Save the Date!
Regents’ Scholars Freshmen Banquet
Sunday, April 28th
Attendance is REQUIRED for this event.
Details TBA.

March Opinion Poll
How will you use this summer to prepare you for your sophomore year at Texas A&M?

Send your answers to Ms. Erin Fisk at erinsfisk@tamu.edu with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear.

Words of Wisdom
“The real joy of life is in its play. Play is anything we do for the joy and love of doing it, apart from any profit, compulsion, or sense of duty. It is the real joy of living.”
~ Walter Rauschbusch

Congratulations to the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors for the Class of 2017!
And for all of you who didn’t make it this year, we urge you to try again next year.
- Orientation Planning Board

Did you know?
More than 100 St. Patrick’s Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.

AGGIE PALS
Aggie Pals are Regents’ Scholars who commit to hand writing letters to fourth grade pen pals for one academic year. Aggie Pals will write two letters each month and serve as a mentor for this future generation of Aggies.

If you are interested in sharing some insight with elementary students about what it’s like to be a first-generation college student, please contact Leticia Palomin at Lety-palomin@exchange.tamu.edu
During the Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet on April 28, 2013, the Regents’ Scholars Program will recognize one outstanding Texas A&M University faculty, staff, advisor, or mentor for their participation and contributions to the program. Please take a few minutes to nominate and show your appreciation to someone who has inspired you during your first year at Texas A&M.

Nominations due: April 1, 2013
By email to regentsscholarship@tamu.edu

In the email, please include:

- Name of the person you are nominating
- Department or college in which the nominee is employed
- Email address of nominee
- Name of nominator

Please share why you believe this person should be recognized. Include how this nominee inspired you to success at Texas A&M. Describe the guidance, availability, and dedication of the nominee. Your comments will be read at the banquet if the individual is selected.

“We will do all in our power to help you...because I believe your presence here, along with all of the Regents’ Scholars who will follow you, is likely the best thing any of us have ever done.”

-Dr. Robert M. Gates
Former President
Texas A&M University

---

Spring Break Pledge

You owe it to yourself to keep yourself safe during Spring Break. Below is a pledge adapted from the Safe Spring Break website. Consider adopting this into your pre-departure planning.

I, ______________________________, pledge to make safe and responsible decisions while on spring break. I have taken the time to consider my personal boundaries in regards to the five (5) Potential Follies: Travel, Alcohol, Drugs, Sex and Crime.

Furthermore, I will make sure my parents or guardians have a copy of my important documents and full itinerary. When driving, I will wear my seat belt at all times. If riding shotgun, I will keep the driver awake. I will not allow anyone in the car to drink and drive. I will make sure any friend who is too intoxicated to be out is taken home safely. I will go out with my friends, and go home with my friends. I will respect myself by honoring my personal boundaries as stated above. While on spring break, I will obey the laws of that destination. I will not justify reckless behaviors by assuming “whatever happens on spring break stays on spring break.” I know and understand this is merely a vacation, and I choose to act responsibly. In doing so, this will be a Spring Break I won’t soon forget…in a good way.

Signed: __________________________ Date: __________________

Adopted from http://www.safespringbreak.org/the-pledge/
**On the road…**
Buckle up, disco dancers! Also take turns behind the wheel, and whoever sits shotgun should stay awake to keep the driver company. Make sure everyone has a valid driver’s license and the vehicle registration is in the car before driving off.

**In hotels…**
Reserve a room that’s above the 1st floor but below the 6th floor. Why? First floor rooms are easier to break into, and rooms above the sixth floor are sometimes too high for fire ladders to reach. If safes are provided, definitely use them for any valuables you may have. Keep doors and sliding doors locked, and don’t let anyone into your room unless you can trust them. Make a mental note of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.

