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The George-Anne

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GA
THE GEORGE-ANNE

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Eagles look to remain undefeated in conference play against App State

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MICK MILLER

Schools Respond

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ASU and GS newspaper weigh in on the consolidation

Lunch Rush

Page 4


Discovering the busiest time for dining

Learning Never Ends

Page 8


GS alumnus returns for sixth degree

Thursday




High: 75°
Low: 57°
10 percent chance of rain

Friday




High: 77°
Low: 63°
50 percent chance of rain

Saturday



High: 73°
Low: 61°
90 percent chance of rain



Sunday



High: 74°
Low: 53°
90 percent chance of rain


Weather Bar

It appears our stint of sunny weather is over as rain is set to roll in later this week. It will still be pleasant temperature wise, so weekend activities may be worth it if you're willing to weather the storm.



The Merger

PHOTO COURTESY OF [THECIRCLEGSU.COM](http://thecirclegsu.com)



The Circle went around and asked students about the recent merger of Georgia Southern and Armstrong State!

<http://thecirclegsu.com/armstrong-merger/>

Splurge vs Purge

BY ARIANE JENSEN
The Reflector staff

When it comes to cleaning out and adding to your closet, there are a few tips one can try. There are ways that one can achieve a clean closet without getting rid of everything. On the other hand, there are ways to add to your closet without making it a mess and making it so that you only have clothes that go with that “one top.” There are ways to add to your closet that amp up your overall aesthetic and give you a nicer look at the end of the day.

When purging (getting rid of) clothing, there are several ways to start. The first way is to decide if you want to go with the times and fashion. The second thing is decide what time how many times during the year that you want to clean out your closet. Rickey Jones, a senior fashion merchandising and apparel design major shares his routine: “I do a summer clean and then a winter clean,” Jones said. This is a smart tactic because every six months you will be getting rid of the clothing that doesn’t fit you or that doesn’t suit your style anymore.

The third thing to consider is if you’re too attached to clothing you already have. If you are, it’s time to say goodbye to grandma’s sweater or those short shorts you made yourself from those thrift store mom jeans that just don’t fit right anymore. Believe me... it’s time. Gather your courage and either donate them or put them in a box with other sentimental items.

The fourth step is look through all your clothes. If you haven’t worn it in a year or even six months, it’s also

time to get rid of it. “With me, I’m kind of impulsive and it’s like if I know I’m not going to be wearing it [the clothing article] within the next two weeks then okay, I’m ready to give it up,” Jones said.

One way to figure this out is the coat hanger trick, in which you turn all your hangers so that the hooks face the front of the closet. Then after you wear an item, you turn the hanger toward the back of the closet and at the end of the allotted amount of time (whether it be a season or a year) you can take all the clothes that you didn’t wear in that time and donate them. Knowing when to toss clothes is an attitude that most people should adapt so that you’re really only wearing the clothes you want to be wearing. This encourages college students to donate clothes that they don’t use so more clothing is going out to the poor or the people in need.

When it comes to adding to your closet, there are many things you can do to make your closet a more versatile and less chaotic sh*t hole. Mimi Ikonn, YouTube vlogger, image consultant and fashion stylist, suggests using velvet hangers to keep your closet looking elegant and expensive; additionally, this keeps your clothes in better shape in the long run. So look to invest!

She also suggests to find out what colors look best on your skin tone. “Once you understand your color palette, shopping for clothes is so much easier,” Ikonn said. Everyone falls into a season whether it’s fall or spring and certain shades of colors will look better on you than others.

Read More at Reflectorgsu.com

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The Merger

A Message from the Armstrong newspaper

BY THE INKWELL
EDITORIAL BOARD

Armstrong State University

ASU/ GSU students, faculty, staff and alumni,

As The Inkwell Editorial Board at Armstrong State University writes this before Thursday's town hall meeting, we are, as of yet, not quite sure how the merger will affect our 82 year old newspaper or the 7,100 students it speaks for.

As you know, our mid-sized university will soon join Georgia Southern's 20,500 strong. Armstrong will take Southern's name in marriage, effectively creating the fourth largest university in Georgia. But the name change is not the only source of frustration for those here in Savannah.

As The Inkwell has tirelessly talked with the Armstrong community, we have heard many of the same valid concerns — the main one being the suddenness of this decision. Although it is now clear that this consolidation has been in the works for quite some time, the news broke with no time or opportunity for conversation. The vote inevitably went through even following two days of campus protests, leaving the small-but-mighty

Pirate community feeling irrelevant and without a voice.

On a bureaucratic level, it makes decent enough sense to funnel money into one school instead of two. But joining two schools with fundamentally different identities and values is more complicated. To strip the individualism and wipe clean the culture that Armstrong has cultivated for nearly a century is a devastating blow.

Many students choose Armstrong because they prefer an intimate, small-school atmosphere and favor its impressive degree programs.

Although the transition is still under way, another thing made perfectly clear in its execution is that little or nothing was put in place for those students and employees it will immediately affect, such as those whose sports teams, scholarships and in some cases, jobs, will be eliminated. Our own student newspaper may be included. To put it lightly, not enough people are getting screwed to sway the Board of Regents.

We can't help but think the upcoming town hall meeting at Armstrong regarding the merger is 'too little too late' now that the decision has already been made without student input. Why would

either university's president or the BOR listen to anyone here other than to sit back and wait for the crying to be over?

