Active Minds Presents “Lanterns & Lyrics”

Ethan Smith
Staff Writer

On Saturday, September 23, Active Minds gathered together in the Sults building to listen to the “Pass IOn” presentation, which was centered around suicide prevention. Friday’s event was part of week-long activities that were being held as part of Armstrong’s Suicide Awareness week. While waiting for the presentation to start, students prepared themselves for the event with the mission statement: “We must become more educated, more open-minded, more knowledgeable, more safe.”

The event was part of a day-long series of events for college students. Although Armstrong students, primarily in the psychology and the nursing fields, were present, there were other students who came to listen and to show their support for the event. The speakers discussed stigma concerning mental health. Kelsey, an active Minds member, shared with the audience how important it is to choose their words carefully regarding how they go about talking about suicide. For example, the stigma of victimizing language such as “committed suicide.” As noted by Kelsey, “Saying a person ‘committed suicide’ puts a stigma, so we change it by saying ‘lose their lives to.’”

Johnson discussed in the presentation “Do’s and Don’ts” to help and try not to solve the problem alone. Because of the nature of the presentation, Kelsey gave advice for anyone who chose not to come out of fear of what others would think.

“Don’t be afraid to be together in this,” Kelsey said.

She also encouraged students to feel the connection with others. "We are equal," she concluded.

The significance of the event was when Kelsey got involved with us. We have resources from a national perspective of view because we are a national organization, so we get resources from those who know how to advocate for it. So get involved with us as PEP (Pirates Educating Pirates). Always check your emails because we are always sending something. Whether it’s just a smiley face or something. We’re bringing one of our themes forward, Expressing Yourself. To allow people to come out of their comfort zone and speak about suicide and their personal experiences with it.

Get involved with us. We need to bring these type of events to Armstrong because it’s good and it definitely needs to be kept in our awareness. Any organization with us, we could do a play or presentation, Kersey gave advice about talking about suicide.

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To which they responded, “Spreading the awareness. Being a part of something like Expressing Yourself is a big deal. I think that Active Minds could be more active on campus. Getting people to come out of their comfort zone and talk about things. This is a big deal. We need to spread the awareness.”

SPEAKERS, Liz Kersey, president of Active Minds, and Sakile Johnson, an event coordinator of Active Minds, both led the presentation as they first started the discussion with statistics about suicide. Some statistics included that there are more than 1000 suicides each year on campuses and that suicide is the third-leading cause for teens and adults.

Becia Bassard, a junior in nursing, came out to show her support and knows how important it is that Armstrong hosts these kinds of events for college students.

“It sheds light on the issue,” Bassard said. “It’s especially important when you are at an age when so much is on your shoulders.”

Many students showed up for the event in droves that resulted in the relocation of the presentation to accommodate the abundant number of students. Although Armstrong students, primarily in the psychology and the nursing fields, were present, there were other students who came to listen and to show their support for the event.

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Pirates Educating Pirates

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Active Minds Present “Pass It On”

Charity Williams
Staff Writer

On Sept. 23, Armstrong students gathered together in the Sults building to listen to the “Pass IOn” presentation, which was centered around suicide prevention. Friday’s event was part of week-long activities that were being held as part of Armstrong’s Suicide Awareness week. While waiting for the presentation to start, students prepared themselves for the event with the mission statement: “We must become more educated, more open-minded, more knowledgeable, more safe.”

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The Department of Art, Music and Theatre presented its first Blackbox show “The Revolutionists” from Sept. 28-Oct. 1 in Jenkins Hall. The comical historical play starred several Marquette students and had the audience laughing out loud throughout the performance.

The play was a hit with students and attendees, including Henry Pritchett, a junior Macie Young got a lot of praise for her role as Marie-Antoinette. She was so cool!” explained Eanes. “I really liked her being able to have a knife in my hand. She's the type of character I would love to see more of."

Students were treated to fresh popcorn, snow cones and candy as they watched “Remember the Titans.” The film in 2001 starring Denzel Washington and Will Patton was about a Virginia high school foot- ball team in 1971 figuring out how to work together in the face of the civil rights movement.

The film screening was outside the Compass Point Clubhouse on Sept. 29. The screening and covered the lawn with blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own blankets as they sat on chairs to sit on or bring their own 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CAMPUS VOICES: In lieu of the recent Vegas shooting, what are your thoughts on gun control?

