

# The Herald and editors win multiple awards at SEJC, ACMA

KRISHNAN COLLINS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Arkansas State University student-run newspaper, The Herald, won multiple awards across the Southeast Journalism Conference Best of the South and Arkansas College Media Association competitions.

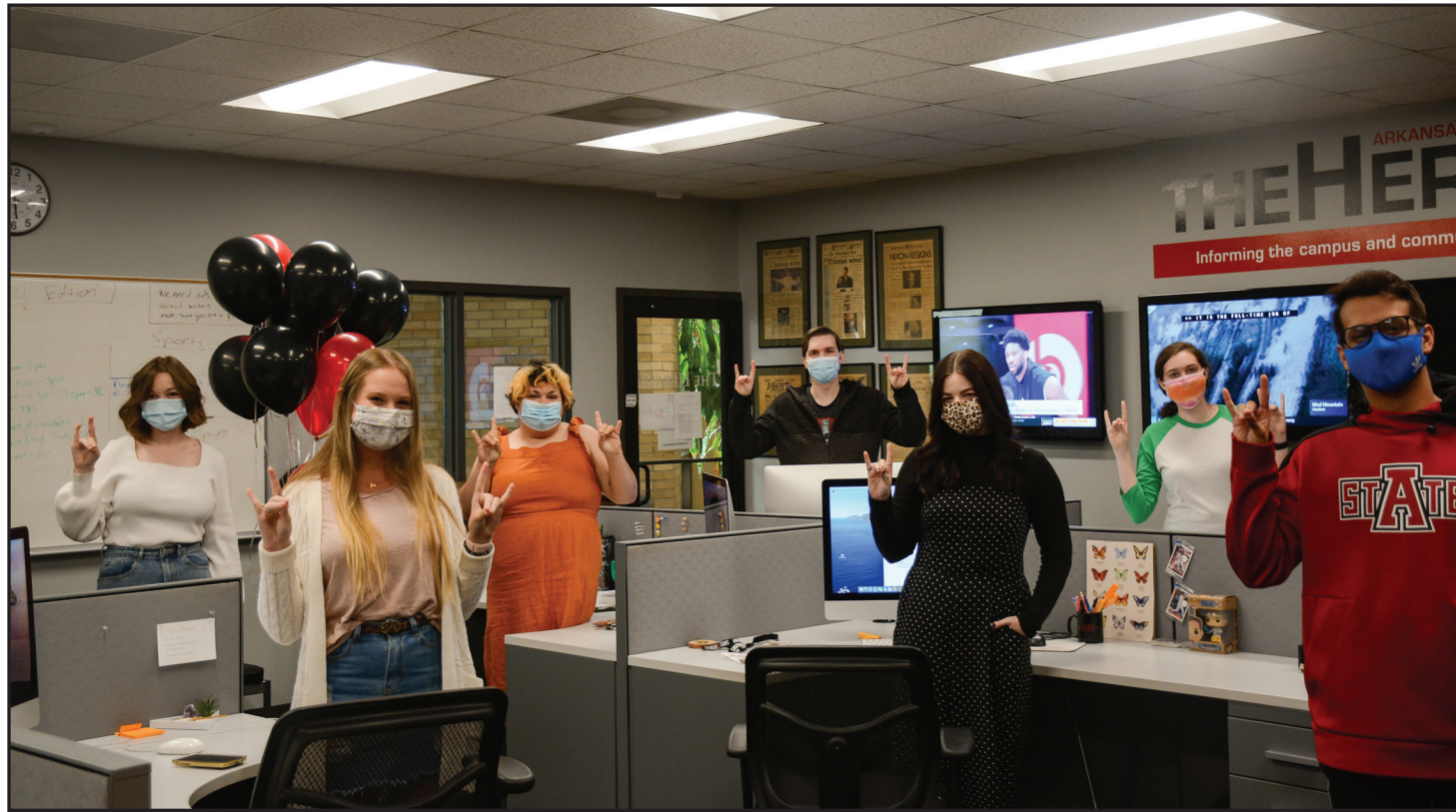
The Herald placed second in the ACMA General Excellence Newspaper of the Year category.

"I am very proud of all the hard work The Herald staff has done since last spring semester," Krishnan Collins, editor-in-chief of The Herald, said. "We have worked hard to change the culture at The Herald and really improve the paper in all aspects from content to design to distribution and the list could go on."

The Herald placed fifth in the SEJC Best College Newspaper category.

