

Former professor and Ukraine native gives perspective on Russian/Ukrainian conflict.



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Former Arkansas State University professor and Ukrainian native, Dr. Alexander Sydorenko, presents "Russia and Ukraine: A Civilizational Perspective" at the 2022 Corrine Sternheimer Greenfield Lecture. Sydorenko gave his thoughts on relations and history between Ukraine and Russia in the auditorium at the Reng Student Union on Tuesday. Born in Soviet Ukraine, which at the time was occupied by the German army during World War II, Sydorenko was able to give a unique perspective.

"The General assumption was that Ukraine would be overrun in five days and that Kyiv will fall in about three days upon which the states and the western world would see what happens and see what they do next. They totally miscalculated what Ukraine is. The reason for that is the western world has never really taken interest in Ukraine. Everything is Russia," Sydorenko said. Russian President Vladimir Putin gave the order to invade Ukraine on Feb. 21, gaining international attention and imposition of sanctions on Russia. "For Putin, Ukraine occupies

a particular part of his psyche. Much of what you call Russian identity or Russian sense of self is connected to Ukraine. The fact that Ukraine since '91 has been a sovereign state somehow becomes an obsession," Sydorenko said. He went on to say that Putin has had a repeated behavior but has only received "a slap on the wrist." "This is something that he thought he could do. It was a fatal mistake on his part," Sydorenko said. "Putin will fail." Sydorenko worked as an A-State department of history faculty member for 48 years. He joined the history

faculty in 1972 teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. He also served as Faculty Association president. He received A masters and Ph.D. in Russian and Ukrainian history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Ukraine right now for all practical purposes is NATO without being in NATO. Ukraine is doing what NATO is technically supposed to do. I'm very appreciative as a native of Ukraine and a citizen of this country that the United States is doing what they are doing. Ukraine has essentially stopped the Russians and the next phase is counter attacking.

Ukraine is fully equipped for that." Sydorenko said. After the Lecture there was an open Q and A sponsored by KASU for those in attendance. "The problem with the United States and the West is their response in helping the military with defeating the Russians was slow. It is still slow today. Having it come earlier would have made a difference. Had the west for example set sanctions on Russia before the invasion that would have made a difference but they didn't." Sydorenko said

LGBTQ+ faculty association coming to A-State

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State University is in the process of adding another faculty association for LGBTQ+ staff. The idea started when Dr. Christine Wright, chair of the occupational therapy department, read about A-State's Latinx and Black Faculty and Staff Associations in the Daily Digest.

"It was a group of folks who had come together to say this is a need on campus," said Dr. Evette Allen-Moore, assistant vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement and director of multicultural affairs. "When you think about underrepresented groups of various backgrounds, it's important for them to have space to talk about their concerns and needs."

The organization is currently in its planning phase. There was an initial interest meeting on March 3, with 33 faculty and staff in attendance. On April 11, there will be an initial membership meeting. Over spring break,



The LGBTQ+ Pride flag.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VOLVO GROUP

the applications, constitution and bylaws were written. It is currently unknown what the organization will be called, although names such as LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Association and LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Association are in the running. "We want to pick a name because as society goes along,

there are different (identities)," Wright said. "Right now, it's LGBTQ+, meaning we leave it open up whatever comes along, but maybe other folks want it to have the 'QIA' on it." The organization's goals, yearly dues, and bylaws will be discussed by potential members. In addition, the organization will decide if they

want to work with the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, a registered student organization. Wright said she thought it "would be a great partnership" and would allow the students to have adult role models. "If you don't see people who identify as you do on the campus, sometimes it can be hard to find your space.

The impact for students will certainly be, 'Oh, wow, there are people who I can identify with right on faculty and staff,'" Allen-Moore said.

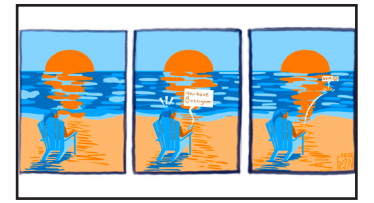
The association will act as a place for faculty and staff to voice their concerns and opinions and serve as a support group. Wright, Allen-Moore and others involved with the planning want this organization to help make A-State more inclusive and to improve campus culture.

Wright said having formal, diverse groups supported by A-State was a big step toward improving campus culture. She said it shows everyone on campus is valued and contributes to the betterment of campus.

"If we're going to achieve that strategic plan of having a globally connected university, then we've got to reach out and speak to the globe," Wright said. "That includes members of the LGBTQIA community. You can't really achieve a goal unless you're willing to develop the culture that will do that."

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- Art Block: Our Ideal Spring Break
- A Step in the mask direction

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- A-State Trumpets compete in largest same-instrument competition in the world
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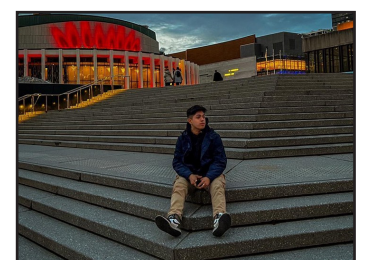


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LIFE, 2B & 3B

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- Horoscopes

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