MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet
May 5, 2009
Attendance is expected.

Invitations to be delivered this week.
RSVP online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/rsvp

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/silists.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

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE REGENTS’ SCHOLARS ORIENTATION COUNSELORS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013!

Ajaypal Singh  Jacqueline Campbell  Pamela Gutierrez
Asiya Bhura  Jamar Spencer  Poleth Robledo
Briana Marines  James Reedy  Robert Martinez
Bryant Cruz  Jessica Rifenburg  Rod Green
Chioma Anyanwu  Jesus Reyes  Rosalinda Garcia
Christina Hawkins  Jewell Garcia  Salma Abdullah
Christina Ortiz  Kaylin Huseman  Shama Dhanani
Crystal Penaloza  Krista Boehning  Shantal White
Cyndi Davis  Lauren Marinos  Sharriel Kiel
Elena Jaramillo  Leslie Casiano  Shelly Mozingo
Esteban Vazquez  Madiha Rizvi  Sidra Naeem
Florida Nyanpinga  Randy Muniz  Stacey Kinney
Gary Young  Marisa Melincon  Stephanie Roper
Hana Nguyen  Mark Francisco  Taylur Holland
Iver Weaver  Melanie Garcia
Jacob Campos  Minho Seo

FAFSA RENEWAL

The FAFSA Renewal must be completed in order to maintain your eligibility for the Regents’ Scholarship as well as other types of financial aid (Pell Grant, Stafford Loans, Work Study, etc.). If you do not complete the FAFSA Renewal, you will not receive your Regents’ Scholarship in the fall. Necessary information to complete the 2009-2010 FAFSA Renewal includes: 2008 tax information and 2008 W-2s (and your parent’s tax information, if dependent) Scholarships & Financial Aid recommends completing the FAFSA Renewal before Spring Break.

If you are a HB 1403 student, you must complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid located under forms at financial.tamu.edu. Student Financial Aid recommends completing Texas Application for State Financial Aid before Spring Break.

March Opinion Poll Winner

What do you thinking of employers using the internet (i.e., Facebook, blogs, MySpace, etc) to check on the background of a potential employee?

If employers have the ability to use the internet to search backgrounds on potential employees, they should. The potential employee uses these websites to show a picture of himself; what he posts on Facebook or MySpace is what he wants the world to see. Although some people may put comments relating to that person without his permission, we can always argue that perception is reality—what others think of him shows another side that he may not see in himself. After all, he might have done something to deserve the comment, be it good or bad.

Asiya Bhura
Class ’12

Congratulations, Asiya!

DID YA KNOW?

Spaghetti Harvest? April Fools!

One of the great April Fools jokes took place on April 1st, 1957. The BBC TV programme Panorama did a documentary on “spaghetti farmers” growing “spaghetti trees.” The hoax Panorama programme featured a family from Switzerland carrying out their annual spaghetti harvest. It showed women carefully pulling strands of spaghetti from a tree and laying them in the sun to dry.

The joke was an enormous success. Hundreds of people believed there was such things as spaghetti trees. Soon after the broadcast ended, the BBC began to receive hundreds of calls from puzzled viewers.

Did spaghetti really grow on trees, they wanted to know. Others were eager to learn how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC reportedly replied that they should “place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best.”

Taken from http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/year/april.htm.

As you now know, the weeks after Spring Break are a popular time for professors to give exams. Unfortunately, this can cut into your plans for fun and relaxation, but, hopefully, you were able to find time to study. However, if you didn’t do as well as you hoped there are strategies for improving on the next exam. In his book, *How to Study in College*, Walter Pauk gives the following recommendations:

1. Directly after the exam, while your memories are still fresh, talk over the exam with several of your friends. The bigger the group the better—this way you’ll be getting more information about how others interpreted the questions and how they answered them.

2. Don’t just note the grade and file it for future reference. It’s yours and you “paid” for it, so use it to learn even more. For example, go to the first questions you missed. Read and analyze them carefully to find out specifically what was wrong with your answers. Were they incomplete? Did you make careless mistakes? Did you really know the material?

3. Learn from your mistakes by taking the time to outline or even write better answers. Often, on the next exam, professors will repeat questions that many students missed.

4. Determine which of your study and test-taking techniques worked and which did not. Modify your strategies accordingly.

Finally, if you feel the need to discuss your exams with the professor, by all means do so! Before your meeting, write out the questions you want to ask; then ask them in a constructive manner. Find out what the professor was trying to test with the questions, what ideas or facts he or she thought were important. This will help you to “read” future exam questions with greater accuracy. Above all, don’t be negative. Don’t argue with the professor or complain about the wording of questions. Don’t explain that you knew the answer, but time ran out. Such negative arguments cannot possibly help you.

