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We do not have every answer: Emotions run high at consolidation town hall

EMILY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The first consolidation meeting drew a huge crowd to the Fine Arts Auditorium last Thursday, Jan. 19. Ten- sions ran high as officials attempted to keep the discussion on track and defi nitely answer several questions.

The meeting’s panels included Blencoe, Georgia Southern President Jaimie Hebert and USG vice chancel- lor Jeffery Nickel.

University System of Georgia offi cial Shelly Nick- el was met with boos and protest after suggesting early in her introduction that Armstrong attendees were “very interested in the future of the university in Georgia with about 40,000 students.”

The merger would create the fourth largest public uni- versity in Georgia.

For example, cancer pa- tients can receive treatment lines with prescribed canna- bis or its derivatives can treat chronic pain, Multiple Scle- rosis, epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease and much more. However, research and discussion is often anecdotal. Even research into cannabis extracts like Cannabi- sol (CBD), a non-psycho- active compound, is blocked. Research is made diffi cult due to the classifi cation of Marijuana as a Schedule I drug, which by federal defi ni- tion has both “a high po- tential for abuse” and “has no medical use” or acceptance in the United States.

This defi nition is count- erintuitive in 28 states that allow patients access to medical marijuana. Cartwright explained that “enough states modify their laws, eventually the Federal Government will have to back off and change its laws— but I don’t think we’re at that point yet.”

Though the War on Drugs was not discussed at length, Cartwright categorized the ef- fort as “very unsuccessful,” likening it to a “modern pro- hibition” and linking the dif- ficulties researchers face with the lingering political stigma surrounding marijuana.

Winds are changing as support for legalization gains momentum nationwide.

“With legislation and medical marijuana,” she said while discussing the confusion faced by research- ers and patients alike who cannot travel across state lines with prescribed cannabis.

“Insurance companies need to catch up but federal policies wrap the issue up in confusion.”

The discussion and ques- tions following Cartwright’s lecture were largely support- ive of federal rescheduling and expanded research. Sev- eral audience members cited personal experience with the benefi ts of medical mariju- na.

Jim, a cancer survivor and veteran college student, said he put so much back into his community and now “as students, we can get a good education and know the facts about cannabis.”

In response to questions about the incoming Trump Administration, it is unclear what position it will take.

Apbb Murphy to speak about ‘green campus’

GRACE POWERS
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. in the Oglethorpe Theater, Go Green Ambassador Envi- ronmental Group is hosting speaker Abby Murphy, the Activities Coordinator and member of Chatham County Resource Conservation Education Center.

“Exploring the center’s outreach and educ- ational programs and opportunities with local environmental art- ists to help showcase their works,” Murphy said.

Abby Murphy to speak about ‘green campus’

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THE INKWELL
SPORTS & Wellness

January 26, 2017

The Atlanta Falcons in action at the 2017 NFL Conference Championship game.

(SARAH OLIN / SPORTS EDITOR)

Armstrong Pirates junior Mercedes Jenkins beat the buzzer at 0.3 seconds to snap the 94-92 tie to take home the win at 61-59 against USC Aiken, Wednesday at the Alumni Arena.

"The Pirates held off the Pacer’s by 4 to end the half at 34-30. The Pacer’s came out strong in the second half, keeping the Pirates scoreless for almost five minutes to take the lead 59-54 with just under five minutes remaining in the game," Junior Machala Raymonville stated. "The Pirates scored three straight points, which brought the lead to 84-82. Jenkins killed the clock until four seconds remained, then drove to the net down the right lane to hit the layup and secure the win for the Pirates' at 61-59. The Pirates then suffered a loss, 86-62, against the University of South Carolina on Saturday."

Armstrong's Mercedes Jenkins dribbles past USC Aiken's Juniors Coach down the Alumni Arena court Wednesday, January 18th.

(Images: Armstrong/USC Aiken)

Regardless of the Atlanta Falcons’ postseason success, Matt Ryan deserves the NFL MVP. His combination of individual and team success exceeds any other player, including Dak Prescott, Ezekiel Elliott and Tom Brady. Ryan’s individual statistics were jaw dropping. He passed for 4,944 yards at a 70.9% clip, while tossing 38 touchdowns to just seven interceptions. Ryan also led the NFL in Quarterback Rating and QBR, an advanced stat created by ESPN to measure a quarterback’s true production.

