

NEW AGGIE NEWS

Tradition

Highlight



Yell Practice began as a post dinner activity in 1913, when different corps companies would gather together to "learn heartily the old time pep."

However, it was not until 1931, that Yell Practice as it is known today, was held before the t.u. game. It began, when a group of cadets were gathered in Peanut Owen's dorm room in Puryear Hall. Someone suggested that all of the freshmen should fall out and meet on the steps of the YMCA building at midnight. The cadets notified senior yell leaders Horsefly Berryhill and Two Gun Herman from Sherman, who could not authorize it, but said that they may just show up.

Well, needless to say, the word spread quickly, and when the freshmen began to arrive, there were railroad flares and torpedoes stuck in flowerpots around the YMCA building to light the area. The first Midnight Yell had begun!

Today, Midnight Yell is held in Galveston on the Thursday night before the main Midnight Yell (held on Friday) at Kyle Field before any Home game.

Feedback Survey

A New Aggie Survey
A survey was sent out to all new undergraduates on Tuesday, September 3rd. This survey is a critical component of our assessment efforts to gauge the impact of various components of Student Success. We estimate it should take students approximately 20 minutes to complete.

We know from past experience that students are *far* more likely to complete surveys if they are asked to do so from someone they know. So please encourage your Aggie to do so!

Howdy Aggie Moms/Dads/Family/Supporters!

I hope this note reaches y'all in a good place. I'm sure you're settling in to your newest reality of having a college student back in school and out of your hair. For some, it's great because you can finally have that crafting room/man cave/she-shed you've always wanted! For others, the experience is a little different, because your "little one" is suddenly inescapably no longer all that "little." And for most, it is a nice mixture of those realities; you can miss them *and* convert their bedrooms to the office you've always wanted.

Just as you are settling into your new reality, it is good to remember that they are as well. This is around the time of year where the high of a new space, with new friends, and SALT Camp, and Howdy Week begins to wear off, being replaced with the reality of assignments being due and readings that are *actually* required. As such, we wanted to reach out and share some tips we at Campus Living & Learning have gleaned over the years from students, parents, professionals, and research.

1. Stress is real. Whether it is a big stress of a test or a break-up with your long-distance significant other, or a million little stresses of new friends, mosquitos, allergies, lost Student ID Cards, running out of toilet paper, it all adds up. **Where do you come in?** Support them. Let them vent. Let them complain. Try to resist the urge to "fix" it for them. Stress will be ever present in their lives. Your student will need to learn and develop the coping mechanisms to deal with these in a healthy way. Reinforce that. Let them know you have their backs, but that you know they can do this. As always, if necessary, work with them to get access to campus support. We are all on the same team. Help us help them!
2. Roommates are fun! This is also a time of year when the "new car smell" of a new roommate begins to wear off and both parties start being "real." Maybe your student isn't actually as okay with everyone drinking their milk as they thought they were? Maybe your student's definition of "clean" isn't the same as their roommate's? There will likely be some conflict. Even the BEST of roommates have it. Your student may talk to you about it. They may not. **Where do you come in?** Give them perspective. Talk to them about your old roommates and relationships. Help them see that sharing space with another adult is a skill they need to develop. Help them communicate. Role-play. But remember *they* need to do the communication –and I cannot state this clearly enough- if you find yourself talking to your student's roommate about anything more intimate than a planning a surprise birthday party/cake delivery, you're easing into dangerous territory. If there is roommate problems you don't believe they can solve, make sure your student comes and talks to housing staff (early in the process, if possible). That's what we do!
3. Involvement. There are so many opportunities available on campus. Sometimes, it can be overwhelming. But encourage your student to get out and experience what is going on. We concentrate our events and activities on supplementing their education. It is not always enough to just have a degree from a top-flight, AAU University like Texas A&M anymore. Your student will need a resume. Engaged students are happier, more likely to succeed and access available resources, and almost always have better grades than their less involved peers. It's win-win-win! It's important for students to bite off what they can chew, but it they also want to take advantage of the opportunities unique to this time in their lives. **Where do you come in?** Encourage them to get involved. Ask them what they're doing this week, what club meetings they've gone to. If they don't have a club they like, did they know they could start their own? We can help them do that! Every club we have was started by a student that saw a need and decided to meet it. They also made a lot of friends and contacts while doing it (and they put a big bullet on their resume at the same time!).

