MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet
May 5, 2009

Attendance is expected.

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://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

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.


SUMMER REGISTRATION

Preregistration times for summer are based on classification, and preregistration begins March 23.

Please see the following websites for more information regarding summer preregistration.

Undergraduate Registration Schedule:
http://admissions.tamu.edu/Registrar/Current/RegSchedules.aspx

Graduate Registration Schedule:
http://admissions.tamu.edu/Registrar/Current/GradRegSchedule.aspx

Answer the opinion poll on the top of page 3 to win A&M goodies!
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 2008-2009 FAFSAs/HB 1403 Applications on file, we will only need the 2009 Summer Supplement form submitted. This will be available March 23, 2009 and can be done online in the web portal at myfinancialaid.tamu.edu by clicking on the link for Summer 2009. 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 2009. If you have any questions please give us a call at (979) 845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.

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

Send your answer to Drew Smith at drewsmith@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.

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

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

J. Malon Southerland Aggie Leadership Scholarship

The Southerland Aggie Leader Scholarship program was created to recognize and reward student involvement at Texas A&M University. Student leaders are dedicated to A&M and are an important element in the success of our campus. The primary criteria in the decision process will be leadership and involvement, reflecting Texas A&M’s commitment to learning, leadership, and service both in and out of the classroom.

Eligibility

Applicants must be full-time students with a minimum cumulative GPR of 2.5 at Texas A&M. Applicants cannot be on academic or other probation.

Each recipient will receive up to $1,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year. Students can apply online at http://scholarships.tamu.edu.

Foundation Excellence Award

The FEA is open to entering freshmen, currently-enrolled students at TAMU-College Station, and transfer students from under-represented groups, including minorities and students from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Recipients must attend Texas A&M in College Station and must be legal residents of the United States. Students’ academic qualifications, extracurricular activities and financial need are considered in selection.

For more information on applying, please visit http://giving.tamu.edu/student/Undergraduate/fea/applying-fea.aspx.
“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we approach the middle of your second semester here at Texas A&M University, it would seem to be an appropriate time to think about these words from Dr. King. As you well know, Aggies pride themselves on giving back to the community, and to serving others. In case you haven’t noticed, being an Aggie isn’t just about having a world-class education! It’s about giving back to the world, and selfless service is just another aspect of the education that you receive here at Texas A&M.

The more gifts we have, the more privileges, and the more blessings, the more we are expected to not waste those opportunities and to do what we can to “pay-it-forward.” There is much to be learned from giving, from volunteering, and from serving, and it doesn’t take much to have a profound impact on somebody else’s life. It goes without saying that you are here to obtain an education, but you are also here to cultivate your character. Who do you want to be? What kind of person will you be when you walk across that stage, diploma in hand? What can the community, or the world for that matter, expect from you, and how will you live your life? These are the “other” things that you begin to learn in college, so don’t neglect your self-studying. Your giving-back to the world around you speaks volumes about who you are. After all, as Dr. King said:

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Although Texas A&M University is certainly proud of who you are today, we are fully vested in seeing who you will become tomorrow. It is to that end that we have dedicated ourselves to your success!

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

Did You Know?
In Mesquite, Texas, it is illegal for children to have unusual haircuts.
In Houston, it is illegal to sell Limburger cheese on Sunday.
http://www.floydpinkerton.net/fun/laws.html

February Opinion Poll Winner

Question: If you could go anywhere on Spring Break and money was not an issue, where would you go and why?
If I could go anywhere for spring break I would go to Italy. Not only is Italy a beautiful place but I have never been there. I have always wanted to go to Italy since half of my family is Italian and I've seen it on television and it has always seemed breath taking. Italy is home to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Pompeii, and not to mention its gorgeous architecture. I love Italian food and I would assume that in Italy the Italian food is amazing!!! Rome which is home to the Coliseum, St. Peter's square and many other magnificent places would also be at the top of my list to see. -- Katherine Juarez, Class of 2012

Congratulations Katherine!

Words of Wisdom

How Did You Spend Spring Break Your First Year at Texas A&M?

I live 9 hours away, so I wouldn't think of anything else besides going home. - Kaytlin Huseman

I completed a Study Abroad trip in Italy. - Jesus Reyes

At home sleeping in and NOT worrying about calculus. - Rebecca Ordazs

I went home and spent much-needed time with old friends and family. - David Marquez

Went to SxSW (South by Southwest) in Austin - Angel del Molino

Working. - Jamar Spencer

My friends and I went on a mini road trip to San Antonio; all the historical landmarks and river walk were a must! - Yvette Aguinaga

At the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo! - Susana Reyna

I played in some basketball tournaments in Houston and Austin through TAMU student organizations. - Andy Nguyen

Madrid, Spain! - Cristal Yun

I participated in an AIM Mission Trip in Juarez, Mexico. - Clay Arthur