

A-State releases 2019 Campus Safety Report

Statistics show consistency in campus crime and fire

TRISTAN BENNETT
NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State's 2019 Campus Safety Report, just released by the university, found nothing out of the ordinary in campus crimes or fires. The report gives statistics on crimes such as rape, robbery, burglary and motor vehicle theft, and a separate Fire Safety Compliance Report details the campus's fire prevention precautions. Universities across the nation are required by law to complete and publish these reports each year under the Jeanne Clery Campus Security Act.

According to the Clery Center, Jeanne Clery was a 19-year-old student at Lehigh University when she was sexually assaulted and murdered in her dorm room on campus. Her parents lobbied to change the law to make campuses more transparent with crime statistics. Congress passed the Clery Act in 1990. On A-State's campus, the crime statistics have held rather consistently over the past three years. Bill Smith, the university's chief communications officer, said the numbers stayed in line with recent years. "There was no real big rise up or decrease," Smith said. "Our crime has been fairly steady."

Last year, there were four reported rapes on campus and two instances of fondling. Of those, one was determined to be unfounded, which means the investigation found it was a false or baseless accusation. Those numbers are slightly down from the six reported rapes and seven fondling accusations on campus in 2018. Police also investigated eight dating violence incidents and two stalking situations in 2019. Last year, there were two reported cases of aggravated assault on campus, which is in line with recent years. Five burglaries took place in residence halls and two motor vehicle thefts occurred

on campus. There were also 48 offenses of theft, a drop from the 55 reported in 2017 and 57 in 2018. None of these crimes were found to be a hate crime. The bulk of the crime that takes place on campus are liquor law and drug-related violations, and Smith said the university keeps a closer eye on these violations. There were 52 liquor violations in 2019, which has dropped considerably from the 119 reported instances in 2017. Drug-related offenses have increased slightly from 32 in 2017 to 53 in 2019. Smith said these numbers are in line with other universities. Smith said it is hard to determine why the fluctuation

in campus crime occurs. "I was looking at it and noticed that three years ago there was a rise in theft," Smith said. "These kind of run in cycles." A separate report noted there were seven fires in residence halls in 2019. All of them were found to be started unintentionally, and all but one caused less than \$100 worth of damage. Smith said the university is happy with their handlings of campus crime. "We're very pleased with the way that we work, and we're very diligent at it," Smith said. "We also know that some things are out of our control." The university does not simply publish the report

but uses the numbers to increase public safety. "We just use it as a way to remain vigilant in keeping safe," Smith said. Smith said it is also a way for students to ensure they are receiving university safety alerts. "We are constantly trying to remind students that if you did not get an email that said the Clery Report is ready, that's a good indicator that you might need to go into MyCampus and check your phone numbers," Smith said. Students can also add up to two additional numbers to receive emergency alerts from A-State.

Alzheimer's disease affects millions of Americans

BAYLEIGH FREEMAN
NEWS WRITER

Statistics showed by the age of 65, one in 10 Americans suffered from Alzheimer's disease in 2019. Dr. Bhavesh Joshi, assistant professor of clinical medicine at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, said the effects of the disease go far beyond just forgetfulness. "Alzheimer's is not something like the flu or a cold that you just catch," Joshi said. "It is an aging disease. It progresses over time." According to alzheimers.net, more than five million Americans currently live with Alzheimer's. Joshi said the effects from the disease are not only shown in the loss of memory and ability to think clearly but also in changes in the personality. It is an irreversible process in which the brain cells controlling these attributes are completely destroyed. While the disease has certain characteristics that come along with aging, Joshi said it is not just normal aging. "Alzheimer's is not a normal progression of getting older because it is a much faster decline of mental capabilities,"

Joshi said. "It's not just forgetting your keys. It's forgetting your keys and then not having any idea what you are doing." While one-third of the population over 85 were diagnosed with this illness in 2019, there is still not a solid answer as to how exactly they developed it. Studies are being conducted to see if the disease is hereditary and tied to genetics, but there are still many unanswered questions. Joshi said it is hard to tell if a younger person will get it because there are no signs or tests to see; patients who will develop Alzheimer's will typically just have to wait it out. As these patients age, they will notice short and long term memory loss, shifts in personality such as short-tempered and childish behavior, shifts in sleeping patterns and the inability to perform basic tasks. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's, but medications are available that temporarily decelerate its progression as the patient worsens. "Some of these medications release neurotransmitters to help make connections from point A to point B," Joshi said. "They aid the cells that have died off by sending signals to other parts of the brain."