**At the ATM…**
Try to go the ATM in groups, but avoid getting overly complacent about safety just because you’re traveling in numbers. Also try to go during daylight hours. When you approach the ATM, do a full 360 degree scan, looking completely around you to see if anyone is hanging out where they shouldn’t be. When punching in your PIN, use your other hand to cover the keypad. Always be on the lookout for anyone suspicious. If someone is creeping you out, go to another ATM. (There are plenty of them, especially in vacation spots!)

**On the beach…**
Sun can maximize the effects of alcohol so keep this in mind if you party on the beach. Take it slow and stay hydrated by drinking lots of water. If you start feeling faint or light headed, get shade and water immediately. And don’t be a lobster; use sunscreen of at least SPF 15 and reapply often. Pay extra special attention to ears, nose, face and shoulders. Fair skinned friends should wear sunglasses and even a hat. Avoid sun exposure during the hottest hours of the sun’s rays and remember you can burn even when it’s cloudy.

**While swimming…**
Jumping into the water without a lifeguard puts you at risk. Even the most experienced swimmer can get caught in an undertow. In case you get caught in a rip current, don’t bother swimming against it. Instead, swim parallel to shore until the rip passes. Try to stay within the designated swimming area and always swim with a buddy. Also know the flag system for water safety:
- Red Flag: Stay out of the water because of strong undertow and riptides.
- Yellow Flag: Use CAUTION in the water. There are some undertow and riptides possible.
- Blue Flag: Calm water. Swim safely.

**Going out…**
The cardinal rule is this: Go out with your friends, go home with your friends. It’s one of those things that keeps you a whole lot safer, and eliminates about 98% of the bad drama. This way you can look out for one another, and get a friend home who is too intoxicated to be out. Also be on the lookout for signs of predatory drugs: extreme wooziness, confusion, difficulty standing and slurring speech. If you notice these symptoms in yourself, find your friends immediately and tell them to get you outta there. If you see these signs in a friend, do your friend duty and take them back to the hotel or to a hospital if symptoms are severe.

**Leaving the country…**
First things first: if you’re leaving the country you’ll need a passport. These are not quick and easy documents to attain, so file your application about 6 months before going on a trip abroad. Safety has a lot to do with what you pack when traveling abroad. Don’t bring flashy valuables (like expensive jewelry) and dress conservatively so you don’t stick out too much. And do your homework beforehand about your destination, keeping in mind you are subject to the laws of the country you visit. To get a full list of tips for traveling abroad (as well as travel warnings for certain countries) check out the Bureau of Consular Affairs website.

Adapted from “Fight Back on Spring Break”, located at http://www.safespringbreak.org/safety-tips/
Texas’ Legal Limit:
The legal limit for intoxication is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). If law enforcement thinks your driving is impaired, you can be stopped and arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI) regardless of your BAC. Penalties get worse with every DWI offense.

How Much is Too Much?
Impairment begins with the first drink. Gender, body weight, the number of drinks consumed and the amount of food in one’s stomach affect the body’s ability to handle alcohol. Women, younger people and smaller people, whether male or female, often have lower tolerances.

Under 21?
Don’t even think about it. You can’t buy alcohol, drink it or have it on you. Even just trying to buy alcohol can get you busted.

Punishment for Alcohol-Related Offense by Minor. The following penalties apply for Minor in Possession Violations (MIP) which include Attempted Purchase, Purchase, Possession, Consumption of Alcohol, and Misrepresentation of Age. ABC§106.071.

### Penalties for Minor in Possession (MIP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th>Loss of License</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>8-12 hours</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>20-40 hours</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>Judges' option</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>Judges' option</td>
<td>Up to 180 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strike One (first conviction)**
- $2,000 fine
- Six months behind bars
- Suspended driver’s license for up to a year
- $1,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

**Strike Two (second conviction)**
- $4,000 fine
- One year in jail
- Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
- $1,500 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get two DWIs within five years and your vehicle will be equipped with an expensive special ignition switch that prevents it from starting if you’ve been drinking.