While Ryan received help from a revamped offensive line and running game, the Falcons’ signal caller was still sacked 37 times, the second highest total of his career. Despite Ryan’s high sack total, Atlanta’s offense was still historically great, something Ryan attributes to his offensive preparations. "I think it's getting your feet right, working on positioning of where your feet want to be. How I've trained this offseason, I've worked really hard on it. I don't know about [distance], but it just feels good coming off, and certainly putting it in good spots for our guys," Ryan said via ESPN.

Furthermore, Ryan’s favorite target, All-Pro wide receiver Julio Jones, was hampered for much of the season’s second half with a turf toe injury. Atlanta’s porous defense did not do Ryan any favors either. In some cases this season, Ryan had to score every time out just to keep Atlanta alive, an added pressure that none of the other MVP candidates had to face.

Atlanta won the NFC after finishing the regular season 11-5, while also securing the second seed in the NFC playoffs behind Dallas, a team led by two superstar rockers in the aforementioned Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliot.

Prescott and Elliot combine for a great Dallas season, vaulting the Cowboys to 13-3-1 and securing the NFC number one overall playoff seed. However, looking at their individual production, Prescott and Elliot’s numbers still pale in comparison to Ryan.

Prescott passed for 3667 yards at a 78.7% completion rate, while throwing 23 touchdowns down to 4 interceptions. Taking a deeper look at Ryan and Prescott’s numbers, it becomes clear the Ryan took more chances on the field compared to Prescott’s more conservative play. Ryan averaged 10.1 yards per attempt to Prescott’s 8.6 yards per pass.

Prescott was also only sacked 25 times, a tip of the cap to Dallas’ great offensive line, something both Prescott and Elliot can partially attribute their great seasons to. Moving over to the AFC, MVP contender, only one player really challenges Ryan for the award, two-time MVP Tom Brady. Brady helped lead the New England Patriots to the NFL’s best record at 14-2.

While Brady’s numbers are down across the board, due to having served a four-game suspension for “Deflate Gate,” his 28-2 touchdown to interception ratio was the NFL’s highest percentage. However, the Patriots went 3-1 during Brady’s suspension, proving that the team could still win at a 75% clip without him. Prescott and Elliot had Dallas’ offensive line and defense. Brady had New England’s system led by Bill Belichick. Matt Ryan had himself a few choice weapons, some of the best being injured throughout the season.

When the NFL decides who will win the 2016 NFL MVP, Matt Ryan should be the clear choice.
SGA President's Note on the Consolidation

January 26, 2017

THE INKWELL

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

DUSTIN STEWART

The topic of conversation for the next few months will be about the consolidation between Armstrong State and Georgia Southern. Please note that this came as much as a surprise to me as it did to you. The worst part about it was I was waiting in the Atlanta airport to fly to Chicago for a national fraternity conference - thus little time to process. I can assure you my initial response was that of yours - anger, confusion, disgust. My emotions had built up so much I had to write everything I felt, just to be sure I didn’t say something that would bite me later. You have every right to be upset, and I applaud your efforts to express your thoughts and opinions - petitions and the Town Hall. I was sitting in the back to witness the reactions of everyone around me, because I wanted to gain a true sense of where the sentiment on this campus was toward the announcement. I have taken note.

First, I am grateful to know that there is a pride in Armstrong State University. My own high school family hardly expressed such an enthusiasm for itself. Now, though, we need to transfer that energy into the consolidation process. As much as I’d love to find a legal loophole or something, what’s done is done. So now it’s time for you to step up. There are going to be lots of work groups, and students need to be active in those conversations. If you’re not, then all your petitions and shouting are for nothing. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. On February 1, I will be going to Atlanta to be charged as a member of the leading Consolidation Implementation Committee. I can’t represent all 7,000+ of us alone.

Second, I want this to be a lesson in civic activism. The people to scream at do not include the campus administration or the administrative personnel at the system office. The people to scream at, if you so choose, would be the Board members, maybe the Chancellors, and most certainly the governor, because here is how the system works - the Governor appoints the members of the Board. Who chooses the governor? The people who vote. My broader point is that while screaming can be cathartic, it doesn’t do anything to change the situation. Getting involved in the political process is key, at all levels.

