Lauren Ashley | Staff Writer

This spring, Armstrong’s Department of Recreation and Wellness has lost its ability to maintain pace with evolving student growth, needs and activity patterns. The department, after 48 classroom visits and 72 hours of tabling at campus hotspots, received the opinions of nearly 20 percent of the university’s spring 2016 population and a consensus that students would support the Student Recreation Center through the necessary renovation and return to it, despite the resulting increase in student fees.

“We’re the lowest fee center, which is not something we should be proud of,” said Finsel after presenting a chart detailing the fees for 10 other universities in the state of Georgia, including Valdosta State University, Georgia College and State University, University of North Georgia and Georgia Southern State University. The latter university has the largest recreation fee at $200 per semester and Georgia Regents University’s Augusta Campus ties with Armstrong for the third lowest fee at a mere $43 per semester.

Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed believed they would be willing to pay higher fees. A fraction of the fee increase in increments performed well by earning about 20 percent of the in-favor population each, but the most popular increase levels were the $51 to $75 and $126 to $150 increments, which represent additions to the current cost.

“If we really want to get a fee increase that expansion,” Assistant Director of Intramurals and Sports Club, Sean Willett, explained, “we need to be in the same tier or lower.” Willett was confident to gladly accept no type of fee increase.

Remembering Ethan Pringle:
Student, peer and friend

Senior English major Ethan Pringle’s life was tragically taken early Saturday morning in a hit-and-run on US-17. Pringle was involved on campus, Ethan was a dedicated student, a regular tutor at the Writing Center assist with student writing tools to help students improve. They also assist with scholarship applications, resumes, cover letters and even clean up outlines for public speaking classes.

Tutors emphasized that they are not proofreaders or heavy editors.

“We help make better writers, not better papers,” Taylor Walson said. Walson is a graduate and transfer student from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and has a Bachelor of English degree from Armstrong. She has been a tutor in the Writing Center for over a year and explained that the Writing Center is not just a tool for remedial students but is useful to people of all skill levels.

Graduate Assistant, Reese Shepherd, is the head tutor at the Writing Center for several years during his undergraduate study and now works under Associate Professor of English Deborah Reese. “This is not a fix-it shop, we help students get their thoughts together. We want them to get better at thinking about writing,” Shepherd said.

The Writing Center is not just about tutoring, but can offer a space where students can come to work. There are PCs available that are equipped with the Microsoft Office suite and a number of cubicles where students can spread out.

There is even a printer available for those who need to fill out forms, complete applications or type envelopes.

Freshman Biochemistry student Kayla Holman attended the open house Wednesday. “I come here for the free printing and writing advice at least once a week,” Holman said. She added that “Ethan was a great person and an even better friend. He was never without a smile and could talk with anyone he met.”

Ethan’s academic advisor, Dr. Carol Andrews, worked closely with him on his post-collegiate plans. “An English major and writing minor, Ethan was planning to graduate this spring and begin law school the next year or so. I always looked forward to talking with him. Last summer he traveled to Israel with a group of political science majors, and I will always remember his show me all of the photos. He enjoyed everything about the country and everyone he wanted to return. He even managed to infiltrate a mosque with some Muslim friends and ask questions of the religious leaders. Among his many others, I will miss him terribly.”

Dr. William Belford taught Ethan in 2014. “This news comes hard, Ethan. He took my introduction to Creative Writing class, a special class that I remember for its congeniality and professionalism. Among this group Ethan distinguished himself as a devoted, thoughtful, and giving reader of his classmates’ work, as well as a writer dedicated to honing his craft. A kind and gentle soul, I will think of Ethan fondly.”

His recent professor, Dr. Regina Bradley, shared that “Ethan was a generous, thoughtful, slow to comment but quick to listen. His questions were well thought out and, although unfulfilled, he was careful not to push his feelings and opinions on others. He was such a joy to teach. His shy smile and easy laugh helped seal our classroom a safe space and his good energy will be sorely missed by me and his classmates.”

