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

EMILY SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The first consolidation meeting drew a huge crowd to the Fine Arts Auditorium last Thursday, Jan. 19. Ten- ders ran high as officials at Armstrong attended to keep the dialogue going in the hopes that Armstrong attendees were “very interested in the future of the university in this region.” Following the commen- tation, the event’s moderator and later Armstrong President Linda Bleicken had to repeatedly reminded the audience to be respectful.

“Thank you for under- standing what I’m saying,” Bleicken said. “It has been very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably very confusing, and for some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably pretty good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”

The meeting’s focus was on answering ques- tions pertaining to the con- solidation of Armstrong and Armstrong State University. The merger would create the fourth largest public univer- sity in Georgia with about 27,000 students. The decision was to sus- tain Armstrong’s legacy and how academics programs will be handled.

“Do we not have every answer,” Bleicken said. “For some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably pretty good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”

The first consolidation meeting drew a huge crowd to the Fine Arts Auditorium last Thursday, Jan. 19. Ten- ders ran high as officials at Armstrong attended to keep the dialogue going in the hopes that Armstrong attendees were “very interested in the future of the university in this region.” Following the commen- tation, the event’s moderator and later Armstrong President Linda Bleicken had to repeatedly reminded the audience to be respectful.

“Thank you for under- standing what I’m saying,” Bleicken said. “It has been very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably very good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”

The meeting’s focus was on answering ques- tions pertaining to the con- solidation of Armstrong and Armstrong State University. The merger would create the fourth largest public univer- sity in Georgia with about 27,000 students. The decision was to sus- tain Armstrong’s legacy and how academics programs will be handled.

“Do we not have every answer,” Bleicken said. “For some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably pretty good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”

The first consolidation meeting drew a huge crowd to the Fine Arts Auditorium last Thursday, Jan. 19. Ten- ders ran high as officials at Armstrong attended to keep the dialogue going in the hopes that Armstrong attendees were “very interested in the future of the university in this region.” Following the commen- tation, the event’s moderator and later Armstrong President Linda Bleicken had to repeatedly reminded the audience to be respectful.

“Thank you for under- standing what I’m saying,” Bleicken said. “It has been very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably very good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”

The meeting’s focus was on answering ques- tions pertaining to the con- solidation of Armstrong and Armstrong State University. The merger would create the fourth largest public univer- sity in Georgia with about 27,000 students. The decision was to sus- tain Armstrong’s legacy and how academics programs will be handled.

“Do we not have every answer,” Bleicken said. “For some of you, that’s probably very disturbing. For some of you, that’s probably pretty good because it does give us an opportunity to work this thing out over the coming months and that’s what we need to do.”
Matt Ryan’s MVP Case

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 70.5% 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 offseason 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 rooks in Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott.

Atlanta went 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 rooks in Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott.

Prescott and Elliott combined for a great Dallas season, vaulting the Cowboys to 11-5 for the season. The Pirates women’s basketball squad will return to the court to host Augusta University on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Alumni Arena.

The Pirates faced a loss with a victory in the last game of the season, defeating the Bearcats 87-81. Lander started strong, taking the lead at 33-26 with five minutes left in the first half, until the Pirates came back with a 15-2 run to take the advantage 41-38 heading into the locker room. Freshman Kaelyn Clifton shot 6-of-8 from the floor to lead the Pirates at the end of the half.

Tiller stole the show in the second half, draining all of six free throws and 8 of 8 three pointers to reach his season high of 34 points, allowing the Pirates to take the win and end a six-game slump.

The Armstrong Pirates men’s basketball team will be back in action on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to take on Augusta at the Alumni Arena.

The Pirates women’s basketball squad will return to the court to host Augusta University on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

OFF THE BENCH WITH:
Matt Ryan’s MVP Case

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 70.5% 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 offseason 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 rooks in Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott.

Atlanta went 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 rooks in Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott.

Prescott and Elliott combined for a great Dallas season, vaulting the Cowboys to 11-5 for the season. The Pirates women’s basketball squad will return to the court to host Augusta University on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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, scoring 21 points down in each game. After the suspension, the Patriots were still able to win at a 75% clip without him. Prescott and Elliott had a 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

DUSTIN STEWART
SGA PRESIDENT

The topic of conversation for the next few months will be about the consolidation between Armstrong 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 being in the Atlanta airport to fly to Chicago for a national fraternity conference—less than 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 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, the Chancellor, 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@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 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!

