What’s Your Big Idea?

Each spring, the Ideas Challenge asks students from across campus, “What is your big idea?” We challenge everyone from freshmen to doctoral students to dream up the next great product or service and enter their big idea in this campus-wide competition.

Typically, 100 to 200 students in majors from agriculture to zoology, submit essays describing their concept.

Members of the business and academic worlds judge each submission and the top 40 are named finalists. On judging day, the finalists present their concept to judges from the business community who also pepper them with questions.

Over the last five years, the judges have seen plans as diverse as duct tape sandals and a method for directing the color of cultured pearls. Students from all colleges and academic levels have participated. Several students have participated multiple times. In addition to cash prizes, students receive valuable experience developing business concepts, writing skills and presentation abilities. Networking with the judges is also invaluable to them.

The annual Ideas Challenge shows the world the quality of A&M students. Our students never fail to impress and several have come away with job offers or investment interest as a result. The judges also find the day rewarding. They leave energized by the creativity and poise of the students.

**2010 Ideas Challenge**
Competition - May 5, 2010
Workshop Dates - February 24, March 3, March 10
(6:30-7:45 Koldus 110)
Idea Submissions due April 2, 2010

CONGRATULATIONS...

to ALL of the Orientation Counselors for the Class of 2014!

And for all of you who didn’t make it this year, we urge you to try again next year.

-Orientation Planning Board

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DON’T FORGET: There is plenty of FREE help on-campus as well as several individuals who are here to help you succeed.

Supplemental Instruction (S.I.) schedule:
http://www.tamu.edu/cae/silist.shtml

Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring:
http://tutor.tamu.edu

University Writing Center:
http://uwc.tamu.edu/

Mathematics Department Help:
http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsession/

Study skills and time management workshops:
http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/

Student Learning Center Drop-In Tutoring:
http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf

Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS):
http://sacnas.tamu.edu/
By Jacqui Cheng | Last updated March 28, 2007 3:43 PM

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 (hey, I’m guilty of this myself), 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.

“We all have a personal brand the same way that a company has a brand for its products and services,” Cunningham added. “We invest in developing our brand—education, training, work experience—and we develop our brand equity, that is to say our network of trusted personal contacts, so why don’t we look after this the same way a company does?”


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.
Bryant Cruz, our newest blogger and a graduate of Westfield High School in Houston, Texas, is a Sophomore Applied Mathematical Sciences- Statistics major with a minor in Economics. He is a member of the Regents’ Scholars Organization, Texas A&M Math Club, A&M Christian Fellowship, Sigma Alpha Lambda, Financial Aid Student Advisory Council, and is a Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselor.

Roxanne Fairchild, a graduate of Berkner High School in Richardson, Texas and a December graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. She is now a graduate student going for her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She is the President of the Regents’ Scholars Organization, and substitute teaches in her free time.

Andy Nguyen, a graduate of Berkner High School in Richardson, Texas, is a Senior Chemistry Major. He is a member of the Regents’ Scholars Organization, Orientation Counselor, Pre-Dental Society, Vietnamese American Student Association and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program.

Christopher Hensley, a graduate of Katy High School in Katy, Texas, is a Sophomore Forensic Investigative Science major. He is an Aggie Access Crawford Learning Community mentor, a member of Aggie Forensic and Investigative Sciences Organization, Alpha Phi Omega, AOLP, and a NFLO mentor.

Amber Briggs, a graduate Copperas Cove High School in Copperas Cove, Texas, is a Junior Sociology major with a minor in Africana Studies. She currently works in the Scholarships & Financial Aid Office as a student worker, is a member of Baptist Student Ministries Leadership Team, and Phi Eta Sigma. Amber has been involved in the past with the Leadership Living and Learning Community (L3C), MSCC Visual Arts Committee, and the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Planning Board. She also just got back from a fall internship in Washington, D.C. with the Public Policy Internship Program.

Michelle Rice, a graduate of West Texas High School in Borger, Texas, is a junior Political Science major. She was involved in GUIDE, SAIL, Pre-Law Society, and Sigma Alpha Lambda, and is currently studying abroad in Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy.

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 2009-2010 FAFSAs/HB 1403 Applications on file, we will only need the 2010 Summer Supplement form submitted. This can be done online in the web portal at myfinancialaid.tamu.edu by clicking on the link for Summer 2010 which is usually available around mid March. 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 2010. If you have any questions please give us a call at (979) 845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.
Texas’ Legal Limit: The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). If law enforcement thinks your driving is impaired, you can be stopped and arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI) regardless of you BAC. Penalties get worse with every DWI offense.

How Much is Too Much? Impairment begins with the first drink. Gender, body weight, the number of drinks consumed and the amount of food in one’s stomach affect the body’s ability to handle alcohol. Women, younger people and smaller people, whether male or female, often have lower tolerances.

Under 21? Don’t even think about it. You can’t buy alcohol, drink it or have it on you. Even just trying to buy alcohol can get you busted.

Punishment for Alcohol-Related Offenses by a Minor. The following penalties apply for Minor in Possession Violations (MIP) which include Attempted Purchase, Purchase, Possession, Consumption of Alcohol, and Misrepresentation of Age. ABC§106.071.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th>Loss of License</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>8-12 hours</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>20-40 hours</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
<td>up to 180 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strike One (first conviction)
$2,000 fine
Six months behind bars
Suspended driver’s license for up to a year
$1,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Strike Two (second conviction)
$4,000 fine
One year in jail
Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
$1,500 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get two DWIs within five years and your vehicle will be equipped with an expensive special ignition switch that prevents it from starting if you’ve been drinking.

