Oh, the Places You Can Go!

Looking for a chance to lead the next generation of Regents’ Scholars? Be an Orientation Counselor.

Informational:
- January 27 Rudder 302 6:30pm-7:30pm
- January 28 Rudder 302 8:00pm-9:00pm

When is Orientation?
August 23, 2010

Who can apply?
Everyone!

Why become an OC?
- Be a helping hand to freshmen of 2014
- Meet new people
- Gain leadership experience

Requirements:
- Maintain a 2.0 GPR
- Be committed

Applications Due to
Casey Gros
Pavilion 208
by Thursday February 4, 2010

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

Got Blog?
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 Pavilion room 236.

**Think BIG FAQ**

Ever had an idea of how you would change the world for the better? Or have you always wanted to study a certain culture up close? Or maybe wanted to work on an archaeological dig for a summer? Here is your chance to make your dreams happen with the Think Big Grant.

**What is the Think Big Grant?**
The Think Big Grant is a $500-$1000 grant to give a second year Regents’ Scholar a chance to think outside himself and accomplish something outside the normal realm of their grasp. This money would be used to complete a project during the summer after their second year at TAMU. This grant program will allow you, a second year Regents’ Scholar, to make a difference in the world, while also learning during a unique travel experience.

**What are the requirements to apply for the grant?**
All applicants must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPR. All applicants must be a second year Regents’ Scholars recipient. The winner will have to complete a follow-up project. Examples consist of presenting their experience to the new sophomore class, creating an organization on campus as a result of their experience, or writing an article describing their experience.

**Do I have to be enrolled in classes to receive it?**
If you aren’t enrolled in summer classes, you will still be able to receive the grant, but not until you are enrolled into classes, so in most cases, this would mean the Fall of 2010.

**What do I need to do to apply?**
You must fill out the application, as well as write a proposal. This may sound daunting, but you can set up a meeting with the Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator, Casey Gros, and she will help you with your proposal.

**What happens after I send in my proposal?**
The proposals will be reviewed by a committee. Those proposals that are chosen as the best will then be asked to present their project idea for the committee. The committee will then make the decision as to who will receive the grant. Then you go out into the world and make a difference!
I met Roxanne during the first week of classes of our freshman year at A&M. Since we were both students in the College of Liberal Arts, we signed up for the same academic success program, Regents’ Scholars Initiative, or RSI. Each week we spent an hour together with our class discussing great articles and experiencing new seminars with staff and faculty from departments all around the university. Last year, I had the fortune of really getting to know Roxanne when she took the vital role of Events Director of the Regents’ Scholars Organization. We worked together closely and with her help, our Board was able to launch RSO successfully in its first year of operation.

Delightful, intelligent, and bubbly, Roxanne is motivated and innovative. Currently the President of the Regents’ Scholars Organization and now a graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development, Roxanne constantly pushes the bar higher for herself and for others. Her creative side shines through in her musicality, and her sparkling personality enables her to win over others.

What made you decide to graduate a semester early?
I came in to college with enough credits to classify myself as a sophomore so I knew pretty early that it was possible for me to graduate early. A professor told me that I could add another major and minor and still graduate in four years but I couldn’t pick just one. Instead I focused on doing well in just one major and one minor.

What post-graduate plans do you have?
With the Secondary Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program I will become a certified teacher in the State of Texas within a year. The Post-Bacc program actually doesn’t start until June 2010 so by graduating early I can start on a Masters of Education in the Spring 2010. That means that come May 2011 I’ll not only have my Certification to teach in Texas but I’ll also finish my Masters of Education.

After graduating in May 2011 I’d love to continue teaching Spanish in a public high school. I do have a professional goal to become a counselor in a secondary school but I’d like to spend a few years in the classroom before then.

What process did you have to go through in order to make yourself a competitive applicant for graduate school? How did you choose your program? How will you finance your participation in this program?
I knew coming into college that I wanted to teach Spanish. Lucky for me, during my New Student Conference there was an info session about getting certified to teach in Texas. The program (Secondary Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program) allowed me to get a degree in my field, develop my Spanish skills, and then learn how to be a teacher. I spoke with an advisor in the program at the beginning on my junior year of college so that I had a timeline for when applications were due and test scores needed to be in. It was at that advising session that I learned about the prerequisites and requirements for entry into the program.

