Howdy from your Program Coordinator

Name: Suzanne Sealey
Title: Regents’ Scholars Coordinator
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Phone Number: 979.458.5378
Hometown/State: San Antonio, TX
High School: Winston Churchill HS
Enjoys working with students because of: seeing the transition from scared fish to students who take ownership of Texas A&M and of their futures.
Favorite aspect of A&M: the friendliness…
Best piece of advice received as a student: “Don’t hesitate to seek the answers to your questions!”

Howdy Ags!

I’m Roxanne Fairchild, the 09-10 President of RSO, a student-run organization linked to the Regents’ Scholars Program. Last year, RSO participated in service events like Replant and The BIG Event, not to mention we held social events like a scavenger hunt and a camp-out. We hope to see everyone return from our induction year as well as any new Regents’ Scholars!

If you’re not already in RSO or want more information on what RSO is all about, check our website at rso.tamu.edu. There, you will find the latest on upcoming informationalss, meetings, and events as well as our contact information.

We can’t wait to see you at our first meeting!
Thanks and Gig’em,
Roxanne Fairchild ‘10

Regents’ Review

Sophomore Edition

Howdy!
Welcome to the September issue of the Sophomore Regents’ Review.
As you get back into the swing of things as a Regents’ Scholar at Texas A&M University, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the valuable information we provide to you by reading the Regents’ Review and checking your TAMU email on a daily basis (remember, this is how our office will communicate with you)!

Should you have any questions or concerns, remember that I am here to help you in any way I can.

Thanks & Gig’em,
Suzanne Sealey

Still not sure you are in the right major? DISCOVER is an online, interactive, comprehensive, developmental career guidance and information system designed to help students make important career and educational decisions. DISCOVER is available to all eligible students of Texas A&M through the Student Counseling Services.

For more information, visit scs.tamu.edu.

Back to School...and Back to Professors

A few pointers for better communication with your profs

Be polite — If you show respect for your professor, then your professor will have respect for you. Address your professor with the appropriate title: “Dr. Jones,” “Mr. Dickens,” or “Ms. Smith.”

Be professional — If you want your professor to treat you like a mature young adult, then you need to act like one! When you email a professor, write in complete sentences and avoid slang. You aren’t texting your friends, so use grammar check and spell check for EVERY email and assignment. Sign your emails with your first and last name, as well as your UIN.

Be prepared — When you visit a professor during office hours, be prepared with specific questions about the lecture or the chapter. Identify certain concepts or terms that you are having trouble understanding, and ask the professor to explain those terms.

Be peaceful — It is hard not to be angry and disappointed when the grade you get on a test or paper is much lower than you were expecting. However, you can’t always blame the professor for your bad grade. There are many factors that affect a grade. When you are discussing grades with your professor, be calm. Ask the professor what you did wrong and what you need to do to improve on the next test or paper. Ask the professor to suggest resources that might help you. If you remain calm and keep a positive attitude, your professor will be more inspired to help you.
Dear Regent Scholar’s Class of 2013:

Howdy! We are thrilled to have you among the community of scholars at Texas A&M and welcome you to the university and Bryan/College Station Community. You are about to become part of over 45,000 students who have chosen Texas A&M University to pursue their higher education and to be part of one of the most active and involved student bodies at any college or university in the country.

Along with the magnitude of opportunities that you will have while here at A&M, we also wanted to take a moment to remind you of the great responsibilities that you will have as a member of this community. Remember, that your conduct, both on and off campus, not only represents yourself, but the Regent’s Scholar’s program, and the entire Texas A&M University student body.

All students are required and expected to be familiar with the University Student Rules that govern their conduct. Students are also expected to be aware that consequences for inappropriate student conduct can be severe and significantly limit a student’s ability to fully partake in university activities and events, as well as, have a long-term impact on the opportunities that may be present after you complete your A&M degree.

Please take a moment to review the Student Conduct Code found at: http://student-rules.tamu.edu/search/rule24.htm and if you are living on campus the polices and procedures outlined in the Residence Hall Handbook: http://reslife.tamu.edu/download/publications/handbook.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding any of the policies outlined in either of those documents to contact a member of the Student Conflict Resolution Services staff in the Offices of the Dean of Student Life or a staff member within the Department of Residence Life.

We wish you the best for a happy and productive first year on campus!

Thanks and Gig’Em!

Jeff Stefancic, Offices of the Dean of Student Life

Cultural Leadership Understanding and Exploration for Sophomores (C.L.U.E.S)

Cultural Leadership Understanding and Exploration for Sophomores (C.L.U.E.S) is a sophomore learning community developed by the Department of Multicultural Services and the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications. It emphasizes multiculturalism, diversity/sensitivity, and leadership.

