Back in swing

Students face new stressors when starting back to classes

CATHLEEN ESPINOSA, reporter

Entering back into school for a new semester can add to the current stresses that a student experiences. The social stress that winds back up from adjusting to the University environment can create a combination of self-efficiency and organization. The Christmas break often reminds students of the congested atmosphere that they will have to re-integrate into once the spring semester begins. For maintaining calm and setting realistic goals will help in managing the stress that derives from current situations. By focusing on what needs to get done, prioritization should sort itself out and can help reduce overwhelming within the mind. Academic stresses can abruptly appear when the professor hands out the syllabus during the first class. With the list of expected student outcomes, required texts and the professor's grading systems, a set of goals can materialize that may later become a source for stressors.

Financial stress can also push its way to adding onto student anxiety. Every student has finances to worry about, whether they are repaying student loans, budgeting gas or trying to afford the cost of education. Although getting a job and managing money may seem like an additional worry, it is a sure way to start preparing for life after college.

Once the subject of money supervision becomes a challenge for students, time management is an automatic stress. Between balancing family life, social life, academic life and work life, there may not seem to be time for anything else.

"Depending on the level of stress, I cope with it by going to the gym enjoying time with friends when I can," senior Courtney Guerra said. "The most important thing for me is to take a break whenever I need to and focus on myself."

"I would definitely recommend a trip to the bookstore or find some place to eat at."

Students face new stressors when starting back to classes

Sailing over the Fiscal Cliff

Understanding the general affects of recent legislation

DINA RUIZ, reporter

Congress passed fiscal cliff deal that brings various changes to tax paying Americans.

The House voted 257 to 167 to send the new fiscal cliff deal to President Barack Obama signed Jan 2, less than 24 hours after approval from the Democratic-led Senate who passed it 89-8 just 90 minutes after the midnight deadline. Obama signed the bill while on vacation in Hawaii, using an autopen, a mechanical device that copies his signature.

In a brief statement, Obama praised congressional leaders for advancing the legislation, "I think we all recognize this law is just one step in the broader effort to strengthen our economy and broaden opportunity for everyone."

While the new deal prevents millions of middle-class taxpayers from facing increased, according to the Tax Policy Center, the fiscal cliff will raise taxes for over 77 percent of Americans who filed in 2013. Americans who bring in less than $10,000 a year can expect to pay an average of $68 more in federal taxes. Those who make between $50,000 and $75,000 will also see a jump of about $822. Americans in the top percent will see an increase of $170,341.

Payroll taxes will also cause most of 96 million workers to earn smaller paychecks as the social security tax rate increases from 4.2 percent to 6.2 percent. The national average salary of $41,000 will pay $32 less per bi-weekly paycheck according to CNN.

Along with the deal brings an extension of family tax breaks an additional five years. The American Opportunity tax credit, a partially refundable credit of up to $2,500 a year for four years for low-income families. The child tax credit allows lower income parents to claim as much as $1,000 for each child under the age of 17. The earned income tax credit provides a credit for working Americans with low and moderate incomes.

The deal also extends benefits for two million Americans who received unemployment assistance for another year. Beneficia-

ries were on the verge of losing federal checks that terminated at the end of 2012.

Among the new law are special interest tax breaks. According to CBS News, one allows Hollywood a $20 million break anytime a movie or TV show is shot in an economically depressed area in the United States.

The Congressional Budget Office reports that fiscal cliff deal approved by Congress is set to increase deficits over the next decade by close to $4 trillion.

Texa A&M University-Corpus Christi provides students with various means to help reduce stress. The University Center equips rooms for studying, playing interactive games and searching for jobs both on and off campus.

The Breakers Game Room is open Monday through Friday and provides a wide selection of games. Career Services is open throughout the week and will help any enrolled student with locating a job.

For more information on what the campus has to offer students in relaxing, go to the University Center Information Desk and find out more about the campus life and services they have to offer.
Graduate accepted into doctoral program in Toxicology

Natividad “Robert” Fuentes, a Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi graduate who received a Bachelor of Science in Biology in August, has been accepted into the Texas A&M University-College Station “Bridge to the Doctorate (BTD)” Research Program. Fuentes will be awarded a $30,000 annual stipend for two years while he earns his Doctorate in Toxicology. Fuentes is the second Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) student to be accepted into the BTD program.

