GREETINGS
FROM THE REGENTS’ SCHOLARS STAFF

Howdy Ags!

Happy December! The fall semester is drawing to a close and final exams begin in just a few short days. Soon you will be packing up your gear and leaving Aggieland for a month of well-deserved time off. Make the most of the break by spending quality time with your friends and family, giving back to your community through volunteer efforts, and paying forward any good will that comes your way. The Regents’ Scholars staff wishes you the best of luck with finals. Please be safe in your journeys and have a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks and Gig ‘em! ~The Regents’ Scholars Staff
If you are planning on changing colleges at the end of the fall semester, it is imperative that you let the Regents’ Scholars staff know. This will enable us to ensure that you are in the correct Academic Success Program in the spring. Should you fail to notify the Regents’ Scholars Program staff of your college change, you will no longer be meeting the requirements of the Regents’ Scholarship. Responding to this email does not act as an official change of college. YOU MUST VISIT WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR TO OFFICIALLY CHANGE COLLEGES! Please only submit actual college changes.

If you are only thinking about changing colleges, speak with your advisor first to determine if you can.

Please submit the following information by December 20, 2017 if you are planning on changing majors:

Name:
UIN:
Fall 17 College:
Fall 17 Major:
Spring 18 College:
Spring 18 Major:

Upon receipt of this email, the Regents’ Scholars Program staff will assign you to a new Academic Success Program which you must continue to participate in the spring in order to receive funds. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us at regentsscholarship@tamu.edu.

*If you are in the Blinn Engineering Academy and switch to Blinn TEAM, you will no longer be eligible for the Regents’ Scholarship.
CONTINUING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The University Scholarship Application is now open for current students. By completing the application, you will be considered for the continuing student scholarships and the Southerland Aggie Leader Scholarship through Scholarships & Financial Aid as well as scholarships within participating colleges and departments.

The application deadline is February 1, 2018. Students can access the application through scholarships.tamu.edu.

AGGIEXTERNSHIPS

EXPLORE CAREERS, MAKE CONNECTIONS!
2018 AggiExternship Dates: January 9, 10, 11 & 12

Trying to decide if a certain company or industry is the right fit for you? Not sure exactly what you can do with your major? Participate in the AggiExternship Program to meet and network with professionals in your area(s) of interest! This exciting opportunity allows you to observe a company's culture and operations, and learn more about potential internship, co-op or full-time opportunities! You will get to investigate the career paths of Aggies who graduated with your major, and hear first-hand what day-to-day activities you can expect when selecting a specific career field!

You can find more information and register online: careercenter.tamu.edu/Resources/Exploring_Career_Paths/AggiExternship
HOW TO MAKE MONEY OVER WINTER BREAK

Who else wants to earn some extra cash over winter break? Don’t let these few weeks of freedom pass you by—here are a few ways to make a buck or two over the break.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

If you can think of a company that is busy during the holiday season, you can probably bet that they take on seasonal employees (people who work only during the busiest weeks of the year). Most retail stores are hiring extra help (check your local mall), or you can check with shipping companies like UPS.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In her post on 5 Ways for Students to Earn Cash this Winter Break, Deborah at the Pay for College Blog recommends using this time away from school to apply for scholarships. You aren’t distracted by schoolwork, and you have time to do research on which ones in you might be eligible for (AND to research the sometimes random topics, like “Why are fire sprinklers so important?”).

STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

Kelly at Hack College suggests signing up at iStockPhoto.com and submitting your best photos as stock images. It’s an easy way to make a few bucks if you’ve got the time and talent for it.

SELL YOUR TEXTBOOKS

Don’t let textbooks sit under your bed collecting dust—sell them during break before the new semester starts! There are a lot of sites you can use, including Amazon.com or Half.com.

WORK FOR PARENTS OR NEIGHBORS

See if you can pick up work for your parents, neighbors, or your friends parents over the break—you could serve at a party, do chores around the house, spring clean, babysit, wrap gifts, do yard work, shovel snow, clean out a garage, wash cars, or house-sit.

WRITE FOR A WEBSITE OR MAGAZINE

Have an idea for an article—or even a short story from a class assignment? Try submitting to a magazine or website. Associated Content is one website that pays for articles. You can also check out a copy of The Writer’s Market from the library and submit articles or short stories to magazines.

