The FAFSA Renewal must be completed in order to maintain your eligibility for the Regents’ Scholarship as well as other types of financial aid (Pell Grant, Stafford Loans, Work Study, etc.). If you do not complete the FAFSA Renewal, you will not receive your Regents’ Scholarship in the fall. Necessary information to complete the 2008-2009 FAFSA Renewal includes: 2007 tax information and 2007 W-2s (and your parent’s tax information, if dependent) Scholarships & Financial Aid recommends completing the FAFSA Renewal before Spring Break.

If you are a HB 1403 student, you must complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid located under forms at financial.tamu.edu. Student Financial Aid recommends completing Texas Application for State Financial Aid before Spring Break.


We are pleased to introduce our Regents’ Scholars Bloggers:

Malcolm Wilson ’11
Skyline High School; Dallas, TX

Michelle Rice ’11
West Texas High School; Borger, TX

Karla Flores ’09
Cesar Chavez High School; Katy, TX

Shaniqua Johnson ’11
Forest Brook High School; Houston, TX

Roxanne Fairchild ’10
Berkner High School; Richardson, TX

Check back often to read about the daily lives of these Regents’ Scholars and their adventures in Aggieland!
Effectively presenting yourself during interviews can be crucial to a successful job search. Companies often look beyond a winning resume and decide if they will hire you or not based on your appearance, self confidence and how well you present yourself to the interviewer. There are steps to take before and during your job interview that will help you present yourself with energy, confidence and professionalism.

Who would you rather hire?

Before your job interview, prepare the clothing that you will wear. Make sure your clothes are clean, pressed, conservative and business-like. Also, make sure your hair and nails are trim and clean. Your attire should be appropriate and well-fitting. A two-piece matched suit is always the best choice for both men and women, in navy, gray, or black. If you are still having trouble deciding what to wear, always err on the side of caution and dress more professionally rather than casual. Dressing nicely and appropriately is a compliment to the person you meet.

As for tattoos and piercings, it is best to take out any piercings that are visible, with the exception of one or two minimally sized earrings per ear for women, and typically no earrings for men. Tattoos should not be visible to the interviewer. Something to keep in mind: From your point of view, a tattoo, facial piercing, or orange spiky hair may be a personal statement, but if it turns off one customer or client, an employer will not want you to work for them.

Ironically, research indicates a candidate’s handshake—which has no visual impact—came out higher on the influence scale than the more in-your-face attributes such as body piercing, obvious tattoos, and unusual hair styles. A dry, firm handshake reflects a strong personality and is what most employers are looking for. Limp, sweaty hands are definitely a no. This is the first body language in the interview that your interviewer will “read.”

That doesn’t mean new college graduates should feel free to sport mutton chops to an interview, nor does it mean that an employer will automatically nix a candidate who has an ankle embellished with a butterfly.

The following points will help you present yourself as effectively as possible and exude confidence:

- Don’t let the employer’s casual approach cause you to drop your manners or professionalism. Maintain a professional image.
- Don’t address the interviewer by his or her first name unless you are invited to do so.
- Don’t chew gum or smell like smoke.
- Don’t take cell phone calls during an interview. If you carry a cell phone, turn it off during the interview to be sure it doesn’t ring.
- Be aware of your non-verbal behaviors—sit straight; smile as often as you can; maintain eye contact but don’t stare the interviewer down; lean forward without invading the interviewer’s space; sit still in your seat; avoid fidgeting and slouching.
- Don’t be shy or self-effacing. You want to be enthusiastic, confident, and energetic, but not aggressive, pushy, or egotistic. That fine line is important.
- The last impression is almost as important as the first impression and will add to the substance discussed during the information exchange. Therefore, when the interviewer concludes the interview, offer a firm handshake and make eye contact. Depart gracefully.

These steps may not ensure you’ll get your dream job, but they will help you interview with poise. You will demonstrate that you are genuinely excited about—and ready for—the next step in your future.

by Kelly Brewer

Taken from http://images.google.com/igres?imgurl=http://coopcommunity.sfu.ca/modules/ContentExpress/img_repository/DSC_0312_small.jpg&imgrefurl=http://ulmercenter.wordpress.com/2006/09/29/looking-cool-isn’t-always-cool-when-you-interview/&h=240&w=178&sz=25&hl=en&start=4&sig2=0Wv7A2zXJz11MxNUEAEQQ&um=1&tbnid=Ze0uEBNokobLEM:&tbnh=110&tbnw=82&ei=WPa6R7vMDpCIAHczKCCCCQ&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dinterview%2Bclothes%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dinterview%2Bclothes%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den
By Jacqui Cheng | Published: March 28, 2007 - 02:43PM CT

Be careful what you post online if you want to be able to get a job in the future. Your blog, web site, Facebook, MySpace, online dating profile, or even forum postings might “out” your salacious activities to a potential employer. According to a survey conducted by business social networking site Viadeo, one-fifth of hiring managers have used the Internet to find personal information about potential job candidates, and a quarter of those have rejected candidates based on what they found.

