Panel of Professors Gather to Discuss Trump's Presidency

DAYLON BONNER
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, Nov. 16, a panel in the Student Union Ballroom garnered a sizable audience to discuss and examine the tenure of the current president. The panel consisted of academic specialists in the fields of history, criminal justice and political science from both Savannah State University and Armstrong University. Catapano clicked on an article from the website New York Times to look at their site and about section to see the ethics they were founded upon.

Then he went on to explain the layout of the website and what would be useful for students to look at. Most publications are in a gray area, there aren’t any that are completely right or wrong. As an example for this Catapano explained that he and his fellow 10-12 editors must take the own ideologies out of it when editing and publishing a piece. “We want to take from as many sources as possible and we publish a piece and someone has a complaint, they’ll send that to letters to the editor. Some of the features are entirely designed on reader feedback.”

Catapano also pointed out that even though it is the opinion section, they still have fact checkers on their staff. If you’re curious to see more of Catapano’s work or the opinion section in general click on “opinion” at the top of the New York Times homepage. If you would like a free subscription to The New York Times, information can be found in the Learning Commons and the library.

Bruce Mallard and Dr. Inna Adams

Dr. Mallard discussed the competence qualifications associated with Donald Trump’s presidency. Specifically, he questions whether the President has handled the duties associated with the office not specifically outlined by the Constitution. To paraphrase Dr. Mallard, “We expect our President to come out at times of personal tragedy— to make it better not worse.”

Dr. Wessel evaluated the president from a press perspective. Based on media coverage, both before and during his time in office. The president has been shown to be less than agreeable when his patience has been tested. He has also not shied away from making his discontent known on social media. As expected, his 140 characters are not always glowing reviews of the president. The president has an unprecedented number of ways to relay information to United States citizens, to other branches of government and to various world leaders. Dr. Wessel would go on to add that presidents with less than ideal temperaments PANEL PG 6
Waiting for Winter Break? Events to Check Out

BY MADISON WATKINS

November 30, 2017

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre majors who are in this semester’s play directing class presented their final projects at this year’s Dramaarama. It was a three-night event on Nov. 14-16 where the students directed a short-one act play presented for their final grade in the class. Auditions were held earlier in the semester where students could perform a short monologue for the directors so they could choose which actors they wanted to perform in their shows.

Multiple plays were performed each day to accommodate the 19 students in the class. It was up to the student directors to choose their actors and set their individual plays.

Senior theatre major Jenny Jones has directed plays before for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry’s (BCM) annual Dossart Theatre but said this experience was different compared to the other plays he has done.

“This show was different because this was the first thing I didn’t have to write myself. I tried to honor the writers vision while incorporating myself,” he explained.

Due to the large number of students in the class, some of the directors had to pull double-duty by directing their own show and acting in another. Junior theatre major Macie Young acted in another student’s show the same night her play was performed. Young described it as “an amazing experience with so many amazing people in the theatre department,” she said.

This was freshman theatre major Mya Christian’s first production for Armstrong and she acted in two different plays for Dramarama. Christian commented on what it was like being a part of the whole directing process.

I really enjoyed being a director. It was a new experience for me, so it was sort of exciting to be a part of the whole directing process. It was an amazing experience with so many amazing people in the theatre department,” she said.

I want with it and have my own piece and do whatever I want, with it and have my actors execute it flawlessly,” McDonald, a senior theatre major, said.

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Final Farewell

KAYLA RAND
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As graduation approaches, the bittersweet realization that I will be a part of Armstrong State University’s last class comes to me. Although I have been Pirate for a year, I have gained a family that will last a lifetime, regardless of Armstrong’s consolidation.

Deciding to go to graduate school was a difficult decision that I have made to further my career. The benefits may seem obvious to you, the reader, but to me, someone who has completed her baccalaureate and spent two years in the workforce, it was not. But, I have come to the conclusion to pursue my graduate degree, and to do so at Armstrong.

