A publication for family members of new students entering Texas A&M Fall 2014

NEW STUDENT & FAMILY PROGRAMS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
OFFICES OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE
On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Texas A&M University, welcome to Aggieland! Your student is joining a family of over 50,000 members. As you embark on this journey with them, the Office of New Student & Family Programs would like to keep you up to date on what is going on in the Aggie community. The Aggie Connection: Summer Edition will serve as a reference point to resources around campus, a reminder of important dates and a guide on how to make the best of your student’s experience here at Texas A&M University. If you would like to be a recipient of the Aggie Family Newsletter, a monthly electronic newsletter published by our office, please sign up at: http://parents.tamu.edu/newsletter

Our staff is committed to providing a memorable and exciting experience for both you and your student. We hope you find this information valuable and utilize it as a resource prior to your student arriving on campus this Fall. If you have any questions, please contact us using the information below.

Thanks and Gig ‘Em!

New Student & Family Programs
Phone: 979.845.5826   E-mail: aggiefamilies@tamu.edu

Connect with us!
Success in the First Year of College

At Texas A&M University, we encourage each Aggie to examine his or her reasons for pursuing higher education and to determine what he or she wants to get out of the college experience. Being a successful college student extends farther than a commitment to academics; it entails managing your time well, finding ways to connect with others outside of the classroom and making decisions that may have a lifelong impact. Your role as a family member is critical during this time. We hope that you encourage your student to seek balance in his or her life while supporting their development as self-sufficient and independent adults. Below are a few tips to help you prepare for this transition.

Family Tips:

- Encourage your student’s independence but offer support. If your student has a question about A&M encourage them to contact the appropriate office themselves.

- Allow your student to accept responsibility for their decisions. Examining disappointments and unexpected experiences can help provide clarity for the future.

- Empower your student to examine their personal values and how they connect to Texas A&M’s core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service.

- Discuss the expectations you have of your student prior to classes starting in the Fall. This dialogue will be the foundation for their next four years of college.

- Be aware of signs that indicate your student is under significant stress, taking unhealthy risks or ill; discuss any concerns with your student openly and assist them with developing a plan to address the problem.

- Form an informal support group with family members of incoming students. Together you can share ideas, swap advice and support one another throughout the academic year. The Aggie Families Facebook page or Aggie Mom’s clubs are a great way to connect with other families.

- Create a communication plan with your student. Discuss if you prefer emails, phone calls or text messages and how often you would like to be in touch with one another.

- Participate in campus and community events. Your participation supports and encourages all students as they learn, perform, lead and serve our community.

Suggested Reading:

- I’ll Miss You Too: An Off-to-College Guide for Parents and Students
  Bane and Bane, 2006

- Letting Go: A Parent’s Guide to Understanding the College Years
  Coburn and Treeger, 2009

- The Happiest Kid on Campus: A Parent’s Guide to the Very Best College Experience
  Cohen, 2010

- Don’t Tell Me What to Do, Just Send Money: The Essential Parenting Guide to College
  Johnson and Schelhas-Miller, 2011

- The iConnected Parent: Staying Close to Your Kids in College
  Hofer and Moore, 2011
Moving In: On Campus

Living in the heart of Aggieland can be one of the most memorable and exciting experiences for your student. For many, this will be their first time away from home. Below are some rules, tips and additional information to assist your student with their move on campus. For more information on move-in, please visit the Residence Life website at http://reslife.tamu.edu.

Important Dates

Fall 2014
- Halls Open: Sunday, August 24 8:00am
- Classes Begin: Monday, September 1
- Halls Close*: Thursday, December 18 noon

Spring 2015
- Halls Open: Thursday, January 15 8:00am
- Classes Begin: Tuesday, January 20
- Halls Close*: Thursday, May 14 noon

*Students must leave within 24 hours after their last final or ask for an extension through their residence hall staff.

Security

Security is of prime concern to the Residence Life staff. Outside doors are locked at all times to keep unwanted visitors from entering the buildings. Access is gained through an electronic card-access system and the university ID card. However, any security measure is only as good as the resident allows. Residents should not prop open outside doors. Residents must not allow visitors to enter the residence halls unescorted and should report any suspicious activity to the hall staff immediately.

Additionally, Texas A&M University has uniformed security officers patrolling residence hall complex areas and the Corps Quad on foot 24/7.

The Resident Advisor (RA)

The RA is one of the most helpful and resourceful fellow students that your student will interact with at Texas A&M University. RAs have been carefully selected because of their leadership potential, interpersonal skills, positive attitude and sense of commitment. As a peer, the RA provides basic information and referral services and assists residents in adjusting to campus life, including helping with academic concerns, roommate relationships, homesickness and other matters. The RA is responsible for helping residents meet one another and building a strong community on the floor. Students should contact their RA if they have questions or need assistance.

