



Undergraduate Newsletter

November 19, 2014

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University Wide Seminar with Dr. S. James Gates Jr.

Undergraduate Studies is proud to announce a University-Wide Seminar not to be missed. Nationally renowned scientist in String Theory, Dr. S. James Gates Jr, will be at the Memorial Student Center on **December 4th**. He has been featured extensively on NOVA PBS programs. Dr. Gates is a Toll Professor of Physics and Director of the Center for String and Particle Theory at the University of Maryland in College Park. He serves on President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

The U.S. Presidents Council of Advisors on Science & Technology (PCAST) issued a report entitled Engage to Excel in 2012 to describe the need for transformation in the first two years of post-secondary education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Recommendations from this report will be presented by Dr. Gates.

There is no charge for attending however, registration is requested through ERS at <https://ers.tamu.edu>. Registration is open to faculty, students, and staff.

Additional information on Dr. S. James Gates, Jr. can be found at:

[Uncovering the Codes for Reality](#)
[The Elegant Universe](#)
[The History Makers](#)
[National Medal of Science](#)

France Study Abroad

Are you interested in studying abroad? Texas A&M and the Ecole Supérieure d'Agriculture in Angers, France, offer a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to experience the French way of life and to learn about the culture of food production and consumption in France. During a month-long trip, the students are exposed to a series of lectures on specifics of food production, processing, and distribution in France. Additional lectures discuss France's role in the European Union, its history, and the rich heritage of French culture. Field trips and cultural visits are a major part of the program providing the students with an up-close experience of French agriculture and food industry. The program is administered entirely in English, though students do learn the basics of the French language. Students live with host families and have an opportunity to participate in their everyday activities.

An informational meeting will be held this Wednesday, November 19 at 5:00 pm in AGLS, room 116. Information about scholarship opportunities and registration process will be provided.

Program Dates in France: May 26– June 26, 2015

Courses: AGLS 301 : Reciprocal Exchange Holding Course convertible to A&M course (3 credits)
AGEC 402 : Survey of International Agriculture (3 credits)

For more information or to

apply: https://studyabroad.tamu.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10387

Contact information: Program Faculty Leader: Dr. Dmitry Vedenov, vedenov@tamu.edu

Study Abroad Advisor: Pascale Parker, pparker@tamu.edu, Tel: [979.845.0544](tel:979.845.0544)

Hatton Sumners Undergraduate Student Leadership Conference

Apply for the 2015 Hatton Sumners Undergraduate Student Leadership Conference hosted by the University of Texas at Austin **February 26-28, 2015!** The conference is an intensive three-day student program which gives students the opportunity to develop as leaders and expand their personal leadership network. **Conference attendance is sponsored by the Departments of Student Activities and Residence Life.**

The Hatton Sumners Conference is open to all undergraduates, but preference will be given to sophomores and juniors who are actively engaged in leadership roles on campus. Attendees should hope to incorporate the lessons learned at the conference into their remaining leadership roles at the university. The explicit goals of the conference is to inspire young men and women to seek or accept leadership responsibilities as part of their contribution to their society, increase awareness of current and emerging leadership challenges in a variety of settings, and develop a network of students to support future collaboration among these emerging leaders. Young leaders develop their leadership through opportunities to see and hear inspirational leaders talk about leadership, and from the example of other younger individuals leading students in small-group sessions. For more information about the conference please visit <http://lbjschool.austin.utexas.edu/slc/>.

Students can apply by completing the attached application and submitting by email

to whastings@stuaact.tamu.edu or dropping them off at Koldus 140 in the Leadership and Service Center by **5 PM on Monday December 01, 2014**. For more information, please visit the conference website or email Waylon Hastings at whastings@stuaact.tamu.edu.

Namibia Exhibit

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Agrilife Center

Join the students of the 2014 Namibia Photojournalism and Cultural Pluralism in Agriculture Program as they share images and stories of Namibia: Land of the Brave. Light refreshments will be served. It is a come and go exhibit. Also learn about the plans for the 2015 Namibia Study Abroad!

Contact Tobin Redwine at tredwine@tamu.edu for any questions.