

THE NAUTILUS

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

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| Photos: Tanner Mallams, Nautilus Staff

Left to Right: Adam Todd, Troy Stirling, Grace Omer, Kalyn Johnson, Irene Torres, Heather Nighswonger, Andrew Rosa



TAMUG Student selected as Student Veteran of the Year Finalist

By Mylasia Miklas, '20

Carlos Caro, president of the Student Veteran Association at Texas A&M University at Galveston, was recognized as a Student Veteran of the Year finalist at the 11th annual Student Veteran Association National Conference (Natcon).

Earning the title of Student Veteran of the Year is the organization's

highest individual honor. Unfortunately Caro was not named Student Veteran of the Year. "It was just an honor to be next to these incredible student veteran leaders," stated Caro, "just being up there and being recognized was a huge honor."

Through his time as president of SVA it has been Ca-

ro's mission to advocate for student veterans on campus. His biggest goal is to make TAMUG as military embracing as possible. He aims to make TAMUG a welcoming space for new student veterans. "There are a lot of moving pieces people do not know about," explained Caro, "your whole culture is changing."

The longest government shutdown; how does this affect TAMUG?

By Savannah Quiros, '22

It's common knowledge that the United States of America has been stuck in the longest government shutdown on record. Furthermore, it is known that the furloughed workers have been anxiously waiting for their paychecks. 800,000 American citizens across the country working without pay. Luckily, President Trump has signed a bill to temporarily restore the government for three weeks on Friday, January 25, in order to allow government workers to be paid their much needed salaries. Knowing this, what does this short-term fix mean for the college students of TAMUG?

One of the largest problems students should be concerned about is regarding financial aid. Students who have not filled out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) could run into some trouble. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is one of the many government divisions affected by the government shutdown, and its closure means a delay FAFSA applications and therefore a delay in Federal Student Aid awards for students. This is important to note since a statement was released the first week of the year on the topic of Financial Aid Disbursements (or payments). From the Financial Aid website of TAMU: "The government shutdown will not affect spring financial aid disbursements. Student financial aid programs and disbursements should not be affected by the partial government shutdown. The federal departments and agencies subject to a shutdown will not include the Department of Education." While some state universities have been waiving late fees for tuition payments, TAMU is not one of them.

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Students attend annual Student Veteran National Conference

By John Vandewater, '20

While most of us were still on winter break, several members of the leadership team from the Texas A&M University at Galveston Student Veterans Association chapter (SVA) participated in the 11th annual SVA National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The conference, better known as NatCon, is the largest annual gathering of student veterans and supporters in the United States and hosted over 2,300 student veterans from colleges and universities across the country. Attendees participated in a variety of briefings and break-out sessions that included prominent military leaders from all branches of service as well as key-note speeches from several recognized executives from major corporations. In addition, many of these corporations also established over 100 exhibitors to enhance networking and job opportunities for interested veterans. This year, participating corporations included Google, Capital One, Chevron, J.P. Morgan, Amazon, Quicken, Bp, and Raythe-

on, just to name a few. The TAMUG SVA student lead-



|Photo: John Vandewater, Nautilus Staff

left to right; TAMUG SVA members in attendance of NatCon 2019. Buzz Refugio (Advisor), Jeremy Rychlick, Carlos Caro, Cody Seals, Josh McMillian, Robert Grimsley

ers in attendance were Carlos Caro, Cody Seals, Robert Grimsley, Jeremy Rychlick, Josh McMillian, and student advisor Buzz Refugio.

The purpose of this year's 3-day conference was to aid and assist student veterans by providing college benefit information and employment options to veterans transitioning out of service and into their future civilian careers. The schedule of events included a general session that covered diversity and inclusion of all veterans, along with the cur-

rent state of the SVA and it's plans for the future. Break-

out sessions included briefs on several topics ranging from scholarship supplements for current G.I. Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) users to a career fair specifically designed for networking and job opportunities.

One of NatCon's main goals is to help veteran students understand all of the aid that is available to them and how to utilize those sources. When asked about the benefits of attending the conference, TAMUG SVA Treasurer Robert Grimsley said

“The biggest help is learning that there is more than just the VA to help with financial scholarships as well as other programs to assist veterans in their transition and completion of degree programs.” The SVA, being led by veterans, understands these problems that are specific to transitioning military personnel and strives to address these issues at Nat-Con.

