

## DRAG SHOW, CONTINUED

After a brief intermission, the event kicked back up with the Phoenix Drag Show Group, which is a Memphis-based organization, performing. Each queen or king had three acts. The members of the group who performed that night were Rebekah Random, Liv Laflau, Ricky Riot, Marionna

Cross and Pepper SueSage. Around 8 p.m., Random paused the show to announce the Phoenix Drag Show Group would begin work on raising money to open up Northeast Arkansas's very first LGBTQ+ space, called the Closet, in 2024. The group will be doing benefits shows over the next

year, as well as crowdsourcing. After the announcement, Christine Wright, department chair of occupational therapy and faculty advisor for GSA, pledged the first \$1,000 dollars to the Closet. "We need a safe space in Jonesboro for anybody and everybody to feel welcome and

we don't have that," Wright said. "If I can, as a citizen of this city and this area, help launch that, then that's what I want to do. It was spontaneous. I've always been an advocate and I put my money where my mouth is and so that's what I did." Reppenhagen and Smith said they want to host more

drag shows in the future, whether they be on campus or at the Closet. They both said people approached them after the show, asking when the next event would be or if they could perform. "It would be a wonderful opportunity to just keep immersing people in the

drag scene and normalize it more, especially in this area where a lot of people are exposed to that unless they watch 'RuPaul's Drag Race,'" Reppenhagen said. "There's potential for there to be another one, I really hope there is."

## Student Nurses Association combats period poverty with period packing party

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE  
STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State University's Student Nurses Association (SNA) partnered with Arkansas Women's Outreach on Thursday for a period packing party to benefit low income and homeless menstruating people in the area.

Period poverty is a lack of access to menstrual products, hygiene facilities, waste management and education. In Arkansas, two in nine women and girls between the age of 12 and 44 live below the federal poverty line.

The packing party was organized by Jonathan Schaufler, a sophomore nursing major from Salem, Arkansas.

This past October at the SNA state convention, the students attended a similar packing party for the Arkansas Women's Outreach in Central Arkansas,

realizing there was also a need for that kind of service here.

"Imagine if you're homeless and you have two partners and they have two or three children," Schaufler said. "Are you going to choose to buy feminine products or are you going to choose to feed your family? That was how they laid it out."

Schaufler added that the event helped open the SNA's eyes to period poverty.

"We got to talking with some of the people from the Arkansas Women's Outreach and they were telling us that they have no one in Northeast Arkansas that does anything like this," Schaufler said. "So that automatically got the ball rolling. We want to help the people in our area, especially if no one else is doing it."

People suffering from period poverty may use period products for far longer than necessary.

Schaufler said tampons are

only supposed to be worn for up to four to six hours. If worn longer, they can cause toxic shock, infections and even infertility.

Katie Henley, a junior nursing major from Star City, Arkansas, said period products are expensive and not easy to come by for menstruating people who have no resources at home.

Each individualized bag provided by Arkansas Women's Outreach contains eight tampons, eight pads and eight panty liners to be donated to local homeless shelters, churches and schools.

"One of the elementary schools in town, we always ask the school nurse 'what's something that your students need?' And that's feminine products, something that she always identifies. They even need (them) at elementary schools," said Addie Fleming, a nursing professor and a coordinator of SNA.



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | Staff Writer

Students sorting through period products to pack into bags. These bags were distributed to local homeless shelters, churches and schools.

With the help from other on campus organizations Phi Delta Theta, Zeta Tau Alpha, the Honors College, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi and Chi Omega, the party ended with 346

completed bags for donation.

There are still 200 bags for donation that are not completed and an ongoing need in the area even though the packing party is over. The Student Nurses

Association always accepts donations. A student can make monetary donations via CashApp or Venmo @astatesna or can be dropped off to the front office of A-State's Nursing and Health Professions Building.

## Discovering the "best baes" in Battle of the Baes

LAILA CASIANO  
STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State University's best baes were discovered at Battle of the Baes, an event hosted by the Beta Xi Chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporada (SIA) on Feb. 22.

