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"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" IS HEADED TO ARMSTRONG CAMPUS

We all know this dark family from the screen and now we have a chance to see it on stage.

Page 7

NEW REQUIREMENTS STIFLE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Page 6

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE REPORT EXPOSES LESS THAN STELLAR REMARKS

Page 4
I like it because people in Statesboro don't have to travel to Savannah, and people in Savannah can just graduate in the city of Savannah and it's convenient for everyone.

HOPE CHILES

“I think it makes it convenient for the people that live in Savannah...as opposed to having to drive all out to Statesboro.”

RECHEL EADS

I was thinking [that I would graduate] probably in Savannah because my grandma is here—my aunts, uncles, and cousins. So it would be easier for them to be in Savannah or Statesboro. For me personally it would be easier for it to be in Savannah. I had a friend that had classes in Statesboro but she lived on [Wilmingotn] Island. But, she had to travel from the island a whole hours prior to her class just to get to Statesboro on time.

So, it’s inconveniencing a lot of people but I’m glad they finally, finally considered, “Hey! Let’s have a graduation in Savannah because it’s easier for people that live in Savannah and have to travel—it’s less of a hassle. I like it because people in Statesboro don’t have to travel to Savannah, and people in Savannah can just graduate in the city of Savannah and it’s convenient for everyone. I like it that way,” explained Hope Chiles.

For the Fall 2019 ceremony, undergraduate and graduate students will graduate together. Students can choose the location where they would like to graduate. The Savannah ceremony will be Friday Dec. 13 at the Savannah Convention Center. The Statesboro ceremony will be on Saturday Dec. 14 at Paulson Stadium.

Ultimately, the ramifications of the commencement changes are yet to be seen, but at the very least, students are hopeful to have a fulfilling and memorable graduation experience.
THE GEORGE-ANNE INKWELL EDITION

EVENT OF THE WEEK:
TOUCHING THE REAL

Please join us September 13th at 12:15 p.m. for the 2019-2020 Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture: “Touching the Unreal: Exploring our Tactile Senses using Haptics” by Dr. Felix Hamza-Lup from the Computer Science department.

From an early age we explore the world around us using multiple senses: we see, taste, smell, and touch objects. Our bodies include a variety of sensors that make us feel alive and facilitate environmental exploration. Haptic systems (those relating to our tactile sense or touch) can stimulate this human tactile system based on computer-generated data, opening new communication channels among their users. Current technological advancements in haptic interfaces combine multiple modalities: tactile, visual and auditory. Dr. Hamza-Lup explores fundamentals of human sensation while highlighting several advanced, haptic-based interfaces and their applications ranging from surgical simulation to elementary training.

Strozier Faculty Lectures are held in the Ogeechee Theater on the Armstrong Campus. The Robert I. Strozier series honors Professor Emeritus of English Robert Strozier who served the Armstrong community for more than four decades.

CORRECTION:
In an article about campus resources on Aug. 22, The George-Anne Inkwell Edition incorrectly reported that the Health Center offers free psychiatry services. The Health Center offers some mental health services by nurse practitioners under a contractual arrangement with Memorial Health University Physicians group. The Counseling Center offers counselors to address mental health needs for individuals and groups. For more information, visit their pages on the Georgia Southern University website.
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE REPORT EXPOSES LOW MARKS ON ALL THREE CAMPUSES

BY MADISON WATKINS
Editor-in-Chief chiefinkwell@gmail.com

To say Georgia Southern has been going through growing pains post-consolidation is putting it lightly. From the low-enrollment, particularly on this campus, low morale, commencement issues and negativity towards how administration handles diversity flashpoints, the university has been through a lot the past year.

After the fallout of the ‘triggerish’ incident in fall 2018, administration reached out to the Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership and Social Innovation to assess the university and how it can improve to become a more inclusive university.

