

## A-State Switching from Blackboard to Canvas

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STAFF WRITER

In September 2022, Arkansas State University announced that the switch from Blackboard to Canvas was to commence at the beginning of the semester and was to be expected to join alongside other A-State school systems.

A-State in the past 10 years has utilized Blackboard, seen as its home learning management system (LMS), and through its evolution other systems and respondents have been widely accepted by other high education programs and institutes.

Others such as Canvas and BrightShare were proposed as a “testing sandbox” alongside Blackboard, for A-State to review and compare.

The LMS reviews and surveys about the required and requested functionalities of the systems to better students academic sense has been conducted and since the latest review, Dr. William P. McLean, vice chancellor for faculty relations, said in a press release for the announcement of the switchover in 2022, “Canvas brings several extras to the table, most notably being designed and optimized for mobile devices.” Canvas is a cloud-based LMS with its intention to make teaching and learning experiences easier and accessible.

It is designed to be used online and on any mobile device. Benefits consist of



Arkansas State will be switching from Blackboard to Canvas as announced in September. The official transition date is July 1 2023.

automatic updates, full backup systems, its ultra-reliability and automatically increasing resources as it’s 100% scalable.

A-State’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and A-State Online will host four canvas seminars, in which the training sessions will consist of virtual workshops on content creation, creating and uploading engaging content, 90-minute workshops on learning to properly page and utilize links, workshops for learning to add documents

and media, checking for accessibility and much more. The session will be throughout this week, beginning February, 6-9 p.m. The seminars will be located in Suite 301 of the Dean B. Ellis Library.

For how A-State students feel about the transition, emotions vary from excitement, nervousness and sight concern. “For me, I personally am unsure at the moment of how I feel about the switch but I think I could possibly help benefit in the future,” said

Dustyn Odom, a sophomore in fine arts from Paragould.

“I’ve used Blackboard since I was in high school because of concurrent classes. I never liked using it because of how hard it is to navigate where school work is. I am excited for the switch to Canvas,” said Emma King, first-year computer science major from Jonesboro.

“I was kind of worried when I first learned about the switch from Blackboard to Canvas, just because it’s a whole application that I haven’t used

before. Even though I never really liked Blackboard, I found it easy to learn and use. But, I have heard that Canvas is a lot better than Blackboard, so I’m hoping for the best,” said Taylor Abernathy, sophomore English major from Jonesboro.

The official transition date is July 1. Since summer I courses fall before this deadline, they will be offered on Blackboard, while those that overlap this date, full term summer classes and summer II courses, will be offered on Canvas.

University Housing’s room selection process kicks off on Wednesday with “Room Reclaim,” for students who want to retain their current space for the 2023-2024 school year. Students living in a space eligible for reclaim received an email with information on how to sign up.

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## The African American Experience Yearbook Snapshots from 1956-2013

REBECCA ROBINSON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lillie Fears, professor of multimedia journalism Ph.D., opened an exhibit at the A-State museum with a lecture entitled “The African American Experience at A-State: Yearbook Snapshots from 1956-2013”

The exhibit explored African American representation in A-State yearbooks and on campus. Highlighting the first Black faculty, students, association, homecoming court and more.

“I want to make it clear that yearbooks do not represent the complete picture. Still, they provide a summarized glimpse of what happened over the years,” Fears said.

The project began as a class project for her fall 2021 qualitative research methods graduate course though has been ongoing since then and still a work in progress. She assisted 12 students in researching.

The students split into groups with different topics such as sports, A-State mascot, international students and the African American experience. The projects were presented at the 2022 Delta Symposium.

“They were looking through

the yearbooks and they were all over the place. I always try to get them to enter the Delta Symposium. I really let them do what they wanted to do and then we condensed it into four projects and we submitted them.” Fears said. “Once I saw what they were interested in I combined projects.”

After the Delta Symposium, A-State Museum director Michael Reinschmidt said he was interested in having an exhibit with student work.