"Readers can see the improvement in every edition of The Herald and not only has The Herald staff had to work through editor changes, higher expectations and budget cuts, but also through the COVID-19 pandemic," Collins said. "Despite all these challenges, the staff has worked hard and put The Herald on the right track to be better for years to come. Congratulations to all of our hardworking staff who have made The Herald one of the best collegiate newspapers in Arkansas and the entire South."

Opinion editor Lily Cabibi-Wilkin ranked fourth place in the SEJC Best Opinion/



The Herald staff from left to right: Hannah Risker (Photo Editor), Tristan Bennett (News Editor), Alex Clark (Life Editor), Drew Morgan (Graphic Design Editor), Rebecca Robinson (Sports Editor), Lily Cabibi-Wilkin (Opinion Editor) and Krishnan Collins (Editor-in-Chief).

Photo by: Sandra Combs | Herald Adviser

Editorial Writer category.

Cabibi-Wilkin, a music composition major, noted how placing so high as a non-journalism major carried some extra weight for the junior from Hot Springs.

"It does carry a little bit extra weight to it I guess because I'm not a journalism major," Cabibi-Wilkin said. "I didn't know anything about AP style when I came in. I'm not taking journalism classes everyday, this is kind of my side job. So yeah I guess it is like really impressive that even though I'm not maybe as schooled in journalism as some of the other contestants that I still managed to rank so highly."

News editor Tristan Bennett placed 12th in the SEJC best news writer category and was an honorable mention and winner in the ACMA Newspaper Special Topics: Pandemic Coverage category.

"It means a lot to me to place 12th," Bennett said. "Obviously it's not as high as I would've liked but I think it just goes to show that A-State journalism is competitive. We're good writers here and we know what we're doing. Our professors know what they're doing and they produce good journalists."

The senior from Carlisle also won ACMA TV Anchor of the Year and contributed to ASU-

TV winning TV Outlet of the Year along with winning multiple awards in the TV categories.

"I think that says that we're very versatile here," Bennett said. "Just because I'm a broadcast emphasis doesn't mean I can't do print too. I love the way that this program caters to all of it and we learn all of it and we're not just boxed into one kind of media."

Collins tied for third in the SEJC Best Sports Writer Category. The senior was an honorable mention, placed third place and won the Newspaper Feature Writing Category, placed second and won the Newspaper Sports Feature Category, placed third (with

Drew Morgan) and won (with Sook Young Yoo) the Newspaper Front Page Layout Category, was an honorable mention in the Newspaper Editor of the Year category, won the Online Newswriting Category and placed second in the Online Sports Writing Category.

Photo editor Hannah Risker placed third in the Newspaper News Photo category, was an honorable mention in the Newspaper Sports Photo category, placed second in the Online Feature Photo category and second in the Online Sports Photo category.

"I felt very proud of it because a lot of work goes into

the paper that a lot of people don't really realize," Risker said. "Each paper is a really dedicated time project. Winning awards for that kind of stuff, it's not necessarily about the awards, but it's about making The Herald and the school proud."

Graphic design editor Drew Morgan placed third and won in the Newspaper Sports Page Layout category with pages he worked on with now graduated sports editor Brad Brewer.

"I can say my work here is done, and my education was worth every bit," Morgan said. "It tells me I'm on the right path, and I'm doing just fine."

Brewer placed second and won the Newspaper Sports Story category and placed third in the Newspaper Sports Feature category.

Morgan worked with Collins for a third place finish in the Newspaper Front Page Layout category.

Life editor Alex Clark weighed in on what the awards meant for The Herald.

"I feel like everyone who works at the paper works really, really hard from all the editors to our staff writers," Clark said. "I feel like we have grown so much from a couple years ago, basically being an entire new staff to placing regionally at these conferences. We've all worked to help each other out from reading each other's pages to looking over them to make sure everything's good. Everyone has played a huge role in making sure our paper is the best quality it can be every week."

## "Revue: A Musical Retrospective" to take place outdoors

SAM SCOTT

NEWS WRITER

The A-State Department of Theatre is rounding off the season with its latest production, "Revue: A Musical Retrospective."

Tickets for "Revue: A Musical Retrospective" can be purchased on [tickets.astate.edu](https://tickets.astate.edu) or on the A-State Theatre Facebook page when available. Due to physical distancing, there will be limited seating available. The show will be located on the back entrance at the Fowler Center.

Taking place one week after its last production, "Everybody," "Revue: A Musical Retrospective" showcases a variety of songs from many popular musicals throughout the 20th century. Some of the musicals featured in the show include "Oklahoma!," "Rent," and "West Side Story."

