



Soul Food for the Community

A Column About the Annual Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter Dinner

ERIC MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

The 15th annual Soul Food Dinner was held Friday at the Military Science Building. The annual event is sponsored by the Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter and the Arkansas State Multicultural Center. This year's event was coordinated by Sharon Lee and Marilyn Newsome of the Multicultural Center.

The Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter was formed in 1982. It was named after Walter B. Strong and Frederick C. Turner, the first African-American graduates of Arkansas State University. The chapter was formed to address concerns of African-American faculty and students. It has been instrumental in creating programs and scholarships which has contributed to an increase in African-American graduates from Arkansas State University.

The Soul Food Dinner was a concept envisioned by Peggy Wright in 2004. She believed a pot-luck dinner in which the entire community was invited was a perfect way to kick-off Black History Month. The idea was to bring the community together with great food and fellowship. Over the last 15 years, the event has evolved into a strong tradition which will likely leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

In addition to the dinner, there was an extensive program of music and speakers. The opening remarks were given by Nekia Slater, president of the Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter. This was followed by a welcome address given by Dr. Kelly Damphousse, chancellor of Arkansas State University. After dinner, there were several speeches addressing community topics, recognitions and special announcements. They also had a voter registration table set up in the corner of the hall.

The actual dinner menu was extensive. There was fried chicken, chicken dressing, mac and cheese, greens and a variety of potato dishes. There was also a large variety of deserts. Most importantly, they didn't hold back on the portions. There was such a variety of food available, I know I've left several dishes out that were on the menu. It was definitely comfort food for the soul. The meal was mostly served by friendly A-State students and alumni.

A diverse crowd of people showed up. There was at least a crowd of 200. The dinner has to be a large undertaking. However, everything was well organized. Sharon Lee and Marilyn Newsome have to be commended, along with all the volunteers that made the event happen. There was definitely a feeling of fellowship in the hall. I would encourage everyone to attend the 16th Annual Soul Food Dinner next year.

For pictures, see 4A.

Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference

EMMA GOAD
STUDENT SUBMISSION

To ring in the 10th anniversary of the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference, over 3,600 college-aged students from over 200 schools with-in the nation met in Indianapolis to attend educational block sessions about bettering Greek Life.

The conference was held the weekend of Jan. 30 and focused on mental health and the importance of voting. While there were over 50 different educational blocks to attend, keynote speakers Liz Plank and Keri Kirk spoke during Friday's general session.

Arkansas State University's three fraternal councils, National Panhellenic Conference, Interfraternal Council, and National Pan-Hellenic Council, took part in the event.

NPC's president, junior Dianna Foucault, attended the conference for the first time this year. She's a nursing major and an Alpha Omicron Pi chapter member. Foucault said she was able to learn more than she could have hoped to learn during the keynote sessions, despite the challenge of talking to strangers about intrusive topics.

"I was forced to get out of my comfort zone," Foucault said. "I'm sure that was along the lines of the speaker's intentions, but I did struggle

with it a bit. Overall, I overcame this fear for the better. The speakers challenged me to step out, and it was extremely beneficial."

Foucault also said she took a lot of information from the keynote speaker session on voting.

"The 'We All Vote' speaker really made me think about how voting affects people in our country," Foucault said. "I haven't registered to vote yet, and I realized that I need to do that as soon as possible. Voting gives us a voice, and I want to utilize my own as much as I can."

NPHC's delegate Zahria Whiting said she attended the event in order to learn more about being a leader for her council. Whiting is the treasurer for Alpha Kappa Alpha.

"My favorite part about the conference was the opportunity to network with so many young leaders from around the coun-

try," Whiting said. "I also really enjoyed a workshop I took about the principles of leadership. It taught me that community and unity are the two most important principles in conducting an effective chapter for my campus."

IFC's president, junior Will Wilkins, attended AFLV for the second time this year. Although Wilkins has gone to the event before, he said that there was still plenty for him to learn.

"This year's conference was just as good as last year," Wilkins said. "The biggest challenge I faced was staying active as a listener the entire time. Even though the sessions were long, I wouldn't change anything about the program. I'm going to take the advice of those I heard this weekend and use it to become a more understanding, compassionate leader."



Photo by Emma Goad
Drawing a diagram to better explain expectations in comparison to reality, keynote speaker Bonny Shade teaches sorority women to understand that unmatched expectations are the root of all disappointments.

ARKANSAS CRIME

Due to an issue with campus crime, this week features Arkansas Crime courtesy of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Feb. 10 | 10:30 a.m.

A man who opened fire and shot two police officers in a Walmart in Forrest City, Arkansas, on Monday morning is dead, Mayor Cedric Williams told reporters.

Witnesses said the suspect was "talking out of his mind" at the time of the shooting, Williams told reporters.

The officers were responding to complaints that a man was threatening people when the man pulled out a gun and shot both officers, St. Francis County Sheriff Bobby May told CNN affiliate WHBQ.

