Check Out the Regents’ Scholars Bloggers!
financialaid.tamu.edu/regentblog

We are pleased to introduce our Regents’ Scholars Bloggers:

Malcolm Wilson ’11  
Skyline High School; Dallas, TX

Michelle Rice ’11  
West Texas High School; Borger, TX

Karla Flores ’09  
Cesar Chavez High School; Katy, TX

Shaniqua Johnson ’11  
Forest Brook High School; Houston, TX

Roxanne Fairchild ’10  
Berkner High School; Richardson, TX

Check back often to read about the daily lives of these Regents’ Scholars and their adventures in Aggieland!

February Opinion Poll Winner

If you could go anywhere on Spring Break and money was not an issue, where would you go and why?

“I would definitely go to Tokyo, Japan. I personally love technology and I perceive that Tokyo is all about having the latest everything. I’m also very interested in their way of life over there and I wouldn’t mind experiencing another culture other than my own. Most importantly though, it is a video gamers’ heaven; it’s the place to be if you are into Japanese video games.”

Donovan Gibson  
Class of 2011  
Congratulations Donovan!

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 2008-2009 FAFSA Renewal includes: 2007 tax information and 2007 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.


Mark Your Calendars Now!

Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet
April 29, 2008
Attendance is expected

Check back often to read about the daily lives of these Regents’ Scholars and their adventures in Aggieland!
planning on taking summer classes here at TAMU?  

If so, we have a simple process to complete to be eligible to receive summer financial aid. Just remember that you must be enrolled in at least 6 hours to qualify for summer aid. The 6 hours can be all in a single session or 3 hours in session I and 3 hours in session II, or any other combination that equals 6 total hours.

Since we already have your 2007-2008 FAFSAs/HB 1403 Applications on file, we will only need the 2008 Summer Supplement form submitted. This can be done online in the web portal at myfinancialaid.tamu.edu by clicking on the link for Summer 2008. This form is quick and easy to complete. Once we receive the Summer Supplement form we will begin awarding summer financial aid packages around April 2008. If you have any questions please give us a call at (979) 845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.

job candidates gone wild: be careful what you post online

By Jacqui Cheng | Published: March 28, 2007 - 02:43PM CT

Be careful what you post online if you want to be able to get a job in the future. Your blog, web site, Facebook, MySpace, online dating profile, or even forum postings might “out” your salacious activities to a potential employer. According to a survey conducted by business social networking site Viadeo, one-fifth of hiring managers have used the Internet to find personal information about potential job candidates, and a quarter of those have rejected candidates based on what they found.

The survey was conducted in March, and covered nearly 600 employers and over 2,000 average adults online, revealing that employers are becoming more and more Google-happy when interviewing new candidates. 25 percent said that they had rejected a candidate outright based on what was found online, while 59 percent of employers who used the Internet to find personal information said that their discoveries play a role in their decision making. Some examples provided in the survey results included one employer being put off by a candidate’s seemingly excessive drinking, another being dismayed by a candidate’s postings about company information, and another mentioning that a candidate’s topless modeling left them with the impression that she wasn’t a good fit with the organization’s ethics.

Examples of this phenomenon are everywhere, and many young professionals know of someone who has had information posted online bite them in the behind. A friend of mine was once all the way into the second round of interviews with a new company when he posted some frustrations with the hiring process on his personal blog. The company looked him up soon thereafter, read what he had written, and decided to cancel his next interview.

But there are cases where information found online works to the candidate’s benefit. The report pointed out that 13 percent of employers had decided to actually recruit someone based on what they had found online, such as various personal achievements or skills demonstrated through a web site. I have another friend who maintains a very professionally-oriented blog which he regularly updates with industry news and personal projects; said friend simply gets a constant flow of e-mails from hiring managers asking whether he is looking for a job. And never mind what happens when he actually writes that he’s looking for a job.

The report showed that, especially among younger candidates in the 18-24 age group, people are much more comfortable posting personal information online than perhaps they should be. MySpace and Facebook took the number one spots among this group, with 45 percent having posted personal info to MySpace and 44 percent to Facebook. Other sites in the list that people had posted to included Flickr, YouTube, Wikipedia, and “other” social networking sites. Further, over half of the 18-24 age group said that they primarily post “party pictures” online, with another 30 percent posting on personal blogs. 54 percent of 18-24 year olds responded that they had even had personal information posted about them online by someone else, with or without their consent.

Viadeo manager Peter Cunningham told Ars that the social networking phenomenon is still very new, and people are posting things online without thinking about the future consequences to their careers. “Information, pictures, forum comments, jokes, and outdated CVs are now in the public domain and available for anyone,” he said.

THAT’S THE LAW IN TEXAS...

Spring Break is fast approaching with college students eagerly anticipating some well-served relaxation time, parties, drinking...all in all, a good time, right? However, it goes without saying that a good time should still be safe and legal. Be aware of the consequences of your actions:

Texas’ Legal Limit: The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). However, drivers can be stopped and cited for impaired driving due to alcohol or other drugs regardless of BAC. Texas also has a zero tolerance law. For anyone under 21, it is illegal to drive with any detectable amount of alcohol.

How Much is Too Much? Impairment begins with the first drink. Gender, body weight, the number of drinks consumed and the amount of food in one’s stomach affect the body’s ability to handle alcohol. Women, younger people and smaller people, whether male or female, often have lower tolerances

For “Purchase, Attempt to Purchase, Possession, Consumption, Misrepresentation of Age, Public Intoxication by Minor,” the following penalties shall be imposed:

Underage Drinking

If you’re under 21, here’s what happens the first time you are found in possession of alcohol. Any amount of beer, wine or liquor will trigger the penalties.

- 30-day driver’s license suspension
- up to a $500 fine
- 8 to 12 hours of community service
- mandatory attendance in alcohol-awareness classes
- A second or third offense can lead to suspension of your driver’s license for 90 to 180 days. If you’re 17 or older, you also can be fined as much as $2,000 and go to jail for up to 180 days for a third offense.

If you’re under 21, here’s what happens the first time you are stopped for drinking and driving.

- 60-day driver’s license suspension
- up to a $500 fine
- 20 to 40 hours of community service
- mandatory attendance in alcohol-awareness classes
- Get caught drinking and driving a second or third time, and the penalties increase, including suspension of your driver’s license for up to 180 days. That’s called zero tolerance. It means “zero” alcohol. And that’s the law in Texas.

If you’re 17 and over, here’s what happens if you’re stopped for drinking and driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or greater.

Some people, particularly teenagers, can reach a .08 BAC with two or three beers an hour.

- up to a $2,000 fine
- 72 hours to 180 days in jail
- driver’s license suspension of 90 days to one year

http://www.texasdwi.org/law.html

WELCOME TO AGGIELAND... NOW GO AWAY!

CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 2008


Step 4: Choose a program and complete the online Texas A&M Study Abroad application related to your program type via the application portal: http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/application.asp.

Per the application instructions, obtain signatures (if needed) and return the application to the Texas A&M Study Abroad Programs Office (1st floor, Bizzell Hall West).

Step 5: Once your program application has been approved by TAMU, complete any additional applications/paperwork and return that on or before any deadlines indicated by the program liaison (ie, application and acceptance forms for independent study abroad transfer credit program).

Step 6: Obtain a Study Abroad Budget Request Form from the Study Abroad Office and bring it into the financial aid office so your COA (budget) may be increased.