Armstrong was the perfect option for me being a small university with credible teachers and reputation. Also, I didn’t want to attend Georgia State University’s last year of Armstrong’s consolidation. I have been Pirate for a year, I have become close with seven classmates, teachers and students who have become friends out of school and helped me throughout my personal life. I have even picked up an extra part-time job with the help of another PCL student.

The courses I have taken were designed to advance my current career, enhance technical and professional skills, and provide me with the tools to market myself. Regardless of what other PCL students think, this program has prepared me with strategies to reach my short-term and long-term goals.

I don’t think I will ever regret making this decision—to return to school, to pursue my masters within a year and to participate in the only student-run news source on campus. Within the Inkwell, I have become close with seven unique individuals that were at first complete strangers as I was being introduced into my position as Editor-in-Chief. The Inkwell staff this semester, all has had so interest or passion to contribute to the paper, and the merger has given us a unified purpose to strive for something more. The Inkwell staff has taken years of experience and fresh ideas to create a new version for the final year of Armstrong. More controversial topics, in-depth reviews, and visual graphics have opened eyes and helped garner a larger readership.

At times I felt a great weight from the responsibility of representing the voice of Armstrong’s student body, but I still, I would not trade the experiences I’ve garnered from working there for anything. I have been able to meet amazing people, share incredible stories, and create memories that will go with me everywhere.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to complete a full school-year in this position, but I am thankful for the opportunity that I was given. I am excited to continue my life after school and stay updated with the consolidation, the progress within the newly merged school, and the future of the Inkwell.

Armstrong will forever be a part of me – of my journey and my diploma. Although on December 9th, 2017 I will be giving a final farewell, the legacy it holds on us will never be gone. Thank you my fellow Pirates, for giving me the opportunity to serve you.
November 30, 2017

THE INKWELL

We look to our leaders to set a tone. That being said, the effort made has been more detrimental than helpful. The executive orders he has created will not fix the root of the problem. The president has also hired people to key positions of the executive branch who support a for-profit prison system, both in the form of mandatory minimums and private prisons. Dr. Bryant sees this as a potentially terrible route to fixing the problems of illegal substances.

The final panelists, Dr. Jennings, would present some of the legal issues stemming from the current administration. For one, the president has a long history of legal battles. The bigger issue concerned whether he may have violated the emolument clause in the Constitution which prohibits the president from foreign states without Congressional consent. His most impassioned point came when he discussed the validity of political assertions. He proposed to link every social media account to verified sources on political discourse.

After each panelist presented their evaluation of the president, the forum was opened to questions from the audience. Topics included Confederate monuments, Russia, Net Neutrality and the audience. Topics included Confederate monuments, Russia, Net Neutrality and private prisons. Aside from the points they emphasized individually, the panelists all sought to communicate the importance of finding valid political information for oneself.

Dr. Inna Adams delved into interactions between the president and other world leaders. She would bring up how he is attempting to facilitate cohesion with China while having an increasingly hostile discussion with North Korea.

While all panelists were critical of the President, some had reserved even more disdain behind their words. These three panelists were Mr. Hollis, Dr. Jennings and Dr. Bryant.

Mr. Hollis spoke in a particularly unessay tone concerning the president. What appeared to unsettle him the most was the fact that the current administration has not fostered much cohesion among the various groups in America. If anything the gap between them may have widened.

Building off what Mr. Hollis presented, Dr. Bryant homed in on the rhetoric surrounding the presidency and how it has used as an intimation tactic. Of note, she took issue with the rhetoric surrounding crime in America. Crime is still an issue in the United States. No one is disputing that claim. However, the words spoken and tone in which there are spoken have led to unnecessary policies surrounding crime, especially offenses involving illegal drugs. Dr. Bryant asserts that the continued emphasis on removing illegal substances has continued since they were first ostracized by the Nixon and Reagan administrations. The president has run on a platform that sought to decrease crime. Regardless of opinions for or against his stance, the president has made an effort to alleviate the problem of drug related crime.

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