GSA Hosts Fifth Annual Drag Show

A student orders a handcrafted ice pop from Savannah Square Pops at the on campus Farmers’ Market. Photo by Madison Watkins.

Juwan Smith Voted 2019-2020 SGA President

Feature on the Friends of Cats Organization

Dr. Ryan Groom with performer Arista Diamonds at the GSA Drag Show. Courtesy of Dr. Ryan Groom.
On April 11, students had the opportunity to watch a drag show right here on campus. The event in its fifth annual run, was put on by the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) along with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and featured local drag queen Chi Chi Bonet Sherrington from Savannah’s Club One as the host.

For those unfamiliar with drag, it is the act of wearing clothes that presumably belong to a different gender. At this show, several people came out to perform dressed to the nines: sequins, immaculately made up faces and of course, big lively wigs.

Among the performers were several Club One entertainers Chi Chi Bonet Sherrington, Treyla Trash and Jordan Sophia Alexander. The show also welcomed back Armstrong alumni CarmaniCandy and Alana Coke and showcased current students from Armstrong, Arista Diamonds, Anita Bail and Smack Diaz, and the Crew.

The queens and kings lip-synced and danced to songs by the iconic Britney Spears, Amy Winehouse, Sam Smith and several others. After the first number performed by iCandy, our host announced that Carman’s family was among the audience. The crowd erupted into applause as Sherrington thanked the parents for their support of the LGBTQ+ community.

During each number, members of the audience sprang to their feet to offer dollar bills to the artist when they did anything notable. Each queen and king made off with a substantial amount of dollars, as the audience sprinkled singles on the dancers.

Every song performed was accompanied by killer dance moves, including more than one death-drop and several cartwheels. As the night pressed on, the final number featured Diamonds, Coke and Bail performed “Lose My Breath” by Destiny’s Child. The trio had choreographed moves and lip-synced perfectly to the song.

After the final number, all the performers gathered onstage for a group photo.

Outside, iCandy had her own merchandise for sale, emblazoned with a sparkling #Carmaniacs on the back of the apparel.

Members of the audience also had the opportunity to get photos taken with the performers.

Overall, the Drag Show was a wonderful experience for show veterans and newcomers alike.

For anyone interested or curious about drag, you can catch more performances at Club One in Savannah on Thursdays (21+) and Sundays (18+).
Pick of the Week
Saturday, April 20
Kappa Sigma Southern Showdown
11a.m -4p.m.
Do you like Super Smash Bros. or NBA2K? Well if you do, this tournament is for you. The Southern Showdown, which is hosted by the Omicron-Iota Chapter of Kappa Sigma here at Armstrong, will feature a Super Smash Bros. tournament and a NBA2K tournament with concessions and prizes available for those who attend. To compete in either tournament, the cost is $5, which can be done through the QR code on the flyer or on-site but if you just want to spectate, the cost is $3. For more information, contact Alfredo Small at 912-344-1400.

Meme Of The Week

Come by, pitch ideas, and give us your opinions on what you want to put in the paper.
Feature: The Friends of Cats Organization

By: Hannah Hanlon

Students on campus may occasionally notice cats crossing their path. These furry residents are the focus of the non-profit Friends of Cats Organization.

The main goals of the organization are to feed the cats, find homes for them when possible, provide medical care to animals that are injured or sick and humanely euthanize ones that are not able to be saved.

Barbara Brown, President of Friends of Cats, began working at the Lane Library in 2001 where she would notice two kittens every morning.

She began feeding them. It wasn’t long before she began to realize that there were more.

“I was familiar with the problem of feral cat overpopulation in Savannah but didn’t know it existed at Armstrong,” said Brown. She soon saw that more kittens and several adult cats started showing up to be fed, all of them feral and very skittish.

Around the same time, the university administration became concerned about the out of control cat population on campus and decided something needed to be done.

Brown said that there were several individuals on campus who were feeding the cats and getting them sterilized and immunized, but it wasn’t a coordinated effort.

In addition, each person was caring for the cats’ needs and paying out of their own pockets for the expenses.

It made sense to come together as a group and form the organization that came to be known as Friends of Cats.

“Using humane traps, we began systematically trapping, neutering and immunizing the campus population. We also kept medical records and photos of the cats and set up a website so we could keep track of which ones had been ‘fixed’ and which ones hadn’t,” Brown said.

