Matthew Gaines

Regents’ Scholar and senior sociology major, Amber Briggs, has been working on a project for the past three years that will hopefully change the campus of Texas A&M University. This project is called the Matthew Gaines Initiative. The Mission of this Initiative is to promote and highlight the diversity of the historical foundation of Texas A&M University by paying tribute to Matthew Gaines and the 12th Texas Legislature with a memorial statue. Matthew Gaines, an African American and former slave, became a Texas Legislator in the late 1800s and played a role in the foundation of Texas A&M University. Briggs joined forces with the Carter G. Woodson Black Awareness Committee to form an ad-hoc committee dedicated to gaining student and faculty support of the statue. This ad-hoc committee plans to bring an official proposal of the statue to the administration of the university. In order to be successful in this venture, the committee is seeking the help of the 12th man. They are currently recruiting members for each team of the committee which include: the finance team, the design team, and the outreach team. The next meeting for the Matthew Gaines Initiative committee will be meeting in the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute Office (in the Academic Building) on November 8th at 8PM. For more information on this committee and to get involved in the Initiative, please contact one of the Committee Chief Directors:

Valecia Battle
vbattle@tamu.edu
Amber Briggs
abriggs@neo.tamu.edu

For more information, please visit: http://resi.tamu.edu/gaines.php

Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

Who would have thought that November would get here this quickly? Mid-terms are over, pre-registration for spring classes begins soon, and final exams are just around the corner. Even though you have busy schedules, now is a great time to take a step back and put this semester into perspective. What are some of the things you have been doing this semester that are moving you closer to achieving your goals? What are some action items that you can focus on to better achieve these goals? Perhaps you will need to plan a study abroad program, apply for an internship, or are simply looking for ways to involve yourself more at Texas A&M and the Bryan/College Station community. Whatever your goals may be, there are a number of resources on campus that are here to assist you. Have a wonderful month!

Thanks and Gig ’em!

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

Continuing Student Scholarship Application is Up!
Deadline February 1, 2011 https://scholarships.tamu.edu/

Below is a listing of all the dept/colleges that participate with our one application:

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Honors Programs
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Nutrition and Food Science
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
- College of Education & Human Development
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
  - Department of Mechanical Engineering
  - Engineering Study Abroad
- College of Geosciences
- College of Science
- Mays Business School
- Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Department of English
- International Student Services
- Study Abroad Programs Office
It's easy to pass off Ferris Beuller (famed for his Day Off) as the ultimate slacker, however most of us have a lot to learn from dear Ferris.

**Do Your Research.**

Ferris was no dummy. When he decided to take on a big project (his day off, of course), he planned. He prepared. He researched. He chose the day, selected his accomplices, and even worked up a very believable illness (complete with clammy hands). And because of his preparation, his schemes were (mostly) successful. And that, my friends, is why you should study up before you write your midterm papers.

**Take Risks.**

Sure, Ferris planned carefully, but he also knew when to take a risk or two. (Like visiting Wrigley Field where he ended up on national TV, or dancing on that float at a parade near his dad’s office.) I’m not going to recommend you borrow a Ferrari without asking, but I do advocate taking risks that would improve your life—like trying out a daunting class, finally asking your crush out, or studying abroad in a foreign country. Ferris would do it.

**Be Cultured.**

A wise teacher once said, “The point of an education is to get the joke.” And oh, that is true. (Example: I can’t tell you HOW many jokes I catch on the Simpsons that I would have missed without paying attention in English class.) I believe Ferris would agree. He did not skip school simply to take in a movie. Oh no! He visited real, meaningful venues like the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Board of Trade. He experienced lasting parts of our culture. So be like Ferris, and next time you’re trying to think of a way to spend a Thursday afternoon, hit a museum instead of a Starbucks. So you too may “get the joke.”

**Network.**

Networking will get you far, both in and out of school. Ferris was so tapped in to his high school’s web of students that no sooner did he show up “sick” than the whole school knew—they were doing a “Save Ferris” fundraiser by the end of his day off. So if you want to open up potential job opportunities early on, get to know your peers, your professors, and others in your industry.

**Occasionally, Take a Day Off.**

Work hard in school, at work, and at your relationships, but every now and then you need to give yourself a break. Take a Saturday to just enjoy the fresh air, see the sights, and do something you’ve always wanted to do.