GA Southern Eagle pride is extremely important -- even downright famous in the state of Georgia. We ask that the dedicated students of Georgia Southern consider that the Armstrong Pirates, though half your size, hold within us a similar pride that we now feel powerless to protect.

With that being said, the town hall meeting at Georgia Southern, on the other hand, may hold some value. At least more than ours. With the decision made, these meetings will be the first steps in blending the best of both worlds. There's still a possibility that we can preserve at least a fraction of the elements that have made our university -- our Armstrong -- a respected staple in Savannah's community since 1935.

Things to consider are which school has the better degree programs in each field, the inconvenience of commuting between the two schools and student life (greek organizations, clubs, etc.)...

Of the many things that will be fleshed out in the coming months, it will have to be considered which school has

the better degree program in each field. Both schools' excellent health science and engineering departments may be a straightforward decision to combine. But many would not like to see other Armstrong programs, such as liberal studies and arts, compromised.

For example, the liberal and fine arts departments at Armstrong serve many who do not wish to or cannot afford to attend Savannah College of Art and Design, a private institution. These programs in particular benefit from their location in Savannah, arguably the most prosperous art scene in the region, and would not thrive as greatly in Statesboro.

The details of this transition will ultimately boil down to what Georgia Southern wants. Administration and the student body in Statesboro will have the power. IF the BOR will listen to any tuition-payers, it will be the students not being absorbed. If we Pirates have a chance to be represented by anyone, it's our now-fellow students in Statesboro. For that reason, those of us at The Inkwell would like to implore Georgia Southern students to consider us when they speak up. At this point, you're speaking for us.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. For questions e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-- particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: The newspaper is printed by The Brunswick News in Brunswick, Ga.

NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

CORRECTIONS: Contact the editor at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu for corrections and errors.

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The George-Anne welcomes letters to the editor and appropriate guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or fewer, typed, and sent via email in Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) format to letters@georgiasouthern.edu. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year and hometown. The editors reserve the right to reject any submission and edit submissions for length. Opinions expressed herein are those of the Board of Opinions, or columnists themselves and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff, or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory, Student Media or the University System of Georgia.

About the Merger

A Message from the Editorial Board

BY THE GEORGE-ANNE
EDITORIAL BOARD

On Jan. 11, the University System of Georgia announced that Georgia Southern University and Armstrong State University would consolidate into a singular institution, ending what would have been 83 years of the school's history in the fall of 2018.

This announcement was met with a variety of emotions from students of both institutions. Many ASU students expressed extreme disdain for the University System of Georgia's decision, while some GS students conveyed general excitement at the opportunities this merger may allot.

However, our reaction here at The George-Anne has been closer to the middle of the spectrum. Although many of us here on the editorial board can see the potential benefits of the

consolidation, some have also indicated the possible issues we may face as a student body later on down the line.

There's no denying the perks we here at Southern would be able to enjoy. With this merger we move up to the fourth largest university in Georgia in student population, and the first largest in terms of acreage. Our research opportunities could also expect a large benefit now that we will be able to utilize ASU's resources as well. Our nursing program is now closer to Savannah where many of our students complete their practical training. Basically, GS stands a lot to gain from this consolidation.

There are however, many potential drawbacks we may have to face. Now that the universities are merging the fact of the matter is that some faculty and staff members

may have to face the reality of losing their positions. Simply put, there's no plausible reason we would have two vice presidents of business and finance, so it's only natural that one of them would have to move on. This scenario would likely repeat for most duplicate positions for both universities. Not to mention the jeopardy student-athletes may face when it comes time to start dealing out scholarships.

The transition is set to take place over the course of 18 months, led by a committee of individuals from both campuses, and as the process is just beginning, there are plenty of questions that have yet to be answered, even addressed in some cases. It's important to be patient and take into consideration that although we may not know much about the exact details now, the transition team was

formed specifically to solve these problems in a fair and effective manner, so although it may take time to see these issues resolved, hopefully in 18 months we'll have the answers to these questions and then some.

All that being said, the editorial board as a whole felt that most of our concerns spread from our uncertainty of the future. How will this merger affect academic standards for both schools? Are there going to be funding restraints? Logistically how will the university decide who attends Statesboro's campus and who attends Savannah's? There are a lot of potential ups and downs ahead and while we may not be sure of all the ramifications this consolidation may bring, one thing is for certain. It's happening.

Lunch time found to be GS' dining facilities busiest time

BY ALANA TINSLEY
The George-Anne staff

Over the past few years, dining on Georgia Southern's campus has undergone many upgrades and updates, prompting wait times and transaction numbers to undergo changes as well.

According to Amber Culpepper, assistant university counsel in the Office of Legal Affairs, Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. is the busiest time for dining transactions on campus.

Culpepper also found that last semester, Dining Commons had the most transactions at 583,957, Gus Mart inside the Russell Union

was the second busiest with 77,750 and the third busiest was the Gus Mart inside the IT building with 57,864 total transactions.

Even though lunch time is the busiest for on campus dining, numerous GS students agree and they're willing to bear waiting in lunch rush lines.

"The IT [building] sandwiches are the best and the wait for the bagel fries are totally worth it," Avery Smith, junior sociology major, said.

Gabi Cohen, sophomore psychology major, visits a variety of places at lunch.

