Armstrong receives worst rating for free speech

The University System of Georgia Chancellor, Dr. Steve Wulfe, has appointed the Armstrong State University Georgia Southern University Consolidation Implementation Committee. The USG press release stated that the 41-member committee consists of 20 representatives from each university as well as faculty and students.

“We have strong representation, including 20 Armstrong faculty, staff, students and student government president,” Armstrong President Linda Blackbecks said in a statement from the Armstrong community in an email Jan. 11.

The release details that the process, it has been practice that the Georgia Southern SGA President from each institution will represent their respective student bodies. Armstrong SGA President Jaimie Hebert, associate professor, college of liberal arts, and the SGA President on a work group committee.

Although initially interested in being on the committee herself, senior liberal studies major Michelle Raviso told The Inkwell that believes the committee selections are “not representative,” and one can recognize who are people that are voted in student success.

So, while disappointed there is only one student, it is a good committee,” Raviso said. “It looks like every office and department is covered. I actually pretty confident in the choices made made. We are going to get every win possible for Armstrong at this stage.”

One of the committee’s initial actions is to develop a mission statement for the new university. It will also help determine the best ways to combine the strengths of the two institutions. Many details and provide regular updates to campus community.

The committee’s first meeting was on Jan. 31 with USG Chancellor Dr. Steve Wulfe on Feb. 6, 2023. The atmosphere of the discussion is to bring forward more concerns present for students and assist in making the bigger decisions to a common understanding of the whole.”

However, there are going to be work groups aptly and students are asked to volunteer to serve on the groups. The SGA along with Student Affairs and the President’s Office, is working to put together a strategy that will permit students to submit or talk about concerns, as well as register to serve on a work group committee.

The members of the Consolidation Implementation Committee are:

Armstrong State University
• Linda M. Blackbeek, president
• Deidra Dennie, director, technology college of science and technology

Georgia Southern SGA President Dylan John can be contacted at david_d_johnl@gmail.com.

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John Deacon 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 Tranzka says it's only fueling the teams.

“We are using the merger as motivation. On the field we are very focused on one goal,” Tranzka says. “We say, ‘Let’s get to 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 Florida Tech, Friday 3rd at 12:30PM for the Florida Tech Marriott First Pitch Classic.
February 2, 2017
THE INKWELL
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

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

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 Hard Year, But Finish Strong by Getting Involved

EMILY SMITH
EDITOR IN CHIEF

“When 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 rigged 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. 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.

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

GOT AN OPINION? WE WANT TO HEAR IT!

CONTACT:
CHIEF.INKWELL@GMAIL.COM
ABOUT WRITING AN OPINION PIECE

ALL VIEWS WELCOME!
Last Saturday was a night not 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.

The show’s genres ranged from sludge, 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.

Three-piece Savannah rock band, The Death Hour, featur- ed Danny Worsley on lead guitar and vocals, Erin Stagg on drums and David Lombardi on bass. They began the evening with Worsley strumming in a Ramones t-shirt and continued their sludge, doom metal set with furious energy.

Junior Robins’ band 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 instrumental math rock. Hotplate consists of longtime friends Robert Melton III, Aaron Givens and Jake Griffin. What sets Hotplate apart from most metal bands is that their music is almost com- pletely instrumental.

In between sets, Melton remarked that he had always been an instrumentalist and knew this was what they wanted to do on bass. They began the set with the Miami sludge metal trio Shroud Eater and continued their sludge, doom metal set with furious energy.

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Savannah Stage Company Shows off their music and improvisation skills

Madison Watkins
Staff Writer

The Savannah State Company recently presented “It’s a B.I.G. Improv Musical” at the new Starlandia Space Station. The show marks 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 used for the 10 songs in the play.

Director Jayme Tinti explained that rehearsals began Jan. 6 for four days a week. To help the cast members boost their chemistry, “we had to start from scratch with the fundamentals of improv and ensemble-building exercises,” he said.

In terms of music, “It was up to the music director, Wesley Pridgen, to discuss with the musicians and actors what the genres would sound like,” Pridgen explained. “I wrote vamps of certain styles of music and the cadence of the music. We had the cast members sing what the songs would sound like in rehearsals. Then during the show, they would incorporate it into the scenes with words.”

During rehearsals, they also 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.

Senior theatre major Amira Williams was in attendance, explaining, “I would love to see a show like this at Armstrong. We would need to do a rehearsal of the improvisation troupe to make it work.”

This kind of show relies heavily on the cast members and how well they work together.

For more information on other events at Starlandia Space Station, call (912) 417-4561 or inquire on Facebook at Starlandia Supply.

Events, February 2-7

2 Love Bites
Every Thurs-Sun through Feb.
Mata Hari
10PM

3 Spectrum Sci-fi Indie Go-Go Fundraising Party
Foundry Coffee Pub
5PM

4 Jacifer, Jori Ryder, TBA
Jinx
10PM

5 Super Museum Sunday
All participating museums throughout Savannah
12PM-4PM

6 Rock N Roll Monday
Too Much, Dead Balloons
El Rocko
10PM

7 N/A

Savannah Stage Co. theatre practice (via Facebook: Savannah Stage Company)
The three harassment definitions could be included in this definition, but this definition is so broad that it could also include any single comment of a sexual nature that someone subjectively decides is unwelcome.

Third, the Intimidation, Bullying, or Harassment Policy prohibits "[a]ny act of intimidation, bullying, or harassment directed against any person or group of persons including, but not limited to, actions motivated by ethnicity, race, national origin, religion, gender (perceived or actual), gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or political beliefs." Again, this definition is so broad that it could be used to punish constitutionally protected speech, rather than just speech that would meet the Court's standard for harassment.