Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

My name is Erin Fisk and I am the Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator for Sophomore Programming. I came to Texas A&M University in August 2008 as an academic scholarship advisor for Honors Programs. In June 2012 I stepped into a new scholarship advising role with Scholarships & Financial Aid. My primary areas of responsibility in the Regents’ Scholars Program are the RS2 Learning Community and the Aggie Bound Program; however, I assist with other Regents’ Scholars programming as needed. I also hold additional areas of responsibility with other scholarship programs, including Century Scholars.

A little about me. I received a B.A. in Sociology in 2001 from Grinnell College, a small liberal arts college in central Iowa. I am the first person on either side of my family to complete a Bachelor’s degree. My intention is to pursue a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration here at Texas A&M. I am the proud “mom” of a two-year-old cocker spaniel named Linus and I spend as much time with him at the park as I can manage. During my spare time I enjoy relaxing with family and friends at the lake. Because my hometown is the “Live Music Capital of the World,” I try to visit as many music venues as I can.

Congratulations on completing your first year at Texas A&M! Although it’s a bit hard to believe, summer is drawing to a close. In a few short weeks, you will be making your way back to campus. As the summer break winds down, take time to reflect on what you learned during your first year as a college student and how you intend to use that knowledge to conquer your sophomore year. Remember that your college experience, academic and social, is what you make of it and that there are many people, including the Regents’ Scholars staff, who are here to assist you along the way. I hope you have had an amazing summer and I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!
Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator
Sophomore Programs
979.458.5345
erinsfisk@tamu.edu

Financial Reminders

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10th</td>
<td>Fall semester statements available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18th</td>
<td>Financial Aid disburses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 22nd</td>
<td>Tuition due for fall semester (5pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 21st</td>
<td>Last date to add Installment Plan for fall semester (5pm)</td>
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Dates to Remember!

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/19</td>
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<td>Fall tuition due</td>
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<td>8/30</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
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MSC Open House

Are you looking for a way to be part of campus life? The 2012 MSC Open House will take place on Sunday, September 2nd from 1-5pm in the MSC. Over 670 student organizations will showcase ways in which to get involved on campus.

Additional information may be found at mscopenhouse.tamu.edu.

Student Learning Center Courses

Do your student habits need more “umph”? Do you know where your path will lead you after graduation? The Student Learning Center offers courses that can guide you in the proper direction. Seats are still available for the following courses:

STLC 101: Application of Learning Theories to College Students

This is a two-credit hour course which is a study of critical theories of learning with application to academic performance. Eligible students may register online or students can be referred by an academic advisor.

STLC 102: Career Awareness

This is a two-credit hour course which introduces students to the concepts of career planning, employment trends, and methods of researching and preparing for the job market.

For more information, visit http://slc.tamu.edu/courses/.
Casey Gros
Regents’ Scholars Coordinator
Email: casey_gros@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5379
Hometown: Richardson, TX
Degrees: B.S. University Studies – Architecture from Texas A&M
Enjoys working with Regents’ Scholars because: They all have unique personalities and strengths, and I love seeing them develop into the great Aggies they were meant to be!
Favorite Aggie Tradition: Muster! I love the fact that we remember the Aggies we lost in the last year, while gathering to reminisce about all the great times we had in Aggieland.
Biggest fear as a student: Failing in general. I was worried that I wouldn’t do well in my classes, I wouldn’t be able to join any organizations, I’d get fired from my on-campus job, and not make any new friends.
Best piece of advice for upperclassmen: 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.

Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator
Email: erinsfisk@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5345
Hometown: Austin, TX
Degree: B.A. in Sociology from Grinnell College
Enjoys working with Regents’ Scholars because: I had many opportunities given to me as a first-generation college student. This program is my way of passing along similar opportunities to other students.
Favorite Aggie Tradition: The Aggie community has become my family away from home. It is this network that has become my favorite Aggie tradition.
Biggest fear as a student: Being so far away from home - I went to school 15 (yes, 15) hours from home and didn’t have a car. I had to learn how to put aside the homesickness and focus on what mattered most, my academics.
Best piece of advice for upperclassmen: Take ownership of your college career and don’t allow others to determine your path.

