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 the valuable information we provide to you by reading the Regents’ Review and checking your NEO 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 20, 2007 from 7:00-9:00 PM (more information will be mailed to you soon!)
- Participate in an Academic Success Program (your program is determined by your college.)
- Have financial need

In addition, to these very important requirements, there are additional dates you should mark on your calendar:

- August 19, 2007- Move-In Day
- August 19-26, 2007 Gig’ Em Week (you will need to stay on-campus during the week to participate in the activities. For more information, visit http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nsp/GEW/).
- August 26, 2007- Freshman Convocation and Regents’ Scholars Fall Reception.

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

MEET YOUR REGENTS’ SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF!

**Suzanne Sealey**
Name: Suzanne Sealey  
Title: Regents’ Scholar Coordinator  
Email: ssealey@tamu.edu  
Phone Number: 979.845.3978  
Office Location: Pavilion 210  
Hometown/State: San Antonio, TX  
Education: Texas Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Texas A&M University, Master of Science in Educational Administration

- Biggest fear as a freshmen: overall failure... from finding a solid group of friends to making the grades; being away from home for the first time.  
- Best piece of advice received as a student: “Don’t hesitate to seek the answers to your questions!”  
- Favorite aspect of Aggieland: The fact that if you open a map on campus, people will flock to you to help you find your way!  
- Favorite aspect of working with Regents’ Scholars: Seeing students succeed and earning their Aggie ring!

**Drew Smith**
Name: Drew Smith  
Title: Regents’ Scholars Asst. Coordinator  
Email: drew.smith@tamu.edu  
Phone Number: 979.845.6875  
Office Location: Pavilion 221  
Hometown/State: Detroit, MI  
Education: Wayne State University, Bachelors of Arts in English and Anthropology

- Biggest fear as a freshmen: not getting all A's.  
- Best piece of advice received as a student: “Get to know your professors: sit in the front of the class (unless they spit); introduce yourself; take advantage of office hours… make yourself stand out to them!”  
- Favorite aspect of Aggieland: The “friendliness” of Aggieland is not exaggerated!  
- Favorite aspect of working with Regents’ Scholars: Helping students fulfill their dreams of going to college feels amazing!
REGENTS' SCHOLARS PEER MENTORS

Howdy Class of 2011! We are pleased to introduce to you the Regents' Scholars Peer Mentors. The mentors will help you during the transition from high school to college.

You have the opportunity to get to know each of the peer mentors before you even arrive on campus! Profiles of each peer mentor are available on the Regents’ Review site https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review/Profiles/main.asp. We encourage you to look through the profiles and see who is from your hometown or high school. They are available for you to ask questions, help you find campus resources and be a friend.

You will be assigned a peer mentor during orientation, however, you may contact any or all of the peer mentors.

AGGIE-REFUND

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. Once signed up for this service, all refunds due to the student will be electronically deposited into the bank account that the student designates. Students may sign up for this service at http://myrecord.tamu.edu and select AggieE-Refund under Financial Resources and speed up the refund process by as much as a week.

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.

SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC TRANSITIONS GROUP

Start off on the right foot with this 9-week group designed specifically for incoming freshman students. You will learn successful time-management skills, efficient ways to study, and how to manage the various demands of university life so that college can be as rewarding as you want it to be.

Mondays, September 10—November 12, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

To discuss participation in this group with a counselor, register online at http://scs.tamu.edu before September 5, 2007. Call 979.845.4427 for more information.

TRADITIONS - GIG’EM

Pinky Downs, class of 1906 and a member of the Board of Regents from 1923 to 1933, is credited with the Gig ‘Em hand sign. At the 1930 Yell Practice before the TCU football game, Downs shouted out, “What are we going to do to those Horned Frogs?” Answering his own question, he replied, “Gig ‘Em, Aggies!” while making a fist with his thumb extended. A “gig” is a spear-like tool used for hunting frogs. The gesture became known as the first hand sign of The Southwest Conference.
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/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:

- The student reaches the age of attainment on a parent’s policy, meaning they are no longer covered or,
- The student gets married or,
- The student becomes legally independent or,
- The student is 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.

Please visit http://shs.tamu.edu/index.html for more information.

ADVISOR’S CORNER

“To Buy or Not to Buy” – Computer for College
Lydia Carrascosa ’93 & ’96, Academic Advisor
Biomedical Science

Every fall semester students wonder whether or not they should bring their personal computer from home to Texas A&M, or whether a new computer would be better suited for their college education.

Are you required to own your own computer to be successful at A&M? No! The university recommends all students have a personal computer if it is financially feasible, but it is not a requirement. The university offers a full-range of computers and equipment in the many open access labs on campus, so you should be able to find everything you need for your classes. For a list of the open access labs go to http://cis.tamu.edu/oal/labs.

If it is financially feasible to own a computer while at Texas A&M, it is recommended. A computer will be an integral part of your education. You will have to write papers, search the Internet, access email, view online class material, and, of course, keep up with all of your friends on Facebook! While there are available access labs, most students find having their own computer more convenient.

Additionally, bringing your computer from home, versus buying new, is perfectly fine. Texas A&M does not require you to own a specific model of computer. However, check beforehand that your computer has the networking equipment necessary to connect to the Internet and can run the software that you need.

Regarding software or specific programs required by your department, it is best to check with your academic advisor first. Some majors do require software and programs be loaded onto your computer. Texas A&M offers many software packages for sale at hugely discounted rates (and sometimes for FREE!) so check http://software.tamu.edu before buying anything.

If your computer breaks or is attacked by a virus contact the Computing Help Desk at 979.845.8300 for a diagnosis. The Help Desk is open 24/7 and can talk you through most problems and/or recommend remedies for your problem. For other computer-related questions such as NEO email accounts, software, etc. do not hesitate to call the Computing Help Desk anytime, day or night!
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 us on-line at http://studentlife.tamu.edu.

Q: How do you respond when someone says GIG’EM?

A: Gig’em right back at ya!

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS GROUP

Do you sometimes feel that no one back home understands what you are going through? Do you feel lost trying to figure out how to be in college? This group is for students who are the first in their immediate family to attend college. It provides support, understanding, and helpful suggestions to help students deal with the family and academic challenges unique to first generation college students. To participate in this group, please contact the SCS at 979.845.4427, to schedule an individual meeting with the group facilitators, prior to attendance at group.

WANTED: YOUR OPINION!

What are you most excited about being here at Texas A&M?

Answer this question and be entered into a drawing to win Texas A&M gear. Send your answer with REGENTS’ REVIEW OPINION POLL in the subject line.

Send to: Drew Smith
drew.smith@tamu.edu