I feel like yes, people have the right to bear arms - but I feel like we need stricter laws, especially because of what happened in Vegas.

Charity Brezul, Senior, Cell and Molecular Biology

I feel like guns aren't the problem, it's the people behind them. Guns should be in the hands of only trained, skilled, and designated people.

Natasha Pointer, Senior, Gender and Women’s Study Major

I fall on both sides. I think it's right for us to have guns, but we need to regulate who can obtain them more. As an education major, the right to carry guns is something that could affect my future.

Noah White, Junior, Education Major

I think that we should improve on the intelligence of our human race. I feel like guns will be around either way.

Zack Borges, Junior, Psychology

NFL Players Protest Comments from President Trump

The national anthem has been a long-standing tradition in sports for as long as any fan can remember. The ideal that 53 players and numerous coaches standing on each sideline with a hand on their heart while fans hold and wave a massive flag in the middle of the field is awe-inspiring. When someone jeopardizes that ideal, a problem larger than sports arises.

Even if you are not a sports fan, you have still probably heard of the controversy going on in the NFL right now. The protest of kneeling during the national anthem began with Colin Kaepernick during the national anthem before a game, and currently believes he is being racially profiled who at the time believed he was being racially profiled and currently believes he is being excluded from employment in the NFL because of racial profiling. Many followed his lead by staging protest rallies for his job, but NFL teams still refused to sign him because of the controversy signing him would be icky. Moving forward to the most recent part of this saga, Donald Trump had a press conference on Sept. 22 in Alabama. After he witnessed a player kneeling during the national anthem before a game, Trump’s profane and harsh comments shocked many and, ultimately, became the last straw in re-sparking what Kaepernick started.

It came as a surprise to Trump that many owners in the NFL and their respective coaches, staff members and own- ers alike. All the teams did not have the same approach, but they all got their points across.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (excluding army veteran Alejandro Villanueva who stood on the field by himself) stayed in the tunnel during the National Anthem. Later, Villanueva said he felt “embarrassed” about being there by himself, and many stood by him for his act of patriotism. Many teams chose to stand, but they locked arms to show unity as a diverse group of players and coaches who believed in the same cause. Either way, each team had their way of displaying their acts of unity, but each did so in a non-violent and easily noticeable way. For those of you who watch football every Thursday, Sunday and Monday, this topic will linger around for a while. Don’t expect either side, the protesters or the POUTS, to back off from what they believe in.

ETHAN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Weekly Playlist: Smooth Tunes

Scan the QR code to listen via Spotify
Student Government Association hosted the annual state of the university last month along with President Jamie Hebert and his cabinet to discuss recent happenings in Armstrong consolidation, financial aid and revised schedule.

The night opened with introductions and role-call of SGA senators, who stood and recited the oath that is pledged by every SGA member.

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is also a great resource there on campus which you can take advantage of if you have an interest in teaching others about suicide. If you are interested in helping the movement to raise suicide awareness, you can contact Active Minds at activemind- armstrong@gmail.com.

For more information on Active Minds and what they do, please visit http://www.activeminds.org. If you are interested in becoming a Peer Educator for Pirates Educating Pirates, you can find out more information and apply at: https://www.armstrong.edu/face/educating-pirates.

If you believe someone you know is immediately in distress, please call the Armstrong Police. If you or a loved one is seriously consuming antidepressants, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (2825).

Ballagh said that while some students had problems, the majority of students did not, because they “were able to submit their financial aid information in a timely manner.”

The large amount of paperwork and applications that were received by the university in a short amount of time, led to the longer processing time. "The bulk of the classes, the Monday through Thursday, will be made up during the week of finals,” Diana Cone, Ph.D. Provost and vice president for academic affairs, said. “Instead of having the final exam week, we will hold regular scheduled classes at that time.”

Friday classes will be made up through online assessments or through having alternate exam schedules, according to Cone. More information will be provided on the university’s revised schedule as it becomes available.

As Hebert stepped down from the podium leaving the audience on a high-note from what was a mostly inspirational speech, Amy Ballagh, Ph.D. Vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, stepped up to discuss recent happenings in the university and made recommendations for the university’s revised schedule.

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