MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Regents’ Scholars
Spring Banquet

May 5, 2009

Attendance is expected.

FAFSA RENEWAL WORKSHOP

Does the FAFSA renewal process have you seeing double?

Find answers to all of your FAFSA renewal questions at the FAFSA Renewal Workshops hosted by Scholarships & Financial Aid. Counselors will be available for one-on-one assistance with applications to answer your individual questions.

Space is limited, so sign up now!

Tuesday, February 17th 2-3 pm
Wednesday, February 18th 11-12 am

All workshops are located in Room 229 of the Pavilion.

Please Register at:
https://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.

Don’t Miss the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors Premiere

Why become an OC?
• Be a helping hand to freshmen of 2013
• Meet new people
• Gain leadership experience

Requirements:
• Maintain a 2.0 GPR
• Be committed

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

Applications due to Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator, Drew Smith, by February 5, 2009.

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Who can apply? Everyone!

When is Orientation? August 5, 2009

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DOLLAR SENSE: FAFSA

As many of you know, it’s time to begin applying for 2009-2010 financial aid. You can begin completing the 2009-2010 FAFSA online at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you qualified for state aid during 2008-2009 and were not able to complete the FAFSA, please visit financialaid.tamu.edu and complete the 2009-2010 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). For both the FAFSA and the State Aid for Foreign Students form, you may need some or all of the documents listed below.

- Social Security Number (can be found on Social Security card)
- Driver’s license (if any)
- W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- The student’s (and his/her spouse’s, if he/she is married) 2008 federal income tax return - IRS Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, foreign tax return, or tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau
- Parent’s 2008 federal income tax return (if you are a dependent student)
- 2008 untaxed income records - Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records
- 2008 bank statements
- 2008 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
- Permanent resident card (if the student is not a U.S. citizen)

Any additional information needed is listed on the type of form you are completing. If you have any questions on the requirements for the 2009-2010 FAFSA or TASFA, please call our office at 979-845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.

WORDS OF WISDOM

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST LESSON YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER AT TEXAS A&M?

Don’t let the classes you don’t like bring down your GPR; just get the work done! - Jon Brown

That each professor has their own grading and teaching styles. - Darnisia Wallace

Go to your lecture class every day, no matter what - otherwise it comes back to haunt you at test-time! - Jesus Reyes

People change; my best friend and I came here together and now are just acquaintances. - Cyndi Davis

Never underestimate an easy class. - Juan Burgos

Tests always seem to come in waves. - Jamar Spencer

There are sometimes only 4 grades per class...meaning, only 4 chances to make your mark in the sand. - Jacob Bailon

It’s so easy to get distracted by your friends! - Ghazal Asrar

Don’t let your nerves get the best of you! - Susana Reyna

Get plenty of sleep. - Taharka McCleave

Don’t fail because you’re afraid of a prof. - Jonathan Aguilar

Study for exams in advance...not the night before. - Agustin Diaz

BADGER DAY?

How the Groundhog Got a Day of His Own:

The lowly groundhog, often called a woodchuck, is the only mammal to have a day named in his honor. How did the groundhog come by this honor?

It stems from the ancient belief that hibernating creatures were able to predict the arrival of springtime by their emergence. The German immigrants known as Pennsylvania Dutch brought the tradition to America in the 18th century. They had once regarded the badger as the winter-spring barometer. But the job was reassigned to the groundhog.

The groundhog and badger were not the only animals that have been used to predict spring. Other Europeans used the bear or hedgehog—but in any case the honor belonged to a creature that hibernated. Its emergence symbolized the imminent arrival of spring.

JANUARY OPINION POLL WINNERS

Question: What are you most looking forward to this spring semester or in 2009?

I am most looking forward to owning my campus. In my first semester here, it was easy to say I was an Aggie, but harder to feel it. However, as I start the next semester, I have really started to FEEL like an Aggie and I love that! - Catherine Watkins ‘12

I am most looking forward to better grades this semester! - Esteban Vazquez ‘12

Congratulations Catherine & Esteban!
Regardless of political persuasion, most of us would agree that the election of our nation’s first black President is a momentous and significant occasion. However, the inauguration of our 44th President was fascinating for another, more trivial reason that many people didn’t even notice. When did Barack Obama actually become President? Was it during the “oath of office?” Was it after he made his speech? Actually, he became President of the United States a full five minutes before he took the oath of office, during the playing of a song! According to the 20th Amendment, the Presidential term ends/begins at the stroke of noon (Eastern time), which means that because the ceremony was running a little behind schedule, the significant moment actually came and went with little notice!

Isn’t it amazing how the most significant moments of our lives can flash by in an instant and scarcely be known until well after they happen? How many times have you been in the classroom, or talking to someone, and thought to yourself “this feels like it’s going to be a momentous occasion in my life?” Not very often, I imagine! And yet, our time at Texas A&M is easily considered to be a pivotal period in our lives, where knowledge is instilled, characters grown, and futures forged. Every class, every friend, every professor that we meet can have a profound impact on the rest of our lives, even if we don’t know that it’s happening at all. With that being said, how can you, as an Aggie and as a life-long learner, do anything but embrace the moments as they come and make the best of every challenge?