"I don't have a dining plan this semester, but I do have

Eaglexpress, so I will go to Lakeside on occasion. Gus Mart is great for snacks, so I'll go there if I need something quick," Cohen said.

Cohen added that she avoids Chick-Fil-A during lunch time because it tends to get crazy.

Sophie Stratigos, junior film production major, enjoys on campus dining and other retail locations.

"[On campus dining] is convenient for being on campus all day long. I usually get Chick-fil-A when I'm on campus," Sophie Stratigos, junior film production major, said.

When on a tight schedule or if you cannot stand the lines,

GS offers Tapingo, a mobile pre-ordering service designed for people to place their order online, through smartphone, tablet or computer.

Stratigos believes that Tapingo does help with the wait time in line but the lines are still extremely long, especially at Chick-Fil-A.

Fall Semester's Transaction Numbers

-Gus Mart (Russell Union): 77,750

-Gus Mart (IT Building): 57,864

-Market Street Deli: 18,192

-Zach's Brews: 12,932

-Wrapsody: 11,268

-Freshens: 6,981

-Dining Commons and Lakeside: 583,957

SOLD

Student Organization & Leadership Development

WORKSHOP SERIES

All SOLD Series Workshops will take place 5:30pm-6:30pm in Williams Center, Multipurpose Room, unless otherwise noted

Date	Topic
Tuesday, January 24th	Delegation **Russell Union 2080**
Wednesday, February 1st	Diversity: Breaking Stereotypes
Tuesday, February 7th	Branding/Marketing
Wednesday, February 15th	Motivation and Happiness

Student Organizations Earn 4 WINGS Incentive Points Per Event
YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK!

Students for Trump organization heading to the Inauguration

“

For them it's a chance for them to experience the next president be sworn in as the new leader of the nation.”

TAIRI RANDALL

Sophomore business administration major

“

I think it's a good thing for the students to head to the inauguration because it helps them, as well as our generation, get involved with politics.”

TATE PEARSON

Sophomore biology major

“

I was going to the inauguration with or without a ticket. Some people have a ticket, some don't. If you don't have a ticket, you can watch the inauguration from the parade route.”

CHRISTIAN HART

Campus ambassador for Students for Trump

BY TAISHA WHITE
The George-Anne staff

The Students for Trump at Georgia Southern organization is making their way to Washington D.C. to witness the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, set to take place on Friday, Jan. 20.

Created back in the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester, when the election between then candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was well on their way to an historic election night, the organization set out to help students become more aware of the political topics and promises that Trump spoke on.

The student based organization's main mission was to recruit students and invite them to all of their events. Some of their events included sign waving and volunteering in other counties. Some of the group members even made their way to up to Atlanta three weeks prior to Election Day to campaign.

Christian Hart, former campus ambassador for Students for Trump at Georgia Southern, explains how the group was given the opportunity to attend the inauguration.

“I applied and either way, I didn't really get tickets

through my connections. I got tickets through by applying on Rick Allen's [Georgia Congressman] website.” Hart said. “I was going to the inauguration with or without a ticket. Some people have a ticket, some don't. If you don't have a ticket, you can watch the inauguration from the parade route.”

Between 12-15 students (most are GS students) will be going to the inauguration with Hart, not just to be with the rest of the onlookers, but to visit friends that they have met through the internet who campaigned for Trump in different states.

Tate Pearson, sophomore biology major, thinks it's cool to see college students take interest in the political world.

“I think it's a good thing for the students to head to the inauguration because it helps them, as well as our generation, get involved with politics,” Pearson said. “I know some young people are not that interested in politics because there is a lot that comes with it. So it is interesting to see people my age be able to learn more about it.”

TaiRi Randall, sophomore business administration major, thinks the opportunity for the Students for Trump at Georgia Southern organization to

be at the inauguration is cool, but is focused on what will happen once Trump is officially president.

Randall said, “For them it's a

chance for them to experience the next president be sworn in as the new leader of the nation. My biggest concern is not the inauguration, but what

is happening after that. If he is going to hold his word, which I doubt, there will be more job opportunities.”

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- Wednesday sessions are held at the Counseling Center from 5-6pm
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For more updates about upcoming wellness programs, follow or like the University Wellness Program on your favorite social media outlet!

Student Organizations *Push for Change* on Campus

BY NATALIE TURMAN
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University’s Know Your Worth Book Club and Community Garden organizations are coming together to host a march on Friday at 3 p.m. in front of the University Bookstore to push for positive changes for African-American students.

“We felt that a rally was necessary to engage support for both organizations. We placed it on inauguration day because we felt that would be the day, no matter what, people

are going to be angry. They are going to be disappointed, they are going to be looking for an outlet,” Keyshawn Housey, vice president of the Community Garden, said.

The march will end at Sweetheart Circle. Once there, speeches and more information about the organizations’ call to action and plans for the clubs will be addressed. The groups hope the march will unite the GS community as we enter a new time.

“For the march, I’m not sure how many people will

come out, because people don’t like to be the first to do stuff, so I’m not really worried about numbers or exposure or anything like that. For me, if five people show up or if 500 people show up, it would be a good starting point for us to realize in today’s society, higher level people divide us,” Keith Woods, president of the Know Your Worth Book Club, said.

