Greetings from Erin...

Howdy Ags!

It’s already March, meaning that many spring semester deadlines are upon us. First and foremost, make sure that you submit your 2011-2012 FAFSA. Additionally, be sure to give something back to the Bryan/College Station community by signing up for Big Event. Have fun during Spring Break, but above all, please be sure that you and your friends are being safe and smart. Until next month, keep up the hard work.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!

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Sophomore Programs
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efisk@sfamail.tamu.edu

Congratulations to the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors for the Class of 2015!

And for all of you who didn’t make it this year, we urge you to try again next year.
~Orientation Planning Board

Did You Know?

More than 100 St. Patrick’s Day parades are held across the United States; New York City and Boston are home to the largest celebrations.

March Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>RSO General Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Silver Taps</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14-18</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>The Big Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Fish Fest 2011</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
On the road…
Buckle up, disco dancers! Also take turns behind the wheel, and whoever sits shotgun should stay awake to keep the driver company. Make sure everyone has a valid driver’s license and the vehicle registration is in the car before driving off.

In hotels…
Reserve a room that’s above the 1st floor but below the 6th floor. Why? First floor rooms are easier to break into, and rooms above the sixth floor are sometimes too high for fire ladders to reach. If safes are provided, definitely use them for any valuables you may have. Keep doors and sliding doors locked, and don’t let anyone into your room unless you can trust them. Make a mental note of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.

At the ATM…
Try to go the ATM in groups, but avoid getting overly complacent about safety just because you’re traveling in numbers. Also try to go during daylight hours. When you approach the ATM, do a full 360 degree scan, looking completely around you to see if anyone is hanging out where they shouldn’t be. When punching in your pin number, use your other hand to cover the keypad. Always be on the lookout for anyone suspicious. If someone is creeping you out, go to another ATM. (There are plenty of them, especially in vacation spots!)

On the beach…
Sun can maximize the effects of alcohol so keep this in mind if you party on the beach. Take it slow and stay hydrated by drinking lots of water. If you start feeling faint or light headed, get shade and water immediately. And don’t be a lobster; use sunscreen of at least SPF 15 and reapply often. Pay extra special attention to ears, nose, face and shoulders. Fair skinned friends should wear sunglasses and even a hat. Avoid sun exposure during the hottest hours of the sun’s rays and remember you can burn even when it’s cloudy.

While swimming…
Jumping into the water without a lifeguard puts you at risk. Even the most experienced swimmer can get caught in an undertow. In case you get caught in a rip current, don’t bother swimming against it. Instead, swim parallel to shore until the rip passes. Try to stay within the designated swimming area and always swim with a buddy.
Also know the flag system for water safety:
- Red Flag: Stay out of the water because of strong undertow and riptides.
- Yellow Flag: Use CAUTION in the water. There are some undertow and riptides possible.
- Blue Flag: Calm water. Swim safely.

Going out…
The cardinal rule is this: Go out with your friends, go home with your friends. It’s one of those things that keeps you a whole lot safer, and eliminates about 98% of the bad drama. This way you can look out for one another, and get a friend home who is too intoxicated to be out. Also be on the lookout for signs of predatory drugs: extreme wooziness, confusion, difficulty standing and slurring speech. If you notice these symptoms in yourself, find your friends immediately and tell them to get you outta there. If you see these signs in a friend, do your friend duty and take them back to the hotel or to a hospital if symptoms are severe.

leaving the country…
First things first: if you’re leaving the country you’ll need a passport. These are not quick and easy documents to attain, so file your application about 6 months before going on a trip abroad. Safety has a lot to do with what you pack when traveling abroad. Safety has a lot to do with what you pack when traveling abroad. Don’t bring flashy valuables (like expensive jewelry) and dress conservatively so you don’t stick out too much. And do your homework beforehand about your destination, keeping in mind you are subject to the laws of the country you visit. To get a full list of tips for traveling abroad (as well as travel warnings for certain countries) check out the Bureau of Consular Affairs website.

Adapted from “Fight Back on Spring Break”, located at http://www.safespringbreak.org/safety-tips/
Texas’ Legal Limit: The legal limit for intoxication is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). If law enforcement thinks your driving is impaired, you can be stopped and arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI) regardless of your BAC. Penalties get worse with every DWI offense.

How Much is Too Much?
Impairment begins with the first drink. Gender, body weight, the number of drinks consumed and the amount of food in one’s stomach affect the body’s ability to handle alcohol. Women, younger people and smaller people, whether male or female, often have lower tolerances.

