The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) gave Armstrong its lowest rating due to the maintenance of its Policy on Freedom of Expression. Of the 41 committees to contribute to the rating, it includes the Harassment Policy, the Student Sexual Assault, the Student Code of Conduct, the Code of Student Integrity, Bullying, or Harassment Policy.

FIRE’s spotlight database rates policies at more than 400 colleges and universities using a traffic light-inspired system. Each school’s policy is evaluated by First Amendment standards and is given a “lighting” rating.

A “red light,” the worst rating, indicates that a school has at least one policy that clearly and substantially restricts freedom of expression. A “yellow light” rating indicates an overall “red light” rating due to the maintenance of its Policy on Freedom of Expression.

Automatically may put in place reasonable “time, place, and manner” restrictions to classes and activities (e.g. prohibiting the use of a megaphone at events held outside a classroom building when classes are in session), the restrictions in Armstrong’s Policy on Freedom of Expression go past what is reasonable, and impermissibly limit constitutionally protected speech,” FIRE Program Officer Laura Beltz told The Inkwell.

The Armstrong policy requires that all demonstrations take place within a small area between the main university and a parking lot, which Beltz says “greatly limits access that students have to areas where they can gather to express themselves.

The policy also indicates that the area may only be used Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., “which is an unreasonable restriction, as it closes off much of the time students would be available to gather for an event after classes and on the weekends.”

Finally, the policy requires that any use of the designated area be approved by the Student Union and Activities Office, without providing clear and content-neutral criteria for this approval.

“This gives staff unfettered discretion to approve SPEECH | PG 6
SPORTS & Wellness

[2] THE INKWELL
February 2, 2017

ASU Softball Voted 2nd in PBC Preseason Coaches Poll

AYANNA THOMPSON  STAFF WRITER

The Armstrong Pirates were voted second place for the Peach Belt Conference softball preseason coaches poll announced Thursday. The Pirates received 134 points to put them six points shy of first place behind the North Georgia Nighthawks at 140. Following Armstrong in the poll, ranking from highest to lowest, are: USC Aiken, Columbus State, Flagler, Augusta, Georgia Southwestern, and Montevallo.

The 2016 season was the most successful season yet for the Pirates. Armstrong finished going to the final four of the NCAA National Tournament. The Pirate’s return to the mound for the 2017 season ranked #3 in the NFCA preseason top 25 after going 43-15 last year.

The Pirates will return thirteen players, seven returners, from last year’s squad. Kim Dean will take the role as the new head coach, replacing Ted Evans who was head coach for ASU softball since 2005. The consolidation between Georgia Southern and Armstrong still leaves uncertainty for the 2017-2018 seasons, but senior pitcher Jane Trzaska says “it’s only fueling the teams.”

“We are using the merger as motivation. On the field we are very focused on one goal,” Trzaska says. “We are saying ‘we’re going to get playing and put our talent all together. I think this season will be very exciting.”

The ASU softball squad returns to the mound for their season opener at the Florida Tech, Friday 3rd at 12:30PM for the Florida Tech Marriott First Pitch Classic.

ASU Basketball Wins at the Buzzer

Aykanna Thompson  Staff Writer

Armstrong junior KJ James recovers offensive rebound after the Alabamian shot with 0:01 seconds left in the game to secure the win for the Pirates. Although the Falcons’ defense was throughout the season, its defense could use some work. The Albuquerque gave up an average of 40 points per game. While New England’s defense allowed slightly more points thus far in postseason play, its 16.5 allowed points per game would still have been the NFL’s best mark.

While New England’s defensive success has gone largely unnoticed this season, mainly due to trading defensive end Chandler Jones to Arizona (for guard Jonathan Cooper and a second-round draft pick) and linebacker Jamie Collins to Cleveland for a third-round pick, Jones and Collins were arguably New England’s best defensive lineman and linebacker last season.

As for the game itself, expect Atlanta to attack New England’s linebackers by targeting rookie tight end Austin Hooper, tailbacks Devonta Freeman and Coleman thus far as run support. New England’s offense will continue its focus on the passing game, which could be the biggest weakness for the Patriots.

Midfielder Jeff Gordon made both of his free throws and Corey Tallry hitting a three-pointer, UNC Pembroke lead by four. Armstrong called for a 30-second timeout with 2:04 minutes remaining and trailing by five. UNC Pembroke countered with a 20-second timeout without letting the clock start again. Bravehawk senior Mike Smith’s free throw immediately following their own timeout would be the last point UNC Pembroke makes for the rest of the game.

Clifton made one-of-two free throws to make the game 79-84, and junior Denzel Reed dropped in a three-pointer with 0:01 seconds left in the game to secure the win for the Pirates.

The Pirates return to the court to face off for the second time against USC Aiken at the Convocation Center in Aiken, South Carolina on Monday January 6th at 7:30PM.
CAMPUS VOICES:

Did you keep your New Year resolution?

We don’t have one but this is my five year old new year resolution that we work out everyday. Except Saturday and Sunday, I haven’t missed a day. I restarted it this year.

