Planning on Changing Colleges?

Howdy Regents’ Scholars!

If you are planning on changing colleges at the end of the fall semester, it is imperative that you let Suzanne Sealey, 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, 2011 if you are planning on changing:

- **Name:**
- **UIN:**
- **Fall 11 College:**
- **Fall 11 Major:**
- **Spring 12 College:**
- **Spring 12 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 Suzanne by email at ssealey@tamu.edu.

**DON’T FORGET** There is plenty of FREE help on-campus 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/](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
- College of Education & Human Development
- 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
- Mays Business School
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Department of English
- International Student Services
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation

**Deadline February 1, 2012**

Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 3 to win A&M goodies!
Ten Tips for Email Etiquette

Email may be a quick way to communicate, but don’t forget your etiquette when emailing with professors, academic and financial advisors, etc. Make a good impression with these tips.

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **Make your email clear.**
   Admissions counselors and scholarship sponsors 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 and possible; anything longer than half a page is too long.

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **Always…always…IDENTIFY yourself!**

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FAFSA/ TASFA Renewal Workshops

In order for you to continue to receive financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2012-2013 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2012. The Scholarships & Financial Aid Office encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 1, 2012 to receive priority in awarding.

To expedite the process, we encourage you to file your tax return as early as possible.

In order to complete the FAFSA, you 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 the process for students, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the Spring semester. We encourage you to attend these workshops if you need assistance filing your FAFSA. These events are scheduled for:

- February 15, 2012 9:30AM-10:30AM
- February 16, 2012 11:00AM-12:00PM
- February 17, 2012 12:30PM-1:30PM
- February 18, 2012 2:00PM-3:00PM

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

Asiya’s Nook

HOWDY!

I’ve been watching Heroes in my spare time and there has been some major flashbacking and flashforwarding to explain another way to save the world. Though saving the world is left to Hiro Nakamura and the other 9th Wonders, I have accepted the task to save my winter break. Normally, I would dive into my winter creek of bliss only to find that I need to learn how to swim first or face the threat of drowning in the pool of boredom. Goals for this winter break? Let’s visit last winter break to see what the answers are…

Winter Break 2010—Asiya sits on the couch, eating her third bag of chips while watching a re-run of Friends. She experienced the cold daylight when she went out to get the mail yesterday but since it’s Sunday, there’s no reason for her to go out. Her tan is rapidly fading daylight when she went out to get the mail yesterday but since it’s Sunday, there’s no reason for her to go out. Her tan is rapidly fading. She walked out of the building smiling at the auction-goers and headed towards the Rec Center where her class was. Suddenly, she stopped. Where was her wallet… the Pavilion. She changed direction and frantically ran down Joe Route, calling her co-worker, “My wallet is with you from earlier and my class begins at 10:20 and I have a midterm today at the Rec and I waited for the auction and now I’ll be late!” 10:10, she takes two steps at a time up the stairs and enters through the ”Staff Only” entrance. No breather—gotta run. 10:18, almost there. Why does running a mile take me 10 minutes? I need a bike but who would lend me their bike? I’d be late cuz I’d have to lock it up anyways. 10:19, a skateboarder whizzes by. I hate skateboarders! Unless I was one. 10:21, arrives at class. 10:26, instructor hands out midterm. It’s 10 questions, True or False. Asiya needs a skateboard, True or False?

After visiting the past, I’ve come to the conclusion that I can learn from my experiences and further, change something about myself if I apply what I’ve learned. What’s the point of knowing something important if you don’t use it? I know I want a fun winter break, to stay healthy, and to skateboard. Therefore, I will have fun, stay healthy, and skateboard. I should probably read and watch the news too… Hunger Games and Jon Stewart, here I come!

Asiya Bhura
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 refocusing 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.

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

Information taken from: “Aggie Connection, Fall 2005”