“Since no one else seemed to want the position, I became the President of Friends of Cats.”

Anne Hanne started work at Armstrong in 2002 and began feeding a stray cat that showed up outside a building on campus.

She eventually met Brown, was introduced to Friends of Cats that same year and began volunteering to feed the cats.

“It was obvious that the cat population was out of control and a humane solution needed to be found. Friends of Cats was created to deal with a difficult situation in a humane way,” said Hanne.

Although retired since 2015, Hanne still feeds the cats and helps with special events.

The main benefit of the program has been to enable the cats to live out their natural lives in a healthy way.

Additionally, the previously out-of-control population has decreased significantly since the beginning of the program.

According to Brown, there are currently 24 cats on campus, which has dropped down from the 150 that were previously counted in 2001.

Due to feeding the cats twice per day at feeding sites located around campus, trapping, vaccinating and sterilizing the cats, the health of the animals improved greatly and the campus cat population began to drop steadily.

One of the challenges includes keeping enough volunteers to continue the program. Student volunteers graduate, staff volunteers sometimes retire or move away, and it is difficult to find new volunteers.

Another challenge is the emotional distress that is felt when losing any of the cats.

Lastly, it is not easy to finance the feeding and vet care for the campus colony.

“I think that the campus and students have benefited from the results of our program because today the cat population is small, manageable and healthy,” says Brown. “And all of this has been accomplished without the University having to spend a dime.”

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for Friends of Cats can contact Barbara Brown at bbbrown@georgiasouthern.edu or 912-961-9960.

To learn more about the organization and the cats, visit the website at friendsforcats.freeservers.com

Juwan Smith Voted 2019-2020 SGA President

By: Ethan Smith

The Student Government Association held their presidential election last week and Juwan Smith was declared the winner.

Smith was voted SGA President over KeyShawn Housey and Zean Lopez.

Nearly 2000 votes were cast with Smith receiving 41.6%, Housey receiving 38.17% and Lopez receiving 20.58%.

A few weeks ago, at Armstrong campus’ presidential debate, Smith disclosed that diversity and graduation were two major points of focus within his campaign but not within the limits of what he wants to do.

“Recognizing various groups on campus and creating diversity is my biggest prospective project. I want to unite the students,” said candidate Smith.

Much of Smith’s campaign was based on the 90s show “Family Matters” that hits unity and inclusion across all forms of life, or for in this case three unique campuses.

“I have the passion to make the sacrifices needed to bridge all three campuses to make one family. I will create intentional meeting spaces for all campuses to come together and discuss concerns on all three campuses. It is my hope to show each student that Family does Matter,” said Smith to The George-Anne.

Executive Vice President (EVP) Spencer Demink, who resides on the Armstrong campus, will return in the same position for the upcoming term.

It will be his second term as SGA EVP, and Demink has had success through his first term here at Armstrong.

Smith will begin his tenure as SGA President in the Fall of 2019, succeeding current SGA President Jarvis Steele.

New SGA President Juwan Smith. Photo by The George-Anne.
Mayhem (and Plenty More) in the Margins

By: Rebecca Munday

“The churches were dark…it was not always easy to see these images by candlelight,” Stephen Wagner, the guest lecturer from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), who researches medieval manuscripts, said about scandalous images in churches and monasteries.

On April 9 in the Ogeechee Theatre, Prof. Wagner lectured on “Mayhem in the Margins: Monasteries, Misericords and Manuscripts in Late Medieval Society.”

Often, art in the margins of text or hidden in the architecture provided social commentary on the text or the culture of the time.

A description of the lecture read as follows, “Works of art created during the Middle Ages did not always reflect the teachings of the Christian Church, especially after the eleventh century. Monasteries provided the setting for learning and prayer, and wealthy patrons commissioned lavish books to display their piety, but their humanness manifested itself in fascinating ways. Column capitals illuminated medieval manuscripts and carved wood misericords contained compelling, amusing and scandalous images, but they were not usually easy to see.

Medieval viewers had to know where to look for the unique and unusual.”

In churches and monasteries, sculptures depicting sexuality were hidden in the architecture of the building.

Wagner spent a considerable amount of time explaining how the images of sexuality in the churches contradicted with the teachings of the church at the time.

The images showed things such as two monks sharing a penis, two monks kissing and a nun and a priest in a relationship with each other.

