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 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:

1. Live On-Campus
2. Attend the Regents’ Scholars Orientation Meeting on August 21, 2006 from 7:00-9:00 PM (more information will be mailed to you soon!)
3. Participate in an Academic Success Program (your program is determined by your college.)
4. Have financial need.

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

- August 20, 2006- Move-In Day
- August 20-27, 2006 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 27, 2006- Freshman Convocation and Regents’ Scholars Fall Reception.

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

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

Regents’ Scholars Peer Mentors

Howdy Class of 2010! 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 and click on Regents’ Peer Mentor Profiles. 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 to be a friend.

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

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. 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 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.
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.

You can register online at http://fishcamp.tamu.edu. Financial assistance is available. As a Regents’ Scholar, you may register for Sessions A-E. Session F interferes with your requirement to attend the Regents’ Scholar Orientation on August 21, 2006.

For more information, please contact the Fish Camp office at (979) 845-1627.

Get Insured!

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. This insurance is available to all students. 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.

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

Your Academic Advisor

Cathy Sperry, Senior Academic Advisor
Dwight Look College of Engineering

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.

We asked several Academic Advisors across campus what advice they would give new freshmen – here’s what they said:

Sallye Henderson,
Director of General Academic Programs

“Get to know your academic advisor. TAMU is a big campus and your advisor is an excellent source of information for helping you chart your course through the freshman year and beyond. He or she can help you with course scheduling, schedule changes, degree requirements, choice of major, referral to resources on campus and other academic concerns. If there are problems or emergencies, contact your advisor right away. He or she can provide information concerning alternatives and suggest appropriate strategies to assist you in making an informed decision.”

Summer Felton,
Academic Advisor in the Department of Agriculture Leadership

“Go and see your advisor often! We can make suggestions on classes to take, resources you can use, and direct you to opportunities available to you while you are at Texas A&M. We care about your future and want you to succeed! Academic Advisors are in their positions because they care about students and enjoy watching them progress through their college careers. Spend time getting to know your Advisor; you’ll be glad you did!”

For more information about the Regents’ Scholars Program contact Suzanne Sealey at ssealey@tamu.edu.