Both groups have created a call to action for their march. Their call to action asks for a meeting with department heads from Human Resources, the

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Business Administration to discuss the following demands listed on the Community Gardens website:

1. “The course ‘Racism in American Institutions’ must be established at Georgia Southern, required for incoming freshmen and instructed by Mr. Baugh or any other qualified professor of color.”
 2. “Provide more funding for the Africana Studies department and other minority focused departments to expand curriculum and program initiatives.”
 3. “Georgia Southern must hire more black professors at a 1:4 ratio matching our student population and provide yearly statistics on the faculty demographics.”
 - a. “The last known percentage from 2013 in the National Center for Education Statistics, showed less than 6% of our professors were black. This is a complete disservice to our student body.”
 4. “Georgia Southern must provide transparency for the students in regards to budget and allocation of funds within each department. Quarterly reports should be emailed to all students.”
- The study mentioned in the Community Garden’s call to action is available online.

The Community Garden is a new organization that plans to assist those living below the poverty line in Bulloch County.


The Community Garden encourages members to be aware of their history and culture. The organization wants people to be more aware of the problems in the world and how they can help fix them.

“We hope to make it more of a mutual development program, where we encourage them to pursue topics they are passionate about and help them realize problems in the world so they can research probable and realistic solutions so that when they get in the real world they can address them,” Surjanian Awer, president of the Community Garden, said.

The Know Your Worth Book Club is a book club on campus that focuses on history, current events and other aspects of African-American life. This includes covering books written by African-Americans authors.

Both organizations hope their march works to bring the community closer together. They also hope for people to better understand their culture, history, and themselves.

The march is not to protest the inauguration of Trump, according to the organizations’ representatives, but to give people an outlet to support change and growth on campus.



1/19WEEKLY BUZZ1/25

- Priority date for filing the 2017-2018 FAFSA is February 1, 2017!**
File the 2017-2018 FAFSA now, using 2015 tax information!

The first step in applying for Fall 2017 financial aid is completing the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov which became available on October 1, 2016. By completing the FAFSA, you are applying for federal grants, loans, work study, and the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship (for Georgia residents).

The priority date for completing the FAFSA is February 1, 2017. It is important to apply by the priority date because funds are limited for some campus need-based financial aid. The last day to file the 2017-2018 FAFSA is June 30, 2018.

If you are applying for ONLY the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship, you do not need to complete the FAFSA application; instead complete the GSFAPPS application online at GAfutures.org. You must complete the FAFSA in order to be considered for federal and state loans, and need-based financial aid.

Be aware that after you apply for aid, additional information may be requested to determine your financial aid eligibility. If you have any questions, please contact finaid@georgiasouthern.edu or call 912-478-5413.

TIPS FOR FAFSA FILING

 - List Georgia Southern’s Title IV school code **001572**.
 - Enter your name on the FAFSA as it appears on your social security card.
 - Your 2015 tax information must be used to complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA.
 - Use the IRS Data Retrieval process to upload your tax information into the FAFSA.
 - Read very carefully who should be a parent or included in the household.
 - Fill out all information accurately.
 - You must file the 2016-2017 FAFSA for Spring17 and Summer17 financial aid.
- What are your plans for Spring Break this year?**
How does traveling with fellow Eagles, meeting new friends that share your values, and working to make a difference sound? Alternative Spring Break applications are now live until January 20th. Breaks will be traveling Sunday, March 12th - Friday March 17th. Students can peruse a variety of trips we have available on our website now, check them out! Trip prices range between \$150 - \$350 (all inclusive) To apply students can log onto MyInvolvement and follow the link: <https://georgiasouthern.collegiatelink.net/form/start/118098> and submit their application today.
- UPB Presents: "UnPlugged on Ice" Edition**
Thursday, January 19th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Williams Center Multipurpose Room
The University Programming Board has changed the look of Thursday nights in the Boro! Our monthly Unplugged series offers a relaxed, coffeehouse/lounge type environment for students to indulge in tasty treats and beverages while enjoying a variety of entertainment acts, provided by Georgia Southern’s most talented. Faculty/staff/students, do you have a special talent that you’d like to share with the campus? This event is free and open to the public. Students, please bring your Eagle IDs. If you need assistance, related to access for this event, please email: upb@georgiasouthern.edu at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Contact Information: UPB@GeorgiaSouthern.edu
- UPB: 69th Annual Miss Georgia Southern University Scholarship Pageant**
Saturday, January 21st, 6:00 pm, Performing Arts Center (PAC)
Miss Georgia Southern University is a preliminary pageant for Miss Georgia and the winner could go on to become Miss America. Miss GSU attends traditional and community events and represents the student body in all that she does.

YOUR STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AT WORK

The Weekly Buzz is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

“For me, if five people show up or if 500 people show up, it would be a good starting point for us to realize in today’s society, higher level people divide us.”

KEITH WOODS
President of the Know Your Worth Book Club

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For more info, email SMmarketing@georgiasouthern.edu.

BY ASHLEE GILLEY
The George-Anne staff

The George-Anne staff

Thanks to the CLASS advisement team and a few Georgia Southern students, they can have just that. Not only a list of semester long do's and don'ts, but also words of wisdom from fellow students about whether or not to listen to an advisor.

DO'S

DON'TS



Quotes From Students

"I think the best advice from my advisor that I've gotten so far is to do what makes me happy. This is my life, and I'm the one who has to live it, so I should stop making decisions for those people that are trying to live through me," Cheyenne Burns, junior business marketing major, said.

