Armstrong Campus Celebrates Black History Month with Variety of Events

By Laura Weyman

President Gerald Ford once 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 national endeavor throughout our his-tory.” Since this moment in 1976, the month of February was designated as Black His-tory Month.

In 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-able in the zero-curriculum nu-merative 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 where if you bring up race, everyone doesn’t get ner-vous. In our country, people get very stressed out when you start talking 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 MOVIE, NAACP, the African American Sisterhood, and the Multicultural Greek Council. They have worked togeth-er to bring to the community events ranging from film viewings 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 Andullos said that the events planned this year will, “give students an opportunity to engage with their peers in collegial conversations. At the same time, we come to-gether to celebrate this year’s selected faculty, staff, stu-dents, alumni and student or-ganizations to receive awards at our culminating event—the MLK dinner, February 22 at 7:00pm in the Ballroom.”

This year’s Black Her-itage Celebration Month is the longest one so far at the Armstrong Campus. Last 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-a-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). Andullos mentioned that partic-ipation 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 2017, Nashia Whit-temburg, 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 ene mies, 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-cial inequality to go on in a positive, empowering and ed-ucational way.

Armstrong State University’s news source since 1935

The Inkwell
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1, 2018

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STATE LAWS TO KEEP AN EYE ON

Campus free speech act

Senator Lujan, R-Bras-selton introduced a bill that would require the board of regents to provide the establishment of free speech policies on university campuses. This bill is in response to the sometimes hostile inclusion of all-right speakers.

Minnesota Mandate

Renee Ostman, R-Bu-dapest advocated a bill that would allow restaurants to force alcoholic beverages starting at 10:30 AM Sunday mornings. Currently all estab-lishments must be open until 12:30 to sell alcohol.

Tax on Wire Transfers

Jeff Jones, R-Bras-selton introduced a bill that would impose a new tax on out of state wire transfers. The bill targets immigrants and refugees who are sending money out of state. The fee charged can be as much as a dol-lar for dollar tax credit.

A Ban on “Uphiring!”

It is currently not against Georgia law to photograph a women up her skirt without her approval. This bill targets and  distribution of low THC cannabis oil that contains more than legal use and possess.

Medical Marijuana

Alvin Peaks, R-Macon introduced HB 945 which would allow for the cultivation and distribution of THC cannabis oil that contains more than legal use and possess.
Bakari Sellers Addresses GSU, Speaks of Dreams Deferred

STAFF WRITER
ALEXANDRE GARRIDO

February 1, 2018
THE INKWELL
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Savannah Comedy Festival kicks off Thursday night with “The Big Cheese,” a nationally renowned comedian who has performed on television and at comedy festivals across the country. The event drew a large crowd of students in Ogeechee Theater.

The festival is now in its second year and as with the previous year, it is being held during the month of February, the Black History Month celebration. The event here on the Armstrong campus was telecast for Armstrong residence Life of Armstrong University, who were giving away extra credit for attendance.

The event was part of the Armstrong Black Student Union’s (A.B.S.U.) the Improvised Musical. The festival is supported by the Armstrong Community Foundation.

The event did not address the problems present for African-Americans today. I’m not sure if the choice fell for a moral reason, because, “I’m so tired of people cannot afford a fancy camera, and they are still the conventional and more digital counterparts.”

The musician duo of Wesley Bridgen and Ellen Sherrod handled the ten different genres ranging from dance, folk, funk, reggae, salsa, spoken-word, and hip hop. All the musical accompaniment were off without a hitch.

Dr. Bridget Conn serves as an avenue for social justice in the Savannah community. Her work has been observed at the national Art Center in Park City, Utah. This process pervaded the photos taken between the photos were the five Fearless Founders who took the stage. Maria Isabel Caim, Joanna Walchuck Aprea, MeridIAN Coleby, Cyndee Prather, and Melkenn Lyons all per formed flawlessly. Artist director Jayme Tinti said the choice of an all-women cast was "not a deliberate one but rather one of happy coincidence."

If the choice fell short. This vision of trying to be our best selves and trying to make a better community was why Nick C. Seltzer, the Director of Housing and Residence Life at Armstrong, declared himself a fan of Mr. Sellers. However, not all in attendance agreed with what the politician said. Steve McQuistion, student of Savannah Stage Co., including upcoming shows and auditions can be found at www.savannah stageco.com.

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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 Ashgar
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

Call to action for students

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 an 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

Ethan Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Larry Nassar looks on as he is sentenced. via CNN

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 abuse against 150 women and girls who competed for the US gymnastics team.

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 Rachel Dbritt told her story about Nassar’s actions toward her. In an interview with Judge Aquilina during his hearing, Nassar admitted to committing sexual abuse numerous times. He said, “I just can’t get it, you know. You don’t want to do that.” Nassar was sentenced up to 175 years in prison for his acts of sexual abuse in 2016, when former gold medalist Rachel DeBritt told her story about Nassar’s actions toward her.

In last week’s games, the female and male divisions of Georgia Southern’s Eagles continued to progress with unity at pace which they did at the beginning of the year. The team was able to keep their 4th spot in the Sun Belt Conference while the women’s struggles continued with two losses to Texas State and UTA.

Larry Nassar took great pride in giving out this sentence, “I’ve just lost my daughter’s marriage.” He found that you don’t get it, you just don’t want it. “A danger. A danger you remain a danger.” Nassar attempted to defend his medical and surgical practices and accused the women who accused him of sexual abuse of being attention seeking. “You are nothing.” In Nassar’s own narrative, he stated, “I was a good doctor because my treatments worked. I was a good therapist, and those patients that are now speaking out are the ones that wouldn’t come back over and over again. The media convinced them that everything I did was wrong. They feel I broke their trust. Hell, there has been no trust.”

Larry Nassar still faces an uncertain path after his sentencing on Jan 24. Simon’s resignation may create a domino effect as the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) has launched a full-fledged investigation into the university’s codes of conduct. Nassar is currently pursuing an appeal and has yet to be notified of the outcome. The administration at MSU has requested that Nassar resign before his sentencing.

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Following the sentencing and hearing for Nassar, MSU fans were unamused. "We cannot fathom how Larry Nassar remained a gymnast for over 4 years, while the dates the accusers gave spanned over a total of 3 years."

People will no longer be silenced. "Intimidation or otherwise. Having a voice to advocate for issues matters."

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A woman who has known Dr. Larry Nassar for 20 years, operates a photography business. "When most of us hear the word photographer, we imagine a professional artist shining through above us, a physical presence. But for me, being a photographer, it’s the human face that needs to be shown. People will no longer be silenced. "Intimidation or otherwise. Having a voice to advocate for issues matters."

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