February 2010

OH, THE PLACES YOU CAN GO!

Looking for a chance to lead the next generation of Regents’ Scholars?
Be an Orientation Counselor

When is Orientation?
August 23, 2010

Who can apply?
Everyone!

Why become an OC?
- Be a helping hand to freshmen of 2014
- Meet new people
- Gain leadership experience

Requirement:
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Be committed

Applications will be available at the Informational, or by clicking on the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselor link on the Regents’ Review website. https://www.tamu.edu/regents/reviews/.../OC-Application.pdf

February 4, 2010

TOP 10% SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in the previous year
2. Maintain an overall 3.25 GPA
3. Complete at least 75% of hours attempted in the previous year
4. Demonstrate financial need
5. Complete the FAFSA or TASFA by March 1, 2010

Housing Decision 2010

If you are currently living on campus, you need to participate in Housing Decision 2010.

Go to http://reslife.tamu.edu/ to complete your renewal or cancellation in late February or early March. Talk to your resident advisor or the Housing Assignments Office (979)845-4744 for more information.

Housing Fair 2010

Are you looking for a place to live off campus next year? Housing Fair is an unique opportunity for off campus properties to directly present information about their property to students, faculty, and staff on the Texas A&M University campus.

This is the 26th annual Housing Fair and each year brings new possibilities for off campus housing to reach students with a fun, informative, and educational program. Come see what Bryan/College Station has to offer before signing a lease. Look around and find the place that is right for you. Housing Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 17, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center racquetball court area and courts 3 and 4 hallway.

If you have any questions, please contact Adult, Graduate & Off Campus Student Services at 979.845.1741.

SAVE THE DATE!

Regents’ Scholars Freshman Banquet

May 4, 2010

Attendance is REQUIRED for this event.
Details TBA.

Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 4 to win A&M goodies!
COLLEGE STUDENT
VALENTINE’S DAY
SURVIVAL GUIDE

By Kelci Lynn, About.com Guide

Valentine’s Day and college can make a fantastic -- or awkward -- mix. Make the most of your situation by enjoying yourself, enjoying the day, and -- if applicable -- enjoying the time with a significant other. Conversely, of course, you can find information on making the most of being single. Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be a celebration only for those already coupled up!

If You’re Single
Being single on Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to mean being awkward or having a funky night. There are multiple ways to ensure you still have a great Valentine’s Day -- without a significant other.

5 Things to Do Off Campus If You’re Single on Valentine’s Day

1. Plan a movie fest. Invite some friends over and plan a movie marathon. You can spend the entire night eating funky snacks, watching great (or even horrible) movies, and catching up with friends. Why not let yourself relax and enjoy a night off? You don’t necessarily need a boyfriend or girlfriend to make it happen.

2. Cook yourself a nice dinner. You can use the kitchen in your residence hall, the kitchen at a friend’s house, or any kitchen that you have access to. After spending an hour or so putting together a nice meal for yourself or friends, it’s practically impossible not to feel good afterward.

3. Throw an anti-Valentine’s Day party. Chances are, you aren’t the only person on campus to not be thrilled about the holiday. Plan an Anti-Valentine’s Day Party -- for just a few friends or the entire campus -- that shows that those without boyfriends or girlfriends can have a good (if not better) time, too.

4. Get yourself together. It may sound strange, but when was the last time you woke up feeling totally put together? Instead of moping about being single, use the free time you have Valentine’s Day evening to get yourself organized. Clean up your calendar, catch up on laundry, plan ahead for major papers and midterms, and get a head start on those assignments you’ve been avoiding. It may sound lame (okay, totally lame) at first, but you might be surprised at how good you feel after you’re done. Who needs a date to go to bed feeling like a rock star?

5. Set up an online dating profile. Alright, you may be single, and you may be at peace with it -- but you may also be interested in changing that single status. Spend some time at your computer, setting up an online dating profile. Who knows what might happen?!