A close friend of Ethan’s, Tyler Dietz, shared that “Ethan was truly the only one of us that I felt at ease around. He was not only one of us, but one of the best of us. He was truly my idol and who I aspired to be, and he deserves to have his memory honored.”

Dr. Chris Baker, former professor, Dr. Chris Baker was teach-ing Ethan this semester in his Shakespeare class. “He was always attentive and easy helped and, with regular question or comment to enrich our discussions. He had an easy friendship and a quiet sense of humor that made him a pleasure to be in class. Armstrong has lost a fine man,” Baker said.

We encourage those affected by this tragic loss to take advantage of grief counseling available at the University Counseling Center on the first floor of the Compass Point 7000 building.
The Pirates opened the season with a 3-2 victory over Limestone in the first match on Friday. They were led by junior Sarah Olin and senior Lauren Yoss, combining their shutout totals to five on the year.

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The Pirates are now 5-1 on the season and inching closer towards the start of Peach Belt Conference play. They will use this early-season tournament to prepare for tough competition down the line this year.

The Pirates opened the season on the road against USC-Aiken. Armstrong State then won their first two matches over King University and Erskine. They won by an average of six points in each set against their former opponents and then put down a 11-point win in their final set over Erskine.

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Should Students be Compensated for Canceled Classes?

TYLER TYACK

When it's eight in the morning on a Monday and you're rushing to get to class, you have a lot on your mind. Do you have the paper that you were working on until midnight? Do you have your Scansion? Was that test today? Lots of questions, and the reality is you feel when you see the sign on the door that your class was canceled is overwhelming. Many of us would simply thank fate for this chance, then go back to bed and sleep until our next class, yet this is overlooking a somewhat crucial aspect of the event: money.

Whether or not you have had class, you still paid for it. Let's break it down by the numbers. For an out of state student taking a one hour course pays $589.27 in tuition, according to the Bursar's office. This sum without the addition of mandatory student fees. Say it meets three times a week, so barring holidays, we can then see the total cost per class. $1596 divided by fifty meetings total, we can add to the total per meeting by dividing $589.27 by fifty, giving you a total of $11.79. Not too bad, but if class is canceled, you still pay eleven dollars for nothing.

Now let's get really technical. An out of state student is taking 16 credit hours of classes. For this student, we'll conclude in including mandatory fees in the total. So 16 hours plus fees for an out of state student is $9,576.50. Take this total and divide it by six, and you get $1596 per course. If we stick with the course meeting three times a week, fifty meetings total, we can then see the total cost per credit. $1596 divided by fifty gives us $31.92 per meeting!

So if a class is canceled, you wasted thirty two dollars. You don't get that back, it's gone. What could you have done with that money? Well you could have filled your car with gas, gone to dinner and a movie, or just used it for general spending. Yet can't, it's gone.

Now yes, those numbers are high, after all they are for the out of state student.

So let's look at the same examples given above for an in state student. Without mandatory fees, a class that meets three times a week will cost $53.24. Not bad, but with fees and a 16 hour course load that number rises to tens of dollars a meeting. Still not the end of the world, but this is only for a class that meets three times a week.

Freshman seminar courses meet once a week. In total, an in state student would pay for seventeen meetings a semester. So with mandatory fees, a single freshman seminar class costs $31.84. In the same instance for an out of state student, a single meeting is worth $31.92. That's a lot, but it is honestly worth coming from out of state tuition.

My point here is that, hey, life happens. Even teachers get sick, I know both sets of my grand parents were teachers). If the student blows off coming to class, that’s their own fault. And no, I would not expect the student to be reimbursed if they were sick, that’s just life. However, when a student has done their due diligence and showed up to class only to find a cancellation notice on the door, they shouldn’t be charged for it.

