Important Dates

Oct. 3, 2011
RSO Meeting
6:45—7:45pm
Rudder 501

Oct. 15, 2011
RSO Attends Football Game
1:00 pm
Rudder Statue

Oct. 16, 2011
Kyle Field Clean up

Oct. 22, 2011
RSO Replant

OCTOBER
For the full calendar of events, see page 5.

Congratulations to the 2011-12 Regents’ Scholars Orientation Planning Board!
Chair: Leticia Palomin ’14; Co-Chair: Mickey Rodriguez ’14; Board Members: Jorge Aguero ’15, Mariajose Rosales ’14, Marlen Cornejo ’15, Samira Mansoor ’15

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.

Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 3 to win A&M goodies!
Midterms: Gentle reminder of How you are performing in your courses...or a major wake up call?

by Elizabeth Crouch, 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?

**First**, 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.

**Second**, plan your schedules in that order. School comes first.

**Third**, 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/rule07 for further information.

Then, what happens after all those exams are complete? All students classified as U1 (freshmen) will receive midterm grades. These will be accessible on howdy.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.

Don’t forget, 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).

**Bottom line:** 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! Elizabeth Crouch, ’91, ’96.
Know the Code!

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

You have probably heard someone mention this phrase in class or on campus. But, what does this really mean? Breaking the Aggie Code constitutes committing academic misconduct, can result in undesirable consequences, and may lead to expulsion from the university.

Before you start biting your nails and reflecting on your every academic behavior, we have identified and provided examples of what constitutes academic misconduct. Your job is to familiarize yourself with these examples and avoid situations that promote such actions.

According to the Texas A&M University Student Rules, academic misconduct may include, but is not limited to, the following acts: cheating, fabrication, falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, complicity, abuse and misuse of access and unauthorized access, violation of departmental or college rules, violation of university rules on research. However, if you have committed one of these acts in “honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data,” this does not constitute academic dishonesty (http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/acadmisconduct.htm)

An example of cheating:
- During an examination, looking at another student’s examination or using external aids (for example, books, notes, calculators, conversation with others, or electronic devices) unless specifically allowed in advance by the instructor.

An example of fabrication:
- Using “invented” information in any laboratory experiment, report of results or academic exercise. It would be improper, for example, to analyze one sample in an experiment and then “invent” data based on that single experiment for several more required analyses.

An example of falsification:
- Changing the measurements in an experiment in a laboratory exercise so as to obtain results more closely conforming to theoretically expected values.

An example of multiple submissions:
- Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course without the instructor’s permission.

An example of plagiarism:
- Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one’s own.

An example of complicity:
- Collaborating on academic work knowing that the collaboration will not be reported.

Abuse and Misuse of Access and Unauthorized Access
- Students may not abuse or 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
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
Howdy!
Approximately 1,136 days ago, I entered the grounds of this fine institution called Texas A&M University as a student. I filled out that blue evaluation form from my Orientation, attended my academic success program’s first class and paid my dues for the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), Little did I know that one day I would grow up to own what I like to call Orla.

Orla was presented to me by Suzanne Sealey on September 16. Yes, the Regents’ Scholars Coordinator came to my Ring Day for me specifically. She said, “Why are you not on my calendar? Tell me what time you’re getting your ring so I can come.” Though I didn’t fully understand at that moment why she would want to come to a Ring Day in the summer heat, the realization hit me when I stood at the desk asking, “Did they spell my name right?” If they didn’t spell my name correctly and I’d lost it that day, I would never get it back. If someone forgot my name and asked to see my ring to remember it, they’d say, “Congratulations, Aslo!” But most importantly, no one would know that Asiya Bhura is a proud member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 2012 (Whoop!) by just looking at my hand.

As the years passed, I worked harder to earn my Aggie Ring; the first year wasn’t so bad for me and I worked up my GPR in Spring 2009. Sophomore year was more about getting used to my major classes while balancing extra-curricular commitments. My junior year was about figuring out and focusing on what I wanted to do with life; now my senior year is about being happy with what I have decided.

I am super happy that I have my ring. I forgot how exciting it was to see people wear their rings, representing the essence of Texas A&M on their right ring fingers unless, of course, they were part of that secret organization that wears it on their left ring finger. I also understand in retrospect that I wasn’t excited because I thought it wouldn’t happen. Seeing the ring in that red box, wearing it, Gig ‘Em Pounding it—that’s real. That’s what I had been working towards.

During my freshman year, I studied a lot for Orla. She was my goal because it seemed like the epitome of Aggie Spirit and that goal was easily attainable. When sophomore year came around, the work became harder as I worked harder. Though I knew it would be sensible to take as many hours as I could handle, I forgot what the point was. My goals changed from academic competence to extra-curricular busy bee. Looking back, I should have written down my goals and put them where I could see it every day so I wouldn’t lose track of what I wanted. In preparation for junior year, I looked at my hours, planned out the rest of my undergrad, estimated Orla into my budget and focused on the important stuff: my happiness. One of the things that made me happy was knowing that my Aggie Ring would be the second one in my family, alongside the noble Excalibur.

One of the best parts about getting Orla was waiting for her throughout the day. That day, I was working and Suzanne came to my desk, raising her shoulders, saying, “You excited?” To play it cool, I said, “What do you mean?” but of course, I gave it away by smiling. Casey Gros (the Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator) couldn’t come to my Ring Day but she and Leslie Uptain, (another financial advisor) Facebooked me when the time came around for me to pick it up. Then I got more excited as Erin Fisk (the Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator for Sophomore Programs), Suzanne and I went to someone else’s Ring time and met Cathy, Manny and Ben (awesome Regents’ Scholars) on the way. I also got a call from Excalibur’s owner, my sister Salma, about how proud she was of me. The relationships I made throughout my undergrad came together in that one day and supported my moment of happiness. When I checked my computer at home, many of the other ring-getters congratulated me on my accomplishment through Facebook and liked my new profile picture with Orla.

Since a few days have passed, I am proud to say that I will take Orla to grad school with me; filling out those applications is a challenge but having her by my side will make it easier because she symbolizes my success. Now that Orla has joined my family and friends-circle, I believe she will make me more like the golden queen she is.

Asiya Bhura
Regents’ Scholars Intern
## October 2011

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<td>OPAS- Charlotte’s Web</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 PM National Night Out</td>
<td>11:00 AM – 3:00 PM 19th Annual Law School Caravan</td>
<td>10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Graduate &amp; Professional School Day Farmers’ Market</td>
<td>AAPO First Friday Lecture Series OPAS- National Acrobats of the People’s Republic of China</td>
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<td>Navaratri/ Dassera- Hindu (10/3 – 10/12)</td>
<td>National Coming Out Day</td>
<td>Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)- Jewish 7:00 – 9:00 PM Rooted Histories: Blacks in Latin America</td>
<td>Farmers’ Market 8:30 – 10:30 PM Mr. &amp; Miss Hispanic Heritage Month Pageant</td>
<td>8:00PM – 12:00AM CAMAC Salsa Dance Night Midnight Yell</td>
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<td>Symphonic Band/Concert Band Concert</td>
<td>Mid Term Grades Due</td>
<td>OPAS- Masters of the Fiddle</td>
<td>Birth of the Bab- Bahai</td>
<td>Birth of the Bab- Bahai Semini Atzeret &amp; Simchat Torah- Jewish Farmers’ Market</td>
<td>Aggie Soccer vs. Oklahoma</td>
<td>RSO Replant 2011 Cultural Day Trip: Dallas, TX dms.tamu.edu</td>
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