Happy December! The fall semester is drawing to a close and final exams begin in just a few short days. Soon you will be packing up your gear and leaving Aggieland for a month of well-deserved time off. Make the most of the break by spending quality time with your friends and family, giving back to your community through volunteer efforts, and paying forward any good will that comes your way. The Regents’ Scholars staff wishes you the best of luck with finals. Please be safe in your journeys and have a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

The Regents’ Scholars staff

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**12/5  Ice skating social at Spirit Ice Arena (7PM)**

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

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**Cash In - How to make Money Over Winter Break**

Who else wants to earn some extra cash over winter break? Don’t let these few weeks of freedom pass you by—here are a few ways to make a buck or two over the break.

**Seasonal Employment**

If you can think of a company that is busy during the holiday season, you can probably bet that they take on seasonal employees (people who work only during the busiest weeks of the year). Most retail stores are hiring extra help (check your local mall), or you can check with shipping companies like UPS.

**Scholarships**

In her post on 5 Ways for Students to Earn Cash this Winter Break, Deborah at the Pay for College Blog recommends using this time away from school to apply for scholarships. You aren’t distracted by schoolwork, and you have time to do research on which ones in you might be eligible for (AND to research the sometimes random topics, like “Why are fire sprinklers so important?”).

**Stock Photography**

Kelly at Hack College suggests signing up at iStockPhoto.com and submitting your best photos as stock images. It’s an easy way to make a few bucks if you’ve got the time and talent for it.

**Sell Your Textbooks**

Don’t let textbooks sit under your bed collecting dust—sell them during break before the new semester starts! There are a lot of sites you can use, including Amazon.com or Half.com.

**Work for Parents or Neighbors**

See if you can pick up work for your parents, neighbors, or your friends parents over the break—you could serve at a party, do chores around the house, spring clean, babysit, wrap gifts, do yard work, shovel snow, clean out a garage, wash cars, or house-sit.

**Write for a Website or Magazine**

Have an idea for an article—or even a short story from a class assignment? Try submitting to a magazine or website. Associated Content is one website that pays for articles. You can also check out a copy of The Writer’s Market from the library and submit articles or short stories to magazines.
Continuing Scholarship Application

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 Statistics
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  - Department of Biomedical Sciences
- International Student Services
- Residence Life
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation
Extra Help: Free On-Campus Resources!

Don’t forget - There are plenty of FREE on-campus academic resources that are here to help you succeed.

**Academic Success Center:**
- successcenter.tamu.edu
- Drop-in tutoring for many lower-level math, science, and liberal arts classes
  - BIOL, CHEM, ECON, GEOL, HIST, MATH, PHYS, POLS, & PSYC
  - Tutor Zones available in the Commons, Evans 2nd floor, and Hullabaloo Hall
- One-on-one Academic Coaching
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions
  - BIOL, CHEM, ECON, GEOG, PHIL, & PHYS
- Academic workshops

**Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS):**
- sacnas.tamu.edu/
- Tutoring for any student
  - CHEM 100, 101, 102, 103, 107, 111, 112, 113, 117, 227, 228, 231, 234, 237, 238, 446
  - MATH 151, 152, 251
  - BIO 100s
  - STAT 200s
  - SPAN 100s, 200s

**University Writing Center:**
- writingcenter.tamu.edu
- Located in the Evans and West Campus libraries
- In-person and online consultations
- Assistance with papers, presentations, essays, resumes, and more

**Career Center:**
- careercenter.tamu.edu and hireaggies.com
- Career and job search advising
- Graduate school advising
- On-campus interviews
- Job postings
- Internships & co-ops
- AggiExternship
- Mock interviews
- Workshops
- Work abroad
- Career resource library
- Employer seminars

**Dept. of Multicultural Services:**
- dms.tamu.edu
- Individual and small-group tutoring
  - MATH 150/151, CHEM 107, & PHYS 208

**Student Counseling Services:**
- scs.tamu.edu
- Personal counseling
- Career counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Stress management and biofeedback training
- Learning disability and ADD/ADHD screening
- Psychiatric services
- Help Line 979.845.2700
- This number is also on the back of your student ID
Heading home for winter break becomes something of a ritual for many college kids. Students finish their exams, say goodbye to their friends for a few weeks, and prepare for a return to doing chores, coming home before their parents’ curfew, and sleeping in.

But, all too often, students head home without realizing the best way to protect the things they’re leaving behind. When locking the doors and closing the blinds aren’t enough, here is a list of college winter break safety tips to help you leave any worries about your apartment behind:

Create the illusion that someone is home
A favorite of homeowners, this is a tactic that works for apartment dwellers as well. Connect lights, the radio and even the TV to an automatic timer that can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you are away.

Recruit a trusted neighbor
If you are going home for an extended period of time, a friend or neighbor can help pick up the mail or park a car in the driveway—all creating the appearance that someone is home.

Make the last person to leave do a double-check
If you live with other students, a good security tip is to discuss who will be leaving last, and then make sure that person is willing and able to double-check all windows and doors, turn on any automatic timers and put away or cover up any common-area valuables, such as gaming systems or big-screen TVs.