Dr. Damon Williams, along with his colleagues from the Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership and Social Innovation put out a campus climate survey to all students, faculty and staff, campus listening sessions and interviews, campus-wide community forums and an organizational university audit to collect the data they needed.

After holding events and collecting data throughout the 2018-2019 school year, the report was published by administration on Aug. 28.

The published report was written by Damon A. Williams, PhD, Brandy Bryson, PhD, Caitlin Fass, PhD, Derrick Jenkins, EdD, Raul Leon, PhD, Sallye McKee, PhD and Deladra Gardner, BS.

The final report showed “generally low marks in all three dimensions of general satisfaction, feeling valued and belonging, and institutional commitment to diversity” at all three campuses. The most positive responses were recorded by the Liberty campus, followed by Statesboro and then Armstrong.

Liberty reported 84% for campus climate and 80% for institutional commitment while Statesboro reported 67% and 59% and Armstrong reported 55% and 50%.

It was also stated in the report, “the valued and belonging scores were particularly low across all three campuses (36-55%) and represent a finding that should be pondered closely by campus leadership.”

Liberty campus reported 60% in regard to feeling valued and belonging, while Statesboro reported 49% and Armstrong reported 36%.

“Overall, fewer than half of all participants (46%) felt like they belonged on campus.”

In regard to racial and ethnic identity, there were low overall scores, “with no group scoring 70 percent on any indicator, save Hispanic/Latino(a) respondents (72%) in terms of general satisfaction with climate.”

In regard to the perception of institutional commitment to diversity, “scores by racial and ethnic identity ranged from a percentage low in the 40s among Blacks and those not racially identified, to a high of only 66 percent among the relatively small number of Asian American/Asian respondents.”

It was noted in the report that “the hurtful impact of leadership’s response to the ‘triggerish’ incident as well as the use of the n-word in the classroom” was brought up repeatedly in activities hosted by the Center for Strategic Diversity Leadership and Social Innovation.

They followed this statement in the report with, “we believe these incidents created a suppression of campus climate generally, but especially on the Statesboro campus.”

In regard to gender identity, the report stated “men reported significantly more positive experiences compared to other gender groups while gender non-conforming community members reported the most challenging experiences and significantly reduced perception across all measures, including institutional commitment (non-conforming 40% positive, women 56%, men 63%).”

In regard to sexual orientation, it was reported “heterosexual respondents rated all three measures [general satisfaction, feeling valued and belonging and institutional commitment to diversity] significantly higher (65%, 48%, 60%) than LGBTQIA respondents (56%, 36%, 47%).”

“When many listening-session participants were quick to note the importance of race and ethnicity, they also mentioned the need for the university to frame diversity and inclusion work in ways that embrace issues of sexuality, gender and intersectionality.”

To combat all of these issues, there are seven recommendations listed to “foster open communication with the campus community [the university’s] next steps.”

The recommendations are:

1. Rapidly prototype a new strategic diversity leadership framework, accountability system and launch plan to guide your work.
2. Choose big-bet action steps to drive change.
3. Develop the role of AVP for Strategic Diversity Leadership and build an Office of Inclusive Excellence
4. Develop a campus-wide lateral diversity infrastructure in every school, college and divisional area.
5. Implement a full campus climate survey in the fall of 2020.
6. Strengthen GSU’s institutional diversity brand in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion.
7. Lift up the strategic campus integration journey across Statesboro, Armstrong and Liberty campuses.

VP of Academic Affairs Dr. Carl Reiber stated in the university-wide email that published the report that administration is already in the process of:

• Starting a national search for an AVP of Inclusive Excellence. This position will function as our Chief Diversity Officer (CDO), will report directly to the president and will serve as a member of the president’s cabinet.
• Developing an Advisory Council and Student Advisory Council. Their first priorities will be to develop our own definition of Inclusive Excellence, and to begin aligning efforts with our strategic plan.
• Planning a climate study for the university to benchmark sentiment and allow us to measure progress.