Another goal of the conference was to enforce the idea that because many student veterans and SVA members

are former military leaders, they have specific skill sets that can also be extremely helpful on university campuses. As a result, these veterans can have a huge impact within universities and can assist in creating future leaders for other student organizations as well. Grimsley stated that his biggest takeaway from the conference was “Helping student veterans understand that there is a place for our leadership and experiences and that we can serve not only other veterans, but the rest of the student body as

well.” The SVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on addressing the needs and concerns of American military veterans in higher education. One of the biggest transition problems veterans can have is going from being a valuable member of a team to feeling like they are alone and not making a contribution. The SVAs goal is to give those veterans a place to belong and to share their experiences with a group of other student veterans from a diversity of backgrounds and services.

The TAMUG chapter of the Student Veterans Association is open to any prior service military member of all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve. If you are interested in more detailed information about the TAMUG SVA, please contact any member of the leadership listed above or on the Facebook at The Official TAMUG Student Veterans. If you are a TAMUG student veteran, you are invited to a weekly free SVA lunch every Thursday from 11 - 12 p.m. in the TAMUG cafeteria banquet room.

In the mind of a new American Citizen; TAMUG professor gains citizenship

By Alinoe Roussie, '22

Crossing Oceans, adapting to new cultures, most Americans either descend from peoples or themselves have gone through those life events. On January 16th 2019, Dr. Ozlem Sisman, a political scientist at Texas A&M University at Galveston that possesses an expertise in the Middle Eastern world and capitalism, went a step further and took an oath to United States. Dr. Sisman became an American and joined the large family of naturalized citizens that have been growing at an increasing rate since 2015.

The first part of the journey begins when Dr. Sisman, then a PhD student, traveled to the United States from Turkey to attend Harvard University. However, before her journey to the United States even began, Dr. Sisman already had a strong interest in this country. "What America does and American policy is a very big determining factor in the Middle East," explained Dr. Sisman, "So even when I was a university student, I was already fol-



| Photo : Alinoe Roussie, Nautilus Staff

Dr. Ozlem Sisman, political science professor at Tamug

lowing United States foreign policy."

Unlike many US immigrants, Dr. Sisman did not imagine establishing the rest of her life in the United States. After her time at Harvard University, she spent time in the United States networking and continuing her studies. Dr. Sisman later decided to go home to Turkey. "Now that I am an academic," Explained Dr. Sisman, "maybe there is something that I can give back to my country."

However, her journey back home did not go as expected. "I spent one year there, I did

my research, I published some articles and then I realized that I had gotten used to the [American] living standards, living culture. [...] I was one of those people who thought that this was not the country that I was born and raised into."

Dr. Sisman is born Turkish and believes that her country is going through "a big exodus from secular highly educated people" because of an "Islamiza-

tion and very high and very vulgar nationalization in Turkey". When asked if she still feels Turkish because of what is happening, she expresses the idea of being "a global citizen rather than citizen of a place or citizen of a nation. I always consider myself as a kind of cosmopolitan" but states how important US citizenship was to her with the value of the American passport being much higher than the Turkish one where "more than 100 countries" need visas and having her entire nuclear family already being citizens.

While Dr.

Sisman didn't come here to stay, ultimately many reasons pushed her to do so: "First of all, I can publish and write anything I want, I have full academic freedom which is the most valuable thing for my career. Also, my kids are getting a better education and have access to better resources for now and for the future in their lives," stated Dr. Sisman, "These are very important things that makes us stay here rather than going back and continuing our life in Turkey."

Applying for any legal status can reveal itself to be a very tedious process often involving lawyers but not for Sisman: "For me it was very straightforward. I didn't have any difficulties at any point of my application," Since Sisman entered the country as a student and got a green card after marrying a naturalized American citizen, it felt normal to her that one year after applying - "a short period of time" according

to people she talked to - she got her interview. Though with such a curriculum it may seem like it would indeed be an easy task, luck may have been on Dr. Sisman's side, "I think Texas is one of the states with immigrants applying in huge numbers for green card or citizenship. It makes much things longer and I have a friend, another Turkish friend who is married to another Turkish/American woman and we applied exactly at the same time and he still hasn't gotten his interview."

terview, that isn't a shared experience: the average waiting time for any type of legal status application has surged by 46 percent over the last two years and by a factor of two in the last 5 years from 4.96 to 9.48 months. Those delays are mainly due to under-staffing and the increase in security checks especially in the last two years. It has lead to a more than 100 percent increase in delayed case in the span of the last recorded fiscal year (2016-2017 compared to 2015-2016).