"This show is a journey through the sound of musical theatre during the 20th century," said Brianna Larson, assistant professor for the Department of Theatre and director of "Revue." "Audiences will get to experience songs from 1903 through 1996 and the many styles that go with it, including jazz, rock, pop and opera."

This is diving into new territory for the department, seeing how COVID-19 has forced them to become creative with their shows. While the last three productions were all virtual in some capacity, "Revue" is their first live performance, as it is being held outdoors. It's because of these barriers the department started thinking about new possibilities to do theatre.

"With the uncertainty that came with COVID-19, this allowed us the freedom to build our own cabaret style show, as well as to do something that we have not done before," Larson said.

Similar to the other productions, rehearsals for "Revue" had to be adjusted to fit COVID-19 guidelines, such as social distancing, mask mandates, sanitations and time rotations. This was a new experience for the director.

"This rehearsal process looked unlike any other that I've been involved with before," Larson said. "While indoors, singers stood at a minimum of 13' from one another (fully masked) and we only rehearsed in a room for 30 minutes at a time. We would then rotate to one of our other three indoor rehearsal spaces. This called for a lot of extra planning in terms of how

long we would work one song before having the performers for another song come in."

As the rehearsal process continued, Larson discussed other aspects of this limited procedure.

"Stage management kept an eye on keeping everything sanitized between rehearsals, some things between each song," Larson said. "We also were unable to have our music director with us in person, so we had an iPad on a music stand dedicated to having him on it, so that he could see and hear myself and the performers as well as them seeing and hearing him. Once the weather started becoming nicer, we were able to move some of our rehearsals outdoors to start preparing for what the performance will actually be like."

When asked about how difficult the rehearsals were under the pandemic, Larson gave her take.

"COVID-19 has definitely made creating and working on this production a bit more difficult than some others, due to the obstacles that come with it," Larson said. "However, we have been dedicated all year to continuing to produce work during the pandemic and have worked hard to plan ahead for

extra contingencies and to keep all protocols in place so that everyone is safe. It has been a lot of work, but it has been worth it."

Given the conditions and larger scale of the production, there are going to be some challenges regarding the cast, staging, and planning while juggling with the guidelines of the pandemic.

"I think one of the biggest challenges came down to needing to be extra organized in scheduling, and planning further ahead than usual due to our need to rotate which performers were in the room, and which room we're rehearsing in as we rotated between our spaces," Larson said.

Another big challenge lies in the sheer number of cast members involved in the production, as well as the new space for the production.

"With the show being outdoors, that also brought the extra challenge of having rain contingency plans for our outdoor rehearsal days, thus sometimes having two rehearsal plans for a certain day," Larson said. "The other largest challenge was probably just the cast size and what that meant for rehearsal planning. The cast size is 21, so that means navigating 21 different conflict calendars when planning

each week of rehearsals." Although showing "Revue" in an outdoor space may be the consequence from the pandemic, it still presents a new opportunity for the department to perform in new venues. When asked whether the Department of Theatre performed an outdoor show in the past, Larson gave her thoughts. "To my knowledge, they have not done any outdoor productions in the recent past. At least not the last 10-15 years that I know of," Larson said.

With that kind of time gap, this could provide a revitalization of a new experience for theatregoers. It is an opportunity Larson expresses exploring in the coming future.

"Anything's possible, right? While outdoor theatre does come with its own set of challenges, it also comes with certain rewards," Larson said. "I think one of the biggest challenges would be the weather for the time of year. The summer is traditionally when a lot of outdoor theatre happens, yet our season takes place from September-April. I do hope we try some more outdoor pieces in the near future, but I'm not sure what that would look like yet. However, I'm excited to find out."

"Revue: A Musical Retrospective" is providing something many people are currently lacking during an uncertain time: a live, communal experience.

It is easy to see why this musical cabaret stands out from the last three productions in the department's season, as it is not limited by the confines of Zoom and pay-per-view rentals. It reflects the progress this department, A-State and the rest of the world have made in the past year. Even though it will be outdoors and strictly enforcing COVID-19 guidelines, it reveals a familiar oasis that was once forgotten. Larson explains this when asked why students should see this production.

"For an honest, communal experience with others," Larson said. "It is something we have all been lacking this past year, the chance to connect with other humans without technology between us. These last few rehearsals have truly been almost magical getting to sit outdoors and share ourselves and the music with one another. While the cast and audience will be maintaining physical distance for everyone's safety, we will all be sharing in the experience and the space with one another, and I think it is exactly what everyone needs right now."