The survey was conducted in March, and covered nearly 600 employers and over 2,000 average adults online, revealing that employers are becoming more and more Google-happy when interviewing new candidates. 25 percent said that they had rejected a candidate outright based on what was found online, while 59 percent of employers who used the Internet to find personal information said that their discoveries play a role in their decision making. Some examples provided in the survey results included one employer being put off by a candidate’s seemingly excessive drinking, another being dismayed by a candidate’s postings about company information, and another mentioning that a candidate’s topless modeling left them with the impression that she wasn’t a good fit with the organization’s ethics.

Examples of this phenomenon are everywhere, and many young professionals know of someone who has had information posted online bite them in the behind. A friend of mine was once all the way into the second round of interviews with a new company when he posted some frustrations with the hiring process on his personal blog. The company looked him up soon thereafter, read what he had written, and decided to cancel his next interview.

But there are cases where information found online works to the candidate’s benefit. The report pointed out that 13 percent of employers had decided to actually recruit someone based on what they had found online, such as various personal achievements or skills demonstrated through a web site. I have another friend who maintains a very professionally-oriented blog which he regularly updates with industry news and personal projects; said friend simply gets a constant flow of e-mails from hiring managers asking whether he is looking for a job. And never mind what happens when he actually writes that he’s looking for a job.

The report showed that, especially among younger candidates in the 18-24 age group, people are much more comfortable posting personal information online than perhaps they should be. MySpace and Facebook took the number one spots among this group, with 45 percent having posted personal info to MySpace and 44 percent to Facebook. Other sites in the list that people had posted to included Flickr, YouTube, Wikipedia, and “other” social networking sites. Further, over half of the 18-24 age group said that they primarily post “party pictures” online, with another 30 percent posting on personal blogs. 54 percent of 18-24 year olds responded that they had even had personal information posted about them online by someone else, with or without their consent.

Viadeo manager Peter Cunningham told Ars that the social networking phenomenon is still very new, and people are posting things online without thinking about the future consequences to their careers. “Information, pictures, forum comments, jokes, and outdated CVs are now in the public domain and available for anyone,” he said.


Did you know...That in Texas...

It is against Texas law to sell either one of your eyes. Or, that a Prohibition era law still makes it illegal to buy the entire Encyclopedia Britannica because it contains a recipe for home-brewed beer.

In San Antonio, it is illegal for both sexes to flirt or respond to flirtation using the eyes.

Planning on taking summer classes here at TAMU?

If so, we have a simple process to complete to be eligible to receive summer financial aid. Just remember that you must be enrolled in at least 6 hours to qualify for summer aid. The 6 hours can be all in a single session or 3 hours in session I and 3 hours in session II, or any other combination that equals 6 total hours.

Since we already have your 2007-2008 FAFSAs/HB 1403 Applications on file, we will only need the 2008 Summer Supplement form submitted. This can be done online in the web portal at myfinancialaid.tamu.edu by clicking on the link for Summer 2008. This form is quick and easy to complete. Once we receive the Summer Supplement form we will begin awarding summer financial aid packages around April 2008. If you have any questions please give us a call at (979) 845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.
This dialogue program is about the intent and impact of popular culture on multiculturalism for today’s college students. Topics include but are not limited to music, television, sports, art, cars, etc. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP the event date to Theresa Survillion at tsurvillion@tamu.edu at least a week prior to the event. Feel free to spread the word to other students and colleagues!

“Reading & Watching Romance”
Monday, March 31st at 5:30 pm-6:45 pm in MSC 027
Dr. Kraft will lead a discussion on the relationship between romance, feminism, and contemporary culture.

“Reality TV: Is it Really About Reality?”
Monday, April 14th at 5:30 pm-6:45 pm in Koldus 144
Join in on the discussion about the reality and impact of Reality television. We will examine examples ranging from the Real World to Survivor to Flavor of Love.

*** “REPEAT PROGRAM: “Multiculturalism Through the Lens of Battlestar Galactica”
Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 pm-7:30 pm in Wehner 154
In case you missed Dr. Kraft’s presentation on “Battlestar Galactica,” you can attend another discussion on the show and diversity.

“Cars & Identity”
Monday, April 28th at 5:30 pm-6:45 pm in MSC 027
Join in on the group discussion about how our love for cars affect our perceptions. This dialogue will be great for all car-lovers!

For more information about our Popular Culture series, please visit our website at aggieculture.tamu.edu under “Diversity.” We are also proud to offer other series including our CommUnity Conversations series, “Experiencing the ‘Other’ Through Film” film series, “Living Through Literature” book club, Inclusive Leadership series, the Diversity Training Institute (for faculty and staff), and an “Unpacking Your Toolkit” Student Diversity Retreat (for students). You can find information about these events on our website.