Strike Three (third conviction)
$10,000 fine
Two to ten years in prison
Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
$2,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get arrested for drunk driving with a child under 15 in your vehicle, and it’s a felony that comes with a $10,000 fine, two years in a state jail and losing your license for two years.

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI). A minor commits an offense if the minor operates a motor vehicle in a public place while having any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor’s system. This is a Class C misdemeanor except if the minor has been previously convicted at least twice of alcohol-related offense. Deferred Adjudication is considered a conviction for enhancement. A Minor is not eligible for deferred adjudication on 3rd offense.

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<td>60 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Failing to breath/blood test means there was ANY detectable amount of alcohol present. Due to implied consent, refusing to take the breath/blood test results in higher penalties. TRC§521.342

http://www.tamug.edu/stulife/student%20rules/Appendix8.htm
Name: Danny Adame
Age: 22
Class Year: 2009
Undergraduate Major: Health
Graduate School Program: Masters of Science in Health Education
Hometown: Spring, TX

I met Danny for the first time during the end of the spring semester of my sophomore year at Texas A&M University. Upon our first meeting, which was at a pizza party for Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors, we greeted each other in a formal manner, got to know each other’s names and majors, and ate some awesome pizza from Papa Johns. I really got to know Danny at a camp called LeaderShape during the summer that followed. Through this camp, I really connected with Danny and got to know the fun, kindhearted, and truly remarkable person that he is.

What are your hobbies and interests?
I enjoy singing, spending time with my friends, and working. I am really interested in pharmaceutical drugs, what they treat, and how they work in the body.

What post-graduate plans do you have?
I plan on applying to pharmacy school after I complete the Masters Program here at A&M.

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 are you financing your participation in this program?
During my undergraduate years I worked extremely hard to succeed. To apply for the program I had to submit an essay and resume, take the GRE, and request 3 letters of recommendation from faculty or professionals in the health education field. I decided to apply to the Graduate Program at A&M because I knew the faculty; I knew they could increase my knowledge and prepare me for the real world. I received a grant from the University to help pay for my tuition, but I also received a Graduate Research Assistant position at the Center for the Study of Health Disparities to help pay for my education.

Prior to your admission to this program, what was the thing you were most excited about regarding this opportunity?
I mostly excited about working with the faculty members here at A&M and actually getting to stay at Aggieland.

Prior to your admission to this program, what was the thing you were most scared about regarding this opportunity?
My biggest fear was not being accepted and the amount of work that comes along with the program.

Now that you are there, how do you feel about the things you were excited about? What about the things you were scared about?
I am thankful for the faculty here at A&M. They all have a passion and a desire for the students to succeed and my success thus far is all thanks to their guidance. I have learned an exponential amount of information with in the past semester and it has been A LOT OF WORK. The amount of work no longer scares me because I know I can do it!

Switching gears, what is your involvement in extracurricular activities on campus?
I have been an active member in the Texas A&M University Singing Cadets since my freshman year. I was also a Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselor my junior year and a Regents’ Scholar O.W.L. (Older Wiser Leader) this past summer.

Are you serving in any leadership positions?
I have held several leadership positions while in the Singing Cadets. Freshman year I was the First Year Member Representative. Sophomore year I served as the Service Chair, junior year I was Vice-President, senior year I was the Public Relations Manager, and currently, as a first year graduate student, I am President.

What can you tell us about your experiences in your organizations?
This organization has been the best part of my experience at Texas A&M. I have found some of my best friends while being in the Singing Cadets. I have also developed as a leader through my tenure. I have had several opportunities to travel and meet several important people. I have been all of the state of Texas with the group as well as Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Washington DC, and Boston. I have had the opportunity to sing for Bush 41, Bush 43, President Obama and I even had dinner with Barbara Bush. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to be a member of the Singing Cadets.

How will your rolls of being a graduate student and being involved in extracurricular activities complement each other next semester?
Honestly being in an organization and being a graduate student is not difficult at all. I think it helps me manage my time better. In my opinion, time management is the key to succeeding.

Is there anything else you would like to tell our audience?
Never lose sight of your goals and always strive to be the best you can be because one day all your hard work will pay off.

By: Salma Abdullah
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GLBT Health Week (1-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Women’s Basketball vs. Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Men’s Basketball vs. Oklahoma State</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Old Army Recall</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 12:00 AM Aggie Nights</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Equestrian vs. Oklahoma State</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3:00 AM - 4:30 PM University String Orchestra Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM University Jazz Bands Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Study Abroad: Travel Wise</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12:00 PM Mid-semester grades due in Office of the Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Study Abroad: Show me the Money</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM In-Sight: A Div Training Institute for Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Lost and Found Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 6:00 PM 4th Annual Lectureship in Child Health</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Faculty and Staff Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Faculty and Staff Holiday</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Spring Equinox</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>49th National Collegiate Judo Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Equestrian vs. New Mexico State</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Strengths Round 2: Strengths and Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>All day event</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Spring Leadership Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 12:00 AM Aggie Nights</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>8:00 PM MSCC Wiley Lecture Series</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>EIC Curbside Recycling</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pesach (Jewish) begins at sundown the day before</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Spring Elections</td>
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</table>