Howdy!

The month of March means warm weather is returning to Aggieland and the campus is buzzing with excitement of the recent student body elections, Spring Break, The Big Event, Parents' Weekend, and much more! We hope this newsletter will provide you with insight about all the great activities and resources on campus and remember to visit the Aggie Family web site (http://parents.tamu.edu/) for additional updates and helpful resources.

As always, please feel free to contact the Office of New Student & Family Programs at (979) 845-5826, or aggiefamilies@tamu.edu if you have any questions.

Thanks and Gig ‘Em!
Spring Break 2014

Safety Tips

With Spring Break right around the corner, it is important to make sure your student is prepared for the week away from Aggieland. We hope these tips will help spark conversations with your student regarding their Spring Break plans so they can have fun and return to Aggieland safely!

**Safety:** It is important to all of us you student returns to Aggieland safely. Websites such as [http://www.safespringbreak.org](http://www.safespringbreak.org) are a great resource of safety tips for students as they travel. Some of these safety tips include:

- If your student is planning to drive, make sure they wear their seatbelt and share the driving responsibilities.
- When staying in a hotel, it is imperative your student use the safe (if provided) in the room to store all valuables. Always keep doors and windows locked and the shades drawn closed.
- Get cash before leaving! Students should always have some cash on them in case of emergencies on the road.
- If students will be drinking alcohol, make sure to remind them to pace their drinking and also drink plenty of water. According to a University of Wisconsin study, 75 percent of college males and 43 percent of females reported being intoxicated on a daily basis during spring break. It is important to educate your student about the dangers this poses and to drink responsibly.
- Wear sunscreen! Encourage your student to wear at least SPF 15 and reapply often.

**Travel Tips:** It can be very easy for students to head off to spring break without thoroughly planning their trip. Make sure to touch base with them to reaffirm their travel plans, hotel accommodations, and food for the week. Have them provide you contact information of other persons in their party and the number of any resort/hotel they will be staying at.

**Lock it Up:** Spring Break is a time when many students leave the Bryan/College Station (BCS) area and forget to safely secure their belongings. Remind your student not to leave valuables sitting out and to close all window blinds/curtains so you cannot see into their room. Also, they need to lock all doors and windows before leaving for the week. If no one will be home during the week, encourage them to adjust the air conditioner appropriately so they do not incur high electric bills.

**Alcohol Safety Tips:** The Office of Alcohol and Drug Education Programs would like to remind parents and students of a few important facts and tips for ensuring a safe Spring Break. While Spring Break can be a time for rest and fun, it can also be a time when students drink in excess. Be sure to talk with your students about following some general guidelines in order to protect themselves this spring break.

- Drinking and driving should never be an option.
- Stay with friends and have a sober driver.
- Enjoy the break in the best way possible: in relaxation, fun, with friends, and safe.
- Make sure to always have a plan.
- Eat a meal high in protein before drinking.
- Set a limit on the number of drinks you consume.
- Drink no more than one standard drink per hour.
- Drink water in between drinks.
- Drink within the limits of the law.
Aggie Health Hut
The Aggie Health Hut is open March 25 (10:45am-12:45pm) and March 26 (12pm-2pm) and is a chance to learn about National Nutrition Month! Students can enjoy our Student Health Services Dietitian-inspired activities! Students will have the opportunity to build their own parfait and grab some healthy snacks while they’re there! Visit the Student Health Services Calendar of Events for more information.

Grocery Store Tour: “My Plate on Campus: Tips to Create a Healthy Plate”
If your student has ever wandered the aisles of the grocery store wondering what to pick or is trying to plan healthy meals and snacks but don’t know what to choose, they can join Meghan Windham, MPH, RD, LD as she walks through the local HEB on Holleman Drive, and shows students how to shop efficiently, healthy, and smart! A small fee of $5 gets students a reusable grocery tote, lots of coupons, and the opportunity to sample tasty recipes! Students can visit shs.tamu.edu/events to sign-up and reserve their spot today! March 19: 10:30am - 12:00pm; March 20: 11:00am - 12:30pm.

There will also be a virtual tour through the grocery store to show students how to shop efficiently, healthy and smart! Students will learn how to navigate the store and sort through marketing gimmicks to make the best choice. Get your cart, and let’s go! March 5: 5:30pm-6:30pm; Rec Center, Room 281.

The Big Event
In 1982, Joe Nussbaum, then Vice President of the Student Government Association at Texas A&M University, started The Big Event as a way for students to say “Thank You” to the surrounding community. Nussbaum envisioned a one-day service project where residents of Bryan and College Station would be shown appreciation for their continued support of Texas A&M University students during their college careers. Mr. Nussbaum viewed The Big Event as a means for students to show their gratitude by completing various tasks at area residents’ homes. Joe believed that it was the least the students could do to give one big thanks to their community on one big day each year.