Quotes From Students

junior criminal justice major, said.

"My advisor told me taking trigonometry and chemistry would be no problem because the maths were similar. That was a lie," Taylor Cook, sophomore pre-nursing major, said.

“

I think the best advice from my advisor that I've gotten so far is to do what makes me happy."

CHEYENNE BURNS
JUNIOR BUSINESS MARKETING MAJOR



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710 Georgia Ave. Statesboro www.southerndownsapartments.com Tel: 912.373.8118



John Lewis was a former GS professor of information systems. He currently works as a consultant for his own LLC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN R. LEWIS

THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

One man's passion to continue learning

BY ASHLEE GILLEY
The George-Anne staff

Most students see college as a time in their life where they just have to get through it to make it to the next step. However, every once in a while you come across someone who enjoys learning so much they continue to do so throughout their lifetime.

John Richard Lewis is one of those people who has chosen to be a lifelong learner. He is 65 and currently working on his sixth degree among other personal projects.

"It's a matter of becoming a complete person. Realizing your full potential. That's what I believe life is all about," Lewis said. He also said that he "doesn't believe in retirement."

His Degrees

The first time he graduated college was with a psychology degree and spent the years of 1975-1978 as a drug and alcohol counselor in the army while stationed Germany.

After that he decided that he needed to do something a little less negative with his life so he went back to school for the first time. After getting a business degree, his second degree, he spent 25 years as a corporate business man.

Then, he once again decided it was time to pursue another passion. He currently holds five degrees and is currently working on his sixth: a studio art degree.

Decisions based on passion

While they may all seem very different from one another, Lewis decides which degrees to get just based on his personal interests. The studio degree he is currently working on was inspired by a lifelong love for creating comic book art.

Similarly, his writing degree was motivated by a desire to put all of the ideas he's had in his head since the 80's, to put into an actual novel. While getting that degree, and teaching at Georgia Southern he was actually able to get most of his writing done.

Although he is still in the revision process, his novel, "Strengthen the Things Which Remain," is Lewis' first fully written book. He says it is a "near future cyber-espionage thriller."

Art and Writing skills

He uses his talent for drawing to make covers and art for his novel and hopes to fine tune his skills while pursuing a studio art degree. His novels, as well as his art work, can be seen on his website johnrichardlewis.com.

His website includes not only his

novel and some of his artwork, it also includes samplings from his second novel as well as a few blog posts. He finished the first few portions of his book while he was pursuing a

Following this advice is how he was able to write ten chapters in just one summer away from teaching.

"Anytime I was on break I would just take off from here and go write," Lewis said. He said sometimes he would write well over 1,000 words a day when the story just started pouring out of him.

“YOU HAVE TO WANT IT, TO GO BACK AND DO IT.”

JOHN R. LEWIS
GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENT

writing degree as well as a teaching degree here at Georgia Southern in the IT department.

When it comes to writing, Lewis tries to follow the advice of Stephen King and write 1,000 words a day when he is seriously writing.

When asked what the biggest challenges of going back to college multiple times are, Lewis said that the first time he went back to school, all of the prerequisites took a while to complete. It took him years of going back to school part time in order to achieve his second degree.

He was working 60 to 70 hours a week and going to class part time, which meant he could only take one class a semester. Lewis considers himself a lifetime learner.

Lewis said, "you have to want it, to go back and do it."

PLADD DOT

Not Your Average Music Store



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW ENFINGER

Guitars hang from the rafters at Pladd Dot music store. The store was established back in 2008.

BY MATTHEW ENFINGER
The George-Anne staff

After turning the corner on North Main Street, there was a red building that stuck out with a simple sign that read, “Pladd Dot Music.” Upon entering, the sound of local musicians trying out a variety of instruments could be heard

in the chaotic yet harmonious atmosphere within the Pladd Dot Music store.

Statesboro is home to Pladd Dot music store, which not only provides American-made guitars and amplifiers designed by the owner, but a safe haven for musicians to hone their craft and create a

stronger sense of community.

“Music is a very important part of human existence. Music stores give us access to the instruments that make such a thing,” Tyair Blackman, freshman theater major and musician, said.

Pladd Dot was established in 2008, but the original

dream for a music store started in 1999, when owner and musician, Chris Mitchell, began a production studio in his Statesboro apartment.

Upon entering the music store, customers are instantly engulfed by a wide variety of musical instruments and accessories.

“We have a full retail store which we cater to drums, keyboards, bass and guitars,” Mitchell said.

A unique aspect of Pladd Dot’s instrument selection is their variety of custom built C&G guitars and amplifiers that are called “Devil Cats.”

“It’s from the ground up,” Mitchell said, “we have a full-time luthier staff that assembles [guitars] and an engineer that builds our amps from scratch.”

Mitchell stated his guitars

are steered by innovation, not profits, and bring an affordable American-made guitar to the market.

Along with music lessons and merchandise, Pladd Dot has a music program similarly seen in the 2003 movie “School of Rock” starring Jack Black. The program is called School of Rock n’ Roll.

After students take lessons through the store and become comfortable with performing, they are allowed to audition to join one of many bands assembled in the program. The studio books the bands’ performances in the community.

Experience Pladd Dot for yourself by visiting them at 38 North Main St., or view their selection online at <http://www.pladdmusic.com>.

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Street Marketing



Logistics and Distribution



“Music is a very important part of human existence. Music stores give us access to the instruments that make such a thing.”

