Howdy!

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 Regent’s Scholarship:

- Live on-campus
- Attend the Regents’ Scholars Orientation on Monday, August 19, 2013. The time of the orientation will be provided to you via your TAMU email later this summer.
- 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 18, 2013: Move-In Day
- August 18-25, 2013: Gig ‘Em Week
  - You will need to stay on-campus during the week to participate in the activities. Information may be found at studentlife.tamu.edu/nsp/gew
- August 25, 2013: Freshman Convocation

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

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

Casey Gros
Regents’ Scholars Coordinator

Important Reminder

The Regents’ Scholars Orientation will be on August 19th. Specific details, including location and time, will be emailed to your TAMU email later this summer. **Attendance at this TAMU email later this summer.**

**Attendance at this orientation is mandatory to maintain your Regents’ Scholarship!**

Notice!

If you change your college, you must notify the Regents’ Scholars Program. Failure to do so could result in the cancellation of your Regents’ Scholarship.

Opinion Poll

What are you looking forward to the most about attending Texas A&M University?

Send your answers to Erin Fisk with “Regents’ Review Opinion Poll” in the subject line for a chance to win Aggie gear!

Gig ‘em Week 2013

**Sunday, August 18th through Sunday, August 25th**

Gig ‘Em Week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome. Gig ‘Em Week provides students an opportunity to learn more about the campus, each other, and college life in general through a series of educational and social events sponsored by university departments, colleges, student organizations, residence halls, and community members.

Events include: Ice Cream Social, Pizza Taste-Off, Aggiefest, Freshmen Convocation, etc.

For a full list of events, please visit: http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsp/gew

You will receive a stamp-card at your Regents’ Scholars Orientation. Collect all of the stamps for the chance to win a prize!
Casey Gros
Regents’ Scholars Coordinator
casey_gros@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5379
Hometown: Richardson, TX

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

Biggest fear as a freshman: I thought I would fail miserably – that I would fail all my classes, not make friends, not get into any student organizations, and end up being a burden on my parents and on society.

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

Best piece of advice received as a student: Talk to your professors. They may seem very intimidating, but they are generally great people and can serve as a references or resources 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!

Erin Fisk
Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator
erinsfisk@tamu.edu
Phone Number: 979.458.5345
Hometown: 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 was 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.
Why should you become a member?

Howdy Regents’ Scholars! Every year the executive board for the Regents’ Scholars Organization, or RSO, works to put together general meetings, service events and social gatherings for our members. This year members can expect to make life-long friendships, learn practical teambuilding skills, gain the satisfaction of serving our community, and participate in opportunities to get involved with the Regents’ Scholars Program. We will have our first two events of the year during Gig ‘em Week. You can look forward to playing volleyball with new and returning members. We will also take a tour around campus to prepare for the first day of classes. During our fall semester we have our annual camp out, our first reverse trick-or-treating, service events such as Aggie Replant, and many more events. Our meetings take place on the first Monday of the month. RSO is not exclusive for Regents’ Scholars. Anyone can join! We encourage you to immerse yourself into the Aggie culture through RSO.

Gig’em,
Ana Davila ‘15
RSO President
rso@rso.tamu.edu

Counselors

Howdy Class of 2017! 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 website at https://sfaid.tamu.edu/regentsreview.

Visit the site 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 the Regents’ Scholars Orientation; however, you may contact any or all of the OCs.
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 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.

Offices of the Dean of Student Life: Your Aggie Connection!

The Offices of the Dean of Student Life helps A&M students make the most of their university experience by providing information, services, and programs that facilitate responsible life choices and promote awareness of self and community. Services offered by the department include:

- New Student Conferences
- Free legal and mediation services
- Alcohol and drug education programs
- Student media productions such as the Battalion campus newspaper and Aggieland yearbook
- Assistance with student absences, emergencies, and other student welfare issues.

For more information about these and other available student services, please call 979-845-3111 or visit online at http://studentlife.tamu.edu

Fish Camp

Every year 900 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 four-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 19, 2013.

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: Direct Deposit

If financial assistance exceeds the student’s total tuition and fee bill, a refund will be issued in electronic 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 the only way Student Business Services will issue refunds in the fall! 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 your 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

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

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.