FAFSA/ TASFA Renewal Workshops

In order for you to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2011-2012 academic year, you must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2011. The Scholarships & Financial Aid Office encourages students to submit the FAFSA form by March 1, 2011 to receive priority in awarding.

In order to complete the FAFSA, your student will need:

• Student and parent social security numbers
• W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
• Student’s 2010 federal income tax return
• Parents’ 2010 federal income tax return
• If filing electronically, PIN for both the student and the parents

In order to expedite this process, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several Renewal FAFSA/TASFA workshops for students during the Spring semester. Please attend these workshops if you need assistance filing your FAFSA. These events are scheduled for:

- February 14, 2011 12:30PM-1:30PM
- February 16, 2011 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 17, 2011 9:00AM-10:00AM
- February 18, 2011 3:00PM-4:00PM

Registration is required. To register, you should visit: http://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.

Valentine’s Day and college can make a difficult situation by enjoying yourself, enjoying the day, and if applicable—enjoying the time with a significant other. Conversely, of course, you can find information on making the most of being single. Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be a celebration only for those already coupled up!

If You’re Single
Being single on Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to mean being awkward or having a funny night. There are multiple ways to ensure you still have a great Valentine’s Day -- without a significant other.

5 Things to Do Off Campus If You’re Single on Valentine’s Day
1. Go out to dinner with friends. Everyone else in the restaurant may be having quiet, intimate conversations, but you and your friends may be screaming with laughter. Being single doesn’t have to mean you don’t get a fantastic dinner out of the night!
2. Head to a club. Some clubs may be having Valentine’s Day specials (no cover charge for women, for example), some may be having Anti-Valentine’s Day specials (singles only), some may not be having anything special at all. But why miss out on a great night with friends?
3. Head to the movies. You can bring your friends or head out by yourself to see that flick you’ve been meaning to catch. Treating yourself to a nice movie might be just the break your brain needs from all your academic work anyway. Where’s the last time you let yourself check out for a few solid hours?
4. Head to a sports game. Lots of sports are in season in February. Grab some tickets for you and some friends and make the most of your time away from campus.
5. Volunteer. It may not be the first thing that comes to mind for Valentine’s Day, but it just may be what you’re looking for. You’ll help out your community and leave with a fantastic feeling in your heart. And what’s not to like about that?

5 Things to Do On Campus If You’re Single on Valentine’s Day
1. Plan a movie fest. Invite some friends over and plan a movie marathon. You can spend the entire night eating funky snacks, watching great (or even horrible) movies, and catching up with friends. Why not let yourself relax and enjoy a night off? You don’t necessarily need a boyfriend or girlfriend to make it happen.
2. Cook yourself a nice dinner. You can use the kitchen in your residence hall, the kitchen at a friend’s house, or any kitchen that you have access to. After spending an hour or so putting together a nice meal for yourself or friends, it’s practically impossible not to feel good afterward.
3. Throw an anti-Valentine’s Day party. Chances are, you aren’t the only person on campus to not be thrilled about the holiday. Plan an Anti-Valentine’s Day party -- for just a few friends or the entire campus -- that shows that those without boyfriends or girlfriends can have a good (if not better) time, too.
4. Get yourself together. It may sound strange, but when was the last time you woke up feeling totally put together? Instead of moping about being single, use the free time you have Valentine’s Day evening to get yourself organized. Clean up your calendar, catch up on laundry, plan ahead for major papers and midterms, and get a head start on those assignments you’ve been avoiding. It may sound lame (okay, totally lame) at first, but you might be surprised at how good you feel after you’re done. Who needs a date to go to bed feeling like a rock star?
5. Set up an online dating profile. If you’re single, use the free time you have Valentine’s Day to. After spending an hour or so putting together it like a date. Don’t be late, don’t forget, and try not to cancel.

If You Have a Date
Have a date for Valentine’s? Thought that was the difficult part ... until you tried to plan something? Check out these easy (and affordable) date ideas to help make sure your night is all you want it to be.

5 Inexpensive College Date Ideas
1. Head to a small, family-owned restaurant instead of a large chain. Ask around campus to see if people know of smaller, delicious, and often cheaper places than some of the larger chain restaurants in town. The dinner will most likely be quieter, more intimate, and much more friendly.
2. Find something fun (and free) in the community. Is there a poetry slam this weekend? A reading by an author you both like? A band performing in a park? Check to see what’s available that won’t cost much and will allow you to get to know each other better while enjoying something new and fun.
3. Do something outside. Buy sandwiches at a local deli, go for a hike, and have a picnic somewhere nice.
4. Visit a cultural center. Many museums, art galleries, cultural centers, and libraries have reduced (if not free) admission for college students. Go see an exhibit and enjoy the time off campus.
5. Meet for coffee instead of dinner. Getting together doesn’t have to mean having a huge (and often expensive) meal. Meet for coffee in the afternoon or drinks in the evening. You can have an equally nice time without having to spend as much money.

If You’re in a Long-Distance Relationship
Being in a long-distance relationship can be hard enough without things like Valentine’s Day reminding you of the distance between you and your significant other. Learn more about how to make the distance a little easier.

