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 Program staff
How To Make Money Over 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 http://www.survivingcollegelife.com/2007/12/17/cash-in-how-to-make-money-over-winter-break/

December Opinion Poll

What has been your favorite Aggie experience so far? Send your answer to Ana Davila at a.davila_3@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.
Email Etiquette 101

Email may be a quick way to communicate, but don’t forget your etiquette when emailing professors, instructors, scholarship and financial aid advisors, or other campus staff. Make a good impression with these tips:

Always identify yourself
Do not assume that your name will appear on the delivered message next to your email address. You need to identify yourself to the person you are emailing. That person cannot discern who you are based on your email address alone. Additionally, if you are attempting to contact campus staff, including the Regents’ Scholars staff, you need to utilize your TAMU email.

Do not type in all caps
Writing in caps makes it seem like you are shouting, and some readers find it more difficult to read. If you want to stress a point, opt for underlining or putting it in bold font.

Avoid abbreviations and emoticons
Including an abbreviation like “FYI” or “LOL” or an emoticon like “:)” may be okay in an email to a friend, but they are inappropriate in formal emails. You wouldn’t include smiley faces in an important letter, so don’t put them in your important emails.

Always fill in the subject line
Your email’s subject line is the first impression your recipient has of your email. Make your subject line a clear and meaningful reflection of your email.

Use a professional format
You may think using a colored or unusual font, or a formatted background design in your emails makes them stand out, but don’t use them with official emails. They’re not professional and they make your message hard to read.

Avoid sarcasm
It’s difficult to judge tone in an email. Don’t use ironic or sarcastic language that may not come across as you intended in writing.

Don’t use a “cute” or “inappropriate” email address for important emails
An email sent from sweetiepie07@aol.com or thuglife14@yahoo.com will come across as unprofessional. Even if you have to create a new email account, use a more business-like address, like janesmith@aol.com, to be taken more seriously.

Make your email clear
Professors and campus staff receive a lot of emails. Make it easier for them to get your message by keeping a clear, concise format. Write short paragraphs and include a space between them so your reader can find the information they’re looking for quickly. Put your most important information in the first or second paragraph so your reader doesn’t have to scroll down to find it. Make your email as short and concise as possible; anything longer than half a page is too long.

Know when to pick up the phone or schedule a meeting
Email is convenient, but it shouldn’t completely replace phone calls or meetings. For important or complicated matters, pick up the phone.

Ask before sending a large attachment
Not only do attachments take up a lot of storage space in your recipient’s inbox, but many people won’t open attachments for fear of viruses. When possible, include all information in the body of your email. If you do need to send an attachment, ask the recipient if it’s okay.

Double check before hitting “send”
It only takes a few minutes to take another careful look at your email before you hit send but it could improve the impression your email makes. Use your computer’s spelling and grammar checks, but be aware that these don’t catch all mistakes.

Continuing Scholarship Application

The University Scholarship Application is now open for current students. By completing the application, students 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 (see below).

The application deadline is February 1, 2016. Students can access the application through scholarships.tamu.edu.

Please note that there is no “submit” button on the application. The student should save as they go and can access their application at any time from now until the February 1 deadline. This way, they can edit and update as needed.

List of participating colleges and departments:
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
  » Department of Agricultural Economics
  » Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications
  » Department of Entomology
  » Department of Horticultural Sciences
  » Department of Nutrition & Food Science
  » Department of Poultry Science
  » Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences
  » College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Study Abroad Scholarships
- College of Architecture
  » Department of Construction Science
  » Mays Business School
  » Department of Information & Operations Management
- College of Education & Human Development
  » Department of Health & Kinesiology
  » College of Engineering
  » Department of Aerospace Engineering
  » Department of Chemical Engineering
  » Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
  » Department of Engineering Technology & Industrial Distribution
  » Department of Mechanical Engineering
  » Engineering International Programs (Engineering Study Abroad)
- College of Geosciences
- College of Liberal Arts
  » Department of English
  » College of Liberal Arts Study Abroad Scholarships
- College of Science
  » Department of Biology
  » Department of Chemistry
  » Department of Mathematics
  » Department of Physics and Astronomy
  » Department of Statistics
- College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
  » Department of Biomedical Sciences
- International Student Services
- Corps of Cadets
- Residence Life
- Study Abroad Programs Office
- Texas A&M Foundation
Free On-Campus Resources

Don’t forget - There are plenty of FREE on-campus academic resources that are here to help you succeed.

**Academic Success Center**
- successcenter.tamu.edu
- Drop-in tutoring for many lower-level math, science, and liberal arts classes
  - BIOL, CHEM, ECON, GEOL, HIST, MATH, PHYS, POLS, & PSYC
  - Tutor Zones available in the Commons, Evans 2nd floor, and Hullabaloo Hall
- One-on-one Academic Coaching
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions
  - BIOL, CHEM, ECON, GEOG, PHIL, & PHYS
- Academic workshops

**Career Center**
- careercenter.tamu.edu and hireaggies.com
- Career and job search advising
- Graduate school advising
- On-campus interviews
- Job postings
- Internships & co-ops
- AggiExternships
- Mock interviews
- Workshops
- Work abroad
- Career resource library
- Employer seminars

**Department of Multicultural Services**
- dms.tamu.edu
- Individual and small-group tutoring
  - MATH 150/151, CHEM 107, & PHYS 208

**Student Counseling Services**
- scs.tamu.edu
- Personal counseling
- Career counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Stress management and biofeedback training
- Learning disability and ADD/ADHD screening
- Psychiatric services
- Help Line 979.845.2700
  - This number is also on the back of your student ID

**University Writing Center**
- writingcenter.tamu.edu
- Located in the Evans and West Campus libraries
- In-person and online consultations
- Assistance with papers, presentations, essays, resumes, and more
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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