This past-Friday, Arm-strong hosted the speech of Dr. Cameron Coates, PhD in aerospatial engineering. Dr. Coates is also the recipient of a scholarship that allowed him to work in the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), the largest of the many centers that the National Aeronau-tics and Space Administra-tion(NASA) has across the United States.

This center, located in Huntsville Alabama, is relat-ed to one of the most influ-en-tious moments in US history, Operation Paperclip: the covert operation that included a huge amount of scientist and researchers from Nazi Ger-many brought to the United States because of their rela-tionship with the center of Germany’s advanced military technologies.

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Hail to the King: “Black Panther” Review

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Black Panther made his return to the big screen this year with his eponymous superhero movie. While the hype surrounding the film is undoubtedly warranted, a pang of concern comes with it. The directorial style of Ryan Coogler, especially regarding cinema photography, differs greatly from that of Marvel. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has not put out a bad film, just some that were not as memorable as others. Some hope that this film may turn out great, as they may be looking for a Coogler movie like “Creed” or a Marvel movie like “The Winter Soldier”; “Creed,” while still part of the ongoing “Rocky” franchise, is distinctly a Ryan Coogler film. Another concern is the film track record for superheroes previously led by a black actor. “Hancock” is an average film, and the “Blade” movies have their own charm. However, “Steel,” “Spider-Man,” “Cat Woman” and more have the chance to be memorable. The title, translating to “My Life as a Zucchini,” is a fictional film about four children along the way who formed a friendship on a bus journey across West Africa. Together, they face the universal challenge of being independent woman in this mundane setting. Friday, February 23rd at 6pm (55 minutes)

The last showing ends with “Louise en Hiver” or “Louise by the Shore”, a French animated drama. An old lady finds herself stranded on a resort and is forced to face her nature’s fury. She endures her choice’s consequences with the heavy rains and tides. This movie has been nominated for Best Animated Feature Film at the European Film Awards.

Given that Top Dawg Entertainment handled the music, there is no surprise that the music of the film is phenomenal. Kendrick La\"n, The Weeknd, SZA, and many more brought their best to the collaboration. However, many were not as good as they could have been. Kendrick Lamar fans will be satisfied with the music. The film’s score is a great listen both in the film and separately. As for the film, the music, there are only two that detract from the film. The first has to do with the action scenes. The camera work filming the scenes did not turn out well. The fights were not filmed steadily, and there were sometimes too many cuts. Anyone who saw the last film Coogler directed, “Creed,” will notice that the fight scenes are nowhere near as well-edited as they were in that movie. The camera work was not as steady. Lamar, with his unique style, somehow brings it all together.

First, the lack of humor behind his regal visage puts a bit of a strain on the character, and as did other cast members in their respective roles. Aside from the above concerns, people were also doubtful of the decision to cast Michael B. Jordan as the main villain. The concern arose as he is not known for playing outright bad guys on screen. Therefore, how good a movie could have a more defined personality than simply that of a relative with a grudge, he served his purpose in the story rather well. There is one caveat to consider upon viewing the film. Though he is the film’s hero, Black Panther is not the main focus of the film. This distinction belongs to Wakanda. The film immerses the viewers into the world as it was turtle. The film is filled with wide shots that clearly detail the country and how it stays hidden from the rest of the world. The Wakanda culture is also explored in detail through costumes, interacting with ancestors, even the children, and its history. The roles of each tribe are well-defined. The mix of traditional African music with the seamless coupling of traditional African music with the title song made it out to be. Also, the soundtrack is one of the standout features of the film.

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Armstrong Sports: A Relic That Should Have Never Left

SPORTS EDITOR
ETHAN SMITH
February 22, 2018

The University of Texas. A large scale university with great pride and tradition. The University of Texas-El Paso, a small school within the guidelines of the University of Texas. Sound familiar? There is no need to bring up when the consolidation occurred, because most of us probably know it by heart at this point. With that came simple changes as well as more wide scale changes that would change the course of Armstrong forever. One of those changes was completely gutting our sports program, which is hindsight makes absolutely no sense, and here’s why.

Armstrong State had renowned tennis teams throughout the years, with the men finishing 7th overall in the nation in their final season while the women finished 5th overall in their final season, albeit in Division II. Oh wait? Division III?

To explain “divisions” of collegiate sports, it works as follows. Each division has requirements. D1 requires 14 sports, 7-7men to women ratios or 8-6. D1 also requires a guaranteed audience for football specifically. D2 sports requires 10 sports, 5-5men to women ratios or 6-4.6. The major difference between these divisions is the amount of financial resources that can devoted to athletic programs.

