



OUR LAST STAND

SGA President Austin Clayton speaking on behalf of SPSU's student body at the Board of Regents meeting.



theSTING

Volume 67 Issue 4 || November 25, 2013



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"One day a Graphic Arts Student, a Business Student, and a Mechanical Engineering Student walked into a pub together. They each bought a pint of Guinness. Just as they were about to enjoy their creamy beverage, three flies landed in each of their pints, and were stuck in the thick head.

The Graphic Art Student pushed his beer away in disgust. The Business Student fished the fly out of his beer, and continued drinking it, as if nothing had happened.

The Mechanical Engineering Student, too, picked the fly out of his drink, held it out over the beer, and started yelling, "SPIT IT OUT, SPIT IT OUT!"

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The Sting is the student new publication of Southern Polytechnic
State University
www.readthesting.com

1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, Georgia 30060

Located in A-246 of the Joe Mack Wilson Student Center

The Sting is a monthly publication printed at Vision Web Press.

readthesting.com // November 25, 2013

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4 PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Photograph By: Julian Plowden
readthesting.com // November 25, 2013



On Monday, November 4 President Rossbacher (SPSU) and President Papp (KSU) held a Q&A session for SPSU students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators, who packed the Southern Polytechnic Student Center Theater. Dr. Rossbacher received a standing ovation from the audience towards the conclusion of the open forum.

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EDITORIAL

An Editor's Salute

By: Randy Brown Jr.

November is Appreciation Month for The Sting. Our final issue of the semester is being dubbed the 'Appreciation Issue'. I asked my staff and members of the student body, to write a hand written, 'Thank You' letter to an administrator, faculty, or staff member of SPSU whose work they appreciate.

In light of this request, I have decided to write a thank you letter of my own. My position as editor-in-chief can be challenging at times, which means I am not capable of accomplishing as much as I have on my own. The list of people that I could thank would run from this page to the editorial in January. It is literally impossible to thank everyone, other than to say, "Thank you everyone that helps make what I do possible." I have chosen to shine light on two people who help make things just a little bit easier on a regular basis.

First I would like to thank Donna MacPherson, the Administrative Assistant in the ETCMA office, J-333. Donna, I always stroll into the

office, unannounced, with a request. Sometimes I need to see Dr. Nunes, other times I need you to check on documents. You never hesitate to help me. You never complain about it. You just deliver, every time. It may seem like just another day at the office to you, but your help matters to me, and my peers in the ETCMA department (especially the seniors). What gets me most is that you will sometimes stop what you're doing or make my request an immediate priority; thank you. I probably share the same story as that of my classmates. From all of us to you, we really appreciate your hard work (and sense of humor).

Second on my list is Trecee Burison, Administrative Assistant in the Student Life office. Trecee, too bad you're not a student; I'd have to create a permanent position for you, on The Sting's staff. I can't count on both hands how many times you've gone out of your way to help this organization. Your hard work and attention to detail are your backbone. The other day, I tried to think back to a time when you made a mistake on the job with our paperwork.

I couldn't think of one; you're just that good. My staff and I always find you to be reliable and accessible. Thank you so much for all that you do for my organization and the many others on this campus. The true testament of a great worker is finding someone to replace them if they ever left; I don't know what we would do without you. If you ever find me annoying you'll never show it. You just smile and say, "I'll make sure they get this." Thank you.

What is an appreciation editorial without a special thanks to my staff? Anyone that follows me on social media sees the thank you posts to my staff all the time. Who are we without each other? Who am I without all of you? You all make this, being a part of this publication, worth it. Thank you for your work, time and friendship.

Looking ahead past undergrad will be easy; looking forward to life after The Sting will not.

To my staff, I thank you.



Image By: Desmond Hilson



Peers, classmates, my staff and anyone else reading,

You ask me what my take is on this merger talk. I'll reserve my opinion in an effort to make sure you get the information that's coming out by the second, daily. It's my job to make sure you know what's happening as it's happening.

If Dr. Rossbacher or Dr. Papp are speaking, The Sting will be there. If it's a student rally, The Sting will be there. So on and so forth.

The Sting will have a live feed of the Open Forum with Dr. Papp on Monday at 4 pm. We will also live Tweet the session @TheStingSPSU

If I can share anything with you all it is this: in any struggle, scenario, or situation in life, no matter what side you're on, give it everything you've got. Do as much as you can, say as much as you can, and leave nothing. If you are truly passionate and care and love what you're moving on, go for it. When it's all said and done your effort is all you will have to stand on...and it's what you'll be remembered for.

