Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

Happy December! The fall semester is drawing to a close and final exams begin in just a few short days. Soon you will be packing up your gear and leaving Aggieland for a month of well-deserved time off. Make the most of the break by spending quality time with your friends and family, giving back to your community through volunteer efforts, and paying forward any good will that comes your way. The Regents’ Scholars staff wishes you the best of luck with finals. Please be safe in your journeys and have a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

Erin Fisk
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Sophomore Programs
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Help Us Lead The Show!

Be a Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselor for the Class of 2015!

Informationals:
January 26, 2011  Rudder Tower 402  7:00-8:00pm
January 27, 2011  Rudder Tower 402  7:00-8:00pm

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

Fall 2011-Spring 2012 Continuing Student Scholarship

Deadline February 1, 2011  Application is available online at https://scholarships.tamu.edu/

Below is a listing of all the dept/colleges that participate with our one application:

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Honors Programs
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Nutrition and Food Science
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
- College of Education & Human Development
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
  - Department of Mechanical Engineering
  - Engineering Study Abroad
- College of Geosciences
- College of Science
- Mays Business School
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Department of English
- International Student Services
- Study Abroad Programs Office
Have you ever Googled yourself, just to see what would come up? Well, you might not be the only one.

A few months ago I read an article about how a Live Journal blog kept one student from being admitted to Reed College in Portland. I looked a little further into it, and found out that over the past year articles about Facebook and MySpace profiles affecting students’ ability to graduate and find jobs after high school have popped up in the Washington Post, U.S. News, and the New York Times. In fact, supervisors often Google potential employees before hiring!

Protecting Yourself
With potential employers and colleges able to gain access to MySpace, Facebook, personal blogs, and lots of other information online, you need to rethink the “anonymity” of the internet. Here are a couple ideas that may help you protect your privacy online:

1. Limit Access. Facebook and MySpace both offer options that limit who can view your profile; they also have options that allow people to view only the portions of your profile that you specify. Most blogs have this option, too.

2. Google Yourself. Seriously. Run a Google search on your name, and see what comes up. Try the other popular search engines, too. If there is anything questionable, try to get it taken down!

3. Guard Your Words. If you have something to say that could possibly taken the wrong way by a potential boss or admissions officer (or anything that is too personal for them to know), you’re better off NOT posting it in a public place. Instead, keep personal comments safer by writing them in more private correspondence like emails or IMs. And if someone else leaves a questionable comment on your page, better make it private or delete it just to be safe.

Oh, and if you don’t like your current job or boss, you might want to leave that tidbit out of your profile. Just in case.

Promoting Yourself
The use of Facebook by college committees and employers doesn’t have to slow you down; in fact if you play your cards right, it could even be a good thing. Why waste the opportunity to promote yourself if they’re looking anyway?

Think of your social networking sites as dual-purpose; not just as a place to connect with friends, but also as a sort of virtual résumé. It’s totally fine to have appropriate personal info & photos up to share with friends, but don’t neglect to point out your strong points, and even past work experience (if you feel comfortable sharing that).

You can also use sites like Facebook, MySpace, or a personal blog as a portfolio. If you’re an artist or a writer, for example, consider posting some of your pieces for viewing (unless they’re copyrighted by someone else, like work you may have done for a previous employer). It’s an easy way to offer access to your body of work.

Adapted from http://www.survivingcollegelife.com/2008/02/14/bosses-facebook-too-keeping-your-online-persona-employable/.
Holiday Gift- Giving on a College Budget

College usually means a tight budget, and that can be especially difficult during the holidays. If you’re worried your gift list will outweigh your wallet, read on!

Buying Great Gifts for $5. If you’ve only got $5 to spend, you can still give surprisingly fun gifts—the trick is to be both thoughtful and creative. Shop the bargain section at the bookstore, scour eBay for inexpensive original art, pick up a small scented lotion at Bath & Body Works, or browse IKEA for inexpensive kitchenware, candles, and other home décor. WiseBread.com has a great list of 25 great gifts for $5 or less with ideas ranging from Star Wars key chains to photo albums. Do it Yourself. If you have a creative streak, try making some gifts yourself! If you crochet or knit, whip up a scarf, hat, or mittens. If you paint, make small paintings for family and friends. If you enjoy writing, fill up a small journal with fun memories you have with the gift recipient. Use your talents!

Coupons and Discounts. If you’re shopping online, websites like Coupon Mountain.com, DealCatcher.com and RetailMeNot.com offer free coupon codes for great deals. You can even get a computer plug-in from RetailMeNot.com that will tell you which coupons are listed for whichever page you are visiting. Also, if you haven’t yet discovered the joys of shopping at discount stores like Ross or Marshall’s, you should head over there before the big Christmas rush hits. It’s a little like a treasure hunt, but you can find some great brands at discounted prices if you take the time to look. Finally, don’t forget that a lot of places (including online stores like Apple. com) offer student discounts!

Give the Gift of Food. Want to give something to everyone in your hallway without breaking the bank? Try gifting some cookies or sweets, such as peppermint bark. All you need is some melting chocolate (this is different from regular chocolate—you can sometimes find it in the baking aisle, or in craft stores like Michael’s), some saran wrap, a plastic bag, a microwave-safe bowl, and some candy canes. While the chocolate is melting, crush up the candy canes in the plastic bag. Pour the crushed candy cane into the melted chocolate, and mix. Spread out strips of saran wrap on a flat surface, and spread a thin layer of chocolate mixture. Let cool and harden. Break it into pieces, and wrap it up!