If You Have a Date
Have a date for Valentine’s? Thought that was the difficult part ... until you tried to plan something? Check out these easy (and affordable) date ideas to help make sure your night is all you want it to be.

5 Inexpensive College Date Ideas

1. Head to a small, family-owned restaurant instead of a large chain. Ask around campus to see if people know of smaller, delicious, and often cheaper places than some of the larger chain restaurants in town. The dinner will most likely be quieter, more intimate, and much more friendly.

2. Find something fun (and free) in the community. Is there a poetry slam this weekend? A reading by an author you both like? A band performing in a park? Check to see what’s available that won’t cost much and will allow you to get to know each other better while enjoying something new and fun.

3. Do something outside. Buy sandwiches at a local deli, go for a hike, and have a picnic somewhere nice.

4. Visit a cultural center. Many museums, art galleries, cultural centers, and libraries have reduced (if not free) admission for college students. Go see an exhibit and enjoy the time off campus.

5. Meet for coffee or a drink instead of dinner. Getting together doesn’t have to mean having a huge (and often expensive) meal. Meet for coffee in the afternoon or drinks in the evening. You can have an equally nice time without having to spend as much money.

If You’re in a Long-Distance Relationship

Being in a long-distance relationship can be hard enough without things like Valentine’s Day reminding you of the distance between you and your significant other. Learn more about how to make the distance a little easier.

1. Use Technology to Your Advantage. There are countless ways to use technology to keep in touch with someone, which you were no doubt using before you arrived on campus. Text messaging, IM-ing, sending cell phone pictures, talking on the phone, sending emails, and using your videocam are only some of the ways you can help (article continued on next page)
Congratulations to the Opinion Poll Winner for January:
For my New Year’s Resolution, I am committing myself to keep my body and mind healthy. I plan to not eat out all the time and to keep working out. I am also going to raise my GPA so that I do not lose the scholarship and so that I pass all my classes for my own well being. My mom is going to help encourage me to do both and so are my friends. So I believe I am going to accomplish this Year’s Resolution.—Carmen Navarrete

Please contact Casey Goto to claim your prize!

SALMA’S CORNER

Howdy, Regents’ Scholars,

February has arrived and the semester is well underway. I have kept to my study schedule thus far, and have finally gotten into my class routine, which I have to say has been harder than usual. I have classes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (what can I say, privileges of being a senior!), with the majority of my classes on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Of them, two met in different places in the first week of class.

On Tuesday, I went to my respective classrooms as I was told to by the wonderful Howdy Portal. On Thursday morning, however, I forgot that I was supposed to meet at a new location and hurried instead to the original classroom. When I saw that no one was there, I rushed to the Educational Media Services, or EdMS, where you can study, check out movies, and watch them on DVD/ VHS players. I recalled one of my professors telling us that we would watch a movie there. As I arrived, I checked the board outside the EdMS on the fourth floor, only to see that it was my 2:20pm class and not my 11:10am class! Oh no! I then exited via the staircase (the elevators were taking way too long), and ran to the Cushing Library. I came into the building, stopped in front of the door, wiped the perspiration that had beaded on my forehead, opened the door with a big Whoosh! Heads turned, and all eyes were on me. “I’m sorry I’m late,” I whispered ashamedly. “You went to the wrong classroom, didn’t you? Oh, don’t worry about. I expect we’ll have those problems until the middle of the semester once everyone gets used to the routine.” Oh what a kind professor! I can’t believe this happened to me after a good three and a half years of practice! Purpose of this story: read your syllabus, take notes the first day of class, and then read them before you go to class again.

