Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

It’s already March, meaning that many spring semester deadlines are upon us. First and foremost, make sure that you submit your 2013-2014 FAFSA. Additionally, be sure to give something back to the Bryan/College Station community by signing up for Big Event. Have fun during Spring Break, but above all, please be sure that you and your friends are being safe and smart. Until next month, keep up the hard work.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator

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**Dates to Remember!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/11-3/15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>The Big Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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.
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 number, 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.

<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.

Penalties for DUI by a Minor

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<td>60 days</td>
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<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>120 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>40-60 hours</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
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*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
Major Collections:
The Africana Collection
The Eduardo Urbina Cervantes Project Collection
The Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Collection
Texas A&M University Archives
(and many others)

Previous Exhibits:
One Hundred Years Hence: Science Fiction and Fantasy at Texas A&M (2010)
Archaeological Discoveries from the Weeks Following the Battle of San Jacinto (2009)

Current Exhibit:
Written on Stone: The Lithography and Graphic Design of Charles Criner
Deeper than Swords: celebrating the Work of George R.R. Martin (coming March 2013)

Library Hours:
Monday – Friday, 8-6
Closed Saturday and Sunday

The Cushing Memorial Library and Archives is the rare books, special collections, manuscripts, and archival repository for Texas A&M University Libraries. The collections of the Cushing Library reflect the comprehensive nature of the educational and research enterprise at A&M as well as the wide diversity of interests found among current and former students, faculty, staff and friends. By preserving and making these collections accessible, the Cushing Library, like the University, seeks to promote intellectual inquiry, cultural enrichment, and the creation and dissemination research and new knowledge. The Library serves the students and faculty of Texas A&M as well as the community of scholarship, learning, and culture beyond the physical boundaries of the campus.

The collections span the breadth of recorded history, from Sumerian clay tablets dating from 2400 BCE to contemporary science fiction paperbacks. These collections comprise over 22,000 linear feet of manuscript and archival material, approximately 200,000 printed volumes, over 250,000 photographs, hundreds of original works of art ranging from oil paintings to pastels to sculpture, and many individual artifacts. The collections include works on paper, film, tape, CD, and other media. Collection strengths and interests of the Cushing Library include military history, science fiction, western Americana, 19th-century American prints and illustrators, modern politics, Texana, natural history, Africana, Hispanic studies, ornithology, nautical archaeology, 18th-century French history and culture, Mexican colonial history, the history of books and printing, the history of Texas A&M, and selected literary collections (including Miguel de Cervantes, John Donne, Rudyard Kipling, Somerset Maugham, the Powys family, Christina Rossetti, and Walt Whitman) in addition to other subjects.
Howdy!

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

Lessons From Letty
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/