More to come as the SPSU, KSU merger talks unfold.

(Deep sigh)

God, I love SPSU.

Posted by Randy Brown Jr. on Facebook, November 2, 2013.

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CAMPUS NEWS

SPSU'S WOMEN SPEAK

MORE WOMEN FRIENDLY MAJORS, SPSU? YAY OR NAY?

►By Madeline Beasley

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIALIZES IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DEGREES, AND BECAUSE OF THIS, THE MALE POPULATION FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF THE FEMALE.

Traditionally, these fields of study have had higher male percentages than women. The school does present a few majors that women are generally more interested in, but not very many. When it comes to attracting more females to our school, would adding more women-friendly majors do the trick?

President Lisa Rossbacher of the University disagrees. "My perspective is that Southern Polytechnic's approach to recruiting and retaining more women students should not be to simply add majors that historically have higher enrollments of women," Rossbacher said. "Our goal is not just to enroll more women, but to recruit, retain, and graduate more women in science, engineering, and other technical fields that are critical to solving social problems and making the world a better place."

Other female students share the same opinion on the subject. Some of the students see adding more majors to be degrading of what the school stands for. The unique experience of SPSU would fade away if more "women-

friendly" majors were to be added.

"If we start adding more of those 'female friendly majors' think about how it would change SPSU," said Sarah Massagee, a female game design student. "We wouldn't be specialized anymore. We would just be like any other university. Not really anything too super special about us. I picked SPSU for a reason, and I'm not really looking to see it change."

Other students do not see anything wrong with the majors SPSU offers when it comes to being "women-friendly." In fact, they see the term as stereotypical and should not be coined in the first place. Sydney Lyman, a female mechanical engineering student, puts more emphasis on this.

"I don't think we need to add any 'women friendly' majors," Lyman said. "Girls can major in anything we want to nowadays, and those stereotypes of girl majors are what makes it hard for girls to be engineers."

All in all, the school sees nothing wrong with its majors when it comes to attracting women. Our majors do enroll and retain women and adding

more of the typical female degrees would only take away the main focus and personality of the school. Overall, adding more women friendly majors is highly unfavorable among the females at the school and would make us just like any other university with nothing particularly special to offer. With that being said, without a unique experience anymore, why would more females want to come here versus another university? Would we really attract more women if we're offering the same experience as any other school? It does not seem likely.

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CAMPUS LEADERSHIP GROUP SOARS

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

►By Cyril Guobadia

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS (NSLS) KICKED OFF ITS FALL SEMESTER AT SPSU WITH ORIENTATION DAY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AND LEADERSHIP DAY ON OCTOBER 26TH.

The NSLS is an honors-based leadership society, Sigma Alpha Pi that helps people discover and achieve their goals.

Through SPSU, the chapter provides leadership training, student networking teams, community service, and live motivational broadcasts. The NSLS has success-oriented students that meet in groups several times per semester to help one another succeed in meeting their goals. The Society has also served as a powerful force of good in the greater community by encouraging and organizing action to better the world.

President Cyril Guobadia, VP Paulina Uscategui, Success Networking Coordinator Ishonna Baskerville, and IT Coordinator Karl-Loic Kamdem, have all become involved with helping run this organization because they believe that the NSLS enhances lives.

Baskerville states, "It's made me more organized than I am with time and scheduling, especially being part of the E-board team. Now I speak more outside of class and am purposeful in networking with others. It gave me the confidence to be outgoing. I joined the

Image By: Randy Brown Jr.



NSLS because I wanted to get more involved in getting to know other students on campus. Networking was a main goal for me and the NSLS was a big group. This national honor society, Sigma Alpha Pi, is very cool."

The SPSU chapter advisors, Dr. Beth Stutzmann and Prof. Donna Colebeck, have both helped with all organizational aspects this semester. Prof. Colebeck said "The National Society of Leadership and Success provides SPSU students the opportunity to be a member of the Sigma Alpha Pi

national honor society. For each student the 'value add' may be different but all students who become members benefit from their engagement with leadership training that the program offers."

Dr. Stutzmann believes that the NSLS "provides a network and team support group for students who are held accountable for attainable goals that they create for themselves. It's a great organization for students to develop management and leadership skills."

We are dream supporters—we build leaders, support people in achieving their dreams, and better the world in the process.