LSAMP is a National Science Foundation (NSF) program designed to foster achievement in minority students seeking degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

While attending A&M-Corpus Christi, Fuentes’ main research focused on implementing DNA sequencing technologies to develop stress markers for seagrass. In the BTD program, Fuentes will focus on cellular and molecular toxicology pertaining to the impact of diet on the colon.

Keeping track on deck

Conrad Blucher Institute constructs Data Collection Station on USS Lexington for coastal monitoring, hurricane preparedness

The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science installs a Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network System aboard the USS Lexington received on Thursday, Dec. 20.

The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) continued the installation of a new data collection station on the deck of the USS Lexington on December 20, which will help ensure coastal monitoring and scientific Progress in hurricane preparedness.

The new $100,000 data collection system, which is one of the 31 Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) systems installed along the Texas Coast, was funded by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas General Land Office.

“The data from this monitoring station will assist researchers from the CBI, the National Ocean Service, the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center, and others by providing federally-approved data used in water level and storm surge forecasting,” said James Rizzo, CBI Assistant Director of Operations.

The new monitoring station is being installed approximately 25 feet above sea level to protect equipment from high water events such as high storms, which have historically damaged or destroyed numerous previously installed data collection systems. The instrumentation will operate and transmit data continuously, even through storms and hurricanes. Other data such as wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, air temperature, and water temperature are also collected and transmitted from many of the TCOON stations.

Since 1989, the CBI and the TCOON have collected and provided real-time water level and meteorological information essential to managing coastal resources while providing essential information used in forecasting high water events such as storm surge along the Texas Coast. All TCOON data collection stations meet science guidelines established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Center for Operational Oceans and Coastal Forces (CO-OPS).

NURSING STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO SIGMA THETA TAU HONORS SOCIETY

Thirty-nine students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi were inducted as new members into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing on December 13 in the University Center, Lone Star Ballroom. Each student was called on stage to receive a firm handshake from the Eta Omicron chapter officers, and a lavender cord.

The honor society consists of nurse leader candidates, graduate students, registered nurse students, and undergraduates. All new members must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0, be ranked in the top 35 percent of their class, and meet other academic qualifications.

FALL COMMENCEMENT

More than 710 students representing Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s five colleges received their diplomas during fall 2012 commencement held December 15 at the American Bank Center arena.

Fred W. Heldenfels IV, Chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, was the keynote speaker. Heldenfels is President and CEO of Heldenfels Enterprises, Inc., a manufacturer of precast prestressed concrete structures for the highway, industrial, commercial and sports construction markets with plants in San Marcos and Corpus Christi.

Following Heldenfels’ address, students from the University’s Colleges of Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing, and Health Sciences, and Engineering walked across the stage to receive their diplomas from University President Flavus Killebrew.

KILLEBREW PRESENTED WITH RESOLUTION FOR UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENTS

During the fall 2012 commencement, State Rep. Todd Hunter presented a resolution to Dr. Flavus C. Killebrew honoring him for his achievements as President and CEO of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. A flag was flown at the Texas State Capitol in Austin to honor Dr. Killebrew and the recent graduates of Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

The resolution highlighted Dr. Killebrew’s success, including increasing enrollment from nearly 8,400 students to more than 10,500 from across the country and around the world, accommodating the needs of a growing student population; and his work with the City of Corpus Christi to arrange for the transfer of 137 acres of city land to the University, a donation that expanded the school’s total area by more than half.

Other highlights of Dr. Killebrew’s tenure include the creation of a Mechanical Engineering Program and the opening of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. Since taking office, Dr. Killebrew has overseen more than $250 million in new construction. Among the projects completed have been an alumni welcome center and new homes for the College of Business and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as a tennis complex, a soccer and track stadium, and the school’s first parking garage.

Dr. Killebrew has also been president of the Island University since January 2005, has overseen the adoption of the 10-year master plan, Momentum 2015, which has established a key set of principles to guide future growth.