A requirement to get into graduate school in general is to take a standardized test whether it’s the GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, and any other acronym you can think of. For Texas A&M, I needed to take the GRE. I purchased a book recommended by the graduate advisor and aimed for at least the fiftieth percentile (meaning I did better than half (50%) of my peers that took the exam during that period). I accomplished that goal which I believe really helped me to be a competitive applicant for graduate school.

Prior to your admission to this program, what was the thing you were most excited about regarding this opportunity?
I was most excited about the education classes themselves. I felt that I really honed in my skills in the Spanish language and culture and now I wanted to know how to teach it.

Prior to your admission to this program, what was the thing you were most scared about regarding this opportunity?
On the other hand, I was concerned with the difficulty of the courses. I know that graduate school means harder classes and that you can’t make less than a “B” in each course. Considering that I do have some “C”s on my undergraduate record, this scares me just a tad.

Now that you have been accepted to the program, how do you feel about the things you were excited about? What about the things you were scared about?

(article continued on next page)
I haven’t had the chance to experience graduate classes just yet but from talking with people who have been there; it’s not as bad as it sounds. Plus, with ultra-small classes (no more than ten people in a course!) I’m sure that the professor will notice and assist a struggling student.

Switching gears, what made you decide to apply for the position of RSO President?

Being on the Executive Board the previous year as the Events Director, it honestly felt like a natural progression for me to apply for the position of president. During the previous year I had learned a lot about how an organization runs and felt that being the president wouldn’t be easy, it would be a challenge I could handle. Plus, I didn’t know what my college career would feel like not being a part of RSO. RSO provides so much to me like a group of friends and an opportunity to give back to other Regents’ Scholars and the BCS community.

How has your first semester as President of RSO been? What should we look forward to in RSO for next semester?

There was a definite learning curve during my first semester as president of RSO but I felt we were very successful. The first step is always getting to know one another and I feel that new connections have been made between Regents’ Scholars.

I am certain that next semester we will have another RSO Study Break! It was an absolute hit and I’m ready to do it again. RSO in the spring semester will be focusing heavily on service, especially with two huge campus-wide service opportunities, Big Event and Aggie Relay for Life. Also, we hope to have a lot of Regents’ Scholars join RSO as we attend Aggie Muster and Muster BBQ on April 21st.

How will your rolls of being a graduate student and being the President of RSO complement each other next semester?

I think I’m a great example to undergraduate Regents’ Scholars and RSO members that while the past is important, it should never hold you back. I can be a present example of some, just like them, who has gotten their Aggie Ring, received their Bachelor’s degree and working toward a new goal. It’s hard for the younger generation of Regents’ Scholars to see what happens after you graduate since many times graduates will move away. While attending graduate school is just one option after graduating, I hope that I can be an example of someone who has “made it”.

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

Graduating from college is a big deal for me as it is for any Regents’ Scholar. To be the first in my family to attend college, then the first in my family to graduate from college, and now the first to pursue a graduate degree, it makes me SO proud to see what I’ve accomplished. My college career has been anything but an easy ride but with hard work and trusty friends and advisors, I made it! I honestly, truly believe that every Regents’ Scholar can earn that Bachelor’s degree with a little determination.

By: Salma Abdullah

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Fall 2010 - Spring 2011 Continuing Student Scholarship
The application is available online at [http://scholarships.tamu.edu](http://scholarships.tamu.edu) for all continuing students. This is one application that will qualify you for several hundred scholarships, other than the Regents’ Scholarship.

**Apply Today!**
**Deadline is February 1, 2010.**

Questions? Contact Scholarships & Financial Aid at 979.845.3236 or email financialaid@tamu.edu.

*Not all scholarships are academic or need based.*
As college students, finding inexpensive entertainment options is a must. Many students rent movies to fill their leisure time on the weekends. Did you know that you can borrow movies from the Media & Reserves Department on the 4th floor of the Annex Library? They offer a wide variety of popular, as well as educational DVDs, a list of which can be found on their website at:

http://library.tamu.edu/services/media-reserves.

They also have language learning software, like Rosetta Stone, available to checkout, which might come in handy for those of you who plan to study or travel abroad, or just want to learn a new language!

