A Semester in Review

It is finally here! The end of your first semester in college!!! We hope you were able to make new connections, form communities, and celebrate this stepping stone with great company. Participants of the AXcel Mentoring Program did just that! From kick-offs to study socials, a lot went down, and a lot more is yet to come. We hope you can join us for our spring events. Stay in contact with your mentor, check out our line up of events, and most importantly, enjoy your break from the books, the walking, and campus food!!!

FALL 2013 AXCEL MENTORING PROGRAM KICK-OFF

We kicked off the semester with a meet and greet on Thursday, September 5th at 7pm in the Twilight Ballroom. Students met their mentor and family for the first time, enjoyed a quick game of Diversity Dots, and began their AXcel Mentoring experience.

Top: Group picture of mentees and mentors
Left: Silly picture of mentors with their mentees
Fall Programs

First Generation Film and Discussion
Mentors who identified as First-Generation students led a follow-up discussion regarding unique characteristics, experiences, and challenges many First-Generation students face in navigating higher education.

Left to Right: Scott Sayachack, Esteban Nambo, James Burns, and Ana Kabacoff

Academic Advising
Participants enjoyed a presentation led by academic advisors Trina Menefee and Mo Davis. Effective academic planning was discussed as well as ways to have a successful academic advising appointment.
Meet Your Mentors

Adaeze Anene
Houston, TX
Health Science

Ana Kabacoff
Houston, TX
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Ash-Lo Turner
Houston, TX
Radio and Television

Ashton McGown
Nacogdoches, TX
Health Sciences

Brittany Russell
McKinney, TX
Fashion Merchandising

Christine Reyes
Houston, TX
Fashion Merchandising

WANT TO BE AN AXCEL MENTOR?
Your Mentors Continued

Dieumerci Mukoga
Houston, TX
Health Science

Ermela Harper
Grand Prairie, TX
Nursing

Esteban Nambo
Houston, TX
Radio and Television

Iisha Teel
Longview, TX
Nursing

Jessica Hernandez
Houston, TX
Biology

Joshua Rodriguez
Houston, TX
Economics
Marcos Villarreal  
Houston, TX  
Biology

Miriam Fernandez  
South Houston, TX  
Economics

Raneisha Frand  
Houston, TX  
Psychology

Scott Sayachack  
Allen, TX  
Interdisciplinary Studies

Shelby Petersen  
Big Spring, TX  
General Business

Tim Tang  
Lufkin, TX  
Accounting
Check out our Spring Calendar!!!

**MLK Day of Service**
*January 20 at 12pm BPSC Grand Ballroom*
Join the SFA community as we head out to work on various projects for the Nacogdoches community.
Pre-Registration is now available on AXES!!!
*(Hosted by The Big Event and Lumberjack Cultural Association)*

**MLK Celebration**
*January 23 at 7pm BPSC Twilight Ballroom*
The OMA invites the SFA Community to a night filled with music, food, and culture in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy.
Registration can be found on the OMA website, $5 for students.
*(Dinner will be provided)*

**Eating Well on a College Budget**
*February 6 at 7pm BPSC Tiered Classroom*
Afraid of gaining the Freshmen 15? Trying to lose the Freshmen 15? This program will provide you with tips and tricks on living well as a college student on a college campus.
*(T-Shirts will be provided)*

**So You Want to go to Law School?**
*March 25 at 7pm BPSC Theater*
Join us for a conversation about law school. Various lawyers will be in attendance to answer your questions and interests about law school.

**The SFA Alumni Experience**
*April 7 at 7pm TBA*
SFA Alumni are ready and eager to share their stories as SFA Alumni and how they have utilized their experience in their current careers.
Want to be an AXcel Mentor?

Applications Open:
Monday, January 26

Applications Close:
Friday, February 28

Mentor Requirements:

- Must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher
- Must be in good standing with the university
- Student must be a full-time, enrolled student for the 2014-2015 academic year
- Must be available for an interview on Thursday, March 6 OR Monday, March 17
- If selected, student must attend the mandatory AXcel Mentor Retreat on Friday, March 28 at 4pm
A Study Abroad Experience

By James Beeks

My study abroad experience to London, England was very enlightening and fun! Beginning with the 9-hour international flight, I was introduced to a world that was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced. Upon our arrival, I immediately felt the temperature difference. Summer time in London was a mere high 60’s/Low 70’s during the day time and a low 50’s at night time. It took me a while to get used to the late sunset (around 9:45pm) and the early sunrise (around 4:45am).

A few noticeable different things in England included double-Decker buses, driver’s wheel on the right side and driving on the opposite sides of the road from the U.S., red telephones boxes (which are primarily for tourists to take pictures with), and the very diverse population. I counted a total of 4 trucks during my time in England. Compact cars were the popular choice. Car brands such as a BMW, Mercedes Benz, and Mini Cooper were seen as often as Fords and Chevy’s in the U.S.

London had the BEST and most advanced public transportation system I’ve ever seen! You never had to worry about being late to places if you missed the Underground Tube (pronounced “chube”) because another one came within five minutes. London consisted of 9 zones. Our group had train passes for Zones 1-6, which was about 90% of greater London. Zone 1 (Central London) consisted of most, if not all of the major attractions such as Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, etc. It was never a dull moment riding the trains!

One of my favorite parts about being in England was the fact that taxes were already included in EVERYTHING you purchase. It made shopping and budgeting much easier! On a day trip to the Camden Town borough, my group mates and I experienced what it was like to bargain with street shop owners. If an “I <3 London” hoodie had a price tag of £15 (about $22.50), you could very well bargain down to a modest £10 (about $15)

If you are considering studying abroad and would like any advice, please email me, beeksje@yahoo.com.
By James Burns

The Office of Multicultural Affairs has had a great impact in my social and academic career in college. Rarely in an office are you surrounded with people that expect the best from you. The amount of friends I made here is immeasurable. I can come to the office to ask for advice on a range of subjects. Sometimes we talk about current events, other times we are playing spades until the office closes. The office has had a positive effect on me as leader as well. I feel the need to step up and help people when they’re going through problems. You learn to take joy away from servitude. This helps make you a better leader. The office is also filled with colorful people. You can be having a horrible day before you step foot in the office, but by the time you leave, I promise somebody probably has made you smile.

The most important thing I can say I learned about this office is that you have to adapt to reach your goals. Life throws things at you. Sometimes it is a test the day before, a show, or the weather ruining your block party. Life isn’t a straight path, it has twists and turns. If you’re not progressing, your losing, and that’s one thing you can say about the OMA office. It always evolving to meet the need of our students.
“The OMA is a lake while the entire SFA campus is an ocean. The OMA helps you get your feet wet before you take that big dive in. The OMA helps you meet new friends, get involved and shows you the ropes so you won’t be on your own. The OMA is the Big Sister/Brother I never had. The OMA is A Home away from HOME!”

- Ja’Leah Davis, FNM President and AXcel Mentor