Sexuality within the Catholic church wasn’t the only topic Wagner talked about.

He also mentioned artistic commentaries that were both satirical and somber in nature.

In one image, a rabbit was seen severing a man’s head instead of the opposite to represent the “upside down world” of the medieval period.

Usually, the man hunts the rabbit but not in this image. This image was meant to comment on the upside-down world of the church.

The uneducated and poor ran the church instead of the other way around.

At the end of the lecture, Wagner took five to 10 minutes for questions.

“We were the sexually-charged images in the churches supposed to condemn the monks and nun,” an attendee questioned.

Wagner replied, “I think they are mostly condemning.”

As the group then came out of Ogeechee Theatre to enjoy refreshments, Wagner elaborated on the lecture topics to students and faculty members until the group dispersed.

“Mayhem in the Margins” is just one of many Visiting Artist lectures GSU’s Armstrong campus is offering.

Farmers’ Market Photo Story

Photos taken by Madison Watkins.
Op-Ed: “Game of Thrones” Season 8 Episode 1 Recap

By: Ethan Smith

Well, for those of you who watched the season premiere of the final season of HBO’s “Game of Thrones”, which should have been a national holiday, the first episode was a lot to take in and answered some pressing questions many viewers have begged to be answered.

With that said, I am here to recap the episode, give my input and ask for your input.

Let’s get started shall we?

The episode begins with the Unsullied army along with the Dothraki marching into Winterfell with Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen at the head of said army.

We knew tensions would be high between the people of the North and Daenerys because, as many say throughout the episode, they are not very welcome to outsiders.

The Queen of Dragons meets Sansa Stark for the first time as Sansa gifts her control of Winterfell, something we saw in trailers leading up to the season.

The pure size of the army Daenerys and company have constructed is amazing but Sansa does pose the threat of many soldiers dying of hunger due to the armies immense size and two full-grown dragons does cause a pretty big issue.

The show shifts to King’s Landing where Cersei Lannister invites Euron Greyjoy into her chambers.

As Euron is in King’s Landing, Euron Greyjoy attacks a Golden Company ship to come to the aid of his sister Yara Greyjoy, who was Euron’s prisoner.

Yara insists that Euron join the fight against the White Walkers in the North because she can sense that he wants to and it should be a pleasant surprise to Jon Snow and others if he indeed travels North to join that fight.

Again the gears shift to Bronn, who is still in King’s Landing after the epic battle from season 7.

He is approached by Qyburn, Cersei’s hand while he has three women with him. Qyburn says that Cersei wants Jaime and Tyron dead and offers multiple chests of gold and a really nifty crossbow. Qyburn basically threatens Bronn by telling him to take the order because he would be an enemy of Cersei if he chooses to decline, which is pretty amazing in my opinion.

In arguably the most interesting scene of the episode, Varys, Sir Davos Seaworth and Tyrion Lannister have a conversation regarding Daenerys and Jon’s relationship.

Tyrion insists that Daenerys follows the wise opinions of older men, but Varys begins kind of an angry grandpa rant about the youth not truly listening to the wise.

Varys’ main quote that came out of this conversation that excited me but left me wondering for the future was, “Nothing lasts”, which he calls an unpleasant truth. “I’ll get back to that.”

The fan service portion of the episode features Daenerys and Jon riding her dragons through the winter sky.

Was it cool? Of course. Did it need to happen, sure, but it was basically a foreshadowment to the most important scene of the episode.

In this scene, which might as well be two scenes, Daenerys and Jarah Mormont approach Samwell Tarly, who is in King’s Landing after stealing books from The Citadel.

Daenerys tells Samwell that his father and brother refused to bend the knee, thus leading to their execution.

Obviously Sam takes this hard and runs outside sobbing where he locks eyes with Bran, who says, “I am waiting for an old friend.” Wink, wink, wink, wink.

Bron explains that the time is right for Sam to tell Jon that he is Aegon Targaryen, the son of Lyanna Stark and Rhaegar Targaryen as seen from Bran’s vision in season 7.

Jon’s reaction hits pretty hard as he comes to find he is technically the rightful heir to the throne and that his “father” Ned Stark hid this truth from him to protect him.

This is huge that Jon knows this so early on in the season.