Temporary Housing

At the beginning of each semester, the occupancy of residence halls may be expanded through the assignment of students to study rooms and recreation rooms and the tripling of what are usually double-occupancy rooms. Within the first three weeks of classes, most temporary students are relocated to permanent spaces as rooms become available.

Hall Changes

If a student is not happy with his/her building assignment, they may request a hall change on the first day of class each semester. Hall changes are prioritized according to the priority date and are approved on an availability basis by the Housing Assignments Office. Changes can be requested on the Residence Life website at http://reslife.tamu.edu.

Mail and Shipping Services

Mail is not delivered to the residence hall rooms. Students must obtain a post office box which can be rented from the Commons, Hullabaloo Hall, or the Northgate Post Office. UPS and FedEx packages can be sent directly to the student via the hall name and room number. Residents must be present to receive room deliveries.

For more information on renting a mailbox from the Commons or Hullabaloo Hall, please visit http://www.tamucms.com.

For Northgate Post Office Information:
uspspostoffices.com/tx/college-station/northgate-college-station

Items Students May Want to Bring

- alarm clock
- calculator
- calendars
- camera
- cleaning supplies
- dolly (for moving)
- 15-20 foot Ethernet cable
- first-aid kit
- flashlight
- hangers
- headphones
- iron and ironing board
- lamps
- laundry detergent
- laundry basket
- linens for Twin XL bed
- personal computer
- printer
- posters and pictures
- power strip w/ built in circuit breaker
- school supplies
- reusable water bottle
- sewing kit
- toilet paper
- travel coffee mug
- towels
- umbrella, rain jacket
- wastebasket
- whiteboard/corkboard
Leasing Clauses:

Parties: Include the name of all roommates on the lease. Roommates will not be legally responsible for the unit if their names and signatures do not appear on the lease.

Lease Term: Ensure that your student knows the start and end date of their lease. Some leases will automatically renew on a month-to-month basis unless prior written notice of termination is given by the manager or the resident.

Rent and Charges: The rental amount, charges, payment method, payment due dates and penalties are outlined in the lease.

Security Devices: The residence must have a window latch on each window, a keyless deadbolt and door viewer on each exterior door and a pin lock, door handle latch or security bar on each sliding glass door.

Community Policies or Rules: Your student should ask the apartment manager to give them copy of any rules and regulations that apply specifically to the apartment complex or community.

Release of Resident: Unless there is a clause in the special provisions section, your student will not be able to be released from their lease.

Condition of the Premises: If the apartment is not in the condition expected, do not move into the apartment. Talk with the management and get all issues resolved prior to moving your students possessions into the unit.

Entering the Apartment: By requesting a maintenance repair, your student is authorizing the maintenance staff to enter their unit. Maintenance should always leave a note stating why they were there and what repairs were made.
Gig ‘Em Week is Aggieland’s official Week of Welcome. This week is full of events and opportunities for new and returning students to become familiar or reacquainted with the Texas A&M campus, fellow Aggies and the Bryan/College Station community. Gig ‘Em Week is coordinated by the Office of New Student & Family Programs and takes place the week before Fall classes begin.

Gig ‘Em 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. Currently enrolled students who participate become eligible for prizes, free food and gain valuable knowledge, insight and connections.

Below is a sample schedule of Gig ‘Em Week events that will be offered. A complete schedule of events can be found online at: http://gigemweek.tamu.edu.

**Schedule of Events:**

**Sunday, 8/24**
- Backyard Bash

**Tuesday, 8/26**
- Aggie Fest
- Gig ‘Em Week GatheRing & Yell Practice

**Wednesday, 8/27**
- Ice Cream Carnival
- Library Open House
- Movie and Party on the Plaza

**Thursday, 8/28**
- Student Activities Block Party
- DMS Welcome Social
- BTHO South Carolina Game Watching Party

**Friday, 8/29**
- Aggieland Market

**Sunday, 8/31**
- Undergraduate Convocation
Undergraduate Convocation is the official beginning of a new student’s entry into Texas A&M University’s Community of Learners and Scholars. The Ceremony is designed to establish an academic connection between new undergraduate students and Texas A&M University. Undergraduate Convocation fulfills this purpose by ceremoniously recognizing each new student for having accepted the offer to join the Texas A&M University Community of Learners and Scholars. The program communicates to students their roles both as people who learn from others and as people who contribute to the vitality of the University. The Convocation also communicates the role of faculty members as scholars, teachers and fellow members of this community through a keynote address by a selected member of the undergraduate teaching faculty. Faculty from each academic department, the University president, vice presidents and provosts, in full academic regalia, will represent the University’s involvement and commitment to the new members of the Texas A&M Community of Learners and Scholars.

