Do you have a BIG idea or project that needs funding?

**IS THINK BIG IN YOU?**

Think you have the initiative to **think big**, to **live big**? Prove it.

The **Think Big Grant** includes:

- Writing a proposal
- Describing your intended project
- Calculating a budget and time frame
- **Living** the project!
- A post-project project

**Want more information?**

Come to a Think Big Grant Informational!
**January 20** at 1:30pm OR **January 22** at 11:00am at the Paviilion room 236.

Don’t Forget...

There is plenty of FREE help on-campus as well as several individuals who are here to help you succeed.

- **Supplemental Instruction (S.I.)** schedule: [http://www.tamu.edu/cae/silist.shtml](http://www.tamu.edu/cae/silist.shtml)
- **Department of Multicultural Services** FREE tutoring: [http://tutor.tamu.edu](http://tutor.tamu.edu)
- **University Writing Center**: [http://uw.c.tamu.edu/](http://uw.c.tamu.edu/)
- **Mathematics Department Help**: [http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsessions/](http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsessions/)
- **Study skills and time management workshops**: [http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/](http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/)
- **Student Learning Center Drop-In Tutoring**: [http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf](http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf)
- **Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science** (SACNAS): [http://sacnas.tamu.edu/](http://sacnas.tamu.edu/)

Looking for a chance to give back to Regents’?

**BE AN ORIENTATION COUNSELOR!**

**Informationals:**

- **January 27**  Rudder 302  6:30pm-7:45pm
- **January 28**  Rudder 302  8:00pm-9:15pm

Applications will be available at the informational, or by emailing Casey at casey_gros@tamu.edu
Aggie Brags

Congrats to Salma Abdullah who was named one of twelve “Extraordinary Woman Students” by the Women’s Former Student Network out of countless nominations. She was nominated by Mrs. Suzanne Sealey, Coordinator of the Regents’ Scholars Program. At the awards luncheon, Salma and Suzanne conferred with important university officials, such as Interim President Dr. Loftin, Aggie Women’s Basketball Coach Gary Blair, and the 2008 Co-Founding President of the Women’s Former Student Network, K. Sue Redman ’80.

Props are in order for the four Freshmen Representatives chosen for the executive board of the Regents’ Scholars Organization, Fernando Aguilera, Marlette Jackson, Edith Ramirez, and Barrett Smith. They were hand chosen as the four to represent the Class of 2013 to the board, and will be hard at work shadowing the existing exec members. Good luck and congratulations to all of them!

The Regents’ Scholar Program is proud to introduce the Orientation Planning Board for the Class of 2014! The board is chaired by Cathy Watkins, a Sophomore Chemistry major from Canton, TX. Cathy is joined by her Co-Chair Asiya Bhura, a Sophomore English major from College Station, TX. The board is completed with its three Freshmen members, Jorge Guerra Jr., a General Studies major from El Paso, Texas, Sydney Lawrence, a Biomedical Sciences major from Decatur, Texas, and Yen-Nan Lin, a Chemistry major from Denton, Texas.

For more information, visit jobsforaggies.tamu.edu

Got Blog?

Regents’ Scholars Program
Blogger. Wanted.

Regents’ Scholars Program bloggers will increase the visibility of the Regents’ Scholars Program through the creation and expansion of the Regents’ Scholars Program blogs.

Qualifications?
Regents’ Scholarship recipients preferred.
Freshman or Sophomore students preferred.
Ability to effectively manage time;
Ability to work independently;
Minimum GPA of 2.5.

For more information, visit jobsforaggies.tamu.edu
I met David in the beginning of our sophomore year when we both served as Orientation Counselors for the Class of 2011. We took part in an awesome Jeopardy Skit during the Orientation, and the excitement from having to act in front of 600 students made us instant friends. The year flew by and after I was named the 2008-2009 Regents’ Scholars Organization President, I was fortunate enough to have him serve as my Vice President where we became great friends and worked closely as a team.

Genuine, funny, and a hard worker, David is truly a driven person. His love for learning and animals kept him motivated and in high spirits throughout the intense process of applying to Vet School, but it paid off: he is now finishing his Bachelor’s Degree and working on his professional degree simultaneously. The Vet School certainly keeps him busy, but during his free time he likes to play pool, take his dogs to the park, and barbeque, though he lightheartedly admits that he is no chef.

What post-graduate plans do you have?
I’ll probably join the army and work on military/government owned dogs and horses as a veterinary officer for a few years. I’m not really sure after that ... I guess I’ll take on whatever life throws at me.

What branch of Veterinary Medicine do you plan to specialize in?
I originally came in to school wanting to specialize in exotic animals. I wanted to work solely in a zoo or wildlife center after I graduated from veterinary school. But I was told to be open minded about what part of the field I wanted to practice in because I would be exposed to an array of animals that I never knew I could learn to love. Now that I have been exposed to small animal medicine, large animal medicine, and exotic animal medicine... I want to do everything! I’m sure as I progress through my education I’ll be able to find a species or two to concentrate on, but as of right now I see myself working in a mixed animal practice taking care of dogs, cats, horses, cows, etc. I may throw in some “lions and tigers and bears” in there as well if the day permits. “Oh my!”