Think about this, if you pay for a cable movie bundle that includes HBO, Showtime, you expect to get what you paid for. If halfway through your subscription, HBO has some kind of technical trouble that knocks it off the air, my first call would be to Comcast and demand a reduction of my bill. If I pay for a service and don’t receive it, you should get your money back. There are infinite, real world examples out there, so why should College Education be any different?

So ask yourself; the student who cancels, what could I have done with it instead?
The Trees help memory of 9/11 stand tall

The Trees" was filmed in The New York borough of Manhattan, the Arthur Ross nursery in The Boasts, and a tree nursery in New York, as well as other places affected by the 9/11 attacks. "The Trees" takes the viewer through the process of finding, cultivating, and transporting the trees from their places to their destination at the 9/11 National September 11 Memorial & Museum. "Everyone remembers where they were," Shannon McLeod, director of horticulture of the memorial, said. "We were trying to be careful to get the story right."

It's a film about tragedy. "And I hope it's never forgotten," she said. "The memorial is going to keep it flowing. Especially with films like this.

The film was well-received by the patrons of the event. With few images of what happened that dreadful Tuesday morning, The Trees evoked so much emotion by the devotion exhibited by the group of people who worked tirelessly to see the project come to fruition. "I was checking back through the whole time," said another participant of the event. "It's a great film," Said Page Huggler, a directe...
Twin Peaks and Cherry Pie

LILA MILLER

Walking into Graveface Records is like walking into a swirling fog of decades of nostalgia and a world of strangeness. It smells like covert, sweet, vinyl and an air of the occult. On a typical day, customers can be seen perusing through the aisles of records and occasionally stopping to stare quizzically at a piece of taxidermy, or an upholstered worm made into a keychain. But this was not a typical day.

On Sept. 6, Graveface opened their doors to the public for more than just records. That evening, from 7-9 p.m., they held a listening party complete with coffee and classic cherry pie for the release of the "Twin Peaks" soundtrack. Death Waltz Records re-released an updated version of the album, including new monochromatic cover art.

For those unacquainted with the cult-favorite followings, "Twin Peaks" is a beloved series about the surreal nature of a small town in America. American food and music. That evening, a five-night series of film viewings focusing on Latin culture and issues, will kick off at the Ogeechee Theater.

On Sept. 21, Dr. Giant Grinch will present, "Through Their Eyes: African American Memories and Perspectives of the Spanish Civil War," the first lecture of several in the Brown Bag Series. "The Brown Bag Series is a faculty lecture series that will focus on different topics throughout Latin America," Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs and HOLALucero Aradillas said. "They were coordinated by Dr. Ana Sanchez, the faculty member and fully supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Languages Librarian, in addition to our HOLA club who is helping co-sponsor one of these events."

"Art-award winning spoken-word poet Carlos Gomez will present twice on Sept. 21. The five o'clock event will be a workshop on Latina empowerment, and the seven o'clock show will focus on his story and leadership," said Aradillas.

Gomez has been featured on various programs and networks from NPR to MSNBC, as well as The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. On Oct. 4, The Impact of Rhetoric on Latina Civic Engagement Forum will be held in the Ogeechee Theater.

"The forum will feature Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials, Dr. Amaris Guzman, HORA Academic Advisor, and Brenda Lopez, the first Latina to be elected into the Georgia House of Representatives," Aradillas said.

The event will focus on Latina civic engagement and political rhetoric. Coinciding will be a voter registration drive hosted by Armstrong's NAACP chapter and HOLA.

Arbelecheus of September will include flamen- co and salsa dance lessons, a cocktail celebrating Latino education and the achievements of Latino students at Armstrong, and a day trip to St. Augustine, Florida. Events will not only take place at Armstrong’s music campus but also at the Liberty Cen- ter and off-campus locations downtown as well.

A full calendar of events can be found at armstrong.edu/students/latino

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ABOUT WRITING AN OPINION PIECE

THE INKWELL WANTS YOU.
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