It will likely be teased by Daenerys that she may not notice that she is having sexual relations with her nephew but seeing if Jon decides to tell her sooner rather than later will play a huge role in how their relationship, both physically and mentally plays out.

Tormund is alive and well! That’s all I cared about when I saw him knowing he was already alive from trailers, but more importantly, Tormund and company appear to be hunting White Walkers but find the Umber boy pinned to the wall with body parts on the wall in a very interesting pattern.

The boy wakes as a White Walker and is immediately burned alive which allows Tormund and his men to know it is a message from the Night King.

By the way, who knew the Night King loved interior design so much.

Back to the wink, wink, wink, wink, Jaime freaking out.

Explain how our relationship, both Bran and Jon have also completely changed since then with Bran becoming the Three-Eyed Raven and Jaime becoming a much better guy than he used to be.

The implications of Jaime arriving in Winterfell span even farther than Bran. The last time he saw Daenerys, she was trying to kill him with a dragon.

The Lannister’s also have a rough history with the Stark family and the North, so hopefully their meeting is as smooth as possible.

This episode added to the already unlimited amount of hype for the rest of this season.

The reunions from various characters and the lack thereof for others who appeared in a minimal role, including Brienne of Tarth, the next episode will have even more to tell ahead of the major battle at Winterfell.

Did I like this episode? Hell yea, there was so much that happened that it was almost hard to handle.

The next five episodes promise even more and I am nothing less than excited.

Thoughts on the episode?

Let us know on social media or come by our table on Thursday morning.

Music To Cry To

1. These Days- Nico
2. How To Rent A Room- Silver Jews
3. Famous Blue Raincoat- Leonard Cohen
4. Slow Hands- Interpol
5. Black Balloon- The Kills
6. Heavy In Your Arms- Florence + The Machine
7. Needle In The Hay- Elliott Smith
8. What Difference Does It Make- The Smiths
9. Nantes- Beirut
10. How It Ends- DeVotchKa

Find the playlist on Spotify!
Op-Ed: "Game of Thrones" Season 8 Episode 1 Recap

Thoughts on the episode? I promise even more and I am happened that it was almost hard. Did I like this episode? I battle at Winterfell. There is more to tell ahead of the major roles that included Brienne of Tarth, others who appeared in a minimal characters and the lack thereof for the Stark family and the North, so I have a rough history with the Sandor and Jaime becoming a much changed since then with Bran becoming the Three-Eyed Raven. And Jaime becoming a much Thicker. Arriving in Winterfell span even farther than Bran. The last time he saw Daenerys, she was trying to kill him with a dragon. He thought the last time he saw her, she was trying to kill him. He came by our table on Thursday. The reunions from various actors and actresses. There has been already unlimited amount of hype and no doubt more to come. This episode added to the already unlimited amount of hype and no doubt more to come. Said Savannah 3/28/19.
REASONS FOR CHOOSING TO LIVE ON CAMPUS

HASSLE-FREE LIVING
With all of your monthly bills included in one lump sum, you have the benefit of cable, wireless high speed internet, water, electric and rent without all of those pesky monthly bills!

BETTER GRADES
Students who live on campus show higher rates of retention and academic achievement than their commuter counterparts!

A+ = 

THEME HOUSING
With choices like Greek Life, Global Crossroads, and Transfer Strong, theme housing provides you the opportunity to live with students who share your common interests!

SECURITY
The Armstrong campus has its own campus police force! On campus crime rates are MUCH lower than any neighborhood within a few miles.

MORE SLEEP
Feel like a nap between classes? Go for it! Home is just a few steps away!

FRIENDS
It’s way easier to make friends on campus! Whether you share the same major or other common interests, you’ll find a someone to connect with!

TONS OF ACTIVITIES
Resident Advisors provide you with tons of activities such as game nights, pot luck dinners, socials, and other programs designed to help you be a better student! Most have free food!

AMENITIES
Everything is at your finger tips! From common rooms with flat screen TVs to the Rec Center, to the Learning Commons, it’s all so conveniently located!

WORRY-FREE MAINTENANCE
Emergency maintenance is available 24/7! Lock out assistance is also available, and much cheaper than a locksmith!

TIME MANAGEMENT
No commute means more time to study, participate in campus activities or just sleep! It makes a huge difference!

INTERESTED IN LIVING ON CAMPUS? VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!

Learn more at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/housing