Undergraduate Convocation also provides students with an opportunity to gather with their classmates, recognize the size and strength of their class, and join the Texas A&M academic community through a major campus event that parallels the joyous and meaningful commencement ceremony that will mark their graduation only a few years in the future.

Families are invited to attend Undergraduate Convocation and celebrate their students’ entry into the Texas A&M University’s Community of Learners and Scholars. New undergraduates will have the honor of sitting together on the floor and lower risers of Reed Arena to provide a sense of class strength and unity. Seating is available for families and friends in designated sections separate from new student seating but providing a wonderful view of the students and the ceremony. Signs and ushers in Reed Arena will provide directions to new students and their families.

Undergraduate Convocation will be held on

**Sunday, August 31, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Reed Arena**

Additional information can be found at [http://undergradconvo.tamu.edu](http://undergradconvo.tamu.edu)
New Family Welcome
October 17-18, 2014

New Family Welcome, held each fall, is an opportunity for family members of new Aggies to return to campus and visit students during their first semester. This weekend provides families with the chance to experience Aggieland and meet other Aggie Families! New Family Welcome Tickets include admission to the Friday Night Dessert Reception and the Saturday On-Campus Gamewatching Party. Adult tickets are $18 each and Child (under 12) tickets are $12 each. An adult Ticket must be purchased for Texas A&M University students planning to attend events.

Register online by visiting:
http://studentlife.tamu.edu/nfw

Parents’ Weekend
April 17-19, 2015

Parents’ Weekend is a time of appreciation for family members of current students by providing a weekend of events and activities in Aggieland. Throughout the weekend there will be a number of events that will show the parents of Texas A&M the essence of the Aggie Family. Hotels for this weekend fill up months in advance, so we encourage you to make arrangements as early as possible. For more information about Parents’ Weekend please visit:
http://parentsweekend.tamu.edu

Aggie Mothers’ Club

The Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers’ (Aggie Mothers’ Club) was organized in 1928 to “by individual and united effort to contribute in every way to the comfort and welfare of the students and to cooperate with Texas A&M University in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment.” Clubs typically host events for Aggie families, invite speakers from campus, and fundraise to provide scholarships or give financial support to student organizations. For more information and to locate a club near you please visit http://aggiemoms.org
These are some of the many terms used in the Texas A&M University community. They may help you understand some of the experiences that your student shares with you. A complete list can be downloaded at: http://parents.tamu.edu/tips

**Add/Drop:** The period of time when a student can add and drop courses for the semester without penalty.

**Bad Bull:** Anything that does not promote the Aggie Spirit.

**Catalog:** The book that a student uses to see which classes are needed in order to obtain a particular degree at Texas A&M University. The catalog is only available online at http://catalog.tamu.edu.

**Classification:** The level of the student: freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate or professional.

**Core Curriculum:** Classes that every student takes at Texas A&M regardless of his or her major.

**Credit Hour:** An hour of class; for example, a class that meets three hours a week will earn a student three credit hours for that semester. Please note lab classes may be attended for more than one hour a week but are only worth one credit hour.

**Cumulative GPR:** Grade point ratio for ALL classes attempted by the student at the university.

**Final Exam:** An exam at the end of the semester. These exams may be a cumulative test of all material covered during the semester.

**Fish:** Term referring to a freshman student, particularly a freshman in the Corps of Cadets.

**Flag Room:** Known as the living room of campus, it is located on the 1st floor of the Memorial Student Center.

**Gig ‘Em:** Used as a term of support, “Gig ‘Em” originated in 1930 during Yell Practice before a football game against the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs.

**Good Bull:** Anything that promotes the Aggie Spirit.

**Hold:** University holds on official registration/transcript activity by the student until they clear up the problem.

**Howdy Portal:** An application that students can use to look up class sections, their schedules, degree plans, billing statements, check for blocks, view midterm or final grades, request a transcript and more. Students should use howdy.tamu.edu to update their contact information each semester.

**Humping It:** Position taken by an Aggie while giving a yell. To do this, you put your hands on your knees and bend forward at the waist.

**Major:** Primary area of study.

**Midnight Yell:** Yell Practice held at midnight on each Friday before home football games.

**Midterm:** An exam that is taken in the middle of the semester. These exams may or may not be cumulative.

**Minor:** Secondary area of study.

**MSC:** Memorial Student Center (known as a student union at other universities).

**Q-Drop:** This is a method of dropping a class fairly late in the semester without a penalty. The student will receive a grade of Q for that class. Each student has 4 Q-Drops while at Texas A&M University.

