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The Inkwell

Armstrong State University

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The Board of Regents believes the schools ultimately serve many of the same students. Georgia Southern is already the number-one transfer choice for Armstrong students and both institutions are among top destinations for students seeking public higher education from Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Liberty counties.

Combining the institutions also allows for a broad range of degree programs, such as engineering and health care.

Although the Board of Regents promises growth for the new combined institution, the consolidation brings fears and many unanswered questions for students and faculty. Armstrong students rallied two protests on campus preceding the official vote. Student athletes conducted a 20 minute anti-merge video consisting of student-athletes and alumni voicing their opinions.

Athletics:
Several student-athletes told The Inkwell that they have asked for their transfer release and permission to contact, enabling them to begin their search for a new university. Others, however, are still hopeful that separate athletics between the consolidating schools will be implemented.

Sophomore Armstrong soccer player Casey Coach participated in both protests and lead the making of the anti-merge video.

“I came to Armstrong because of the small classroom size and to be able to connect with people on a personal level,” Coach said. “This is also seen in the athletic department. All of the coaches, staff, athletic trainers and directors know the athletes and support all of us. These people here only want the best for us and it’s completely unfair to watch it taken away.”

The Frequently Asked Questions section of the consolidation website addresses that athletics is an aspect of the consolidation that has to be decided upon early in the process and that scholarships will be honored throughout the consolidation process.

“The thing we noticed our team because everybody’s mind was focused on what’s going to happen with us,” junior liberal studies major and student athlete KJ James said. “We are still concerned because they haven’t really told us exactly when everything is going to take place as far as giving us another year or stopping athletics as a whole after this season.”

Faculty:
The impact on Armstrong’s roughly 260 faculty members and 350 staff members is also unclear at this time. University officials released a decrease in the number of positions will likely occur. Certain administrative functions will be combined, resulting in the need for fewer positions overall.

Next steps:
An institutional implementation committee will be formed and that scholarships might be decided upon early in the process and that scholarships will be honored throughout the consolidation process.

The Georgia Board of Regents approved the merger between Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University Wednesday, Jan. 11. Students were notified earlier this week on Jan. 17 of a website created by the University System of Georgia that aims to answer questions and address concerns regarding the impending merge.

According to the consolidation website, the merge process will take place over approximately 18 months, completing in the fall semester of 2018. But this date could change depending on the needs of the future institution.

Once the merge is complete, Armstrong will assume Georgia Southern’s title, their President, Dr. Jaimie Hebert, as well as bring the total student population to approximately 27,000—roughly 20,000 more students than Armstrong’s current student body.

WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT’S NEXT

Student Success Center Opens

LUCY STONE
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Success Center officially opened following a ribbon cutting Thursday, Jan. 12. Located between the Student Recreation Center and Alumni Arena, the Center houses all academic advisors’ offices in one space and provides classrooms specifically for First Year Experience seminar classes.

At the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the Center on a self-guided tour. The building was previously a deteriorating indoor swimming pool with leaks losing approximately 60,000 gallons of water a day.

Now, a lounge and study area is available with accessible outlets. An outdoor patio is also available for students. Though largely intended for first-year students, all students are welcome to utilize the space.

Students can schedule an appointment with an academic advisor by calling 912.344.2570.
January 17, 2017
THE INKWELL
SPORTS & Wellness

Student-Athletes’ thoughts on the merge

I think it makes sense as to why they went through with it as far as the money part, but for the athletics it sucks. I would say that it puts the most pressure on freshmen and sophomores since they have to transfer if they want to keep playing. Which is what I plan on doing. It is a little stressful that most programs have already done their recruiting for next year, but I am looking at it as an opportunity. Our team was already close before this happened but I think it actually brought us closer. Hence, we aren’t sure if this will be our last season together or not.

Spencer Ball
Fresman
Men’s Golf

The merge that this this merge would dissolve Armstrong Athletics is absolutely crushing. This merge, however, is so much more than just about the athletics. The futures of staff and current students hang in the balance. From whether that staff member will have a job in a year or if that student’s major could be taken away, all hang up in the air. Being active in protesting the merge was definitely a priority for me. I was initially contacted by Casey Couch about a merge opposition video, and everything took off from there.

Athletes, students and alumni were all contacted about the video, and that we were showing our opposition of the merge on campus. I edited and filmed the video as well as attended the protests on campus. So regardless of the outcome of the merge, no one can say Armstrong didn’t go without a struggle.

