Home for the Holidays

Information taken from: “Aggie Connection, Fall 2005”

You are on the way to completing your first semester at Texas A&M University and now it is time to go home for the winter break. Sometimes returning home can be as disruptive to a family as your initial departure to college. Just as you have adjusted to being away from home, your parents and families have adjusted to your departure. They may have started refocusing their attention on your little brothers and sisters, other activities, may have made changes in their own lives and schedules, or may have moved to a new home or city. Just as your family has changed their behaviors, you have grown as an individual. These changes occurred gradually over time. However, when you are away from home, you and your family might have not been aware of these changes until you come home for your winter break. This is a natural phenomenon, so don’t stress it! Before you return home, we want to provide you with a few tips to make your transition back home enjoyable

1. Your habits may have changed.
2. Your family and friends from home might have changed too; recognize this and talk about it.
3. Realize that your family may expect you to follow your old curfew, rules and chores.
4. Be flexible when balancing time with family and friends.
5. Relax and enjoy the break!

WANTED

Regents’ Scholars Program Peer Mentors

Help welcome the Class of 2011! Apply now to be a Regents’ Scholars Program Peer Mentor for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Benefits of becoming a peer mentor:

- Leadership opportunities
- Participate in training and the Regents’ Scholars Program Orientation on August 20, 2007
- Meet fellow Regents’ Scholars
- Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization
- Mentor Freshman throughout the academic year
- Must have a 2.0 GPR or better

Applications due to the Regents’ Scholars Staff by February 16, 2007.

Download the application online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review.

Please share the opportunity with your friends!
Happy Holidays, Regents’ Scholars! The majority of student aid will post to fee statements on or shortly after 01/5/07 for the Spring 2007 semester. Please make sure you visit the student web portal at myfinancialaid.tamu.edu to make sure all requirements have been completed so your aid is not delayed. Tuition is due on 1/10/07 for the spring semester. You may be eligible to apply for an Emergency Tuition and Fee Loan (ETFL) online if you think your aid may be delayed for any reason. If you get one of these loans for the spring and have not previously received an ETFL, you will need to come by the 2nd floor of the Pavilion to sign a Master Promissory Note. The loans are due back exactly 90 days from the date it posts to your fee statement.

Beginning 01/01/07 you can go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your 2007-2008 FAFSA online using you and your parents’ (if dependent) 2006 income tax information. Remember that the majority of grant funds are first come-first serve so get your FAFSA in early. Our Academic Excellence scholarship application is also available online at scholarships.tamu.edu for all continuing students. This application has a due date of 02/01/07. This is one application that will qualify you for several hundred scholarships, other than the Regents’ Scholarship.

For those of you who would like to attend summer school here at TAMU, our 2007 Summer Supplement form will also be available online around the beginning of March. Remember that many types of aid for the summer are also first come, first serve so get your form in early. If you have any questions on due dates or the status of your aid, please feel free to give us a call at (979) 845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.

“Advice for finals and How to Start Strong in Spring 2007”
Lydia Carrascosa ’93 & ’96, Academic Advisor II
Biomedical Science

The semester is almost over and finals are approaching! Congratulations to everyone for having a great semester in Aggieland and good luck on all your tests. A few reminders about finals: 1) Remember to attend as many study and review sessions as your time will permit, 2) Do not “cram” the night before the test; study a few chapters every day leading up to your final, 3) Try to get a good nights sleep before your test; pulling “all-nighters” most of the time does more harm than good!

After all the final exams are over, your grades for the Fall ’06 semester will be posted on myrecord.tamu.edu. Final grades are not due until December 18th, so expect them to be posted the December 19th or 20th. If you have questions or disputes about a grade, contact your academic advisor and they can go over your options with you.

If your grades are not what you expected for the semester, remember that you can do some things to start strong in the Spring! The most important thing is to have a good holiday break! Relax, spend time with friends and family and enjoy the holidays! Go over your schedule for the upcoming semester and plot out when your classes are each day. This will help you to gauge how much time you have each day to study, eat breakfast, lunch and dinner and schedule activities that you’re involved in. Reflect on lessons learned the previous semester. If 15 or 16 hours was too much for you then try 13 or 14 hours in the spring. But if you aced 15 or 16 hours, stick with that many hours for the spring or try more.

Always know that your academic advisors are here to answer any questions you might have and to guide you to a successful semester. Advisors are a great source of information on tutoring, class selection and services that TAMU provides students.

Good luck on finals and have a great Spring semester!

Peer Mentors: Words of Advice

What was the hardest lesson you learned during your first semester at Texas A&M?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Advice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenifer Burnett</td>
<td>I had to learn how to be independent of my mom and not call her for every little thing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raquel Derouen</td>
<td>Don’t be cocky because you have one good semester... stay focused and continue to do well. Don’t stop or slack off because things are currently going well. Keep on to make sure that you finish strongly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phillip Le</td>
<td>I learned that I had to be really motivated to study and to get things accomplished. To do this, I learned that I have to set goals and compile a list of the steps I have to take to achieve those goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omar Venzor</td>
<td>One bad grade on a test can make it really hard to get a good grade in the class.</td>
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</tbody>
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GOT QUESTIONS? ASK A PEER MENTOR. Find one online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review/Profiles/main.asp.