**Strike Three (third conviction)**
- $10,000 fine
- Two to ten years in prison
- Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
- $2,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get arrested for drunk driving with a child under 15 in your vehicle, and it’s a felony that comes with a $10,000 fine, two years in a state jail and losing your license for two years.

**Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI).**
A minor commits an offense if the minor operates a motor vehicle in a public place while having any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor’s system. This is a Class C misdemeanor except if the minor has been previously convicted at least twice of alcohol-related offense. Deferred Adjudication is considered a conviction for enhancement. A Minor is not eligible for deferred adjudication on 3rd offense.

### Penalties for DUI by a Minor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th>Loss of License</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failing*</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>20-40 hours</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusing*</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Failing a breath/blood test means there was ANY detectable amount of alcohol present. Due to implied consent, refusing to take the breath/blood test results in higher penalties. TRC§521.342

Get two DWIs within five years and your vehicle will be equipped with an expensive special ignition switch that prevents it from starting if you’ve been drinking.

**Strike Three (third conviction)**
- $10,000 fine
- Two to ten years in prison
- Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
- $2,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get arrested for drunk driving with a child under 15 in your vehicle, and it’s a felony that comes with a $10,000 fine, two years in a state jail and losing your license for two years.

**Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI).**
A minor commits an offense if the minor operates a motor vehicle in a public place while having any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor’s system. This is a Class C misdemeanor except if the minor has been previously convicted at least twice of alcohol-related offense. Deferred Adjudication is considered a conviction for enhancement. A Minor is not eligible for deferred adjudication on 3rd offense.

### Penalties for DUI by a Minor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th>Loss of License</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failing*</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>20-40 hours</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusing*</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Failing a breath/blood test means there was ANY detectable amount of alcohol present. Due to implied consent, refusing to take the breath/blood test results in higher penalties. TRC§521.342

http://www.tamug.edu/stulife/student%20rules/Appendix8.htm
History of St. Patrick’s Day

St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years. On St. Patrick’s Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The First Parade
The first St. Patrick’s Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called “Irish Aid” societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world’s oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants.

Each year, nearly three million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants.

“No Irish Need Apply”
Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics began pouring into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country’s cities took to the streets on St. Patrick’s Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the “green machine,” became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City’s St. Patrick’s Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Wearing of the Green Goes Global
Today, St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick’s Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick’s Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick’s Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland’s St. Patrick’s Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows.

Population Distribution of Irish Americans

- There are 36.5 million U.S. residents with Irish roots. This number is almost nine times the population of Ireland itself (more than four million).
- Irish is the nation’s second most frequently reported ancestry, ranking behind German.
- Across the country, 12 percent of residents lay claim to Irish ancestry. That number doubles to 24 percent in the state of Massachusetts.
- Irish is the most common ancestry in 54 U.S. counties, of which 44 are in the Northeast. Middlesex County in Massachusetts tops the list with 348,978 Irish Americans, followed by Norfolk County, MA, which has 203,285.
- Irish ranks among the top five ancestries in every state except Hawaii and New Mexico. It is the leading ancestry group in Delaware, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.
- A total of 4.8 million immigrants from Ireland have been admitted to the United States for lawful permanent residence since 1820, the earliest year for which official records exist. Only Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and Mexico have accounted for more U.S. immigrants.

Population data courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau.
For those who don’t know me, my name is Leticia Palomin. I am a first generation college student from the Rio Grande Valley. I enrolled into Texas A&M University with the intentions in both furthering my education and making my family proud. In the two and a half years at this institution, I have experienced a roller coaster of events that have molded me into the person I am today. I have learned, experienced and accomplished many of my goals. For instance, I have learned that no matter what your background or culture you associate with, here at Texas A&M, we are all one big family. I have experienced being homesick, cramming before an exam, to waking up five minutes before class because I pulled an all-nighter at the Annex. Even though these experiences all came new to me, it brought me great comfort to know I wasn’t the only one who went through these experiences.

