

## New student lounge still in the planning phase

**JACK BOND**

**STAFF WRITER**

In November of last year, Arkansas State University Chancellor Dr. Kelly Dampousse announced plans to fill the empty space, where the bookstore had been previously, with a 24 hour study lounge. Students will be able to work freely on last minute assignments, gather for group projects, and have access to printers.

According to Chief Communications Officer Bill Smith, this is something that the university has wanted to do for a long time. "They talked about doing it in the library in the past; they talked about doing it in residence spaces in the past. But because that particular location has outdoor entry – it also has bathroom facilities – it has all the things you need for something that's going to be open and occupied 7

days a week, extra hours." He also noted that the location of the space further adds to the list of reasons it was chosen. Commuting students have nearby parking, while students on campus have an easy walk. It "checks all the boxes." In the summer before the plans were announced, Dampousse invited various student organizations to sit in on a meeting to discuss what they wanted for the study lounge. Among the

organizations invited was the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), of which Keyon Atkins is the president. Atkins says that the student organizations would talk to peers to see what they wanted from the space as well as give their own opinions on the matter. "We try to make sure that we listen to our fellow peers and other students about the kinds of things they want to see," Atkins said. "All that feedback we take into consideration and we try

to put out there to the faculty and staff so that they can better improve the campus for us." He further states that most student feedback was given prior to and shortly after the announcement, and that there has been little to no input from students recently. However, students can still give their input. When asked how students can do so, Bill Smith says that they can reach out to the leadership center or the Student Government

Association (SGA), go directly to the dean of students' office, or even send a suggestion to the chancellor himself. Students can reach out by finding the emails of members in the SGA or NPHC on the Astate website if they wish to get in contact with them. As of now, there is still no timeline or opening date for the new student lounge. The logistics of this project is still in discussion.

## Arkansas gets new non-emergency number

**REBECCA ROBINSON**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

The state of Arkansas announces at a Jan. 26. press conference with Governor Asa Hutchinson that their is a new number for state highway motorists to contact for non-emergency incidents.

The number is designed to report reckless driving, highway incidents or request non-emergency highway assistance.

State government agencies and three national wireless communication companies teamed up create the tool for

Arkansas drivers and anyone who may be traveling through the state. Arkansas has around 16,000 miles of U.S and state highways all of which will be covered under \*ASP (\*277)

The four digit number is available to AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon users. Calls will be sent to one of twelve Arkansas State Police Highway Patrol Division troop headquarters.

This number is for non-emergencies only and it is still the standard to dial 9-1-1 when emergency services are needed. All 9-1-1 calls will take priority over any \*277 calls.



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Questions?

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New Semester

Spring Break

Graduation

Mardi Gras

Groundhog

Vacation

Classes

Flowers

Rain

Pollen

Frog

Bees