Welcome to the July issue of the Regents’ Review. As you begin your career as a Regents’ Scholar at Texas A&M University I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the valuable information we provide to you by reading the Regents’ Review and checking your TAMU email on a daily basis (this is how our office will communicate with you!).

As we prepare for your arrival on-campus, I would like to remind you of the requirements of the scholarship:

- Live On-Campus.
- Attend the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Meeting on August 20, 2012 from 7:00-9:00 PM required.
- Participate in an Academic Success Program (your program is determined by your college).
- Attend the Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet.
- Have financial need.

In addition, to these very important requirements, there are additional dates you should mark on your calendar:

- August 19, 2012 - Move-In Day
- August 19-26, 2012 - Gig’ Em Week (you will need to stay on-campus during the week to participate in the activities. For more information, visit the website by clicking here.
- August 26, 2012 - Freshman Convocation, 2:30pm in Reed Arena.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks & Gig’ em,

Casey Gros, Regents’ Scholars Coordinator  

Howdy

Your Academic Advisor

If you have already attended your New Student Conference, you probably met your Academic Advisor when you registered for Fall classes. Your Academic Advisor is an important resource person when it comes to your academic career at Texas A&M.

It is very important that you take the time to get to know your Academic Advisor, whose role is to help see you through your degree plan, from inception to completion. When you arrive on campus in the Fall, spend time getting to know your Advisor and letting her or him get to know you.

Your Academic Advisor needs to know you well enough to give you advice and direction and help you create a degree plan that best meets your interests and needs. You will need to invest in a relationship with your Advisor in order for that to happen.
Meet Your Regents’ Scholars Program Staff!

Name: Casey Gros
Title: Regents’ Scholars Coordinator
Email: casey_gros@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5379
Hometown/State: Richardson, TX

Enjoys working with students because… they all have unique personalities and strengths, and I love seeing them develop into the great Aggies they were meant to be!

Biggest fear as a freshman: That I would fail miserably- I would fail all my classes, not make friends, not get into any student organizations and end up being a burden to my parents forever.

Favorite aspect of A&M: the “small college” atmosphere created here, even though it is one of largest campuses in the United States.

Best piece of advice received as a student: Talk to your professors. They may be very intimidating, but they are generally great people, and can serve as a reference or resource in the future. They can really be the difference academically as well. After all, they create the exams, so they will know how to help you “ace” your exams!

Name: Erin Fisk
Title: Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator
Email: efisk@sfamail.tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5345
Hometown/State: Austin, TX

Enjoys working with students because…. they keep me on my toes!

Biggest fear as a freshman: I was a first-generation student, went to school 15 hours from home, didn’t know anyone, and worried that I wouldn’t find a connection with the campus.

Favorite aspect of A&M: the camaraderie that Aggies have with each other.

Best piece of advice received as a student: Take ownership of your college career and don’t allow others to determine your path.

Fish Camp

Every year nine hundred counselors willingly give up time and effort in order to welcome Texas A&M’s greatest and most important tradition: The Freshmen Class. Through a 4 day orientation program held in Palestine, TX, freshmen are given the opportunity to learn Aggie Traditions, ease their way into college life, develop leadership skills and create bonds that will last a lifetime.

As a Regents’ Scholar, you may have registered for Sessions A-F. Session G interferes with your requirement to attend the Regents’ Scholar Orientation on August 20, 2012. If you have already signed up for Session G, you must contact Fish Camp (979.845.1627) as soon as possible to change your session dates.

Dollars & Sense

Electronic Direct Deposit:

If financial assistance exceeds the student’s total tuition and fee bill, a refund will be issued in either electronic or paper form. Your financial aid refund is to be spent on educational expenses including textbooks and living expenses for the entire semester.

Electronic direct deposit of refund checks is much faster than receiving hard checks via the U.S. Postal Service, by as much as a week! Once signed up for this service, all refunds due to the student will be electronically deposited into the bank account that the student designates. Select the “Manage My Refund Preferences” link from the My Finances tab in the Howdy portal to update your preference for receiving refunds.

It is highly encouraged that you open a checking account of your own while in college. There are many banks local to College Station and Bryan as well as some that are located in many cities across Texas which offer free student checking. Any refund money you may receive can be sent directly to this account for you to use for education related expenses throughout the semester.
Health Insurance

General Information

Health insurance coverage is important while a student is in college. Student Health Services is an ambulatory clinic and does not provide major hospitalization or treatment outside of the clinic.

Please visit http://shs.tamu.edu/services for more information about services that are provided. Different sources provide health insurance to students. Sources of health insurance are:

- Group insurance
- Parent’s health insurance
- Student’s individual policy
- A Student Health Policy

Insurance Policies Available

The University has endorsed a Student Health Policy and Graduate Student Policy. This insurance is available to all students. You may want to review this policy and compare your current coverage when considering health insurance. This policy may be useful when:

- You reach the age of attainment on your parent’s policy, meaning you are no longer covered, or
- You get married, or
- You become legally independent, or
- You are studying abroad

Any Texas A&M University student can purchase the policy. The student can enroll in this plan online at http://www.tamuinsurance.com or by mail:

AIP Student Insurance
P.O. Box 189
Libertyville, IL  60048
(800) 452-5772

Policy information is available on the Internet for undergraduate students at http://www.tamuinsurance.com or by calling 800-452-5772.
Daniel’s Corner

Howdy Freshmen Regents’ Scholars!

