Regents’ Scholars Orientation

**WHEN:**
August 23rd, 2010
7:00pm - 9:00pm

**WHERE:**
Located at the Zone at the north end of Kyle Field.

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**GIG’EM WEEK 2010**

**Sunday August 22nd through Sunday, August 29th**

Gig ‘Em Week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome. Gig ‘Em Week provides students an opportunity to learn more about the campus, each other, and college life in general through a series of educational and social events sponsored by university departments, colleges, student organizations, residence halls, and community members.

Want to know what is going on during Gig’em Week? A schedule of activities is available here:

http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsp/GEW.html

For more information, ask your Orientation Counselor during the Regents’ Scholars Orientation.

You will receive a stamp-card at your Regents’ Scholars Orientation. You can get it stamped at each of the designated events by the OCs in attendance. Collect all of the stamps and win a prize!

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**JULY OPINION POLL WINNER**

Congratulations to our July Opinion Poll winner, Tyneika Jordan!
Please contact Casey Gros at casey_gros@tamu.edu to collect your prize.

**What are you looking forward to the most about attending Texas A&M University?**

I am looking forward to being able to handle and be responsible for myself rather than have a guardian take care of all my business. I am looking forward to experiencing the friendliness of the campus so that I can feel at home away from home. I am looking forward to meeting new and diverse people so that I can become knowledgeable of how their traditions differ from mine. I am just looking forward to having a great time in Aggieland!

-Tyneika Jordan

Thank you to these Regents’ Scholars who also submitted great answers. Please try again next time!

Josh Early
Ali Aljarnili
Zakiy Keys
Daniella Djigean
Yesenia Estrada
Alison Gutierrez

Shannen Miller
Daisy Echeverria
Dustin Lorance
Meena Tariq
Elizabeth Shields
Estefania Garza

Fernanda Preciado
Shenell Encalarde
Payton Price
Ebony Deal
Karina Talavera

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Aug. 22, 2010**
8:00am
Residence Hall Move-In Day
http://reslife.tamu.edu/maps/

**Aug. 23, 2010**
Regents’ Scholars Orientation
7:00pm-9:00pm is Required
Check-in opens at 6:30pm
9:00pm-10:00pm
Social Third Hour
Located in The Zone Club at Kyle Field
Late-comers will not be permitted

**Aug. 25, 2010**
5:00pm
Student Bills are Due
Tuition and fees due in full
http://finance.tamu.edu/sbs/

**Aug. 29, 2010**
2:30pm
Freshman Convocation
Located in Reed Arena
Click HERE to visit site.

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Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 3 to win A&M goodies!
OFFICES OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE:
YOUR AGGIE CONNECTION

The Offices of the Dean of Student Life helps A&M students make the most of their university experience by providing information, services, and programs that facilitate responsible life choices and promote awareness to self and community. Services offered by the department include:

- new student conferences
- free legal and mediation services
- alcohol and drug education programs
- student media productions--such as the Battalion campus newspaper and Aggieland Yearbook
- assistance with student absences, emergencies, and other student welfare issues.

For more information about these and other available student services, please call 845-3111 or visit us on-line at http://studentlife.tamu.edu.

MONEYWISE AGGIE CONSIDERING CREDIT CARDS?

Credit cards are neither inherently good nor bad, but they can be DANGEROUS if used unwisely. Credit cards are nothing more than an easy way for the credit card company to loan money to students, usually at high interest rates if the balances are not paid off at the end of each month.

Credit cards are often issued to students who do not have large incomes. Some students can’t resist the temptation of buying items on their credit card without a plan for how they will repay the amount. Such behavior can result in students going deep into debt and struggling to make even the minimum payments to the credit card companies. It is not unusual for credit card companies to raise interest rates up to 25%, 30% or more if there is a hint that a student is having problems repaying his/her credit card balance. Credit card lenders don’t even need a reason to raise interest rates. The “fixed” interest rate on your credit card can be increased at any time simply by the lender giving you 15 days notice of the increase.

Once a person gets into debt with a high interest rate, it is difficult to make large enough monthly payments to pay off the amount owed. Here are some tips to prevent credit card problems.