Hopefully, these few tips will help you prepare for your next exam. Good luck!
On June 26, 1883, Aggies gathered together to live over again the victories and defeats of their college days. By April 21, 1903, this annual gathering evolved into a celebration of Texas’ Independence on San Jacinto Day. These early meetings included field games and banquets for Aggies to reflect and celebrate their memories of Aggieland. ‘Let every alumni answer a roll call’ wrote the former students. It was not until 1922, however, that April 21 became the official day of events for all Aggies. Thus, the annual tradition of Muster was born. The March 1923 Texas Aggie urged, ‘If there is an A&M man in one-hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas.’

Still remembering and honoring the time spent in Aggieland, the tradition of mustering has grown in strength, meaning, and spirit. By 1929, the meetings had grown worldwide, and in 1942 Aggie Muster gained international recognition. Twenty-five men, led by General George Moore ’08, mustered during the Japanese Siege of the Philippine Island of Corregidor. Knowing that Muster might soon be called for them, these Aggies embodied the essence of commitment, dedication, and friendship. That small group of Aggies on an outpost during World War II was an inspiration for one of our greatest traditions.

Muster is celebrated in more than four-hundred places worldwide, with the largest ceremony on the campus of Texas A&M. The ceremony brings together more Aggies, worldwide, than any other single event.

Reflections on the man behind the scholarship...

Dr. Robert Gates has several things in common with a lot of the Regent’s Scholars of the past and present. He was a first generation student coming from a low income family and look where life has brought him. He didn’t get where he is today because he had connections or an overflowing bank account, and it had nothing to do with luck. Everything he has and everything he’s accomplished is a result of nothing but hard work.

When addressing a group of freshmen Regents’ Scholars, Gates stated, “Where you come from is irrelevant to where you are going.” We have been given such a great opportunity to be a part of the Texas Aggie family and Dr. Gates is definitely a person to thank for that. But as he said, it is no miracle that we are all here. Not one of us received the Regents’ Scholarship simply because of our financial circumstances. We are here because we deserve it for all the hard work we’ve put in and we’ve been given the chance to set a new trend for our family and students coming from our high school. Seeing us achieve can send the message that it’s not impossible, whatever the circumstances may be.

We have the ability to do amazing things in our lives; there are no boundaries. But when and if you do end up on top, don’t forget about where you came from. Albert Einstein once said, “Only a life lived for others is worth living.” We’ve received an incredible gift in just having the chance to be here. Continue on and serve the others around you; it doesn’t have to be in the form of money. Think outside yourself and lend a helping hand. Let yourself be a light and an encouragement to those around you. —Brittaney Abney, ’12
WHAT DOES “GRADE EXCLUSION” REALLY MEAN?

GRADE EXCLUSION POLICY:
Courses excluded under this policy are not excluded when determining whether a student is meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements (hours completed and GPR) for federal and state financial aid programs.

Recipients of financial aid are expected to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). This is defined as consistently passing 75% of the credit hours he or she registers for at Texas A&M and maintaining a 2.0 GPR. If the student does not complete this percentage of hours and/or maintain a 2.0 GPR, he or she will be considered ineligible for additional financial aid until the percentage completed reaches 75% or the GPR is raised above a 2.0.

When determining SAP, we will include courses that have been excluded under the grade exclusion policy in the completion rate. The courses will count just as a NG (No Grade) or W (Withdrawal) count.

If you fall below the 75% percent completion rate or below the required 2.0 GPR and find yourself in jeopardy of losing your financial aid, you have the right to appeal. The appeal should demonstrate unusual circumstances which occurred beyond your control. If you possess extenuating circumstances, documentation should be submitted at the time of the appeal review with your financial aid counselor. Additional documentation may be requested upon review of the appeal.

The submission of an appeal is only a request and does not imply that a financial aid hold will be removed or that approval of the appeal is forthcoming. Appeals should be submitted on line at Myfinancialaid.tamu.edu. In addition to submitting the appeal you must contact our department to set up an appointment with a financial aid counselor.

If you have questions regarding your financial aid, please contact our department at 979-845-3236.

PEER MENTOR WORDS OF WISDOM

What did you take into consideration when determining your course schedule?

Kaytlin Huseman: Your schedule never comes out looking like you planned it, so first you have to remind yourself not to get too stressed out planning it, because most likely you will have to change it anyway.

I start by looking at my undergraduate catalog to see what classes are required to take and what core classes I still haven’t fulfilled. I make a list of everything that looks like something that I would be able to manage for that semester and prioritize the classes (the classes I absolutely have to take and the classes that are cumulative go at the top of the list), not forgetting to highlight the other classes I think I will enjoy the most. The more you enjoy a class, the better you will do because you will not mind spending extra time studying for it.

Once I know what classes I’m most likely going to take, I look on pick-a-prof and see which professors would be best by reading the reviews and looking at the grade logistics. Finally, I put together my schedule online. I never get all of the professors or low priority classes I want, but I have learned that you have to decide what you want to sacrifice: the professors, the class, or having a schedule strung out with 2 or 3 hour gaps in between each class.

I highly recommend buying the paper copy of your undergraduate course catalog at the MSC for $5 so you can easily flip through and locate anything you need, and cross out the classes you have completed. The MSC only carries the current catalog, so it helps to get it your freshmen year.