Under 21? Don’t even think about it. You can’t buy alcohol, drink it or have it on you. Even just trying to buy alcohol can get you busted.

Punishment for Alcohol-Related Offense by Minor.
The following penalties apply for Minor in Possession Violations (MIP) which include Attempted Purchase, Purchase, Possession, Consumption of Alcohol, and Misrepresentation of Age. ABC§106.071.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th>Loss of License</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>8-12 hours</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Up to $500</td>
<td>20-40 hours</td>
<td>60 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$250-$2000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>180 days</td>
<td>Judges’ option</td>
<td>Up to 180 days</td>
</tr>
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Get two DWIs within five years and your vehicle will be equipped with an expensive special ignition switch that prevents it from starting if you’ve been drinking.

**Strike Three (third conviction)**
$10,000 fine
Two to ten years in prison
Suspended driver’s license for up to two years
$2,000 every year for three years to keep your driver’s license

Get arrested for drunk driving with a child under 15 in your vehicle, and it’s a felony that comes with a $10,000 fine, two years in a state jail and losing your license for two years.

**Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI).** A minor commits an offense if the minor operates a motor vehicle in a public place while having any detectable amount of alcohol in the minor’s system. This is a Class C misdemeanor except if the minor has been previously convicted at least twice of alcohol-related offense. Deferred Adjudication is considered a conviction for enhancement. A Minor is not eligible for deferred adjudication on 3rd offense.

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<td>120 days</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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<td>40-60 hours</td>
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<td>2 years</td>
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*Failing a breath/blood test means there was ANY detectable amount of alcohol present. Due to implied consent, refusing to take the breath/blood test results in higher penalties. TRC§521.342

http://www.tamug.edu/stulife/student%20rules/Appendix8.htm
The collections span the breadth of recorded history, from Sumerian clay tablets dating from 2400 BCE to contemporary science fiction paperbacks. These collections comprise over 22,000 linear feet of manuscript and archival material, approximately 200,000 printed volumes, over 250,000 photographs, hundreds of original works of art ranging from oil paintings to pastels to sculpture, and many individual artifacts. The collections include works on paper, film, tape, CD, and other media. Collection strengths and interests of the Cushing Library include military history, science fiction, western Americana, 19th-century American prints and illustrators, modern politics, Texana, natural history, Africana, Hispanic studies, ornithology, nautical archaeology, 18th-century French history and culture, Mexican colonial history, the history of books and printing, the history of Texas A&M, and selected literary collections (including Miguel de Cervantes, John Donne, Rudyard Kipling, Somerset Maugham, the Powys family, Christina Rossetti, and Walt Whitman) in addition to other subjects.

Major Collections:
- The Africana Collection
- The Eduardo Urbina Cervantes Project Collection
- The History of Science Collection
- The Mexican Colonial Collection
- (and many others)

Previous Exhibits:
- The Temple of Taste: Celebrating the Robert L. Dawson Collection
- The Crypto-Jews and the Inquisition in New Spain
- Don Quixote at Texas A&M

Current Exhibit:
One Hundred Years Hence: Science Fiction and Fantasy at Texas A&M

Library Hours:
- Monday – Friday, 8-6
- Saturday, 9-1
- Closed Sunday
Howdy!

You know the slogan “Welcome to Aggieland, Now Go Away”? In case you’re offended, let me explain: Texas A&M University wants you to study abroad. They’re being nice and offering you opportunities that you might not get had you not come to this university, like my second semester here. I went to Italy with my academic success program Regents’ Scholars Initiative during Spring Break my freshman year. The cultural experience began with our passports and budgets. Some of us had to order passports while others adjusted their Cost of Attendance with Financial Aid so we could afford the tickets, buy some comfortable shoes and spend money there. As the eventful week approached, we learned some Italian phrases and researched specific topics that explained Italian culture, architecture, food, etc. Our research was nothing compared to the experiences we gained there; they had Pinocchio everywhere! Only on the fifth day did it hit me that he’s Italian.

