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 scholarship:

- Live On-Campus.
- Attend the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Meeting on August 22, 2011 @ The Zone Club from 7:00-9:00 PM required.
- 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 21, 2011 - Move-In Day
- August 21-28, 2011 - Gig’ Em Week (you will need to stay on-campus during the week to participate in the activities. For more information, visit the website by clicking here.
- August 28, 2011 - Freshman Convocation, 2:30pm.

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

Thanks & Gig’ em,
Suzanne Sealey, Regents’ Scholars Coordinator

Gig’em Week 2011

Gig’em Week 2011 starts Sunday August 21st and lasts through Sunday August 28th.

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_Schedule.html

You will receive a stamp-card at your Regents’ Scholars Orientation. Collect all of the stamps and you could win a prize!

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 845-3111 or visit us on-line at http://studentlife.tamu.edu

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 person 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.
Meet Your Regents’ Scholars Program Staff!

**Name:** Suzanne Sealey  
**Title:** Regents’ Scholars Coordinator  
**Email:** ssealey@sfamail.tamu.edu  
**Phone Number:** 979.458.5378  
**Hometown/State:** San Antonio, TX

Enjoys working with students because...of seeing the transition from scared fish to students who take ownership of Texas A&M and of their futures.

Biggest fear as a freshman: overall failure...from finding a solid group of friends to making the grades; being away from home for the first time.

Favorite aspect of A&M: the friendliness... 

Best piece of advice received as a student: “Don’t hesitate to seek the answers to your questions!”

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**Name:** Casey Gros  
**Title:** Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator  
**Email:** casey_gros@tamu.edu  
**Phone Number:** 979.458.5379  
**Hometown/State:** Richardson, TX

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

Biggest fear as a freshman: That I would fail miserably- I would fail all my classes, not make friends, not get into any student organizations and end up being a burden to my parents forever.

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

Best piece of advice received as a student: Talk to your professors. They may be very intimidating, but they are generally great people, and can serve as a reference or resource in the future.

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**Name:** Erin Fisk  
**Title:** Regents’ Scholars Assistant Coordinator  
**Email:** efisk@sfamail.tamu.edu  
**Phone Number:** 979.458.5345  
**Hometown/State:** 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 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.

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**Name:** Salma Tegani  
**Title:** Regents’ Scholars Graduate Assistant  
**Email:** sabdullah@sfamail.tamu.edu  
**Phone Number:** 979.458.5423  
**Hometown/State:** Cypress, TX

Enjoys working with students because...I love seeing them grow from the unique experiences they are exposed to in college. They have a thirst for knowledge and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.

Biggest fear as a freshman: I didn’t think I would be able to balance college level work, extracurricular activities, and my personal life, but once I got my schedule and study habits figured out, all was well.

Favorite aspect of A&M: I love how friendly Aggies are, and I love getting random Howdy’s!

Best piece of advice received as a student: Read the materials you have been given thoroughly, whether they have to do with class or with anything else. You may find some useful information that’ll be beneficial to you. Also, ask questions! You never know what you may find out, and what doors you may open for yourself.

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**Name:** Asiya Bhura  
**Title:** Regents’ Scholars Intern  
**Email:** abhura@sfamail.tamu.edu  
**Phone Number:** 979.458.5319  
**Hometown/State:** College Station, TX

Enjoys working with students because...I am one and I know how it feels to have the confusion disappear when someone answers my questions.

Biggest fear as a freshman: I wouldn’t make friends but I made friends by just being the brave one and introducing myself to different people and joining clubs that I liked.

Favorite aspect of A&M: I love that there are so many organizations to join! Everyone has a chance to meet people with common interests.

Best piece of advice received as a student: Own up to your mistakes so you can learn from them.
Health Insurance

General Information

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/hlthservices.htm 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

Insurance Policies Available

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. This policy can be purchased locally through:

Dunlap Financial Services
111 East University Suite 110
College Station, TX 77841
(979) 260-9632

Policy information is available on the Internet for undergraduate students at http://www.tamuinsurance.com.

Fish Camp

Every year nine hundred 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 4 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 22, 2011. 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

Electronic Direct Deposit:

If financial assistance exceeds the student’s total tuition and fee bill, a refund will be issued in either electronic or paper 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 much faster than receiving hard checks via the U.S. Postal Service, by as much as a week! 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 the 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.
Why Should You Become a Member?

- Make lifelong friends
- Gain valuable experiences
- Pay it forward
- Participate in social and community service events
- Begin to establish your network
- Learn about college from students like you!

Sneak Peek of RSO Fall 2011 Events

- Midnight Yell
- Holistic Gardens
- Nursing Home
- RSO Camp Out
- Aggie Replant
- RSO Movie Night
- and Many More!

Contact Info

President jorge Guerra
jg08@tamu.edu

OR

rso.tamu.edu

Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors

Howdy Class of 2015! 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 site https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regentsreview 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 orientation; however, you may contact any or all of the OCs.
“Hey, I know the person who made that slideshow.”

“That’s awesome! Who was it?”

“Asiya Bhura, she’s a Regents’ Scholar like me. I’m gonna do something important too.”

That’s how you make friends—start talking about something that interests you. Another way to make friends is to perhaps join a First Year Seminar. Don’t know what that is? It’s a one-credit elective class offered only in the fall semester of your freshman year, so it’s basically a once-in-a-lifetime chance to take these classes! (inhale) The classes are so small that you get to know the students in your class really well and the instructor too, which is not a bad idea because you start networking as a freshman. If you heard this speech before or hear it soon, it’s because you saw (or will see) me at your New Student Conference (NSC). Once I read over the list of classes on fys.tamu.edu, I turned green with jealousy then red with anger and finally white with pain. I never got to take any of those classes because no one marketed them to me. All I remember from my NSC is how hot it was in my hoodie—yes readers, I wore a hoodie in August, but it was to identify myself as an Aggie for the hoodie had an “ATM” across the chest.

Though my NSC was a blur aside from that precious memory, I now think about you all and how you’ll remember your NSC. Are you one day going to be one of those students behind the resource tables? Did your parents dominate the tables or did you? Do you think about the little prizes you receive at the resource tables in Sbisa Dining Hall and how much work went into ordering, packing, setting and giving them? Each flyer, pencil and button I part with has my hard work put into it because I helped with it somehow. If not in ordering, then in giving because I don’t give those prized possessions away to just anyone; I give them to interested individuals who invest their time to listen to my wise words. Don’t believe me to be wise? Go ahead. Take one of the First Year Seminars and tell me about it at the end of the fall semester; if you don’t like your FYS, I’ll eat an olive (but not in front of you or you’ll really make me do so).

Though my experience is limited, I know that each of the instructors has devoted his or her time to the class they are teaching aside from what they are already doing. They are teaching it because they thought, “I love this subject so much, I’m going to make a class out of it!” That’s passion. And your passion for the subject or perhaps even the fact that you’re taking a first year seminar will drive that course, making it the class you look forward to during your first semester here. So take a First Year Seminar and take it with someone you met at Freshman Convocation so you can start building those lifetime friendships we all hear about.

Although this article clearly is done with your interests in mind, some of you may think that it is some disguise for advertising First Year Seminars and Freshman Convocation and thus a marketing ploy for my benefit. I applaud you. You are right. But remember that I am marketing to you because you deserve to know this much: First Year Seminars are worth it. Freshman Convocation is worth it. You are worth it.