**What is AggiE-folio?**

AggiE-folio is a web-based personal and professional developmental electronic portfolio that you can use as a tool to learn, grow and track your progress while in college. It can be used as a customizable job search tool that allows you to create custom views for possible employers. It provides you a public or personal journal, online communities associated with classes or student organizations, and a means of documenting your Strengths for any student participating in Strengths Quest.

**How can it help me?**

AggiE-folio can help you both in the classroom and later in the job search or graduate school preparation:

- As a freshman or sophomore, you can start collecting examples of exemplary work to demonstrate transferable skills you are developing in communication, leadership, problem solving, technical skills and others. Transferable skills will be important in any job, regardless of major.
- As a junior or senior, you will continue to develop a portfolio that demonstrates your transferable skills and those more specific to your major. You may begin customizing different views of your portfolio and asking professors or advisers to preview them in preparation for your job search or graduate school admission.
- You can learn more about the core knowledge and skills that employers look for in recent graduates.
- You can keep different versions of your resume online for inclusion in any portfolio.

If you are required to keep a journal as part of an internship or class, AggiE-folio gives you a web-accessible, secure journal that is searchable by key word or date and can easily be viewed by your instructor or others. You control the permissions to determine who can view it and what they see. You can organize different content for different audiences—professors, advisors, parents, or prospective employers.

It’s easy to use! You have a professional online portfolio without having to build a webpage to create it!

**How do I get access to AggiE-folio?**

Just register for AggiLaunch membership (http://careercenter.tamu.edu/guides/aggielaunch) at any level and begin to explore the ways you can use Aggi-folio! If you have questions about which level would be best for you, contact 845.5139 or advisor@careercenter.tamu.edu.

Taken from http://careercenter.tamu.edu/services/s24.html February 18, 2008.

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.

Effectively presenting yourself during interviews can be crucial to a successful job search. Companies often look beyond a winning resume and decide if they will hire you or not based on your appearance, self-confidence and how well you present yourself to the interviewer. There are steps to take before and during your job interview that will help you present yourself with energy, confidence and professionalism.

**Who would you rather hire?**

Before your job interview, prepare the clothing that you will wear. Make sure your clothes are clean, pressed, conservative and business-like. Also, make sure your hair and nails are trim and clean. Your attire should be appropriate and well-fitting. A two-piece matched suit is always the best choice for both men and women, in navy, gray, or black. If you are still having trouble deciding what to wear, always err on the side of caution and dress more professionally rather than casual. Dressing nicely and appropriately is a compliment to the person you meet.

As for tattoos and piercings, it is best to take out any piercings that are visible, with the exception of one or two minimally sized earrings per ear for women, and typically no earrings for men. Tattoos should not be visible to the interviewer. Something to keep in mind: From your point of view, a tattoo, facial piercing, or orange spiky hair may be a personal statement, but if it turns off one customer or client, an employer will not want you to work for them.

Ironically, research indicates a candidate’s handshake—which has no visual impact—came out higher on the influence scale than the more in-your-face attributes such as body piercing, obvious tattoos, and unusual hair styles. A dry, firm handshake reflects a strong personality and is what most employers are looking for. Limp, sweaty hands are definitely a no. This is the first body language in the interview that your interviewer will “read.”

That doesn’t mean new college graduates should feel free to sport mutton chops to an interview, nor does it mean that an employer will automatically nix a candidate who has an ankle embellished with a butterfly.

The following points will help you present yourself as effectively as possible and exude confidence:

- Don’t let the employer’s casual approach cause you to drop your manners or professionalism. Maintain a professional image.
- Don’t address the interviewer by his or her first name unless you are invited to do so.
- Don’t chew gum or smell like smoke.
- Don’t take cell phone calls during an interview. If you carry a cell phone, turn it off during the interview to be sure it doesn’t ring.
- Be aware of your non-verbal behaviors—sit straight; smile as often as you can; maintain eye contact but don’t stare the interviewer down; lean forward without invading the interviewer’s space; sit still in your seat; avoid fidgeting and slouching.
- Don’t be shy or self-effacing. You want to be enthusiastic, confident, and energetic, but not aggressive, pushy, or egotistic. That fine line is important.
- The last impression is almost as important as the first impression and will add to the substance discussed during the information exchange. Therefore, when the interviewer concludes the interview, offer a firm handshake and make eye contact. Depart gracefully.

These steps may not ensure you’ll get your dream job, but they will help you interview with poise. You will demonstrate that you are genuinely excited about—and ready for—the next step in your future.

by Kelly Brewer


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**Did you Know...That in Texas...**

It is against Texas law to sell either one of your eyes.

Or, that a Prohibition era law still makes it illegal to buy the entire Encyclopedia Britannica because it contains a recipe for home-brewed beer.

In San Antonio, it is illegal for both sexes to flirt or respond to flirtation using the eyes.
“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 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.

Service opportunities are EVERYWHERE in Aggieland, and it goes well beyond The Big Event, Alternative Spring Break, and Replant (although those are great ways to start)! Talk to your student activity and organization leaders about service opportunities. Ask your Academic Advisors and friends about ways to give back to the community. You can even search “service” at the TAMU homepage or type in http://service.tamu.edu on a web browser. There are so many ways to help others that you are limited only by your initiative and your imagination!

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!

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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.
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.

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

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