I hope these tips help –if you need them. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you need anything.

Gig 'em!

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Advice from an Aggie Mom

Through the year we will be reaching out to our Aggie Moms to give their advice and experiences on some topics we see occurring from our first year students. This month we asked our Aggie Moms about how they helped their students deal with their college transition and possible homesickness. Here are what a few of them had to say on the subject"

"Don't try to control their lives from afar- it adds to the stress. My Aggie on a recent Facetime was telling me about adjusting to her class schedule and finding time to eat lunch. Instead of offering advice on time management, I asked, what do you want me to do to help you?"

She said send snacks- she had it figured out but needed to vent. On the homesickness, I try to Facetime anytime I can even if it's for a minute or two just to check and tell her what's happening at home- including the pets, neighbors and cousins. Over labor day we did a whole family Facetime from the barbeque my Aggie was missing out on- we put my phone on the patio so she could see and talk to everyone and could still be a part of the party."

"Definitely let them know that you are there to listen. I would start each call (that I could tell was an "issue" call) asking mine if she just wanted me to listen or if she was calling for advice. Sometimes they want our advice! If that was the case I would ask what solutions she had already come up with and talk through it. If she just wanted me to listen, rather than spend the time thinking of solutions or how to help I would just be empathetic."

"We set regular times to talk (like walking to class on a Tuesday after breakfast or end of classes on Thursday). We had a family group text (important the semester we had one in Korea, one in Italy, and one in Texas). We would also take pics and text them when someone said "Tell them Hi!". Send surprise packages, even if it's just their favorite munchie but especially if it's a family tradition."

"One of the things I've seen over the years is students needing someone to talk to for guidance and help other than a parent. Many students aren't aware of the Counseling Center that's available on campus. Whether it's homesickness, acclimating to college life, missing a girlfriend, boyfriend, family, or pet, they're there to help."

If you are interested in getting more involved with the Aggie Moms feel free to check their website out:
<https://galvestonaggie moms.ch2v.com/>

Family Weekend is just around the corner! Register before the **price increase on October 4th**! For all information and a link to registration please visit: <http://tamug.edu/familyweekend/>

SAVE THE DATE!

FAMILY WEEKEND OCTOBER 18-19, 2019

For more information: www.tamug.edu/familyweekend or contact
Derrick Ford, familyweekend@tamug.edu or 409-740-4557



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
GALVESTON CAMPUS.



NEW AGGIE NEWS

Important Upcoming Dates!

September 17, 2019

Hard Drop; Student will be removed from the rolls of the University if payment in full has not been made or the 2nd installment payment has not been made. If students are hard dropped, in order to reenroll in their classes, they must pay the entire amount due plus a \$200 reinstatement fee before they can return to their classes.

October 11, 2019

3rd Installment Plan payment Due

November 8, 2019 –

4th Installment Plan payment due. If the students bill is not paid in full by November 8, 2019, they will be blocked from registering for Spring 2020 classes.

Getting Involved!

Organizations Night, the student organization fair hosting more than 70 clubs and organizations where students can learn about opportunities for involvement, took place on Tuesday, August 27. Following Organizations Night is a period of recruitment, informationals, and selection processes for these organizations. As such, many of our first year students are diving into application processes for student organizations they may want to join. With Organizations Night being so large, some of our first year students might be feeling a bit overwhelmed with the plethora of options available to them.

For students who might prefer to explore involvement opportunities on their own terms, the [Wheelhouse](#) can be a great resource. This site allows a student to search for opportunities by keyword or category. We encourage you to share this information with your students!

Transitioning to College

It is natural for both parents and students to be excited and anxious about the next chapters of “college days”. Parents worry sometimes about the success of their students. As well as students worry about being successful, fitting in and making good grades. Every student is different and they are entering college with various experiences from high school or transferring in from other college experiences.

