**Career Center Spotlight: Campus Recruiting**

**What is Campus Recruiting?**

Campus recruiting in Aggieland is not matched at any other university in the US. Campus recruiting through the Career Center includes over 1500 employers coming to and through TAMU to find you! A typical job search involves you finding employers, finding the right person to send your resume to, trying to schedule interviews, and hoping to get an offer. Campus recruiting involves having employers come to the Career Center to find you and your resume, employers selecting you for interviews in the Career Center, and you having the potential of choosing between multiple offers. It’s your choice!

**HireAggies.com** is your ticket into Campus Recruiting, allowing you to view listings specifically for your major as well as giving you access to more than 8000 opportunities (including interview schedules, resume referrals and Aggie Classifieds).

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**Words of Wisdom**

“Make your life a mission, not an intermission.”

~ Arnold H. Glasgow

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**How to Get Stellar Letters of Recommendation**

So, you want to apply for a scholarship. Or med school. Or grad school. Or a really competitive job. What do all these things have in common? Clearly, you need some awesome letters of recommendation. This is how you go about getting them:

1. **Do Some Legwork.** Not applying for med school for two more years? Perfect. Start networking NOW. The sooner you start making friends with the people you want to recommend you, the better your chances that they WILL recommend you. Early networking means your letter-writer will know you better, and (hopefully) be more inclined to be your advocate. Plus, they won’t feel like you’ve used them just for a letter, which, frankly, can make them just say no.

2. **Choose Wisely.** If you want good, solid letters of recommendation, choose people with whom you have a good rapport. (Go for the professors whose classes you have aced, not the ones who gave you a C+ on your final.) Also, stay away from asking family. Instead, try asking professors, employers, volunteer/church leaders, or long-time family friends who work in your field.

3. **Give Plenty of Notice.** Remember how hard it is to write a good paper the night before its due? Don’t put that kind of pressure on your letter-writers! If possible, give them at least a solid month to write your letter (and give them a deadline before the real one in case they’re late!).

4. **Give them Specifics.** Let your recommendation writer know exactly what you need in the letter, especially if you need them to focus on certain aspects of your achievements. If your letter-writer has never written a letter of recommendation before, be sure to give them some samples (the Career Centers is usually a good source for these, or you can look around online) and let them know about how long it should be. A too-short letter of recommendation can be almost as bad as a half-hearted one.

5. **Offer to Help.** Ask your letter writer what you can do to help them out. Do they need a list of your awards and achievements? Do they want to read your application essay? Try to give them as much assistance as you can so they can get your letter written quickly—and well! Providing them with a one or two page resume of your list of achievements can jog their memories, inform them of things they didn’t previously know about you and make the task a lot easier.

**Final Tip:** Ask your letter-writer to send you a digital copy of the letter once it has been sent. Keep all your letters in a folder, so that if you need to apply to another scholarship or school, you can just send the copy to your recommendation writer to sign and send off. They’ll be more willing to help you multiple times if they don’t have to search their own computer for the letter multiple times!

Your Personal Mission Statement

Do you ever feel like just when you’ve finally got your act together, life throws you a curve ball? Whether it’s a hostile roommate, a sick parent, or just the demands of maintaining a healthy job/academic schedule/relationship, the shifts and changes of life can really throw a wrench in carefully laid plans.

On a Mission
Let’s say you’re the CEO of Nabisco. You know you’d like to make some money, but you haven’t really planned out how you want to get that done—you just know there might be Oreos involved. You figure, you’ll just wing it. How’s that going to go for you?

Probably not so well.

One of the ways big companies stay big (and successful) companies is by defining what they want—exactly what they want—and then breaking it down into small pieces so they can get there.

You: A Definition
It’s time to sit down and figure out what your mission statement is—in words. Start by visualizing where you want to be—in one year, five years, ten years. What do you want people to think about you? What do you want them to feel when they’re with you? How do you want to affect your family, your friends, your community, the world?

Basically, what do you want to DO with your life—NOT necessarily your CAREER—but your life.

Write it Down
When you’re done, write down your mission statement. It might take some finessing to get it right, but write down your mission statement. Google “mission statement” plus the names of some companies (or even your school) to get an idea of what yours might look like.

Apply It
So, once you’ve got your ultimate lifetime mission statement, what are you supposed to do with it?

Simply put, you apply it. Start looking at your day-to-day activities and tasks from the perspective of how it helps you reach your life mission—and think about that when you are tempted to waste time messing around on the internet or even staring at the ceiling (it has been known to happen!).

So if you felt your life mission was to effect political change, you might spend time researching, networking, volunteering with a political party, etc. If you want to make people happier, you might focus on smaller things like making a phone call to your lonely grandparent or holding open the door for someone at the cafe. If you want to write a book, you might shift your classes to focus more on writing techniques, or spend time you used to spend blogging working on a manuscript.

Keep it in Check
That said, now that you’re looking at life with your mission statement in mind; remember that the mission isn’t everything. Your mission statement is not a ruling force of life, but instead a reminder of where your free time could be spent. Don’t give up your job, relationships, or, uh, stop washing your laundry… Just think about your mission statement when you’re building your week schedule, or find yourself with a few extra minutes.

In the end, it’s all about making the world a better place and getting to your goals one step at a time.

