Howdy Ags!

The New Year is upon us, meaning that it is time to once again look ahead to the coming year (and semester). Many of you have made resolutions related to your academics, diet, or exercise routine. Resolutions are a good way of reflecting upon the previous year and looking to make the future a little brighter. Our challenge to you is this: Make a resolution to pay forward any good will bestowed upon you this year. Keep the Aggie Spirit alive and well! We hope that you enjoy the remainder of your break and we look forward to seeing you once spring classes have begun.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

-The Regents’ Scholars Program staff
MSC Open House

Sunday, January 24th, 2016 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm | Memorial Student Center

Now that you have a semester under your belt, do you feel like you want get more involved on campus? The MSC Open House is “a chance to see the best student involvement opportunities the Division of Student Affairs and Texas A&M have to offer.” Texas A&M University has over 800 organizations so there is something for everyone. Most of the organizations will set up a table in the MSC for MSC Open House to help you learn more about their organization with flyers, representatives, demonstrations, or giveaways. Come out to make new friends and find your niche in Aggieland!

Serving Aggieland

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Mohandas Gandhi

These immortal words of Mohandas Gandhi live on in the daily lives of many students on the Texas A&M University campus. In fact, Aggies boast that we host “the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the nation,” the Big Event. Selfless Service is even one of Texas A&M’s official core values.

The Regents’ Scholars Program encourages all students to “pay it forward” and serve the community in some sense. The Regents’ Scholars Student Organization (RSO) participates in several service activities throughout the year such as Replant, Big Event, going to a nursing home to visit with the residents, and many more. To find more service based organizations, please check out studentactivities.tamu.edu/online/search/index.

So what happens if you want to serve, but you aren’t sure where to go? Well Texas A&M has just the resource for you! AggieServe: Students Serving Aggieland is “a volunteer opportunity directory that connects Texas A&M University students, faculty, and staff to agencies and opportunities in the Bryan/College Station area.” On their website, studentactivities.tamu.edu/online/aggieserve, you can search by keyword or date range so that you can find the project that suits you best.

There is no reason you can’t get involved and give back in the new year. So do something good for the community, build your resume, and have fun!

January Opinion Poll

What is your New Year’s Resolution and how will you stay motivated?
Send your answer to Ana Davila at regentsscholarship@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.
FAFSA & TAFSA Renewal

In order for your student to continue receiving financial aid, including the Regents’ Scholarship, during the 2016-2017 academic year, they must complete the Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on January 1, 2016. Scholarships & Financial Aid encourages students to submit the FAFSA by March 1, 2016 to receive priority in awarding. To expedite the process, we encourage you to file your tax return as early as possible.

In order to complete the FAFSA, your student will need:

- Student and parent social security numbers
- 2015 W-2 Forms & any other records of money earned for both the student and parents
- Student’s 2015 federal income tax return
- Parents’ 2015 federal income tax return
- FSAID and password to log in

In order to expedite this process for the student, Scholarships & Financial Aid will be hosting several FAFSA/TASFA Renewal workshops for Regents’ Scholars during the spring semester. Please encourage your students to attend these workshops if they need assistance filing their FAFSA. These events are scheduled for:

- February 22nd   10:00am- 11:00am   Pavilion 106
- February 23rd   11:00am - 12:00pm  Pavilion 106
- February 24th   2:00pm - 3:00pm    Pavilion 106
- February 25th   3:15pm - 4:15pm    Pavilion 106

Registration is required. Students should visit sfaid.tamu.edu/workshops to register for a workshop.

Information retrieved from: studentaid.ed.gov.

Words of Wisdom

“Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.”

— Helen Keller
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
#11 Sit up straight – Your momma was right. Don’t slouch. People who stand with erect shoulders make a better impression.

#10 Do not be overly chatty – When you get nervous, there is a tendency to verbally rush in and fill the silence. Don’t do it. The key to being a good conversationalist is to listen and ask thoughtful questions. Do your research on the company and the position beforehand.

#9 Remember proper etiquette during interviews involving meals – You are being tested on more than your table manners; this is an opportunity for the interviewer to observe your public behavior. Meal interviews are standard operating procedures for many sales positions. Remember the importance of treating the wait staff with respect. Do not order alcohol unless your host does so first, however even then it is best to refrain. Business should not be discussed directly until the host brings it up, typically after the meal.

#8 Leave any sense of entitlement at home – If you don’t want the job, the next 100 applicants do. Be gracious if offered the position, even if it means sharing a cubicle with two other people.

#7 Maintain professional decorum with the interviewer – Don’t act too familiar with the interviewer. That individual is not there to be your new BFF. Avoid nosy questions and don’t offer too much information regarding your own social endeavors.

#6 Pay attention to your body language – You show a lot about yourself in how you sit. You should refrain from foot tapping, hair twirling, and nail biting. Crossed limbs signal that you are on the defensive and are uncomfortable. Practice some relaxation techniques prior to the interview. Hand gestures are okay, but should be kept in proportion; never flail about.

#5 Use a firm handshake – There is an art to handshaking: Extend your right hand in a vertical position with the thumb upright and fingers extended, then shake web to web firmly for two pumps. It is just as important to not squeeze too firmly.

#4 Smile! – Be happy! Don’t avoid smiling to convey your seriousness. There is nothing worse than a bad attitude. Even if you are feeling discouraged, put on a happy face and “fake it until you make it”.

#3 Snail mail is your friend – Hand-written thank-you notes did not go the way of VHS tapes. Writing a thank-you demonstrates professionalism. You will stand out from the others that chose to only send an email. Additionally, writing a thank you note gives you another opportunity to restate your interest in the position. Saying “thank you” leaves a strong and positive impression.

#2 Turn off your cell phone – Leaving your cell phone on during an interview does not give the impression that you are important. Turn it completely off before you enter the door of the office (don’t leave it on vibrate). As you only have a brief window of time with your interviewer, you want to ensure that you have no interruptions that might break the interviewer’s concentration. It also pays respect to the interviewer and demonstrates that the interview is important to you.

#1 Arrive on-time – You should anticipate scenarios such as getting lost, getting stuck in traffic, and spending 10 minutes looking for parking. Remember that time is money and that the person interviewing you has set aside time from their own schedule for you. By being late you have wasted their time. You have also left the impression that you are someone who does not plan for contingencies and are likely to be repeatedly late for work.

Retrieved from dailyfinance.com/2010/05/14/job-interview-etiquette-11-mistakes-to-avoid
January Calendar

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**Dates to Remember**

- January 4th: Fees assessed
- January 9th: Financial aid disbursed
- January 18th: University Holiday (MLK Day)
- January 19th: First day of Spring classes
- January 25th: Add / Drop deadline
- February 1st: University Scholarship Deadline
- February 2nd: Spring payment deadline
- February 3rd: Orientation Counselors (OC) applications are open!