“Now we as a campus have to own this and move it forward. We have to embrace the values that we hold dear and make sure that we start living those in the classroom, out of the classroom,” Reiber stated in an interview with The George-Anne Inkwell Edition in response to the report.

Reiber went on to say, "it permeates our culture that we respect each other’s cultures, respect each other’s opinions, when people voice opinions that may not align with ours.”

On the topic of the troubles we went through last year Reiber said, “it was clear that there was little trust between students and the administration, between faculty and students. People just didn’t trust each other and I think we ended up at the end of the year in a much better place.”

“A lot of the mistrust was because there was little communication and so we want to make sure that [there] is an open dialogue.”

“Now we as a campus have to own this and move it forward.”

DR. CARL REIBER

How the university will move forward?

“What ultimately I would like to see is that the campuses is just very welcoming and embracing of our differences whether they’re religious, whether their sexual orientation, whether their race, we welcome that and recognize how important it is. It’s the world we live in and so we as a university have to embrace that and then carry it forward,” Reiber finished.

Check our website and read next week’s issue for further coverage on the Inclusive Excellence Report.
If you want to see what Armstrong arts alumni have been up to since their graduation, visit the alumni exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery in the Fine Arts Hall.

The Statesboro campus has hosted an event like this for many years but it is a first for the Armstrong campus.

The exhibit is part of an effort to make the event calendars on both campuses coincide.

The works are done in a range of media including paint, photography and graphic design.

There isn’t a set theme for this exhibit because “We wanted to showcase what the alumni are doing on their own,” explained Gallery Director Raymond Gaddy.

Each artist that submitted work got at least one piece included in the exhibition.

Gaddy said he used mostly technical criteria, such as the size of the piece to judge them, along with a bit of his own personal preference to determine which pieces were displayed.

However, he said it was all “strong work”.

The Alumni Exhibition will be in Fine Arts Hall 129 from now through Sept. 27.

All photos courtesy of Raymond Gaddy.
NEW REQUIREMENTS STIFLE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

BY KEE’ARA SMITH
The George-Anne Inkwell staff

“When I was a freshman there were tons of clubs to choose from but now with the new requirements to maintain an organization, it gets hard for the clubs to still be active,” said student Kaley Neal.

Georgia Southern has over 300 organizations, 66 of those were active registered on this campus last year.

According to Paul Bradley Jr., the Assistant Director for the Office of Student Activities (OSA) for this campus, there are a total of 16 organizations that were frozen as of Sept. 6.

“Organizations being frozen is somewhat common,” said Bradley Jr.

“The Office of Student Activities encourages registered student organizations to meet all annual requirements, which includes selecting their new officers prior to March 31. This ensures the organization’s eligibility to enter into the renewal process for the upcoming academic year. Should an organization not meet the annual requirements prior to March 31, it is a little more difficult to meet them at the end of the year,” he added.

“Other reasons for being converted to frozen status also include students graduating out or not having enough members to sustain the organization,” said Bradley Jr.

While I spoke to students during the student organization fair on Aug. 27 it became clear that most of the organizations didn’t submit the renewal form last May due to low attendance, poor participation or students graduating out.

The renewal deadline for student led organizations was Aug. 1 with the final deadline being Sept. 2.

If the organization did not complete the entire renewal process by the above date then it won’t be eligible for the 2019 fall semester.

“Coming from the Statesboro [campus], Armstrong seemed refreshing. Clubs and organizations were hosting cookouts almost every week. We’re almost entering a month and I have barely seen any of the organizations I’ve seen when I first transferred,” said nursing major Farida Wilson-Sowah.

Even though a fair amount of organizations are frozen or no longer operational, Bradley Jr. has noticed “a lot of inquiries on how to start a new or join an existing student organization.”