Tyair Blackman
Freshman theater major and musician

#TB

TRUE BLUE
THURSDAY





Mike Hughes takes on a Troy defender at the rim. Hughes is averaging 10.7 points per game.

MEN'S BASKETBALL TAKES ON BITTER RIVAL APP STATE THIS SATURDAY

BY MARQUS WILLIAMS
The George-Anne staff

The Georgia Southern University's men's basketball team (12-6) take on their bitter rival Appalachian State University (6-10) this Saturday at home. The Eagles are considered the favorites. They're 7-1 in Hanner Fieldhouse and undefeated in conference play. The Mountaineers, on the other hand, have only one conference win so far this season, but they aim to upset the Eagles on the road. The Eagles are led by their back court trio of sophomores Ike Smith, Tookie Brown and

Mike Hughes. Smith leads the Sun Belt in scoring with 19.6 points, with Brown in second with 17.5 points and fourth in assists with 4.3 per game. If this trend continues, it will be the first time two Eagles lead the conference in scoring in program history. Hughes in currently ranked 22nd in points per game with 10.7, but he is essential in rallying the team when he's needed the most. If the Eagles want to beat App State, they have to play their game like they've been doing on their six-game win streak. They can't allow the pressure of being number one in the conference and undefeated to distract them

from the game. A key player the Eagles will have to key in on is sophomore guard Ronshad Shabazz. Shabazz is sixth in the Sun Belt in scoring with 15.7 points per game and eighth in three point field goals made with 34. Stopping him from making key plays could give the Eagles a tighter grip on the game. The Eagles won both games played against App State last year winning by one point in the first match-up and by 25 points when the Eagles played at home. They play this Saturday in Hanner Fieldhouse at 5 p.m.

KEYS FOR AN APP STATE VICTORY IN STATESBORO



MICHAEL PIGG
Michael is a Sports Reporter for The Appalachian.

Appalachian State (6-10, 1-4 Sun Belt) visits rival Georgia Southern (12-6, 5-0 Sun Belt) on Saturday in the teams first meeting of the season. The first game will be played in Georgia and the Eagles travel to Boone on February 13. As the Mountaineers struggle, the Eagles look to continue their perfect Sun Belt record and six game winning streak. Three keys for the Mountaineers to pick up a victory:

CONTROL IKE SMITH

Georgia Southern's Ike Smith has been getting to the basket at will for the Eagles and has been putting the pressure on the defenders not to foul. Smith has seen a tremendous

growth from his freshman year to his sophomore averaging almost nine more points per game and five more minutes per game. Appalachian State has to force Smith to contested jump shots and take away the driving lanes. On the season, Smith is only shooting 36 percent from behind the arc. Smith is too good of a player to only limit him to three point attempts. He will have opportunities to attack the basket and when he does the Mountaineers cannot foul. Over the past five games, Smith has been drawing five fouls a game from the opponents. The Mountaineers will have to work on not committing as much fouls as they rank 37 in the nation in opponent's free throw attempts.

MIX UP THE DEFENSIVE SCHEMES

Appalachian State consistently plays man-to-man defensive but in this game they might look to go into a zone. The zone will force the Eagles slashing guards who regularly get to the basket, settle for jumpshots. The Eagles only shoot 34 percent from the three-point

line with two players only averaging above 35 percent. In the zone, the Mountaineers will have to always know where the long-range sniper Jake Allsmiller is. He is averaging just a shade fewer than 42 percent this season. App must watch for a lot of set plays from the Eagles whether it's against zone or man to try and get Allsmiller hot early.

AN EFFICIENT NIGHT FROM RONSHAD SHABAZZ

There is no question that Shabazz is the Mountaineers best scorer, but some games this year his field goal percentage has been less than pedestrian. Shabazz jumped from 11 points a game his freshman year to just a shade under 16 points a game. The Mountaineers go as far as Shabazz takes them with a 6-0 record when he shoots over 45 percent. Look for Shabazz to attack the basket early and set up his outside game. In order for the Mountaineers to knock off conference leader Georgia Southern, they are going to need a stellar performance out off Ronshad Shabazz.



The Eagles huddle up against South Alabama. They face App State at Hanner on Saturday at 5 p.m.



MICK MILLER

ASU MERGER LEAVES MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS FOR GS ATHLETICS

Georgia Southern Men's Basketball Head coach Mark Byington addresses his team during pregame warm-ups. The future of ASU's athletic programs remains uncertain.



DEVIN CONWAY

Devin is the Sports editor from Manchester, New Hampshire

The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved a consolidation proposal to merge Georgia Southern University and Armstrong Atlantic State University on Wednesday, January 11.

GS will retain its name and its institutions, but ASU will be dissolved and its campus will become an extension of GS. The process of merging the two institutions will take approximately 18 months to be fully implemented, and this transition will be led by representatives of both universities.

The merger is sure to be an arduous process with many difficult decisions to be made along the way.

Having said that, there are few challenges that these transition teams will face that appear to be as irreconcilable as the attempt to combine two athletic programs that differ from one another in almost every way imaginable.

Seeing as how both universities fall under different NCAA classifications, have

different academic programs and offer different benefits to student-athletes, there is obviously some discrepancy in terms of the talent and prestige of the respective athletic institutions.

The Future of ASU Athletics

ASU is home to 12 intercollegiate sports including baseball, softball, women's volleyball, women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, tennis, cross country and golf.