Today The Big Event accomplishes Nussbaum’s vision and provides the students of Texas A&M with that opportunity to say “Thank You.” In 2013, over 17,500 students volunteered to complete almost 1,500 jobs, performing tasks that range from painting, to yard work and cleaning. Already the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, The Big Event has expanded to 75 other schools across the nation. In 2009, President Obama presented the Point of Light award to The Big Event recognizing the work and participation of people making extraordinary differences.

The Big Event is one of the fastest growing traditions at Texas A&M and directly reflects the core value of Selfless Service. To learn more about The Big Event visit http://bigevent.tamu.edu/

This year’s Big Event is March 29th!
Campus Events
March 2014

Stark Galleries:
The Floating World
Ukiyo-e prints from the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Tour Management by Smith Kramer Traveling Exhibitions, Kansas City, Missouri.
January 10 to March 23, 2014

The Curious World of Patent Models
January 17 to March 30, 2014

Kabuki Animated Film
Wednesday, March 5, 9:00 am—7:00 pm
The Demon Attacks! An Anime film based on Ukiyo-e art, the film will play on a loop in the Education Gallery of Stark Galleries in the MSC.

Fuzzy Logic Competition
Wednesday, March 19, 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Fuzzy Logic: Teams will compete to build a complex contraption that performs a function. For contest entry and rules see http://uart.tamu.edu/fuzzy_logic

Forsyth Galleries:
Come to the Table: American Pressed Glass
January 11 through April 6

Aurene: Steuben’s Iridescent Art Glass
January 10 through April 6

Open Mic Night Saturday, March 22, 6 to 9 pm
Be sure to check our online calendar regularly for news about programming and special events. Join us every third Thursday from Noon to 1:00 for our Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture, February to May and September to November. http://uart.tamu.edu/campus-art-calendar

University Art Galleries Department
1120 Memorial Student Center
(979) 845-8501
http://uart.tamu.edu

As your student hits the middle of the semester, they may find themselves needing extra guidance and support. If they haven’t already connected with a mentor on campus, we highly recommend they utilize our Mentors program! Mentors allows students to connect one-on-one with faculty and staff members from Texas A&M University.

Encourage your student to visit our Mentors Online Matching System! mentors.tamu.edu
Campus Safety

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

On Wednesday, January 22, 2014, The White House announced an initiative to combat sexual assault on college campuses bringing to light an issue that affects thousands of young people every year. This action by The White House is the latest in a series of federal legislation and guidelines over the years intended to address the problems associated with sexual violence on our college campuses. Here is a brief recap of those actions:

• In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments revised federal funding laws to prohibit sex-based discrimination in higher education.
• In 1990, the Clery Act amended federal financial aid laws to require all participating postsecondary institutions to disclose campus crime statistics and security information.
• In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) established federal legal definitions of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
• In 2001, the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) provided guidance for colleges and universities “to ensure that employees are trained so that those with authority to address harassment know how to respond appropriately, and other responsible employees know that they are obligated to report harassment to appropriate school officials.”
• In 2011, again OCR came out with additional guidelines that reiterated Title IX’s guarantees that all students receive an education free from sexual harassment and violence. OCR also recommended that “all schools implement preventive education programs as part of their orientation programs for new students, faculty, and staff.”
• In 2013, the Campus Save Act amended the Clery Act to mandate extensive “primary prevention and awareness programs regarding sexual misconduct and related offenses.”

All in all, the message is clear. We must educate our students on the topics of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. We must provide them with the resources and options for any situation involving sexual misconduct. As Aggies, we must be willing to assist those who may be afraid to come forward or who may not know where to turn for help. The following is one piece of education that we wish to share with you in hopes that you will share it with your student – even if they have heard from you before or if they have heard it from us in any number of ways we’ve chosen to share it here in Aggieland. It is a message that cannot be shared enough.

Resources, Rights, and Options in Cases of Sexual Harassment & Sexual Assault

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when this conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it explicitly or implicitly affects an individual’s employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, or hostile work or educational environment. Sexual assault is often thought of as something that only happens to someone else. An individual who has been victimized by a person he or she is familiar with may know that he or she was forced to have sex without her consent or approval, but he or she may not recognize the fact that it was indeed sexual assault. Acquaintance rape is committed by a friend or acquaintance using force, threats, or intimidation. It is an act of violence utilizing power and control over another.

