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!
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Maroon Out
What is it?
Maroon Out is a tradition that was started in 1998 as “a way to build unity among the Aggie community,” and also to boost spirit for the Texas A&M Nebraska football game. The very first year 31,000 shirts were sold. Now there is one football game per season chosen as the Maroon Out Game.

When is the Maroon Out game?
November 24, 2011 Texas A&M vs. t.u.

How much do the Maroon Out shirts cost?
The shirts are sold for $8 to make them accessible for students.

Where can I get one?
Maroon Out shirts are sold on campus during the weeks of home games: Tuesday - Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Please consult our schedule below for dates and locations.

Maroon Out Daily Sales Schedule 10:00am-3:00pm (traditionally in front of Koldus)
- Oct 11-14
- Oct 25-28
- Nov 2-3 (Wehner)
- Nov 15-18
- Nov 22-23

Maroon Out Game Day Sales Schedule (4 hours before kickoff in front of Koldus)
- October 15
- October 29
- November 19
- November 24

To purchase shirts online, go to http://maroonout.tamu.edu/.

Continuing Student Scholarship Application is Up!
https://scholarships.tamu.edu

Deadline February 1, 2012
Below is a listing of all the dept/colleges that participate with our one application:
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  - Department of Agricultural Economics
  - Department of Entomology
  - Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
- College of Education & Human Development
- College of Engineering
  - Department of Aerospace Engineering
  - Department of Chemical 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
- Texas A&M Foundation
5 Life Lessons for College
Courtesy of Ferris Beuller

It’s easy to pass off Ferris Beuller (famed for his Day Off) as the ultimate slackers, 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 they, 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 hope not everyone has had such stressful days like I did; too much reading, tests and papers. I was sleepy all the time and couldn’t concentrate in classes. Only when I reflected on what was causing me to feel that way did I realize I needed to change something. Below is part of a list of life lessons that I would like to share with everyone so read on, my fellow colleagues.

Life lesson #259: Don’t let stress bully you around

I’m applying for graduate school and it’s a pain in the neck—literally. I stare at the screen so long my neck starts hurting and then I don’t get enough sleep at night; then at school, I become drowsy and in order to wake up, I eat too much candy, which gives me a sugar rush, which leads to a stressful day where I can’t concentrate on studying. Sound familiar? That happened a couple times but then I realized that I have to change something; my ways weren’t working. I consulted my mom and she told me to stare at the screen only as long as I could think straight. Taking that to another level, I thought straight on other subjects: spinach or Cheetos? Facebook or textbook? Office hours or hours of The Office? Part of the reason I made bad decisions was because I didn’t talk to anyone about the tyrant called Stress so I had no way of knowing I had something slowly brainwashing me to negativity. Once I spoke with my mom, she gave me the advice I needed and helped me make healthy decisions to deal with stress.

Life lesson #36: Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy! –The Friz

In the TV show Parks and Recreation, Leslie’s department will be shut down if she doesn’t make the Harvest Festival the best it can be. Instead of quitting, she asks her co-workers for help and along the way builds stronger friendships with those who believe in her vision. Though she hits a road bump with the festival being cursed, she overcomes that too. Likewise, we should take chances on ourselves. Don’t believe in yourself? Surround yourself with those who do. Afraid to make mistakes? Well don’t be because you have to in order to learn from them. Instead of beating yourself up about mistakes, do what I do and ask yourself, “What did I learn?”

Life lesson #107: Information + Application = Transformation

If the notes you’re taking aren’t helping you with the test, then realize that you aren’t learning and change the way you take notes; this will result in better test results. Recently (many Aggie Pals can relate), I have been sending emails that were not clear because it stated the wrong due date or the instructions were contradictory. I even forgot a couple attachments. At first, I thought they were reading my emails incorrectly, but then I realized that I’m the only one who thought I was right. Clearly, I had to enhance my email-sending abilities, which included writing it in advance and asking others to read them. Since I knew I had a problem and that it could be fixed with a simple step-by-step master plan (information), I implemented it (application) and got results (transformation)! No emails about me being wrong, which I consider quite a success.

Life lesson #85: Compliment yourself

I laugh at my jokes all the time. You can ask the people who know me—I constantly say, “I’m so funny!” to calm myself down after a good pun. Sometimes when I dress up for special occasions or when my skin looks clearer than usual, I say to myself, “Lookin’ good.” Keeping a positive atmosphere is good for your well-being because it gives you the confidence to improve your talents and skills. A bird doesn’t fly just because it has wings; it flies because it has the talent and confidence to fly.

I hope these life lessons help you like they have helped me. Good luck with midterms, finals and life!

Asiya Bhura
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<td>World AIDS Day</td>
<td>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Jazz Bands Concert 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Symphonic Band/Concert Band Concert</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM University Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Volleyball vs. Missouri Football vs. Kansas Men's Basketball vs. Texas A&amp;M- Corpus Christi</td>
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