"We are dream supporters – we build leaders, support people in achieving their dreams, and better the world in the process. We get people to ask the all-important question, 'What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?' and then help them to achieve those goals" says VP Paulina Uscategui.

Students are invited to join in the spring if they have not joined this fall. Events and times are managed through Orgsync.com. Video broadcasts are open to everyone on campus.

SGA FRESHMEN ELECTIONS RESULTS

DRUM ROLL PLEASE

►By Tabitha Robinson

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPSU'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FRESHMEN REPRESENTATIVES!

Rachel Ajua

Freshman Representative

Rachel was inaugurated at the SGA meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2013.

Sarah Bush

Freshman Representative

Rachel was inaugurated at the SGA meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2013.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THINK THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR RUNNING FOR THESE POSITIONS AS WELL:

Andrew Farmer

Christopher Richardson

Jonathan Baker

Kenneth Nash

Spencer Murphy

CAMPUS NURSE

Hey Doc!

Little known fact, there is a nurse and physician on campus! The Wellness Center on campus has seen quite a few changes this year. In the spring we got our first on campus physician. The physician is here for a few hours on Mondays and Wednesdays. You can see the physician by appointment only. The physician can prescribe you medicine if they feel like it's necessary. If they physician feel like you need extra

care they may send you to the WellStar Urgent Care (the one on Delk Road!) where students enrolled are eligible for a \$100 reimbursement per semester. The hours the clinic is open has also extended. If you're ever feeling sick or you hurt yourself I would recommend stopping by the clinic and talking to the nurse or physician. They are all very friendly and here to help!

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER HOURS FALL SEMESTER 2013:

Monday and Wednesday: 7:45am-7pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 7:45am-8pm

Friday: 7:45am-5pm

The week of November 18-27 the hours will be 7:45-5pm

PHYSICIAN HOURS:

Monday: 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 12pm-2pm

In order to see the physician you must have an appointment. For more information call 678-915-7366.

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HORNET LOOT

Winner Winner

►By Jessica Tenorio

This year, the Department of Housing and Residence Life is continuing the Hornet Loot Program to give residents the chance to win some awesome prizes and be awarded for their involvement and good deeds. The Hornet Loot program is an incentive program for residents that started in 2011.

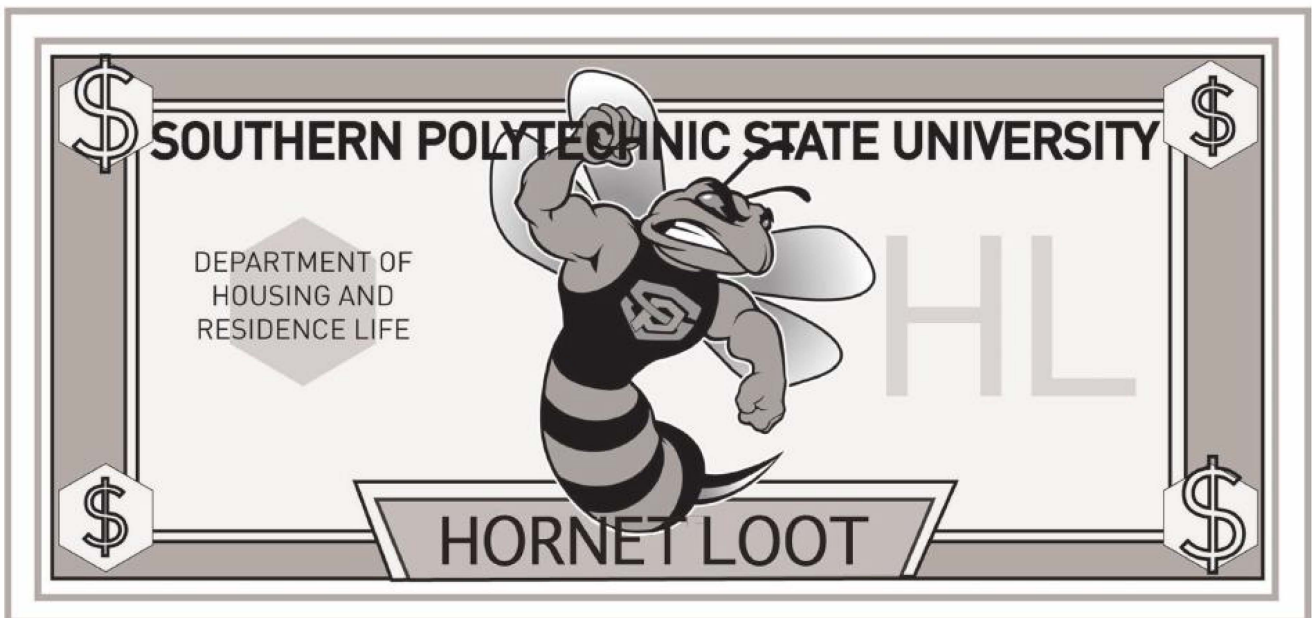
Residents are awarded with Hornet Loot when attending an event or even going above and beyond. This year, the method of distributing Hornet Loot has changed. It is now given out in paper money, rather than electronically. Every month, different colored Hornet Loot is handed to the Resident Assistants of SPSU so they can reward their residents for their efforts and good character with Loot.

