

Gender and Sexuality Alliance reignites with June in January

“I didn’t realize how many people wanted something like this on campus.”

RACHEL RUDD
NEWS EDITOR

The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) at Arkansas State University kicked off the spring semester with June in January, a Pride event that aimed to bring LGBTQ+ students and allies together.

“When we were trying to figure out what events we wanted to submit for this semester, we thought ‘it’s so sad that June isn’t during the school year, because that’s Pride Month,’” said Trin Reppenhagen, a first-year graphic design major from Searcy and GSA president. “Most Pride type of events will be held and none of us are together during June because school is not in.”

June in January is not the first event the GSA has held this year. In the fall, they partnered with the Multicultural Center and hosted a seminar about being a better ally.

Taking place on Jan. 18, the event began at 6 p.m. Students in attendance made friendship bracelets while “a very queer playlist” played in the background and plates of

cake were passed around. At 7 p.m. Reppenhagen gave a presentation on LGBTQ+ history. The event concluded with a game of Kahoot.

“Ideas just kind of snowballed off each other. We knew we wanted to do a presentation, do some educational stuff. (We wondered), ‘what else do we do? So we were like, okay, music and friendship bracelets. That’s kind of fruity,’” said Charlyze Griffin, a first-year graphic design major from Cabot and the social media manager of GSA.

Forty people attended the event.

“This is our biggest since I started in the fall. This is the biggest turnout that we’ve had,” said Christine Wright, department chair of occupational therapy and faculty advisor for GSA. “Our first meeting we had about 22 people there, but you know as the semester gets started and when people are new to campus, sometimes that dwindles. To have this many people here is very exciting.”

Since the GSA does not have funding yet, everything for June in January had to be paid for out of pocket.

The event cost around \$200. Reppenhagen wanted to get the GSA back up and running after touring A-State. They learned Nora Bouzihay, former interim director of the Multicultural Center, was working on restarting the organization and helped make up a mailing list and create an executive board.

“I hope the event makes people know we exist because a lot of people, since we did essentially just start last semester, they don’t know it exists,” Reppenhagen said. “I’m trying to boost our rep and make people know that we exist and that we’re here. We’re a resource on campus for queer people that need it.”

Wright said it was exciting to provide a Pride event for students.

“I want people to know that they’re not isolated and that this university supports the LGBTQIA community, although we were not as big as maybe some other communities on campus, we are growing,” Wright said.

CONTINUED:
GSA, 4A



(Above) LGBTQ+ students and allies attend June in January.
(Below) A sign asking those in attendance what Pride means to them.



Photos by Rachel Rudd | News Editor

Becks endow two new scholarships in chemistry and mechanical engineering

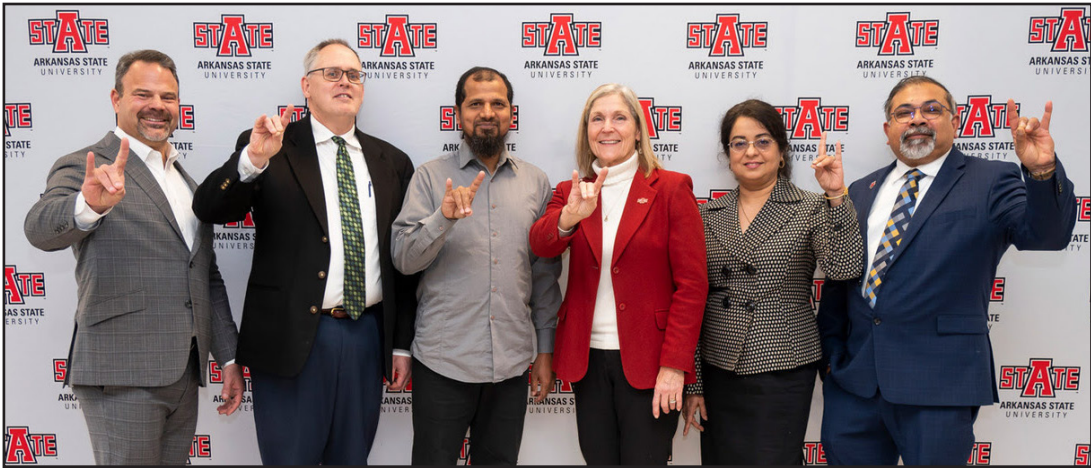


PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Those celebrating with Wolves Up for the Beck Endowed Professorships included (from left) Dr. Todd Shields, Dr. William Burns, Dr. Mohammad Abrar Alam, Dr. Jennifer Bouldin, Dr. Sudeepa Bhattacharyya and Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharyya.

A-STATE NEWS
PRESS RELEASE

With a goal of enriching faculty opportunities to conduct vital research, Arkansas State University alumni Buddy and Charlotte Beck have established two new endowed professorships at their alma mater.

Through their Beck Foundation, the Becks have completed new gifts totaling \$500,000, divided equally between the two professorships — one in chemistry, and the other in mechanical engineering.

These are A-State’s first two endowed professorships in each of these disciplines. Interest from the endowments will help support the scholarly work of the two designated recipients of the professorships.

