

HONORS, CONTINUED

Rebecca Oliver is the current director of the Honors College. She has dedicated her time to making the

honors experience immersive. The Honors Office is on the first floor of the library. Located in the office is the Honors

Lounge, which features a coffee and snack bar as a 'pick me up' for its students throughout the day. As it's located in the

office, it also offers easy access to Honors officers that can help and mentor struggling students. "In Honors, we hope that

students feel loved," Oliver said. All other information related to the Honors college can be found on the

Arkansas State website, as well as contact information.

Cooper Alumni Center hosts Pancakes and PJ's



Photo by Jessica McMillan | Photo Editor

As students return from Thanksgiving, the holiday season is finally upon us. The Cooper Alumni Center chose to mark this occasion with their annual Pancakes and PJ's with Santa and Howl on Saturday morning.

The event was open to all in the area. Jonesboro locals, alums, faculty and staff gathered with their families for the seventh iteration of the event. Pajama wear was encouraged. The tradition included food and holiday festivities, it was like Christmas morning.

"I started this event in 2016 as an alumni and community engagement event for the alumni association," said Lindsay Burnett, executive director of alumni relations, "It's a great way to kick-off the holiday season. We have a sell out crowd every single year."

The event has a limit of 500 tickets and this year was another sell out crowd. Highlights included Christmas crafts and an appearance from Howl and Scarlett.

The Alumni Association did not make any money from the event, "This is strictly an alumni and community engagement event," Burnett said. All proceeds went to the expense of the event.

The most popular visitors this year were Mr. and Mrs. Claus. "My kids loved getting the photo with Santa and Howl," said Jason Eccles, an alum. "I'm glad I stayed in the area after graduation." The next Alumni Association event will be Bubbles & Bingo on Jan. 21.

Alan Utter to step down as provost and executive

vice chancellor

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Alan Utter is stepping down as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and research at Arkansas State University at the close of the fall 2022 semester, Chancellor Todd Shields announced this week.

"We thank Alan for his work here at Arkansas State, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors," Shields said.

Utter will assume his faculty appointment and take a sabbatical for the spring 2023 semester to prepare for returning to the classroom in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences.

"I want to take a moment to thank Chancellor Shields for graciously accepting my decision," Utter said. "It has been both an honor and privilege to serve the university as provost over the last three-and-a-half years."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Alan Utter

Chancellor Shields will serve as the acting provost while plans for a search committee are finalized and the potential for an interim provost are evaluated. Utter joined A-State in April 2019 following two years as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas

Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Utter previously was the vice provost for research at Appalachian State University. While at App State, he was the founding director of the university office of student research and had a lengthy tenure as a professor in the department of health and education.

Jana Haskins appointed as director of Beck Center for Veterans

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Jana Haskins is the new director of the Beck Center for Veterans at Arkansas State University, announced Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

A graduate of A-State in 1994, Haskins succeeds long-time center director Lynda Nash, who retired earlier this year.

"We are excited to have Jana Haskins join our team as

director of the Beck Center for Veterans. Haskins brings high energy, a wealth of experience, and longstanding ties to A-State and the greater Jonesboro communities," Gordon said. "Moreover, she comes from a military family, which fuels her strong passion to enhance the health and welfare of veterans, active military members, and their families at A-State as well as in Northeast Arkansas and beyond."

He added, "We are forever

grateful for Lynda Nash's past decade of excellent leadership as director, which built the center into what it is today. We look forward to further expanding upon that vision under Haskins' leadership as director."

Haskins joins A-State after 12 years with St. Bernards Medical Center, most recently serving with SBMC's Counseling Center. She also has served as an adjunct professor in the A-State social work program since 2015. Haskins

has experience as a therapist and clinical director with clinics and groups located in the Northeast Arkansas region.

Following graduation with her bachelor's in social work from A-State, she completed her master's degree from the University of Tennessee.

"I am so excited to be part of the Pack at A-State. My short time as director of the Beck Center for Veterans has been nothing short of amazing," Haskins commented.

"I look forward to working with everyone and watching the growth and progress of the Beck Center and the increase of veterans served."

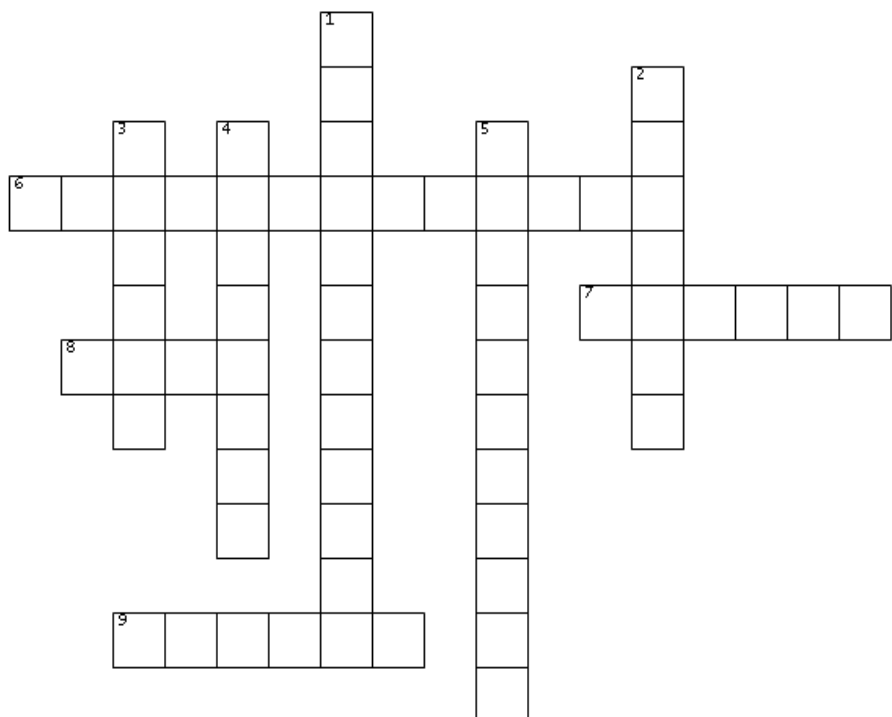
The Beck Center for Veterans is now located in its new facility within the Turner Military Science Building, occupying an expanded space from its previous location at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Health Sciences.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Jana Haskins

This week's crossword puzzle: New Year's edition



ACROSS

6. In the American South, eating these are said to bring good luck for the new year
7. 2023 will be the year of this animal, according to the Chinese zodiac
8. In German-speaking Europe, small pieces of this metal are heated and cast into cold water to make predictions for the upcoming year
9. In Spain, twelve of this fruit are eaten to represent the twelve strikes of the clock on New Year's Eve

DOWN

1. the traditional song for ringing in the New Year in almost every English speaking country
2. punch-like drink named after the Gaelic term for "good health," is served in some parts of England for the new year
3. For the new year in Denmark, these are thrown against the doors of family and friends to banish evil spirits
4. takes place in Times Square, where a large ball descends down a pole counting down to midnight
5. tradition in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year