FURGASON BRAVO! SERIES PERFORMER INDUCTED INTO CMA TEXAS HALL OF FAME

“Singing Cowboy Poet” Michael Martin Murphey was inducted into the Country Music Association (CMA) Texas Hall of Fame on December 4 during his Cowboy Christmas Concert on the Performing Arts Center stage at Texas A&M University-College Station.

Murphey, who has entertained crowds for eight consecutive years as part of the University’s Gloria and Robert R. Furgason Bravo! Series for the Performing Arts, was caught by surprise when he was presented with the CMA’s Hall of Fame Award by Dr. Bruce Nelson Stratton of KFXR “Real Country” radio.

Murphey was recognized for his nearly 30 charted national hits, songwriting abilities, six gold albums, multiple Grammy nominations, awards, and motion picture appearances. Other artists inducted into the CMA Hall of Fame include Willie Nelson, Ray Price, Mickey Gilley, Freddy Fender, and George Strait.
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi welcomed the new year by kicking off its first ever January minimester. The two-week long January session started on Jan. 4, and will continue until Jan. 18 when finals will be held.

The January minimester offered college credit for select majors including nursing, business, economics and management.

Senior David Robbins is enrolled in the January minimester, and is taking a sport and exercise psychology class for his sports administration major.

“I have never taken a minimester before, but I have taken summer classes. This was the best possible way to fit the class in, and I also like the shortened format and no nonsense setup of it,” Robbins said.

Robbins believes this new minimester is a good thing, and has a positive effect on his academics.

“The benefits are that I get the class done very fast, and the only negative is that I might not get to go as in-depth as if it were a regular semester-long class,” Robbins said. “I believe this minimester is a good thing that the University is offering since it helps me lighten my semester load for the spring.”

Classes for the January minimester are four-hours long each day, and meet Monday through Friday.

Sophomore Ryan Oliver is also taking a class during the January minimester, and he too believes that this new minimester is beneficial to students.

“This is the first minimester class I’ve ever taken, but it seemed to be a smart option because in only two weeks, I could receive three credit hours,” Oliver said.

A business major, Oliver is taking advantage of the courses offered during the minimester, and is enrolled in a business calculus course.

“I believe that providing minimester classes is a great benefit (that) the University is providing because it allows students to get a head start on some courses, or it helps them simply stay on track,” Oliver said. “Also, it is convenient for students who aren’t locals and unable to return home during the break by giving them classes to help pass the time.”

Aside from all the positive aspects of the new January minimester, some also say that there are a few negative effects when taking the courses.

“The downside to a minimester is the long class hours and cramped course load within such a short period,” Oliver said. “Four hours is a long time to pay attention to one subject, and may lead to confusion on material. Plus, there is no room for error, or failing behind with class work without having detrimental results on your final grade.”

Up until now, Maymester was the only minimester available for students to take, and while students agree that offering a minimester is a good thing, many students believe that a wider variety of classes should be offered.
The 1st Annual Community Celebration:
Poverty, Income, Social Injustice, Economic Challenges and MLK Tradition of Love and Service

Del Mar College
Richardson Performance Hall
January 24, 2013
6pm.

Tickets:
in office January 14th in
Office of Student Engagement and Success

RTA will provide free shuttle services to and from the event.
Will begin at 4:30pm at the RTA bus stop in front of the University Services building near the PAC

featured speakers >> > tavis SMILEY & cornel WEST
The 2012 Olympics were in reach for two University students as their dreams almost became reality.

KATHLEEN RAMIREZ
FEATURES

Many children spend their afternoons dreaming of going to the Olympics when they are younger, and for two Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students that dream was almost within reach.

Senior Tiffany Miller and sophomore Cody Blackstone are two A&M-Corpus Christi students that spent their childhood swimming and wrestling. Both Miller and Blackstone competed competitively and could have qualified for the 2012 Olympic games had things gone a little differently.

Miller first started swimming competitively when she was eight years old. Along with waking up at 6 AM, Miller would also attend afternoon practice sessions during the week and Saturday practices where she would get to practice with the USA swimming team. "One thing I loved about swimming was how many people you would meet at swim meets. For the longest time, pretty much my only friends were on the swim team because you really don't have time for a personal life," Miller said. "School was never a problem, though. They were very accommodating to my swimming."

