Howdy, Regents’ Scholars!

Well, it’s been a while since we chatted, but that is because I have SO much going on! It’s already October, exams are here (ahhhh!), senior year (and a half – WHOOP!) has officially kicked off and RSOers are back and having a blast, but I’ll hold off on all those details until later. Let’s talk about what I’ve been up to before now.

It was amazing to see you all during the Regents’ Scholars Orientation! I know we had tons of fun taking part in the movie-making during the summer, meeting ya’ll at the Orientation, and handing out prizes during the Third Hour. Well, you all came and left (well, done – you have at least one of four requirements down) but the work certainly wasn’t done for me. I came back to work soon after and started inputting all the information and comments ya’ll filled out on the assessments. I entered almost 700 sheets of information in less than two full work days (a feat of which I am quite proud). It was amazing to see the comments ya’ll made – some gave constructive criticism, others asked for food and to make it shorter next year (oh, come on – we told ya’ll to eat beforehand and 2 hours for $20,000 is a good deal to me – almost $167/minute!), and the ones I loved reading the most stated thing like, “It’s perfectly legit, there was no problem, I loved it, especially all the Wildcats. AAAAA!!!”

After the Orientation, we had the Regents’ Scholars Sophomore Retreat. The first day of the Retreat, the students came and learned about themselves, their own personal Strengths and how to use them effectively. The second day of the Retreat was just amazing. We went out to the Challenge Works Ropes Courses and participated in low ropes activities. We separated into eight groups and headed into the wilderness (well, as close as I’ve ever gotten to it anyway). It was an awesome day because we got to see exactly how students used their Strengths to accomplish a common team goal. I feel like we became great friends, even though we had known each other for only a few hours. I may be biased, but I have to give a shot out to my Green Team!! A-Roo-Cha-Cha!!!

The Fall Reception comes next, and that is when I got to see ya’ll and ya’lls families! I got to direct traffic at the elevators with my sister (who looks very much like me), mingle with ya’ll, and network with faculty, staff, and administrators of A&M. In fact, let me tell you an amazing story. A man who was wearing academic regalia (awesome looking robes with strings and tassels everywhere – I will have those one day), had just attended Freshman Convocation and the Fall Reception, and was heading towards the elevators. My sister and I plucked up some courage and introduced ourselves. We told him our names, majors, and future aspirations - which include becoming teachers, getting involved in Public Education Administration, as well as Higher Education Administration. This man turned out to be Dr. Kracht, the Dean to the College of Education and Human Development. What a coincidence. Well, he gave us his card and invited us to come to his office to talk about education anytime we please. Oh, Regents’ Scholars Program, I wanted to take my time and thank you for everything you’ve done for me!

Well, since then, classes began, which meant studying did too (Senior level classes are no joke, but I’ve never had more fun learning!). I have meetings to go to, work to get done, lunch to eat with friends. Exams and projects due dates are here, but I’ve been studying hard and I’ve already purchased my scantrons and blue books. RSO is wonderful because I get to see my lovely friends at least once every month, and we’ve got some great things planned out for this month. A general meeting is on the 13th (you can still join – you just have to pay dues), Replant is on the 17th, we are going to a Haunted House on the 24th, and we may start intramural Dodgeball! You can look at our schedule at rso.tamu.edu.

That’s it for now!

Until next month,
Salma Abdullah ’10
Regents’ Scholars Program 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, while most of the services at Student Health Services are free of charge, other services, 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.
Did you know that the former Animal Sciences Building is reportedly haunted?

COLLEGE PROFESSOR PET PEEVES AND POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIORS

by Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D.

Professors love having students in their classes who are there to actively learn, participate, and demonstrate their commitment to learning. And then there are certain behaviors best avoided by students in college. These behaviors drive faculty crazy and will lead to you being seen as less than the ideal student. Some of these activities are disrespectful to the professor -- as well as to your fellow students.

Pet Peeves
What are things to avoid? Here’s one list:

- Failing to come to class regularly
- Arriving to class late (and especially making a big entrance), and worse, making a habit of it
- Shuffling papers, putting books away, and other “end-of-class” behaviors before the professor has ended class
- Questioning whether some of the homework for the class is just “busy work.”
- Asking if “we’re doing anything important in class” when informing the professor that you may have to miss a class
- Asking about what is happening in class when it is clearly marked on the syllabus
- Allowing your cell phone to ring in class
- Text messaging while in class
- Holding a private discussion with someone during class
- Asking inane or off-topic questions
- Eating a meal in class
- Telling the professor you went to his/her office for help, but that he/she is never there
- Claiming you did not know an exercise was due, that there was a test, or any other class work that is clearly identified on the class calendar
- Telling the professor you deserve a break because of who you are
- Not completing the assigned reading before class
- Going to the restroom in the middle of class (unless it’s an emergency)
- Sleeping during class
- Complaining about the workload in class, stating “you know, this isn’t the only class I’m taking”
- Wearing inappropriate clothing (or the lack of it) to class
- Asking to “borrow” a stapler to staple a homework assignment for the class. (Would you ask your boss for a stapler to staple a report?)
- Turning in assignments that do not follow the class procedure (and every professor has different guidelines; know them!)
- Making excuses for missed exams, class assignments. (Especially don’t use the time-worn dead grandparent excuse, or that you have to pick someone up at the airport)

