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Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

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Thanks and Gigi 'em!

Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator Sophomore Programs 979.458.5345 efisk@sfamail.tamu.edu

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 4
  Orientation Counselor Application Deadline

- Feb. 14, 16, 17 or 18
  FAFSA Workshops

- Feb. 19
  Aggieland Saturday

- Feb. 21
  Housing Decision 2011 available on reslife.tamu.edu

Housing Fair 2011

Are you looking for a place to live off campus next year? The Housing Fair 2011 is an unique opportunity for off campus properties to directly present information about their property to students, faculty, and staff on the Texas A&M University campus.

This is the 27th annual Housing Fair and each year brings new possibilities for off campus housing to reach students with a fun, informative, and educational program. Come see what Bryan/College Station has to offer before signing a lease. Look around and find the place that is right for you. The Housing Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 16, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center racquetball court area and courts 5 and 6 hallway.

If you have any questions, please contact Adult, Graduate & Off Campus Student Services at 979.845.1741.

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Spring Semester Timeline for Landing a Summer Job or Internship

Want to land an extraordinary summer job? College career counselors have some blunt advice for you: Get going. Now.

“I emphasize with job searchers that it takes three to five months to find a summer job,” says Andrea Dine, associate director of the Career Development Center at Macalester College.

Becky Hall, central career development coordinator at the University of Minnesota and a consultant with the university’s Health Careers Center, concurs: “There are a lot of career fairs happening on campuses right now. If students don’t get on the ball, they’ll miss out on a lot of good opportunities.

A methodical approach will boost your odds of success, Dine says. By planning now, you won’t have to settle for “just a job” or suffer through a last-minute summer job search. Use this timeline as your guide:

February & March

- Determine the type of summer employment or internship you want. Develop a list of criteria, including:
  - Where you want or need to get a job/internship
  - How much money you’d like to make
  - Key skills to build upon
  - Areas of interest and/or organizations to explore
- Assess your current skill set, either by yourself or with a counselor at the TAMU Career Center, to determine which key skills an employer might need this summer
- With guidance from the Career Center, develop a basic resume and cover letter to apply for summer positions
- Begin looking for specific job opportunities using online resources, city-specific resources, or friends/family/professionals who can direct you toward job opportunities

April

- Continue looking for job opportunities
- Start applying for jobs, being sure to follow the employer’s directions. Some companies require a resume and cover letter. Others want you to fill out a company application.
- Ask professors, previous coworkers and supervisors, and other who know you professionally if they will service as references. If possible, have each person write you a one-page letter of recommendation to give to prospective employers.
- Follow-up with companies you’ve applied to. Make sure your materials have been received and that each company has everything it needs to consider you.
- If possible, schedule interviews with companies of interest.
- Start researching housing options for the summer, if applicable.

May

- Practice answering summer job interview questions, either with a friend or a Career Center counselor. Research companies and jobs before the interview.
- Finalize summer living arrangements.
- Schedule job interviews.
- Go on job interviews, be on time, and follow up with thank-you notes.
- If the right job is offered, accept it.
- If you don’t have a solid line on a job, get some help from the Career Center –preferable before the spring semester ends if your summer plans will take you away from campus. You can also step up your networking efforts. Ask you parents, friends, professors, and others if they know of available summer jobs.

June

- Show up for your first day on time and prepared.
- Talk to your new supervisor about the skills you’d like to further develop.
- Go beyond the minimum to make a good, lasting impression on your supervisor and coworkers.

My first few years of college I didn’t know how to stay awake in class. I took an early morning psychology course with three girls I’d met in the dorms. Just before class, we rolled out of bed, stumbled to the lecture hall class with our eyes barely open, and settled into a row of squishy seats in the lecture hall. Then three out of four of us would fall asleep. Whoever stayed awake would take notes.

Obviously, I did not get an A in that class—I was catching Z’s instead. So, how can YOU stay awake in class?

As a college student, I can almost guarantee that you need more sleep, so you should start there. You probably don’t want to go to bed earlier, but you should. Give yourself an extra hour every night, and see if that helps. You might need more. Even a nap can help!

If you live in the dorms, making the above changes still probably won’t get you to sleep enough. So just in case, here are some things that worked well for me when I wanted to stay awake through a lecture:

**Take notes by hand**

When you take notes on a laptop, you tend to be much less focused, because typing is much more automatic. You also finish faster and sometimes drift off (or start IM-ing people). Taking notes by hand is slower, so it makes you focus on keeping up with the lecture.

**Eat healthy snacks**

Eating a snack—especially carbs and proteins—can help energize you. I liked taking a bag of healthy cereal to my very early or very late classes. I would eat the cereal one piece at a time—the carbs plus the act of making myself take one at a time really helped me stay awake. If you need a burst of energy, try eating fruit like sliced apples or grapes instead of a candy bar. Junk food, obviously, is not a good option.

**Drink water**

Dehydration can really wipe you out, so bring a water bottle to class with you. Neither soda nor alcohol (both of which are very dehydrating) are good substitutes for water to keep your body hydrated.

**Get interested in the lecture**

A lot of your interest in a lecture is affected by your attitude. If you go in thinking it’s going to be boring, you’ll probably be bored. Even if you’re taking a required class, try to get interested in the lecture each day; it will help you stay alert. Try to learn at least three things you didn’t know, and tell someone about them after class. It might sound kind of lame, but it will help you stay awake and learn.

Howdy! My name is Asiya Bhura. I am a junior English major from College Station, Texas. But more importantly, I am a loud and proud member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 2012! A-A-A Whoop! What about you? …Oh, very nice to meet you.

You must be wondering, “Why does Salma look so different and why did she change her name? Well, to clear up any confusion, I am Asiya the Regents’ Scholars Intern and my sister Salma has moved up to Graduate Assistant. Enough about her, more about me: I love chocolate, TV and school. I knew the first few days of winter break would be amazing because exams were over, College Station would be quiet and I could finally start watching 30 Rock. But then I also knew it would be super boring without my friends, without the stress of studying and without Antonio’s Pizza open; so I’m really glad school’s back in session.

This semester is going to be busy for me because I am an intern, a student, the President of the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), a member of MSC LT Jordan Institute, an Orientation Counselor, an Aggie Pal and runner-up for Miss Texas. Ok, not the last one, but it’s still really busy because I need to fill out and turn in my FAFSA before March 1. With all that on my plate, I still have to transition the RSO Presidency and Executive Board for next year. I know, I know, “What a busy-body, how does she keep up her grades?” Good question!

I ask for help. I go to my professors if I’m confused, I make friends in my classes and ask to study with them (and if I make a good grade on the test, I study with them again) and I schedule time to study and write papers. Then I do all the other stuff because we’re here for academics first. Of course if you have too much free time, join something! That’s what I did.

I didn’t want to have nothing to do and miss out on having friends, so I joined RSO. As a member, I learned how to build relationships by just doing something all the members wanted to do together. We watched movies, played games, and volunteered at Big Event and Replant. After my first year, I applied to be on the RSO Executive Board and became the Fundraising Coordinator as a sophomore and President as a junior. I’m learning how to work in a team and manage it, while doing my own individual projects. It’s always a learning process when it comes to joining or starting something new, so I ask my Executive Board for help if I’m having trouble and they do the same.

My Exec Board and I have some exciting things planned this semester and hope you guys join us in the fun, from Aggie Relay for Life to a secret social to a Rec Day and more. We meet the first Tuesday of every month and our meetings are better than foam soap, so I hope to see you there!

Asiya Bhura
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