Other than getting used to my class schedule, the Regents’ Scholars Program has been keeping me quite busy! For Aggie Pals: Go Write to College, a new pilot pen pal program between Regents’ Scholars and elementary school students we started this year, we are busy organizing a Trip to Campus for 4th and 5th elementary school students. I am getting to experience how to build a program and an all-day event from scratch, and I must say that it’s exciting! I can’t wait to see it in action once April arrives! As the Regents’ Scholars Intern, I have also seen the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Planning Board working really hard to get the Regents’ Scholars Orientation for the Class of 2014 planned and organized. They have an amazing theme this year, and I can honestly say that it’ll be an incredible experience to be a part of. I think the deadline to apply is tomorrow February 4th, so this is your last chance! Go apply right now; you won’t regret it!

Well, I have to get back to work. I’ll speak to you in about a month!

Gig ‘Em!

Salma Abdullah ‘10
Regents’ Scholars Intern

WHAT IF I GET SICK?

If you are sick and need medical attention, you should contact Student Health Services (http://shs.tamu.edu) where, depending on your condition, you may need to make an appointment to see a medical practitioner. Remember, most of the services at Student Health Services are free of charge. Those with charges, such as prescription and over-the-counter drugs, are available to students for a minimal charge.

Review your course syllabi for each professor’s policy on missed classes. If you are able to attend class, you should do so, though not if getting to or attending class will cause you to be extremely uncomfortable. If you are unable to attend class, telephone or e-mail your professor as soon as possible to find out how to make up missed work. Make arrangements to get class notes from another student in the class.

If you will be out of class for three or more days due to illness or injury, you may contact the Office of the Dean of Students (845-3111) and request that an absence notification be sent to your professors. This notification does not excuse your absence; it merely explains the absence; your professor might ask for further documentation.

Stay (and feel!) connected to your far-away partner. Make times with each other to meet up online, and view it like a date. Don’t be late, don’t forget, and try not to cancel.

2. Try to Send Old-Fashioned Mail. As simple as it may seem, getting a card, gift, or care package in the mail always brightens someone’s day. For partners who are separated by long distances, these little gestures and mementos can provide a physical connection of sorts. And besides, who doesn’t like getting a cute card or cookies in the mail?!

3. Try to Send Old-Fashioned Mail. As simple as it may seem, getting a card, gift, or care package in the mail always brightens someone’s day. For partners who are separated by long distances, these little gestures and mementos can provide a physical connection of sorts. And besides, who doesn’t like getting a cute card or cookies in the mail?!

4. Pay Attention to the Details. You may not want to spend the limited time you have with your partner talking about the details of your life, but these are often the most important things. Hearing about your weird Biology lab partner, the English professor you love, and how you can’t get enough of the dining hall waffles are the things that make you you. Your partner will want to hear all about the details of your new life. So settle in for a long conversation about the things that seem most ridiculous, but that may just end up being the things that keep you together during your time away at school.

If you could go anywhere on Spring Break and money was not an issue, where would you go and why?

Send your answer to Casey Gros at casey_gros@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.

**FAFSA/TASFA RENEWAL WORKSHOPS**

In order for you to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2010-2011 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2010. Scholarships & Financial Aid encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 31, 2010.

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 2009 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2009 federal income tax return
- If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process for you, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the Spring semester. These events will be held in room 236 of the Pavilion and are scheduled for:

- February 22, 2010 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 24, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM
- February 25, 2010 10:30AM-12:30PM
- February 26, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM

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

Information retrieved from: http://studentaid.ed.gov

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**February 2010**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundhog Day</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Women’s Basketball vs. Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Leadership Speaker Series</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Junior Cadet Accessions Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 12:00 AM Aggie Nights</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sophomore Leadership Conference</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>EIC Curbside Recycling</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Filing for Spring Elections (8-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Simply Sinatra</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Women’s Basketball vs. Kansas State</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Track Hosts TAMU Challenge vs Big 12-SEC-Conf. USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Study Abroad: Travel Wise</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday (Christian)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Equestrian vs. Kansas State</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM FAFSA/TASFA Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM FAFSA/TASFA Workshop</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>9:00 PM - 10:00 PM GLOW 5k</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Conference on Student Government Associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Purim (Jewish) begins at sundown the day before</td>
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