Armstrong Campus Celebrates Black History Month with Variety of Events

The Inkwell

POLITICAL Rewind

OP/ED

FACULTY Exhibit

BAKARI SELLERS

President Gerald Ford was the first president to rec-ognize Black History Month and suggested to his nation, “Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of our endeavor throughout our his-tory.” Since this moment in 1976, the month of February was designated as Black His-tory Month.

The New York Times article, “Black History Month: Pressing Forward on the Heels of Progress,” ac-tress Denise Hinson said, “My ultimate dream is that these things — women’s history, black history — are so includ-ed in the standard curriculum no-tive that we no longer need a separate time to celebrate it. I always say, when the day comes that I get to play Ma-rie Antoinette as quickly as Eddie Redmayne gets to play the woman in ‘The Danish Girl,’” then I will be far more flexible. But I think we have a long way to go. This month at least gives people a time when you bring up race, everyone doesn’t get ner-vous. In our country, people get very stressed out when you talk about these things.”

In honor of this occasion, the Department of Multi-cultural Affairs (OMA) has come together with students, alumni, and staff members to create an annual event called Black Heritage Cele-bration Month. This month-long event is made up of a wide variety of activities, sponsored by a diversity of campus organizations such as MOVE, NAACP, the African American Brotherhood, and the Multicultural Greek Council. They have worked togeth-er to bring to the community events ranging from film showings and workshops, to dinner gatherings and lec-tures. These events are meant to be educational and empow-ering to those attending, such as the “Countering Racism Workshop” or the “Brown Bag Series: Mental Health in the Black Community.” Interim Director of the OMA Lucero-Andaluo said that the events planned this year will, “give students an opportunity to become politically active in an educational way.”

The inkwell

If any students have questions or would like to send in questions regarding issues that are of concern to them, Tom Faust, producer of the radio program, said, “there will be a Q&A component and we would love questions from the students.”

If any students have questions they would like to send in, they can email them to faust@armstrong.edu. They can also call Tom Faust at 229-259-8887 with your questions.

The inkwell

In 2017, Nashia Whit-tenburg, the former director of the Office of Multicultural A ffairs (OMA), described the Armstrong Campus parade, which is the longest line up at the time. This year, the Black Heritage Cele-bration Month consisted of 27 programs, which was the largest line up at the time. February 2018 is surpassing last year’s month-long cele-bration by extending it to a month-and-half-long celebra-tion that consists of 34 differ-ent events, which started in mid-January with the MLK Day Parade. All events are taking place in a variety of locations across campus (See schedule for details). Arrida-las mentioned that participa-tion in these events grow higher every year. “We have grown dramatically over the last several years, not just in the number of events during the month but the attendance as well. For example, this year we had 194 students signed up for the MLK Parade, which is our largest event, with about 250 actually showing up for it. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students, who want to be present in our community.”

In 2007, Yashri Whit-tenburg, the former director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), described the intent behind this celebration as the following, “Our goal is to serve as a catalyst to pro-mote the academic, social and spiritual celebration of black culture in Savannah.” All events are free and open to the public. Anyone is wel-come and encouraged to at-tend.

Martin Luther King said, “In the end, we will remem-ber not the words of our en-emies, but the silence of our friends.” These words high-light the importance of con-tinuing this yearly event’s tra-dition, since it encourages the imperative narrative about America’s struggle with ra-acial inequality to go on in a positive, empowering and ed-u-cational way.
Bakari Sellers Addresses GSU, Speaks of Dreams Deferred

February 1, 2018

THE INKWELL

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Savannah Comedy Festival Kicks Off With Improv Musical

Faculty Lecture Series Presents: Dr. Bridge Conn

Alexandre Garrido

STAFF WRITER

As we approach the month of February, the Black History Month celebration is beginning to shape up. The National Park Service is commemorating the festivities the month long with a special event at Savannah's Fort Pulaski. The event will feature a speech by Savannah native and GSU alumnus, Bakari Sellers. Mr. Sellers will be discussing his experiences as a lawmaker and his vision for the future of America. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 PM. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.frontporchimprov.com.

Dr. Bridge Conn, a professor at Armstrong State University, will be presenting a lecture on the history of photography. The lecture will take place on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 PM in the Savannah College of Art and Design's Temples Theatre. Conn will be discussing the development of photography from its earliest forms to the digital age. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.armstrong.edu.

The Savannah Comedy Festival is entering its sixth year and is currently accepting actors for the next season. The festival is looking for actors of all ages and experience levels to participate in the festival. Auditions will be held on Monday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Savannah Stage Company's main stage. For more information, please visit www.savannahstagecompany.com.

As we approach the month of February, the Black History Month celebration is beginning to shape up. The National Park Service is commemorating the festivities the month long with a special event at Savannah's Fort Pulaski. The event will feature a speech by Savannah native and GSU alumnus, Bakari Sellers. Mr. Sellers will be discussing his experiences as a lawmaker and his vision for the future of America. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 7:00 PM. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.frontporchimprov.com.

Dr. Bridge Conn, a professor at Armstrong State University, will be presenting a lecture on the history of photography. The lecture will take place on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 PM in the Savannah College of Art and Design's Temples Theatre. Conn will be discussing the development of photography from its earliest forms to the digital age. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.armstrong.edu.

The Savannah Comedy Festival is entering its sixth year and is currently accepting actors for the next season. The festival is looking for actors of all ages and experience levels to participate in the festival. Auditions will be held on Monday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Savannah Stage Company's main stage. For more information, please visit www.savannahstagecompany.com.