Savanna Gladez
Senior
Women’s Softball

Personally, this merge is not having a dramatic effect on me at this specific point in time, as I am graduating in May, however, I will never be able to come home to my Pirates ever again. Over the last four years I have made huge strides educationally and personally, been given so many incredible opportunities, and have made so many friends. I now consider to be my family all because I came to Armstrong, Georgia. I am going to be leaving everyone behind in cullwells, when I originally expected to leave everyone to finish what they started, but now, they are being stripped of their chance to even finish it. Despite all of this stress and uncertainty that has been placed upon all the athletes and faculty, we remain strong and ready to take on the spring semester. If this is our last semester to prove ourselves, we are going to show everyone exactly what they will be missing when they cut our program. They may be able to take away the future of the Pirate athletics, but there is no way for them to take away everything we have accomplished while we were here. Once a Pirate, always a Pirate!

Molly Molyneaux
Senior
Women’s Golf

As an athlete, I think that the merge is quite unfortunate. For the athletic department to have just reinstated Women’s Cross Country so it can be taken away so quickly is incredibly heartbreaking. We barely got a chance to prove ourselves and develop our program. I don’t want to transfer and I don’t want to play sport more than anything and this merge is giving me no choice but to consider transferring due to the cut in athletics. I fell in love with Armstrong and the strong moment I visited, and now I have to leave it without a choice.

Randi Schroedel
Junior
Women’s Soccer

I feel this merge is extremely unfortunate. It is impacting far more students and Savannah residents than the Board of Regents are choosing to accept. Many student athletes and administrators have yet to be given information regarding our futures here at Armstrong. We are having to plan to lose our jobs, and university and most important is, having to become apart of. As stressful as starting a new semester is, many of my fellow athletes are also struggling with the lack of ability to know whether to start looking for other schools to further their education and athletic career. - this itself is making this new year begin much more stressful than it should be.

Maddison Sax
Junior
Women’s Volleyball

Armstrong Rec. and Wellness Calendar

**Upcoming games**

**Basketball Mens:**
Sat. 21st at Lander @ 3:30pm
Wed. 25th at Augusta @ 7:30pm

**Basketball Womens:**
Sat. 21st at Lander @ 1:30pm
Wed. 25th at Augusta @ 5:30pm

**EVENT**

**February 15th**

**Deadline**
Jan 19th
Jan 23rd
Jan 26th

**Date**
Jan 19th
Jan 23rd
Jan 26th

**Time**
1pm to 4pm
TBA
TBA

**High School Basketball**

To 5 Basketball

CPR, First Aid, and AED Courses

N/A
Fellow students,

As The Inkwell Editorial Board at Armstrong State University, we write this before Thursdays town hall meeting, we are, as of yet, not quite sure how the merger will affect our 82 year-old newspaper or the 7,100 students it speaks for. As you know, our medium-size university will soon join Georgia Southern University. Armstrong will take Georgia Southern's name in marriage, effectively creating the fourth largest university in Georgia. The name change is not the only source of frustration for those here in Savannah.

As The Inkwell has tirelessly talked with the Armstrong community, we have heard many of the same valid concerns -- the main one being the suddenness of this decision. Although it is now clear that this consolidation has been in the works for quite some time, the news broke without any time or opportunity for conversation. The vote in question went through even following two days of campus protests, leaving the small, but mighty Pirate community feeling reclusive and without a voice. On a bureaucratic level, it makes decent sense to funnel money into one school instead of two. But joining two schools with fundamentally different curriculums and values is more complicated. To strip the individualism and community feel from the culture that Armstrong has cultivated for nearly a century is a devastating blow.

Many students choose Armstrong because they prefer an intimate, small-school atmosphere and favor its impressive degree programs. Although the transition is still under way, another thing made perfectly clear in its execution is that little or nothing was put in place for those students and employees it will immediately affect, such as those whose sports teams, scholarships and in some cases, jobs, will be eliminated. Our own student newspaper may be included. To put it lightly, not enough people are getting screwed to sway the Board of Regents.

We can't help but wonder if the upcoming town hall meeting at Armstrong regarding the merger is 'too little too late' now that the decision has already been made without student input. Why would either university's president or the Department of Education even bother here other than to sit back and wait for the crying to die over?

GA Southern Eagle pride is extremely important -- even downtown in the state of Georgia. We ask that the dedicated students of Georgia Southern reconsider that the Armstrong Pirates, though half your size, hold within us a similar pride that we now can no longer powerfully protect.

With that being said, the town hall meeting at Georgia Southern, on the other hand, may hold some value. At least more than ours. With GA Southern hosting two meetings will be the first steps in blending the best of both worlds. There's still a possibility that we can preserve at least a fraction of the traditions, opportunities and history that have made our university -- Armstrong -- a respected staple in Savannah's community since 1935. Of the many things that will be fleshed out in the coming months, it will have to be considered which school has the better degree program in each field. Both schools' excellent health science and engineering departments may be a straightforward decision to combine. But many wouldn't like to see other Armstrong programs, such as liberal studies and arts, compromised.