At the end of the month, residents are required to take the Loot they earned to The Residence Life office before it expires, and it goes towards their total count. At the end of the semester the



Department of Housing Residence Life hosts The Hornet Loot Auction which gives the residents an opportunity to win more Hornet Loot and bid their grand total of Loot on items ranging

from t-shirts all the way to high end electronics such as TV's and Apple products. This semester, the Hornet Loot Auction will take place November 21st.



images by: SPSU Residence Life

readthesting.com // November 25, 2013

THE MID-TERM AND FINALS

Why Are We Afraid to Fail?

► Josh Reed



Usually around this time of the semester I start to get a little worried. Most of the time, this anxiety is completely unwarranted. Still, I can't help but feel the sting of potential failure out of my head. This caused me to do a bit of searching for why I (and many students) feel this way. The obsession with failure almost seems to make students grind to a halt and cower with fear, but why? What is the absolute worst case scenario for failing a class? In the short term, the risk of retaking a class or taking on an extra loan might scare someone to death.

It almost seems like the end of the world.

However, one thing that has helped me cope was thinking in the long term.

Ask yourself, "What will happen in 20 years if I fail this class?" Chances are really good that your response to that question will be "nothing." Just think about this for a second. Twenty years from now, as you are sitting at your job, you might think back at the time when you were scared out of your mind to fail. You'll probably chuckle at how silly you were, or you might not even think about it at all.

As time goes on, things in the past seem to have less of an impact on your life. Things that felt like a life-

threatening situation turn out to be nothing but a raindrop on your shoulder. Like the death of a friend, over time it will sting less and less until you are able to remember only the good times you've had. I hate to compare failing a class to losing a friend, but I do it only to make the point that the horrible feelings something gives you will go away.

The next time you feel yourself obsessing over a class, try to remember that, honestly, it doesn't matter at all. You will do good things, and failure can be, at the very most, only a minor setback.

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COACH LAQUANDA DAWKINS SPOTLIGHT

A Look Ahead

►By Leland Roberts

Recently I had the privilege to sit down and interview our women's basketball coach, Laquanda Dawkins. During our discussion we touched upon issues of what she looks for in a player, goals she sets for the team of the court, and how she prepares for road games.

Before coming to Southern Polytechnic State University, Dawkins was a recruiter at Winthrop University. In bringing her previous experience and recruiter's eye to SPSU, Dawkins says she's looking for "great individuals who are willing to be part of a team and who are coachable."

Dawkins spoke in great detail about the kind of passionate, motivated players she wants to see on the team. "Our ideal player is a person who loves to play the game of basketball," Dawkins said. "[and someone who]

has a desire to be the best ... by constantly learning."

The Lady Hornets have had their obstacles in recent years. The slump season of 2011-2012 (record 6-24) has led into a victorious 2012-2013 season (record 25-6). I asked Dawkins about this turnaround and she said, "Our staff put together the right personnel, and the team reaped success." She also attributed much of the comeback to recruiting "student-athletes [who are] versatile."

I also touched on how does Dawkins and her staff prepare their team for road games. "[the preparation] includes game films, practicing skills, stretching and treating nagging injuries," Dawkins said. "This is a typical workday routine varies based on team's schedule of games and the

time of the year."

Dawkins added "many players take a nap and eat a pregame meal before arriving at the gym about 90 minutes before tip-off. Players receive treatment for injuries, put on their uniforms, discuss strategies with coaches and warm up during the remaining time before the game gets underway."

The Lady Hornets pride themselves on winning the championship every year, but I asked Coach Dawkins about what other goals (besides winning championships!) does she and her staff have for the team? Her answer discussed shows how her job entails more than just coaching on the court. "Our goal," Dawkins said, "is to graduate 100% of our players who finish their career with us."