Positive Behaviors
Here are the things college professors love:

- Students who take responsibility for their education
- Students who have read the assigned reading and actively participate in class discussion
- Students who complete all assigned work on time
- Students who sit toward the front of the classroom
- Students who visit professors during office hours
- Students who do not make excuses
- Students who ask for help more than a day before a test or an assignment due date
AVOID FOOT-IN-MOUTH SITUATIONS WITH COLLEGE ETIQUETTE 101

The way you communicate and interact with others is basically a representation of yourself...and you want to represent yourself well, right? Part of doing that is knowing the basics in etiquette. When corresponding with your professors today and potential employers tomorrow, it is essential to be aware of proper communication and etiquette skills.

Telephone Etiquette:
If you must leave a message, always identify yourself and leave a number where you can be reached.
If you are returning a call and the caller left you a message, listen to the message FIRST, then return the phone call.
When calling someone, always identify yourself.

Email Etiquette:
Properly address the person you are sending the email.
Use “Dr.” when emailing your professor.
Write in proper sentences and use punctuation and proper grammar.
Do not send an email in all caps or all lower case with no punctuation.
Writing in all caps is the same as SHOUTING at someone.
Don’t over use punctuation!!!!!
Sign your email with your first and last name to ensure the recipient knows who sent the email.

Abuse and Misuse of Access and Unauthorized Access
Students may not abuse of misuse computer access or gain unauthorized access to information in any academic exercise. See student rule 22: http://student-rules.tamu.edu

Violation of Departmental or College Rules
Students may not violate any announced departmental or college rule relating to academic matters.

University Rules on Research
Students involved in conducting research and/or scholarly activities at Texas A&M University must also adhere to standards set forth in University Rule 15.99.03.M1 - Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship. For additional information please see: http://rules.tamu.edu/urules/100/159903m1.htm

The Aggie Honor Code website has a wealth of information and more examples of academic misconduct. All examples and information taken from: “Know the code”: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor

Networking and Event Etiquette:
Turn your cell phone off during presentations, class, receptions, banquets or any event where important people are in attendance.

Appointments:
Always arrive on time.
The person you are meeting with has set aside time out of his/her schedule to meet with you.
If for some reason you cannot make it or will be late, notify the person you are meeting with as soon as possible.
Always dress appropriate to the situation.

Facebook and MySpace:
Be careful what information you are sharing to the world on these sites. Potential employers have access to the sites and check them on all applicants. You do not want any shady or improper pictures or information for them to see.
Midterms...are you ready?

Elizabeth Crouch, Associate Director Biomedical Science Program

Midterms can be a stressful time of the semester. There are often multiple exams in a week and, in some cases, it is the first major exam of the semester for a course. Furthermore, activities with various clubs and societies are in full swing, and, let’s face it, there is always Fightin’ Texas Aggie Football on the weekends. So, how do you survive this time of year and what exactly do your midterm grades mean?

Look ahead at least a week to see what assignments and tests are coming up so that you can plan your school, work and leisure schedules accordingly.

Plan your schedule in that order. School comes first.

Do not wait until the last minute to study. Unlike high school, where an exam might cover one to two chapters, most major exams at Texas A&M will cover multiple chapters, homework assignments and laboratory sessions, perhaps even books. Therefore, begin studying early and continue to read and study a little each day for all of your courses. Last, get a good night’s rest. In most cases, pulling an “all-nighter” will only hinder your reasoning capabilities and usually does more harm than good. Furthermore, a good night’s rest will ensure that you stay healthy. Should you get sick on the day of a midterm, please contact the professor immediately to discern the type of documentation required to substantiate your absence. You will also want to inquire about a make-up exam. If you have questions about what constitutes a university excused absence, please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm for further information.

What happens after all those exams are complete? All students classified as U1 (freshmen) will receive midterm grades. These will be accessible on myrecord.tamu.edu and are an indication of how you are doing in a course. Please make sure that you check these. Some professors will enter an “I” (incomplete) or “X” (the professor did not turn in a grade.) Do not worry if you see these; you can ask the professor what your grade is. Also, look in the absence column. Some professors keep roll and will record how many absences you have along with your grades. If your absences seem excessive, meet with your professor about the discrepancy.

It is imperative that you meet with your professor, as they care about how you perform in their course. Make sure that you take any tests or homework with you so that you can go over what you missed. Also, try asking how you can better study for the work you are misunderstanding. It indicates that you have been studying, but wish to improve. Also, remember that there are several points of help for you on campus. Your academic advisor is available to you! They are wonderful sources of help in that they can give you an indication of what the department expects of you thus far, point you towards the proper tutors, help desks, and supplemental instructors, or refer you to the Student Learning Center (845-2724) or Student Counseling Service (845-4427).

Midterm grades are not your final grade! If you have been doing well, keep it up. If you are not performing up to your standards, get help. It is not too late to end the semester strong. Good luck and Gig ‘em!