November to May for the following fall.

4. Second, polish and update your resume and start working on the personal statement. Your references may want a copy of both to help them write strong letters.

5. Ask references if they are willing to write a letter, at least a month in advance. Hopefully, you have established a scholarly relationship with them previous to this time. Give them all the information for each application, including addressed, stamped envelopes if they are to send the letter directly to the graduate program.

How do I pay for graduate school?

Usually, you pay for graduate school through a combination of fellowships (scholarships), assistantships and loans. Fellowships are usually not tied to employment, but to your own research. Assistantships are employment offered by universities (usually 20 hours/week) as research or teaching assistants. Assistantships sometimes come with tuition waivers. Many programs offer tuition waivers, but this varies by state, university and program. You can also get student loans to finance a good deal of graduate education, but cost can be minimized if you live very frugally.

Retrieved and adapted from careercenter.tamu.edu/undergrads
Have you ever Googled yourself, just to see what would come up? Well, you might not be the only one.

A few months ago I read an article about how a Live Journal blog kept one student from being admitted to Reed College in Portland. I looked a little further into it, and found out that over the past year articles about Facebook and MySpace profiles affecting students’ ability to graduate and find jobs after high school have popped up in the Washington Post, U.S. News, and the New York Times. In fact, supervisors often Google potential employees before hiring!

Protecting Yourself
With potential employers and colleges able to gain access to MySpace, Facebook, personal blogs, and lots of other information online, you need to rethink the “anonymity” of the internet. Here are a couple ideas that may help you protect your privacy online:

1. Limit Access. Facebook and other social network sites offer options that limit who can view your profile; they also have options that allow people to view only the portions of your profile that you specify. Most blogs have this option, too.

2. Google Yourself. Seriously. Run a Google search on your name, and see what comes up. Try the other popular search engines, too. If there is anything questionable, try to get it taken down!

3. Guard Your Words. If you have something to say that could possibly taken the wrong way by a potential boss or admissions officer (or anything that is too personal for them to know), you’re better off NOT posting it in a public place. Instead, keep personal comments safer by writing them in more private correspondence like emails or IMs. And if someone else leaves a questionable comment on your page, better make it private or delete it just to be safe. Oh, and if you don’t like your current job or boss, you might want to leave that tidbit out of your profile. Just in case.

Promoting Yourself
The use of Facebook by college committees and employers doesn’t have to slow you down; in fact if you play your cards right, it could even be a good thing. Why waste the opportunity to promote yourself if they’re looking anyway?

Think of your social networking sites as dual-purpose; not just as a place to connect with friends, but also as a sort of virtual résumé. It’s totally fine to have appropriate personal info & photos up to share with friends, but don’t neglect to point out your strong points, and even past work experience (if you feel comfortable sharing that).

You can also use sites like Facebook, MySpace, or a personal blog as a portfolio. If you’re an artist or a writer, for example, consider posting some of your pieces for viewing (unless they’re copyrighted by someone else, like work you may have done for a previous employer). It’s an easy way to offer access to your body of work.

Adapted from survivingcollegelife.com/2008/02/14/bosses-facebook-too-keeping-your-online-persona-employable/.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 1    | Aggie Football vs. La-Monroe  
All Saint’s Day (Christian) |
| 2 Daylight Savings Time ends  
Aggie Volleyball at Missouri |
| 3    | RSO General Meeting |
| 4    | RSO Study Social  
Aggie Softball vs. Tyler JC (exhibition)  
Ashura (Islam) |
| 5    | Aggie Softball vs. LSU  
RSO Ice Skating Social  
Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday (Sikh) |
| 6    | Aggie Ring Day  
Aggie Football @ Auburn  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Ok City (exhibition)  
Aggie Softball vs. Texas Tech (exhibition) |
| 7    | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Prairie View A&M  
Day of the Covenant (Bahá’í) |
| 8    | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Volleyball vs. Arkansas  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Northwestern State |
| 9    | Aggie Volleyball vs. Ole Miss  
Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense workshop  
Bonfire 1998 Remembrance Day  
Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Mexico  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. New Mexico  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. New Mexico  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. New Mexico |
| 10   | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. TBD (Puerto Rico)  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. UConn (Puerto Rico)  
RSO Campout |
| 11   | Veteran’s Day  
Aggie Softball vs. Blinn (exhibition)  
Pre-registration for spring 2015 begins |
| 12   | Birth of Bahá’u’lláh (Bahá’í)  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Volleyball vs. Arkansas |
| 13   | Pre-registration for spring 2015 begins  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. DePaul  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Northwestern State  
Aggie Softball vs. Galveston (exhibition) |
| 14   | Q-Drop deadline 5pm  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. UConn (Puerto Rico)  
RSO Campout |
| 15   | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Prairie View A&M  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. McNeese State  
Day of the Covenant (Bahá’í)  
Thanksgiving  
University Holiday (no classes)  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Volleyball @ Ole Miss |
| 16   | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. UTPA  
St. Andrew’s Day – Advent begins (Christian) |
| 17   | Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense workshop |
| 18   | Bonfire 1998 Remembrance Day |
| 19   | Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Self-Defense  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Volleyball vs. Arkansas |
| 20   | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Dayton (Puerto Rico)  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Rice  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans |
| 21   | University Holiday (no classes)  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Volleyball @ Ole Miss |
| 22   | RSO Campout |
| 23   | Aggie Volleyball vs. Missouri  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Prairie View A&M |
| 24   | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Prairie View A&M |
| 25   | Aggie Volleyball vs. Mississippi State  
Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. McNeese State  
Day of the Covenant (Bahá’í)  
Aggie Football vs. LSU |
| 26   | Aggie Volleyball vs. LSU |
| 27   | Thanksgiving  
Aggie Football vs. LSU |
| 28   | University Holiday (no classes)  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Volleyball @ Ole Miss |
| 29   | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans  
Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. New Orleans |
| 30   | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Duke  
St. Andrew’s Day – Advent begins (Christian) |