

College of Business to offer new living-learning community

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

A-State announced a new living-learning community for business students opening for the 2022-2023 year. Registration opened Feb. 7, with freshmen and sophomores to occupy the space.

The residence hall, called the Griffin House, will feature a common area, study rooms and a full kitchen. The dorm rooms will be suite-style. The residents will have access to the first year experience coordinator Kerry Tew, who will hold some office hours. In addition, the Interim Dean of the Neil Griffin College of Business, Dr. Jim Washam, will also hold office hours there. The idea was to make advisors accessible to students.

"I'm personally looking forward to getting to

know the first years a little bit better," Washam said.

Each year A-State Housing works with current living-learning communities to evaluate occupancy numbers, funding and to gauge faculty leadership interests and goals. The College of Business reached out to Housing to get a residence hall plan moving.

Juniors and seniors won't be able to apply to live in the Griffin House. The College of Business specifically chose freshmen and sophomores to live there to create an environment for bonding and mentorship.

"They plan to use (the Griffin House) as a mentorship opportunity and engagement outside of the classroom," said Natalie Eskew, Director of Housing.

The Griffin House will be located with other living-

learning communities, such as the Honors College. It will take over what is currently STEM Den, which is being combined with the ROTC living-learning community. ROTC will occupy the third floor and half of the second, while STEM students will be on the other half of the second floor and the first floor.

A-State has the largest chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a national business organization. They were interested in creating a space for business majors and plan to host events in this new residence hall. These events are meant to help freshmen bond, but will be open to all upperclassmen as well.

To gauge students' wants and preferences for a new living-learning community, the College of Business had A-State Housing speak with freshmen classes. Afterwards, Washam,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

An example of a living-learning community building that freshman and sophomore business students will occupy

Dr. Philip Tew, associate professor of finance and Melanie Ricker, a financial wellness intern, toured the current living-learning communities to get an idea of the building's layout.

With a combination of first-year-experience classes,

similar coursework, student organization programming and financial wellness courses, the College of Business wants this new living-learning community to be a place where freshmen can network and build relationships.

"I think it's going to help

the students, especially the first years, because they come in and they know people already in there," Washam said. "I think it's going to help connect them to the university a lot and make them more comfortable going forward."

Dr. Jenkins named finalist in international music composition competition

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NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Derek Jenkins, an assistant professor of music and coordinator of music theory and composition, has been named a finalist in the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles composition competition. WASBE is an international competition featuring submissions from all levels of music composition.

The entries are sorted into three categories. Category one is for pieces intended for a middle school to junior high band. Category two is geared toward high school and early college bands. Category three's pieces are written for upper level college and professional bands. There are a total of nine finalists, three for each category. Dr. Jenkins's piece falls under category two.

WASBE occurs every other year with this year taking place in Prague. The

submissions are rated by a panel of judges and audience voting. First, second and third place winners are announced.

While each category has its own standards, all submissions are judged by some agreed upon benchmarks, such as range, instrument availability, difficulty of rhythm and the ability of any musician in the ensemble to solo. For example, a category one piece would be expected to use fewer types of instruments and range, while a category three piece would have greater range, more difficult rhythm and a wider range of instruments.

Jenkins submitted his piece titled "Rock Bottom" to WASBE himself.

"It popped up on one of the sites that I normally frequent, as far as competitions and things like that go and so I was like, 'Yeah, I've got a piece that could probably work for this,'" Jenkins said.

"Rock Bottom" was written

for the 90th anniversary of A-State's band program. Jenkins was inspired by the stock market crash of 1929 and wanted to juxtapose that with the creation of the band program.

"The imagery of the stock crash was exciting as a composer," Jenkins said. "Imagine that system that seems very complicated, crashing. Those images seem very ripe for a kind of a musical depiction."

The piece starts off fast-paced to symbolize the rise of the stock market, before becoming frantic and eventually turning into just a few background solos. "Rock Bottom" ends on an uplifting note to represent how one can only go up after hitting their rock bottom.

Jenkins says that this compares to the journey of A-State bands, who started off with just 16 members. Over the course of 90 years however, the band program has grown to include athletic

bands, three different spring bands, alongside regional and national performances.