- Use a credit card sparingly, if at all
- Try to pay off the balance each month
- ALWAYS pay the minimum due each month
- Make all payments early enough to meet the due dates
- Buy what you need with a credit card if you don’t have cash, but save for the things you want
- If you can’t pay the entire monthly balance due, develop a plan for paying it off as quickly as possible

You’re invited to attend our free workshop on “Understanding Credit Cards and Credit Scores” to learn more about tactics credit card companies use to separate you from your money. If you are having credit card problems or have questions, you can email a Money Wise Aggie counselor at moneywise@tamu.edu or call us at 458-5325.
Make school your #1 priority. Never forget that your grades are the biggest factor for you staying at A&M. Low grades may result in denied financial aid and may even get you kicked out of your college or the university altogether. So always make sure you go to class and finish any work or studying before going out with friends. It’s never easy to make, but the sacrifice will be worth it in the end. That is my advice for the Class of 2014. --Reynaldo Morales ’10

The advice I would give is not to be scared. It might be overwhelming at first, but if you study the right way you will keep up. If you need help there are plenty of Aggies to help you out. Making new friends will also make it easier. --Yazmin Hernandez ’12

I would tell them to not hesitate to look for help. Professors are just people like everyone else, and they are always willing to help if you ask them. By asking them for help, they see that you are putting in an effort to learn the material and will do what they can to help. Also, there is also a lot of free help around campus, for example the Student Learning Center in Hotard, the Multicultural Services in Koldus, and the SI leaders. I know from personal experience that the tutors at Hotard are very sweet and definitely know what they are talking about.

--Amanda Cofsky ’13

Get a planner and utilize it; get involved with your passion in life; don’t be afraid to ask for help; make friendships that will last a lifetime; have fun, but make your studies your priority.

--Valerie Infante ’13

I think I could say that for most of us college is a new way of life. I kind of looked at it like the first step to adulthood and living on my own, and it was true. I had become independent of my parents. I no longer relied on anyone else to cook for me, wash my clothes, or ask where I have been. It was a new reality, but I really enjoyed it. I felt a sense of freedom where I was not restrained by my home life. Everything that I had worked on up through high school was now left behind and I had to start all over again, and I think finding where to start was the hardest part. The best advice I could give to a new student is: get involved. Find an organization or club that you have an interest in. There are over 800 at our school and there is bound to be one that you have an interest in. For me I have found my best friends and resources through the clubs I joined. Do not try to join just one? join as many as you can! As a freshman I was originally in six clubs but I narrowed it down to only a few in a couple of weeks. I based it off my interest and how much time I was willing to dedicate to each club. By the end they had become an integral part of my week where I looked forward to going to the meetings. These organizations help me relax and keep my mind of school work all the time. They give me something else to do besides study every day.

--Bregg Reedy ’12

One of my favorite quotes by Mr. William Arthur Ward states: “If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.” You already imagined it and you achieved getting into Texas A&M (by the way which is one of the most prestigious schools in America) and you are dreaming of becoming something great so get out there and BECOME SOMETHING AMAZING! There are so many people at Texas A&M who are rooting for you and wanting you to do your absolute best from all the counselors here, to teacher, other students, advisors, and so many others. My Advice is to get to know all those people who want you to do your best! GET INVOLVED! It really doesn’t matter how you get involved…just that you do! Join the hall council in your dorm, join a FLOW, get involved with your Fish Camp, make a study group, get involved in organizations pertaining to your major, or hang out with Regents! Whatever you do...surround yourself with positive and encouraging people and your time at A&M will not only be a memory to cherish forever but also very enjoyable and so much more fun!!!

GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2014!

--Alyssa Young ’11
Summer Internship with Caltrans

Jorge Guerra is a member of the Class of 2013 from El Paso, TX who endeavors to one day be a Civil Engineer. He will be the Vice President of the Regents’ Scholars Organization for the 2010-2011 academic year, and he was a member of the Orientation Planning Board for Regents’ Scholars as a freshman. While many college students spend their summers finding a job or taking classes at a community college, Jorge was offered a position as an intern for three weeks in San Diego, California with Caltrans. Caltrans is the California Department of Transportation. According to its website, Caltrans’ mission is to “[Improve] Mobility Across California.” During his internship, Jorge was able to observe all aspects of working with a large engineering firm, from being on the construction sites, to working with Auto CAD (a designing program), to the business and administrative side of the organization.

How did you get your internship?

My brother-in-law is an esteemed electrician and met Mr. Luis Medina a Civil Engineer for Caltrans over the years working on various projects. Last summer I was introduced to Mr. Medina and I wasted no time asking him questions about what he would recommend for me to do in order to achieve my career goal of becoming a Civil Engineer as well. So he gave me a few tips as well as offering me the internship for this summer.

