WELCOME REGENTS’ SCHOLARS!

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on being named a Regents’ Scholar. We are delighted and proud to welcome you to our campus.

You are here at a great time.

More young people—like you—want to attend Texas A&M than ever before, and they come from more diverse backgrounds. Our faculty have propelled our academic programs to among the best in the country and world. We are in the midst of a new era of construction and enhancements to our existing facilities. We continue to be recognized by major publications and our peer institutions for providing an excellent education at a reasonable cost. Employers continue to seek out our graduates.

In addition, I believe you’ll find that there is a great deal of truth to the saying that, “Once an Aggie, always an Aggie.” Our students—and their families—become part of a special network that reaches around the world and offers opportunities long after graduation.

Welcome to Aggieland. I hope you’ll make the most of your time with us.

Michael K. Young
President, Texas A&M University

ADVISOR’S CORNER

Casey Gros, Regents’ Scholars Coordinator

As your Aggie begins adjusting to college life, there are a few very important resources with whom he/she should meet. An advisor, by Webster’s Online Dictionary definition, is “an expert who gives advice.” Your Aggie will want to be familiar with his/her Academic Advisor and Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisors.

An Academic Advisor, designated by the college or department, will help your Aggie select classes and guide your student through his/her academic career. Your Aggie can find his/her Academic Advisor’s contact information through their academic college or department.

Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisors offer advising and counseling on many different matters; from budgeting and personal finance to suggesting resources to remain academically successful. Your Aggie may set up an appointment with a Scholarships & Financial Aid Advisor by contacting us at 979.845.3236 or emailing financialaid@tamu.edu.

DOES YOUR AGGIE HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

The University has endorsed an Academic Health Plan. 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. The student can enroll in this plan online at tamu.myahpcare.com.

Policy information is available on the Internet for undergraduate students at tamu.myahpcare.com or by calling 877.624.7911.
**Student Questions**

**What is your name and major?**
Howdy! My name is Jose Ruiz and I am a Sophomore Communications major from Laredo, Tx but most importantly I am the loudest and proudest member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Class of 2021 (A-A-A-A-A)!!

**What do you do for fun? Do you stay at school and get involved with the extracurricular activities available on campus or go home?**
My hometown is 6 hours away from College Station, so it makes it hard to go home over the weekend sometimes. Luckily, I have always been the type of person that loves to be involved in school and there is always something to do in College Station. I am also lucky enough to be surrounded by amazing friends that make any day become an amazing one.

**What is your favorite tradition at Texas A&M?**
By far, my favorite tradition here at Texas A&M has definitely have to be the Silver Taps and what it stands for. The fact that we are able to get together and remember are fallen fellow Aggies even if we didn’t know them just makes me feel like I definitely am a part of a family outside of my own. It is definitely one of the reasons I decided to come to A&M.

**What is the biggest difference between life in high school and life in college?**
Coming to college I’ve come to realize how much time management is really important. In high school you most likely had the same schedule every day and were able to manage your time easier but in college its much different. Your schedule is going to be more different than it would be in high school. Your schedule is going to be constantly changing because you are going to have to be dealing with your classes and making time for your coursework and making deadlines while also being able to go to events for your organizations if you are a part of any. My biggest advice is to have a planner because that has become such a useful tool in college.

As a student, **What advice would you give to new Aggie parents/families?**
As a student who is already experiencing the Aggie life, I think the advice that I would give to new Aggie parents/families is to not be afraid of change and new experiences. Coming to Texas A&M I have experienced so many things and have been presented many opportunities that have changed my life for the better.

**Parent Questions**

**What most excites you about Daeja going to A&M?**
I am excited that my son decided to go to A&M because he is the first in the family to go to college, especially one that is a top-ranking university. It was definitely hard for us letting him go as a Hispanic family where we are all close and protective of our family, but we were so glad that the sacrifices we had made were paying off by letting him live his dreams.

**What are some of the concerns/obstacles you had as a parent/guardian of a new Aggie?**
Some of the concerns that I had were mainly of me being afraid of him getting sick and not being able to be there to help him get better. I also did not want him to get homesick and want to come back home but luckily, I had nothing to worry about.

**What are some of the benefits of being an Aggie parent/guardian?**
Aggie families are more united and will definitely go out of their way to help any of its members. I have met so many moms and become close friends with them just by meeting them at Aggie events. Being an Aggie mom has helped me be closer to my son even when he’s away at college by having Aggie moms help out whenever they can. I remember one time my son was sick and I knew another Aggie mom was going College Station for the weekend and she was willing to take some stuff to my son and that is a great representation of the Aggie family if I ever saw one.

**What piece of advice would you share with Aggie families?**
As important it is to stay close to their child don’t be afraid to give them their space, this is the time that they will grow as adults and citizens and get a glimpse of what the outside world is like. We were afraid to send him out to a university that was a long drive away, but I am so glad we did. Trust your son/daughter because they will surprise you. Ours definitely did.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AGGIE

by Desirae Deeton ‘19

6:30 AM MORNING BREAKFAST
12:00 PM TIME FOR SOME FINANCE
6:00 PM FINALLY HEADED HOME

6:45 AM WALKING MY PUPPY
1:30 PM LUNCH AT THE AG CAFE
7:30 PM STUDENT ORGANIZATION MEETING

7:18 AM CHECKING OUT A BOOK BEFORE CLASS
5:00 PM TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS

11:30 AM CHECKING OUT A BOOK BEFORE CLASS

REMIND YOUR REGENTS’ SCHOLAR TO:

• Check their Texas A&M email daily. The Texas A&M email account is the official communication for the Regents’ Scholars Program and faculty.

• Read the Regents’ Review, the Regents’ Scholars newsletter. The newsletter is sent monthly via Texas A&M email and will contain important information regarding their scholarship, campus resources, required events, and helpful advice from Regents’ Scholars Orientation Counselors, staff, and faculty.

• Seek help and be open to suggestions and ideas made by Texas A&M faculty and staff. We are here to provide assistance to your student through their career at Texas A&M.

• Utilize free resources offered on campus. Texas A&M provides career guidance, tutoring, academic and personal counseling, and financial counseling. In addition, the Academic Success Programs which all first year Regents’ Scholars are required to participate in, offer a variety of mentoring programs, academic assistance, and out-of-classroom learning experiences.

• Get involved. Texas A&M offers over 1000 student organizations which students are able to join. This includes the Regents’ Scholars Organization, a community organization for Regents’ Scholars.

• Find a balance. Students may need assistance in balancing school, work, and involvement.

• Budget the refund. The financial aid refund is intended for educational purposes such as books, supplies, and related living expenses. The refund should last them the entire semester. If they need assistance with budgeting their refund, they should contact the Regents’ Scholars Program staff.