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# AUMNIBUS

Warhawk Issue

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Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

## An Inside Look at Immigrant Detention

By Rachel Wallace



Captured immigrants may be transported hundreds of miles away from where they were living to a facility that has space for them, making it very difficult for their families to visit them while they are detained. Photo courtesy of the El Refugio Facebook page.

Picture yourself lying in a cell, thousands of miles away from the town you have called home for more than half of your life—the town where you graduated high school, fell in love with your wife and were working to provide for two young children. Two years ago, you taped photos of them to the ceiling above your cot, but two weeks ago, you took those photos down and put them away. The pain of missing your family has finally become more than you can bare. You turn to the man lying on the cot beside yours, but his condolences are uttered in a foreign tongue. You are full of frustration, fear and more questions than anyone will ever answer. You are a detained immigrant.

These were the sentiments a man from Central America shared with me at Stewart Detention Center, a medium-security facility located two hours southeast of the AUM campus in Lumpkin, Georgia. In early December, I visited this facility with another student, Rebecca May and Dr. Silvia Giagnoni after completing her course on immigration. Our visit was guided by PJ Edwards, an immigration activist from Atlanta and a founder of El Refugio, a hospitality house that serves Stewart's detainees and their families.

Stewart Detention Center houses roughly 1,900 undocumented male immigrants who are awaiting trials that will determine whether or not they are allowed to remain in the U.S. Many of these men have lived

and worked in our country for several years and were taken away from their families during waves of removal operations. Many of them are asylum seekers who have become trapped in our legal system while trying to escape poverty, persecution and war in their home countries.

Stewart is one of the most difficult facilities in the U.S. to gain release from. Most of the men there have been detained for longer than a year and some for longer than five years. The length of their detainment is at the hands of Georgia's judges, who are reputedly the strictest and most severe in the South. The trials for many of the detainees last so long that they lose hope of ever being released or choose to depart for their home countries voluntarily, an option not available to all.

If the U.S. has no diplomatic relations with a detainee's home country, that country may deny his request for reentry. Likewise, the U.S. may deny a detainee's request for asylum if it has no diplomatic relations with his home country or does not recognize his need to seek asylum. The detainees must justify their asylum requests to the judges—an undertaking which often requires access to sources inaccessible in the facility.

The immigrants sent to Stewart receive a limited legal orientation upon admittance to the facility. Apart from this, they are left to navigate the courtrooms alone

with little understanding of how the system works and little hope of winning their cases. Some of them may be able to afford an immigration attorney, but even the attorneys may treat them unfairly. White immigrants from European countries are shown the most preference while Muslim immigrants from any countries are shown the least preference. This is due in part to the South's deep-rooted racial prejudice and to the anti-Muslim fearmongering which began after 9/11 and has recently spiked after the emergence of an Islamic State.

Despite how the detainees are treated, only a small percentage of them have criminal charges unrelated to their immigration statuses, and those men have served their sentences in prisons and jails before they were transported to Stewart. The facility also does not detain men who are known to have committed crimes in their home countries. However, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement maintains that every individual it detains is a flight risk for national security.

The daily cost of detaining an immigrant is nearly \$200, and the U.S. holds close to 35,000 immigrants every day. The federal government budgets billions of dollars each year for immigrant detention—an amount that is only expected to grow under the Trump administration. Nevertheless, because operation of the facilities is primarily a private business, the individuals who own the facilities



The entrance of the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. Photo Courtesy of El Refugio



(left to right) Rachel Wallace, PJ Edwards, Rebecca May. Photo by Silvia Giagnoni



(left to right) Rachel Wallace, Silvia Giagnoni, Rebecca May. Photo by PJ Edwards

receive most of the profits. Immigrant detention facilities are a difficult reach for systemic change, and activists are greatly limited in what they can accomplish. They sometimes hold campaigns and



# How We Got President Trump, and What's Next

By Nathan Howell

On June 16, 2015 a man descended down an escalator to declare his intention to seek the highest office in the land. Democrats, Republicans, media outlets and a large portion of the country did not take him seriously at first, but the billionaire businessman had the last laugh.

Donald Trump was born and has lived his life in New York City since 1946. With the help of his father and the much ridiculed "small loan of \$1 million," Trump made many ventures into real estate, casinos, restaurants and golf courses; although, his widespread popularity came from his hit show "The Apprentice." However, Trump rose to notoriety in the political scene with his birther movement questioning President Obama's citizenship in 2011 and by frequenting news programs.