My name is Daniel Foncannon, a Regents’ Scholar just like yourself, but more importantly, I am a loud and proud member of the fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 2014! A-A-A Whoop! Confused by the whoops and A’s? No A&M background? Could it be that you’re going to your New Student Conference? Well if you are not familiar with A&M tradition, it is time for a quick lesson in “Aggie Mannerisms and Traditions 101” (which you’ll all have to relearn in Fish Camp). For starters, expect a truckload of greetings, more specifically, the famous Aggie, “Howdy.” You’ll hear that special phrase everywhere you go, including: The Commons, the Student Computing Center, Sbsia Dining Hall, the Rec Center, the Pavilion (where your favorite Regents’ Scholars staff reside), etc. The significance of this simple phrase is summed up in one word — Unity. As aggies, the phrase “Howdy” ensures that no one feels like a complete stranger and that we are all part of a bigger Aggie family, which at first may be strange to hear over and over again. Subsequently, you’ll learn about your wildcat, a noise and hand gesture that shows your rank in class i.e. freshman, sophomore, etc. As a freshman, your wild cat requires that you raise your hand over your head and yell “AAAAA” as loud as you can, especially when you hear someone say “Class of 2016!” In the long run, I’ve given you two essential tools to add to your New Student Conference (NSC) survival kit.

Speaking of New Student Conferences, as a Junior Electronics Engineering Technology major here at Texas A&M, my New Student Conference felt like it was held centuries ago. Yes, maybe I am Dumbledore old, but with age comes wisdom (and a bit of magic). As much as you’d like to hear an old geezer yap about “back in my day” stories, I would like to give you some advice; advice that I wish I could utilize “back in my day.” Also, if this advice doesn’t help you, don’t form a team consisting of a thunder wielding demi-god, a super soldier, a couple of master assassins, and a man with breath-taking anger management issues to seek revenge on me (a.k.a. Avengers style).

Firstly, bring your parents, relatives, or close friends with you to your New Student Conference. “But Daniel, I’m an adult and I don’t need my parents to babysit me any longer!” you exclaim. Wrong. As a freshman, I had the misfortune of going to my New Student Conference by myself. You can imagine how I must have felt when everyone was there with their parents. As an introvert, there were points in my NSC where I felt “alone” in a room of crowded people. At those times, the presence of my parents would have been greatly appreciated. Additionally, your parents, relatives, or close friends will be there as an emotional, financial, and academic grounding totem, providing you with objective points of views for your future decisions.

Secondly, do research. Prior to entering your New Student Conference, you should look up your degree plan for you major, research different student organizations on campus, etc. As a freshman I looked up many student organizations on the Department of Student Activities website. By doing so, I was able to ask my NSC counselors about the professional, cultural, and service organizations (including their impact and requirements). In the upcoming fall semester, I was able to ask my NSC counselors about my question, stood in silence…watching and waiting. That’s when a girl asked the very same question that I did not have the courage to ask. As it turned out, many of us had that same question, but were too afraid to speak our minds. Furthermore, it’s better to have asked for something and not receive it, then to have never asked at all. By asking, I was able to inform myself about the blogging position opening up at Scholarships & Financial Aid. By asking, I was able to get an application and turn it in. By asking I was able to get an interview that would eventually lead to my position as one of the Regents’ Scholars bloggers. By asking….well, you get the point.

As I part, I would like to let you guys, the freshman Regents’ Scholars Class of 2016 (I hope you did your wildcat!), know that you have made it to A&M with your own ability. As the new generation of Aggies, we embrace you with open arms and only hope for your success. And remember, you are an Aggie now be proud and embody the core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service. As older generation aggies, we hope to embody the core values of A&M to guide and facilitate your academic progress and leadership potential. Let your parents, close relatives, and friends be your support, research different opportunities that are open to you, and have the courage to pave the pathway to your success because you are the future.

Daniel Foncannon
**Why Should You Become a Member?**

- Make lifelong friends
- Gain valuable experiences
- Pay it forward
- Participate in social and community service events
- Begin to establish your network
- Learn about college from students like you!

**Sneak Peek of RSO Fall 2012 Events**

- Midnight Yell
- Holistic Gardens
- Nursing Home
- RSO Camp Out
- Aggie Replant
- RSO Movie Night
- and Many More!

**Contact Info**

President Leticia Palomin
lety-palomin@neo.tamu.edu

OR

rso@rso.tamu.edu

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**Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors**

Howdy Class of 2016! We are pleased to introduce to you the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors (OCs). The OCs will help you during the transition from high school to college.

You have the opportunity to get to know each of the OCs before you even arrive on campus! Profiles of each orientation counselor are available on the Regents’ Review site https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regentsreview and click on “Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors.” We encourage you to look through the profiles and see who is from your hometown. They are available for you to ask questions, help you find campus resources and to be a friend.

Orientation Counselors have been assigned to you during orientation; however, you may contact any or all of the OCs.