Finally, please feel free to come to the SGA office and talk to me. Or, you can email me at sga.president@armstrong.edu. Believe it or not, I do want to hear from you and I want to talk to you. I also want to help keep you updated on the process. My photo is under the executive board link on the SGA webpage on the Armstrong website. Look at it, and hunt me down if you must. I am here for you, and I can’t work effectively if I don’t hear from you.

Stay strong!

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

4 Best Bars in Savannah for a Fancy Night Out

KYARA MEJIA

Savannah, Georgia is a drinking capital. It has a city law that excites “the hostess with the mostest.” Savannah is the drinking capital. It has a city law that excites “the hostess with the mostest.” Savannah is the drinking capital.

The Doc is a popular drink at Artillery Bar located on Bull Street.

The Perch is located on the corner of Duffy and Bull Streets. This bar has “house rules” which includes a dress code. The cocktails are hand-crafted and range from $13-16. Their most popular drink is “The Doc” ($16), made with Rye whiskey, china chili pepper, mushroom, mint, smoked pipe tobacco, orange zest, and a luxardo cherry.

1) Artillery Bar

Located on Bull Street, this rooftop bar is the place for a fancy night out. The interior design incorporates late 19th century eclecticism and romanticism while introducing modern design elements. This bar has “house rules” which includes a dress code. The cocktails are hand-crafted and range from $13-16. Their most popular drink is “The Doc” ($16), made with Rye whiskey, china chili pepper, mushroom, mint, smoked pipe tobacco, orange zest, and a luxardo cherry.

2) Perch

This rooftop bar is located above Local 11ten restaurant on the corner of Duffy and Bull streets. During the winter, it is open weather permitting Thursday-Saturday. If you decide to “perch” here for a while, consider one of their most popular drinks. Their most popular drink is a real “Crowd Pleaser” ($9). This drink is one of their cheapest drinks and it is made with grapefruit vodka, lemon, mint, ginger ale, and lime juice.

3) Cocktail Co

This bar is Savannah’s newest bar located in an alleyway behind J.Crew on Broughton Street. You will walk into a speakeasy atmosphere. When you take a seat, you will find a newspaper with lists of cocktails, spirits, wine, and beer along with facts and quotes about alcohol, spirits, and cocktails. I tried “La Noche Loca” ($10), a delicious, refreshing drink made with tequila, mango, mint, lime, and champagne. If you go with a group of friends, for $14 per person you can order a punch bowl.

4) Alleycat Lounge

This bar is Savannah’s newest bar located in an alleyway behind J.Crew on Broughton Street. You will walk into a speakeasy atmosphere. When you take a seat, you will find a newspaper with lists of cocktails, spirits, wine, and beer along with facts and quotes about alcohol, spirits, and cocktails. I tried “La Noche Loca” ($10), a delicious, refreshing drink made with tequila, mango, mint, lime, and champagne. If you go with a group of friends, for $14 per person you can order a punch bowl.

Try “La Noche Loca” at Alleycat Lounge located on Broughton Street.

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Every third Thursday for vinyl lovers at Foxy Loxy Cafe

TAYLOR SURINE
STAFF WRITER

Foxy Loxy Cafe hosted the year’s first Vinyl Appreciation Night Thursday, Jan. 19. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own records to share with the crowd while a pop-up shop by Graveface Records and Curiosities allowed customers to begin or grow their own vinyl collections.

Beginning at Muse Arts Warehouse, Vinyl Appreciation Night has been around for at least six years. Foxy Loxy manager Jose Rey was involved with Vinyl Night at Muse and was able to bring the event to Foxy just three years ago. The event has taken place nearly every month since.

Getting involved and supporting the event was easy and fun for Rey. He says, “I had always collected records and ended up getting my own turntable. I was slowly building it up so I could help out with some things. Then some people moved away so I ended up taking it over.”