“He told me he was interested and I hadn’t got back to him so he ran me down in June. I meant to get back, I kept that note in my fridge for a long time. So that’s kind of how it happened. I’ve been looking at yearbooks forever.” Fears said.

“I realized that as many times as I’ve taken classes to the museum for tours, I had not paid attention to how the current permanent exhibits do not address the Black experience at A-State in any detail,” said Fears in the A-State News Release.

The exhibit has photographs and information hanging on the wall that shows some of the photos and information discussed in the lecture. The exhibit is available now for viewing in the museum.

The museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The ASU Museum has over 70,000 objects and collections in Natural History, Archaeology and History.

The lecture took place in the A-State Museum auditorium with approximately 40 in attendance. The event was also live streamed by KLEK.

One of the students, Travis Moore, a fifth year vocal music education major from Forest City, came to the event after hearing about it through meetings on campus and the Black History Month calendar.

“I thought it was really interesting to hear about the emergence of different Black organizations like United Voices, the organization I’m a part of that I serve as president of,” Moore said.

United Voices has an event on February 28 at 7 p.m. at Unity Park to contribute to Black History Month on campus, said Moore.

“It will honor those who came before us in song. We will have a speaker. It will be a really short, simple ceremony but very impactful.” Moore said.

For more photos and information visit [astatetheherald.com](http://astatetheherald.com).

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Photo by Rebecca Robinson | Editor-in-Chief  
Lillie Fears, Ph.D. Presenting at the A-State Museum Auditorium.

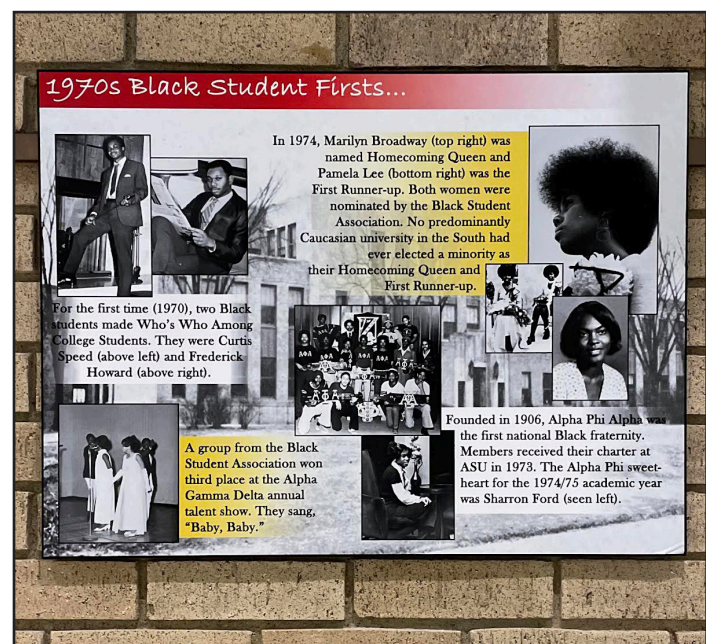


Photo by Rebecca Robinson | Editor-in-Chief  
A part of the exhibit at the A-State Museum detailing Black students first in the 1970s.

### Sodexo Offering Big Game Party Packs

Sunday’s big game is approaching and Sodexo has your game day food. Place your order for 12-piece wings (choice of BBQ, Buffalo, or lemon pepper), mac and cheese, celery and carrot sticks, and two cups of ranch, all for the price of \$20.

COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

### Elite Valentines

#### Dinner Reservations

Sodexo Dining Services will host an Elite Valentine’s Dinner on Feb. 10, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Reservations are being accepted through Feb. 7. For \$40, receive a three-course meal for two, enjoy live music and a photo booth.

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### Room Reclaim Begins

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#### NEWS, 3A

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- Campus Crime

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- There is not a moment to spare when it come to bowling

#### ARTS & E, 2B

- Grammy Awards 2023

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- Here at A-State