A student who has been a victim of sexual harassment (including sexual misconduct or stalking), domestic violence, or dating violence, whether it occurred on or off-campus, has certain resources, rights, and options available. A student who witnesses, is subjected to, or is informed about incidents of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence), and/or related retaliation has the option to file a Title IX complaint to the designated official on the next page who handles alleged violations perpetrated by students, faculty, staff, or unrelated third parties.
### Campus Safety

**Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the alleged offender is a:</th>
<th>Then the official contact is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Student (undergraduate, graduate, professional)</td>
<td>Dean of Student Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Student Employee</td>
<td>Cain Hall, B117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Station, TX 77843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TAMU Mail Stop 1257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Studentlife@tamu.edu">Studentlife@tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>979.845.3111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty Employee</td>
<td>Dean of Faculties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduate/Postdoctoral Student working in Academic Affairs</td>
<td>108 YMCA Bldg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Station, TX 77843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TAMU Mail Stop 1126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:DOF@tamu.edu">DOF@tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>979.845.4274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-Faculty Employee</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Graduate Student or</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Postdoctoral Student working in other areas</td>
<td>750 Agronomy Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College Station, TX 77843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TAMU Mail Stop 1255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Employee-relations@tamu.edu">Employee-relations@tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>979.862.4027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources including advocacy, counseling, health and medical services, and legal support are all available at the University. Students may also have access to interim measures (e.g., change in housing, class schedules) that may be needed until the resolution of the complaint. The confidentiality issues surrounding complaints of this nature are supported as fully as possible for all parties involved. For more information or support, contact any of the following offices:

- Student Assistance Services; 979.845.3113; sas.tamu.edu
- Student Counseling Service; 979.845.4427; scs.tamu.edu
- Student Health Services; 979.458.8250; shs.tamu.edu
- University Police Department; 979.845.2345; upd.tamu.edu
- Women’s Resource Center; 979.845.8784; wrc.tamu.edu

### Offices of the Dean of Student Life Spotlight:

Did you know… One of the most important things you can do to help your student make healthy and informed decisions, especially when it comes to alcohol and other drug use in college, is to stay involved. You should plan to talk to your son or daughter frequently to keep the lines of communication open.

Alcohol and Drug Education Programs (ADEP) promotes responsible decision making regarding alcohol and other drugs to the Texas A&M University community through educational programming, outreach and support. This includes presentations, workshops and programming such as Safe Spring Break. To learn more, visit studentlife.tamu.edu/adep

For more information about services provided by the Offices of the Dean of Student Life visit: studentlife.tamu.edu and “like” the Offices of the Dean of Student Life on Facebook!
Upcoming Dates and Announcements
March 2014

Academic Calendar
March 3: Mid-semester grades due.
March 10-14: Spring Break.
March 13-14: Faculty and Staff holiday, University Closed.

Save the Date! Parents’ Weekend 2014, April 11-13
Parents’ Weekend is fast approaching. If you have not yet booked a hotel for the weekend, you should do so now! See http://www.visitaggieland.com/ for information on local accommodations.

The April Quick Connection will include full details of events happening during Parents’ Weekend. The schedule will also be available at http://parentsweekend.tamu.edu/.

For Corps of Cadets parents who have attended in the past, please note Pass In Review now takes place on Friday evening, not Sunday morning.

https://www.facebook.com/TAMUParentsWknd
https://twitter.com/TAMUParentsWknd
#howdyparents

March Home Games

Aggie Softball
March 7 vs. Missouri 7:00 pm
March 8 vs. Missouri 4:00 pm
March 9 vs. Missouri 12:00 pm
March 18 vs. Northwestern State 6:00 pm
March 21 vs. Georgia 7:00 pm
March 22 vs. Georgia 4:00 pm
March 23 vs. Georgia 12:00 pm

Aggie Baseball
March 5 vs. Texas Southern 6:35 pm
March 7 vs. Louisiana Tech 6:35 pm
March 8 vs. Louisiana Tech 6:35 pm
March 9 vs. Louisiana Tech 1:05 pm
March 11 vs. UTPA 6:35 pm
March 12 vs. UTPA 3:05 pm
March 18 vs. Columbia 6:35 pm
March 21 vs. Florida 6:35 pm
March 22 vs. Florida 2:05 pm
March 23 vs. Florida 1:05 pm
March 25 vs. Sam Houston State 6:35 pm

Do you know other members of the Aggie Family who might want to receive this newsletter? Please feel free to forward it to them, or tell them how to sign up for the listserv.
Visit: http://parents.tamu.edu/listserv for instructions to subscribe/unsubscribe

Click here to unsubscribe from the Quick Connection Newsletter.