Dhruvi Patel
freshman engineering major

It’s basic. It was just to be a better person. And also... I don’t think I’d call this a resolution, but get better grades. It was mainly to be a better person. I think I have been.

Taveyus Randolph
junior psychology major

My resolution was to maintain a healthy romantic relationship and I haven’t torpedoed it yet.

Lila Miller
senior professional communications major

Eat better and be able to love myself a little more this year. Heavy weight training is coming along slowly but sure. Slow and steady wins the race.

Ryan Merica
senior music major

A lot of things are coming to a close. As Obama’s presidency came to a close, I couldn’t help but see the similarities in Armstrong’s closing chapter.

It has not been an easy school year for the Armstrong community by any means. During my last year as Editor in Chief of The Inkwell, I have reported and overseen coverage on a lot of really tough news stories.

Far too many student deaths in a short amount of time, the fear of DACA students being deported and the uncertainty of our school’s future haven’t been any easier for me to write about than it was for you to read.

But it is during these pressing times that I have seen the most student involvement. Following each tragic student death, I witnessed peers comforting one another and hugging those they didn’t even know. I saw administrators and concerned students meeting after hours with their guards down to discuss important issues. And immediately following the announcement of our community being tampered with by the University System of Georgia, I saw fearless push back.

Although there is a lot of confusion and frustration, let us remember that we have made it this far together.

The USG’s decision to merge Armstrong with Georgia Southern has many of us feeling voiceless, but now is the crucial time to be speaking up. We are working tirelessly at The Inkwell to publish correct information and student perspectives on this decision because officials are paying attention. We are here for you to make the force even stronger.

EMILY SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Hard Year, But Finish Strong by Getting Involved

“arv in trust in our institutions is low, we should reduce the corrosive influence of money in our politics, and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics in public service. When Congress is dysfunctional, we should draw our districts to encourage politicians to cater to common sense and not rigid extremes... But remember, none of this happens on its own. All of this depends on our participation; on each of us accepting the responsibility of citizenship, regardless of which way the pendulum of power happens to be swinging.” -Barack Obama, Farewell Address

A lot of things are coming to a close. As Obama’s presidency came to a close, I couldn’t help but see the similarities in Armstrong’s closing chapter.

We owe it to ourselves and future pirates to keep the things we like about Armstrong alive.

Yes, it’s infuriating that nobody listened to what Armstrong faculty, students and alumni had to say before the merger decision was made, but officials claim that they will hear from subcommittees in the near future. So why wouldn’t we take this opportunity to voice what we’d like to see out of the hand we’ve been dealt? The upcoming listening meetings are imperative to how this transition will turn out. We owe it to ourselves and future pirates to keep the things we like about Armstrong alive.

I could go on and on about the pros and cons of the merger- but this is the hand we’ve been dealt and I say we need to play.

EMILY SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Oscars Preview: Predictions and Projections

THE INKWELL
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
February 2, 2017

LILA MILLER
A&E EDITOR

Last Saturday was not a night to be missed for metal lovers. Coastal Rock Productions gathered acts from Savannah to middle Georgia to hold a metal show at The Jinx in downtown Savannah. Acts included Hotplate, Dead Hand and The Death Hour.

Bands genres ranged from sludgy, doom, math rock, experimental and stoner rock. The show itself was definitely one to bring earplugs to, but for punk and metal veterans it was not a deterrent.

Savannah rockers, Dead Hand, The Death Hour, featur- ing Danny Worldsey on lead guitar and vocals, Erin Stagg on drums and David Lombardo on bass. They began the evening with Worldsey thrashin’ in a Ramones t-shirt and continued their sludge, doom metal set with furious energy.

Warner Robins’ based Dead Hand played next. Although they have toured the southeast and east coast extensively and have played several festivals, this was their first Savannah show. Dead Hand consists of a five-piece outfit with guitar, bass, keyboard, vocals and drums. Their latest venture includes a split seven-inch EP with the Miami sludge metal trio Shroud Eater. They released in Nov. 2016 through Southern Druid Records. The Savannah band, Hotplate, ended the raucous show with a set comprised of main- instrument metal rock.

Hotplate consists of longtime friends Robert Melton III, Aaron Givens and Jake Givens. What sets Hotplate apart from most metal bands is that their music is almost completely instrumental.

In between sets, Melton remarked that he had always been an instrumentalist and judging by this year’s awards, it is a viable career choice. "There will be controversy. It’s that time of year again. The beginning of Feb means awards season is in full swing. The Academy Awards, also known as The Oscars. The Oscars are broadcast every year and recognize the best films released in the past year. In terms of cinema, winning best actor and actress, best visual effects, best screenplay and best picture is considered the highest attainable honor.

The films up for the most awards this year are (direc- ing), “La La Land” tying the record for most nominations at 14, “Moonlight” and “Arrival” with eight and “Manchester by the Sea” with six. "La La Land" is expected to win for Best Picture after it was nominated for at the Golden Globes. The film “Moonlight” however, is getting a lot of attention for its gripping story, winning Best Motion Picture (Drama) at the Golden Globes. It will be tough for the Academy to choose between the two films.