Losing My Best Friend

► Shannon Hames

My best friend is dying.

I have known him for 44 years. My earliest childhood memory is playing at Hammond Park with him when I was four.

As a child, I remember playing softball and having pinecone fights with him in my Grandma's backyard. We went camping together and swam nearly every day in the summer at Lake Allatoona.

As a teenager, I remember how conservative he was while I was the one dressed outlandishly in animal print leggings, concert shirts and crazy spiked and streaked hair. He was never embarrassed to be seen with me, though.

At my wedding, we danced together to "Love Lift Us Up" by Joe Cocker and having him share that moment with me was one of the most special times in my life.

When I was pregnant with my first child, he wanted to empathize with me and what my body was going through so he decided to train for a marathon the entire time I was pregnant. After my son was born, he ran the marathon and gave my baby his medal.

While he graduated from Oglethorpe with a Doctorate of Law, I barely graduated high school. He was an athlete and a personal trainer while I was a housewife and homeschool mom. But we could always talk for hours about anything. About everything.

When he saw me depressed and struggling for 16 years, he took me aside to tell me that life was short and if there was something that I needed to change, I should do it before I wasted another day. He assured me I would be full of regret if I didn't.

When he asked me what was making me so unhappy, I could only look down at my lap while tears spilled into my lap as I lacked the courage to tell him why he never saw me smile anymore. I wanted to, but I was worried that it would cost me his love, friendship and respect and I just wasn't ready to lose it.

"I graduate in two semesters and Dad will likely not be there to see it."

Six months later, when I was finally ready, he was the first person that I came out of the closet to. When I saw the disappointment on his face, my heart sank. Until he said that he was sick that I had wasted so many years trying to be someone that I wasn't. He later said that the day I came out to him was the happiest day of his life because he knew I would finally be happy.

He stood with me as I went through a horrible divorce. When it was all said and done and I had to leave my house with only my clothes and car with no money, no work experience, no job and no education, it was he that encouraged me to go to college despite my terror and having finished high school with a 1.57 GPA. It was he who gave me a house to live in. It was he who came with me to all of my scholarship awards dinners and it was he who was my biggest cheerleader on this journey.

Each encounter with him may be my last and I am keenly aware that all of these memories that I have with my best friend, my father, are slowly doing to disappear from his mind. These memories are being replaced by rogue cancer cells that will soon part us in this life.

I graduate in two semesters and Dad will likely not be there to see it. He will not be able to see my two children get married or have their own children. If and when I meet the girl of my dreams, she will never know the great man who had the biggest impact on my life and he will not be there to share my joy when I marry her. His calming voice will no longer be there to reassure me that I am making the right decision or caution me to rethink a potential bad decision.

Thinking about the loss that I am about to suffer is crippling. I lay awake many nights wondering if I will even be able to live without him. I've never had to. My dad has been a constant presence in my life from the moment that I was born and the thought that we are being separated forever by cancer is more than I can bear. We love each other more than I would ever be able to say.

Right now, we are both dying.



SPSU, KSU Merger

► By: Zuri Coleman



Photo By: Desmond Hilson

Anne Montgomery: The merger is so new. I am answering these honestly and to the best of my ability. Unfortunately, most answers come from an uncertain speculation. There is no factual answer yet. However, when I do learn more concrete information, I promise to remain transparent to all of our Greek Organizations and let them know as quickly as possible.

Zuri Coleman: What's going to happen with the houses?

AM: The merger is still very fresh and new news. The committees to begin discussing these details have not been formed. As for the Greek Columns area, I do not know if they will remain as Greek Housing but are anticipated to remain as residential housing.

ZC: Goat night... Is this tradition going to fade away?

AM: Goat Night is an awesome tradition that has been a part of SPSU Greek Life for decades. Each committee formed by Dr. Rossbacher and President Papp are challenged with taking traditions like this and making sure that they become a part of the newly formed institution. Will Goat Night look and be the same... it most likely will not... I/the committee will work as hard as we can to advocate

that the tradition remains and honors its beginnings.

ZC: What's going to happen to the chapters that aren't at KSU?

AM: Again, I have no factual or concrete answer for this. What I imagine will happen is they will be invited to become established chapters at KSU. Each chapter will have a different plan of action as to how this happens. That will be determined by their national organization- NOT me, chapter members, or advisors. This will mean becoming a part of the KSU community- new rules, regulations, recruitment practices and growth. I, chapter advisors, and national organizations will make SURE that each chapter is prepared for this.