Inspired by the newly-wed game, the event challenged A-State students to see how well they knew their significant other, best friend or sibling and a chance to win either a \$50 Buffalo Wild Wing gift card and a \$25 Chili's gift card.

"The event came to me because I was watching 'Full House' and they had this episode where the couples were playing this game and I really wanted to make it a community event. I just made it beyond partners, so like siblings or besties," said Cindy Gomez, the lead coordinator and sophomore

business administration major from Jonesboro.

When discussing the expected turnout for the event, Fernanda Posadas, a senior theater major from Sherwood, Arkansas, and secretary and community service chairwoman for SIA, said "We are expecting this to be a good event."

Posadas briefly talked about the easy application to have participated in the event.

"The participants reached out to us and even today more people came and reached out to participate too and I was like, 'Sorry! We are already full!'"

Hosted in Centennial Hall, the event initially featured nine pairs. Each pair would take a seat and answer questions about their partner on a white board. Posadas and Roxana Flores, the co-hosts and executive board members of SIA, provided the questions.

Elimination rounds would begin in the second round. The pairs would have two lives in total and the pair with the most points in the end would win.

Questions started simple but later in the rounds, as winning first and second prize became challenging, questions like, "What is your partner's phone number?" began taking away some pairs' lives, or even eliminating some.

Parker Collins, first-year marketing major from Benton, Arkansas, competed with his best friend, Nicholas Orr, first-year accounting major from Ellington, Missouri, for a chance to win.

"We've been friends since the third week of school. We walked to class together and it was this sort of instant friendship," Orr said.

Alexia Sanders, sophomore biology major from Jonesboro,



Photo by Laila Casiano | Staff Writer

Two of the couples at Battle of the Baes being asked questions from Fernanda Posadas and Roxana Flores, co-hosts and executive board members of SIA.

competed with Dakia Pope, a junior majoring in elementary education from Chicago, and won. "They (other competitors) don't know each other as well as

we know each other," Pope said.

First place winners, Sanders and Pope, celebrated their win with an exciting, "I told you we would win!" Second place winners went

to Hermana y Hermano/SIA members participating, Erica Bretado and Jesus Wences. For more future SIA events, "SIA Week" comes soon in April. Times and dates are still pending.

## Provost finalist João Sedycias, Ph.D., visits A-State

RACHEL RUDD  
NEWS EDITOR

João Sedycias, Ph.D., visited Arkansas State University on Feb. 22 in a public forum to discuss his plans for the university if chosen as provost. He answered questions from gathered faculty and staff to address concerns facing their departments.

A provost acts as the chief academic officer for a university, helping develop policies, manage budgets and make faculty and tenure decisions. Currently, Sedycias serves as

dean of the William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences at New Jersey City University. He holds a doctorate degree in comparative literature. He has also served as department chair at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Essex County College in Newark, N.J. and Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil.

If chosen as provost, Sedycias plans to make A-State a place "where students are at the very center of everything," by utilizing high impact practices such as first-year seminars and

empirium-based learning, which are computer-based learning resources where students receive help from their professors when needed.

Sedycias also plans to commit to "sound fiscal management," by utilizing a responsibly center management (RCM) model, which is a budgeting model where revenue-generating units are responsible for managing their own revenues and expenditures.

In addition, Sedycias is said he is committed to increasing collegiately, transparency

and empowerment and accountability. Finally, Sedycias said he will work to increase fundraising, citing his experience increasing funds at NJCU.

Cherisse Jones-Branch, Ph.D, dean of the graduate school and history professor, asked about helping graduate students secure stipends.

Sedycias said if chosen as provost, he would want to sit down with Jones-Branch to discuss how to best pursue graduate stipends for students.

April Sheppard, assistant library director, brought

up concerns with how budgeting would be handled for departments that don't generate majors, such as the library or Student Success.

For institutions such as those, Sedycias said he couldn't use the "same cookie cutter approach." Budgeting would be taken on a case-by-case basis to ensure each institution is evaluated properly and fairly.

For the full story, visit [www.astatetheherald.com](http://www.astatetheherald.com). The livestream of the forum can be found on A-State's official YouTube page.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Provost finalist João Sedycias, Ph.D.