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.

Dates to Remember

- September 5: Fall semester billing statements available
- September 8: Tuition due for fall semester (5 pm)
- September 16: 12th Class Day
- September 26: Last day to add installment plan for fall semester (5 pm)

Regents' Scholars Blogger: WANTED

Regents’ Scholars Program bloggers will increase the visibility of the Regents’ Scholars Program through the creation and expansion of the Regents’ Scholars Program blogs.

Qualifications:
Regents’ Scholarship recipients are preferred
Undergraduate students preferred
Ability to effectively manage time
Ability to work independently
Minimum GPR of 2.5

For more information, visit jobsforaggies.tamu.edu.

Career Center Spotlight: Campus Recruiting

Campus recruiting in Aggieland is not matched at any other university in the US. Campus recruiting through the Career Center includes over 1500 employers coming to and through TAMU to find you! A typical job search involves you finding employers, finding the right person to send your resume to, trying to schedule interviews, and hoping to get an offer. Campus recruiting involves having employers come to the Career Center to find you and your resume, employers selecting you for interviews in the Career Center, and you having the potential of choosing between multiple offers. It’s your choice!

HireAggies.com is your ticket into Campus Recruiting, allowing you to view listings specifically for your major as well as giving you access to more than 8000 opportunities (including interview schedules, resume referrals and Aggie Classifieds).
Do you ever feel like just when you’ve finally got your act together, life throws you a curve ball? Whether it’s a hostile roommate, a sick parent, or just the demands of maintaining a healthy job/academic schedule/relationship, the shifts and changes of life can really throw a wrench in carefully laid plans.

**On a Mission**
Let’s say you’re the CEO of Nabisco. You know you’d like to make some money, but you haven’t really planned out how you want to get that done—you just know there might be Oreos involved. You figure, you’ll just wing it. How’s that going to go for you?

Probably not so well.

One of the ways big companies stay big (and successful) companies is by defining what they want—exactly what they want—and then breaking it down into small pieces so they can get there.

**You: A Definition**
It’s time to sit down and figure out what your mission statement is—in words. Start by visualizing where you want to be—in one year, five years, ten years. What do you want people to think about you? What do you want them to feel when they’re with you? How do you want to affect your family, your friends, your community, the world?

Basically, what do you want to DO with your life—NOT necessarily your CAREER—but your life.

**Write it Down**
When you’re done, write down your mission statement. It might take some finessing to get it right, but write down your mission statement. Google “mission statement” plus the names of some companies (or even your school) to get an idea of what yours might look like.

**Apply It**
So, once you’ve got your ultimate lifetime mission statement, what are you supposed to do with it?

Simply put, you apply it. Start looking at your day-to-day activities and tasks from the perspective of how it helps you reach your life mission—and think about that when you are tempted to waste time messing around on the internet or even staring at the ceiling (it has been known to happen!).

So if you felt your life mission was to effect political change, you might spend time researching, networking, volunteering with a political party, etc. If you want to make people happier, you might focus on smaller things like making a phone call to your lonely grandparent or holding open the door for someone at the cafe. If you want to write a book, you might shift your classes to focus more on writing techniques, or spend time you used to spend blogging working on a manuscript.

**Keep it in Check**
That said, now that you’re looking at life with your mission statement in mind; remember that the mission isn’t everything. Your mission statement is not a ruling force of life, but instead a reminder of where your free time could be spent. Don’t give up your job, relationships, or, uh, stop washing your laundry… Just think about your mission statement when you’re building your week schedule, or find yourself with a few extra minutes.

In the end, it’s all about making the world a better place and getting to your goals one step at a time.

Retrieved and adapted from survivingcollegelife.com/2009/11/02/prioritizing-balance-your-personal-mission-statement/
So, you want to apply for a scholarship. Or med school. Or grad school. Or a really competitive job. What do all these things have in common? Clearly, you need some awesome letters of recommendation. This is how you go about getting them:

**Do Some Legwork.** Not applying for med school for two more years? Perfect. Start networking NOW. The sooner you start making friends with the people you want to recommend you, the better your chances that they WILL recommend you. Early networking means your letter-writer will know you better, and (hopefully) be more inclined to be your advocate. Plus, they won’t feel like you’ve used them just for a letter, which, frankly, can make them just say no.

**Choose Wisely.** If you want good, solid letters of recommendation, choose people with whom you have a good rapport. (Go for the professors whose classes you have aced, not the ones who gave you a C+ on your final.) Also, stay away from asking family. Instead, try asking professors, employers, volunteer/church leaders, or long-time family friends who work in your field.

