HOWDY!!!

Another school year is about to commence in Aggieland. This year in connection with the Regents’ Scholars we are kicking off a brand new student-led organization, the Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization. The purpose of this organization will be to support the Regents’ Scholars Program and promote involvement within the Texas A&M and Bryan/College Station community. Texas A&M has a lot to offer and many first generation Aggies might not be aware of some of the benefits. Through the organization we hope to smooth your transition from high school and provide some fun along the way. Some of the activities planned include attending and participating in intramurals, ice cream & movie socials, Aggie sporting events and many more exciting events! I encourage you to join and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Gig’em & Welcome to Aggieland!

Omar Venzor ‘08
President – Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization
venzor@tamu.edu

WHAT IF?

What if I think I’m in the wrong major?

It’s not uncommon for students to get to college and question their choice of major. If you think you may be in the wrong major or don’t think you will enjoy or excel in your choice of majors, make an appointment to meet with your Academic Advisor. Your Advisor will be able to help you explore your current major, with career options and future classes in mind. Your Advisor can also direct you to resources on campus where you can learn about other majors, along with your own career interests, aptitudes, and strengths.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT:

Aggie Nights

Each Friday there’s varied entertainment including bowling, billiards, live music, student performing groups, game shows, hypnotists, comedy shows, and much more. All for FREE! Come join the fun!

the place to be every Friday night

AGGIE TRADITION

In 1931, Yell Practice as it is known today, was held before the t.u. game. It began, when a group of cadets were gathered in Peanut Owen’s dorm room in Puryear Hall. Someone suggested that all of the freshmen should fall out and meet on the steps of the YMCA building at midnight. The cadets notified senior yell leaders Horsefly Berryhill and Two Gun Herman from Sherman, who could not authorize it, but said that they may just show up. Well, needless to say, the word spread quickly, and when the freshmen began to arrive, there were railroad flares and torpedoes stuck in flower pots around the YMCA building to light the area. The first Midnight Yell had begun!!!

Today, Midnight Yell is held the night before a home game in Kyle Field and at the Grove on Thursday nights before away games. Also for away games, a site is designated for a Midnight Yell in the city of our opponent on the night before the game.

For a yell at Kyle Field, yell leaders lead the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band and the Twelfth Man into the stadium. The yell leaders lead the crowd in old army yells, the singing of the fight song, and tell fables of how the Aggies are going to beat the everlivin’ hell out of our opponent for the next day. Lastly, the lights go out, and Aggies kiss their dates. If they don’t have a date, all they have to do is flick their Bicks. As the story goes, the flames make it easier for two dateless people to find each other, and maybe they won’t be dateless anymore!

The purpose of Midnight Yell is to pump up the Twelfth Man for the next day’s big game.

FYI

Don’t wait until it’s too late. Free tutoring is available.

Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) schedule

Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring

University Writing Center

Mathematics Department Help

Study Skills and Time Management workshops

Center for Academic Enhancement Tutoring

To schedule an appointment call 845-2724 or come by Hotard.
"You're not in high school anymore!"

After the first round of exams, freshmen begin to grasp the fact that life in college is not the same as life in high school. Many of the differences are easy to adapt to: you are only in class a few hours a day, you can take a nap anywhere on campus, and if you skip class to watch MTV, nobody calls home to your mom! But some adjustments are more complicated. One of the biggest differences between high school and college is the difference between high school teachers and college professors.

Think about it! In high school, your teachers knew your name, knew what sports you played and what clubs you were in, knew what other classes you were taking, and knew if you had a job outside of school. Personality goes a long way in high school, and probably if your teacher liked you, he or she was willing to give you extra time on a test or overlook some late assignments. Your high school teachers may have also been your athletic coach, band director, or yearbook advisor. Your teachers in high school knew you both inside and outside the classroom.

Now you are in college. A big college. One of the biggest (and best!) universities in the country. The first difference is that in college your teachers are called “Professors.” Your professors probably don’t know your name because you are one of 300 students in the classroom. They don’t know what sports you play, what organizations you are involved in, or where you work part-time. And if you have never gone to visit your professors during office hours, or if you aren’t involved in class discussions, then your professors probably don’t know your personality very well. But believe this – your professors DO care about you, and they DO want to help you! Your professors want to get to know you as a person, not just as the student in seat 134. Your professors want you to ask questions during class, to visit them during office hours, and to let them know when you are struggling with the material. It is easy to be intimidated by professors! They have Master’s or Doctoral degrees and are experts in their field. They are sometimes very stern and serious, and they always grade tough! But remember that your professors are committed to helping you learn. They want you to succeed in their class and in all of your academic pursuits at Texas A&M University.

