

Dr. Kelly Damphousse to leave A-State

REBECCA ROBINSON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Arkansas State University Chancellor Dr. Kelly Damphousse announced resignation on Thursday.

Damphousse will be officially stepping down from duties effective June 30, 2022. He will become the 10th president at Texas State University in San Marcos starting on July 1, 2022. Damphousse joined A-State in 2017 serving A-State for five years.

Damphousse via email to all students, faculty and staff announced, "I wanted you to be among the first to hear that I will be stepping down as Chancellor at Arkansas State University, Today, I will be announced as the sole finalist to become the 10th president at Texas State University, located in San Marcos, Texas."

Chancellor's ambassador Larry Turner, a junior pre-med student from North Little Rock initially wondered if the email served as an early April fools joke.

"I was like, 'He's leaving? Dang.' I thought 'This would be the April fools joke of the century.' Then I saw Texas state post it on their Instagram and was like 'Aw my man Dr. Damphousse entered the transfer portal.' I'm gonna miss him."

Turner's favorite memory with Dr. Damphousse is when he first met him his freshman year when Dr. Damphousse was visiting Arkansas hall.

"He always takes selfies with students and I was like dang, I never got a selfie with Dr. Damphousse so I asked him and he took one and texted it to me. I thought it was really cool to meet him for the first time." Turner said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Kelly Damphousse will become the 10th president at Texas State University.

Damphousse's wife grew up in central Texas. He attended graduate school at Texas A&M University. The new position at Texas State allows the Chancellor and his wife to move closer to family.

"I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the current and former ASU System Board of Trustees under whom I had the privilege to serve. We will also forever be grateful for the leadership of ASU System President Chuck Welch, whose guidance, compassion, mentor-ship, faith and good humor has sustained us both during our time at A-State," Damphousse said.

Chancellor's ambassadors are in charge of giving tours around campus. One of Bailey Blackmon's, a sophomore

biology major from Perryville, Arkansas, favorite parts of giving the tours involves Damphousse.

"My favorite part is during campus tours passing the administration building and saying 'If you look to the left if the chancellor is in his office he'll wave. I think it was very exciting for us because it was like part of the tour to tell them, 'Hey, if you see him on campus, he's going to take a picture with you'" said Blackmon.

Another chancellor's ambassador hopes to see the next chancellor keep the same way of connecting to students Cindy Campos, a strategic communications major from Batesville, Arkansas.

"No matter who it is you are getting that position, you get respect just for having the

position. But then like, you're respected but you're not like connecting. If you're not doing what Kelly did and actually like to talk to people," said Blackmon.

Chuck Welch who walked alongside Damphousse has begun the process of visiting with campus constituency groups to start the process of seeking out the next A-State Chancellor.

"This is certainly a bittersweet moment as we hate to lose the Damphousse family at A-State, but we are also proud of them for this new opportunity and the ability to live closer to family. Kelly has been a trusted colleague and friend, and I always knew that his top priority was our students and their success," said Welch.

Welch began working at Arkansas State on April 23,

2011. He was named the second president of the ASU System in November 2010.

"I am currently working with the leadership of the faculty and staff senates to develop the official position announcement. Following these steps, and after consultation with the committee, I will make public announcements about the search timeline," said Welch.

"We are comforted by the fact that President Welch and our campus leadership team will continue to move us forward. We will never forget our time here, and we will cherish these final three months that we will get to spend with our Arkansas family. We will forever be Red Wolves," said Damphousse.

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A



- Why Late Release Dates Are Good For Games: A History
- Disappointed With Lack of Diversity at Grammy Awards
- Check out the poll results of "Who you think is right in the Academy Awards Slapping Incident?"

NEWS, 3A

- Office of Multicultural Affairs hosts Purpose of the Plate
- Korean Student Association hosts Squid Games
- Campus Crime

NEWS, 4A

- A-State celebrates annual Day of Giving
- The Yard opens, students visiting over past few weeks

SPORTS, 1B



- Sports Roundup
- Upcoming events calendar

LIFE, 2B & 3B

- Arab American Heritage Month
- Club Spotlight: Vietnamese Student Association
- On The (Bike) Trail Again

• Turning Red

• Horoscopes

PHOTO, 4B



- Spring Has Finally Arrived at A-State

Panel discusses Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy and Local issues

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Monday was the 54th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Three screenings of the documentary "At the River I Stand" were shown in the Reng Student Union Auditorium. Following the screenings, a panel discussion was held at 7 p.m.

Panel guests included Emma Agnew, Dr. James D. Conway, Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch and Rev. Dr. Ray Scales. The panel was moderated by Dr. Lillie fears.

Agnew who is from Memphis was a sophomore in high school at the time of King's death. She is currently the president of the Craighead County Branch of the NAACP. When Dr. King was shot, Agnew was watching T.V. with her family.

"He was a leader, he was a true leader, he was the type of leader that if you're fortunate to be in the same century or the same lifetime as a leader of his caliber you are blessed,"

said Agnew. "They just don't make leaders like that. I have not known one since. When we learned he was dead it was a tremendous sadness."

Sponsors for the event were the African American Studies Program, the School of Media and Journalism, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. The crowd was able to ask their own questions to the panelists after giving their initial thoughts on the screening.

Conway is an assistant professor of history and coordinator of African American studies. Who lived in Memphis for "a number of years" and attended graduate school in the city. The Memphis civil rights activities were his research for his doctorate.

"Memphis in many ways has never gotten over the legacy of King being assassinated there and in most parts it's because the nation and the world has never allowed them to move



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

From left to right: Dr. James D. Conway, Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Emma Agnew and Rev. Dr. Ray Scales.

on from that." said Conway. Conway attended all three screenings of "At the River I stand." The documentary recounts the two months leading to the death of King. It follows the 65-day strike of 1300

Memphis sanitation workers. "(When watching) I'm also reminded about the workers. This is about people who are fighting for a livable wage. I think we forget, we focus so much on Dr. King, which we

should, but two men died in those sanitation strikes and I think we have to remember that too." Conway said.

CONTINUED:

4A