HOWDY FROM CASEY!
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 Regents’ Scholarship:
• Live on-campus
• Attend the Regents' Scholars Orientation on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 from 7:00-9:00pm. More information will be provided to you later in the summer.
• Participate in an Academic Success Program. (Your program is determined by your college.)
• Attend the Regents' Scholars Spring Reception.
• Have financial need.

In addition to these very important requirements, there are additional dates you should mark on your calendar:
• August 20: Move-In Day
• August 20-27: Howdy Week
• You will need to stay on-campus during the week to participate in the activities. Information may be found at http://studentlife.tamu.edu/howdyweek.tamu.edu

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thanks and Gig ‘em!
Casey Gros
Regents’ Scholars Coordinator

HOWDY WEEK 2017
Sunday, August 20th - Sunday, August 27th

Howdy Week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome. Howdy 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: Aggiefest, GatheRing, Ice Cream Carnival, MSC Aggie Cinema Movie Night, StuAct Block Party, Rec-A-Palooza, The 12th Jam, and more!

For a full list of events, please visit: http://studentlife.tamu.edu/howdyweek.tamu.edu

You will receive a stamp-card at your Regents’ Scholars Orientation. Collect all of the stamps for the chance to win a prize!
MEET YOUR REGENTS’ SCHOLARS PROGRAM STAFF!

Casey Gros
Title: Assistant Director
Email: casey_gros@tamu.edu
Hometown: Richardson, TX

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

**Biggest fear as a freshman:** I thought I would fail miserably – that I would fail all my classes, not make friends, not get into any student organizations, and end up being a burden on my parents and on society.

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

**Best piece of advice received as a student:** Talk to your professors. They may seem very intimidating, but they are generally great people and can serve as a references or resources in the future. They can really be the difference academically as well. After all, they create the exams, so they will know how to help you “ace” your exams!

Angela Diaz
Title: Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisor
Email: diazangela@tamu.edu
Hometown: Houston, TX

**Enjoys working with students because:** Their energy and motivation to push forward and reach their goals is inspiring. I want to ensure they remember their reason for being at Texas A&M so they can then graduate and move on to do great things!

**Biggest fear as a freshman:** Being just another number in the thousands of students on campus. That no one would know who I was or care about how I was doing. The campus seemed so huge and intimidating!

**Favorite aspect of A&M:** The traditions! Standing with the 12th Man during football games, singing the Aggie War Hymn, walking in silence to Silver Taps and Bonfire Remembrance, saying “Here” at Muster.

**Best piece of advice received as a student:** Get involved. After you have established good study habits, find an organization to join. Organizations can connect you with other people who have similar goals. Visit MSC Open House at the start of every fall semester. Texas A&M has more than 1,000 student organizations!
**REGENTS’ SCHOLARS ORGANIZATION (RSO)**

The Regents’ Scholars Organization (RSO), established in the fall of 2007, provides an opportunity for Regents’ Scholars to form a close-knit community at Texas A&M University. The mission of RSO is to help first-generation students with their college endeavors and to serve the community with excellence and integrity. It provides a “home” organization for its members. It strives to maximize academic and social cohesion with diligence, honesty, and dedication within the community.

**Why should you become a member?**
- Make lifelong friends
- Gain valuable experience
- 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 Upcoming RSO Events**
- Midnight Yell
- Aggie Replant
- Franklin Animal Safari Trip
- and much more!

**Want more information?**
Visit our table at the MSC Open House on Sunday, September 3rd from 12-4 pm or contact us at rsoboard@gmail.com.

- *Daisy Garcia ’18, President RSO*

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**Offices of the Dean of Student Life: Your Aggie Connection!**

The Offices of the Dean of Student Life strive to enhance your opportunities as a student to participate fully in the University experience. They do this by providing you with information, services, programs and involvement opportunities that facilitate responsible life choices and promote awareness of yourself and of your community. Each of their program areas has a specific mission, but one common goal: to provide education, outreach, and support to you. To learn more, visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on2qOgCbhj4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on2qOgCbhj4). Services offered by the department include:

- New Student Conferences
- Free legal and mediation services
- Health Promotion information
- 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 on-line at [http://studentlife.tamu.edu](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 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.

DOLLARS & SENSE
DIRECT DEPOSIT

If financial assistance exceeds your total student bill, a refund will be issued in electronic form. Your financial aid refund is to be spent on educational expenses including textbooks and living expenses for the entire semester. Remember that this will include the beginning of January for fall since you won’t receive spring funds until the end of the month.

Electronic direct deposit of refund checks is the only way Student Business Services will issue refunds to students! For directions on how to sign up for direct deposit through Heartland ECSI, visit the SBS website. Once signed up for this service, all refunds due to the student will be electronically deposited into the bank account that the student designates.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?
Financial advising is given at the Money Education Center on campus!

MEAL PLANS

All freshmen and all Corps of Cadets members that live on campus will be required to purchase a meal plan.

Freshmen: https://new.dineoncampus.com/tamu/on-campus-freshmen

Corps of Cadets: https://new.dineoncampus.com/tamu/for-corps-of-cadets

Information regarding meal plan options, dining options, locations, and hours, etc. may be found at http://www.dineoncampus.com/tamu/.
Excellence uniting Culture, Education, and Leadership (ExCEL) is a student organization and freshman involvement program designed to help freshmen find academic, social, and personal balance at Texas A&M by fostering a community where they can culturally identify. Since 1987, ExCEL has assisted freshmen in making a smooth transition from high school to college by orienting freshmen to the program through a conference during Gig ‘Em Week, cultivating relationships with peers and mentors, providing a sense of belonging through cultural engagement, offering academic support, and serving as a resource for transitioning into Aggie life.

Following the Conference, academic, social, and cultural activities begin through the close of the semester. Activities include cultural community events, seminar series covering topics relevant to students of various cultural and ethnic identities, mentor engagement activities, study halls, community service projects, and socials!

ExCEL 2017 Conference Date: August 25th
Membership Fee: $50 (one-time fee)

Register Online for 2017-2018
*If you register after Friday, August 11th you risk not being fully accommodated with conference materials.

Please contact us at ExCELCo.ED@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you at ExCEL!