

**ENVIRONMENT,
CONTINUED**

As far as institutional changes made on campus, the A-State Environmental Club has advocated for recycling bins located throughout dorms, introduced a recycling center and worked with Sodexo on building their operating processes to be more environmentally friendly.

The organization is currently petitioning Arkansas State to ban the use of styrofoam in cups for more environmentally friendly materials.

“Right now, we’re striving to get styrofoam banned from the cups, move them towards recyclable plastic or paper, as styrofoam does not degrade ever, so it is one of the worst problems.” Willis said.

In anticipation of Saucedo’s departure from A-State this year, the officers in the Environmental Club are planning to continue building the groundwork laid down for the future. This includes providing information about climate change and petitioning community efforts for environmentalism.

“I think our new officers have been planning to keep with Sara’s ideas of petitioning with our local government workers and with our school institution,” Willis said. “I think our newer officers were looking



Photo by: Sam Scott | News Writer

Eight different A-State Environmental Club volunteers helped pick up trash around Kays Hall and Collegiate Park Saturday morning.

to possibly having things like a small community garden on campus or composting. Other things that would be very environmentally friendly and also bring a sense of family, and like wanting to do these things.”

It isn’t just the officers trying to participate in the Campus

Clean-Ups. Justin Guignard, one of the volunteers for the Environmental Club, was introduced to the club while hanging out with Willis.

“I was just hanging out with Katy one day, and then she was like, ‘I’m gonna do this,’ and I just came along,”

Guignard said. “Come just about every time now.”

As time went on, Guignard started to notice something different after getting involved with the club.

“I get a lot more comfortable hanging out around here and doing these kinds of things,”

Guignard said. “Like, when I first came, I was just kind of just quietly following people around. Just kind of along for the ride. But now, I just kind of go out there and actually like clean up and try and help as much as I can.”

Of course, there are more initiatives the Environmental

Club would like to see.

“Instead of relying off of coal energy, like get some solar panels or start moving towards wind energy. Like big changes, not just banning styrofoam, like we hope they do.” Willis said. “We understand that we have to start somewhere and we’ll move up as time goes on. But, we wish we didn’t have to start small and that A-State would take the initiative and realize for the good of its own students, it should be more sustainable.”

As far as advice for students at A-State, Willis hits on this point.

“Getting involved can definitely help (with) your mental health and help you make friends in the clubs.” Willis said. “Like not just Environmental Club, if you find a club that has your passion in it, or a hobby or things you’re interested in, it’s going to help you have more fun at college, be more comfortable, make more friends and overall have a better college experience, as well as put things down on your resume, so that you have an easier time finding jobs or getting into graduate school, or different programs like that.”

The next upcoming Campus Clean-Up event will be 10:30 a.m. Nov. 21 in front of room 2034 at the Student Union.

**THEATRE,
CONTINUED**

The play is directed by DayDay Robinson, a theatre instructor in the Department of Theatre.

As to why she was inspired to be involved in this production, Robinson said, “I love the game Dungeons & Dragons almost as much as I love theatre. To be able to direct a show that uses D&D as a mode of healing is rewarding and makes my nerd heart happy.”

“She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms” is the second production

the Department of Theatre has worked on where the production is performed on an online platform instead of the traditional theatre space.

Although the playwright, Qui Nguyen, adapted the play to be performed on Zoom, Robinson said, “However, I do recognize that this new platform may be difficult for some of our students who miss and long to be back on the traditional stage.”

Even though the pandemic may

have restricted the production to a limited space, this could provide new opportunities for the world of theatre.

“One of the good things that came from the pandemic is that it forced theatres around the world to examine who has access to the performing arts,” Robinson said. “With online performances taking center stage, a new audience has formed (minority groups, individuals with disabilities, lower income families and many

more.) Hopefully, this pandemic has reminded us that theatre should be accessible to all not just the elite.”

The play and this season in particular serves as an opportunity to make the best of what the COVID-19 pandemic brings to Arkansas State University.

As Robinson said, “Just like the main character Agnes, most of the country is grieving and trying to make sense of the world around us. This show is the perfect moment

to reflect, reconnect, remember our humanist adventurous nature.”

“She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms” premieres this week Friday through Sunday.

The Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday show will be at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$7-10 with a family purchase option for \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the A-State Marketplace.

NYIT to go all-virtual

NYIT

NEWS RELEASE

New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University announced Friday that the medical school would move to an all-virtual platform starting Nov. 23, and students will not return to campus until the week of Jan. 18. Additionally, all staff and faculty will be instructed to work remotely during that time period.

“From the beginning of the semester, our plan has always been to shift our students virtually over the Thanksgiving break,” NYITCOM Dean Shane Speights said. “As our leadership planned for what we knew would be an academic year unlike any other, we decided several weeks ago that we would likely implement a fully remote plan that included our staff and faculty. We are entering a time in our state and country where we are seeing and expecting to see a significant increase in viral spread over the coming weeks and months. The recent trends confirmed our need to adjust.

We’re very fortunate that our institution is very technology driven, so we have the infrastructure in place to make this transition seamlessly, just as we did when the pandemic initially hit this spring.”

NYITCOM has taken extreme precautions throughout the fall semester to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19. All lectures have been delivered online, and in-person labs were executed in smaller groups than normal with students being required to wear masks and all instructors in full personal protective equipment (PPE).

Medical students typically congregate in Wilson Hall to study together and interact with each other throughout the day, but in August, NYITCOM leadership closed the building for any activity outside of required labs. Everyone entering Wilson Hall has their temperature checked by a computerized thermal scanner that also ensures they are wearing a mask.

“This is medical school and there are some portions of our curriculum that have to be delivered in person,” Speights said. “You can’t dissect a cadaver or perform a physical

exam virtually. You can’t learn osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) without physical contact. We’ve been extremely careful to limit personal interaction to the absolute minimum, and we’ve stringently enforced policies to do our best to keep our students, faculty and staff safe. And it has worked.”

In an email, Speights applauded the work NYITCOM has done throughout the pandemic

“As is our mission, our campus has stepped up as a leader in the community and the state by providing COVID education, testing and contact tracing to our community partners,” Speights said. “This has been a very positive impact for our region. We must continue to lead by example with social distancing, mask wearing and hand hygiene. We must also be the educated voice of reason in a world of misinformation that is challenging the science and evidence we practice. We will get through this, and we will come out stronger on the other side, but for now we need to hold the line.”

— The Wilson Advising Center Presents —

2020 YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE AWARD



VIRTUAL CEREMONY

November 18, 2020
at 1:00 PM

Help us recognize the excellent advising at A-State. Please join us in congratulating this year's nominees and award recipient via zoom for our virtual award ceremony.

Meeting ID: **950 5679 0185**
Passcode: **442390**