Enrollment Down at the new Georgia Southern

NANCY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Despite the consolidation of Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern University's intent to increase enrollment, enrollment has declined since last Spring when news of the merger was released.

In January 2017, the University of Georgia's Board of Regents voted in favor of the merger. The University System of Georgia issued a press release listing all the benefits that would come from it. In the press release University System of Georgia Chancellor Steve Wrigley said, “Consolidating Armstrong and Georgia Southern will create one institution with expanded regional presence, tailored degree programs for the coastal region and positioned to significantly enhance the University System's economic impact for the area.”

The whole point of the consolidation was to expand and enhance the university. The student enrollment data says otherwise. According to the Georgia Southern University’s student enrollment data, that shows Armstrong’s enrollment, found on the university’s website, enrollment started to decline last Spring and has continued to drop since then.

In spring of 2017 compared to the spring of 2016, there was an almost one percent drop in enrollment with only around 50 less students enrolled.

However, the summer of 2017 enrollment compared to summer 2016 went down dramatically by four percent. In the fall of 2017 - fall usually being when most students start college, enrollment decreased by two percent with over 100 less students compared to Fall of 2016.

In the previous years, enrollment at Armstrong was at a steady rate. One of the original opportunities specified in the press release was to “create a more comprehensive university that serves the region with a range of degree programs.” However, that doesn’t seem to apply to all degree programs.

A possible partial reason for the decline is the split of the Languages, Literature and Philosophy department with the removal of the English Communications major. Georgia Southern has separate English Literature, Foreign Language and Philosophy departments.

It also has a Writing & Linguistics department where most of the classes that were offered for the English/Communications major will now be under.

Student, Alyssa Castelazo, wanted to attend Armstrong specifically for the English/Communications major. She favored the degree because of the variety of classes that were offered.

It gave students an opportunity to explore all areas of a potential career rather than feel limited to only a "fine." said Castelazo.

Now she worries that she will not have as many job opportunities with a writing degree.

“The communications degree was more flexible and would open more doors. It will be difficult to get the attention of employers when applying for great jobs only with a writing degree” said Castelazo.

Over the years, the English Literature department in particle has struggled to fill the required number of students per class.

Currently, the upper level English Literature courses have an average of about twenty students enrolled.

In the previous years, many English/Communications majors would take literature classes for electives. Now with the new requirements and the separation of the department, the enrollment numbers are up in the area.

Further student enrollment data for this semester of the new Georgia Southern has not been released yet.

DAN DUNN
STAFF WRITER

SGA Argues How to Spend Athletic Fees

The SGA President, a lengthy discussion took place concerning Bill 6 (042018-B6: “Student Input for Athletic Renovations”). The bill was introduced by Senator Mary Kate Moore. The bill spoke of three proposals from the administration about possible uses of revenue collected from athletic fees. The first was about renovations of the soccer fields and tennis courts for the eventual purpose of hosting athletic events on the Armstrong campus. The second aims to create an outdoor recreation facility near the old tennis courts. The third would re-purpose the softball and baseball fields into general purpose recreation fields. Proposals two and three received minimal resistance while the first was contorted heavily.

The SGA wishes to include the students in the process of the conversion as it will incur a cost of at least $2 million and will affect the students for years to come. Furthermore, additional costs will be incurred by this removal considering the facility, should they truly move forward with having athletic events on this campus, will have to adhere to guidelines that are currently in place.
So You Think You Can Joke: BCM Hosts Improv Night

The BCM on campus hosted their first “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” game night on April 13. As the name implies, it is based on the show of the same name, which is designed around improvisation. The night achieved its laughs via suggestions from audience members, such as scene suggestions, and a variety of game shows. Some of the games had to build upon the jokes while others elicited humor from quick wit. The jokes began with the food. “May I offer you a meat patty?” was asked, and the response was, “Meat Cakes,” hamburger builders, and some jokes about cats. The usual games seen in these improv shows were present such as “Scene from a Movie,” “30 Seconds,” “The Emirates,” and “Pizza, Pizza.”