Some studies show that stimulating the aging brain can help to fend off the disease. Activities such as reading, doing puzzles and completing brain activities like Sudoku or word search puzzles can help delay the brain progressions that lead to Alzheimer's. These activities are beneficial because they challenge the brain and how it thinks. Joshi said sitting in front of a television or computer is not enough, even though these hobbies have become more prevalent in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. "The brain is like any other muscle. You have to use it or you're going to lose it," Joshi said. Overall, Alzheimer's disease presents many challenges and confusion to those it affects. There are a large number of Americans affected by the harrowing disease, and according to alzheimers.net, it is the number six leading cause of death in the U.S. and the only one in the top 10 that cannot be cured. "It's a tricky disease because we don't know until it's too late and we start to see symptoms," Joshi said. "Until the patients start aging and getting forgetful or having personality shifts, there are no markers or signs."



Graphic by: Drew Morgan | Graphic Design Editor

There's nothing that really tells us Alzheimer's Awareness Month that Alzheimer's is what's going on. honoring its victims and hoping there will one day be a cure. Despite the mysterious nature of the disease, Americans still spend

SGA passes resolution to rename building

KRISHNAN COLLINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Arkansas State Student Government Association appointed a new University College senator and passed a resolution renaming a building on campus in a meeting Tuesday night. Resolution 20/21-02 was originally presented by SGA President Rashad Kirksey at their Oct. 27 meeting and is officially titled: Resolution to rename the Military Science building to the Lieutenant Colonel Frederick C. Turner Jr. Military Science building. Turner was one of the first two African American students to graduate from A-State, and he was the first African American ROTC instructor at the university in 1969. Turner meets the requirements to have a building named after him as the policy states that if a person has

provided long-term service and exceptional leadership to the university that person may have a building named after them. Tuesday, senators voted on switching around the position of a couple of paragraphs in the resolution. That change to the format passed 32-0. Then, the senators voted on the resolution itself and it passed 32-0 as well. Now the resolution will be sent to Chancellor Dr. Kelly Damphousse, and he will make his recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board has the final vote on the resolution. "I must commend our Chancellor and our ROTC program," Kirksey said. "They have been very helpful in moving on with this process." A-State student Nathan Wheaton originally petitioned SGA to have the Military Science building renamed. Wheaton attended Tuesday night's meeting. "Words cannot describe how ecstatic I am that this proposal

has passed," Wheaton said. "As the person who originally put it up, I never knew that it would get this far and with a unanimous vote. It might not show in my face, but I am very thankful for this. I would just like to state, this is just a stepping stone." SGA also filled a vacant University College senate seat. Senior general studies major Katie Meister was the only person who attended the meeting to fill the seat. "A lot of you might know me because I served last year on SGA as a senator at large," Meister said. "I decided at a really awkward point last year not to run again and it's one of the decisions I really regretted because I had such an amazing time on SGA. I know the amazing work you all do and I really want to be a part of that again." Since Meister was the only one there to fill that seat, Meister earned the seat.

CAMPUS CRIME

TRISTAN BENNETT
NEWS EDITOR

Nov. 6 | 3:10 p.m.
University Police were dispatched to the Circle in regards to a rock hitting a vehicle window. Dakota Lambert, who works for Facilities Management, told officers as he was mowing, he ran over a rock, which hit Luis Colon's vehicle and busted out the rear passenger window. Facilities Management was contacted in regards to the incident, and they told officers they would take care of it.

Nov. 8 | 9:11 a.m.
An officer spotted a 2010 Jeep Compass driving down Marion Berry Parkway. The officer recognized the driver as Whitney Keith, and he knew she had a suspended license.

He initiated a traffic stop and made contact with Keith. He explained that he had stopped her in regards to her suspended license, and he discovered the Craighead County Sheriff's Department had a warrant out for her arrest. Dustin Morris, a deputy with the sheriff's department, arrived on the scene and cited Keith. She was released but must appear in Jonesboro District Court on January 6, 2021. Because no legal driver was on the scene, Keith's vehicle was towed.

Nov. 8 | 10:32 a.m.
University Police were dispatched to the Pack Place parking lot in regards to someone egging a vehicle. Upon arrival, Carson Cannon told officers that sometime overnight someone had thrown eggs at his pickup

truck. Cannon said he noticed it was eggs as he was taking his vehicle to the car wash and found egg shells on it. The officers did observe several broken egg shells on the ground around the spot Cannon said he was parked in at the time of the incident. No damages were found on the truck, and Cannon told officers he did not know who committed the crime.

Nov. 8 | 3:34 p.m.
Officers were dispatched to the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House in reference to a fire alarm. Officers spoke with Frances Bollinger who told them she had been frying a banana and the smoke had caused the alarm to go off. The Jonesboro Fire Department arrived on the scene and cleared the building for residents to return inside.