

Arkansas State Celebrates Black History Month



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GARRETT HATCHER

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

As January 2022 comes to an end and we head into February, Arkansas State University looks forward to Black History Month. Before the month has even officially started, many groups have already started setting up events and publications to celebrate Black History Month. The Multicultural Center, Black Student Organization, Arkansas State University Museum, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Black Students Association and KLEK 102.5 are just a few of the groups

and organizations that are planning events for this month.

Nora Bouzihay, assistant director of Multicultural Affairs at A-State, has given a peek into the events of February in the most recent publication of the Multicultural Affairs newsletter. The Multicultural Center has also published all events for Black History Month for the many groups participating this year. The Multicultural Center has organized six events for this month along with a social media campaign for the month.

"Several of the Multicultural Center's events this year bring attention to health and wellness within the Black

community," Bouzihay said.

The Black History Month festivities began this year with the BHM Kickoff event Tuesday on the first floor of the Carl R. Reng Student Union building from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 3, the Multicultural Center will partner up with local radio station KLEK 102.5 for a mental health panel discussion lecture about Black families' health and wellness from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. that will be held in Centennial Hall of the Student Union.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, there will be a screening of the 1993 film "Sankofa" at the Multicultural Center

at the Student Union from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, there will be another panel discussion lecture for Black families' health and wellness taking place in Centennial Hall of the Student Union from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 26, the annual Living Legends reception and Evolve Fashion and Talent Showcase will be held in the auditorium of the Student Union that evening.

On Monday, Feb. 21, the Black Student association, led by President Jay Byrd, will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Mixer at the Multicultural Center to recognize minority

staff and create opportunities for staff and students to socialize. The event will start at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

The Arkansas State University Museum will also be hosting Black History Month activities every Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. These activities include reading the book "Follow the Drinking Gourd" by Jeanette Winter. A story where an abolitionist teaches songs that had "directional kinds of words" according to Jill Kary, Curator of Education, like "dead trees show you the way" and "the riverbank is a good road."

CONTINUED:
JUMP TEASER, 4A

"I want to be a facilitator of radical connection in humanity." Poet Carlos Andrés Gómez preforms at Arkansas State

JONATHAN SCHAUFLE

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

A sea of words could be heard throughout Riceland Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 25 as Colombian-American poet Carlos Andrés Gómez performed.

Gomez is known for being a spoken word poet, renowned for his poems. Gómez also starred in an episode of the HBO show titled, "Def Poetry Jam" (2002-2007.) As well as acting alongside Denzel Washington, Willem Dafoe and Jodie Foster in Spike Lee's award-winning movie, "Inside Man."

The event was presented by the Department of Theatre and the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement. Gómez performed several poems in Riceland Hall, covering a wide variety of topics.

"Even if people disagree with me or are uncomfortable with what I talk about, when we're in a room together and

are vulnerable and ourselves we can connect even if there are a lot of things that may be different about us," Gómez said.

Gómez is the author of "Hikito" which earned him the Foreword Indies Gold Medal and the International Book Award for Poetry in 2020. He has also written a memoir "Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood."

Before beginning his first poem, Gómez asked different people in the audience what they called their grandmothers. He then took all the names and related them to his Abuelita, the subject of his poems. Sharing a passage about a grandmother's love for their grandchild.

Gómez covered a variety of topics such as, disabilities, social identity, marriage equality and shared a poem about how he did not learn to read until he was nine-years-old.

While Gómez is a poet and loves sharing



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his writing, that is not his favorite part of performing. "To get up in front of a room full of strangers, to be vulnerable, to be silly, awkward and absurd. To feel that intense

connection and humanity in the room, there's just nothing like it," Gómez said.

After the show attendees spoke highly of Gómez and his performance.

CONTINUED:
JUMP, 4A

JONESBORO WEATHER ADVISORY

The National Weather Service has issued Winter Storm Warnings for Northeast Arkansas lasting until 12 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4.



NEWS, 3A

Details of the first Student Government Association meeting of the Spring 2022 Semester

Weekly campus crime. Turn to page 3A for campus crime stories.

Arkansas State's involvement with keeping endangered Red Wolves around.

OPINION, 2A

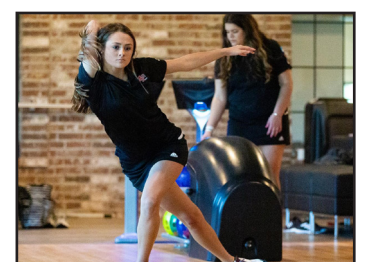
"Why Campus Goes Silent And Students Go Hungry" Written by Laura Carter

"The M&M's Redesign: Distinctive or Distraction?" Written by Lily Cabibi-Wilkin

Check out this weeks poll results "M&them"

SPORTS, 1B

This weeks sports roundup



The Bowling team finished 10th at the Prairie View Invitational with 200.4 pin average

LIFE, 2B & 3B

Welcoming back two NPHC organizations to campus

This weeks pop pick: Chosen by Lily Cabibi-Wilkin | Opinion Editor.

Weekly Horoscopes & more.

PHOTO, 4B



Take a look at "Inspired" Exhibition at the Bradbury Art Museum

Happening this month:

- Chinese New Year 2/1
- Groundhog Day 2/2
- Valentines Day 2/14
- Presidents' Day 2/21

Next Week:

Comeback next week for Valentines content, Olympic coverage, & more.