ZC: What's going to happen to the chapters that are already at KSU if they decided to become one large chapter? (initiation numbers, drastic growth, chapter name)

AM: My answer to this is almost the same as the answer above. The National Organization will have to decide which "delegation" the new chapter will have (chapter name). This is UP TO THEM. Not me or chapter members. This will look different for each organization. Numbers for ALL organizations merging with KSU are

going to increase. Myself, chapter advisors, and national consultants are going to do everything we can to make sure that when the time comes our organizations are prepared and educated on how it is going to work.

AC: What are the positives and negatives you see happening to Greek life between the two universities?

AM: I am not going to focus or comment on the negatives... the merger is happening. Let's make it the best it can be and the best it can be for our Greek Community.

Positives--Resources! This is going to open up SO MANY wonderful things for our students Greek and non-Greek.

This combined institution is going to do wonders for the State of Georgia educationally- the accessibility for student from North Georgia is going to be immense!

Programs and Fun! There are going to be so many more educational and fun events for you as Greek students to participate in that a large Greek system can afford and provide!

SPSU, KSU MERGER

One-on-One with Chris Bruno

► By: Justin Gilliam

One school. One name. Two campuses. One housing office? The last statement is still questionable as the merger between Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University has many organizations and programs amongst the two universities questioning their current status. A recent interview with Chris Bruno, Director of Housing and Residence Life at SPSU helped to answer some of the questions that are on the minds of students currently staying in the residencies at the university.

Does money control the world? Some people believe that it does, others, not so much. However, a majority of students do believe that the cost of living does control where they decide to live, especially when it comes to deciding on becoming a commuter or not. This is a factor that has not been decided yet for the two campuses.

Although the merger, if finalized, will take effect starting January 2015, it seems as though the two housing programs will work separately based on academic years, as SPSU's Housing is currently finalizing the rates for SPSU housing for the 2014-2015 year.

It will be interesting to see how the prices will be determined between the two campuses.

"If you look at the KSU housing rates you'll see SPSU, on average, is less expensive," said Chris Bruno. "I hope we can maintain the valuable experience we offer at a competitive price."

As of now, the two campuses will maintain separate housing programs until the fall of 2015, but Bruno and Jeff Cooper, the Director of Housing and Residence Life at KSU, have attempted to meet to discuss plans for the future of the two programs. These plans will have a huge effect on how housing will work for future students, seeing that the two universities have different housing standards, such as SPSU's current freshman policy requiring all freshmen to stay in designated housing areas. "KSU does not have a residency requirement for their first-year students. I imagine our policies will align as the merger moves forward," says Bruno.

Although this merger has been difficult for all parties involved, Bruno is still able to maintain his sense of humor.

When asked the age old question "How much wood can a woodchuck chuck?" he simply replied "The answer really depends on the type of wood and the timeframe allotted for the woodchuck. The North American Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*) can chuck significantly more softwood than hardwood in any given time period." Not only does he see positives in American Woodchucks chucking wood, he also is able to see some positives that the merger can create. "I can see the positives and negatives. I have a lot of love, admiration, and respect for the students, faculty, and staff who helped build SPSU to what it is today."

At the same time, however, he also has the same concern that many of our student body and faculty have with our school's identity. "I think it's a shame to lose the identity and name of Southern Polytechnic. We have a lot of great programs, initiatives and students that make us very unique. With that said, I understand the Board of Regents decision. I just wish the communities on both campuses would have been involved in the early discussions about this merger."



Photo Courtesy of: Chris Bruno

18

Dr. Rossbacher informs students, faculty, staff, and members of SPSU's administration about Chancellor Hank Huckaby's proposal to merge Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University.

Friday, November 1, 2013

1:15 pm



Photograph By: Julian Plowden

readthesting.com // November 25, 2013





President Daniel S. Papp (KSU) and President Lisa A. Rossbacher (SPSU) conducting an Open Forum for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators in SPSU's Student Center Theater. November 4, 2013

Photograph By: Julian Plowden

readthesting.com // November 11, 2013





KSU & SPSU Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- Expands the ability to create more work-force related degrees
- Opens the door for a wider array of student activities
- Trend toward duplication would be eliminated
- Allows for seamless transfer
- Combines resources to enhance responsiveness to regional economic and community development needs

Challenges

- Blending of institutional cultures

"Creating A Me"



Shelley Nickel presenting plans for the proposed SPSU, KSU merger to members of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents.

