Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

The New Year is upon us, meaning that it is time to once again look ahead to the coming year (and semester). Many of you have made resolutions related to your academics, diet, or exercise routine. Resolutions are a good way of reflecting upon the previous year and looking to make the future a little brighter. My challenge to you is this: Make a resolution to pay forward any good will bestowed upon you this year. Keep the Aggie Spirit alive and well! The Regents’ Scholars staff hopes that you enjoy the remainder of your break and we look forward to seeing you once spring classes have begun.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

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

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

The application is available online at https://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, 2011.

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

*Not all scholarships are academic or need based.
In order for you to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2011-2012 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2011. The Scholarships & Financial Aid Office encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 1, 2011 to receive priority in awarding.

In order to complete the FAFSA, your student 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 2010 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2010 federal income tax return

If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for students during the Spring semester. Please attend these workshops if you need assistance filing your FAFSA. These events are scheduled for:

- February 14, 2011 12:30PM-1:30PM
- February 16, 2011 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 17, 2011 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 18, 2011 3:00PM-4:00PM

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

Email may be a quick way to communicate, but don’t forget your etiquette when emailing professors, instructors, scholarship and financial aid advisors, or other campus staff. Make a good impression with these tips:

**Always identify yourself**
Do not assume that your name will appear on the delivered message next to your email address. You need to identify yourself to the person you are emailing. That person cannot discern who you are based on your email address alone.

**Do not type in all caps**
Writing in caps makes it seem like you are shouting, and some readers find it more difficult to read. If you want to stress a point, opt for underlining or putting it in bold font.

**Avoid abbreviations and emoticons**
Including an abbreviation like “FYI” or “LOL” or an emoticon like “:)” may be okay in an email to a friend, but they are inappropriate in formal emails. You wouldn’t include smiley faces in an important letter, so don’t put them in your important emails.

**Always fill in the subject line**
Your email’s subject line is the first impression your recipient has of your email. Make your subject line a clear and meaningful reflection of your email.

**Use a professional format**
You may think using a colored or unusual font, or a formatted background design in your emails makes them stand out, but don’t use them with official emails. They’re not professional and they make your message hard to read.

**Avoid sarcasm**
It’s difficult to judge tone in an email. Don’t use ironic or sarcastic language that may not come across as you intended in writing.

**Don’t use a “cute” or “inappropriate” email address for important emails**
An email sent from sweetiepie07@aol.com or thuglife14@yahoo.com will come across as unprofessional. Even if you have to create a new email account, use a more business-like address, like janessmith@aol.com, to be taken more seriously.

**Make your email clear**
Professors and campus staff receive a lot of emails. Make it easier for them to get your message by keeping a clear, concise format. Write short paragraphs and include a space between them so your reader can find the information they’re looking for quickly. Put your most important information in the first or second paragraph so your reader doesn’t have to scroll down to find it. Make your email as short and concise and possible; anything longer than half a page is too long.

**Know when to pick up the phone or schedule a meeting**
Email is convenient, but it shouldn’t completely replace phone calls or meetings. For important or complicated matters, pick up the phone.

**Ask before sending a large attachment**
Not only do attachments take up a lot of storage space in your recipient’s inbox, but many people won’t open attachments for fear of viruses. When possible, include all information in the body of your email. If you do need to send an attachment, ask the recipient if it’s okay.

**Double check before hitting “send”**
It only takes a few minutes to take another careful look at your email before you hit send but it could improve the impression your email makes. Use your computer’s spelling and grammar checks, but be aware that these don’t catch all mistakes.

I graduated...that’s right – I graduated! As of December 18, 2010, four and a half years after I started my undergraduate career at Texas A&M University, I walked across the stage, shook Dr. Loftin’s hand, and received my diploma in front of my wonderful family and my dearest mentors and friends. As of December 18, 2010, I officially became a part of the Association of Former Students. What a thought.

You know, graduating was the long-term goal that I set for myself. I always knew I was working towards it, but on a day-to-day basis I focused on my short-term goals – going to classes, completing my homework, doing well on my projects, exams, and papers. I worked towards my goal of graduating every single day, and when that day finally arrived, I was incredibly surprised at my own disbelief.