During the winter months, Foxy Loxy Cafe actually opts out of hosting events due to the colder weather, however, this year’s unusually warm climate allowed for this evening to go on. According to Rey, “We’ve brought Graveface in as a sponsor and it helps a lot. It kind of just fills in the gaps for vinyl appreciation” among Savannah’s locals. Vinyl Appreciation Night is held every third Thursday of the month. Bring your vinyl records and share your taste in music with your neighbors. Some of the most popular events held at Foxy Loxy Cafe are those that are located in the calming atmosphere of their courtyard. These include Comedy Nights every third Friday and Acoustic Tuesdays. For more information on other events coming up at Foxy Loxy Cafe, visit their website at foxyloxycafe.com/events or simply stop in at 1919 Bull Street.

Benjamin Warsaw performs during “Piano in the Arts” concert. Jan. 19, 2017
Photo by Madison Watkins.

TAYLOR SURINE
STAFF WRITER

The first half ended with traditional Hebrew medleys. Following intermission, Warsaw performed three songs by George Gershvin, then welcomed Alvarez back to the stage for their final songs. All songs performed in the second half were written by American artists in the 1800s and 1900s.

Alvarez was at first more fond of performing the Hebrew medleys but as rehearsals went on, “my opinion changed to the final song, ‘From This Moment On.’”

Warsaw had a different answer. “My favorite song we performed was ‘Icarus.’ It’s my favorite because it is the song I wrote for Elisa a few years ago. It is always fun to perform.”

The pair had only rehearsed for four days before the performance. Alvarez flew into Savannah they rehearsed from Sunday until Wednesday to be ready for the Thursday performance.

“It didn’t take us long to rehearse since we have known each other for nine years,” Warsaw explained. “I learned the Gershwin pieces in a week.”

Freshman vocal major Damon Banks said, “I really enjoyed the varying contrasts of music tonight. I thoroughly feel like there was something here for everyone.” Freshman Jacob Ivester, who has had Warsaw as a professor, thought, “the skills presented by Warsaw and Alvarez were very well done. I think it’s great how Armstrong hires staff that not only come and teach classes but also go beyond and participate by orchestrating these kinds of events.”

There are two more shows in this concert series — the next on Feb. 23. The next show, “Beyond the Piano,” will feature pianist and songwriter Evelyn Davis and Amma Ateria on the hardware electronics.

MADISON WATKINS
STAFF WRITER

On the night of January 19 The Department of Art, Music, and Theatre put on the third show part of the ongoing “Piano in the Arts” concert series in the Fine Arts Auditorium last Thursday, Jan. 19. Armstrong’s very own Dr. Benjamin Warsaw put three concerts together because he wanted to have a concert series here that focused solely on piano. The theme for that night was “Classical, Traditional, Original.”

Warsaw performed alongside his longtime friend Elissa Alvarez with Warsaw on piano, and Alvarez with soprano vocals.

Throughout the concert they presented a variety of musical styles. The first half of the show had classical songs presented in Spanish, French and German. The second to last song, “Icarus,” is an original piece written by Warsaw himself specifically for Alvarez to perform.

Mike Fehy of Graveface Records commented that, “A lot of people here are crazy about vinyl. I enjoy the people and the atmosphere. It’s something you don’t get everywhere. Plus, there’s good food and good coffee.”

He added that the purpose of the event and desire for Graveface to become a sponsor was to “try and curate vinyl appreciation” among Savannah’s locals.

Latest “Piano in the Arts” Event Highlights Classical Music

STAFF WRITER

MADISON WATKINS
STAFF WRITER

During the winter months, Foxy Loxy Cafe decided to host a vinyl appreciation night. Rey encourages everyone to get involved, stating, “A lot of people are intimidated by it, but it’s pretty easy. I always say it’s like open mic night for the turntables. You just sign up and bring your records. We show you how to run the set up. It’s pretty simple.”

Starlandia Creative Supply Launches New Space Station

Starlandia Creative Supply's newest addition is not a hub for the scientific exploration of space. Their Space Station is actually a "highly quirky" event space used for hosting workshops, classes and community events. They offer creative writing for teens and seniors, "Do-Re-We" singing classes for toddlers and babies and "Petite Picasso," a course designed to help young artists discuss and develop their artistic style. Located in the Starland District in midtown, the space also showcases all-ages performances of all kinds.