Though Texas as is, like Dr. Sisman said, an enormous hub for legal status applications, her waiting time probably could have been much shorter in

“I didn't have any difficulties at any point of my application”

One thing Sisman thinks hasn't affected the process is Trump's administration, to her, the only minor impact could have been the partial government shutdown. But according to a very recent policy brief from the American Immigration Lawyers association (AILA) published after Dr. Sisman's In-

a different political climate and while her legal status was already stable with the possession of a green card, many others have been increasingly struggling not to become illegal aliens in a country they believe, like Sisman, to be "much more comfortable" then wherever they come from.

Government Shutdown Continued

Rachelle Craig, Veterans certifying official/advisor, says that while the school's funding is not affected as "we get it from either the state or federal government", there is a change in how students can get their FAFSA verified. "Through the verification process, with the IRS being on a skeleton crew," says Craig, "we are now taking the tax returns instead of the tax return transcripts," seeming to be a solid work-around to the IRS shutdown. From the Student Business Services desk at TAMUG, Sophia Niglio and K.C. Franks assure that there is



Illustration: Savannah Quiros, Nautilus Staff

help available for students whose parents have been affected by the government shutdown. Niglio states that TAMU has "created a special installment plan that will delay payment due in full sixty days after the first class day." K.C. clarifies that the special installment plan is for "students with families who are

suffering hardship because of the shutdown." While this is good news, students should still contact the Office of Financial Aid at either TAMUG or TAMU College Station if they have any questions or concerns regarding tuition payment.

Another problem regards the most recent graduates of the TAMUG Maritime Academy. For the December 2018 Maritime Academy graduates earning their Maritime Transportation degree, credentials and a license are necessary in order for them to actually receive their degree. Because the Coast

Guard was closed during the government shutdown, acquiring these credentials became impossible and forced to be delayed. Dr. Todd Sutherland, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, voices his worry that the biggest impact that the government shutdown has on our campus is this licensing and credentials. When asked if this issue could be taken care of during the three-week temporary government restoration, Dr. Sutherland states "the licensing is being taken care of as soon as possible with the coast guard, but after those three weeks, the govern-

ment might shut down again" and the remaining graduates will be forced to wait even longer for their degree. Dr. Sutherland speaks of graduates he knows with jobs already lined up, but unable to begin because of their lack of degree. TAMUG hopes that these Aggies will soon be able to begin the rest of their lives.

What else does this mean for Galveston County? Many of TAMUG's students live in the Houston to Galveston area, with an estimated 30,000 employees' paychecks being affected. Citizens serving in the Coast Guard and even those at NASA

are beginning to feel the very real and devastating effects of missing paychecks: late rent, bills, and other payments that are needed in order to for them to keep supporting themselves and their families.

While the government shutdown has been paused for at least three weeks, students should still be careful about what this means for them and their financial needs. FAFSA application should be filled out as soon as possible in order to avoid delays, and any and all questions should be directed to the proper financial aid office.

The 2018 United States midterm election results; meet your representatives

By John Vandewater, '20

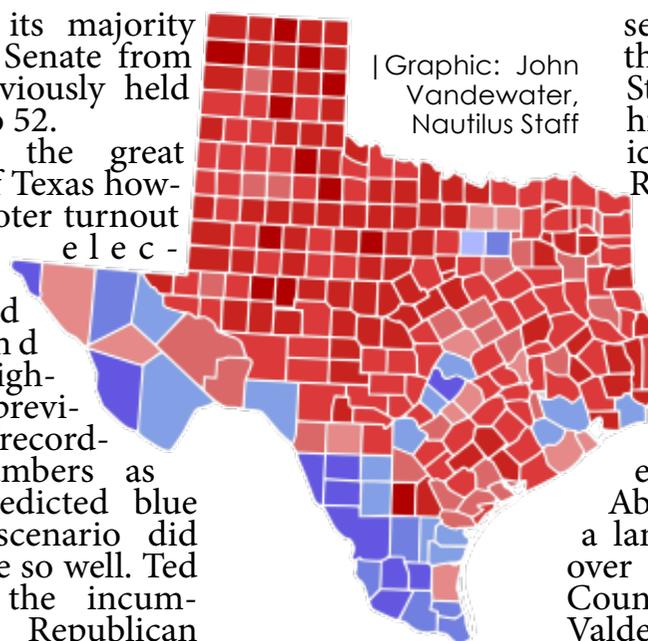
The 2018 Super Tuesday mid-term elections were held nation-wide on November 6th. These elections decided the balance of power in the legislative branch of the United States as well as several state governorships, local elections across the country, and most notably for us, right here in Texas. Nationally, the results seemed to maintain the norm for a first term President as the Republican