5 Reasons Why You Should Go to Office Hours

Office hours—that little block of time during which your professor is actually available to talk to you, one-on-one, about (almost) anything you want. Dropping in for just a few minutes could be the best use of your time this week (and next week… and the week after…). Here’s why…

1. You Want an A. If you want to get an A in a course, attending your professor’s office hours can be one of the easiest ways to get there. Here you finally have the time (and smaller group or even one-on-one setting) to ask the professor questions. Discuss problems you are having in the class, get suggestions for how/where/what to study and hey, if you’re feeling brave, ask some questions about the upcoming test.

2. You’re Applying for a Scholarship…or Med School. Guess what scholarships and med schools both want? Letters of recommendation. How can you get a good one if you’re sitting in a lecture-hall-sea of faces? Well, you probably can’t. Spending one-on-one time getting to know your professor will make him or her more likely to be comfortable writing you one of these letters at the end of the semester. They’ll know what kind of student you are, what kind of person you are, and hopefully feel a friendship towards you that makes them want to help.

3. You Might Learn to Keep Your Eyes Open. If you’re having trouble staying awake in class, one sure-fire way to keep yourself alert is to make sure the professor knows your name. You’re not going to want to doze off if there’s potential that your grade could suffer—or you could get called out in the middle of class. Not the most fun way, maybe, but certainly effective!

4. You’ll Meet New People. You may be attending office hours for other reasons (like to get in the running for an internship, for example) but you could be surprised how enjoyable they can be. You may find yourself enjoying your newfound friendship (or mentee-ship) with your professor, and if his/her office hours are popular, you’ll meet other like-minded people from similar courses. The conversations that break out during these more casual meetings can be a lot of fun.

5. You...Um...Still Want an A. Let’s say you’ve been attending office hours for a few weeks, clearly making an effort in the class, and you mess up on a test. Office hours are the perfect opportunity to discuss this discrepancy with your professor—whether you’re hoping for a curved grade or just need help figuring out what went wrong, this is the time and place to discuss it.

Oh, and if you did something stupid like sleeping through a test, you’re more likely to get some kind of forgiveness from a professor you know than from one who’s never even noticed you in class.

Adapted from http://www.survivingcollegelife.com/2008/09/22/5-reasons-why-office-hours-are-your-new-best-friend/
HOWDY!

I do hope that your semester has been treating you well, because mine finally has. For those of you who do not know, I had a number of things to get accustomed to this semester. You see, though it is my 4 and a half-th year at A&M, this is the first semester that I am commuting to school. I got married in March and now live in Cypress with my husband, so needless to say I have a few things to juggle. Some things I’m juggling are the same: going to classes, studying, doing homework, working, etc... but others are quite different, like commuting. With added responsibilities, I had to find out how to manage my time and quick. To do that, I have my days planned right down to the minute. Some of you may think that in this aspect I am a micro-manager, and I’m guilty as charged, but I find it amazing what a difference it has truly made in my studying routine.

You see in my micro-managed daily planner I have written in my tiny scrawl what I need to do, especially in regards to studying. I find that writing out time to study in my planner makes all the difference. To be truthful, I don’t write it down as “studying” per se, rather I write down what I need to specifically - “read/review the notes,” “read/review the book,” “write the paper” — so that my mind becomes task-oriented, as opposed to going into the automatic “procrastination mode” when I read the word “study.”

Becoming task-oriented is one of the most important things, because I find that the more I get done in small chunks the better I am at understanding the materials and ideas presented in my various classes. Reading the chapter before class lecture takes only 20 – 40 minutes, and reviewing the notes after class only takes 10 minutes. But these habits make it so that I understand the chapter better and faster, and retain the information longer.

The great thing about it is that I can fit ten, twenty, thirty, and forty minute chunks into any part of the day or night when needed and it’s manageable so that I don’t have to cram for the final. Rather, I just keep to my routine and constantly review the notes so that I don’t have any new information crammed in at the last moment. This gives me time to get comfortable with the material and apply it in and out of class.

My routine is inspired by what is known as the “5 Day Study Plan.” This concept advises students to divide their studying into different sized chunks for five days in order to prepare for an exam. This a great tool, and it really has made all the difference for me this semester.

Well, I hope you all BTHO Finals, Exams, Papers, and Anything Else With Which Your Professor Measures Your Proficiency!

Gig 'Em!

Salma Abdullah Tejani