Rankings for swimming are based on the swimmer's qualifying times. Miller and her team would compete in meets at the Regional, State and even Sectionals level. Miller continued swimming competitively until she got to high school when she stopped swimming due to an injury. "I probably could have gotten an Olympic trials qualifying time had I not been hurt," Miller said. "I stopped swimming after my freshman year because I had knee injuries that just got too bad for me to deal with. It was very disappointing for me."

Despite her injury, Miller continues to swim, just not as much as she used to. Miller also expressed that she has no regrets, and enjoyed swimming while she was able to. "I don't think my life would have changed much had I kept swimming. I have always had very specific plans," Miller said. "I think my favorite part of swimming was winning a relay and sharing the stand with the other girls on the team, or when we were a meet as a team and even if you didn't do so well, your team did and you can share in that victory."

Blackstone first started wrestling when he was in sixth grade, and devoted Monday through Friday to practicing. Each day Blackstone would practice three times a day for two and a half hours each time. "What people do not understand about wrestling is that it isn't merely a sport; it is a way of life. My whole life was revolving around school and wrestling," Blackstone said.

While in high school, Blackstone was the captain of his team and helped at his town's youth wrestling. On weekends, Blackstone would spend all day in the gymnasiums working at tournaments. "My favorite thing about wrestling is the tournaments. Wrestling is the most laid back sport ever," Blackstone said. "Everyone is just relaxing and talking, and then when it is about your time to go, you suit up and go to work. Then, whether you won or lost, you go right back on the side of the mat and continue talking to everybody. It was the closest band of brothers that I have ever felt."

At the top of his game, Blackstone was ranked third in the state for collegiate/high school wrestling, and third in the National for folk/freestyle. Due to a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee and a shattered labrum in his right shoulder, Blackstone was forced to stop wrestling. "I had a full ride to the University of Oklahoma for wrestling and was slotted to try out at the Olympic trials. I soon lost all my scholarships for both football and wrestling from almost every school I was in contact with," Blackstone said. "I was devastated and severely depressed, until I realized that God puts everyone through certain trials to make them realize what is in front of them. I finally realized that school is more important than athletics, and I have since transferred out of OU to become a doctor here in Corpus." Blackstone continues to remain active in wrestling, and will soon be teaching and volunteering as a coach at one of the local high schools here in Corpus Christi.

"Wrestling is not for everyone, however I do feel that it is the best sport in the world, and if anyone would ever like to try, then they should," Blackstone said.
One of the most beloved and influential animators of our time is Pixar. I think the best choice for Best Animated Feature would be Pixar's "Coco," but that's just my opinion. The Academy Awards always seem to have a reputation for sometimes awarding an unwritten rule that comedy and musicals don't deserve an award worthy. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s Golden Globe Awards are a great launching point to see which nominee is most popular. So let's look at the Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama category.

* Prediction: Emma Stone
* Justified: Emma Stone

Emma Stone was just named Best Actress at the Golden Globes for her role as Grace, the former First Lady on Showtime’s "Homeland." Maybe she could win this year’s Academy Award. Why? Because she was great! She really brings her characters vulnerability and strength, a tricky balance to do. She brings life to her characters and makes them believable. It’s a tough role to play, but she makes it seem easy. Emma Stone has also had consecutive wins for Danes as well in this category, so it’s expected that she continues to be considered for the Academy Award. Her performance in "Birdman" was outstanding and it’s one of the most well-liked performances of the year. I don’t think there’s any competition for Stone this year. She’s the one to beat!

* Prediction: Jennifer Lawrence
* Justified: Jennifer Lawrence

Jennifer Lawrence is a multiple-time winner and has the potential to give "Argo" and every other winner at these awards a run for their money. She’s just that good. She’s been nominated for every major award and has won nearly every single award. She’s also carrying this show. It sounds like a James Bond theme song, but it’s perfect for Lawrence. She’s so real, so relatable, so talented. I think she’s the one to beat in this category. Lawrence was just named Best Actress winner at the Golden Globes for her role as Birdie, the "Trouble" singer, Swift who co-wrote the song with the Civil Wars. She’s such a beautiful performer and her singing voice is just amazing. It’s a toss up between Lawrence and Stone, but I’m going with Lawrence. Lawrence is the one to beat!

