DOLLAR SENSE!

Happy Holidays, Regents’ Scholars!

The majority of student aid will post to fee statements on or shortly after 01/12/09 for the Spring 2009 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 1/14/09 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 01/01/09 you can go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your 2009-2010 FAFSA online using you and your parents’ (if dependent) 2008 income tax information. Remember that the majority of grant funds are first come-first serve so get your FAFSA in early!

FALL 2009-SPRING 2010 CONTINUING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

The application is available online at scholarships.tamu.edu for all continuing students. This application has a due date of 02/01/09. This is one application that will qualify you for several hundred scholarships, other than the Regents’ Scholarship.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Are you signed up for direct deposit yet?
Sign up through myrecord.tamu.edu and select AggiE-Refund to receive your spring refund faster!
December is "Hi, Neighbor!" month...

“ASKING FOR HELP...”

“He who is afraid of asking is ashamed of learning.” -- Danish Proverb

As your first semester ends, I find that it’s a good time to ask yourself an important question as a college student: Am I afraid of asking for help? Surprisingly enough, not many students can say that they aren’t at least a little afraid, but this is one of the top reasons why students don’t succeed! It doesn’t matter if you’re a “high achieving” student or a “probationary” one; there will be times where you will need help, and the only way to get it is to ask!

Asking is learning, and aren’t we all in the business of learning? Why would you be ashamed of learning? All too often we, as students or even as so-called “adults,” are too proud to admit that we need help, or we’re just plain embarrassed to ask a question. Why is it that we let our pride or our modesty prevent us from learning, understanding, or just plain succeeding? Even I can admit that I once held back questions because I was afraid to “look stupid,” but now I rarely STOP asking questions! Any student who stops by my office knows that I have at least a dozen other Academic Advisors’ cell phone numbers and Instant Messenger IDs, and I contact them whenever I need help (which is pretty frequently)! Even after many years of advising, I know enough to know that I don’t know it all. We all need help from time to time.

Benjamin Franklin once said: “He that teaches himself hath a fool for his master.” How many of us have tried to “teach ourselves” a course instead of asking for help from the professor, TA, or fellow students? Doesn’t work out so well, does it? And why should it? We’re not the experts, and nobody knows it all! The only foolish thing to do would be to do it alone instead of seeking help. So, as you finish with the fall semester, take your much deserved winter break, and come back eager for the spring semester to begin, take a moment to think back on how many questions you’ve asked, how many professor’s you’ve met with, how often you visit with your Academic Advisor, and how many times you’ve asked for help… I bet it’s not nearly enough!

I look forward to seeing y’all in the spring!

Sam Murdock
Senior Academic Advisor I
Bioenvironmental Sciences
Murdock@tamu.edu

Regents’ Scholars Program Blogger. Wanted.

Regents’ Scholars Program bloggers will increase the visibility of the Regents’ Scholars Program through the creation and expansion of the Regents’ Scholars Program blogs.

Qualifications?
Regents’ Scholarship recipients preferred.
Undergraduate students preferred.
Ability to effectively manage time;
Ability to work independently;
Minimum GPA of 2.5.

For more information, visit jobsforaggies.tamu.edu
Home for the Holidays!

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!

Information taken from: “Aggie Connection, Fall 2005”

DID YA KNOW? AN ICE CREAM FLAVOR FOR THE REST OF US!

In the fall of 2000, Ben & Jerry’s introduced a limited-edition flavor called “Festivus,” in honor of the hit TV-show Seinfeld’s alternative end-of-year holiday conceived by George’s father Frank. It consisted of brown sugar cinnamon ice cream loaded with gingerbread cookies and a ginger caramel swirl...YUM!

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/silist.shtml

Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring:
http://tutor.tamu.edu

University Writing Center:
http://uw.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