Robert Hobbs
Regents’ Scholars Graduate Assistant
Email: rohobbs85@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.845.3982
Hometown: Huntington, TX
Degree: M.S. in Curriculum Instruction – Texas A&M Commerce; B.A. in Elementary Education - Stephen F. Austin
Enjoys working with Regents’ Scholars because: Nothing beats seeing students accomplish the things that they previously thought were impossible.
Favorite Aggie Tradition: 12th Man
Biggest fear as a student: “Am I on the right path or should I change my major again?”
Best piece of advice for upperclassmen: Don’t think that your life has one “right” path. The right path is whichever one you commit yourself to.
Establishing Roommate “Ground Rules”

A new academic year often means a new roommate. For some students, this may be the first time you are moving in with a friend and not a stranger. You will probably find that living with a friend is completely different from having a roommate at night or on the weekends. Some roommates who start off well together end up not-so-friendly by the end of the year, mostly because they don’t communicate well about what they want out of the living situation. If you want to keep (or start) a friendship with your roommate, it is a good idea to get everything out on the table right from the beginning.

Setting Ground Rules

One thing that makes a big difference is talking to your roommate about “ground rules”—rules that you both agree to abide by. It might sound like an awkward conversation, but it’s necessary for two reasons: First, you are both used to a certain lifestyle, so you will both have opinions about how your life goes (and your roommate will affect that). Second, you will want to set the rules before one of you does something that makes the other uncomfortable (or angry). Keep in mind—this shouldn’t be an angry or accusatory conversation, just a calm discussion of what you are both okay with and what you would like to avoid.

When to Set the Rules

It’s best to set up the ground rules as early as possible, because they can act as a barrier against roommate problems. You might even want to set rules before you move in to your dorm room or apartment. If you don’t want to talk face-to-face, discussing rules beforehand is even better, because you can do it via IM, email, or over the phone.

What to Talk About

It is okay to establish rules about quite a few things—like giving each other advance notice if guests will be spending the night. You don’t want to walk into your room and find a party raging on your last cramming night before a big final. Here are a few things you might want to talk about with your roommate:

- Overnight guests
- Guests of the opposite sex
- Cell phone use (hours, in the room or in the hall, etc.)
- Music (types, volume, headphones)
- TV use
- Study time
- Borrowing clothes & other belongings (DVDs, CDs, etc.)
- Sharing (or not sharing) food
- Bedtime
- Alarm settings (how many times can you hit snooze?)
- Locking the door
- Using each other’s things (microwave, fridge, TV, computer, stereo, etc.)

Basic rule of thumb: if there is anything you are worried about, you should bring it up now. You’re a lot more likely to get into a screaming match if your roommate has already been doing something obnoxious for weeks.

Retrieved and adapted from “Setting Roommate ‘Ground Rules’ at www.survivingcollegelife.com

Words of Wisdom

“Whatever you can do, or dream you can, Begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it, Begin it now.”

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
# Necessities for Your First Apartment

When you live “on your own” in the dorms, there are a lot of things you take for granted. At most schools, living on campus means that toilet paper is provided, someone else takes out the trash, and you can borrow silverware from the cafeteria (though I can tell you they usually don’t want you to borrow that silverware).

Living on your own off-campus, in a real apartment, is totally different. Suddenly you look around at your Ikea furniture and otherwise empty apartment and realize how much stuff you don’t have (but need pretty badly). So I threw together a list of things you might not think of, but will definitely need within the first few weeks of apartment life.

Remember, this isn’t your all inclusive everything-you-need list—it’s the list of stuff you’ll probably overlook. Don’t forget to bring furniture.

## The Bare Necessities

(a.k.a. If You Buy Nothing Else At Least Get These Things!)

- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Towel
- Shower curtain & rings
- Trashcan
- Plunger
- Curtains (or at least a sheet to cover the windows)
- Lamp & light bulb(s)
- Fan
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight
- Batteries

You may see these items repeated on other portions of the list in their respective categories. But just remember them!

## Bathroom

- Toilet paper
- Trashcan
- Soap
- Shower curtain & rings
- Toilet brush
- Plunger
- Towel
- First-aid kit

## Kitchen

- Trashcan
- Oven mitt
- Scrub brush
- Dish soap & regular soap
- Towel(s)
- Plate, bowl, cup, silverware
- Can opener
- Pots & pans
- Paper towels

## Bedroom

- Curtains
- Alarm clock
- Lamp

## Other

- Tools (at the very least, nails, a hammer, and a screw driver)
- Power strip
- Extension cord
- Cleaning supplies
- Sewing kit (for buttons that pop off or other minor fixes)
- Laundry basket

…and last (but not least) a good sense of humor!

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Retrieved & adapted from “Your First Apartment – Things you Should Remember but Probably Won’t” at www.survivingcollegelife.com
### August 2012

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<td>SOCCER vs. Maroon vs. White - Exhibition Match</td>
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