* Prediction: Julia Louis-Dreyfus
* Justified: Julia Louis-Dreyfus

Julia Louis-Dreyfus has been nominated for Best Actress in a Comedy or Musical for her role as Bestie in "Veep." She’s been nominated for nearly every major award and has won nearly every single award. She’s also carrying this show. It sounds like a James Bond theme song, but it’s perfect for Lawrence. She’s so real, so relatable, so talented. I think she’s the one to beat in this category. Lawrence was just named Best Actress winner at the Golden Globes for her role as Birdie, the "Trouble" singer, Swift who co-wrote the song with the Civil Wars. She’s such a beautiful performer and her singing voice is just amazing. It’s a toss up between Lawrence and Stone, but I’m going with Lawrence. Lawrence is the one to beat!
Do you find yourself staring into your closet and feeling like nothing matches? Here are some tips on how to build a wardrobe that you can look into and feel as if you have plenty of options.

1. If you are drawn to a certain color or style and it looks good on you, do not be afraid to stick with it.

2. Before buying an item, try to imagine what you have in your closet that you can wear the piece with. If you can't think of at least two outfits, the piece is probably going to sit in your closet and is not worth spending your money on.

3. Spend a decent amount of money on basic pieces that you are going to wear often. Some clothing is more expensive for a reason. A higher price tag means better materials that do not cling to problem areas on the body, as well as higher quality dyes, seams and hardware.

4. Neutrals are your best friend. They are more versatile than seasonal colors so you can wear them all year round. Do not be scared of overdoing it. Actress and fashion icon, Audrey Hepburn's wardrobe consisted of mostly blacks, whites and the occasional pink.

Audiences packed the theaters on Christmas Day to see Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained." The film revolves around bounty hunters Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz) and Django Freeman (Jamie Foxx) on a quest to rescue Django's slave wife, Broomhilda from a plantation dubbed 'Candyland,' owned by Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio).

It had some of the usual Tarantino devices such as monologues, violence and pop culture references, but he also tried a few new things. This film was his absolute funniest and at the same time goriest film. One of the most comical scenes occurs when a calvary of racists led by Don Johnson plans to attack the bounty hunters with homemade masks that no one can see out of. It was funny at first, but the scene went on for way too long compared to other scenes that felt rushed. I appreciate his skillful application of subtle humor in his previous films so I didn't enjoy being drowned in cheesy one-liners during Django.

Praised for his other retro soundtracks, Tarantino decided to blast the audience with Rick Ross in "Django Unchained." I am a big fan of Quentin Tarantino and "Django Unchained" was his only film that I did not love. If you haven't seen all of his films or didn't like some of them, then you might really like it. But if you are a Tarantino connoisseur, then you might hate it.

No matter what, it is definitely a film worth watching, so be sure to catch it while it is still in theaters.
Islander Women’s Conference Home Opener
Islanders fall to Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks 66 - 47

Quiriting the Irish by the first play of the second quarter, offensive MVP BB Eddie Lacy and defensive MVP LB C.J. Mosley and the No. 2 Crimson Tide rolled top-ranked Notre Dame 42-12 for the BCS championships Monday night, locking up a second straight national title and third in four years with a landslide victory of a title game.

Television sets around the country could be heard flipping channels, a guaranteed mismatch between two of the nation’s most storied programs reduced to nothing more than the second straight BCS blowout for the Crimson Tide.

Alabama (13-1) scored 69 straight points against title game opponents, going back to getting the final 13 against Texas in 2010, followed by a stifling 21-0 victory over LSU for last year’s crown, then scoring the first 35 points on Notre Dame. Alabama head coach Nick Saban’s team made the Fighting Irish (12-1) look like a squad that would struggle to finish in the middle of the pack in the mighty Southeastern Conference, which has now won seven straight national championships.

