



Arkansas State students promote period power

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LAILA CASIANO
STAFF WRITER

The Making Connections class for the social work program is collaborating with Finally Susan in collecting menstrual sanitation products for those in need, calling it “Period Power!”

The initiative helps spread awareness and donations for period poverty.

Period poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products and hygiene facilities, as well as education on how to use said products.

“It’s really important because there’s people that can’t afford it and then there’s people in jail that just don’t get it. There’s people in school that miss school because they don’t have access to it,” JayCee Burns, a sophomore social work major from Jonesboro, said. “We just want to try to help out with that as much as we can in any way possible, whether it be through CashApp or physical donations.”

The Period Power initiative is looking for either monetary donations or physical donations like tampons, pads, menstrual cups, liners, feminine hygiene wipes, skin products, deodorants, body wash, bar soaps and underwear.

Abby Bolton and Burns, the two students who proposed the project, presented the initiative at the social work Making Connections expo. They won second place in the philanthropy section for the project.

Bolton, a first-year social work major from West Memphis, said the taboo of talking about periods



From left to right: Abby Bolton, Jerrod Lockhart, Carissa Caldwell and Jay Holley at the social work Making Connections expo.

among men was a driving force to talk more about it.

“It may not affect you personally, but it’s an issue that our community faces,” Bolton said. “I think as much as we can sort of educate people and encourage them to think of it as an issue that they can be involved in, or even if it doesn’t involve them, would be really great.”

Finally Susan, a leading collaborator for the initiative, is a local community resource that raises awareness and donations for menstrual products to help women and young people who may find difficulties with buying or having access to them. Most of Burns’ and Bolton’s

donations were earned through the expo, but outside donations can be dropped off in Dean B. Ellis Library Room 113B or dropped in the donation boxes around campus or through monetary donations like CashApp.

Period poverty in the United States and college campuses has been steadily growing with over 16.9 million people in the U.S. experiencing period poverty and 14.2% of college students experiencing it just within the last year.

Johnathan Schaufler, a junior nursing major from Salem, Arkansas, introduced the first initiative to lessen period

poverty to the A-State campus, having accomplished two prior initiatives before “Period Power!”

The Arkansas State University Student Nurses Association (SNA) collaborated with Arkansas Women’s Outreach (AWO) in February 2022, at their state nursing convention located in Hot Springs, intending to end period poverty in Arkansas with the Period Packaging Party.

“We do a lot of other donation drives, like food and clothes, and not that those aren’t necessarily great, but it’s (the donation drive for menstrual products) just something that I personally had never thought

of or crossed my mind until I did that,” Schaufler said. “It just became something that I had just become really passionate about because it’s not talked about enough.”

SNA’s partnership with AWO hosted a period packing party, where the Honors College and A-State fraternities/sororities (like Phi Delta Theta, Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Gamma Delta and more) joined to bring donations of menstrual products.

CONTINUED:
PERIOD POWER, 4A

Art + Design selling collectible limited edition 2024 wall calendars

Art + Design is selling 50 limited edition 2024 wall calendars for the holidays at \$200 each. The calendars include 12 original prints by local artists and faculty that can be easily removed for framing without damage to the artwork. More details are on the A-State website.

Exhibition ‘A Little Too Little, A Little Too Much’ to open at Bradbury Art Museum

The Bradbury Art Museum will feature an exhibition by Arkansas State University graduate A. Skylar Evans through Tuesday, Dec. 19. Evans, who graduated from A-State with a Bachelor of Fine Arts this past spring, will present the photographic series, “A Little Too Little, A Little Too Much.”

Meditation sessions are this week

Step back from finals to engage in moments of mindfulness and meditation and review and utilize skills learned throughout the Survival Guide series. Join the Wilson Counseling Center anytime through Dec. 8 for a meditation session. Times can be found on the A-State website.

BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Final bits of wisdom from a graduating editor
- “Die Hard” is most definitely a Christmas movie

NEWS, 3A

- Art + Design students sell semester’s worth of work at third annual pop-up shop
- International Students Association hosts first Masquerade Winter Formal

SPORTS, 1B

- A-State athletes and tattoos

ARTS & E, 2B

- Lose your mind at Emerald Fennell’s thrilling comedy “Saltburn”
- Pop Flop
- Dining at City Wok Dim Sum: a review

LIFE, 3B

- How to celebrate the holidays in Jonesboro
- Student Speak: What is your finals survival tip?

Evolve hosts first Mr. and Mrs. Put It On

RACHEL RUDD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student organization Evolve hosted its first-ever Mr. and Mrs. Put It On, a fashion contest where ten participants were judged on how best they fit three categories.

Elchristma Deveaux, a first-year electrical engineering major from Nassau, Bahamas, won Mr. Put It On. Janarie Price, a first-year psychology major from New Orleans, won Miss Put It On. Dezarie Wise, a first-year psychology major from McGehee, Arkansas, won Crowd Favorite.

“Winning Mr. Put It On felt like I was on top of the world. As a freshman and as an international student, I feel that this was a great accomplishment,” Deveaux said. “I believe that it is the first step in paving the way for other international students to come out of their shells and try new and different things.”

Price said she was happy to win Miss Put It On. “It feels like a dream come true, especially with

all the hard work I put into the show,” Price said.

Wise said winning Crowd Favorite showed how much support she had, regardless of how nervous she was.

Evolve president Kellie Dukes, a junior exercise science major from Marion, Arkansas, said Evolve wanted to host a big event every semester, which is where the idea for Mr. and Mrs. Put It On came from. The event was meant to be a way to promote the club, as well as show talent on campus.

“A lot of minorities don’t really have a space to be creative on campus and a lot of minorities show their creativity through their fashion,” Dukes said. “Being able to single that out and put it in fashion, it’s just an easy way to get everyone involved because everyone loves to put clothes on. Everyone loves to show what they have.”

The categories were streetwear, brunch and red carpet. Streetwear was meant to be casual while red carpet was formal. Brunch was a mix between the two. Students were judged



Elchristma Deveaux (left) and Janarie Price (right) were crowned as Mr. and Miss Put It On, respectively. Dezarie Wise was named as Crowd Favorite.

based on their confidence, stage presence, originality and how closely they matched the theme of the categories.

Winners received a crown, a plaque and a \$50 gift card. Dukes said Evolve plans to host another competition similar to Mr. and Mrs. Put It

On next semester, although details have not been finalized. Evolve had been planning Mr. and Mrs. Put It On since August.

Auditions and practices were held throughout the semester. Contestant Jesslynn Hughes, a first-year nursing major from Southaven, Mississippi, said

she enjoyed dressing up at the event because she could show the audience clothes she thought were fashionable.

CONTINUED:
EVOLVE, 4A

PHOTO COURTESY OF TONI JONES