The BCM “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” night was a great success. The students had a lot of fun, and the BCM plans to host more events in the future.
try to call you one last time just another small vestige of me wiped from your consciousness like i was lint on your shirt sleeve days before his death having submitted a paper on multiverse the theory of parallel lives and i wonder if in a merciful one - i couldn’t even finish this before crying because i can no longer bear to imagine who you are or who you could be without the sharp pain of your willful silence and how you severed us entirely

Once I was trapped in my car My glass of water only steps away With my book and pen Up four porch steps blue On the weatherproof table That was cramped because the chairs were chained Too close And I knew what I’d write If I went there: “Drink your stupid water Write your stupid words” And I couldn’t leave the car So I drank my stupid water... And I write my stupid words... Brent Gillenwater

Lila Miller

GSU Spring Game Adds Promise for Upcoming Season
ETHEREAL SMITH SPORTS EDITOR

After a 2-30 season, an impression of improvement is what Georgia Southern needed and the 2018 Blue-White Spring Game gave just that to the players, the coaches and the fans.

The defense gave up the sixth most points in the Sun Belt Conference and had a solid Spring Game only giving up two touchdowns and forcing two turnovers. Senior SEan Freeman had a 38-yard interception return in the first half. The fumble recovery beforehand was recovered in a pile by multiple Eagles.

The defense also won both two-minute drills at the end of the first-half andcontinued their solid play in the second-half by only giving up a 50-yard FG to Junior KY- ter Bass.

As for the offense, one of their biggest plays came from an untouched 41-yard rushing touchdown from Junior RB Eric Montgomery. The offensive star was Freshman RB Jared Daniels, who carried for an eight-yard touchdown and led the offense with 46 yards rushing.

The Eagles racked up 261 yards on the ground through- out the scrimmage. Sophomore WR Wesley Kennedy III racked eight receptions for 69 yards while the offense as a whole had 115 yards passing.

“As far as the positive vibe, trying to really feel and understand what Georgia Southern is all about, what it takes to win, I think they’re still figuring that out. Said Head Coach Chad Lunsford. They are really embracing that and learning it. They are doing all they can to get it back where it needs to be. It’s a process right now and we are going to continue to work.”

Lunsford took over for the now former head coach Tyson Summers and he got the Eagles their only two vic- tories on the season last year in a 2-4 effort. Lunsford will now enter his first full season as head coach and his 10th season overall with Georgia Southern. He engineered the top recruiting class of 2018 in the Sun Belt Conference and has got some 2017 recruits field time.

The official score of the game, which went on a Lanford scoring system, was 47-38 in favor of the defense. This game showed a bright vibe, guys trying to really feel and understand what Georgia Southern is all about, what it takes to win, I think they’re still figuring that out. Said Head Coach Chad Lunsford. They are really embracing that and learning it. They are doing all they can to get it back where it needs to be. It’s a process right now and we are going to continue to work.”

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The Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus Chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi extends its congratulations to the following new 2018 initiates who were selected for membership. Membership includes the top 7.5% of last-term juniors and the top 10% of seniors, along with outstanding graduate students, faculty and alumni.

2018 INITIATES

Rosina Jan Campbell  Alyssa D. Liefeld  Paulette Iva Simmons Robertson
Caitlin Chamberlain  Dwayne Lofton  Shelanda M. Smith
Dawn L. Cone  Dung T. May  Cailin Bryanna Stone
Jorge L. Coyago  Jennifer McCarthy  Mitch Strand
Hayden Crook  Abigail Meert  Victoria Sutton
Sarah DesLauriers  Timothy Paul Miller  Fatima Justine Swint
Suzette F. Dillard  Khatiga Nasir  Michael Christopher Underwood
Cristiana Holmes  Cicely Payne  Alexander James Vandegrift
Stephanie Lynn Hooper  Kayleigh Abigail Rockett  Robert Michael Vieito
Elizabeth Wyrner Jenkins  Paula A. Rowden  Sierra Weirich
Matthew Korey Kassees  Franchessa LaTrice Scott  Kevin White
Lauren Colenda Kelly  Jaritza Serrano

Congratulations!