



PHOTO, 4B

The A-State GSA attended the Memphis Pridefest this weekend



Happening at A-State

A-STATE HERALD
STAFF REPORT

“A message from Kelly”

This week, Chancellor Damphousse sent the following message across A-State:

“Some of you may have already heard that I was recently approached by the University of Mississippi about its open chancellor position. I explored the opportunity and I was invited for an interview there later this week. After considerable deliberations with my family, however, I withdrew my name from consideration this past weekend. We have many great things happening here at A-State and I remain committed to our shared future.”

Damphousse has since renewed his contract to be the chancellor for A-State for three more years.

Campus Constituents to Offer Strategic Plan Input

Town hall meetings to receive feedback on the draft proposal of goals for Arkansas State University's next strategic plan are scheduled for students, faculty, staff and alumni during the month of October.

Each constituent group will have its own meeting to discuss the draft goals, provide feedback on the goals, recommend strategies the university should employ, and make other suggestions related to the draft plan.

For anyone unable to attend their constituent group meeting, a session open to all is set for Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The locations for each meeting will be determined soon.

For those wishing to read over the draft goals of the Strategic Plan in advance of their group's meeting, go to AState.edu/StrategicPlan.

Meeting dates are as follows:

A-State Students: Oct. 21, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A-State Staff: Oct. 21, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A-State Faculty: Oct. 23, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A-State Alumni: Oct. 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students turn out for Global Climate Protest



Photo by: Melissa Palumbo | Editor-in-Chief

Students, faculty and community members participated in the climate protest that took place on the A-State campus this weekend. Hosted by the A-State Environmental Club, the strike led the crowd to march through the student union while chanting and holding signs to protest the climate crisis. For more photos, see page 4A.

CONNECTIVITY ISSUES

Chief Information Officer gives update

TRENTON BARKER
STAFF WRITER

Chief Information Officer and Instructor of Computer and Information Technology Henry Torres addressed connectivity and server issues that have been reported around campus over the past few weeks.

The new self-diagnostic technology that has been implemented throughout Arkansas State this year have not been working as they should be, according to Torres.

“We just need to serve our systems better,” he said at the Student Government meeting last Tuesday. “Period.”

Because the flex system has been having problems, resulting in some people not being able to make purchases with their flex, Torres suggests students carry another way to pay for food until it is resolved, such as cash if available.

There are over 35,000 devices using the 2,300 connection points around campus, and Torres, along with specialists in internet connections, are working to improve the wifi and internet around the university.

Student health services to be redirected to NYIT college

Future of the Student Health Center, employees jobs uncertain

MELISSA PALUMBO

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Arkansas State University Student Health Center is facing a possible reassignment to the New York Institute of Technology.

Employees of the Student Health Center on campus were told in July that the transfer was in progress, but were not given any specific plans or information on the development.

“SHC employees were only informed they would not be employed by the university

for the 2020 academic year,” Victoria Willaims, director of the Student Health Center, said. “The student health center will continue to provide limited services due to reduced staffing until the transition takes place.”

Staff is being downsized at the health center and there are currently only four employees left listed on the A-State website.

NYIT is the first college to offer a doctorate in osteopathic medicine in Arkansas, and only

the second medical school. There are currently four full classes totaling about 456 students, with one-third of the medical students originating from Arkansas. In addition, there are about 78 staff and faculty members for the institute in Jonesboro.

“I’m particularly pleased that 17 of this fall’s 115 first-year students are A-State graduates – more than any other feeder school,” Chuck Welch, Arkansas State University system president, said at the Student Government meeting last week.

A “feeder school” is a college that allows students who were not accepted into the main institute to study at another campus and potentially move to the main campus which, in this case, is in New York.

“NYIT’s partnership with Arkansas State has brought 534 individuals or families to Jonesboro over the last five years to live while studying or working,” Welch said.

A study done to determine the impact of the medical school on the area projected the economic impact of NYIT is about \$70 million dollars for



Photo courtesy of A-State

The open house for NYIT after its opening in 2016.



Photo courtesy of A-State

The inaugural class of 2020 White Coat Ceremony for the NYIT students at Arkansas State University.

Jonesboro and the Delta area. However, if these students move out of the state after graduation or transfer universities, this estimate will become much lower.

The health services offered by NYIT will no longer go through student accounts, so patients will likely have to provide insurance if they cannot pay at the time of the visit. This is a problem area for a lot of students, particularly international students.

“I can confirm the university and NYIT have had discussion about NYIT assuming management of the Student Health Center,” Vice

Chancellor of Finance Len Frey said. “To my knowledge the only announcement Arkansas State or NYIT have made is that there are discussions underway.”

This development could potentially save the university money, as there would be no need to fill staff at the health center.

“NYIT faculty will staff the clinic with both primary care and specialty providers which will negate the need for some off-campus referrals,” Willaims said.

This is a developing story.