Think you have the initiative to **think big**, to **live big**? Prove it.

The **Think Big Grant** includes:
- Writing a proposal
- Describing your intended project
- Calculating a budget and time frame
- **Living** the project!
- A post-project project

**Want more information?**
Come to a Think Big Grant Informational!
November 20 at 10:00am OR November 24 at 1:00pm at the Pavillion room 229.

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**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](http://www.tamu.edu/cae/silist.shtml)
- **Department of Multicultural Services FREE tutoring:**
  [http://tutor.tamu.edu](http://tutor.tamu.edu)
- **University Writing Center:**
  [http://uwc.tamu.edu/](http://uwc.tamu.edu/)
- **Mathematics Department Help:**
  [http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsession/](http://www.math.tamu.edu/teaching/helpsession/)
- **Study skills and time management workshops:**
  [http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/](http://www.scs.tamu.edu/academic/)
- **Student Learning Center Drop-In Tutoring:**
  [http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf](http://slc.tamu.edu/TutorSchedule.pdf)

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Did you know that the Pavilion, where Scholarships & Financial Aid is located, used to be a barn?

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**Sophomores have their own specific tradition at A&M**

**Pull Out Day**

Pull Out Day is the official sophomore class event. This is the day when all the sophomores get together to have a mass “pull-out,” in which we “pull-out” the junior privilege of whooping. It is a day-long event that occurs in the late spring, either in April or early May. Traditionally this event has coincided with a baseball or basketball game, but that is completely up to the class. In the past, class members have thrown out the ceremonial first pitch, there have been sections roped off specifically for the class, group pictures have been taken, and more.

This year may be including live bands, yell practice, games and blow-ups, and more, so get ready...it’s never too early to be ready to WHOOP!!!!
Close your eyes. Picture yourself four years from now, standing in front of friends and family on your graduation day, waiting in line to receive your diploma. As you wait for the line to move forward, you begin to think about the four years you’ve spent at college, how much you’ve experienced, and you say to yourself, “My college experience turned out the way it did because I…”

How will you finish that sentence?

Will you look back on your four years at college with pride? Appreciation? Relief? Regret? Which of the following examples do you hope you’ll be saying to yourself in four years?

“My college experience turned out the way it did because I…

…took a class in a subject I knew absolutely nothing about.”

…learned a ton from my professors outside the classroom.”

…studied abroad in an amazing country.”

…learned a foreign language.”

…took a course because I thought it would be fun.”

…took a course because I heard the professor was hilarious, even though it wasn’t in my major.”

…picked a major for personal reasons.”

…picked a major for financial reasons.”

…picked a major for the reason that I didn’t know what else to choose.”

…learned how to challenge ideas and be a better communicator.”

…wore pajamas to class.”

…avoided a professor who I heard was lousy.”

…didn’t skip a single class.”

…skipped too many classes.”

…skipped so many classes, I now wonder why I went to college in the first place.”

…fell in love with a subject that I’ll spend the rest of my life exploring.”

…learned to play a musical instrument.”

…performed in a play.”

…got a ton out of my education, but still had fun.”

…wasn’t afraid to speak my mind.”

…joined a sorority/fraternity because I wanted to.”

…joined a sorority/fraternity because my friends wanted me to.”

…got along great with my roommates.”

…loved living in a single.”

…volunteered at least once to make a difference in my community.”

…had a steady boyfriend/girlfriend.”

…dated lots of different people and learned a lot about myself.”

…dated lots of different people and ended up back where I started.”

…played in an intramural sport where I scored the winning points/runs/goals.”

…took part in a large-scale prank (harmless, of course!).”

…stayed in touch with old high school friends.”

…didn’t let fear hold me back from doing something I loved to do.”

…sang karaoke in front of people I didn’t know.”

…hosted a radio show or webcast.”

…became really good at pool and darts. Maybe a little too good.”

…took part in all the cool things my campus had to offer.”

…did my own thing off campus.”

…took a chance and did something to make everyone I know say, “I can’t believe you had the guts to do that!”

The author Henry Miller once said, “One’s destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.” Sometimes picturing our goals and where we’d like to end up can help us figure out what we want.

**Purchasing a Car**

Driving your own car can be convenient. It provides the freedom to travel wherever you want to go on your own time schedule. But owning a car can be expensive:

- If the vehicle is purchased on credit, there will be monthly car loan payments to the lender
- Student drivers usually pay high insurance premiums
- Skyrocketing gas prices have made filling the tank more expensive
- Scheduled maintenance costs need to be taken into account
- TAMU parking fees are not going away any time soon
- Yearly registration and inspection fees are a fact of life
- Unexpected repairs can become a panic attack unless an emergency fund has been established

Some students don’t take into account all of the car ownership costs and become overwhelmed. A shiny car can become a 3000 pound millstone around a student’s neck. It is not uncommon to find a student who wants to sell a recently purchased car to get rid of it, but he/she owes more on the car than the car is worth. The student has to continue trying to pay the car expenses or sell the car for a loss.

To avoid the stress of buying a car you can’t afford, do your homework. Early in the process of purchasing a car, establish a budget to determine the funds you have to not only purchase a vehicle but also to pay the other costs required in car ownership.

**The Art of the Schedule**

Now, I’d love to tell you some secret trick that is going to give you all of your “first-choices” for courses and professors, but unfortunately, that isn’t the case. It’s important to reflect back on everything that you’ve experienced thus far, and put those lessons to good use as you plan for the future.

Take a look at your degree plan (available to you in your course catalog, your advisor’s office, or possibly on a paper copy that you may have been given). Many of you can always go to http://myrecord.tamu.edu and click on “Degree Audit” to see your remaining courses and what requirements you have already completed. Then, check out http://courses.tamu.edu to see what will be offered next semester. Think about the courses you are in right now. What did you like/dislike? Were the morning classes better or worse for you? Was your Tuesday/Thursday course load too heavy for you? All of these issues, in addition to tips and recommendations that your Academic Advisor can give you, are very important to deciding how to plan out your next semester!

So you may not get your first, second, or even third choice of professor or course… That’s ok! You probably won’t get your “dream” schedule, but it doesn’t hurt to start looking at your options and getting valuable information from your Academic Advisors! Who knows? Maybe you decided that your current major isn’t what you thought it would be, in which case now would be a good time to start talking to another major that you’re considering, or possibly General Studies if you’re undecided (and that’s OK!). The most important thing is that you think about the pros & cons of the courses you’re taking now, learn more about what your degree requires (or what major you may be considering), and use that to create a schedule that will give you the best chance at success! As always, we are all here to help you, so do not hesitate to talk to your advisors and counselors!

Happy Scheduling!

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**Did you know that November is National Peanut Butter Month?**

Show your Peanut IQ!

- Peanuts are not actually nuts at all! They are legumes, like beans, peas and lentils.
- Americans eat 3 pounds of peanut butter per person every year. That’s about 700 million pounds, or enough to coat the floor of the Grand Canyon!
- Peanuts may be a favorite food, but we’ve found many uses for their shells too! You might find peanut shells in kitty litter, wallboard, fireplace logs, paper, animal feed and sometimes as fuel for power plants!
- Two peanut farmers have been elected President of the United States: Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Carter.
- One acre of peanuts will make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.

http://www.peanutbutterlovers.com/loversmonth/index.html