I steamed my graduation gown so that it looked nice and sleek; I ironed my clothes so that I looked like a professional graduate; I made sure that I wore my contacts so that I could see my family and friends in the crowd. I got into the proper rooms and into the correct lines, followed everyone out into Reed Arena and finally took my seat. I felt like a well-oiled machine.

It wasn’t until my row was called upon to walk across the stage that it really hit me. My long-term goal would be accomplished in the next two minutes. Slowly, I inched closer and closer towards the stage, and slowly, I felt my anticipation rise. I walked up the small steps that led to the stage, and whispered the correct pronunciation of my name to the caller. “Salma Abdullah Tejani!” was what I heard and I prompted myself onto the stage, taking one step after the other, each one with more and more confidence. Hearing Dr. Loftin congratulating me and wishing me well, and feeling the sturdy maroon tube that was the culmination of all my hard work in my hands was one of the most rewarding moments of my life.

As I left the stage, I smiled to my sister who was taking pictures, and enthusiastically waved the maroon tube in my hand to confirm that yes, I had my diploma in my hands. As I walked back to my row and sat down on my seat, I felt an extreme jubilation at what I had accomplished.

Now, I decided, it was time to set another long-term goal for myself – to get my Master’s in Higher Education Administration. I decided there and then that I would get back into the swing of academics like I always had, but with even more vigor than ever. In my case, a new semester means the start to a new degree. But in any case, a new semester means a new opportunity to prove yourself. The right way to start a new semester is to set specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and timely goals, or SMART goals.

The SMART method of goal-setting has been incredibly helpful to me during my undergraduate career, and I believe that it will be even more important to me as I start my graduate career. The level of classes that I am going to be taking in a few weeks will be even more challenging and complex than my undergraduate classes, and it will be these SMART goals that will help me get out of my holiday slump mode. It will be these SMART goals that will allow me to focus on my classes so that I can accomplish my next long-term goal.

My long-term goal is to graduate with a 4.0 GPR for my Master’s Degree, but that is too broad of a goal so I need to manage this broad goal by dividing it into manageable chunks. My SMART goal for this semester is to manage my time so that I can become organized and devote at least two hours of study time for every hour of class that I am taking per week. My goal is timely and specific to this coming semester; it is measurable and action-oriented in the way that I explain how many hours I will study each week; it is realistic because I can easily fit 18 hours of studying in a week by dividing it into 2 – 3 hour chunks per day.

Writing this article, I can literally read where I was, where I am, and where I hope to be going. I am standing at the threshold of wonderful opportunities, and I plan to take advantage of each of those opportunities as they present themselves to me. I can’t wait to get started, but I can’t help but feel a bit reminiscent about my next journey... just as my undergraduate journey began with a handy dandy planner, so will my graduate journey.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January</td>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
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<td>Gantan-sai (Shinto)</td>
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<td>Tu B'shvat (Jewish)</td>
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<td>FAFSA Available</td>
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<td>2 January</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Staff Back</td>
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<td>3 January</td>
<td>Epiphany (Christian)</td>
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<td>4 January</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 8:20 AM Residence Halls Open for Spring 2011</td>
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<td>9 January</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 January</td>
<td>First Day of Class</td>
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<td>16 January</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<td>18 January</td>
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<td>19 January</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 4th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast</td>
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<td>20 January</td>
<td>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM MY STORY- a cultural dialogue</td>
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<td>21 January</td>
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<td>22 January</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM MSC Spring Open House</td>
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<td>23 January</td>
<td>1:50 PM - 2:50 PM Money Management for College Students</td>
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<td>24 January</td>
<td>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Saving and Investing</td>
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<td>25 January</td>
<td>11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Saving and Investing</td>
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<td>26 January</td>
<td>1:50 PM - 2:50 PM Cooking on a Budget</td>
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<td>27 January</td>
<td>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Understanding Credit Cards and Credit Scores</td>
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<td>28 January</td>
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<td>29 January</td>
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<td>30 January</td>
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<td>31 January</td>
<td>12:45 PM – 1:45 PM Love and Money: What You Need to Know Before Getting Married</td>
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<td>2:15 PM – 3:15 PM Buying Big Ticket Items- Cars</td>
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More information about the items in red can be found on page 1 of the January Regents’ Review.