



Center for  
Academic  
Learning Support

November 2025

F1RST  
Program

# ***First-Gen Newsletter***

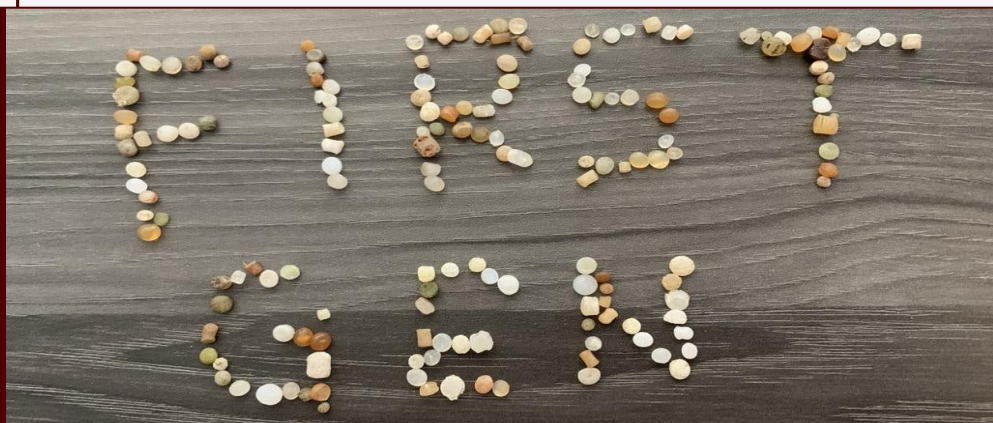
## **In This Newsletter:**

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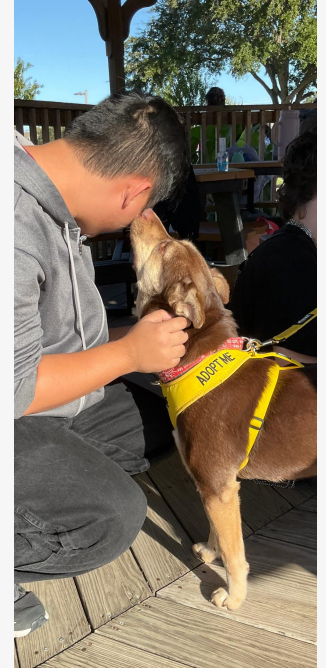
November marks a special occasion for first-generation students: First-Gen Celebration Week. This national week celebrates the stories and achievements of students who are the first in their families to go to college. Celebrated on campus from November 3 through 7, TAMUG's events in honor of this special week drew hundreds of students, faculty, and staff as they celebrated what it means to be first. Read on to learn more about this celebration and discover other activities and events first-gen students participated in this month.

## **Don't Miss This!**

Jump to page 4 to learn about how first-gen students engaged with the Blue Economy and completed a nurdle project!

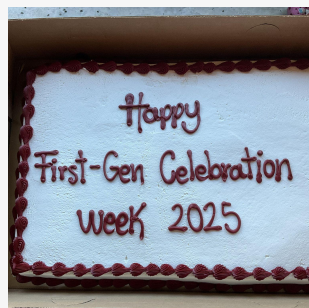
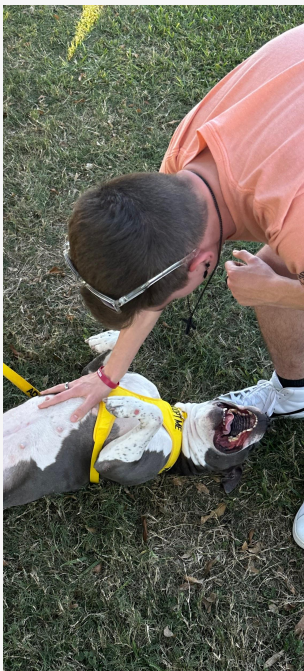






## First-Gen Celebration Week

First-Gen Celebration Week is a national celebration of students who are the first in their families to attend college. This week aims to celebrate first-gen students through different campus-wide events and activities. Events were held each day of the week and included connecting with Col. Fossum over coffee, visiting with dogs from Galveston Island Humane Society, and celebrating the first-gen community at a special reception. Over 500 attendees participated in events!





## First-Gen Spotlight: Kasey Coulson

Howdy! My name is Kasey, and I am a senior in Marine Biology set to graduate in December of this year. My passion for biology and research began during my childhood and strengthened throughout my years in academia, influencing my choice of a career immersed in wildlife. Being a part of the Aggie Research Scholars Program for over a year, I have studied the invasive behavior of the Italian Wall lizard through the BORIS software.

Recently, I have been given the honor of studying the morphometrics of the Italian Wall lizard, which has deepened my understanding of behavioral ecology and genetics. Beyond working with the university, I gained practical field and data analysis experience as a Research Intern with the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens (Botanical Research Institute of Texas). In this role, I collected Texas native plants for the BRIT Herbarium, assisted park rangers with invasive species management, and utilized GPS technology and mapping tools.

As a first-generation student, earning this degree is not only a personal accomplishment but also a tribute to my family. I want to complete my education to give back to my parents and to show others that being the first in your family to pursue higher education is something to be proud of, not ashamed of.



### Door Decorating Contest Winner

In October, students were invited to participate in the F1RST Program's fall door decorating contest. The winning entry was "Spiders Nest, with a Halloween Twist" by Riley and suitemates!



### Family Weekend

During Family Weekend, the F1RST Program hosted a Lemonade Stand and First-Gen Family Gathering to welcome the families of first-generation students. Visitors enjoyed free swag and delicious customized lemonade! Families interested in learning more about support available to their first-gen student can reach out to [firstgen@tamug.edu](mailto:firstgen@tamug.edu).



## December Coffee Connections

Coffee Connections is a monthly event series which invites students to connect with a special guest over coffee. The guest for December will be Danny Roe, Director of Student Assistance Services. Coffee and hot cocoa will be served. Free and open to all!

### **Event Details:**

December Coffee Connections

Wednesday, December 3

4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Library Fishbowl (Room 121A)

## Nurdle Outing

Students in the F1rst Year 2 class visited Shell Beach to learn about and collect nurdles! This interactive Blue Economy activity was facilitated by Academic Advisors Brianna Zabawa and Rachel Sellers. Students collected 149 nurdles and contributed to the Nurdle Patrol citizen science project!



## **Contact Us**

“First-Generation” refers to students who are the first in their families to attend college, meaning that neither parent has completed a bachelor’s degree. The Center for Academic Learning Support provides year-round support services to first-gen students, including professional and peer coaching, academic and social events, lounge spaces, and more. Support provided by the CALS office is open to any student located in Galveston. Students wishing to learn more or connect with the first-gen community are encouraged to reach out.

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