SPSU students Caesar Gonzales (Left) and Carter Knight (Right) protest the proposed SPSU, KSU merger, in Atlanta, hours before the Board of Regents' vote. Both are a part of the student group Keep SPSU True, which organized petitions, rallies, and calls to members of USG's Board of Regents.
November 12, 2013



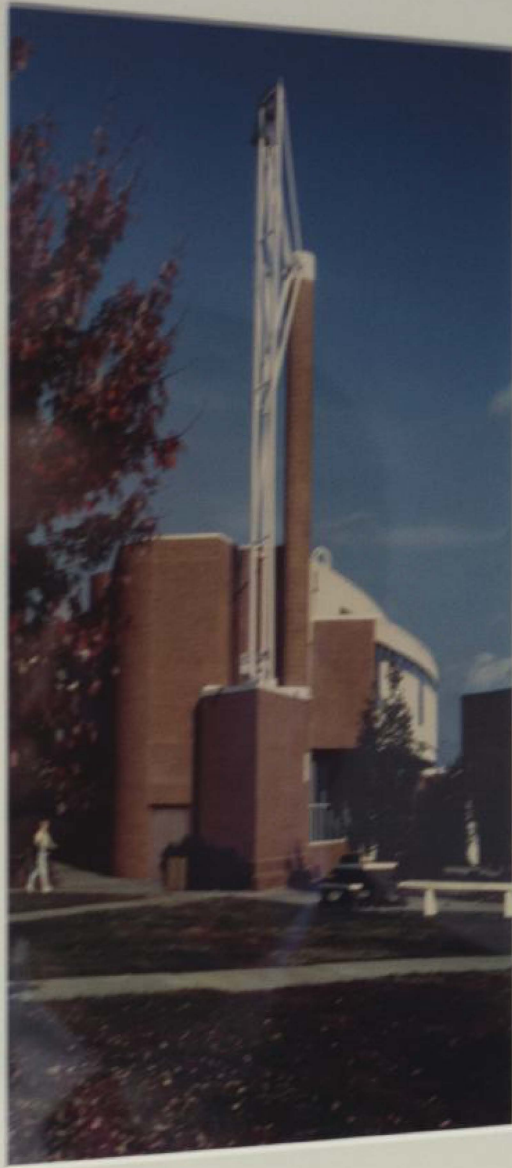
Photograph By: Julian Plowden
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Southern Polytechnic State University's SGA President Austin Clayton views a portrait of his institution's iconic bell tower at the Board of Regents offices in Atlanta. Austin spoke alongside SPSU student Eric Cooney Jr., and SPSU Alumni Trent Anderson at the Board of Regents meeting on November 12, 2013. Shortly after his speech, the members of the board approved the proposal to merge SPSU and KSU. November 12, 2013

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Amir S. Hamer- Classified

► By Travis Wood

I sit at a Dunkin' Doughnuts with my friend Amir S. Hamer, a third year student in New Media Arts that also attends Southern Polytechnic State University. Amir and I have been friends ever since meeting each other in the first semester of our freshman year, and we've kept up with each other pretty well, despite our own schedules getting pretty busy.

Amir originally came to SPSU for architecture to later transfer to Georgia Tech. He would switch his major to Industrial Design, since "its design courses correlate with each other so [he] thought it would be a good lead in." However, after looking into it, he thought that New Media Arts was a good deal more flexible, and a lot less demanding of his time compared to Architecture. Also, he'd be able to work on work relating to Industrial

Design with much more flexibility."

Due to his proposed work, Amir was actually awarded a mini-grant worth one thousand dollars from our school's very own ETCMA department to work on a project that "fused both New Media Arts and Industrial Design."

Amir says his proposed project is a kind of electronic transportation device. However, when I asked for a name, he seemed reluctant to answer. "It does have a name," Amir said, "but details about the project, since it doesn't have a patent yet, forces some information to remain classified."

Understanding the delicate situation of an idea that wasn't protected, I didn't push. Instead, I asked Hamer about his work on his personal project, specifically about those overseeing and assisting him.

"I have one professor, Erin Sledd, that's overseeing the project specifically, in addition to the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dean Nelson, and the President of the SPARC Corporation who both have a keen interest in the project and have offered support," Hamer said.

Amir was selective of what he told me, instead saying it's intended "for students on college campuses or residents within metropolitan areas if you're looking to get around quickly on a lightweight but compact, versatile form of transportation."