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Laptop Services: Three TAMU Libraries currently provide wireless laptop lending programs. For library patrons wishing to use their personal laptops, these Libraries also provide both wired and wireless access to the campus network.

**Evans Library and the Annex**

Wireless-enabled Dell Inspiron Laptops are available for TAMU faculty, students, and staff checkout for use within Evans Library and the Library Annex facilities.

**Borrow Period:** Four Hours

Although laptops may not leave the buildings, they may be taken between Evans Library and the Library Annex via the walkway on the fourth floor.

For more information, please contact the Circulation Department on the 1st floor of Sterling C. Evans Library or call 979-845-3731.

**Medical Sciences Library**

Wireless-enabled Dell Inspiron Laptops may be borrowed by TAMU faculty, students, and staff.

**Borrow Period:** Four hours

Laptops may be taken outside of the building.

For more information, please contact the Client Services Desk on the 1st floor of the Medical Sciences Library or call 979-845-7428.

**Policy Sciences & Economics Library**

Wireless-enabled Dell Laptops may be borrowed by TAMU faculty, students, and staff.

**Borrow Period:** Four Hours

Laptops may not leave the building.

For more information, please contact the PSEL Service Desk at 979-862-3544.

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Top 10 Tips for Successful Scholarship Applications

1. Apply for anything and everything. Apply for anything you think you might be eligible to receive.

2. Complete the application in full. Note if something is not applicable on the application. Do not leave items blank.

3. Follow directions. Do not supply items not requested (e.g., transcripts, resumes, etc.).


5. Make sure your essay leaves an impression. Be personal and specific in your essays. Include concrete details. (Remember that the special circumstances essay is optional but highly recommended.)

6. Watch all deadlines. Have a self-imposed deadline two weeks prior to the actual due date. Use this as proofreading time.

7. Give it a final “once over” before you submit your application. You and another person should proofread the entire application carefully.

8. Ask for help if you need it. If you need to, do not hesitate to call the funding organization.

9. Take steps to make sure your application gets where it needs to go. Make a copy of the entire packet and keep it for your files. Make certain that your name appears on all pages.

10. Remember, your scholarship application represents you!

Based on “FastWeb’s Tips for College Students” April 2000

www.fastweb.com
Reciprocal Exchange programs allow Texas A&M students to study abroad for almost the same cost as studying in College Station while earning credit that counts toward their degree.

What is Reciprocal Exchange?
The Texas A&M University Reciprocal Exchange Programs provide TAMU students the opportunity to study and live at an overseas university for one or two semesters.

University-Wide Exchange Programs at Texas A&M are open to students of all majors and include exchange programs with universities in Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Korea, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, and Switzerland.

There are also Departmental Exchanges that are discipline specific.

The Reciprocal Exchange Programs are best suited for junior level students and provide students the opportunity to become completely immersed in the local culture, living and studying with local national students.

Students participating in a Reciprocal Exchange Program pay all A&M tuition and fees during the duration of the exchange program. Students remain enrolled with full-time student status at A&M while on exchange by registering in their College holding course with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester for undergraduate students or 9 credit hours per semester for graduate students. In this way, a student’s A&M financial/scholarship package will apply even though the student is studying at a reciprocal exchange partner institution in another country.

Students enroll and are “mainstreamed” in the academic setting of the host university, attending classes and interacting with the local students. These programs provide adequate time for a total cultural immersion which significantly enhances cross-cultural experience and understanding. As such, proficiency in the local language is essential in order to compete and excel in the local academic setting.

These unique exchange opportunities offer a life changing experience that will enhance student growth academically, professionally, and culturally.

What are the requirements?
A. Applicants of any major are eligible for this exchange.
B. Applicants must be a Texas A&M student for at least one semester prior to application.
C. Applicants must attend Texas A&M for at least one full semester or summer session after the exchange.
D. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPR.
E. Usually Junior Classification is expected by beginning of exchange.
F. Applicants must have language proficiency (written and oral): 3-4 semesters of Spanish for Mexico exchanges; 5-6 semester of Spanish for Ecuador exchange; 3-4 semesters of Japanese for Japan exchange; 4-6 semesters of German for Germany exchange; 4-6 semesters of French for Switzerland and France exchanges.