Although there are no statistics available for the exact number of student-athletes at ASU, it's safe to assume that there will be anywhere from one to a few hundred students whose futures remain uncertain.

There appears to be no possible outcome in which all of ASU's student-athletes are able to both remain under scholarship and join the athletic programs of GS.

Take for example the Men's Basketball team at GS, which maintains a roster of just 16 players, and the Men's Basketball team at ASU, which also maintains a roster of 16 players.

Given this example, the impending merger raises a number of obvious questions that can be generalized across all of the various intercollegiate teams and student-athletes in question.

Questions At Hand

After the merger is

completed, what will happen to those 16 basketball players from ASU?

Will those players be offered a chance to tryout for GS, and if so, who has the final say in deciding the fate of these student-athletes?

If there are tryouts, will those who don't make the cut remain under athletic scholarships?

What will happen to the basketball facilities of ASU?

Hypothetically, if the

basketball team at ASU were better than that of GS, would the Eagles then get rid of their team and be replaced by the team at ASU?

As of now, the only statement regarding the status of both the GS and ASU athletic programs can be found on the frequently asked questions portion of GS's consolidation website.

The question reads:

"How will the consolidation impact student-athletes and

athletic programs?"

"Athletics is an aspect of the consolidation that has to be decided upon early in the process because of the seasonality of athletics. This is a priority and we will get answers to students and coaches as soon as possible. We will work within conference requirements to resolve issues for student-athletes. Student-athletes' scholarships will be honored throughout the consolidation process."

Spring 2017 Programs



GATA Archery League	1/9 - 3/6
Conceal Carry Course	1/21
Pistol Cleaning Course	1/25, 3/15, 5/3
Women's Firearm Fundamentals	1/26, 3/1, 4/12
Next Steps	1/28, 3/7, 4/29
Try Archery	2/3, 2/27, 3/24, 4/23
Bowling Pin Competition	2/13, 2/28, 3/13, 3/28
IM Team Archery	2/15 - 4/5
Rifle Cleaning Course	2/15, 4/19
Date Night	2/17, 3/24, 4/21
Explore Turkey Hunting	2/25
Explore Archery - Collegiate	3/5
Private Lessons	Call for more info



The dates listed above are the event dates. Some programs require pre-registration. Visit our website for more information and deadlines.

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/ssec

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GSUssec



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TAKES ON COASTAL CAROLINA AND APP STATE

BY JERELL RUSHIN
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern (5-11, 1-4) returns to Hanner Fieldhouse on Thursday for the first time since their nail-biting loss to Troy on Jan. 7. Their opponent is the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers (7-8), who sit at fifth in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

Going into their matchup against new conference member Coastal Carolina, the

Eagles are coming off of a two-game road trip in which they defeated Louisiana-Monroe 65-44, but fell to Louisiana-Lafayette 79-52 two days later. To defeat Coastal Carolina, GS might look to the three-point line, as they make 7.1 threes per game, compared to Coastal's 2.8 per contest.

On Saturday, rival Appalachian State makes

its trip to Statesboro for the season. They were defeated by Coastal Carolina, GS's first opponent of the week 60-55 on Saturday. The Mountaineers are only 3-6 on the road this year, which could make them vulnerable going into a rivalry game away from home.

Though these might appear as just two more games in the middle of a long conference

schedule, they may tell a lot about how the Eagles will finish the year. There will only be four more home games for the Eagles after this weekend, versus six on the road, meaning the crowd will be against them more times than not moving forward. Four of their last 10 games of the season come against the top four teams in the Sun Belt

standings. If GS wants to finish with a commendable record after a slow start in conference play, they will need to defeat two below .500 teams before they face tougher competition.

Tipoff for Coastal Carolina is at 7 p.m. in Hanner Fieldhouse. The Eagles welcome arch rival App. State on Saturday at 2 p.m.



Angel McGowan takes it to the paint against South Alabama. McGowan was All-Conference second team last season.

NEW FOOTBALL COACHING SITUATION LOOKS STRONG

BY MCCLAIN BAXLEY
The George-Anne staff

After Tyson Summers' first season as head coach of the Eagles didn't go as well

as hoped, many Georgia Southern fans called for a termination.

Following the Troy win in the season finale, athletics director Tom Kleinlein assured fans they were going to stick with Summers. With the head coach in place, however, several changes would occur on the rest of the football staff. Over winter break, a total of

seven changes were made.

The majority of transitions happened on the offensive side of the ball, including a new wide receivers coach, offensive line coach and offensive coordinator.

Juston Wood is the new wide receivers coach and has quite a diverse football background. Upon graduating from Portland State, Wood played three seasons in the Arena Football League as quarterback. After his Arena football career was up, he went to David Douglas High School to assistant coach. From 2009 to 2016, Wood coached at California Polytechnic State University, where he held the roles of wide receivers coach, quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator before leaving the Mustangs for GS.

If the name Bob Bodine seems familiar, it's because he has been a coach for the Eagles before. Bodine was OLB coach, wide receivers coach and assistant coach from 1999 to 2002, helping Head Coach Paul Johnson win back to back championships. Following his departure from GS, he took a role coaching on many military schools, including Virginia Military Institute, the Citadel and most recently, Army West Point as offensive line coach. Having experience as an offensive line coach for an option team should be

good, as GS runs the same offense.