Keep in mind, your professors don’t know you as well as your high school teachers did, so it is important that you make a good impression when communicating with your professors. Here are some tips:

- Be polite – If you show respect for your professor, then your professor will have respect for you. Address your professor with the appropriate title: “Dr. Jones,” “Mr. Dickens,” or “Ms. Smith.”
- Be professional – If you want your professor to treat you like a mature young adult, then you need to act like one! When you email a professor, write in complete sentences and avoid slang. Use grammar check and spell check for EVERY email and assignment. Sign your emails with your first and last name, as well as your UIN.
- Be prepared – When you visit a professor during office hours, be prepared with specific questions about the lecture or the chapter. Identify certain concepts or terms that you are having trouble understanding, and ask the professor to explain those terms.
- Be peaceful – It is hard not to be angry and disappointed when the grade you get on a test or paper is much lower than you were expecting. However, you can’t always blame the professor for your bad grade. There are many factors that affect a grade. When you are discussing grades with your professor, be calm. Ask the professor what you did wrong and what you need to do to improve on the next test or paper. Ask the professor to suggest resources that might help you. If you remain calm and keep a positive attitude, your professor will be more inspired to help you.

Your professors at Texas A&M University have high expectations for you, and they want you to achieve those expectations. If you are willing to work hard and make the extra effort in class, then you will succeed. Remember, you aren’t in high school anymore. The textbooks are enormous, the reading assignments are long, and the homework is intense.

Welcome to college!
...and please, don’t skip class to watch MTV!
DOLLAR SENSE
By: Lindsey Alexander ’03, Texas A&M University Financial Aid Counselor

You have all graduated from high school and the “real world,” as you know it, has taken on a whole new meaning. What next? Now you’re supposed to make good grades, graduate from college as soon as possible, and then get a job and make lots of money!

As a 2003 graduate of TAMU, the “real world” for me isn’t anything like what I thought it would be when I was in college. Rent, bills, and student loan payments are due every single month and I can’t fill out the FAFSA for extra help! Being responsible means being able to manage all aspects of your life, including your finances. I know what you all are thinking, how can I minimize my debt while I’m still in college? Well, today is your lucky day!

A very basic fact is that you have to make smart choices about spending and saving. Begin by setting a realistic goal for how you will finance your education. Make a budget for yourself and stick to it. I found some awesome budget calculators that I still use for myself at www.calculatorweb.com.

Let’s start with the money you have to spend on your college necessities. Examples would be wages and tips from your job, savings, your Regents Scholarship, other financial aid, and help from your family. Next, make a list of all the must-haves such as tuition and fees, rent or dorm fees, food, gas, electricity, etc. Believe it or not, the new jeans from Abercrombie are NOT a necessity! If you find you don’t need the full amount of your student loan, contact Student Financial Aid at 845-3236 and we can send some of it back. Sticking to a budget and taking out only the loan money you need to get by will save a lot of headaches down the road. The average college graduate has approximately $15,000 in loan debt at graduation. With this debt, at an 8% (example) interest rate, you will be paying $182 every month for ten years. Only borrow what you need!

How many of you have already gotten at least twenty-five credit card fliers? As hard as it may seem, throw them away! Let’s say you get a credit card, charge about $2000 on it, and then put it away. If you start making the minimum monthly payment at $40 with a 19.8% interest, it will take you nine years to pay off the balance. You will pay $2260 in interest, along with the $2000 balance, which is a total of $4260. If you must have a credit card for emergencies, just keep one card and try to pay the balance off every month. Credit cards can help establish your credit-BUT use them wisely and sparingly!

To start life after college with as little debt as possible you must set a budget and stick to it, only take out the loan funds which are absolutely necessary, and avoid credit card debt. If you are interested in more information on this, please feel free to call Student Financial Aid at 979.845.3236 or send an email to financialaid@tamu.edu.

REGENTS’ SCHOLARS PEER MENTORS: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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