CASH IN - HOW TO MAKE MONEY OVER WINTER BREAK

Who else wants to earn some extra cash over winter break? Don’t let these few weeks of freedom pass you by—here are a few ways to make a buck or two over the break.

Seasonal Employment
If you can think of a company that is busy during the holiday season, you can probably bet that they take on seasonal employees (people who work only during the busiest weeks of the year). Most retail stores are hiring extra help (check your local mall), or you can check with shipping companies like UPS.

Scholarships
In her post on 5 Ways for Students to Earn Cash this Winter Break, Deborah at the Pay for College Blog recommends using this time away from school to apply for scholarships. You aren’t distracted by schoolwork, and you have time to do research on which ones in you might be eligible for (AND to research the sometimes random topics, like “Why are fire sprinklers so important?”).

Stock Photography
Kelly at Hack College suggests signing up at iStockPhoto.com and submitting your best photos as stock images. It’s an easy way to make a few bucks if you’ve got the time and talent for it.

Sell Your Textbooks
Don’t let textbooks sit under your bed collecting dust—sell them during break before the new semester starts! There are a lot of sites you can use, including Amazon.com or Half.com.

Work for Parents or Neighbors
See if you can pick up work for your parents, neighbors, or your friends parents over the break—you could serve at a party, do chores around the house, spring clean, babysit, wrap gifts, do yard work, shovel snow, clean out a garage, wash cars, or house-sit.

Write for a Website or Magazine
Have an idea for an article—or even a short story from a class assignment? Try submitting to a magazine or website. Associated Content is one website that pays for articles. You can also check out a copy of The Writer’s Market from the library and submit articles or short stories to magazines.

Within the Regents’ Scholars Program, what other programs have you participated in?

I am very involved with the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO) and Aggie Pals: Go Write To College. I also represent Regents’ Scholars on the Student Fee Review Committee.

What made you decide to become an Aggie Pal?

I remember having a pen pal back in 5th grade and thinking how awesome it was writing to other 5th graders. I also remembered how awesome I thought college kids were back then, so I think it’s great that this program combines the pen pal idea with college students to give the elementary students a really awesome experience. Also, I liked the idea of encouraging an elementary student to attend college when they may have not thought of doing so before.

Outside of the Regents’ Scholars Program, what opportunities have you taken advantage of?

I volunteer and travel a lot. This is mainly through the organization Circle K International (CKI). I am constantly going to the animal shelter, the Boys and Girls Club, and other meetings, and helping out the local Kiwanis Club. I am also in the Pre-Med Society and the Texas JAMP program. I don’t think I have had a free weekend in College Station for over a year.

What kind of organization is CKI?

CKI is a volunteer service organization sponsored by Kiwanis International. It is like the college version of your high school Key Club. We focus on the three tenants of service, leadership, and fellowship; with service being the most important.

What made you decide to apply for the position of CKI President?

The year before I had been the treasurer of CKI at the state level and I wanted to step down and focus more on the club level. I also felt that I had the dedication for this upcoming year to lead the club.

Before becoming President of CKI, what was the thing you were most excited about regarding this opportunity?

I was excited about getting to try out my leadership skill since I had never held the position of President before.

Before becoming President of CKI, what was the thing you were most scared about regarding this opportunity?

I was scared about recruiting new members and retaining them to stay involved. I think this is always the most difficult part of any club.

Now that you are President, how do you feel about the things you were excited about? What about the things you were scared about?

I am still excited to develop my leadership skills, although I would compare it to sharpening a steel sword in how difficult it is. I am also still scared of getting new members and retaining them. You have to get inside the mind of members and ask “Why do I want to be in this organization?” which is very difficult.

What are your responsibilities as President, and what do you enjoy most about this position?

I am responsible for planning each meeting, making the agenda for the upcoming week, locating service opportunities in the area, communicating with other CKI clubs across the state, holding board meetings, staying in contact with our Kiwanis Club, making sure we have enough members to do a project, and heading committees.

Can you describe your leadership style for us?

Adaptive and analytical. If a situation changes, I am always able to go to the next plan or find a way for the conflict to be resolved. I also analyze every situation to the point where I can almost predict what is going to happen next and create different strategies if the first plan falls apart.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in taking advantage of such leadership opportunities in student organizations?

Just do it. I never intended on becoming an officer in Circle K but it just happened. I also never planned on becoming an officer in RSO but it also just happened too. Each opportunity you take is a new way to develop yourself. Never deny a good opportunity.

Is there anything else you’d like to tell our audience?

BTHO exams! Whoop.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hanukkah (Jewish) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Las Posadas</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>RSO End of Year Extravaganza!* 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Chi Omega Songfest</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Redefined day; students attend Friday classes</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Hijra (Islam) Last day of fall semester classes</td>
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<td>Prep day, classes meet. No regular course exams</td>
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<td>Redefined day, students attend Thursday classes</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Bodhi Day (Buddhism) Reading days, no classes</td>
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<td>Reading days, no classes</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Fall semester final examinations</td>
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<td>Aggie Network Study Break</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Residence Halls Close Following Fall 2010</td>
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<td>Final grades due in the Office of the Registrar</td>
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<td>Solstice</td>
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<td>Christmas (Christianity)</td>
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