**Quad/Quadrangle:** Where the Corps dorms are located.

**Redefined Day:** A day when a student attends classes that were missed due to an earlier holiday, like Thanksgiving.

**Registration:** Course registration period just after mid-semester for currently enrolled or readmitted students in good standing for the following semester.

**Reveille:** The First Lady of Aggieland, the official mascot of Texas A&M University and the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets.

**Sbisa:** Pronounced “sa-bee-sa”; second largest dining facility in the nation.

**Sully:** Statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, former Governor of Texas and former President of Texas A&M, located in front of the Academic Building.

**Syllabus:** Course outline presented to a class by faculty at the beginning of the semester. It includes all policies and important dates.

**The Batt:** the school newspaper.

**T.A.:** Abbreviation for teaching assistant - a graduate student who instructs one or more classes.

**Twelfth Man:** Aggies not actively engaged in a sporting event but who support the team.

**Wildcat:** An Aggie expression of approval; each class has their own.

**Work Study:** A form of financial aid that provides funding for on-campus and certain off-campus jobs. It allows students to earn money to help pay education expenses and reduce loan debt.
“If it happens here once, it’s coincidence.
If it happens here twice, it’s *tradition.*”

**Muster [Est. 1883]**
On April 21st each year, Aggie Muster is held all over the world. At the campus Muster, the 50 year reunion class and Aggies from the area come together to reminisce about their days in Aggieland and call roll for the Aggies who have passed away in the past year.

**Aggie Ring [Est. 1889]**
The first Aggie Ring made, symbolizing a senior’s welcoming into the Aggie Network. Now, almost 10,000 Aggie Rings are distributed each year.

**Silver Taps [Est. 1898]**
First Silver Taps ceremony held for University President Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Held on the first Tuesday of the month, Silver Taps honors all current students who pass away each month.

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**Bonfire [Est. 1907]**
Symbolizing the undying desire to beat the Longhorns of t.u., Bonfire was burned before the game each year until its fall in 1999. The Bonfire Memorial was dedicated in 2004 to honor the students lost or injured in the collapse.

**12th Man [Est. 1922]**
The tradition of the 12th Man began when E. King Gill left the stands for the sidelines in case the football team needed an extra player. Now, the entire student body stands symbolizing their support of their fellow Aggies.

**Reveille [Est. 1931]**
Reveille is adopted as the official mascot of Texas A&M. “The First Lady of Aggieland” is the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets. Reveille can be seen attending class and university events with the Mascot Corporal, a sophomore from Company E-2.

For more information about Texas A&M traditions, please visit: http://tamu.edu/about/traditions.html
## Mark Your Calendar

### August

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open and Gig ‘Em Week Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Aggie Football @ South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Last Day to Register for Fall Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Undergraduate Convocation</td>
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### September

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>First day of Fall semester classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Last day to add/drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. Lamar</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Aggie Football @ SMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Aggie Football vs. Arkansas (Arlington, TX)</td>
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### October

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Aggie Football @ Miss St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. Ole Miss</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>New Family Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Aggie Football @ Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mid-Semester grades due</td>
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### November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. Louisiana-Monroe</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aggie Football @ Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Registration for Spring 2015 Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. Missouri</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bonfire 1999 Memorial Remembrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Last day to Q-drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (University Closed Nov. 27-28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Aggie Football v. LSU</td>
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### December

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Redefined Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Redefined Day, Last Day of Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Reading Day, No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>First Day of Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Last Day of Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Residence Halls Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>University Closed (Until Jan.2)</td>
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### Campus Resources

- **Athletics Ticket Office**: 979-845-2311
- **Off Campus Student Services**: 979-845-1741
- **Bryan Police**: 979-361-3888
- **Student Activities**: 979-845-1133
- **College Station Police**: 979-764-3600
- **Student Assistance Services**: 979-845-3113
- **Corps Housing Office**: 979-845-3443
- **Student Counseling Services**: 979-845-4427
- **Corps of Cadets**: 979-845-2811
- **Scholarships and Financial Aid**: 979-845-3236
- **Department of Residence Life**: 979-845-4744
- **Student Health Services**: 979-458-8316
- **Disability Services**: 979-845-1637
- **Student Legal Services**: 979-862-4502
- **Corps Escort Service**: 979-845-6789
- **Transportation Services**: 979-862-7275
- **Financial Services**: 979-845-3236
- **University Dining**: 979-845-3005
- **Multicultural Services**: 979-862-2000
- **University Police**: 979-845-2345
- **New Student & Family Programs**: 979-845-5826
- **Veteran Resource & Support**: 979-845-3161

*Please note that all of our campus contacts are not listed above. Contact our University Operator at 979-845-3211 for further assistance or visit [http://www.tamu.edu/contact-us/](http://www.tamu.edu/contact-us/)*