"I was thinking if it's truly the worst, if that's the bottom that we're gonna hit, it can only get better. If you look at the 1929-1930 year, that's kind of the rock bottom moment for the bands and they only went up from there," Jenkins said.

This is the first time Jenkins has been nominated as a finalist for an international competition. He said the competition would provide him exposure, which could lead him to more opportunities in the music world, such as writing pieces for international composers.

"It's kind of exciting because it's like the piece has grown beyond a little bit. It's out in the world doing its thing," Jenkins said. "That can lead to some really exciting exchanges between myself and conductors in the United States or even beyond."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Will McLean accepts associate vice chancellor for faculty relations position

ARKANSAS STATE

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Will McLean has accepted the position as associate vice chancellor for faculty relations at Arkansas State University, Provost Alan Utter announced this week.

An associate professor in political science at A-State, McLean begins his new position in charge of oversight of faculty development, curricular processes, and serving as the primary liaison with the faculty for the Division of Academic Affairs and Research (AAR).

"For this position it was extremely important to select a candidate who had extensive experience as a member of our faculty, both to represent their point of view within Academic Affairs but to also bring expert knowledge of the current demands of both the

classroom and research activities to the Provost's Office," Utter said. "I am honored that Dr. McLean will step out of his current academic appointment and into our administration."

The position will work with deans, associate deans and department heads to support faculty recruitment, curricular needs, successful promotion and tenure processes, and general professional development.

"I am honored to be selected as the inaugural AVCFR to help elevate the faculty voice to a place of prominence on campus. This institution was built on faculty excellence and I hope to help extend that long standing tradition," McLean said. "I am acutely aware of the role faculty play in student success and am excited to get started assisting them in these endeavors. A-State is truly a place where faculty can have a lasting impact

for generations to come and I am so happy to be a part of that."

The AVC for Faculty Relations will chair A-State's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and serve as the provost's liaison to the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) as well as serving on selected commissions, committees and task forces. The position will also be charged with creation of new degree or certificate programs and managing their submission to ADHE. McLean will also coordinate several faculty oriented programs from AAR including New Faculty Orientation, the Fall Faculty Conference, and the Faculty Honors Convocation each spring.

CONTINUED:
JUMP, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 13 | 2:47 a.m.

Officer Dustin Mitchell was traveling south on University Loop passing Pack Place when he observed what appeared to be a woman chasing another woman near the entrance to the parking lot. He pulled into the parking lot and made contact with suspect one who appeared to be intoxicated. She was screaming and stumbling while trying to maintain balance. Suspect one was escorted to Officer Mitchell's patrol car and detained due to her level of intoxication. He then made contact with witness one who said that she was suspect one's sister and she picked her up from the Midnight Rodeo. EMS was then contacted to come and check on the welfare of suspect one. Emerson EMS

arrived on scene and cleared her. Suspect one was then released into the custody of her sister to ensure her safety.

Feb. 9 | 12:22 p.m.

Officer Billy Branch arrived at 119 S Caraway Road for a report of a parking lot hit and run accident. Victim one stated that he parked the listed vehicle around 6:45 a.m. At 3:00 p.m. he returned to the vehicle and found that the rear bumper and tail light had been damaged. There were the remains of another broken tail light next to his vehicle that did not belong to his vehicle. There was nothing that could ID the suspect vehicle. There are also no cameras in the area to review.

Feb. 9 | 11:45 a.m.

Officer Terry Phipps responded to the Pi Kappa Fraternity House in reference to a criminal mischief complaint. Sometime during the previous

night while some vehicles were parked and unoccupied, someone drove through the parking lot throwing eggs at four different vehicles.

The eggs were discovered and some paint damage was noted. A review of camera footage within the immediate area will be conducted.

Feb. 8 | 6:05 p.m.

Officer Takeem Bowman was dispatched to 101 N Caraway Road in reference to suspect one threatening victim one. Upon arrival, victim one stated that suspect one threatened him stating, "something is going to change, if you keep f***** with me." Victim one stated that suspect one was terminated and asked to leave due to the incident. Victim one was advised of his rights in case he wanted to pursue anything criminally.