party lost control of the House while increasing its majority in the Senate.

Democrats have capitalized on anti-President Trump anger so far as they have managed to win 233 of the 435 total seats in the House of Representatives. Currently, with only 1 seat remaining to be decided, Republicans rode the wave of a booming economy and drastic decrease in unemployment managing to in-

crease its majority in the Senate from 51 previously held seats to 52.

In the great state of Texas however, voter turnout for the elections soared beyond its highest previously recorded numbers as the predicted blue wave scenario did not fare so well. Ted Cruz, the incumbent Republican



Graphic: John Vandewater, Nautilus Staff

senator from the Lone Star State defeated his democratic challenger Robert Francis O'Rourke with approximately 51% of the vote. Additionally, the Republican incumbent governor, Greg Abbott, earned a landslide victory over former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez.

Locally, Galveston county maintained its Republican majority by voting for Senator Cruz with approximately 60% and Governor Greg Abbott with approximately 64% of the vote. In short, democrats and supporters from inside the state and across the country will have to wait a few more years to see if "Beto mania" will ultimately assist in turning Texas blue.

2018 Texas Senate election map by county

Need a breathe of fresh air? Check out what Galveston Island has to offer

By Ignacio Cobos, '22

A lot of people in this campus leave the island during the weekends to visit their family or friends because they think, "There is nothing to do in the island and it is boring." But you should know that in the Galveston Island area there are many activities available for spending time with your friends. Here we will mention some of them for different moods and likes.

First the beaches: If you just want to relax and

have some fun you can go to the beach that is only 7 minutes away from the campus, the "Stewart Beach" or the "Galveston Beach". There you can do activities on the sand such as flying kites, building sand castles, volleyball, or just get a little time in the water. If you want more

excitement you can rent a boat and go fishing or sailing. You can also rent kayaks to take a trip around. Near campus, you could rent equipment from "Angel Charters" or "Jet Ski Tours and Rentals". It is amazing; you might even see some dolphins.

The amusement parks

and waterparks: There are many parks around the island. In terms of water parks, *Schlitterbahn Waterpark* is a fun place to visit. If you like amusement parks, *Pleasure Pier* (picture below) or *Moody Gardens* are venues you can tour with some friends to

have a really good time.

Museums: There are some museums in the island that might be interesting for you and where you will learn something new and important facts no matter your major. *Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum*, *Railroad Museum*, and *Bryan Museum* are places where you can learn about history and technology.

Finally, the other special interests: Another place to experience is the

Galveston Island State Park, a place where you can find hiking trails, bird watching spots, and campgrounds. *Gresham's Castle* is an ornate mansion with public tours. *Seawolf Park*, on Pelican Island, offers fishing spots, tours on retired naval vessels, and picnic areas.

If you just want is to hang around a little, there are tons of restaurants around the island where you can find many types of food that will satisfy every taste.



| Photo : Alinee Roussie, Nautilus Staff

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INTEREST MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 6

6PM PMEC 145



FEBRUARY 12

5PM PMEC 144



FEBRUARY 21

2PM PMEC 239

Sucking heads and eating tails; here is your guide to crawfishin' in Galveston

By Macy Hobbs, '21

Welcome to the south where part of our lifestyle is saying "Howdy" when you greet a person and eating crawfish is one of our favorite pastimes. In our region, we are lucky to get in at least six months of good crawfishing which means you have plenty of time to get down and dirty in some mudbugs. Eating crawfish comes with a few commitments that are not your normal dining etiquette, but there is no reason to fear, you too can soon be a mudbug expert! The first is that you are going to get messy, this is not a time to wear your new white Magellan shirt. Secondly, the best part of a crawfish are the juices in the head of the crawfish. Get ready to look silly, tipping up a crawfish! Last of all, this is not the time to be shy about your food, go ahead and eat those potatoes in garlic butter and tear up some sausage that was boiled in with your crawdaddies to get the full experience.

