



Student Newsletter

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Spring 2011 Graduates

For those of you looking to graduate in Spring 2011, here are some steps to follow throughout the semester:

- 1) Log into Howdy to make sure all requirements are met and make an appointment with Emily to double check that the courses you are registered for in the Spring fulfill the remainder of your degree plan.
- 2) Make sure any minors you wanted have been applied to your record. Do not apply for graduation until the minors are showing!
- 3) Complete the on-line graduation application which is available January 5th until January 28th.
- 4) A graduation fee will be added to your student statement once you apply for graduation. Double check that it shows up.
- 5) Order grad announcements and gown. Information and deadlines will be posted on the graduation.tamu.edu website. The date and time of your graduation will not be determined until all applications have been received. However, it will be either May 13 or 14.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Send any courses that were taken at a junior college ASAP to TAMU so that your degree plan reflects what is needed for graduation.
- 8) If you think you are eligible for the Thousand Dollar Tuition Rebate, you need to complete the application as there is a deadline.
- 9) If you will be registered for a course in the spring somewhere other than Texas A&M, you will need to send proof of enrollment to the Degree Audit Office by the Q-drop deadline.
- 10) Pass all courses that you are registered for and pay any outstanding balances in order to graduate.
- 11) Enjoy your last semester at Texas A&M!



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Aggie Green Fund

Last spring, students passed a referendum to establish the Aggie Green Fund in support of sustainability initiatives on campus. Beginning today through February 19, the fund's advisory board is accepting proposals from students, faculty and staff for projects that are feasible, have a positive environmental impact, involve students and provide a measurable benefit to campus. Details are at greenfund.tamu.edu.



EPIC

EPIC will have a table at Open House on January 23rd from 1-4 in the Rec Center. They will also have an informational on January 25th at 7pm in O&M 110 if you want to check out the club.

For current members, or those who know they want to join, their first meeting is January 24th at 7pm in O&M 112.

Environment Cafe

Get excited for a new semester of Environment Cafés! The first café will be on January 25th from 9-10:30 in O&M 109. Swing by to enjoy some free refreshments while catching up with your classmates and advisor after being gone for the holidays. The cafés will continue to be twice a month. The February dates will be announced in the next newsletter. Don't forget, if you have any special requests, let Emily know and she will see what she can do! Hope to see you there!



Lukenbach Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

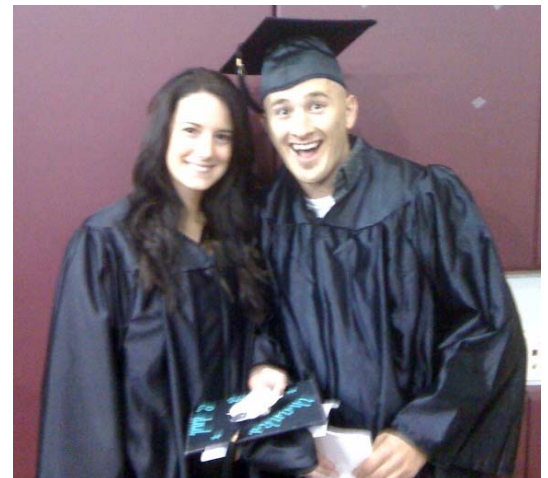
Maxwell Lukenbach, a senior Environmental Geosciences major, was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa on December 16, 2010. Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, making it the oldest academic honor society in the United States. Only 1% of all college graduates are granted membership into this prestigious society. The Texas A&M chapter began inducting students from across campus in 2004. The criteria for selection varies by semester depending on eligible members and can be found at phibetakappa.tamu.edu/Criteria. This semester, the Texas A&M chapter welcomed 72 new members.

Congratulations Max on this great accomplishment! Max is pictured to the right holding his initiation certificate.



Congrats December 2010 Grads

Congratulations December 2010 graduates! Pictured below to the left are the Environmental Geosciences students (left to right) Karen Villatoro, Elda Ramirez, Marcus Sherrouse, Austin Heider, Cody Williams, Colin Frazier, and Miguel Salazar. Pictured below to the right are the Environmental Studies students (left to right) Michelle Mouton and Sam Brown. The Environmental Programs wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavors.



Add/Drop

Once classes begin, you can add and drop classes the first week of class without penalty. Since the semester starts on a Tuesday, you will have until **Monday, January 24, 2011 at 5pm** to add/drop 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 your major, that your load is not too light or too heavy, and that anything else is ok with your schedule. Please see Emily with any questions.

Transcripts

If you took any courses over the Winter Break at a college other than Texas A&M, have those transcripts sent to the Registrar's Office as soon as possible. The sooner they are in, the less we have to worry about getting them in last minute before graduation.

Degree Evaluations

If you want to check what courses you have taken, where they apply in your degree plan, and what you have left to take, then you can do so on Howdy. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Click on the MyRecord tab
2. Click on View Degree Evaluation in the Degree Evaluation channel
3. Click on your program name
4. Then select the middle choice "Detailed Requirements" and hit submit

This will bring up your degree evaluation. Remember, any theme, tech, and geosciences electives will show in Work Not Applied until a sub form is filled out. Once you complete a requirement, it will say "Met" next to the Area name. If you have any questions, ask Emily!

Faculty Spotlight

There is not a faculty spotlight for January. If you would like to see a certain professor featured in the spotlights this year or if you have any great new questions to ask them, please let Emily know.

Student Organization Open House

MSC Spring Open House will be at the Rec Center January 23, 2011 from 1-4pm. MSC Open House is the biggest recruiting event of the year! Student organizations will have tables set up to promote their club and activities. This would be a great time to see what organizations you may want to join. Don't forget to stop by EPIC's table! It's FREE, so come be part of MSC Spring Open House.



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 at A&M. 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>. Make an appointment with Financial Aid (if you have any) to see how using a FYGE could affect your aid and with Emily so that you can discuss your options and to verify that you understand the policy.

Environmental
Programs in the
College of
Geosciences

Texas A&M University
O&M 105

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**EPAC Student Representative
Corner**

Don't forget to email in your nomination paragraphs to Emily for the EPAC Student Representative position by January 21st!

There has not been an EPAC meeting since the last newsletter so there are no updates.

Good luck as you start another semester!

Thanks and Gig 'Em!

Upcoming Events in January

- 1st—New Years Day
- 3rd—Faculty and Staff return from the break
- 12th— 5 p.m. Last day to register for spring semester classes and pay fees.
- 17th— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Faculty and Staff holiday.
- 18th— First day of spring semester classes.
- 24th— 5 p.m. Last day for adding/dropping courses for the spring semester.
- 25th—Environment Café
O&M 109
9-10:30am
- 28th— 5 p.m. Last day to apply for graduation for all degrees to be awarded in May.

