Overview of student Title IX resources

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

Four instances of rape took place on campus in 2021, according to the Arkansas State University Annual Security Report. According to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), only 20% of female students report instances of sexual violence to law enforcement.

A-State students have resources when it comes to sexual violence, with the main one being the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity. This office oversees cases regarding sex or gender based discrimination which can include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and dating violence.

Perdeta Bush, the Title IX and institutional equity coordinator, said "one out of every five college-aged women are sexually assaulted every year." Bush also said many cases of sexual violence are not reported because victims do not want to go through hearings or other legal procedures.

"People don't have to do anything in order to receive resources and support. They'll still get that whether they want to file a formal complaint or not," she said.

Information is released on a need-to-know basis. Bush said she tries to keep everything as confidential as possible.

The Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity is required to be unbiased. They are also required to offer resources and support to both survivors and the accused party.

Bush said Title IX instances can be difficult processes, so any party dealing with a charge can get support through her office.

Students who have experienced sexual violence have the option of reaching out to the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity. The phone number is **870-972-2015** and the email is **title9@astate.edu**. Bush can also be reached directly with the email **pbush@astate.edu**.

Walk-ins are also accepted for reports or questions. The office is located in the Administration Building in Suite 104.

The University Police Department can also handle instances of sexual violence that take place on campus.

Bill Smith, the chief communications officer and public information officer for UPD, said that the University Police Department is, "committed to making sure that victims have the full protection that they are entitled to."

Victims can go through Title IX, or they can report the incident to UPD by calling their non-emergency number **870-972-2093**, or by calling **911**.

The Counseling Center can also be a resource for students dealing with instances of sexual violence. While many staff and faculty are mandated reporters, those at the Counseling Center can keep information regarding sexual violence confidential.

The Counseling Center may refer students to the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity if they think it appropriate.

Devin Nelson, a student life counselor at the Counseling Center said "we will often get students in here who have not made a report, are not ready to make a report, aren't even sure what to do next. Sometimes we're the first place that they come."

Students can go to the Counseling Center when they have experienced sexual violence in order to get emotional support. The counselors can provide students with coping skills.

In addition, there are individual counseling sessions and support groups that students can utilize.

The Counseling Center can be contacted by email with **counseling@astate.edu** or by phone with **870-972-2318**. The Counseling Center is located in the Reng Student Center in Room 2203.

"Our motto here is that every Red Wolf counts and if every Red Wolf really does count, then we have a responsibility to create a campus community where people feel safe and supported," Bush said. "It's everyone's responsibility."



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity is located in the Administration Building in Suite 104.

Brittany Hirsch selected as Jim and Betty Sloan scholarship recipient

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Brittany Hirsch of Thayer, Missouri, has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the Jim and Betty Sloan Scholarship in the College of Agriculture at Arkansas State University.

As she explained to the scholarship selection committee, she has a "lifelong career goal" of becoming a large animal veterinarian and returning to her hometown to open her own practice.

Hirsch is working on a double major in animal science and biological sciences. She expects to graduate in May 2024.

The scholarship provides $2,000 per semester for four semesters as long as she maintains a minimum GPA. Mason Laws of Cabot, the 2021 recipient, will continue to receive scholarship funds during his senior year.

Hirsch is the daughter of Larry and Betty Hirsch and a 2020 graduate of Thayer High School, where she earned 23 college credits before enrolling at A-State.

While in high school, she also earned the American FFA Degree, based on her award-winning record of raising and showing special breeds of beef cattle. The honor is the highest bestowed by the national student organization, an honor for which she was also recognized by the Missouri House of Representatives.

She has also been a learning group leader in the A-State peer-to-peer tutoring program known as Learning Commons. Hirsch interns at SMART Reproductions, a Jonesboro company specializing in the worldwide export of sheep and goat semen and embryos.

The scholarship was first established with the Arkansas State University System Foundation in 1979 by the Craighead County Farm Bureau in memory of Jim Sloan, a Jonesboro native who served for 10 years on the Arkansas Farm Bureau board of directors.

After Jim's death at age 56, his widow, Betty, continued his stewardship of the family land holdings and made her own mark as a community volunteer. She received a Distinguished Service Award from the College of Agriculture in 1992 and was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2007. When she died in 2014, her name was added to the scholarship.

