The Compass Connection
Keeping residents connected to Housing & Residence Life.

Staff Spotlight

Yvette Upton
Dean of Students/AVP of Student Affairs

Ms. Upton has served as AVP in an interim capacity for the last year and a half at Armstrong Atlantic State University and has recently accepted the position on a full-time basis.

Ms. Upton has worked tirelessly to support the division and the university during a period of transition. A true advocate for the students she serves, Ms. Upton is always available to assist a student in need.

Stop by the Student Affairs suite to congratulate Ms. Upton and welcome her, or send an email to Yvette.Upton@armstrong.edu.

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Housing Move-Out is Just Around the Corner

It’s hard to believe that the year is almost gone again! Where does the time go? As you prepare for finals, there are several things you can be doing now to prepare for move out. Here are the pieces of information that are particularly important for you to know and remember so that you can plan for a successful move-out transition period.

24 hour strict quiet hours will go into effect beginning on Monday, April 28 at 10 a.m. in observance of the final exam period. It is important that we observe these quiet hours out of respect for roommates and neighbors. No warnings will be given for quiet hours violations during this time period, and students may be fined for excessive violations.

All students are expected to move out within 24 hours of their last exam or by May 14, 2014 at 9 a.m., whichever comes first. Because of the 2 day turn around time from spring to summer term (very small window of time to get rooms cleaned and ready for summer residents), it is very important that students leave the halls on schedule. Schedule a move-out inspection with your RA at least 48 hours in advance of your departure, or do an express move-out form. If you are transferring into summer housing, we will be in contact with you to arrange a time for you to transition into your summer space. Additional late stays will not be approved, so plan accordingly.

Start packing today! Have you been hoarding your winter wardrobe even though it’s now spring? Think about packing up what you don’t need and taking it home now. This will free up car space when it comes time to move out for real. It may not seem like you have much, but you’ll be surprised how much you do have and how full your car will get.

Don’t throw away unwanted items... donate them! Goodwill donation bins will be conveniently located throughout the residential areas and will be accepting gently used clothing, bedding, kitchen appliances, utensils, and small electronics. Additionally, there are multiple recycling receptacles located throughout the residential communities. What may be trash to you could be someone else’s treasure.

Make certain to clean your apartment/suite thoroughly upon move out to avoid unnecessary cleaning charges. Please make sure that you leave your room in clean condition at move-out. Don’t leave bags of garbage or any other items in your unit. If your toilet or shower are growing a new civilization, clean them. Any items left in the housing facilities after move-out will be viewed as abandoned property, and disposed of at your expense. Cleaning charges add up quickly, so be sure to do a thorough job.

Special arrangements will be made for students transitioning into summer housing. Area Coordinators will be arranging appointments for summer transfers beginning May 1. Appointments will depend on the availability (cleanliness and vacancy) of summer assignments. This applies to students who will be enrolled for summer session A or B only. Students who are enrolling for session C will be required to move out and move back in for session C. For questions, please contact your Area Coordinator.

Here’s a quick recap of what to do before you leave:

- Schedule your spring to summer transition move if you are staying for summer school housing, and move out OR complete the express check out form at check out.
- Remove all personal belongings.
- Properly clean your apartment/suite.
- Schedule a move-out inspection with your RA at least 48 hours prior to move-out OR complete the express check out form at check out.
- Donate unwanted items to Goodwill.

Port of Armstrong: Top 5 Uses

How well do you know your way around the Port of Armstrong?

1. **Check your email!** The email button is located right inside the Port on the front page left panel.
2. **Desire to Learn (D2L):** This is the portal you utilize to participate in online classes, check your grades and sometimes submit assignments.
3. **Touchnet Bill Pay System.** You can utilize this avenue to pay any outstanding bills including tuition, housing and parking tickets.
4. **Update your BLAST information.** BLAST is Armstrong’s emergency contact system. We need to be able to contact you easily in the event of an emergency on campus.
5. **Access your SHIP account!** SHIP is your one stop shop for your permanent student record, financial aid award status, checking for registration holds and registering for classes. Check your SHIP account often for updates.
Is a Pre-Payment Plan Right for You?

Many parents and students face changing economic circumstances each year as they plan for future school terms. Jobs, adjustments, changing financial aid eligibility, and unexpected life expenses all seem to conspire at times to derail, or at least delay, your journey toward graduation. If financial planning for future terms has you worried, maybe a pre-payment plan is a program you should consider.

Ask yourself the following questions:

• Do I have a balance over $250 that I cannot pay in one lump sum before the upcoming payment deadline?
• Do I have the ability to make monthly payments for some of that balance for 2 or 3 months rather than all at once?
• Do I have a checking account or credit card I can use reliably to make payments?

If you answered yes to those questions, then you already have everything you need to sign up for a pre-payment plan and split up the cost of next term’s tuition, fees, and rent into manageable payments.

Check out the plan options for our upcoming terms at [www.armstrong.edu/payment_plan](http://www.armstrong.edu/payment_plan) and see for yourself how simple college financial planning can be. For more information, contact the Bursar’s Office at [student.accounts@armstrong.edu](mailto:student.accounts@armstrong.edu).

Got Classes?

Got Classes? Now is the time to set up an appointment to see your advisor if you have not already done so. Registration for Fall 2014 is right around the corner! All students are required to meet with their advisor prior to registering for classes. Advisement for both summer and fall advising started Monday, March 24.

You can find your advisor information in your SHIP account. SHIP is accessible via Port of Armstrong. Click the “SHIP” link and then click on the “academic and account information” tab. Then, view your “permanent student record.”