Have you always wanted to try crawfish, but you do not want to be the person that has to ask the server

how to get to the goods? No problem! All you must do is follow these steps and you will walk into the situation eating like a pro.

First, you must know the anatomy of a crawfish. Luckily all you need to know is there are two main parts, the head and the tail of the crawfish. The meat of the crawfish, which is what most people are looking for, is in the tail. The best flavor comes from sucking the head where all the boiled juices and seasoning rest together to create a mouth savoring experience.

When getting ready to devour your scrumptious little specimen, you simply get your pinching fingers ready on both hands. Place your left pinchers on the head and your right pinches on the body. To separate the head and tail you will hold the head in place and twist your hand, make sure to keep that head faced down so you all your juices stay in place.

Next you want to tilt your head back, real



| Photo : Alinoe Roussie, Nautilus Staff

Live crawfish from Huli Huli Hut in Galveston

fancy like, and put that crawfish head up to your mouth and let the goodness roll in to your mouth.

Finally, once you're done with the head, throw it aside and get ready to eat to eat the meaty part of the crawfish by tearing a bit of shell off the top of the tail meat. You can use your thumb to push from the bottom up on the crawfish tail to fully extract the meat. Congrats! You've officially figured out the secret to eating crawfish like a real southern pro.

One main key in having a great crawfish ex-

perience is knowing where to go and what good crawfish are! Do not make the mistake of thinking frozen crawfish taste anything like live boiled crawfish. During the off-season, many restaurants will continue to offer flash-frozen crawfish, but it is nowhere near the same taste. Everyone cooks their crawfish differently so understanding the difference can save you from spending money on crawfish that may not be top of the line. A good crawfish boil comes from cooking the seasoning in your boil, and

not sprinkling the seasoning on after, this does not give your crawfish the flavor you are looking for. Typically, places will offer different levels of spice to their mudbugs ranging from mild to prepare to not be able to taste anything for a few days after eating these. Anytime I go somewhere, besides festivals or all you can eat crawfish bashes, I always start off with a pound to sample the goodies. Most places will offer specials for guest who order crawfish in sets of five pounds, once the season gets rolling, but it is always

good to know if you are investing your money the right way before taking a leap of faith!

Looking to have a fun, messy, and unforgettable experience with your friends? Crawfishing can quickly become a favorite way to gather your friends and even make some new ones! Below are a few local restaurants here on the island that offer crawdaddys but

if you get in to the scene, there are a ton of venues venturing closer to Kemah and Houston that offer these little fellows as well as festivals and mass boils all over Texas. Currently Cajun Greek and Huli Huli Hut are the only local joints offering crawfish but Benno's On the Beach should be getting started in a few weeks. Venturing off the island you can catch my personal favorite at Lonestar Bar & Grill as well as Jackie's Brickhouse, both located off TX-146 in the Kemah region. Keep an eye out on the Nautilus website for local openings and events you can attend.

Are we late to the dance? Domestic aquaculture: A dying industry in need

By Jordan Lynch, Guest Writer

We are nearing a crossroad in resource allocation and availability. Nearly 90% of the world's fisheries are fully exploited, overexploited, or depleted. Human population will be 9.6 billion by the year 2050. When that day comes, we will have added 2 billion people to the already 815 million who are hungry and undernourished in the world today. We are not prepared.

Seafood represents the most traded food commodity in the world at 171 million metric tons and rising. Nearly half of that, around 80.05 million metric tons, is provided by aquaculture—the farming of aquatic organisms. China, India and Indonesia are the top three producers representing 61%, 7.1%, and 6.2% of global production respectively. And where does the U.S. sit? At 645,000 metric tons, we contribute only 0.8% to this multi-billion-dollar industry. Bravo, America.

Americans will fight for the green revolution, but what about the blue? The United

States is ranked third in the amount of wild fish extracted from our oceans, yet we import 90% of our seafood? Something doesn't add up. Much of our wild caught fish is exported, while most of the fish Americans eat comes from other countries, leading to what is known as a seafood trade deficit. How can we let this be when utilization of only 0.01% of our Exclusive Economic Zone for marine aquaculture facilities would provide enough food to meet our national demand, but we instead spend \$14 billion on seafood

importation?

