**Howdy Ags!**

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 couple 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.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

The Regents’ Scholars Program staff

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**Financial Reminders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Aug</td>
<td>Fall semester billing statements available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Financial aid disburses</td>
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<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Tuition due for fall semester (5 pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Last day to add installment plan for fall semester (5 pm)</td>
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**Gig ‘Em Week Events**

- **Aug 24** - Backyard bash
- **Aug 26** - AggieFest, Gig ‘em Week Gathering & Yell Practice
- **Aug 27** - Movie & Party on the Plaza, Ice Cream Carnival, Library Open House
- **Aug 28** - StuAct Block Party, Aggieland’s Best, DMS Welcome Social, TAMU@USC Game Watching Party
- **Aug 29** - Aggieland Market
- **Aug 31** - Undergrad Convocation
- **Aug 31** - Undergrad Convocation

**Other Dates to Remember**

- **Aug 24** - Residence Hall Move-In Day
  - 8 am
  - reslife.tamu.edu/maps
- **Aug 31** - Undergraduate Convocation
  - 2 pm
  - Located in Reed Arena

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**MSC Fall Open House 2014**

Are you looking to get involved in a student organization, but don’t know what’s available, and don’t know where to start? The 2014 MSC Open House will take place on Sunday, September 7th, from 1-5pm in the MSC. The MSC Open House is “a chance to see the best student involvement opportunities the Division of Student Affairs and Texas A&M have to offer.” Texas A&M University has over 800 organizations so there is something for everyone. Most of the organizations will set up a table to help you learn more about their organization with flyers, representatives, demonstrations, or giveaways. Come out to make new friends and find your niche in Aggieland!

For more information visit mscopenhouse.tamu.edu.
Meet Your Regents’ Scholars Program Staff

Casey Gros
Regents’ Scholars Coordinator
Email: 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 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 Asst. Coordinator
Email: 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.

Student Learning Courses

Do your student habits need more “umph”? Do you know where your path will lead you after graduation? Peer Academic Services 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 slc.tamu.edu/courses.
When you live “on your own” in the dorms, there are a lot of things you take for granted. At many 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). Here is 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; rather 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!

Retrieved & adapted from “Your First Apartment – Things You Should Remember But Probably Won’t” at survivingcollegelife.com
A new academic year often times 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 hanging out with them 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 even 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 survivingcollegelife.com
### Calendar of Events August 2014

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<td>Residence Halls open</td>
<td>Aggie Soccer vs. SFA</td>
<td>Gig 'Em Week Corps FOW</td>
<td>Aggie Football: @ South Carolina</td>
<td>Aggieland Market</td>
<td>Aggie Soccer vs. South Carolina</td>
<td>Aggie Volleyball vs. Iowa</td>
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<td>Gig 'Em Week</td>
<td>First Day of Fall Classes</td>
<td>Silver Taps</td>
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