Perhaps the biggest name and biggest spot to fill was Bryan Cook being hired as the new offensive coordinator. Similar to Juston Wood, Cook also spent some of his college coaching career at Cal Poly before leaving to become quarterbacks coach at Georgia Tech. During his tenure with the Yellow Jackets, they went to a bowl every year. Cook was there including a 2014 Orange Bowl over SEC opponent Mississippi State. Coaching at a Power 5 school, running the option offense and recruiting in Georgia are all great signs for Tyson Summers and all involved with Georgia Southern Football.

Other coaching changes are Chad Lunsford promoted to assistant head coach, Olten Downs as safeties coach, Andrew Dodge as director of student athlete development and Dwayne Chandler as strength and conditioning coach to replace previously terminated Tredell Dorsey. Dorsey was released last fall following a harassment claim.



LIFEGUARD COURSES

REQUIREMENTS:

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- Pass pre-requisite skills test on 1st day of class
- Pre-Requisite:** 100 yard swim with head above water, 50 yard swim with rescue tube, 2 minute tread without the use of your arms, & 10 lb brick retrieval from bottom of 12 ft pool. NO refunds if unable to pass the pre-requisite.

Interested in a lifeguarding job at Splash in the Boro?
Job training starts at the end of April & the park opens in May!

REGISTRATION:

- Register in person at Splash or Rec Dept or over the phone
- Registration deadline is the Wednesday BEFORE each course begins
- Cost includes:** whistle & lanyard, rescue mask, & 1 yr certification for lifeguard, first aid, & CPR/AED for Adult/Child/Infant

Course 3: \$140 (Discounted \$10)

Friday, Feb 17 4-7p
Saturday, Feb 18 10a-6p
Sunday, Feb 19 1-6p
Friday, Feb 24 4-7p
Saturday, Feb 25 10a-6p

Course 4: \$140 (Discounted \$10)
Bulloch Co Winter Break

Monday, Feb 20 9a-3p
Tuesday, Feb 21 9a-3p
Wednesday, Feb 22 9a-3p
Thursday, Feb 23 9a-3p
Friday, Feb 24 9a-3p

Course 5: \$150

Friday, March 3 4-7p
Saturday, March 4 10a-6p
Sunday, March 5 1-6p
Friday, March 10 4-7p
Saturday, March 11 10a-6p
First weekend of GSU Spring Break

Recertification Course: \$75
First weekend of GSU Spring Break

Friday, March 10 4-7p
Saturday, March 11 10a-6p

Course 6: \$150
Friday, March 17 4-7p
Saturday, March 18 10a-6p
Sunday, March 19 1-6p
Last weekend of GSU Spring Break

Friday, March 24 4-7p
Saturday, March 25 10a-6p

Course 7: \$150

Friday, March 31 4-7p
Saturday, April 1 10a-6p
Sunday, April 2 1-6p
Friday, April 7 4-7p
Saturday, April 8 10a-6p

Course 8: \$150
Bulloch Co Spring Break

Monday, April 3 9a-3p
Tuesday, April 4 9a-3p
Wednesday, April 5 9a-3p
Thursday, April 6 9a-3p
Friday, April 7 9a-3p

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The George-Anne 1/19/17 Crossword

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Across

- 1 Aircraft parts
- 5 Sun helmets
- 10 Jerk
- 14 Inkling
- 15 Draw forth
- 16 Golf club
- 17 Canaanite deity
- 18 White infusible substance
- 19 “I’m ___ your tricks!”
- 20 Chart
- 22 Photographic equipment
- 24 Novelist’s need
- 26 Neuter
- 27 Corn cake
- 29 Serpents
- 33 Wonderland girl
- 37 ___ and for all
- 39 Aerial maneuver
- 40 Ridicule
- 41 Modern letters
- 42 Dwarf buffalo
- 43 Salute
- 44 Breakaway group
- 45 Vesicles
- 46 Passionate
- 48 Be a snitch
- 50 Ice mass
- 52 Rap session?
- 56 Early Harrison Ford sci-fi
- 60 Distort
- 61 Exploding star
- 62 Headache intensifier
- 64 Throngs
- 66 Help at a heist
- 67 Boarded

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- 68 Carbon compound
- 69 Combustible heap
- 70 Correct
- 71 Moist
- 9 Eco concern
- 10 Fencing
- 11 ___ Kong
- 12 Bit of dust
- 13 Pervasive quality
- 21 Popeye’s prop
- 23 ___ Baba
- 25 Fairy tale figure
- 28 Put into law
- 30 Donkey’s years
- 31 Tooth part
- 32 Healthful retreats
- 33 Turkish official
- 34 Yarn spinner
- 35 Footnote abbr.
- 36 Whoop it up
- 38 Mentions
- 41 Alienate
- 45 Reunion group
- 47 “What’s ___?”
- 49 Dracula, for one
- 51 Stableboy
- 53 Appointed
- 54 Grimalkin
- 55 Poke
- 56 Go bonkers
- 57 Mug or jug
- 58 State confidently
- 59 Something to build on
- 63 Trinity component
- 65 Foxy

Down

- 1 Chest protector
- 2 Maxim
- 3 Pine for
- 4 “Rabbit food”
- 5 Before crat or phile
- 6 “To Autumn,” e.g.
- 7 Unadulterated
- 8 Cupcake topper

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