In the very same speech in which he declared his candidacy, Trump infamously said, in referring to Mexico, "they're sending crime, they're sending drugs, they're rapists." It was dubious and outrageous statements and stunts like this that defined his



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives to speak during a rally at Gilley's in Dallas, June 16, 2016. Photo Credit: LM Otero/AP

campaign. His character and rhetoric in the past and present has made him a bitter pill for many to swallow.

Though he was by far the most controversial presidential candidate in recent history, Trump managed to secure the Republican nomination. He was able to overcome Hillary Clinton in the general election by criticizing her handling of a private email server, and based on the contents of her emails that were released by WikiLeaks. When Nov. 8 arrived Trump was able to win the presidency through the Electoral College even though he lost the popular vote, only the fifth President to do so.

Since President Trump

took office on Jan. 20 he has begun an ambitious agenda to address health care, immigration and foreign relations. Repealing President Obama's signature "Affordable Care Act" appears to be the first move as lawmakers have already begun the process. The law has covered up to 20 million people since 2010, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, which means Trump will have to develop a replacement plan soon.

The incoming President stated that he wants "insurance for everybody" in an interview with The Washington Post, though he provided no clear way of establishing how he

will do that.

He has also stated that he intends on tackling illegal immigration with his border wall, renegotiating trade agreements and even more ambitiously attempting peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

His rhetoric and showboating rang through as populism to many, but even more found his approach and demeanor unappealing. Trump promised to "Make America Great Again" with his seemingly populist rhetoric; it remains to be seen whether he can actually do that, whatever that means.

# Homecoming: An AUM Tradition

By Megan Endres

Every spring, Auburn University at Montgomery hosts a week filled with competition, prizes, T-shirts, sports and tailgating. Homecoming allows students to represent their club, organization, sports team or a group of their closest friends and battle it out for the main prize: The Chancellor's Cup.

The Chancellor's Cup is presented to the team that collects the most points throughout the week from service projects, team involvement and other events hosted on campus. "My favorite part about homecoming was participating in the Chancellor's Cup competition with my team," says Calandra Autrey, Director of the Campus Activities Board, "It was a great bonding experience and it made us realize how much we actually can accomplish when we work together."

The AUM tradition of homecoming would not be complete without the homecoming court competition, sponsored by the Student Government Association. However, this year's event will feature a new twist. "The winners will be required to come together as four students to drive a community service project,"



Pictured left to right: Trever Manley, Victoria Salvador, Jordan Price, Holly Ann Goble Photo Courtesy of Frank Williams

explains Joel Hughes, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs. "You can also earn points for your team by having a team member on homecoming court." SGA will crown AUM's new king and queen on Saturday afternoon just before the men's basketball game.

The excitement continues on Saturday, Feb. 25 with the family weekend tailgate and basketball games. Gather your family and friends

and come out to enjoy music from defending Chancellor's Cup winner, the Campus Activities Board, plus games, food, and prizes from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in front of the AUM Gym. 2016 homecoming princess Victoria Salvador says her favorite part of the week was "spending time with her family at the tailgate."

Voting for homecoming court opens on Feb. 22 at 8 a.m. and closes on Feb. 23 at 11:59 p.m. You can

get involved in the action by creating a team, competing for the crown or simply by supporting your AUM Warhawks as they face off against the Selma University Bulldogs on Saturday, Feb. 25 beginning at 2 p.m. in the AUM Gym.

# The Disney College Program

By Jacquelyn Woods

Every year, thousands of college students across the world submit applications for the Disney College Program. Each student has various reasons for applying, but they all want the same thing: to put on their resume that they worked for Mickey Mouse. Only an average of 10 percent of students that apply for the Disney College Program get accepted each semester, making it a competitive program to get into.

I started my journey with the Mouse in February of 2016 and ended in January 2017. It was easily one of the best experiences of my life. I decided on my first day that I would regularly post about my experience in the program on my social media and the more I posted, the more people asked about the program and how I got accepted into it.

## The Application

I stumbled across an advertisement for the program while doing job applications on indeed.com and decided to apply. It was a lengthy application that asked various questions about me and what jobs I would be willing to do while participating in the program. I was completely honest, which paid off in the end. At Disney, you can work in vacation planning, photography, merchandise, attractions, floral assisting, hospitality, quick service and the list continues. Keep in mind that whatever job you are offered will be what you are doing daily for three months to one year. So if you hate janitorial work, do not put that you have even the slightest interest in custodial, but if you love acting, put character performing as the one you are most interested in. If you love doing hair and makeup, do not let your dreams just be dreams, show a strong interest in being a Fairy Godmother at the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique!