**Give Plenty of Notice.** Remember how hard it is to write a good paper the night before its due? Don’t put that kind of pressure on your letter-writers! If possible, give them at least a solid month to write your letter (and give them a deadline before the real one in case they’re late!).

**Give them Specifics.** Let your recommendation writer know exactly what you need in the letter, especially if you need them to focus on certain aspects of your achievements. If your letter-writer has never written a letter of recommendation before, be sure to give them some samples (the Career Centers is usually a good source for these, or you can look around online) and let them know about how long it should be. A too-short letter of recommendation can be almost as bad as a half-hearted one.

**Offer to Help.** Ask your letter writer what you can do to help them out. Do they need a list of your awards and achievements? Do they want to read your application essay? Try to give them as much assistance as you can so they can get your letter written quickly—and well! Providing them with a one or two page resume of your list of achievements can jog their memories, inform them of things they didn’t previously know about you and make the task a lot easier.

**Final Tip:** Ask your letter-writer to send you a digital copy of the letter once it has been sent. Keep all your letters in a folder, so that if you need to apply to another scholarship or school, you can just send the copy to your recommendation writer to sign and send off. They’ll be more willing to help you multiple times if they don’t have to search their own computer for the letter multiple times!

Retrieved and adapted from survivingcollegelife.com/2009/04/18/how-to-get-stellar-letters-of-recommendation/
HOWDY AGS!
You made a very important decision when you joined the Aggie family, a vibrant, exciting academic community that plays a large part in launching you into a successful future. This experience is like nothing you have experienced before. Learning how to manage your time, stress, relationships, finances and transitions are just a few of the college challenges you face as you learn to strive in this intense environment. To help you stay emotionally fit and increase your chances at success, the Student Counseling Service offers a variety of services and support resources.

Stress Reduction Center
Students often report stress as one of the biggest obstacles to their academic success. Signs of stress include tension, changes in sleep patterns and appetite, feeling irritable, isolation and anger. Stress can also increase test anxiety and lower the immune system. Relaxation techniques can help students learn to manage stress effectively.

Career Counseling and Assessment Services
Group and individual career counseling services can help students make informed vocational plans, choose a major, or plan for graduate study. Professional counselors can help you learn more about your interests, abilities, personality, values and various career options.

Personal Counseling
Personal counseling is a process that facilitates self-discovery and growth, and most students at one time or another can benefit from personal counseling. Counseling can help improve self-confidence, relationships, academic performance, and decision making for your overall well-being.

Group Counseling
Groups provide an opportunity for group members to learn from each other as concerns are explored together. Group counseling consists of weekly hour and a half sessions with six to ten students whose concerns are similar. See scs.tamu.edu for a list of groups and details.

Psychiatric Services
Psychiatric services are available through the recommendations of a Student Counseling Service counselor.

Learning Disability and ADD/ADHD screening
Learning disabilities are typically identified when a person’s level of achievement is significantly below what would be expected for her/his age, schooling, and level of intelligence. Screening for learning disabilities is the first step in the evaluation process. It helps determine if formal evaluation, which can be expensive, is needed.

Crisis Intervention
Students may find themselves in a crisis situation and need to be seen quickly. Students may come to the SCS for crisis intervention anytime during business hours 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday to be seen by a counselor without a previously scheduled appointment.

HELPLINE
After 4 PM on weekdays or 24 hours on weekends, students may call the HelpLine at 979.845.2700 for after hours crisis intervention. The HELPLINE provides information, support, referrals, and crisis intervention by phone.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Assessment and Treatment
The SCS offers a variety of assessment, therapy, and support for those who may be facing alcohol or drug issues.

Workshops
Each semester the SCS offers a variety of workshops that aim to enhance students understanding of self, others and their own personal success. Topics may range from self esteem, assertive communication, career exploration and personal growth.

To receive services and/or register for your initial appointment, go online to hscs.tamu.edu and click on “Register for Services.” After you complete the information requested, you will have the option of scheduling your initial appointment online. If you have trouble logging in, call 845-4427 to request help.

Confidentiality is respected to the limits allowed by law. The SCS makes no records of your visits on your academic transcripts or in a placement file. The SCS is funded by the University Advancement fee, and there are no additional user fees for services used.
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**Words of Wisdom**

“Make your life a mission, not an intermission.”

- Arnold H. Glasgow