Bradley Jr. stated the OSA is still willing to help out organizations that are frozen, “the annual renewal process is not intended to be punitive or stringent for students but rather to nurture student development, accountability, and initiative outside of the classroom. The Office of Student Activities continues to work with student organization leaders, their faculty/staff advisors, and other campus departments to assist frozen organizations with regaining their active status on campus.”

Advertising has played a big part in what clubs get the center of attention, and while the Georgia Southern marketing department has kept a lot of students informed, it has also left a lot of students in the dark on university goings-on like on-campus and club events, for instance.

Many students weren’t aware of recent events such as the Eagle Beach Bash on Tybee Island or the Georgia Southern Football Fan Fest at Memorial Stadium.

To get more information about campus organizations go to “MyInvolvement” on the university website.

CORRECTION:
In our previous issue, we stated the article “SGA Talks Voting and Food” was written by Kaitlin Sells of The George-Anne Statesboro. This story was actually written by copy editor Stanton Dobson of The George-Anne Inkwell.

PLAYLIST

GETTING INTO THE GROOVE

SHINING STAR- EARTH, WIND & FIRE
BUZZIN’- SHWAYZE, CISCO ADLER
THE GREATEST- LANA DEL REY
THE MONEymAKER- RILO KILEY
AGAIN- NOAH CYRUS, XXXTENTACION
CRIMSON AND CLOVER- JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS
IN EVERY DREAM HOME A HEARTACHE- ROXY MUSIC
NOBODY TOLD ME- JOHN LENNON
I FOLLOW YOU- MELODY’S ECHO CHAMBER
INSIDE THE GOLDEN DAYS OF MISSING YOU- SILVER JEWS
BY JAVANNA ROGERS
The George-Anne Inkwell staff

“The Addams Family” is headed to Armstrong Campus

The Armstrong Campus Theatre Production Organization “Masquers” is bringing the creepy, kooky, mysterious, and spooky in the next coming months. We all know this dark family from the screen and now we have a chance to see it on stage.

Professor Pamela Sears, director of “The Addams Family” shares, “the characters are familiar, but we see them in a way we haven’t seen them before.”

“It’s so unique, fun, dark and grim, but it’s also kooky and quirky. I feel that the audience will be familiar with the characters even if the plot is different,” she added.

Sears also noted that the musical has a big cast which allows students of various majors to have the opportunity of experiencing being in a musical.

She hints that plans including a ritzy dinner and theatre event are in the works on campus.

Additional information was unavailable at press time but The George-Anne Inkwell Edition will update this story when more details are made available.

Come see “The Addams Family” at the Jenkins Hall Mainstage Theatre on Oct. 31- Nov. 2 and November 7-8 at 7:30 p.m. There is also a matinee show on Nov. 3 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are free for students and $15 general admission at the Fine Arts Box Office with discounts available.

Javanna Rogers was cast in this production before publication of this story.

BY JASON CHAPMAN
The George-Anne Inkwell staff

SGA TALKS PARKING SERVICES

SGA held a Parking Services Town Hall as part of their meeting on Sept. 9.

Several concerns regarding parking at the Armstrong Campus were brought up. Including the problem of having more faculty parking than needed on Burnett Blvd.

“It’s just that there’s an overwhelming number of empty spaces there that’s not used, at least this semester that I’ve seen,” brought up student Sean White while speaking to Director of Parking Services Derrick Davis.

Davis went on to say that only one quarter of the parking spaces offered on Burnett Blvd. are for faculty and staff.

Another topic that was brought up was citations.

Speaker Tyler Tyack addressed Davis and brought up the fact that citation warnings are almost non-existent.

First year students are rarely given warnings and just get a $30 citation instead.

Now students are allowed to appeal these citations, but currently there are about 600 appeals being sifted through at Parking Services.

However if you do appeal your first parking ticket it will more than likely get resolved.

It should also be noted that students can park anywhere on campus after 4 p.m. and not be ticketed.

SGA holds weekly meetings at 12:15 p.m. on Mondays in Student Union Ballroom A.