How and when do I apply?
Complete the online Outgoing Reciprocal Exchange application, print and sign it, and submit it along with all other required documentation as outlined in the “Instructions” (located on the online application page) to the Study Abroad Office, Bizzell Hall West. As the program is designed mainly for juniors, the application process usually takes place during the sophomore year. The deadlines are March 1 for fall semester and academic year exchanges.

Will I get TAMU Credit?
Yes, students can get Texas A&M credit. Students who are chosen to participate in a Texas A&M Reciprocal Exchange Program work closely with their departmental advisors to develop a plan of study for their exchanges. It is the responsibility of the student to work with the academic advisor to select courses at the overseas university that have appropriate equivalencies at Texas A&M. The process involves coordination with the academic advisor, the academic departments, and the appropriate contact within the Dean’s office. There are catalogues from the overseas universities available for reference in the Study Abroad Programs Office. Students should also refer to the partner university’s website. In addition, students can select courses that are already pre-approved for a partner university. Students will want to review the appropriate catalogues as well as consult with Aggies who have previously participated in the exchange and also confer with international students on campus from the partner universities. The Study Abroad Programs Office can provide you with a list of these groups of students.

How much will it cost?
The cost varies from program to program. Keep in mind that because students are enrolled at Texas A&M, all A&M tuition and fees will be paid at Texas A&M just as though the student were taking classes on campus (this applies to both the university-wide and the college/departmental REEPs). Airfare, accommodation, and meals are the responsibility of the student; accommodation and meal costs are usually paid to the host institution. More information about program costs will be made available to students throughout the application process.

As soon as students decide to participate in a study abroad program, they will want to consider available financial aid. Scholarships designated specifically for study abroad include: The Study Abroad Fellowship and the International Education Fee Scholarship. Each of these awards is based on academic merit and/or need. Deadlines for summer, fall, and year-long awards are in early spring. Federal and state financial aid and some scholarships may often be used toward the cost of Texas A&M study abroad programs. Please refer to Scholarships & Financial Aid and/or contact a Scholarships & Financial Aid counselor for more information.

For more information on outgoing reciprocal exchanges, contact Orie Varner at ovarner@tamu.edu.

Retrieved on November 30, 2009 from: http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/reep_program.asp
Common Confusions:

Picking a major and a career are basically the same thing.
Choosing one major means giving up on all the others.
The major I pick now will determine my lifelong career.
Many students assume that choosing a major is the same as choosing a career (and vice versa). While these two choices can go hand-in-hand, choosing one does not automatically mean you have chosen the other. Choosing a major does not limit you to only one career choice; choosing a career does not limit you to only one major.

Students can always combine their interests in more than one major. For example, students can complete double majors, co-majors or even concurrent degrees.
Also! Post-baccalaureate degrees do not have to be in the same area as an undergraduate degree. An undergraduate might receive their major in Health Administration, but earn their master’s degree in computer science. A student who majored in music might decide for a master’s degree in linguistics.

Studies have shown that within 10 years after graduation, most people are working in careers not directly connected to their undergraduate majors.

Just as some students change their minds about their majors, some graduates change their minds about careers. Over time, and with new technology, jobs change. New types of jobs are emerging every year, and most of us have no way of knowing what those jobs will be or what type of education will be needed in order to qualify for them.

Consequently, the current emphasis in career planning at the undergraduate level is on the development of general, transferrable skills (writing, speaking, computer literacy, problem-solving, team-building) that employers want and that graduates will need in order to adjust to rapidly-changing careers.

Bottom Line: People change; careers change.

Adapted from “Major Decisions,” by Michael J. Leonard. Copyright 1996-1999, The Pennsylvania State University. All rights reserved.
In order for you to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2010-2011 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2010. Scholarships & Financial Aid encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 31, 2010.

In order to complete the FAFSA, you will need:
- Student and parent social security numbers
- W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
- Student’s 2009 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2009 federal income tax return
- If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process for you, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the Spring semester. These events will be held in room 236 of the Pavilion and are scheduled for:
- February 22, 2010 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 24, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM
- February 25, 2010 10:30AM-12:30PM
- February 26, 2010 1:30PM-2:30PM

Registration is required. To register, students should visit http://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.