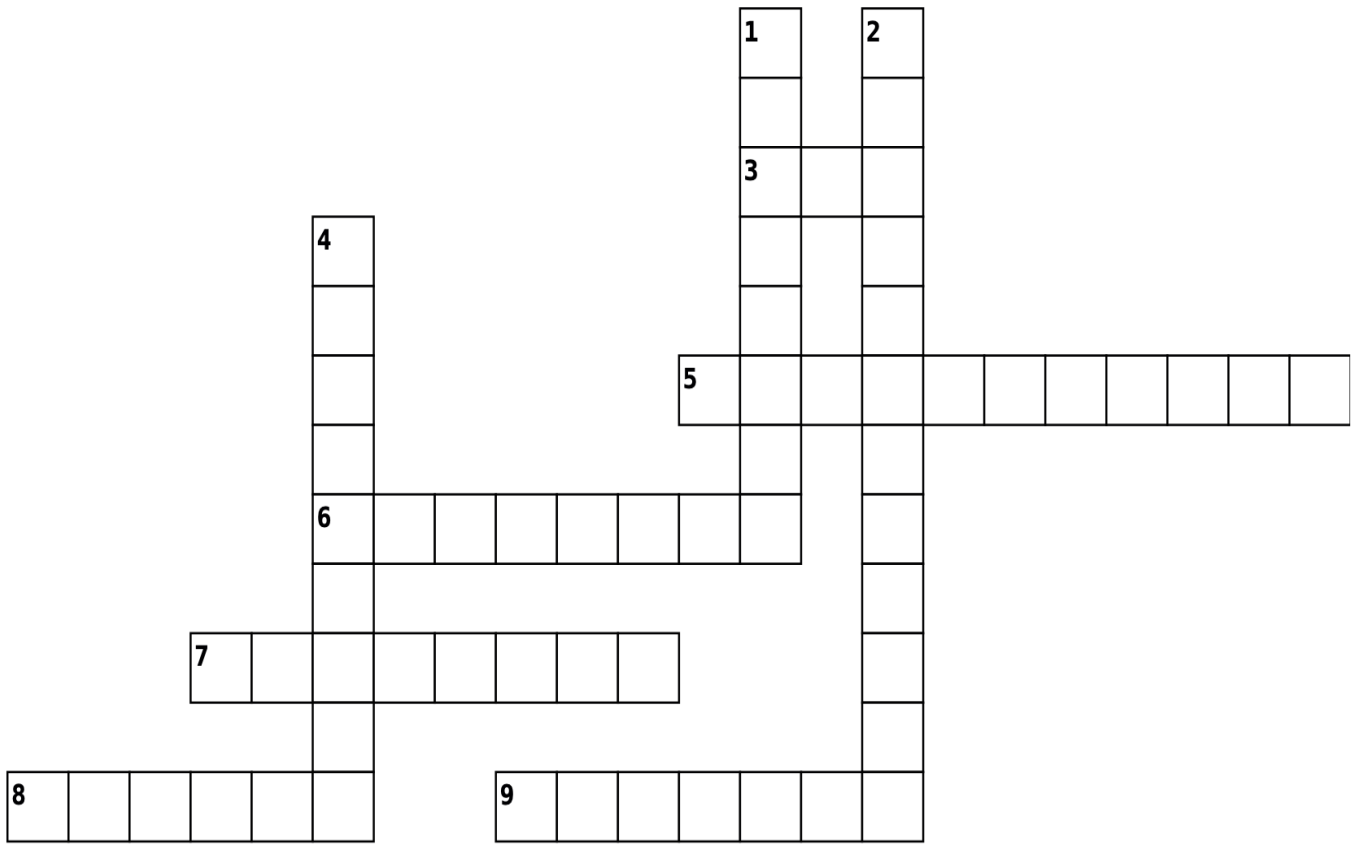
The couple's six children continue to support the endowment. Two of them, John Sloan and Kitty Sloan, serve on the selection committee along with Jeffrey Tubbs, president of the Craighead County Farm Bureau.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Brittany Hirsch, the Jim and Betty Sloan Scholarship recipient

This week's crossword puzzle



Down

1. a room or area where food is prepared and cooked
2. the branch of physics and technology concerned with the design of circuits using transistors and microchips, and with the behavior and movement of electrons in a semiconductor, conductor, vacuum, or gas
4. a prediction or estimate of future events, especially coming weather or a financial trend

Across

3. the largest art museum in the Americas, located in New York City
5. a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest
6. a musical performance given in public typically by several performers or of several separate compositions
7. something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; a novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, especially a murder
8. a mythical creature; a man with a goat's ears, tail, legs, and horns.
9. an ornamental tree or shrub grown in a pot and artificially prevented from reaching its normal size