You may be communicating with your student often (hopefully not too often!), and when you do communicate, you listen carefully to what is or is not being said. You are trying to decipher how they are doing away from home.

There are signs that you can watch for and listen for to indicate that they may be struggling with their college experience. Students may just be making natural adjustments to living away from home, or they may just be experiencing a “passing mood or phase” that will eventually work itself out or it may be something more serious. Be careful not to jump to quick conclusions, but be aware of various, multiple signs.

What signs of trouble can you watch for?

College students for the most part are resilient. What is a crisis today can pass in a day or two. As a college parent, you should expect to see/hear some of these behaviors at times, but notice whether you see several of the following indications that persist:

- Students calling home a lot (outside the norm first few weeks)
- Students never call home. If you as a family have agreed on reasonable amounts of contact and your student does not comply. Talk to them about it. It’s possible they are just busy, happy and just forgot
- Your student wants to come home a lot, or when they do come home they are resistant to returning to school.
- Your student is negative about everything
- Your student is not participating in any activities or groups at school. Or not making any friends. College is a total experience. Studying is important, but your student may not be adjusting well outside of the classroom.
- Your student is not going to class
- Your student is not completing assignments and things
- Your student is getting low grades
- Your student has had a significant weight change (loss or gain).
- Your student may be struggling with past events (physical, emotional or psychological/mental challenges or trauma) that happened prior to entering college.
- You sense that there are problems, but your student is not sharing them and is not seeking help. Your parental instinct or gut feeling may suggest something is up. Perhaps suggest they get academic help, or counseling staff on campus.

College life is stressful on many levels. Students are learning to be their own problem solvers and critical thinkers. They may just be adjusting with the change or they may in fact need more guidance from a college professional or a parent or even a mentor that they trust. Please contact our Counseling and Career Services office for additional support at (409)740-4736 or our For Student and Parents section see website: <http://www.tamug.edu/counsel/>

Helpful Academic Resources

TAMUG has a wide variety of resources to help first-year students succeed academically – Though renowned and heralded across campus, students may need timely reminders about these services. For example, first-year students often benefit from:

The Commons: Learning, Research, & Teaching

In the Jack K. Williams Library

- Get ahead with Course Support for homework help and Guided Group Study
- Checking out textbooks through the Textbook Access Program
- Develop research and writing skills with [Library & Writing Support](#)
- Discovering Research programs and Honors Programs
- Reserving study room
- Using the Studio to record a video or podcast

SLC: Seibel Learning Center

On floor 2 of MAIN

- Plan for the future with an Academic Advisor
- Develop your academic skills with an Academic Coach
- Discuss success strategies with a Peer Mentor
- Connect with first year students and issues with Hullabaloo U Programming

The Commons is here to help students connect their learning with these and many more resources. Located at the center of campus, The Commons houses the Learning Commons, Teaching Commons, and Research Commons and supports Honors Program and the Undergraduate Research Program. These services are centered on student and faculty learning and improvement and offer instruction for individuals, small groups, and classes through tutoring and workshops.

The SLC aids students in transitioning to college, navigating through their program, and connecting with their future goals. Our goal is to provide students the information and support needed to become skillful, self-directed learners. This includes educating students on how to navigate an ever-evolving learning environment, coaching students on effective learning behaviors, connecting students to high impact opportunities, and providing individualized solutions to ease student transitions.

Student Success in the First Year

Dear Aggie Family,

So what does success look like in the first year? We define five major goals. If you consider these goals as the big picture, it will help you to have good conversations with your student. Ask your student for examples or ideas how they might move toward these goals:

1. **Community formation & belonging**
2. **Increased awareness of campus resources**
3. **Develop skills to achieve personal & academic goals**
4. **Contribute to a diverse & inclusive environment**
5. **Build major commitment & define marketable skills**

Here is to a “successful” first semester! For a more detailed message on the “Student Success Initiative” and your student, please click [here](#).

Gig Em,

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