Elisa Serrato is my friend. I asked her one day if I said her name correctly. She had never corrected me on it before so I assumed it was the way my niece’s name is pronounced: “uh-LEE-sah.” Though I always called her that, the tiny accent she sometimes has on the phone gave me a feeling that I was wrong; plus, she’s too sweet to correct me. So I asked her. She nodded and blinked once, looking quickly back at her computer screen. The corners of her mouth curled up. “You’re telling me that I’ve pronounced your name incorrectly this whole time?” Elisa laughed, “Yes. You have.” This is kind of what we do at work during our free time; we chit chat and joke around when we’re not doing the serious business that is Scholarships & Financial Aid. Though we have those moments, I’ve noticed that she is always thinking. She’s very responsible and task-oriented, calm and happy. What I’ve learned from her is that you can have a million things on your mind but at the end of the day, you have to smile because that’s another day you’ve spent with your family and friends. It is my pleasure to introduce Elisa Serrato!

Name: Elisa E. Serrato  
Age: 21 on August 24  
Class: 2013  
Hometown: Edinburg, TX  

How have you been involved in the Regents’ Scholars Program and why?

Throughout my years here at Texas A&M I have been involved in the Regents’ Scholars Program in many ways. My freshman year, I became an Orientation Counselor (OC) where I was able to mentor a group of ten freshmen during the beginning of their college experience and I have also been a member of the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO). With the Regents’ Scholars Program I have also been and am currently involved in many leadership positions. I have been a Financial Aid Connections mentor, amongst being an Aggie Pal (AP) and being on the Orientation Planning Board for the Class of 2015. Another way that I have been involved with the Regents Scholars Program is by participating in REPS (Regents’ Encouraging Prospective Students) where I was able to talk to high school students one on one and answer any questions they might have had. The most recent way I have been involved is by Older Wiser Leaders (OWL) where I will be a student mentor to some Regents’ Scholars.

What countries have you been to?

Traveling across the world is something that has always interested me. I have been fortunate enough to travel to foreign countries like France and Germany.

What did you do there? How did you immerse yourself in those cultures?

I studied abroad on a short term to Germany and France. While in Germany our class attended the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. We attended many museums and events, where we were able to learn in first hand so much about everything that country went through by being divided into East and West Germany. It was almost like going back in time every time we would read or hear about individual stories of how persons tried to escape from one side of the wall to the other. During my last day in Berlin a group of my classmates and I took a train to a surrounding city, where we visited a Concentration Camp. It was one of the most eye opening experiences I’ve had in my life and it made me extremely aware of the unfortunate events that country’s citizens had gone through. Aside from learning about all the history I was able to experience the German culture by enjoying their food, and adjusting to their life style.

When studying abroad to France I was actually there thanks to the Regents’ Program and my success program Financial Aid Connections. There we visited many cultural and historic places like, Notre Dame, Versailles, the Louvre, and Normandy amongst others. By visiting Normandy and many of other place I was immersed in the history and its tie to the United States. I was also able to immerse myself in the culture by visiting local place and trying their delicious food, walking inside the Jardins du Luxembourg were all the locals go.

Traveling abroad has been such an eye opening experience that has led me to want to visit other countries and learn about their people and culture. It amazes me how we are all so different, but yet we have so many similarities regardless of what part of the world we live in.

What campus resources have you used in the past and how have they helped you?

There are plenty of campus resources available to us, but one that I have recently used was the Career Center. I needed help doing research on a major that I was interested. It was very easy to make an appointment with one of the career advisor and the appointment was very helpful. They talked to me about the major, the degree plan and what career paths I could take in the future. The Career Center also advised me on what other ways I could do research. Thanks to the Career Center I decided apply to Agricultural Leadership & Development, and now that I got accepted I am on my way to working to a great future. I would really recommend to anyone that has questions about their career choices make an appointment at the Career Center, they are extremely helpful.

What did you do over the summer?

This summer I have been in College Station mainly filming the videos and finalizing things for the Regents’ Scholars Orientation along with the other Orientation Board members. It has been a huge learning experience, not only because I have never filmed a video before, but because these past three months have been a period of growing as a person and a leader. Besides preparing to welcome the Class of 2015, I have also been taking summer courses, and working as an assistant at the Scholarships and Financial Aid Office. It has been a summer full of rewards, a few struggles and the making of great friendships, but I would not change any of it.

Fun question: Where do you sing?

I sing everywhere! If you were to ask any of my friends, they would all agree that I sing to almost every single song, weather it is in the car, walking across campus, when working, and like most people, I also sing in the shower. I don’t have a great voice, but I sure enjoy singing along to most songs.

Is there anything else you would like to tell your peers?

Yes, one thing I would like to tell them or advise them is to get involved and pay it forward. The Regents’ Scholars Program has given so much to all of us, and I feel like we sometimes take it for granted. I would advise them to join RSO, volunteer, or apply to be a part of many of the leadership positions available within the Regents’ Scholars Program. The coordinator and all the people that work with the Regents’ Scholars Program love to work with the students to help them develop to the best of their abilities. Not only does getting involve look great on a resume, but it gives you a sense of accomplishment and it is a rewarding feeling knowing that you are able to help out others and maybe even made an impact in their life.
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<td>Orientation Planning Board Applications Due</td>
<td>Regents' Scholars Organization (RSO) Informational</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>Soccer vs. North Carolina</td>
<td>Spring/Winter Study Abroad Scholarship Opens</td>
<td>Regents' Scholars Organization (RSO) Meeting</td>
<td>Hispanic Heritage Month begins</td>
<td>Aggie Ring Day</td>
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<td>1:00 AM - 2:00 PM Overseas Day</td>
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<td>Game Day Open House - Alumni Center</td>
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