Welcome to Michigan! I know when I was sitting where you are now I just couldn’t hear those three words enough. You have started your new adventure here and we hope it is living up to your expectations. I also know there is a good chance it’s exceeding a lot of them. This could be good, the beauty of campus, the prestige of professors, and the solidarity of wearing a block M. This can also be bad, courses are harder than you expected, readings take forever, and exams haven’t even started yet! But there is more good news, that’s exactly why we, your TC mentors, are here. Don’t forget to reach out to your mentor in the coming weeks if you need advice or just and excuse to get out of the library. Also get connected with other mentees by joining the University of Michigan Transfer Connections Facebook page.  Go Blue!! -Karen Maste

Fall in Ann Arbor

Football, Frisbee on the diag, squirrels hoarding nuts, and people desperately trying to wear shorts in the last warm days. Yes, fall is upon us in Ann Arbor and it is glorious indeed! Soak in the sunshine, bright colors, and clear blue skies while they last and make excuses to spend time outside. Check out these awesome places where you can enjoy A2 in all of it’s glory...
Nichol’s Arboretum: Referred to as “The Arb” by students, this is one of the most beautiful parts of campus. There couldn’t be a better place to go for a picnic, study, take a walk or go on a bike ride; take in the sun and the beauty all around you. There’s no other place like it on campus!

The Big House: While football will carry on, rain or shine, snow or not, there is an entirely different feel to the Big House when the sun is out, the air is warm, and everyone is jumping up and down in excitement! The incredible school spirit that overwhelms as you sing “Hail to the Victors” at the top of your lungs after an amazing play. Can’t make it to a game? Take a Saturday afternoon to grill some burgers and hot dogs with friends, and watch the game on a big screen somewhere!

Kerrytown: A classic part of Ann Arbor, located off of Fifth Avenue in downtown. Here, you can explore the shops, check out the Farmers’ Market (Wednesdays and Saturdays 7 am – 3 pm), the Artisan Market (Sundays 11 am – 4 pm), or eat at Ann Arbor’s famous deli, Zingerman’s.

Main and State Street Areas While everything around both Main and State Streets will still be there through the winter, taking a day to explore while the weather is beautiful makes for a great time! Whether it’s window-shopping, people watching, exploring a used bookstore, or trying a snack from one of many places to satisfy your sweet tooth, you will enjoy yourself and learn more about Ann Arbor and its uniqueness.

Stay healthy and stay outdoors
Physical activity is always important, but some outdoors activities are exclusive to warmer weather. The most common option for physical activity is going to the University’s Fitness and Recreational centers including the CCRB, NCRB, and IMSB where they have gym equipment, as well as pools in select facilities. Other Options:

*UMich Rec Sports: Join a recreational sports team! General website: [http://www.recsports.umich.edu/](http://www.recsports.umich.edu/)

*M-Rock Climbing Wall: whether you have always enjoyed rock climbing or want to try it for the first time, MRock offers the opportunity to rock climb. A $5/day fee covers all rentals and access to the rock walls. Located inside the IMBS building. Website: [http://www.recsports.umich.edu/outdooradv/climbing/](http://www.recsports.umich.edu/outdooradv/climbing/)

*UMove Fitness Classes: stay fit while doing fun activities! Classes offered include yoga, swimming, pilates, tae kwon do, dance aerobics, kickboxing, and many more!

*MHealth Personal Training: personal training is available if you are interested in getting a personalized plan. For more information visit [http://hr.umich.edu/mhealthy/programs/activity/personaltraining.html](http://hr.umich.edu/mhealthy/programs/activity/personaltraining.html)

*Outdoor Adventure: Rents gear for an assortment of outdoor activities, such as kayaks, tents, sleeping bags, rock climbing gear, etc. Outdoor Adventure also offers very cool trips that allow you to get out of Ann Arbor for a weekend while also getting in touch with nature for hiking, backpacking, caving, cross country, dog sledding, kayaking, and more!
HUNTING FOR HOUSING

By Elsie Peng

Housing Games...seems the odds are NEVER in your favor.

As a transfer student it’s hard enough to acclimate to school and establish your social network; how are you suppose to sign a lease in November with people you’ve probably just met who you have to live with a year from now!? Never fear, we’ve played this game and have some advice.