THE INKWELL

4 Best Bars in Savannah for a Fancy Night Out

KVARA MEJIA

Savannah, Georgia is drinking capital. It has a city law that excites “the hostess city” tourist, the ability to possess or consume an alcoholic beverage in a plastic container. It is a place where bars and restaurants are open all the time.

I recently turned twenty-one and being able to enjoy all the time.

Try the “Moscow Mule” at Cocktail Co. located on Whitaker Street.

They have draft cocktails, made with fresh fruits and house made ingredients, that range from $10-12. Try the “Crowd Pleaser” ($9). This drink is one of their cheapest drinks and it is made with grapefruit vodka, lemon, a dollop of mint, lime, and champagne.

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

The Perch is located 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, a dollop of mint, lime, and champagne.

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 and cocktails. I tried “La Noche Loca” ($10), a delicious, refreshing drink made with tequila, mango, mint, lime, and champagne.

If you go for a fancy night out, I hope you consider one of these bars and enjoy being a part of Savannah’s nightlife. Don’t forget to tip your bartender!

Try “The Doc” at Artillery Bar located on Bull Street.

Try the “Crowd Pleaser.”

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

Try “The Doc.”

Try “The Doc.”
Every third Thursday is for vinyl lovers at Foxy Loxy Cafe

TAYLOR SURINE
STAFF WRITER

Foxy Loxy Cafe hosted their 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 turntables. 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 intentionally opts out of hosting events in their courtyard due to the colder weather, however, this year’s unusually warm climate allowed for this evening to be, according to Rey, “an exceptionally good night” for both attendance and participation. “We’ve brought Graveface in as a sponsor and it helps a lot. It kind of just fills things out more. We have a lot of people running individual things which helps it run a little bit more smoothly.” 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 an 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.”

Mike Fahey 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.

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 the courtyard. These also 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.

Weekly Playlist: 2017 Brings mixed emotions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SONG</th>
<th>ARTIST</th>
<th>ALBUM</th>
<th>MINUTES</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>MINUTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Greens</td>
<td>Marcus</td>
<td>Corazon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Fallen In Love (With Someone You Shouldn’t)</td>
<td>Buzzcracks</td>
<td>Love Bites (Special…)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>2:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Night Josh Tillman Came To Our Apt.</td>
<td>Father John Misty</td>
<td>I Love You, Honeybear</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3:38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your New Twin Stood Bed</td>
<td>Death Cab for Cutie</td>
<td>Narrow Stairs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>3:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Sunlight</td>
<td>Bright Eyes</td>
<td>The People’s Key</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bignight Strikes Again - 2017 Remastered...</td>
<td>The Smiths</td>
<td>The Queen is Dead</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Will Tear Us Apart</td>
<td>Joy Division</td>
<td>Love Will Tear Us Apart</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With You</td>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>PARTYNEXT - Views</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beware Of False Prophets</td>
<td>Summerville In Th…</td>
<td>Poet Records &amp; Fine…</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>19:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superstar</td>
<td>Sonic Youth</td>
<td>I Was A Carp…</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>26:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannonball</td>
<td>The Breathers</td>
<td>Last Splash</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Starlandia Creative Supply Launches New Space Station

Starlandia Creative Supply Launches New Space Station

HILLS & VALLEYS NIKI JOHNSON 2018

The use of this slogan today calls to attention what current legislation, both local and federal, means for women’s rights as equal pay, access to women’s healthcare and the protection of reproductive rights. Art often has the power to encapsulate and convey a message more powerfully and effectively than words alone.

The exhibit will run alongside artwork by activist Niki Johnson titled “Hills and Valleys,” a sculpture built from papermache that officially defunded several Planned Parenthood locations in Wisconsin. Submission to this exhibit would offer aspiring artists the chance to have their work displayed in tandem with an accomplished artist, as well 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 website ArtRiseSavannah.org.

Hills and Valleys. Sculpture by Niki Johnson, made from papermache that officially defunded several Planned Parenthood locations in Wisconsin.
Although officials are unsure about the department’s future, GSU president Herbst 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. Herbst 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,” Herbst said. “Your reactions today are absolutely warranted. I fully respect the way you feel now.”

“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 the 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.