



Student Newsletter

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Spring 2009 Graduates

For those of you looking to graduate in Spring 2009, here are some steps to follow:

- 1) Make an appointment with Emily to double check that the courses you are registered in for the Spring fulfill the remainder of your degree plan.
- 2) Add the graduation fee. This is done by logging into course registration, going to add fees, and adding the graduation fee.
- 3) Complete the on-line graduation application which is available January 5th until January 30th.
- 4) Order grad announcements and gown beginning January 20th from the MSC by the deadline around the middle of the Spring semester. The date and time of your graduation will not be determined until all applications have been received.
- 5) Complete all substitutions as soon as possible to ensure they clear timely for graduation and that you don't register for courses you don't need.
- 6) Send any courses that were taken at a junior college ASAP to TAMU so that your degree plan reflects what is needed for graduation.
- 7) If you think you are eligible for the Thousand Dollar Rebate you need to complete the application as there is a deadline.
- 8) Pass all courses that you are registered for in order to graduate.
- 9) Make sure there are no outstanding balances you need to pay (library fines, parking tickets, etc.).
- 10) Enjoy your last semester at Texas A&M!

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Recognition

This month, the Environmental Programs would like to recognize all of the students in the program for completing another semester at Texas A&M. We would like to wish you a Happy New Year and good luck on the upcoming spring semester!

Open Registration

Open Registration will begin again on **Monday, January 5, 2009 through Thursday, January 15, 2009** and is open to continuing students (enrolled in fall 2008) including U0.

If you have not already registered, then will be the time to do it. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE SEMESTER STARTS!** If there is a class full that you **need** to get into, let Emily know and we can possibly force you into the class.

Once classes begin, you can add and drop classes the first week of class without penalty. After that, you will have to use a Q-drop to get out of a class. So make sure that you are enrolled in courses that count towards you major, that your load is not too light or too heavy, and that anything else is ok with your schedule.

First Year Grade Exclusion

Did you not do as well as you planned in a class? If you are a “first year college student” and meet the guidelines, you may be able to exclude that grade from your GPR calculation. If you are considering excluding a grade, please read the policy on the Office of the Registrar’s website at: **<http://admissions.tamu.edu/Registrar/Current/GradeExPolicy.aspx>**. Before filling out the form, please come see Emily so that you can discuss your options and to verify that you understand the policy.

Transcripts

If you took any courses over the Winter Break at a college other than Texas A&M, have those transcripts sent as soon as possible. The sooner they are in, the less we have to worry about getting them in last minute before graduation. This includes AP courses you may have received credits for in high school.

Did You Know?

Each month we will now do a “Did You Know?” section in the newsletters. This month’s Did You Know was provided by Jenny Towns, an ENGS student. If you have an interesting fact or tidbit, send it to Emily and your’s may be picked next month!

Here is a fun fact from Jenny for this month:

Clinton Kelly from TLC's “What Not to Wear” double majored at Boston College in Communications and Environmental Geosciences! How awesome is that! He never worked in that field though, obviously, as he went on to do his masters in Journalism.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Did you have a real tree this Christmas? Well don't just throw it away...recycle it! College Station residents can recycle their cut Christmas trees through their curbside collection service between December 26th and January 9th. The trees will be collected on the same day as your Brush and Bulky items. For more information contact the Public Works Department at (979) 764-3690.

Another option is to bring your tree to Central Park in College Station or Sue Haswell Park in Bryan on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 12:00-5:00 pm. For every tree dropped off at the park, the resident will receive a free tree seedling and environmental information packet.

How to prepare the trees:

Please remove all ornaments, icicles, lights, nails, etc.

Tree stands must be removed.

Unflocked Christmas trees only.

Why recycle your tree?

It saves valuable space at the local landfill and helps to produce tree chip mulch, which is used throughout the parks system. All recycled Christmas trees are composted or chipped to be spread throughout the parks. The chips will help alleviate soil compaction caused by foot traffic, reduce soil erosion, and will provide nutrients to the soil.



For more information, visit the City of College Station Recycling Department's website at www.cstx.gov/recycle.

2009 National Ocean Sciences Bowl Volunteers

The **2009 National Ocean Sciences Bowl regional competition, the Dolphin Challenge**, is held every year on the TAMU campus and they need volunteers! Moderators, Science Judges, Rules Judges, Scorekeepers, Timekeepers, Runners and others!! The event is on February 21, 2009.

All volunteers get a free lunch, free t-shirt, and time with talented Texas high school students!

Please visit the website: dolphinschallenge.tamu.edu for information about the competition and all volunteer roles and responsibilities! If you are interested, please view the 'Official Roles' video (found under the 'Volunteer' link) and read through the Rules.

Let Emily know if you would like to volunteer and she will send your name on to the organization.

Facebook

An Environmental Programs Facebook group has been created! If you have not done so already, please join!

With the new semester approaching, now is a good time to post books you have for sale and to see if your classmates have books for you to buy or trade!

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EPAC Student Representative
Corner

There has not been an EPAC meeting since the last newsletter so there are no updates. Instead we would just like to wish you all a fun and safe winter break and a Happy New Year!

Thanks and Gig 'Em!

Upcoming Events in January

- 1st—New Years Day
- 5th—Faculty and Staff return from the break
- 16th— 5 p.m. Last day to register for spring semester classes and pay fees.
- 19th— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Faculty and Staff holiday.
- 20th— First day of spring semester classes.
- 20th—Presidential Inauguration Day
- 26th— 5 p.m. Last day for adding/dropping courses for the spring semester.
- 30th— 5 p.m. Last day to apply for all degrees to be awarded in May.