Strategic advantage...be in the know!

According to the city Ordinance No. 7-06, landlords cannot show their properties until 70 days of the current lease period has passed, which likely falls sometime in mid-November. However, many leases sign on the day of showing if not very shortly after. Not to scare you but you should start your search now if you plan on living off campus and want decent location at a reasonable price. Any AA veteran would tell you to start as early as possible since the best locations go fast!

Choose Your Weapon

*U of M’s off campus housing website (http://www.offcampus.housing.umich.edu/lt/index.cfm) is probably the most comprehensive database to search for an affordable and comfortable place. You can conduct your search on a variety of variables, including rent, bedrooms, furnishings, utilities, parking, etc.

*Ann Arbor/University of Michigan Guide (http://www.johnwcooper.com/annarbor/offcampushousing-universityofmichigan.htm) is a website that contains a lot of local housing companies’ information. You can link yourself to these companies and start searching for properties that you are interested in.

*Beyond the Diag (http://offcampus.umich.edu/beyonddiag ) This is an organized student co-op which houses interested students in certain neighborhoods around campus. This is a great way to easily get connected if you don’t know enough people to sign a lease independently.

*Cripspot.com- Started by students for students!

*Craigslist (http://annarbor.craigslist.org/) is especially great for finding and posting sublets. Be-ware of bad deals and fraud, though.

* Embark On foot! Although it seems old-fashioned, it works and it can be fun! Checking out places on foot is a great way to see if you will enjoy neighborhood. A lot of places have the housing agency’s contact information posting on the wall. Call the agency if you are interested in and you can even find out about more housing options from there.
You’ll Need To…

Get organized!

**M-Planner** - One thing I like to do, is going through and marking down all my important dates! The calendar always helps on getting a perspective on how much time I have to study.

**UM + Google** - This is a GREAT resource, you can set reminders/alerts on your Google Calendar for whenever you want to make some time to study, or see holes in your schedule were a quick study session might fit in. I personally use my Google calendar as a planner, I can see all my obligations in one place!

**Get Help!**

**On-Campus Resources** - You can bet money on the fact that every department will have tutoring or at least a center to help you with homework. Visit a department’s website (just google the department + umich, it should be the first link). Some examples of on campus resources are:

**Sweetland Writing Center** - For those times you need an extra set of eyes to proofread, or if you’re stuck on starting on a prompt, SLC/Science Learning Center-located in the Chem building, the SLC is always busy with the bustling of students trying to tackle Bio or Chem classes, this center is a great place to study (alone or with friends) and it also provides peer tutoring! http://www.slc.umd.edu/slc,

**Classroom** - Think about it, everyone in your class is going through the same work/schedule as you, most students are more than willing to study outside of class for doing homework or just getting ready for a midterm. If you’re the shy type no fear! A simple email to your GSI will also be extremely helpful if you are having trouble with the course material. Some GSIs were past wolverines too and they can have some very helpful tips.

**Don’t go Hungry!**

For those late night study sessions, its good to know where you can go to grab a quick bite, or if you just looking for some extra energy. Good news! Here on campus, almost any ‘hub’ offers extended hours.

*If you’re studying at any of the libraries, you can take advantage of U-go’s at Pierpont Common that has weekday hours until 1 am! Similarly, the Ugli’s Bert’s Café is open 24 hours, from Monday to Wednesday (these hours begin on October 6th).

*For those of you that aren’t anywhere near a library or are off campus, there are food ordering services online and on a smartphone—and they deliver right to your house or dorm. Some of these services like Grubhub or Eatblue do charge a premium for their services, so keep that in mind!

**Get Comfy!** Here are some of the places your mentors like to hunker down and get productive! E-mail your mentor your favorite place to study and be entered to win a prize!
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**October 2013**

**NEW EVENT!** To celebrate Fall in Michigan TC is going to a local Cider Mill Transportation and Admission will be provided!

**We're the First!** Program for first generation college students and transfer students— if interested please contact Elizabeth González, LLMSW at lizbethg@umich.edu or Durriya Meer, PsyD at dmeer@umich.edu

**Transfer Student Affairs Commission,** student group that works on addressing needs for transfer students on Michigan's campus. If interested contact Tyler Mesman at tmesman@umich.edu