

Friday Charlas provides space to practice Spanish

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

The department of world languages and cultures hosts Friday Charlas (Chats) at Story Coffeehouse every week to provide a space for students and members of the community to practice speaking Spanish.

In 2020, the department of world languages and cultures canceled all of its conversation tables due to the pandemic. Stephanie Bates, a Spanish instructor at Arkansas State University, said the department created Friday Charlas to bring that opportunity back for students.

"It's a community conversation table for anyone who's looking to learn Spanish. So, we have students that come from our classes— all levels, elementary to advanced— and we also welcome anyone from the community who's learning or would like to learn," Bates said.

Brooklynn Wolfe, a junior marketing major from Batesville,

helped connect Bates with the owners of Story Coffeehouse. Wolfe works at Story as a barista.

Wolfe said one of the co-owners of Story, Bethany Davis, was looking for more events to host at Story back in December.

"Story did something called Story Gives Back where 7% of our sales for the whole month of December went to seven nonprofits that our baristas picked out," Davis said.

During December, Story donated to El Centro Hispano, the Hispanic center in Jonesboro. Along with Story, El Centro Hispano sponsors the conversation table.

Wolfe said as a member of Bates' Spanish class, she knew the department was looking for a space to host a conversation table. So, she put Bates in contact with Davis, who then coordinated with El Centro Hispano.

Bates said students feel more comfortable at Story than where their conversation table used to be held. Before 2020, the

department of world languages and cultures hosted "Spanish at the Pub" at Cregeen's Irish Pub.

"One of the things students had said was some of them would be more likely to come to a coffee shop or something than a pub, especially like freshmen who aren't going to be drinking," Bates said.

Davis said Story likes hosting Friday Charlas, as well as many other events.

"We love hosting events because we love supporting this community. Jonesboro's growing and we want to be able to provide a safe space for people to connect and we just want to cultivate community and connection," Davis said.

Wolfe said she hopes to get a minor in Spanish. She said she has seen Friday Charlas in action from behind the counter, but also participated at the table once.

"I knew that it would be good for me to practice speaking with others. So, it was a little intimidating but it was also helpful to get



Photo by Caroline Averitt | Staff Writer

Carolina Elmore, assistant director at El Centro Hispano, Tim Chandler, an Arkansas State University student and a volunteer at El Centro Hispano and Stephanie Bates, a Spanish instructor at A-State, speaking at a Friday Charlas at Story Coffeehouse.

some practice," Wolfe said.

In addition to conversation, sometimes participants play games or do various activities. Bates said she wants it to be a fun place where everyone

feels welcome, "We're just hoping that it kind of catches on and more people join us."

Story hosts Friday Charlas every Friday from 1-2 p.m. Students and members of

the community who wish to practice Spanish can attend, regardless of skill level.

"You really can start from numero uno," Bates said.

Second provost finalist Mark Clarke, Ph.D., visits A-State

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Mark Clarke, Ph.D., the second provost finalist, visited Arkansas State University on March 1 in a public forum to discuss his plan for A-State, #Discover2025.

Clarke serves as associate provost for faculty development and faculty affairs at the University of Houston. He holds a master's of information and doctorate in cell biology and microchemistry from Manchester Metropolitan University. He has also served as associate vice chancellor for technology transfer at the University of Houston.

#Discover2025 is a five part plan that focuses on student success, teaching and learning, research and creative activities,

community engagement and campus culture and shared values.

Clarke would focus on increasing overall enrollment. With enrollment on a downward trend both nationally and for A-State, Clarke said he would work on improving outreach to admitted students, using data-driven systems for course scheduling and providing resources and instructional training for faculty.

"There's a wish to increase your four and six year graduation targets to 45% for four years and 65% for the six year graduation," Clarke said. "The target for (the retention rate for) 2025 with the #Discover2025 strategic plan is 85%."

For the teaching and learning segment of the plan, Clarke would work to provide



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Mark Clarke, Ph.D.

students with "career-spanning" skills by providing experiential learning opportunities and engaging with industry and community partners.

CONTINUED:
CLARKE, 4A

Last provost finalist Calvin White, Ph.D., visits A-State

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Tuesday marked the visit of the final provost candidate, Calvin White, Ph.D., where he discussed his plans for Arkansas State University if chosen as provost.