Why did you choose Civil Engineering as your field of study?

Since I was a young boy, designing my own structures and kind of being the mastermind behind big projects have really caught my attention. Also Civil Engineering offers a wide range of employment opportunities.

What have you learned during your internship?

I have really been involved with a team in Caltrans called Local Assistance. Our function is to review and manage where state funds are sent and how they are being used. I have been privileged enough to also go out on the field and help inspect finished projects as well as attend board and employee meetings.

Has your internship reinforced your desire to become a civil engineer?

Definitely, this internship has shown me how I can truly explore various areas of Civil Engineering according to which one makes me happier and fits me best, which is ultimately what I want and expect in my future career.

The Great Balancing Act

As the Aggie school year begins once again, it’s a good time to take a close look at what we like to call “the great balancing act!” Success at Texas A&M begins with balance. It could be balancing class with your social life, balancing fun with responsibility, or just balancing those courses across all FIVE days of the week, but once you lose your balance, you can easily fall...HARD.

But hey, don’t worry! Just like learning to ride a bike, you’ll find your balance once you get moving. As you begin to experience the “college life,” you’ll notice that there are countless distractions and activities, all pulling you in a hundred different directions. Every year, students end up in an Academic Advisor’s office, and all experiencing “freedom-overload.” When you look at your schedule for the first time, you think, “Wow! I have 500 much time during the day I don’t know what to do!” Unfortunately, the “what” you should be doing is STUDYING. The transition between high school and college is tough, and it takes getting used to, but you need to be ready to put in a lot of time outside of class studying and preparing for your next class.

Be ready to be surprised by your coursework! You can handle it...but don’t go in thinking it will be a breeze! Use the first few days of class to find the balance of your courses...if you need to make changes to your schedule to lighten the load, contact your Academic Advisor before the end of the first week of class and you can still make changes to your course load.

Once you get into the swing of things, make sure you don’t get OVER-involved. Aggies are always wanting to do more, learn more, and experience more...but you have to know what you can handle, and you can’t forget why you’re here in the first place: to get a world-class education!

It may seem a little shaky in the beginning, but balance is always hard to find at first. Luckily, it’s easier to keep your balance once you’ve found it! And as always, you have a great group of advisors and counselors to help you to avoid falling...or failing!

Sam Murdock
Senior Academic Advisor I
Bioenvironmental Sciences
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your time is instructed by others.</td>
<td>You manage your own time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You can count on parents and teachers to remind you of your responsibilities and to guide you in setting priorities.</td>
<td>You must balance your responsibilities and set priorities. You will face moral and ethical decisions you have never faced before.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most of your classes are arranged for you.</td>
<td>You arrange your own schedule in consultation with your advisor.</td>
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<td>You will usually be told what to do and corrected if your behavior is out of line.</td>
<td>You are expected to take responsibility for what you do and don’t do, as well as for the consequences of your decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes generally have no more than 35 students.</td>
<td>Class lectures may number 100 students or more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You do most of your studying in class, with homework as a back up.</td>
<td>You do most your studying outside of class (at least 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour of class) with lectures and other class work as a guide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You seldom need to read anything more than once and sometimes listening in class is enough.</td>
<td>You need to review class notes and text material regularly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are provided textbooks at no expense.</td>
<td>You need to budget substantial funds for textbooks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are expected to read short assignments that are then discussed and often re-taught in class.</td>
<td>You are assigned substantial amounts of reading and writing which may not be directly addressed in class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You will usually be told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.</td>
<td>It’s up to you to read and understand the assigned material; lectures and assignments proceed from the assumption that you’ve already done so.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.</td>
<td>Professors are usually open and helpful, but expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers provide you with the information you missed when you were absent.</td>
<td>Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes that you missed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook.</td>
<td>Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying, or they may expect you to relate the classes to textbook readings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.</td>
<td>Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.</td>
<td>Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When writing on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not summarize it. Good notes are a must.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.</td>
<td>Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when assignments are due, and how you will be graded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.</td>
<td>Professors may not formally take roll, but are still likely to know whether or not you attended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of material.</td>
<td>Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material. You, not the professor, need to organize the material to prepare for the test. A particular course may only have 2-3 tests a term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers frequently rearrange test dates to avoid conflicts with school events.</td>
<td>Professors usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.</td>
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