## The Interview

Disney will review each application and then select the candidates who will move on to the web-based interview. Disney adds magic to their interviews by asking questions about your favorite characters and memories with Disney. The phone interview is the last step and if you have made it that far, pat yourself on the back because you are almost in. Treat the phone portion as if you are talking to your interviewer in person. Smile, listen, use their name when answering questions, relax and be yourself. If Disney hires you, it is because they want you.

## The Experience

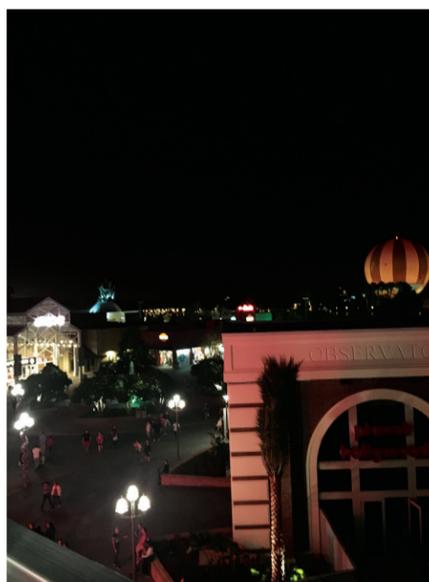
Disney keeps you in the dark about where you will be living and working until you actually get there. The only thing you will know is where you will be doing your internship: Walt Disney World or Disneyland.

Disney will provide your housing, but a portion for rent is taken out of your paycheck weekly. When you arrive, you learn your work location, go through an amazing orientation called Traditions and receive your “magical” employee ID. Throughout the program, no matter where you work, you create and believe in magic. It is an amazing experience that you truly cannot explain, but would love for everyone else to understand. I highly recommend taking at least one Disney class or seminar while you are there. Classes and seminars range from \$5 to \$15 per class and can be used for college credit if your university allows it. The classes help you develop skills needed in the corporate world while the seminars teach you the history of how Disney runs as a company. During my program, I took Organizational Leadership and Corporate Communications.

The program is a great resume builder and allows you to learn more about the company. If you would like to apply for the program or find an overview of what the program is, visit [www.disneycollegeprogram.com](http://www.disneycollegeprogram.com). If you are interested in hearing more about the college program from former cast members, visit [www.disneycollegeprogramsblog.com](http://www.disneycollegeprogramsblog.com). Disney also offers professional internships in various fields, but former College Program participants are preferred for them. You can search for Disney Professional Internships on [www.jobs.disneycareers.com](http://www.jobs.disneycareers.com).



It is tradition for the college program participants at World of Disney to take a group photo on their last shift. Photo by Kevin Russell



Overview of Disney Springs from the Coca-Cola Store. Photo by Jacquelyn Woods



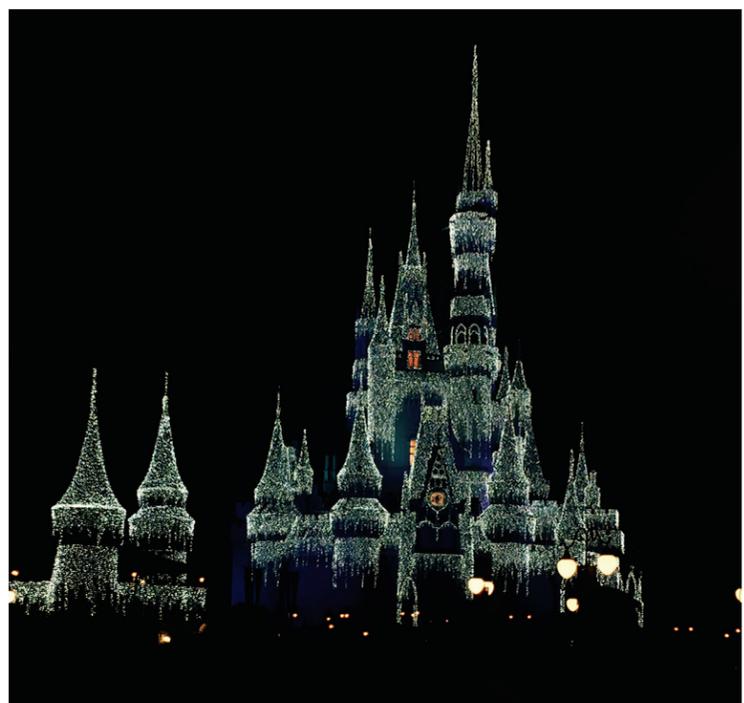
World of Disney employs more than 700 cast members, 10 percent of which are college program participants. Photo by Kevin Russell