White is an associate dean in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. He holds a doctorate in history from the University of Mississippi. He also oversees the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History and the Blair Center for Southern Politics and Society.

If chosen as provost, White said he plans to increase pathways for faculty and staff development, increase research opportunities, "fulfill and exceed" A-State's responsibility

to students and help create a campus where every student will feel welcomed.

A major topic White discussed was the upcoming 2025 enrollment cliff, which is the expected year in which traditional incoming college student numbers will drop by 10-15%. To combat this, White said the university not only needs to communicate the value of higher education, but that he will work collaboratively with faculty and staff.

In addition, White would work to increase faculty research at A-State. Currently, A-State is classified as an R2 institution, which means it has high research activity. R1 is the highest classification, meaning a school in that category has the "highest research activity."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Calvin White, Ph.D.

"We're going to have dual pathways," White said. "That means your workload percentage needs to be 80% teaching and 20% service."

CONTINUED:
WHITE, 4A

Registration is opening, here's what you need to know

GRACIE YIELDING

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Registration for summer and fall 2023 has opened for Arkansas State University students.

March 6 marked the opening of priority registration, which was open for students registered with Access and Accommodation Services, Honors students and student athletes. On March 8, graduate students, seniors, and juniors will be able to register.

Sophomores and first-years will be able to register on March 10.

In order to register, students have to have all holds lifted. Holds can be in place due to unpaid fines or because a student has not gotten advisor approval. Once all holds are lifted, students can access the Banner Self Service tab on MyA-State to complete their schedule.

During this process, registration add errors can occur.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Registration opens on March 8 for graduate students, seniors and juniors. It opens for sophomores and first-years on March 10.

Common errors include advisor approval, department approval, level restriction, pre-req and test score and more. A complete list of errors and their explanations can be found on the A-State website under registration. Classes that are at max capacity offer a waitlist to students. If a student is on the waitlist and a seat in the class opens up, the

student will get an email and a deadline to register by. On March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., including the Office of the Registrar, University Advising Center, College Advisors and the Treasurer's Office on the first floor of the Dean B. Ellis Library to help students with registration questions or needs.

CAMPUS CRIME



RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

March 5 | 10:30 p.m.

Officer Chad Hall was dispatched to 2504 Aggie Road in reference to a fire alarm.

Upon arrival, it was determined the alarm originated in room 204. Hall made entry into the room and determined the cause to be a hair dryer.

The Jonesboro Fire Department then arrived and confirmed Hall's suspicion and stated that everyone could come back in. Hall reset the alarm and informed the sorority of his findings.

March 3 | 9:45 p.m.

Officer Chad Hall observed a blue Chevrolet Trailblazer traveling at the intersection of Aggie Road / Marion Berry Parkway with no license plate. Hall activated his emergency lights and conducted his traffic stop. Upon approaching the

vehicle, arrestee one said she just bought the vehicle and provided her bill of sale. Hall requested arrestee one to produce a driver's license, to which she couldn't do.

Hall then ran her name and date of birth through dispatch and then found her driver's license to be suspended. Hall informed arrestee one of his findings and said if she could get a licensed driver to retrieve the vehicle, it would not be towed.

Arrestee one then had a licensed driver arrive on scene.

Hall gave arrestee one her citation for driving on suspended license and advised her of her court date.

March 2 | 4:05 p.m.

Officer Daniel Bradway responded to 2407 Quapaw Way in reference to a student having a medical issue.

Upon arriving, he was met by the professor who had taken the student into a secluded area in an attempt to calm her.

When Bradway spoke

to victim one, her voice was shaky and she said she was out of breath and felt like she could not breathe.

As she sat there she began to breathe more normally and she was finally able to walk with Bradway to the ground level to meet the ambulance and first responders.

Victim one was transported to St. Bernards via Emerson Ambulance company.

Feb. 27 | 11:01 a.m.

Vehicle one, operated by victim one, was parked at 114 Cooley Drive and was preparing to leave. Vehicle two operated by victim two was driving southbound in the parking lot.

Vehicle one's operator began backing up and failed to observe vehicle two behind her. Vehicle one backed out, hitting the driver's side of vehicle two with the right rear bumper of vehicle one.

Very minor damage was photographed on both vehicles.