Other than the people (and the cartoons), we saw many churches and learned the architecture behind them. Our group started in Santa Chiara, visited Arezzo, took a train to Rome and ended up in Florence. The best and most stressful day was going to Rome. We woke up early so we could spend the entire day admiring the architecture in Rome and the Vatican, but lo and behold we missed our train. Apparently, we read the schedule incorrectly. No worries though because there was another train... in the afternoon. This meant we’d have to fast-walk across the busy cobbled Roman streets, run through the Colosseum and fly through Vatican City. Our mission? Get back in time for the last train to Santa Chiara. I drank from a public water fountain shaped like a lion’s mouth, my friend bought a scarf at a bargain-price and in bargain-time (2 minutes flat), my two-scoop nutella-mascarpone gelato fell onto the dirty Roman train station floor and we got back in time for our pasta in Santa Chiara. The train ride back was bliss, considering we all had blisters on our feet, which got me thinking. Italians walk a lot. That’s a cultural difference I never thought about—small but significant difference.

I hope you all look for the similarities and differences when you study abroad. Yes, “when” you study abroad. Please take this opportunity to go to studyabroad.tamu.edu to look for programs and talk to your financial aid advisor on how you can budget for a trip. It’s worth the time and looks great on your resume. Plus, you might make some friends or learn something along the way. Welcome to Aggieland, Now Go Away!

Asiya Bhura
Regents’ Scholars Intern

SPRING BREAK PLEDGE

You owe it to yourself to keep yourself safe during Spring Break. Below is a pledge adapted from the Safe Spring Break website. Consider adopting this into your pre-departure planning.

I, ______________________________, pledge to make safe and responsible decisions while on spring break. I have taken the time to consider my personal boundaries in regards to the 5 Potential Follies: Travel, Alcohol, Drugs, Sex and Crime.

Furthermore, I will make sure my parents or guardians have a copy of my important documents and full itinerary. When driving, I will wear my seat belt at all times. If riding shotgun, I will keep the driver awake. I will not allow anyone in the car to drink and drive. I will make sure any friend who is too intoxicated to be out is taken home safely. I will go out with my friends, and go home with my friends. I will respect myself by honoring my personal boundaries as stated above. While on spring break, I will obey the laws of that destination. I will not justify reckless behaviors by assuming “whatever happens on spring break stays on spring break.” I know and understand this is merely a vacation, and I choose to act responsibly. In doing so, this will be a Spring Break I won’t soon forget...in a good way.

Signed:_______________________________________
Date:________________

Adopted from http://www.safespringbreak.org/the-pledge/
This program will mentor and cultivate young leaders of today and tomorrow, and I’m proud that they will have this opportunity to serve. I want to commend all who apply for their desire to help through public service to forge a brighter future for our country. – President Barack Obama

**FALL 2011**

**WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP**

The White House Internship Program is a reflection of President Obama’s commitment to provide young leaders an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of the Executive Office, develop their leadership skills, and actively engage in public service.

**How to Apply**

[www.whitehouse.gov/internships](http://www.whitehouse.gov/internships)

A completed application includes:

- two essays
- three letters of recommendation
- resume

**Deadline for the Fall Internship Program**

**March 13, 2011**

Questions or concerns? Email intern_application@whitehouse.gov
# March 2011

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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSO General Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall/Yr. Reciprocal Exchange Study Abroad Deadline</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall/Yr Study Abroad Scholarship Application Opens</strong></td>
<td><strong>MSC Aggie Cinema Blockbuster Presents-Tron: Legacy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall Study Abroad Scholarship Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 PM Silver Taps</td>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Money Talks - FAFSA, State &amp; Federal Aid</td>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Finding Jobs &amp; Internships</td>
<td>7:00 PM - 11:00 PM MSC Aggie Cinema Blockbuster Presents-Tron: Legacy</td>
<td><strong>Summer/Fall/Yr Gilman Scholarship Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall/Yr Study Abroad Scholarship Application Opens</strong></td>
<td>4:00 PM - 5:30 PM The U.S. and the Muslim World: Where do we go from here?</td>
<td><strong>MSC Spring Leadership Trip</strong></td>
<td><strong>MSC Spring Leadership Trip</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Student Conference On Latino Affairs</td>
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*Items in red are Regents’ Scholars Organization events. For more information, please see the webpage: [http://rso.tamu.edu/home](http://rso.tamu.edu/home)*

**Check out these websites for details for the events listed, and for a more extensive look at what is coming up in Aggieland.**

[http://calendar.tamu.edu/?&y=2011&m=3&](http://calendar.tamu.edu/?&y=2011&m=3&)

[http://allucalendar.tamu.edu/MasterCalendar/MasterCalendar.aspx](http://allucalendar.tamu.edu/MasterCalendar/MasterCalendar.aspx)