A record 80,120 fans filled the Sun Life Stadium Monday night, wearing more green than crimson. Lacy barreled through the Irish and their Heisman Trophy finalist Man- ti Teo on a 20-yard touchdown run before the game was three minutes in, completing an 82-yard drive, then added three more technical fouls to add to the 35-0 blowout. It was the first possession Alabama scored in the game with a record 1-11 lead and the Ladyjacks with a record of 6-4.

The first possession went to the Islanders, but a Ladyjack steal led to back-to-back points, giving a 4-0 lead over the Islanders. Defense by the Islanders led to a couple made baskets, but the SPA offense responded. Senior Jessica Jammery knocked down two free throws to give the Islanders a two point trail of 6-4. A Ladyjack three point shot and back to back jump shot set the Ladyjacks offense. The Islanders consistantly trailed behind and ended the first half 33-15.

The second half started with back to back Islander baskets. The Islanders defense fell short and trailed behind the Ladyjacks the entire second half. The Islanders fell to Stephen F. Austin 66-47. The Islanders field goal percentage was 32.8 percent, and the Ladyjacks shot 49 percent. Junior Brandi Huff had a career high of 15 points and Jessica Jammery contributed another 10 points to the score board.

The Islanders will be on the road today (Jan. 10) to take on McNeese State for the next conference match up.

Free throws for the win
Islanders Men’s basketball fall to Sam Houston Bearkats 61 - 57

The Islanders Men’s basketball team added another loss to their 1-10 record in Huntsville last Friday, Jan. 4. Sam Houston entered the day with a 61-57 win over the Islanders at John- son Coliseum. A Bearkats rally towards the end gave Sam Houston the advantage, but the Islanders shot a season best, with 12 for 14 at the goal line. At the start of the game, the Bearkats put points on the board from Islander fouls. In the first two minutes, sophomore Johnathan Jordan was whistled twice for offensive and touch fouls. Junior forward Will Nelson added three more technical fouls to add to the Bearkat lead with just five minutes into the game. The Islanders kept up, just trailing behind 14-13 at the ten minute mark.

Sam Houston started a rally with 7-1 run over the Islanders that put them in a seven point lead over A&M- Corpus Christi. The teams went back and forth with baskets before the final three pointers from A&M-Corpus Christi’s James King. The Island- ers headed into the locker room with only six points behind the Bearkats. Sam Houston extended their lead in the second half with a nine point rally. The Islanders answered back with a three point shot from freshman guard Brandon Pye and a layup by Nelson to put them four points away from the Bearkats. The Islanders gathered momentum and started a seven point run to tie up the game. Junior Joy Williamson broke the tie with a three-point jumper, giving the Islanders their first lead of the night.

The two teams traded buckets and took turns with the lead. Islander’s Hameed Ali added three points, bringing the score to 49-46. The Islanders started a rally to gain their biggest lead in the game. Almost two minutes into the game, Sam Houston scored to put the only three points behind the Islanders. The Islander defense gave the Bearkats the chance to score with free throws to take a four point advantage on the Islanders. Sam Houston brought the game to an end with a 61-57 victory over the Islanders. The Islanders are ranked 1-1 overall and 0-1 in the Conference. The Islanders will face McNeese State Thursday, Jan. 10. The Islanders will return for a home game against Oral Roberts Jan. 17th at the American Bank Center. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and will be televised on Southland TV.

Severe guard Aiko Roberts gets off Ladyjacks defense as she goes up for the layup.
Islanders Baseball challenged with tough 2013 schedule

With the 2013 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi baseball schedule, the program will face a challenging slate of 56 games in the upcoming year, 11 of which will be against teams that played in NCAA Regionals last year.

"We have always taken pride in playing the most challenging Division I schedule we can play," said head coach Scott Malone. "For the program to grow, we have to play and win games on the biggest stage."

The year kicks off on Feb. 15 at Chapman Field in a four-game series against Texas-Pan American.

Islanders softball will begin the 2013 season Feb. 7 against Texas.

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi softball team has announced its 2013 softball schedule, which includes 21 games to be played at Chapman Field. The Islanders will play a total of 50 regular-season games and will play a three-game series format in the Southland Conference.

"We have put together a challenging schedule for the 2013 season," head coach Stephanie Hughes said. "Our non-conference portion is filled with teams from the top conferences in Division I softball. It will no doubt prepare us for our Southland Conference schedule."