With Georgia Southern being a renowned athletic program, they made the leap to D1 sports and joined the Sun Belt Conference in 2014. This opened the door for more competitive play but more importantly, broadcasting contracts which meant more revenue for their athletic programs. So this poses the question, "With GSU being a D1 sports college, why couldn’t GSU-Armstrong kept it’s athletics as a D2 sports college?"

Answers to that question vary on who you’d ask. When the consolidation first occurred, the consensus was that there were not enough Armstrong-student athletes to support a full season this past fall of 2017. This immediately opened the door for “open transfers”, meaning Armstrong athletes could transfer to colleges that would accept them for their athletic talent. Some athletes made the leap to Statesboro, like Senior Chandler Corley, who now plays baseball for the Eagles. But it poses another question: “Was the consensus that sports could not be supported in the Fall of 2017 true?”

The answer to that question is no. In 2016-2017, Armstrong State pulled $2,534,631 in revenue from athletics, which was 92% of the schools revenue. The average revenue through that same athletics year for all D2 colleges was 96-97.5%, so Armstrong was pulling in about 4% less money through athletics. Armstrong’s expenses for that same year was $3,600,000, leaving an $850,000 deficit. All D2 schools averaged 2-3.5 mil in expenses, so Armstrong paid roughly $700,000 more than most D2 schools. This meant Armstrong was spending more money on athletics, mainly due to the success of play from our teams.

Based on 2016-2017 notes from Armstrong Athletics, this would have been the amount of students of sport that would have returned to play if they chose to do so. Returning players indicated as: (ƒ) Baseball(17), Men’s Basketball(11), Women’s Basketball(8), Men’s Cross Country(6), Women’s Cross Country(5), Men’s Golf(9), Women’s Golf(7), Men’s Tennis(5), Women’s Tennis(5), Softball(1) and Volleyball(1), bringing the total number of projected returning athletes to 117. Baseball and softball have 9 starters, basketball has 5 starters, cross country has a requirement of 5 runners, golf has a requirement of 5 golfers, tennis requires 5 players, and volleyball has 6 starters. Each amount of returning student athletes supported the requirement for amount of players to play each sport. This also does not consist of incoming freshman who would’ve tried out or walk ons or even transfer athletes.

The general consensus here, due to the accuracy of these statistics above indicates that with the budget put in place from 2016-2017 and the amount of student athletes returning means that GSU-Armstrong could have kept its D2 athletic program while GSU would have played in D1 athletics as they do now. The other implication here is that schools such as Texas, who go by the Longhorns do not use the same name as the smaller schools that reside under their guidelines, such as Texas-El Paso, or the UTEP Miners as many know them as. Does this mean the GSU-Armstrong could have kept its athletic programs and it’s name? It may be too late to revive our athletic program, but it is worth a shot right?
**Eagles Sour Over Panthers, Take on UTA Next**

**ETHAN SMITH / SPORTS EDITOR**

The Eagles moved to 17-16, and with that victory, they never dreamt about exiting the Sun Belt tournament. The Eagles and every team in the Sun Belt need victories in order to get a better seeding, which will keep them in the second place Georgia State. The Eagles led the game for 39 minutes being tied. For the Eagles, they are looking to stay in the top four and gain a first-round bye in the Sun Belt tournament. The Eagles moved to 17-16, and with that victory, they never dreamt about exiting the Sun Belt tournament. The Eagles and every team in the Sun Belt need victories in order to get a better seeding, which will keep them in the second place Georgia State. The Eagles led the game for 39 minutes being tied. For the Eagles, they are looking to stay in the top four and gain a first-round bye in the Sun Belt tournament. The Eagles never trailed in the game for 39 minutes being tied. For the Eagles, they are looking to stay in the top four and gain a first-round bye in the Sun Belt tournament.

The Eagles picked up their first win of the season while INF Mitchell Golden led the way for the Eagles with two RBIs. The Eagles, got his 1st RBI of the season while INF Mitchell Golden and INF Jason Swan also scored runs for the Eagles. Sophomore Pitcher Zac Kristofak picked up the win for the Bulldogs while Junior Pitcher Cole Whitney took the loss for the Eagles. The Eagles, of course, started the season 1-2 and will take on Fairfield in their first home-series after playing GT only once this past Tuesday. They play Fairfield at J.J. Clements Stadium in Statesboro starting Friday Feb. 23rd and ending Sunday Feb. 25th. Catch the Eagles swinging away and diving for fly-balls all spring.