For example, the liberal and fine arts departments at Armstrong serve many who do not wish to or cannot afford to attend Savannah College of Art and Design, a private institution. These programs in particular benefit from their location in Savannah, arguably one of the most vibrant art scenes in the region, and would not thrive as greatly in Statesboro.

The details of this transition will ultimately boil down to which Georgia Southern wants. Administration and the student body in Statesboro will have the power. If the BOR will listen to any tuition-payers, it will be the students not being absorbed. If we Pirates have a chance to represent anyone, it's our own-fellow students in Statesboro. For that reason, those of us at The Inkwell would like to implore Georgia Southern students to consider this when they speak up. At the point, you're speaking for us.
Savannah Stopover announces full lineup

LILA MILLER
A&E EDITOR

Savannah Stopover music festival is quickly becoming a city staple. The three-day event runs during Spring Break from March 9–11. Single day passes are available for $54, weekend passes for $79 and VIP access passes for $149.

This year features headliners Kidlo Bashi, Lee Fields & The Expressions, Julien & The Expressions, Kishi Bashi, Lee Fields & The Expressions, and Lyn Avenue.

Savannah Stopover aims to be accessible to festival-goers at any price point. 2017 marks the seventh year of the three-day event, heralded as “South by South East.” The festival boasts a line-up of over 80 bands from Savannah locals all the way to Australia over.com

McLeod, Lyn Avenue and Garden Giant among others.

Stopover is unique in terms of traditional music festivals that can cost more than a month’s rent. Savannah Stopover aims to be accessible to festival-goers at any price point.

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Good things Come in threes: A review of The xx’s third album “I See You”

LILA MILLER
A&E EDITOR

The closer of “I See You” reflects on The xx’s members’ strained relationships with each other both geographically and emotionally. Although at times volatile, the song resulted in a happy reunion between Sim and Croft as the last lyrics reveal. “I’ll take it out on you! It’s easier than talking it through. Test me, see if I stay? How could I walk the other way?” Overall, “I See You” is an amazing addition to the ever-growing stack of The xx’s albums and accolades. The xx hasn’t changed in being able to nail down deeper emotions like heartbreak, loss, love and relationships, but this time, you can dance to it.

February:

Student Juried Art Exhibition January 30 – February 19
Fine Arts Gallery - Free Admission
Reception on February 8 at 12:00pm - Free
Art program students shine in this annual competitive exhibition that features awards in various media.

Baby
February 16 – February 18 at 7:30pm, February 19 at 7:30pm
Jenkins’ Theatre – Assigned Seating $15, discounts available

High School Congressional show February 20 – March 3
Fine Arts Gallery - Free Admission
Reception on March 5 at 12:00pm - Free
An Armstrong Juried High School Art Exhibition for students in Georgia’s 1st Congressional District.

Chamber Concert February 21 at 7:30pm
Fine Arts Auditorium - General Admission $6

With The xx, this is not the flow of the subsequent album but rather a turn in direction. Previous albums “xx” (2009) and “Coexist” (2012) relied heavily on the band’s signature sound of stripped down piano and guitar melodies with haunting lyrics. The album is available at local record stores, on iTunes, Spotify, and on their website shop.thex.info.

“I See You” incorporates a lot more of Jamie xx’s more club-inspired aesthetics. The album itself still contains some xx mainstays such as emotional lyrics and ideas like the struggle to be vulnerable, the idea of identity and intimate relationships.

Occasionally, when bands deviate from their traditional sound, the cohesive flow of the subsequent album can be compromised. With “I See You,” this is not the case. From the album’s opener, “Dangerous,” featuring a striking introduction of horns, to the danceable “Oh Hold,” the new album allows their story to develop organically from start to finish.

The second track “Say Something Loving” explores the idea of intimacy and the repetition of entering a relationship in an increasingly closed-off society. The song starts wistfully, “Say something loving I just don’t remember the thrill of affection I need a reminder, the feeling’s escaped me” reminiscent of a time where love was a staple in life.

The lyrics go on to entail how vulnerable it is to actively look for love and risk letting someone in for fear of rejection, “Here come my insecurities I almost expect you to leave… I wasn’t patient to meet you/ Am I too needy, am I too eager?”

In the middle of the album, “Brave For You” conveys Croft’s death of her parents and serves as tribute to someone who has someone believing in them more than they believe in themselves.

The second to last track, “I Dare You,” deals with familiar topics that leaves listeners nostalgic for their parents and serves as tribute in their music. “I just can’t seem to let you go/ The more I think, the less I know” reflects on The xx’s members more enamored with the idea of being in love rather than an actual person when they sing, “I’m in love with it! Introspective! I’m captivated… I’ve been a romantic for so long/ All I’ve ever had are love songs.”