The Islanders will once again have a competitive non-conference schedule to open the 2013 slate. The team will start the season in Austin on Thursday, Feb. 7, against Texas on the Longhorn Network. The Islanders will then stay in the state's capital for the three-day Texas Classic to face Memphis and North Texas. Next the Islanders will travel to Waco, Texas for the Mikeun Classic, hosted by Baylor University.

"The Southland Conference," head coach Jamie Hughes said, "is always loaded, no matter what team we play with," said Malone. "But playing at Sam Houston and then hosting Oral Roberts will be a unique challenge for our players. We will need to be playing our best baseball from the start."

The Texas Longhorns host the Islanders in a midweek game on April 2 in Austin before the team travels to Thibodaux, La. for a league series against Nicholls on April 5-7. The road swingOur favorite 2013 schedule games against teams that played in NCAA Regionals. Islanders will begin the 2013 season Feb. 7 against Texas.

Schedule announced for Islanders Softball

The Southland Conference champion Texas State with playing start on Friday, March 8.

The Islanders will open the Southland Conference schedule on Saturday, March 9, at home with a non-conference game against McNeese State and Central Arkansas.

"I have been told by everyone underestimates the Southland Conference," said Malone. "It is one of the deepest and most talented in the nation, and this year will be no different. We feel like we have a strong roster of players that are ready to compete for a championship."

The series against SFA is the first of the season set before the start of the Southland Conference tournament. The event will be held at a neutral site on Sugar Land, Texas this year, with all games being played at Constellation Field. The hosts the Sugar Land Skeeters. Play in the tournament begins on Wednesday, May 22, and will run through Saturday, May 25.

For all the latest on Islanders Baseball, like the team on Facebook (Islanders Baseball), follow them on Twitter (@CorpusBaseball) and visit Gofishlanders.com.
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Island Waves
life lessons in pop culture

An Opinion of

All the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players. To some, it’s the limelight of Hollywood, the high life, and the fast lane. To others, it’s the daily grind of working a 9 to 5 job, trying to make ends meet. But to all, it’s a place where we can hide from reality, where we can be anyone we want to be, even if just for a moment.

And yet, despite the allure of the stage, there are those who refuse to participate. They choose to stay behind the scenes, to work quietly and diligently, to make a difference in the world without the spotlight and the fame. They are the true heroes, the unsung warriors who fight for justice, for equality, for change.

But even those who choose to stay in the shadows can’t help but feel the pressure of the stage. They may not be in the spotlight, but they are still being judged, still being assessed. They still have to make choices, still have to balance their own emotions with the needs of others.

So, what does it mean to be a good actor? It means being honest, even when it’s painful. It means being true to oneself, even when it’s difficult. It means being brave, even when it’s scary. It means being a hero, even when it’s hard.

And that’s why we need both the stage and the actors. The stage gives us a place to express ourselves, to share our stories, to connect with others. The actors give us the chance to see ourselves, to understand ourselves, to learn from each other.

So, whether you’re on the stage or behind the scenes, whether you’re a bigger name or a hackneyed unknown, you’re all part of the same play. And that’s what makes it all worth it. Because even in the darkest of times, even when it seems like there’s no way out, there’s always a chance for redemption, for growth, for change.

And in the end, that’s all that matters. For every actor, for every audience, for every story.

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By: Alex Erika

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Life lessons in pop culture

An Opinion of

Do you want to be a good actor? Do you want to make a difference in the world? Then you must remember this: the stage is not for everyone. It’s only for those who are willing to give their all, to sacrifice their own emotions, to put the needs of others above their own.

And that’s why we need both the stage and the actors. The stage gives us a place to express ourselves, to share our stories, to connect with others. The actors give us the chance to see ourselves, to understand ourselves, to learn from each other.

So, whether you’re on the stage or behind the scenes, whether you’re a bigger name or a hackneyed unknown, you’re all part of the same play. And that’s what makes it all worth it. Because even in the darkest of times, even when it seems like there’s no way out, there’s always a chance for redemption, for growth, for change.

And in the end, that’s all that matters. For every actor, for every audience, for every story.

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By: Alex Erika
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