Due to a busy schedule of college and his job, Amir has yet to finish the first fully functioning model but expects to finish the 'Mark I' within

the next three months. After that, he claimed the most important step is obtaining legal protection which is expensive for a college student. Instead of simply buying a protective patent, Amir would more carefully file for a provisional patent to help fund the protection for his marketing endeavor. With Kickstarter's growing popularity, he is looking at both it and similar websites where anonymous sponsors might also help fund his project to get it moving in the market.

With enough of a financial foothold, factories to produce the project will be the next step, shortly before being followed by contract signings before being used as the first stepping stones to produce other inventions that are just begging to be produced.

As my interview with him winded down, I asked Amir if designing and inventing new products like his classified project was what he was planning to do with the rest of his life. He answered, "That's part of it. It's not the "End All, Be All," but it's definitely, conceptually, a big part of my career, which is using creativity to have fun and make a living at the same time."



Photo by Julian Plowden

30 FEATURES

KSU OP ED

Consolidating Colleges, Strengthening Education



By: Mark Leszczynski
Senior, English major
Kennesaw State University

Just a little more than two years ago, I returned to the United States after serving twenty-seven months in South America as a Peace Corps volunteer. During that time, this country was in the middle of the largest recession since the Great Depression of 1921. I knew I could either enter the workforce as an underemployed, underpaid subordinate, or go back to school, further my education, and do my best to avoid those limitations. As a result, I applied to both Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) and Kennesaw State University (KSU). Both fit my geographic requirements and both were offering the degree I was after. Weeks later, I was accepted to both, but did not know which school I favored. So I did what any rational person in my situation would do: I looked at my options holistically and weighted the pros and cons of each university.

SPSU has many, many appealing collegiate amenities that I took into consideration when deciding. First and foremost, I was impressed by the structure and quality of the academic programs. For example, SPSU's school of architectural construction management emulates California Polytechnic State University of San Luis Obispo's curriculum (my alma mater), and I know firsthand that San Luis Obispo's architectural program is rated top 5 in the nation. By this fact alone, one can see the ambitions SPSU has for providing their students with the best educational experience available—even if that means going outside of the college for inspiration. Secondly, I was drawn to the small, tightly-woven student body. Currently, SPSU has just over 6,000 students (a

small increase from two years ago) and a fully functional, thriving student government. Overall, I knew SPSU could provide me with a top-notch education, many extra-curricular activities, and a strong social community. Though I am unable to enumerate all the positive amenities, I can say that what the college offers is impressive.

And then there is KSU. The first thing that took me by surprise was the enormity of the student body. With enrollment reaching nearly 25,000 students, I felt overwhelmed at first, but I began to think about the positive effects a large student body might offer compared to a smaller one. First, I concluded that more students equals more money for the school, and the more money a school has . . . well, the more opportunity there is for growth, modernization, and resources.

Currently, KSU is the third largest university in the state of Georgia. The college recently announced a football team that will be part of the Big South Conference. These facts, just rumors then, started to convert me away from the benefits of a smaller school because I had a realization: step outside the state of Georgia and it will be hard to find someone who has heard of either KSU or SPSU; however, mention a larger school such as Georgia Tech or Georgia State, and almost everyone will nod his or her head in recognition. Plain and simple, when I go to look for a job, I will have a better chance of getting the job if the employer has heard of the college I attended.

Right now, SPSU and KSU, in my opinion, receive roughly equal acknowledgement; however, due to KSU's exponentially growing reputation, I started to think I would have a leg up. Of course, I didn't neglect

to consider scholastic standing or extra-curricular activities offered by KSU either. Though SPSU's curriculum is more technical based for a reason, I couldn't help but notice the spectrum of programs offered by KSU and the recognition their programs were gaining. The WellStar nursing program at KSU is the largest in the state of Georgia, and the Michael J. Coles College of Business MBA program is near the top 20 in the nation among public universities. Even though the program I was enrolling in was not as acclaimed as some of the others, I thought that maybe if my program of study was surrounded by the more recognized and acclaimed programs, then I could benefit from their success by association alone.

Ultimately, I chose to enroll at Kennesaw State university because of the college's growing potential. As I walk around campus today, I can't help but notice the once foreseen potential taking shape in the form of new buildings such as the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art and the Student Recreation and Activities Center, academic expansions including new undergraduate programs and graduate programs, and I also notice an evolving sense of pride amongst the student body with every collegiate addition. The college is becoming better, and I hope with the SPSU and KSU merger, both colleges will excel as a single entity by embracing each other's strengths and potentials.

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