The shooting occurred on the grocery side of the store, Forrest City Police Chief Deon Lee said at the press conference.

The officers who responded to the incident, Lt. Eric Varner and Detective Eugene Watlington, were not wearing body cameras at the time of the shooting, Lee said. He added, as Forrest City Police detectives, they were not required to wear police vests fitted with body cameras because their division does not require it, he said.

Varner was treated at Forrest City Medical Center after the incident and was released, Lee said. Watlington was transported to Regional One Health in Memphis and went into surgery, he added. Varner's prognosis is that he's doing well and is expected to be fine, according to Lee.

Arkansas State Police have taken over the investigation of the incident.

"The prayers and thoughts of the ASP (Arkansas State Police) are with the two Forrest City Police Officers that were injured this morning in a shooting at the Walmart store, located in Forrest City," state police said.

"The Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigation Division has been requested to conduct an investigation of the incident, and will be on the premises throughout the day."

Feb. 11 | 5:45 a.m.

A Bigelow woman faces multiple felonies including a charge of first-degree murder after authorities say she admitted Monday to killing a man in Perry County and trying to burn the evidence.

Sandra Rappold, 22, is also charged with arson, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence, according to an arrest report from the Perry County sheriff's office.

Authorities responded around 5:45 a.m. Sunday to a house fire at 59 Riveredge Acres Road in Bigelow.

Law enforcement on scene saw what they believed to be blood on the ground near a burn pit about 75 feet from the home, the report states, as well as blood on beer cans and an outdoor sink.

Deputies also found three 5-gallon containers of what smelled like diesel fuel.

Authorities learned during the investigation that a man had information on a victim in the incident, Steve Fason.

The man said Rappold told him she had "killed the b--" and put him in the dump," according to the report. He also said when he went to the dump, he saw the body under some tires.

Authorities said in the report they found Fason's body in the dump under old carpet padding and tires.

Investigators interviewed Rappold on Monday. According to the report, she said she killed Fason sometime late Saturday

night or early Sunday morning, then tried to burn the evidence, set his house on fire and moved his body.

Fason's cause of death and his connection to Rappold, if any, were not detailed in the report.

Rappold is being held at the Perry County jail in lieu of \$1 million bond.

Feb. 11 | 3:21 p.m.

A Jonesboro man is in custody after police say he punched an officer in the face during a traffic stop.

Tyrone Pickett, 49, faces charges of second-degree battery, reckless driving, fleeing and lesser offenses.

A Jonesboro officer said in a police report he saw a red pickup speeding westbound Saturday near Olive Street and Huntington Avenue. The pickup then passed another vehicle in a no-passing zone.

The officer, Heath Loggains, said he tried to conduct a traffic stop, according to the report, and the driver, Pickett, ran away.

Loggains said in the report he chased Pickett and tried to grab him, and Pickett swung his fist, hitting the officer in the face.

The officer then used a stun gun twice on Pickett "due to there being no effect on the first deployment," according to the report. Pickett was then taken into custody.

The report states the officer suffered swelling on the right side of his face, pain in the jaw and teeth and a cut on his left hand.

Online jail records show Pickett is being held in the Craighead County jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 13		
What School Didn't Teach Me	Black River Room	6-7 p.m.
ACS/ACM Movie Night	Lab Sciece East 219	6-8 p.m.
Silent Disco	Centennial Hall	7-10 p.m.
Feb. 14		
February Flashback Party	Centennial Hall	6-9 p.m.
Feb. 15		
Campus Clean-Up	Union 2034	10:30 a.m.-Noon
Chess Tournament	Spring River Room	2-5 p.m.
Feb. 16		
Four Hornsmen of the Apocalypse	Recital Hall	5-7 p.m.
Feb. 18		
Volunteer A-State Blood Drive	Student Union	Noon-6 p.m.

Coronavirus: What to Know

DAKOTA MAGGARD
STAFF WRITER

One of the newest epidemics that is impacting our world is a new version of the coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that all share similar symptoms like respiratory problems, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Part of the reason these types of viruses are so devastating is that they can be transmitted between animals and humans and can range in severity. Luckily, the World

Health Organization says that these viruses can be prevented by washing your hands, covering your mouth and nose, fully cooking meat products and avoiding those with symptoms.

The coronavirus has been a subject of focus around the world recently for a good reason: it's a new strain. The newly named 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been causing panic across the world ever since it was discovered on Dec. 31st, 2019. This strain has already surpassed the 2003 SARS outbreak death toll and it shows no immediate signs of stopping. As of Tuesday, the death toll

in China has reached 1,016 with 43,090 being infected and one American death. However, many think that the actual number of infected and dead could be wrong due to the intense strain that testing facilities are experiencing.

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control confirmed a new case of 2019-nCoV in the United States, bringing the nation's total to 13. This case was found in California, which was already among the six states with confirmed cases. The other states are Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Washington, and Wisconsin.