Keep utilities in mind
Even though this is Texas, it may get cold over the break. Pipes can freeze, crack, and cause water damage. Talk with your roommates about ways you can safeguard your home or apartment by keeping the heat inside the temporarily unoccupied apartment to at least 58 degrees. Also, windows should be completely closed; a one-inch opening near a pipe can be enough to cause it to freeze and break.

Care for a car that’s left behind
Students who are carpooling home and leaving their vehicle back at school for winter break should park in a well-lit area or secure location and remove all valuables (GPS, small electronics, etc.) from the car. Elect a friend who is staying behind at school to occasionally start the car so that it’s not sitting idle the entire time you are gone.

Keep good records
Students should consider taking small items, such as personal safes, jewelry boxes, electronics, and laptops home with them during college winter break. If you must leave items of value behind, recording the serial numbers, brand names, and date/price of purchases and taking a few pictures of the valuables will help authorities identify your property in the event of a theft or a natural disaster.

Of course, not everyone goes home for college winter break. If you are choosing to stay on campus, be sure you do so with extra precaution. Campus crowds may be a little light during this time, so added awareness is imperative.

College usually means a tight budget, and that can be especially difficult during the holidays. If you’re worried your gift list will outweigh your wallet, read on!

**Buying Great Gifts for $5.** If you’ve only got $5 to spend, you can still give surprisingly fun gifts—the trick is to be both thoughtful and creative. Shop the bargain section at the bookstore, scour eBay for inexpensive original art, pick up a small scented lotion at Bath & Body Works, or browse IKEA for inexpensive kitchenware, candles, and other home décor. WiseBread.com has a great list of 25 great gifts for $5 or less with ideas ranging from Star Wars key chains to photo albums.

**Do it Yourself.** If you have a creative streak, try making some gifts yourself! If you crochet or knit, whip up a scarf, hat, or mittens. If you paint, make small paintings for family and friends. If you enjoy writing, fill up a small journal with fun memories you have with the gift recipient. Use your talents!

**Coupons and Discounts.** If you’re shopping online, websites like Coupon Mountain.com, DealCatcher.com and RetailMeNot.com offer free coupon codes for great deals. You can even get a computer plug-in from RetailMeNot.com that will tell you which coupons are listed for whichever page you are visiting. Also, if you haven’t yet discovered the joys of shopping at discount stores like Ross or Marshall’s, you should head over there before the big Christmas rush hits. It’s a little like a treasure hunt, but you can find some great brands at discounted prices if you take the time to look. Finally, don’t forget that a lot of places (including online stores like Apple.com) offer student discounts!

**Give the Gift of Food.** Want to give something to everyone in your hallway without breaking the bank? Try gifting some cookies or sweets, such as peppermint bark. All you need is some melting chocolate (this is different from regular chocolate—you can sometimes find it in the baking aisle, or in craft stores like Michael’s), some saran wrap, a plastic bag, a microwave-safe bowl, and some candy canes. While the chocolate is melting, crush up the candy canes in the plastic bag. Pour the crushed candy cane into the melted chocolate, and mix. Spread out strips of saran wrap on a flat surface, and spread a thin layer of chocolate mixture. Let cool and harden. Break it into pieces, and wrap it up!

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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent (Christian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Last Day of Pre-Registration for Spring 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Northwestern State  
      | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Sam Houston State |
| 3    | Redefined Day – Students attend Friday classes  
      | Bodhi Day (Buddhist) |
| 4    | Reading Day – No Classes |
| 5    | Reading Day – No Classes |
| 6    | Final Exams |
| 7    | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Arizona State |
| 8    | Final Exams |
| 9    | Final Exams  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 10   | Final Exams |
| 11   | Final Exams  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 12   | Commencement and Commissioning  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 13   | Commencement and Commissioning  
      | Aggie Men’s Basketball @ Kansas State  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 14   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Christmas (Christian) |
| 15   | Final Exams |
| 16   | Final Exams  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 17   | Commencement and Commissioning  
      | Aggie Men’s Basketball @ Kansas State  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 18   | Final Exams  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 19   | Commencement and Commissioning  
      | Aggie Men’s Basketball @ Kansas State  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 20   | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 21   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Christmas (Christian) |
| 22   | Final Grades Due to Registrar  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 23   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Christmas (Christian) |
| 24   | Final Grades Due to Registrar  
      | Hanukkah (Jewish) |
| 25   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Christmas (Christian) |
| 26   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Christmas (Christian) |
| 27   | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 28   | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 29   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Aggie Women’s Basketball @ Washington  
      | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 30   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Mercer  
      | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 31   | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. UNT  
      | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 1    | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | New Year’s Day  
      | Kwanzaa (Interfaith) |
| 2    | University Holiday – Campus Closed  
      | Aggie Women’s Basketball vs. Vanderbilt  
      | Mawlid-al-Nabi (Islamic) |
| 3    | Aggie Men’s Basketball vs. Hartford  
      | Mawlid-al-Nabi (Islamic) |