Current students can begin registering on their assigned registration time between March 31st and April 8. As a student, you can find your assigned registration time in your SHIP account by clicking on the “registration tab” and then viewing the “check your registration status” option.

It is important to take care of any holds that you may have on your account, as many holds prevent registration (i.e. parking tickets, delinquent account, advising, library fine, etc.). You don’t want to go to register only to find you can’t due to an unpaid parking ticket or library fine.

Need to catch up or want to get ahead on classes? Summer registration is currently open. Register now to get the best course selections!

Thinking About Personal Safety

How often do you consciously think about your personal safety? If you are anything like me, your thoughts of personal safety probably extend to routine things like keeping your car locked when parked, keeping your keys handy while you walk to your car after dark, locking your apartment while you are in class and avoiding dimly lit areas while you are walking from place to place. It isn’t typically a high priority. That’s why it is important to do a little personal safety check every now and again to assure that you are prepared in the event of an emergency. Here are a few tips that will help you be a safer student and resident at Armstrong:

1. Put an emergency contact in your cell phone and label it “emergency contact” so that someone else can dial for you if needed.

2. Update your BLAST information on your Port of Armstrong account. This way you can be sure you will get all the necessary updates about Armstrong emergencies.

3. Update your hurricane evacuation information on your housing application. We want to be sure you have an evacuation plan in the event of a hurricane evacuation.

4. Put together a little emergency kit for your apartment that includes bottled water, flash light, batteries, and first aid supplies. In the event of an extended power or water outage, you’ll want to be as prepared as possible.

Hopefully, you will not find yourself in a compromised safety situation. It’s always better to be as prepared as possible should one arise. For more information on increasing personal safety, visit [5 things in 5 minutes to increase personal safety](http://www.armstrong.edu/security/5-things-in-5-minutes-to-increase-personal-safety).
Rec and Wellness Events Calendar

AFAA Group Exercise Certification and Yoga Workshop: Saturday April 5 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Group Exercise and Sunday April 6 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Yoga. For 30% discount and registration please contact Megan Feasel at 912.344.3089 or megan.feasel@armstrong.edu.

Salsa Lessons: April 7-10 from 8 to 10 p.m. in Compass Point Clubhouse. No experience needed. Come join us as we teach you how to salsa.

Overnight Caving Adventure: Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12 at Cumberland Caverns. We will depart the SRC at 11 a.m. Cost is $45 for students, $50 for affiliates, and $65 for non affiliates. Enter the cave Friday evening and spend the night underground! Friday’s dinner and Saturday’s breakfast are provided. Transportation is limited to 19 people.

Sunset Kayak Tour in Hilton Head: Saturday, April 19 from 4 to 10 p.m. Registration is January 7 to April 12. Cost is $40 for students, $50 for affiliates, and $55 for non affiliates. Transportation is limited to 33 people.

CPR, First Aid, and AED Courses: If you are interested in getting certified in CPR, First Aid, and AED, this is the course for you! The cost is $35 and the certification is valid for 2 years. The final date the SRC will offer these class is Sunday April 13. Saturday classes are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday classes are from 2 to 6 p.m.

Stress Free Day: Tuesday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Free massages, manicures, pizza, Mary Kay consultant, yoga classes and MORE!!! Take advantage to de-stress your body and brain!

Late Night Breakfast: Monday May 5 from 10 p.m. to midnight in the Galley. FREE BREAKFAST FOOD!!! Must bring your Pirate Card to enter.

Don’t Dump it! Donate it!

Each year during student move-out, the Office of Facility Services provides trash and recycle bins to the University Housing areas to collect those items students don’t wish to take back home with them. Did you know they also provide Goodwill Donation Stations? Rather than throwing out unwanted items, think about donating them to Goodwill and helping those who may be less fortunate!

Goodwill Donation Stations can accept the following (gently used) items:

- Accessories
- Books
- Clothing
- Domestic Items (bedding, blankets, sheets, pillows)
- Small furniture (table lamps, floor lamps)
- Sporting Goods

Locations for Goodwill Donation Stations, as well as trash and recycle dumpsters, will be provided at move-out.

Earth Day: April 22, 2014

Earth Day is a yearly event celebrated on April 22 in more than 192 countries. This day is designed to promote events, demonstrations, and global thinking about the simple changes we can make to sustain a healthier planet for all of us.

The first Earth Day celebration was held in 1970 after peace activist, John McConnell, proposed the idea at a UNESCO Conference. The conference was held in San Francisco and the date for Earth Day was originally supposed to be on March 21, the first day of spring for the northern Hemisphere. After Earth Day was approved by the United Nations, another Earth Day was founded in the U.S. on April 22, 1970. Since then some areas have even incorporated an Earth Week.

What can we do to promote Earth Day you ask? We can start by realizing that Earth Day should be celebrated every day! Taking the time to recycle, bringing your own bags to the grocery store, turning off un-used lights, and many more simple activities throughout the day, can have a huge impact in the long run.

The major topic concerning the Earth today is global warming. Global warming is caused by the build-up of gases in the atmosphere that trap in heat. This poses a huge problem, not just for our AC bill. Plants that are exposed to high amounts of CO2 are less nutritious because they take in less nitrogen. For us that means cutting down more forest to plant more crops to feed an ever growing population of humans. Cutting down on our automobile use and restoring natural forests could go a long way in slowing down global warming.

Take a minute and research ways you can give back to your planet! We only have the one! Click here for more information about Earth Day celebrations in Savannah.