Judging by this year’s nominations, the Academy is beginning to break away from its controversial #OscarsSoWhite trend of rarely nominating actors of color. Both Denzel Washington and Viola Davis received a nomi- nation for best actor and best supporting actress in the film “Fences” which also received a best picture nomination. Viola Davis, now on her third nomination, became the first black actress to receive this many nominations.

The writer and director of “Moonlight,” Barry Jenkins, also made history with the nominations this year as the first black man to be nominated for best director and best-adapted screenplay and best picture.

For the first time in Oscar history, there is a black actor nominated in every acting category: Denzel Washington for best actor, Ruth Negga for best actress, Viola Davis for best supporting actress and Mahershala Ali for best sup- porting actor.

Dev Patel has been nom- inated for his work in “Lion,” making him the third Indian actor in history to be nomi- nated for an Academy Award. Armstrong professor of film, Dr. Amanda Konkle, was also sur- prised by this year’s nomina- tions. "Moonlight” and “Fence” both had a lot of nomina- tions and are very important," she said. "It is also important for women to be recognized for their work.”

Konkle was also sur- prised by the somewhat-con- servative nature of the choices. Some of the choices for the awards are more lifetime achieve- ments than positive merit.

For the general public, there are two sides of the spectrum.

"For the general public, there are two sides of the spectrum." Sophomore major Alyssa Frederik does not understand the hype behind Oscar season, explaining that, “The Oscars are among the many different award shows used to recognize the achieve- ments of actors. There is so much effort put into these shows, they can put these efforts towards something more beneficial that goes beyond those who work in Holly- wood.”

Sophomore Radiol- ogy major Sean Riley loves watching the Oscars and hopes to see “La La Land” win for best picture “because it was a beautifully created movie that harkens back to a genre of cinema long forgot- ten.”

The Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby The- atre in Los Angeles on Feb. 28, 2017.

Scan the QR code to be directed to the Spotify playlist!

Weekly playlist: V-Day Cometh

Mel Gibson, given their his- tories," she explained. "It’s almost overwhelming to think of the choices for the awards as more lifetime achieve- ments than positive merit.”

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The Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby The- atre in Los Angeles on Feb. 28, 2017.
Tycho Provides rich soundscape with new album

Savannah Stage Company Shows off their music and improvisation skills

Tycho can be listened to as background music but the subconscious mind seems to tune right in as the music can be very relaxing. That said, taking the time to listen intently and explore the layered nuances of composition offers the eager listener an entire new experience.

Each track feels independent of one another and capable of being listened to "shuffle" or even mixed dependent of one another and capable of being listened to "shuffle" or even mixed.

Tycho's consistent orange, Tycho's consistent sound established previously by "Awake" (2014) and "Horizon," "Receiver," in the Bay Area artistic community led to an almost inevitable appearance of the band at the annual Burning Man Festival, where for three years running, Tycho plays a sunrise set deep in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Tycho opens with "Glider," a track which seems like background music but the subconscious mind seems to tune right in as the music can be very relaxing. That said, taking the time to listen intently and explore the layered nuances of composition offers the eager listener an entire new experience.

The Savannah State Company recently presented "It's a Birds Life" at the new Starlandia Space Station. The show marked the first in Savannah Stage Company's fifth season. The play consisted of ten actors and musicians who used improvisation and audience member participation to guide the show. At the beginning of the play, the audience picked the actor they wanted to be the protagonist, that character's name and the big dream they wanted to achieve throughout the course of the show. Audience members also pulled out of a hat the music styles to be incorporated into the scenes with words. During rehearsals, the cast and crew came up with basic story prompts to follow for different shows but as far as the lines are concerned, everything was improvised on the spot. For more information on other events at Starlandia Space Station, call (912) 417-4561 or inquire on Facebook at Starlandia Supply.
Tips on how to protect yourself from this scam:

1. **Never accept a job that requires deposits into your account or wiring money to another person or group of persons.**

2. **Be firm in expressing your views as they see fit, potentially on the basis of viewpoint.**

3. **Any act of sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature.**

4. **Broadcast your message with your friends or family members.**

5. **Use this site to post resumes and search for full-time, part-time, and internship opportunities.**

6. **If you have been a victim of this scam or any other Internet-related scam, you may file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov and notify campus police.**

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**Backpage**

February 2, 2017

University," Georj L. Lewis, vice president, institutional effectiveness event. University officials supported students who did not ask them to move to a designated Free Expression Area on campus.

"Armstrong additionally maintains three yellow light policies, which, according to the student's credit record."

"The student's bank account may be closed due to fraudulent activity and a report could be filed by the bank with a credit bureau or law enforcement agency."

"The student is responsible for reimbursing the bank the amount of the counterfeit check, potentially on the basis of viewpoint."

"The scamming incident could adversely affect your employment as their employer, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft."

"Scammers seeking to acquire funds through fraudulent methods could potentially utilize the money to fund illicit criminal or terrorist activities.

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