In my opinion, it was a great speech that explored the history of the Civil Rights Movement, but I also believe that it was too brief. The speech did not address the problems present for AC-
CAMPUS VOICES: Are you watching the Super Bowl, the Puppy Bowl, or Super Bowl commercials? And why?

“I’m watching the Super Bowl! Go Eagles!”
Alyssa Ali
Freshman, Biology

“My friends are going out, so either I watch it or I’m alone.”
Ben Asghar
Freshman, Biology

“Super Bowl. It’s my birthday and I have nothing better to do.”
Alec Rodgers
Freshman, Computer Science

“I’m watching the Puppy Bowl since the Steelers aren’t playing in the Super Bowl.”
Ethan Smith
Freshman, Engineering

“I’m an Eagles fan, so I’ll watch the Super Bowl.”
Alejandro Arango
Freshman, Undeclared

Let’s get serious. The group that is continually overlooked when new legislation or laws are enacted—whether on a local, state or federal level—is young people. That means us, college students. The reason for that is simple. We just don’t pay attention. Everyone likes to complain about the new parking rules downtown. I’m sure there has been plenty of outrage and debate across social media about the new parking changes. But where was that concern when the ordinance was making its way through the City Council? Despite what you may think laws are made in the open, is there a possibility for back-room deals? Absolutely! It probably happens. Yes. But there are laws on the books that prohibit this. Georgia is among many states that have open meetings and open records laws. The City Council legally cannot meet without first announcing it to its citizens. Every City Council meeting is taped and broadcasted online for free. The public is given a chance to participate in the legislative process. If you want something to change you need to be involved. No lawmaker will ever get to listen to a concern that is not voiced. I am asking you to take stock in the laws that affect your life. Call your representatives. Find out ‘how the sausage is made’. The process may seem overwhelming and hard to navigate. However, the information is there for those who want to find it. To that effect, I, your News Editor, will compile a list of laws and ordinances that are making their way through the state legislature and city council. Laws that I think will be important or impactful to Armstrong students will be highlighted. If I miss anything or there is something you want to know more about, let me know. We can investigate. We can bring light upon legislation that matters to us.
Larry Nassar Sentenced 40-175 Years for Sexual Allegations

Larry Nassar looks on as he is sentenced, via CNN

After nearly two decades of sexual abuse going unnoticed in US Women's Gymnastics, Larry Nassar was sentenced up to 175 years in prison for his acts of sexual assault against 150 women and girls who competed for the US National Gymnastics team.

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina took great pride in giving out this sentence, "I've just signed your death warrant... I find that you don't get it, that you're a danger. That you remain a danger." Nassar attempted to defend his medical practices and accused the women who accused him of sexual abuse of lying for the attention they "craved" and "exploited." In his Nassar's letter, he states, "I was a good doctor because my treatments were successful, and those patients that are now speaking out are lying to get all the attention they can back over. The media convinced them that every single thing I did was wrong. They feel I broke bread at a table with no face, like a woman scorned." These women were rescued by Judge Aquilina during his hearing. Nassar already faced 50 years in 2016 when the Browns asked for over 130 years, but they already adds to what is a substantial sentence for just downright unforgivable actions that will forever scar the victims and everyone else involved.

For those who do not know who Dr. Larry Nassar was a former doctor for the US Gymnastics team who also worked at Michigan State University (MSU). He received notable degrees from MSU and worked with its football, basketball, and other major sports teams. He was appointed national medical director of US Gymnastics in 1996. Along with his medical work for MSU, he later became a professor there as well.

Nassar was first accused of sexual abuse in 2016, when former gold medalist Rachael Denhollander said she suffered from sexual abuse by Nassar in 1994. Some of his victims reported that the abuse continued for over ten years, while the dates the accusers gave spanned over a total of 30 years.

Following the sentencing, the MSU Medical Board Nassar, MSU faced an uncertain next few months. The administration fired Nassar on Sep 25, 2016, but can be considered grossly untimely. In 1997, an MSU stu- dent's parent raised concerns about Nassar to John Simon, but he failed to contact police. Geldert, now the former US Gymnastics coach was questioned and referred to throughout the Nassar case numerous times. He re- tired on Jan 23, 2017 among allegations that he may have been part of the sexual abuse caused by Nassar.

MSU President Lou Ann K. Simon resigned shortly after his sentencing on Jan 24. Simon's resignation may create a domino-effect for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has launched a full-fledged inves- tigation into the university's codes of conduct.

Immediately after Nassar's sentencing, the Olympic Committee issued a statement calling for the entire board at US Gymnastics to resign. In the same statement, the committee reinforced that they will take further action to make sure something of this magnitude never happens again.

The assault Nassar inflicted on these gymnasts has left intense physical and emotional harm. Despite their best, they have grown to not only be Olympic field medallists, but role models for girls everywhere. Every single survivor that spoke up could have easily remained silent, but they had the bravery and willingness to send a "moor- st" as some have called him to prison where he can do no harm to women anymore.

Reporting this story has been particularly difficult for the folks who worked for the US Gymnastics team to have faith in the US Olympics in general. Questions abound and we will hopefully come to a resolution, but his sentencing has given many of these women closure, and that's what they have been looking for their entire lives. Nassar deserves punishment to the fullest ex- tent of the law.

People will no longer be silenced, by intimidation or otherwise. Having a voice to advocate for issues matters.

Somehow, the media convinced them that every single thing I did was wrong. They feel I broke bread at a table with no face, like a woman scorned. They were rescued by Judge Aquilina during his hearing. Nassar already faced 50 years in 2016 when the Browns asked for over 130 years.