Buddy Beck, board chairman of the Beck Foundation, was instrumental in making the professorships possible. “Through the award of these professorships, the Foundation is pleased to support the school’s vision — producing

scholars that impact the well-being of society,” he stated.

Among A-State’s most dedicated benefactors, the donors’ previous gifts include funds to establish the Beck Center for Veterans in 2007. Their lifetime giving to Arkansas State exceeds \$2 million.

The new professorships fit well with A-State’s strategic direction.

“I am thrilled with this latest commitment to Arkansas State from Charlotte and Buddy Beck,” Chancellor Todd Shields said during a campus announcement ceremony today. “Charlotte and Buddy have been such loyal supporters of A-State. Buddy especially has been passionate about supporting research through his previous fellowships and the Chancellor’s Medal for Research and Creative Endeavors. Even the Beck Center for Veterans’ mission includes a very special research area working to create effective strategies to reduce veteran suicides and provide direct support

to local veterans. Arkansas State is very fortunate to have supporters like the Becks.”

The inaugural Beck Professorship in Chemistry is being awarded to a current faculty member, Dr. Mohammad Abrar Alam, associate professor.

The Beck Professorship in Mechanical Engineering will serve as an enticement for recruiting a new faculty member, according to Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharyya, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Alam was recommended by Dr. William Burns, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, with support from Dr. Jennifer Bouldin, interim dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. He leads a large, active research group which includes undergraduate and graduate students at A-State. He makes an extra effort to involve and mentor students in his research work.

CONTINUED:
SCHOLARSHIPS, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD
NEWS EDITOR

Jan. 28 | 11:55 a.m.

Officer Daniel Bradway was flagged down by complainant one at the University Police Department parking lot. He told Bradway his vehicle had been broken into and everything had been stolen out of it. They went over to Cherokee Street where he stated that the car had been parked for two days.

Complainant one stated that as far he knew he had locked the doors. Bradway couldn’t see any damage to the vehicle whatsoever.

Complainant one opened the driver door and showed Bradway the interior of the car had been gone through. Both sun visors were down and the center console was open. Complainant one he was missing \$50 cash from the console and a bag of tools from the trunk.

The bag of tools was miscellaneous and were mostly hand tools and power drills. He described the bag as being approximately 60” x 30” and having several Velcro dividers inside to separate the tools.

He did not give a value on the tool bag as he was unsure.

Bradway told complainant one he would attempt to use the security camera footage to see if he could see anything.

After viewing the camera footage, Bradway saw the following. The timeline of events that were seen take place on Jan. 26 and conclude in the very early morning hours of Jan. 27.

At 8:05 p.m., complainant one pulls into the Cherokee Street and sits in his vehicle until 8:11 p.m. The victim can

be seen exiting the driver’s side of the vehicle, walking around to the trunk, opening the trunk, and quickly closing it. He then walks toward the apartment building and his headlights flash as if being locked by a key fob.

At 11:50 p.m., what appears to be a black or dark gray Nissan Maxima or Altima enters the parking lot and pulls in directly behind complainant one’s vehicle. The passenger, who appears to be a male, wearing dark pants and lighter hoodie or jacket can then be seen exiting the suspect vehicle and walking to the driver door of complainant one’s car. Once there, he opens the door. Suspect one quickly shuts it and returns to the suspect vehicle.

At 11:53 p.m. the passenger gets out of the suspect vehicle once again, this time having what looked to be a phone or tablet in his hands. He then walks to the driver door of complainant one’s car, opens it and gets in like he was going to drive.

At 11:58 p.m., the suspect vehicle pulls up beside complainant one’s car and the driver gets out.

At 12:01 a.m., the suspect gets out of the driver side of complainant one’s car and walks around to the passenger side and gets in. The driver from the suspect vehicle gets into the driver seat of complainant one’s car.

At 12:05 a.m. the lights on the car begin to flash as though the alarm was going off. The tail lights and the front auxiliary light flashes repeatedly.

At 12:08 a.m., the flashing lights stop but then start again. Then at 12:09 a.m., the

suspects exit complainant one’s car, walk around to the trunk, open it and both grab the bag of tools and load it into their rear seat and drive off.

At 12:11 a.m., the suspect vehicle can be seen on another camera entering the Arkansas Hall parking lot.

The vehicle reverses into a space at the edge of the lot and shuts the lights off. A short time later, the vehicle exits the lot traveling west on Quapaw Street. Bradway could no longer see the car on the cameras after that.

Jan. 27 | 4:17 p.m.

Officer Daniel Bradway was dispatched to the loading dock of the Cooper Alumni Center in reference to a vehicle that had hit a sign. When he arrived the vehicle was pulled into the loading dock just off the roadway.

The complainant got out of the driver’s side and told Bradway she did not see the sign and struck it with her vehicle and it was now stuck under her car. Bradway saw the neon yellow crosswalk sign, which is placed in the middle of the intersections to make the crosswalk more visible to oncoming traffic, sticking out from the underside of the vehicle.

Bradway couldn’t pull it out and had to use a jack to raise the vehicle to retrieve the sign. After getting the sign out, Bradway saw that it had not sustained much damage and had only been pulled from the ground and dragged a short distance.

The complainant said the vehicle had no damage to it and stated an accident report was not necessary.