Now, after five semesters of long hard work, it brings me great joy to say I have finally achieved many of my farfetched goals such as becoming the first Aggie graduate in my family, receiving my Aggie ring, giving back to the Regents’ Scholars Program, to finally graduating from Texas A&M University in December 2012 (Whoop!). Another long term goal recently achieved was being accepted into Texas A&M graduate school. I couldn’t believe my life was changing right before my eyes! Who would’ve ever known, I would be an undergraduate in fall semester to being a graduate student in the spring semester?! Unbelievable.

I didn’t have time to savor in my accomplishments because in a matter of weeks, I was already in full swing in graduate school. Even though spring semester just started, my plate is pretty full. Not only am I a graduate student, I am also the president of the Regents’ Scholars Organization, the chair mentor for a federal grant-funded academic success program called Family University Student Engagement (FUSE) that provides support for first-generation students and their families, and the graduate assistant for the Regents’ Scholars Program. What these organizations, programs, and jobs have in common is they all serve first generation college students like me.

Through these experiences I’ve held, not only gave me the opportunity to learn skills that I will undoubtedly use for the rest of my life, but more importantly they gave me the opportunity to work in what I am most passionate about: assisting first generation college students. The majority of these students are raised to be satisfied with what life gives them. For some students, the idea of going to college was never a priority. Additionally, some students do not have the family support, or are not well equipped with the college readiness they need in order to succeed. That being said, I want to be a part of making a difference with my first-hand experience and help others succeed in college and their future endeavors.

I am willing to support and advise these students every step of their college career to see them succeed. I am well aware that the positions I hold are not mandatory but just as my mentor and supervisors devoted their efforts to students like me and wanted me to succeed, just like them; I want these first generation students to succeed. Now that you know my goals and passion, I look forward to sharing more with you on our next month’s newsletter!

-Letty
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Singing Cadets Spring Concert II  
MSC OPAS presents Hooray for Hollywood |
| 2    | Men’s Basketball vs South Carolina |
| 3    | Women’s Basketball vs LSU |
| 4    | Mid-semester grades due  
Baseball vs Prairie View A&M |
| 5    | Men’s Basketball vs LSU  
Student Senate (65th) |
| 6    | Spring Break  
Baseball vs Cal State Fullerton |
| 7    | Spring Break  
Student Senate (65th) |
| 8    | Faculty and Staff holiday (University closed)  
FAFSA/TASFA Priority Deadline  
Softball vs Arkansas  
Baseball vs Georgia |
| 9    | Spring Break  
Student Senate (65th) |
| 10   | Daylight Savings Time Begins |
| 11   | Spring Break  
Baseball vs Cal State Fullerton |
| 12   | Spring Break  
Baseball vs Cal State Fullerton |
| 13   | Spring Break |
| 14   | Spring Break |
| 15   | Spring Break  
Spring Break  
FAFSA/TASFA Priority Deadline  
Softball vs Arkansas  
Baseball vs Georgia |
| 16   | Softball vs Arkansas  
Baseball vs Georgia |
| 17   | St. Patrick’s Day  
Softball vs Arkansas  
Baseball vs Georgia |
| 18   | Baseball vs Dallas Baptist |
| 19   | Student Senate (65th)  
First Day of Spring  
MSC OPAS Presents Ann Calloway |
| 20   | Passover  
Softball vs Texas State  
Baseball vs UT Arlington |
| 21   | Passover  
Student Senate Meeting (66th) |
| 22   | The Big Event |
| 23   | Singing Cadets Spring Tour III  
Student Leaders of Tomorrow (SLOT) Conference |
| 24   | Palm Sunday |
| 25   | Passover  
Softball vs Texas State  
Baseball vs UT Arlington |
| 26   | Passover  
Student Senate Meeting (66th) |
| 27   | Passover |
| 28   | Passover |
| 29   | Reading day, no classes.  
Good Friday  
Softball vs Alabama  
Passover |
| 30   | Passover  
Softball vs Alabama |
| 31   | Easter Sunday  
Passover  
Softball vs Alabama |