Adapted from survivingcollegelife.com/2007/12/17/cash-in-how-to-make-money-over-winter-break/
Alas, winter break is around the corner and your plans for the month long hiatus from school are etched in stone: sleep, party, relax, shop, sleep, party, watch TV... But while you’re planning to catch up on the hundred hours of lost sleep due to shin-digs and last-minute English papers, there’s an early bird catching a worm that should be yours. In between decompressing from the fall semester, make sure to take this time for a little personal development. Here are five things you can do this winter break to boost your resume and set you apart from the competition.

1. **Take a Class at a Community College.**
   While most of your peers may be on the five-year plan, getting through college in four years can save you time, money, and many headaches. Cut expenses and catch up (or get ahead) of your graduation requirements by taking classes at a community college. Coordinate with your academic advisor to see which credits will transfer over and fulfill your degree plan requirements.

2. **Set Up an Informational Interview.**
   It’s time to dust off those business cards you’ve collected this past semester and start reaching out to your contacts. Take this time to setup informational interviews with prospective employers or leaders in your field that you admire. Don’t be afraid to cold call a few companies to setup in-person meet and greets as well. Expect a few “no’s” and fully take advantage of getting to know everyone who says yes. Remember, you’re not looking for a job – at the moment – the goal of an informational interview is to learn more about that professional, the industry and the company, as well as put yourself on that person and company’s radar.

3. **Start an Internship/Externship.**
   While you may only be out of school for a month and a half, it is still enough time to gain on-the-job experience with an externship or internship. If you need a jumping off point, reach out to professors, mentors, and your network to spread the word that you are looking to work over the break. Additionally, read your local newspaper to find out which companies are laying off workers – they will be hard pressed to turn down free labor.

4. **Start a Business.**
   One of the greatest and most irreplaceable resources is time. Take the time that you would have spent going to class, writing papers, and studying for exams to finally get a start on that amazing business idea you have. Figure out which legal structure works best for what you’re trying to do and begin building that business plan or setting you’re your e-Commerce site.

5. **Go Abroad.**
   Spending four months in a foreign country away from family, friends, and everything that is familiar to you can be a terrifying thought. For those unwilling to brave a fall or spring semester away from home, a winter study abroad experience can give you a taste of what the world has to offer, but in a shorter period of time.

Retrieved and adapted from blackenterprise.com/lifestyle/5-winter-break-career-development-tips-for-college-students/
SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER BREAK

Heading home for winter break becomes something of a ritual for many college kids. Students finish their exams, say goodbye to their friends for a few weeks, and prepare for a return to doing chores, coming home before their parents’ curfew, and sleeping in.

But, all too often, students head home without realizing the best way to protect the things they’re leaving behind. When locking the doors and closing the blinds aren’t enough, here is a list of college winter break safety tips to help you leave any worries about your apartment behind:

CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT SOMEONE IS HOME

A favorite of homeowners, this is a tactic that works for apartment dwellers as well. Connect lights, the radio and even the TV to an automatic timer that can be used to vary the on/off pattern of interior lights when you are away.

RECRUIT A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR

If you are going home for an extended period of time, a friend or neighbor can help pick up the mail or park a car in the driveway — all creating the appearance that someone is home.

MAKE THE LAST PERSON TO LEAVE DO A DOUBLE-CHECK

If you live with other students, a good security tip is to discuss who will be leaving last, and then make sure that person is willing and able to double-check all windows and doors, turn on any automatic timers and put away or cover up any common-area valuables, such as gaming systems or big-screen TVs.

KEEP UTILITIES IN MIND

Even though this is Texas, it may get cold over the break. Pipes can freeze, crack, and cause water damage. Talk with your roommates about ways you can safeguard your home or apartment by keeping the heat inside the temporarily unoccupied apartment to at least 58 degrees. Also, windows should be completely closed; a one-inch opening near a pipe can be enough to cause it to freeze and break.

CARE FOR A CAR THAT’S LEFT BEHIND

Students who are carpooling home and leaving their vehicle back at school for winter break should park in a well-lit area or secure location and remove all valuables (GPS, small electronics, etc.) from the car. Elect a friend who is staying behind at school to occasionally start the car so that it’s not sitting idle the entire time you are gone.

KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Students should consider taking small items, such as personal safes, jewelry boxes, electronics, and laptops home with them during college winter break. If you must leave items of value behind, recording the serial numbers, brand names, and date/price of purchases and taking a few pictures of the valuables will help authorities identify your property in the event of a theft or a natural disaster.

Of course, not everyone goes home for college winter break. If you are choosing to stay on campus, be sure you do so with extra precaution. Campus crowds may be a little light during this time, so added awareness is imperative.

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