What process did you have to go through in order to make yourself a competitive applicant for Veterinary School? How did you finance your participation in this program?
One thing that I had to convince myself of when starting my undergrad at A&M was that getting into vet school would be extremely tough. With less than 30 vet schools in the entire country, and only one in the state of Texas, I was bound to be put in a pool of extremely competitive applicants. I knew I had to start early, work hard, and make the best out of every opportunity that I was given as an undergraduate. I had to make sure that I kept up my grades, got involved with extra curricular activities, and took on any leadership roles that I could. Programs like Pre-Vet Society, Regents’ Peer Mentors Program, and Regents’ Scholars Organization gave me a few of the many opportunities I took to stand out. Financial aid, Federal Stafford loans, and working a part time job enabled me to finance the program I have been working towards for the past few years.

Now that you are in Vet School, how do you feel about it?
Life as a veterinary student has been everything that I thought it would be and more. I’ve become friends with some of the most amazing people, and have realized that everyone in my class has an interesting background to bring to the classroom. It’s so fascinating to see one person who got into vet school based on her research on Dairy cattle, one person who worked on her Masters focusing on exotic animal (specifically elephant) reproduction, some people who have extensive research experience under prestigious veterinarians, and others who have just been working for their community small animal vet since they were 15 years old. I’ve grown to love going to class, because I always learn something that brings me that much closer to my dream job. It truly is an amazing feeling to be doing what I love. There will always be those moments when I’m still scared of failing (usually right before I’m about to take a 4 hour anatomy exam), but I’ve learned to make the best of any situation in this program and know that everything will work out
somehow. As hard and time consuming as this first semester has been in vet school, I know I will make it to next semester. And semester by semester I will work my way to that DVM degree. I can do this.

**What has your experience with the Vet School been thus far?**

Vet school has been by far the hardest task that I have ever taken on. There are days when I’m at the vet school for 8, 10, and even 12 hours at a time. I’m expected to read and study outside of class, with some topics that are so hard to grasp (like physiology) that it makes my head hurt thinking about it. What makes the task even harder is that I have to learn the material for multiple species, and not just one. What applies to dogs and cats doesn’t necessarily apply to cows and horses,… and nothing ever applies to birds! So I find myself overwhelmed at times with the sheer volume of material and the idea of learning it all in just a few short years. But there are also times where we get to dress up in our white coats, throw our stethoscopes around our necks, and practice doing physical exams on horses, dogs, cats, etc. We get to play veterinarian, and try to figure out what is wrong with the animals we are examining. These days remind me of why I’m here, and help me realize that although the semester may be long and tiring, I couldn’t see myself doing anything else. I’ve got a lot to experience in the next 3 and half years, and I’m looking forward to every moment of it.

**How different is it to study for professional school vs. to study for your undergraduate degree and how have you adjusted to the difference?**

Studying for veterinary school classes takes a completely different level of understanding than undergraduate classes. We are now the professionals, and we are expected to know the material fully and in depth. The volume of material is probably the biggest change from undergrad. It’s unbelievable how much stuff they are trying to cram into our heads this first year! I can honestly say that I study 3-4 times the amount I devoted to my undergraduate courses, just because there is so much more to study. It really is something that I had to buckle down and prepare myself for when starting vet school. But like I said before, it is completely worth it. Learning how to budget and prioritize my time more efficiently was probably the biggest adjustment that I had to make in professional school. I’ve had to learn to be more disciplined in my studies, and be cautious of people or “nightly celebration events” that would distract me from my much needed study time. Not to say that I seclude myself in a dark corner of my room with an anatomy book 24/7, but I do know that if I want to have free time to spend with friends and family then I need to study effectively and be prepared for any material that vet school wants to throw at me.

**Is there anything else you would like to tell our audience?**

Determination is one of the greatest tools you can have by your side. Support from family, friends, professors, and fellow classmates can also help you throughout these important years as an undergrad. Lean on them when you need to…. that’s what they are there for. Get plenty of sleep, and don’t forget to have some “me” time in your schedule too. Lastly, be proactive in your learning and devote some time to organizations and community service events that will help better you as a person and put you on the right track for success. Good Luck.

*By: Salma Abdullah*
Driving your own car can be convenient. It provides the freedom to travel wherever you want to go on your own time schedule. But owning a car can be expensive:

- If the vehicle is purchased on credit, there will be monthly car loan payments to the lender
- Student drivers usually pay high insurance premiums
- Skyrocketing gas prices have made filling the tank more expensive
- Scheduled maintenance costs need to be taken into account
- TAMU parking fees are not going away any time soon
- Yearly registration and inspection fees are a fact of life

- Unexpected repairs can become a panic attack unless an emergency fund has been established

Some students don’t take into account all of the car ownership costs and become overwhelmed. A shiny car can become a 3000 pound millstone around a student’s neck. It is not uncommon to find a student who wants to sell a recently purchased car to get rid of it, but he/she owes more on the car than the car is worth. The student has to continue trying to pay the car expenses or sell the car for a loss.

To avoid the stress of buying a car you can’t afford, do your homework. Early in the process of purchasing a car, establish a budget to determine the funds you have to not only purchase a vehicle but also to pay the other costs required in car ownership.