Did the casual passing of this moment lessen its significance? No! The accomplishment alone is significant and momentous, as is every accomplishment you will have here in Aggieland, even if it just seems to “pass by unnoticed.” Living a life that embraces these moments, and these challenges, is not an easy one, but it is a rewarding one. As President Obama said in his inaugural address, “we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the fainthearted -- for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things -- some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor -- who have carried us up the long, rugged path toward prosperity and freedom.”

Some may say that our challenges, our moments, are not that significant, and that our college lives are nothing more than “getting a piece of paper.” But they would be wrong. You are preparing yourselves for the new world, with new challenges, new ideas, and new possibilities. With this knowledge, and the values you adopt through your own significant moments and a deep appreciation of how they change you, you will see yourself grow beyond the limits of your own perspective and become an enlightened and responsible citizen. As President Obama concluded in his inaugural address:

“Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends -- hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism -- these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility -- a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world; duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.”

And we don’t do this alone, for we are all here for each other… students, staff, and faculty alike! So do what you can to take advantage of every moment you have, for when the moment passes, the only thing that remains is what you learned from it.

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

If you could go anywhere on Spring Break and money was not an issue, where would you go and why?
Send your answer to Drew Smith at drew.smith@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.

STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES: JOURNAL WRITING WORKSHOP

Would you like to engage in self-exploration, expand self-awareness, and learn writing tools with the potential to facilitate problem solving and decision making? Join us for this one session workshop designed to (1) increase your knowledge of keys to effective journal writing; and (2) introduce you to several types of personal growth focused writing. Pre-registration is required: http://www.scs.tamu.edu/default.asp

- Thursday, 2/5, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, 3/2, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 4/1, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
**WHAT IF I GET SICK?**

If you are sick and need medical attention, you should contact Student Health Services (http://shs.tamu.edu/) where, depending on your condition, you may need to make an appointment to see a medical practitioner. Remember, most of the services at Student Health Services are free of charge, those with charges, such as prescription and over-the-counter drugs, are available to students for a minimal charge.

Review your course syllabi for each professor’s policy on missed classes. If you are able to attend class, you should do so, though not if getting to or attending class will cause you to be extremely uncomfortable. If you are unable to attend class, telephone or e-mail your professor as soon as possible to find out how to make up missed work. Make arrangements to get class notes from another student in the class.

If you will be out of class for three or more days due to illness or injury, you may contact the Office of the Dean of Students (845-3111) and request that an absence notification be sent to your professors. This notification does not excuse your absence, it merely explains the absence; your professor might ask for further documentation.

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**Social Justice Week 2009**

“Darkness is only driven out with light, not more darkness.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Monday, Feb. 2**

“Know Yourself”
Amy Roloff, from TLC’s Little People, Big World
Rudder Auditorium @ 7pm

**Tuesday, Feb. 3**

“Raunch Culture”
Theresa Survillion, Dept. of Multicultural Services
MSCC 206 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**

“Backstage Racism”
Dr. Joe Feagin, Professor, Dept. of Sociology
MSCC 206 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 5**

“Civil Dialogue”
Movie & Discussion
The Great Debators
Koldus 144 (Student Activities) @ 4:00 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 6**

“Classism & Meritocracy”
Hunger Banquet & FREE LUNCH
Sbisa Quiet Room @ 12:30 p.m.

**For more information**
leadandserve.tamu.edu * 979-845-4878
Facebook Event Page: “Social Justice Week 2009”

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**WHOOPIN’ WEEKEND: BECOME A HOST**

The Aggie Recruitment Committee will be holding its annual Whoopin’ Weekend conference from **February 19th-21st**, and we are looking for volunteers.

**Who will I host?** 275 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors

**When?** Thursday (19th) and Friday (20th) night

Being a host is easy and fun! As a host, you will be responsible for picking up your 1-2 participants at a set time each night and dropping them off in the morning at a designated location that will be close to the halls. During the day, you will have no responsibility over the participants, as they will be spending all day with us.

**How do I become a host?** All you must do to become a host is fill out a hosting application, which you can find online at http://arc.tamu.edu, and attend a brief fifteen minute hosting informational.

**In addition, all hosting volunteers will be entered into a drawing to win a prize package from local businesses.**

To submit your hosting application, simply turn it into the Aggie Recruitment Committee lockbox, which is located in the SGA portion of the Koldus building, immediately to the right of the glass doors. There is a receptionist there that can assist anyone turning in applications.

If you have any further questions, please contact me by email at reid528@tamu.edu, or by phone at (713) 591-1595. Thank you for your interest in helping us put on the best Whoopin’ Weekend possible!