(left to right) Jacquelyn Woods, Christopher Dipierno, Melissa Perez. Photo by Amanda Smith



Here are three college program participants graduating from the program. (left to right) Chelsea Torres, Jacquelyn Woods, and Gabrielle Lobriacio Photo by Gabrielle Lobriacio



Cinderella's castle in Magic Kingdom theme park. Photo by Jacquelyn Woods

# Letter from the Editor:



Photo by Brooke Scoggins

## To the AUM Community,

I am incredibly honored to serve as your new editor-in-chief. I look forward to working with this team of talented writers, the wonderful faculty and staff and the student body as a whole. I am excited to share in this experience with current and future AUMnibus staff as each of us continues to strive for excellence.

The AUMnibus has found consistent support in the AUM family over the years, which has allowed this newspaper to grow. I hope to continue to earn your support and to bring you the content you want to see.

Megan Endres  
Editor-in-chief

# WARHAWK SQUAWK

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching and no matter whether you will be celebrating with your significant other or your gal pals, we've all had our share of bad dates. These students share the one thing that could ruin a first date for them.





**Destiny Richards**

Junior  
Communication

“If they talk about their ex.”



**Blake Hunter**

Senior  
Communication

“If they are rude to the server.”

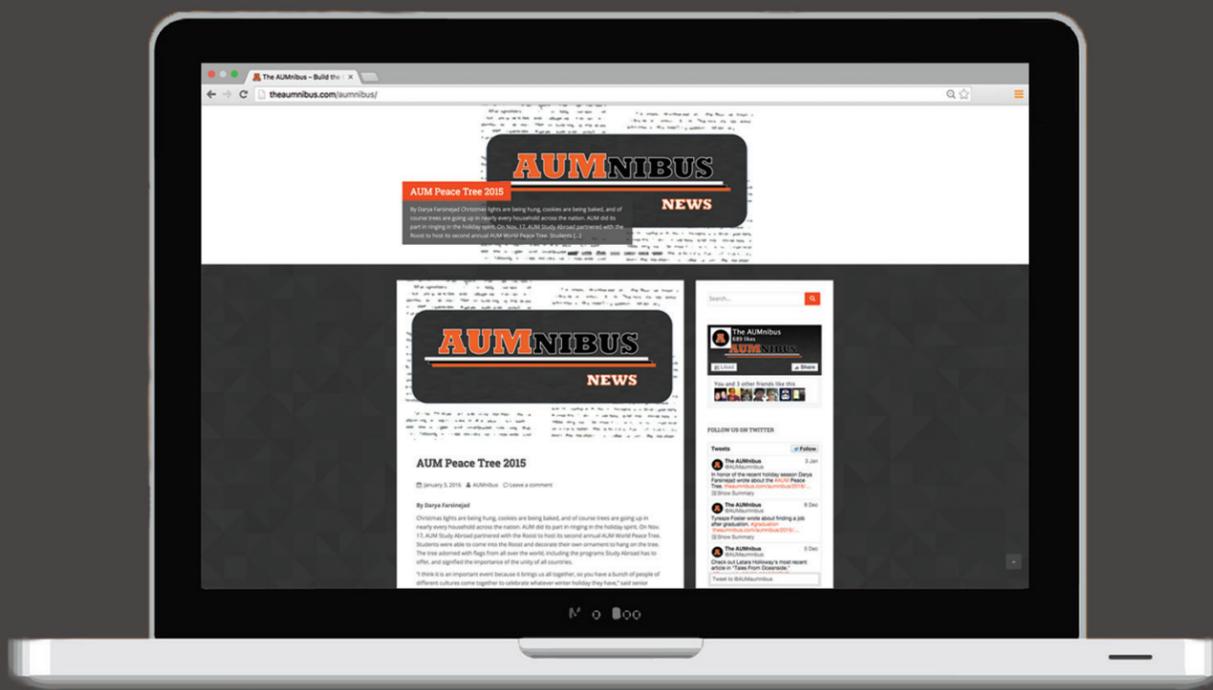


**Jessica Klein**

Senior  
Nursing

“If they talk bad about their mom.”

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