One of the largest reasons for this continued dependence on importation originates from the negative stigmas tied to aquaculture—antibiotic use, improper management, negative environmental impacts—many of which stems from the same places that we purchase our fish from. Yet, we are not perfect in America either. For example, a recent escape event in Washington led to the release of 300,000 Atlantic salmon, posing risks to local ecosystems. Fortunately, the biology

and ecology of this species hinders it from establishing in Pacific waters, but problems such as these fuel the fire of caution around this industry. As such, improving the field of commercial food fish production, from feed formulation to handling practices, will be necessary to minimize these risks and provide greater assurance for the effectiveness of this practice.

Instead of hindering the growth of domestic aquaculture to prevent these types of issues from occurring, we should instead be investing in and striving

for change in materials, protocols, and farm management. Nutrition is a continuously growing field that aids in reduction of the negative environmental impacts of aquaculture, as is health management. Technology and innovation shape nearly all aspects of our lives today and as aquaculture systems advance, they too will see changes for the better. The sooner we increase our support, the sooner we will see these changes for good, and the greater our capacity to produce our own seafood.

The potential for domestic aquaculture exists, however, the industry is aging. Many within the workforce are nearing retirement, creating a growing need at all levels. We need politicians and regulators who will support domestic aquaculture. Teachers, professors and extension agents to broaden the knowledge base and train future generations. Researchers to supply that knowledge, ask new questions and discov-

er new solutions for the industry. Aquaculture engineers to design and oversee the establishment of new facilities. And investors and entrepreneurs willing to financially support what has become a global, billion-dollar industry.

With human population expected to sky rocket in the coming decades, and with it, a growing demand for healthy proteins, we are doing ourselves and the entire world a disservice by not supporting domestic aquaculture as we should. No matter your position, from students, to

nearing retirement from the industry after a long, fruitful career, to the family who just enjoys fish fry Fridays, it will be up to us to do all that we can to support domestic aquaculture production. And by doing so, we can continue to develop it in a way that sets an example for the world around us, and helps it flourish as not only a sustainable industry but a sustainable source of nutrition as well.



| Photo : Alinee Roussie, Nautilus Staff

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Lacrosse team holds high hopes for the new season

By Faith Murphy, '20

The Texas A&M Galveston Men's Lacrosse team is one of our many high performing sports teams here on campus. The team competes collegiately against teams such as; Rice University, Louisiana Tech, Tulane, University of Texas San Antonio and many other well-known teams. The team practices twice a week in the fall, but then comes back to school early before the spring semester starts to have a training camp which consist of a practicing two times a day for at least 3 hours which helps everyone get back in the groove of things. During the spring semester the practice every week Monday through Thursday in order to prepare for a more competitive season.

Although last season was tough for the team considering that it was a big transition period for them, their record really took a hit. But they are pulling it together and planning to make a come back this season after acquiring so much new talent. The first tournament of the season was on January 27th and the team BTHO UIW but unfortunately fell short when it came to UTSA. The games they are specifically preparing for are against; Rice University, Southeastern Louisiana,



| Photo: Tanner Mallams, Nautilus Staff

TAMUG lacrosse team was defeated by St. Edwards University with a final score of 8-10

Louisiana Lafayette, and Tulane. Playing the teams just listed will determine whether or not the team is able to advance from their conference and go into playoffs. When asked if there is one team in particular that they are trying hard to prepare for they said they typically like to try to take it week by week preparing for their opponents one at a time. This week they are preparing to play St. Edwards on February 1st here at Galveston and are hoping to take home a win.

David Falloure, class of 2019, is excited for this season and what it has to offer, "All the seniors on the team, including myself have high hopes for this season. We have depth, amazing freshman talent filling all of the positions,

solid team chemistry, and great coaches to help us along the way." David even continues by saying, "It's the best team we have had in my time here, so playoffs are very much a real possibility and its what we are training for." A fun tradition that the team has is before every game the sing "Allstar" by smash mouth on their warm up lap. To ensure this stays a tradition for many future teams to come they make the freshman learn the lyrics and recite it to an instrumental at their team retreat in front of the whole team. David Falloure, added that this tradition is something really fun that they are able to do as a team and it serves as a kind of right of passage to initiate the younger plays onto the team.