Texas A&M University has placed diversity at the core of its ultimate goal of being one of the top ten institutions by the year 2020. The Department of Multicultural Services has and will continue to play an integral role in providing multiple support services for current and prospective students from underrepresented populations while developing diversity education programs that foster inclusive learning environments for all students. In the relative void of support services for sophomore students, and the underdeveloped holistic understanding of true leadership by many undergraduate students, the Department of Multicultural Services views this learning community as a means of cluing students in on life changing knowledge and skills that will positively impact their future.

Website: http://aggieculture.tamu.edu/clues/

Career Center

If you are a typical sophomore, you are probably wondering why you need to take advantage of Career Center services so early in your academic career. This is a common question with an uncommonly GREAT answer.

Career Center advisors can work with you as you begin to figure out what you want to study and the types of employers who are hiring in these areas. Starting early in developing job search skills will prepare you to obtain internships or cooperative education experiences that will make you more marketable and give you more options as you look for your first job after college.

How can the Career Center help me choose a Major?

If you are really uncertain about what major to choose, there are numerous aptitude tests that are available to help you. The Career Center offers the Sigi 3 online career assessment and Student Counseling Services has a series of tests you can take that will recommend specific majors where your natural abilities and interests would make a good fit. You can then bring your list of potential majors to the Career Center where we can show you for each major how many companies have job postings (Full-time, Co-op and Intern), what kind of job positions/titles they are interviewing for, and what kind of average salary to expect. This will help you make a more informed and reasoned decision when you choose your major.

So, don’t wait, start early! Come by 209 Koldus or call 979-845-5139 to visit with your career advisor.

Retrieved from careercenter.tamu.edu on October 4, 2007
Credit cards are neither inherently good nor bad, but they can be DANGEROUS if used unwisely. Credit cards are nothing more than an easy way for the credit card company to loan money to students, usually at high interest rates if the balances are not paid off at the end of each month.

Credit cards are often issued to students who do not have large incomes. Some students can’t resist the temptation of buying items on their credit card without a plan for how they will repay the amount. Such behavior can result in students going deep into debt and struggling to make even the minimum payments to the credit card companies. It is not unusual for credit card companies to raise interest rates up to 25%, 30% or more if there is a hint that a student is having problems repaying his/her credit card balance. Credit card lenders don’t even need a reason to raise interest rates. The “fixed” interest rate on your credit card can be increased at any time simply by the lender giving you 15 days notice of the increase.

Once a person gets into debt with a high interest rate, it is difficult to make large enough monthly payments to pay off the amount owed. Here are some tips to prevent credit card problems.

- Use a credit card sparingly, if at all
- Try to pay off the balance each month
- ALWAYS pay the minimum due each month
- Make all payments early enough to meet the due dates
- Buy what you need with a credit card if you don’t have cash, but save for the things you want
- If you can’t pay the entire monthly balance due, develop a plan for paying it off as quickly as possible

You’re invited to attend our free workshop on “Understanding Credit Cards and Credit Scores” to learn more about tactics credit card companies use to separate you from your money. If you are having credit card problems or have questions, you can email a Money Wise Aggie counselor at moneywise@tamu.edu or call us at 979.458.5325.

For many students, the financial aid refund is often the first time they face the responsibility of managing a large amount of money. Some students manage their funds wisely, but others make poor decisions which can lead to running short of money during the semester. Money worries add unneeded stress at the end of the semester when there is often already stress from final exams and deadlines for papers. Here are 2 things to keep in mind about your financial aid refund.

- Students will begin receiving their fall financial aid refunds during the latter part of August, but the spring refund will not be distributed until January. If your only income is the refund, it will need to last you nearly 5 months. Every year we see students who spend too much of their money early in the semester on items that are not required for their college expenses and are left without funds by the middle of the term.
- The financial aid refund is given to you for the purpose of assisting you with your educational and living expenses, not for your family's living expenses. If you are concerned that your parents may use some of your money for their own expenses, we recommend you establish your own checking account that is only accessible by you. You can then control how your money is spent.

We urge you to attend our workshop entitled “Creating a Budget That Will Work for You” to learn how to prepare a budget (spending plan) so that you can make smart decisions in spending your money. The workshop also explains software and online options that enable you to easily track your money. If you have questions you can email a Money Wise Aggie counselor at moneywise@tamu.edu or call us at 979.458.5325.