The namesake of this event space not only keeps Starlandia alive but also with the spirit of the Starland District, but also with the spirit of Starlandia itself. Founder and owner Clinton Edminster explained that "the Starlandia Side [of the building] is an exercise in the organization of THINGS that take up space. Things like art supplies, yarn, paint, etc. The Space Station gives us a chance to organize works of art, stories, music, etc. The Space Station, not only keeps Starlandia alive but also with the spirit of the Starland District, but also with the spirit of Starlandia itself."

Starlandia opened to the public in June 2015 and has since successfully carried out its mission of preventing art supplies from entering landfills in the Savannah area. Since its opening, they have repurposed over 20,000 pounds of materials. In addition to their environmental efforts, the business has also developed a live broadcast, "Starlandia LIVE," where Edminster discusses local politics and interests with members of the Savannah community.

The show, which makes Mondays at 10 a.m. on their Facebook page, is filmed at their Space Station and has garnered a strong local following. Having received the Best New Store and Best Art Supply Store local awards in 2016, Starlandia has also accumulated national attention through popular media outlets such as the New York Times and Marie Claire Paris.

With the addition of their Space Station, Starlandia will be able to continue to cater to and support their local community and spread their message. For more information on how you can experience Starlandia's Space Station, visit their website or Facebook page, or drop by in person at 2438 Bull St.

**Art Rise Savannah accepts submissions for “The Personal is Political” feminist exhibit**

**Starlandia Creative Supply’s entrance to the Space Station. Jan. 24, 2017. Photo by Stewart Harding.**

Art Rise Savannah accepts submissions for "The Personal is Political" feminist exhibit. The personal is political. The exhibition, which aims to provide a platform for women artists and activists, will run from Jan. 26-Feb. 3.

The approved slogan is "The Personal is Political," a concept by which many feminists believe personal experiences are highly influenced by social and political structure. It serves as the opportunity to learn from and network with other local artists and activists.

There will be an opening reception Friday, March 10, from 6-9 p.m. and a panel discussion the following day, Saturday, March 11, at 2 p.m.

For full details and submission instructions search “The Personal is Political” on the Art Rise Facebook page or on their website, artrisesavannah.org.
Armstrong through December 2017 will receive an Armstrong diploma. Those graduating after will have a choice between listing Armstrong or Georgia Southern throughout the consolidation process. The future of athletics has been a topic in the spotlight since the merger announcement. Student athletes created an extensive anti-merge video to voice their concerns and participated in the campus protests.

Although officials are unsure about the department’s future, GSU president Herbort stated that his vision includes athletics and organizations at the Savannah campus. Student athletes of both GS and ASU will have their athletic scholarships honored throughout the process of consolidation. “We as athletes would like to know what’s going to happen to us because we need to know if we need to start planning ahead to move,” junior rehab science major and student athlete Tyler Epps said. Herbort acknowledged that very few specifics have been decided, but expressed his openness to commemorating Armstrong and building upon strengths of both universities. He also emphasized his need for input and made note of the audience’s passion. “I personally welcome your input... We must pursue this without ever losing sight of the human impact of this endeavor,” Herbort said. “Your reactions today are absolutely warranted. I fully respect the way you feel now.”

Armstrong President Linda Bleicken and Georgia Southern President Jaimie Hebert answer questions at the consolidation town hall meeting Thursday Jan. 19. Photo by Tanner Levi

Armstrong President Linda Bleicken and Georgia Southern President Jaimie Hebert answer questions at the consolidation town hall meeting Thursday Jan. 19. Photo by Tanner Levi

No I don’t have all the answers but I will never look past the human condition that I’ve experienced today—that I see in the eyes of the people in this room. I feel that responsibility as we move forward.” What’s next? A consolidation committee will be formed to consider issues like athletics, combining academic programs and the distance between campuses. According to Nickel, the committee will include 20 representatives from Armstrong and 20 from Georgia Southern along with Savannah State University representatives. The committee will meet with USG in Atlanta to aid in plan development. Ideally, a plan for the new university will be reviewed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for accreditation (SACS) in September. SACS would vote on the plan in December and if approved, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Regents in January. Questions asked during the meeting— even those that were not answered— will be posted in a FAQs section on consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu, where the meeting stream can also be viewed. For more information about the consolidation, go to consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu.

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