1. Use Technology to Your Advantage. There are countless ways to use technology to keep in touch with someone, which you were no doubt using before you arrived on campus. Text messaging, IM-ing, sending cell phone pictures, talking on the phone, sending emails, and using your videocam are only some of the ways you can help stay (and feel!) connected to your far-away partner. Make times with each other to meet up online, and view it like a date. Don’t be late, don’t forget, and try not to cancel.
2. Try to Send Old-Fashioned Mail. As simple as it may seem, getting a card, gift, or care package in the mail always brightens someone’s day. For partners who are separated by long distances, these little gestures and mementos can provide a physical connection of sorts. And besides, who doesn’t like getting a cute card or cookies in the mail?!
3. Pay Attention to the Details. You may not want to spend the limited time you have with your partner talking about the details of your life, but these are often the most important things. Hearing about your weird Biology lab partner, the English professor you love, and how you can’t get enough of the dining hall waffles are the things that make you you. Your partner will want to hear all about the details of your new life. So settle in for a long conversation about the things that seem most ridiculous, but that may just end up being the things that keep you together during your time away at school.

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 Offices of the Dean of Student Life (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.

January Opinion Poll Winner

I may not have given all that I could last semester but for what it’s worth, I was blessed with a heart with the strength to do better. So I reflected on what I could improve and work on during the break, it became apparent to me that I cannot be involved in every single thing that’s put in front of me, no matter how hard it is to say, “no thank you.” Now I just plan on looking forward because I’ve noticed it’s not always about what I want but about what I am responsibly supposed to accomplish. This year’s resolution is about making wiser decisions and managing my time better. Not everything I do is going to change but the way I approach my goals should improve. Of course I always want a new year to be better than the previous. First semester of freshman year taught me a lot about myself and my potential.

Kalia Z. Aparicio
Congrats Kalia! Please contact Casey Gros at casey_gros@tamu.edu to pick up your prize!

Housing for 2011-2012

Housing Decision 2011

If you are currently living on campus, you need to participate in Housing Decision 2011. Go to http://reslife.tamu.edu/ to complete your renewal or cancellation beginning on February 21st, 2011. Talk to your resident advisor or the Housing Assignments Office (979)845-4744 for more information.

Housing Fair 2011

Are you looking for a place to live off campus next year? The Housing Fair 2011 is an unique opportunity for off campus properties to directly present information about their property to students, faculty, and staff on the Texas A&M University campus.

This is the 27th annual Housing Fair and each year brings new possibilities for off campus housing to reach students with a fun, informative, and educational program. Come see what Bryan/ College Station has to offer before signing a lease. Look around and find the place that is right for you. The Housing Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 16, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center racquetball court area and courts 5 and 6 hallway.

If you have any questions, please contact Adult, Graduate & Off Campus Student Services at 979.845.1741.
Asiya’s Nook

Howdy! My name is Asiya Bhura. I am a junior English major from College Station, Texas. But more importantly, I am a loud and proud member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 2012! A-A-A Whoop! What about you? …Oh, very nice to meet you.

You must be wondering, “Why does Salma look so different and why did she change her name? Well, to clear up any confusion, I am Asiya the Regents’ Scholars Intern and my sister Salma has moved up to Graduate Assistant. Enough about her, more about me: I love chocolate, TV and school. I knew the first few days of winter break would be amazing because exams were over, College Station would be quiet and I could finally start watching 30 Rock. But then I also knew it would be super boring without my friends, without the stress of studying and without Antonio’s Pizza open; so I’m really glad school’s back in session.

This semester is going to be busy for me because I am an intern, a student, the President of the Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), a member of MSC LT Jordan Institute, an Orientation Counselor, an Aggie Pal and runner-up for Miss Texas. Ok, not the last one, but it’s still really busy because I need to fill out and turn in my FAFSA before March 1. With all that on my plate, I still have to transition the RSO Presidency and Executive Board for next year. I know, I know, “What a busy-body, how does she keep up her grades?” Good question!

I ask for help. I go to my professors if I’m confused, I make friends in my classes and ask to study with them (and if I make a good grade on the test, I study with them again) and I schedule time to study and write papers. Then I do all the other stuff because we’re here for academics first. Of course if you have too much free time, join something! That’s what I did.

I didn’t want to have nothing to do and miss out on having friends, so I joined RSO. As a member, I learned how to build relationships by just doing something all the members wanted to do together. We watched movies, played games, and volunteered at Big Event and Replant. After my first year, I applied to be on the RSO Executive Board and became the Fundraising Coordinator as a sophomore and President as a junior. I’m learning how to work in a team and manage it, while doing my own individual projects. It’s always a learning process when it comes to joining or starting something new, so I ask my Executive Board for help if I’m having trouble and they do the same.

My Exec Board and I have some exciting things planned this semester and hope you guys join us in the fun, from Aggie Relay for Life to a secret social to a Rec Day and more. We meet the first Tuesday of every month and our meetings are better than foam soap, so I hope to see you there!

Asiya Bhura

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Top 10% Scholarship Renewal Requirements

- Complete 30 semester credit hours (SCH) in the previous year
- Maintain an overall 3.25 GPA
- Complete at least 75% of hours attempted in the previous year
- Demonstrate financial need
- Complete the FAFSA or TASFA by March 1, 2011
# February 2011

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