

Feminist Union remembers Roe v. Wade

LAILA CASIANO

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Arkansas State University's Feminist Union (FemU) honored the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade, on the week of its initial landmark ruling by educating students about reproductive rights and care.

The FemU discussed ways to continue the pro-choice movement after its reversal. The Supreme Court passed Roe v. Wade Jan. 22, 1973, and overturned it 49 years later on June 6, 2022.

"It's a shame, Northeast Arkansas is barely looked at when it comes to reproductive freedoms and reproductive justices," Christina Smith, president of FemU, said. "I am trying to help educate students on my own when it comes to reproductive freedoms and justices."

Smith, a junior history and communications double major from Cabot, Arkansas, said they want students to educate and spread awareness about abortion access by making posters and placing them across campus.

FemU's meeting occurred two days after Roe v Wade's initial ruling, Jan. 24. Smith said the original plan for the meeting fell in November or December.

FemU partnered with a non-profit organization, Advocates for Youth, to collaborate during their "Abortion Out Loud Week." FemU received stickers, posters, shirts and general information about abortion access to prepare for this week.

"Things came up and we weren't able to during Abortion Out Loud Week, so we decided to reserve it for this week," Smith said. "We wanted to do

it on Roe v. Wade day, but our meetings land on Wednesday, so we decided not to change it."

Kai Lawless, a first-year biology major from West Fork, Arkansas is the club's treasurer. Lawless joined FemU last year.

Lawless worked to advertise the event in the lobby of the Reng Student Union to promote the message of reproductive justice as they tabled alongside other organizations for Join In January, where the registered student organizations showcase their club and organization to the student body to recruit new members.

"Supporting, spreading awareness and education is crucial," Lawless said. "It involves supporting women's voices, dismantling gender-based discrimination and fostering a society where everyone, regardless of gender, is afforded equal opportunities and respect."

Lawless joined the new members of the FemU in making posters to place around campus.

"The poster I made with my friend Abby Bolton was about the ways to access abortion in and around Arkansas," Lawless said. "It was more of an overview on different ways to be able to get an abortion and what to watch out for."

Dean McDonald, a graduate student studying public administration from Paragould, attended his second FemU meeting.

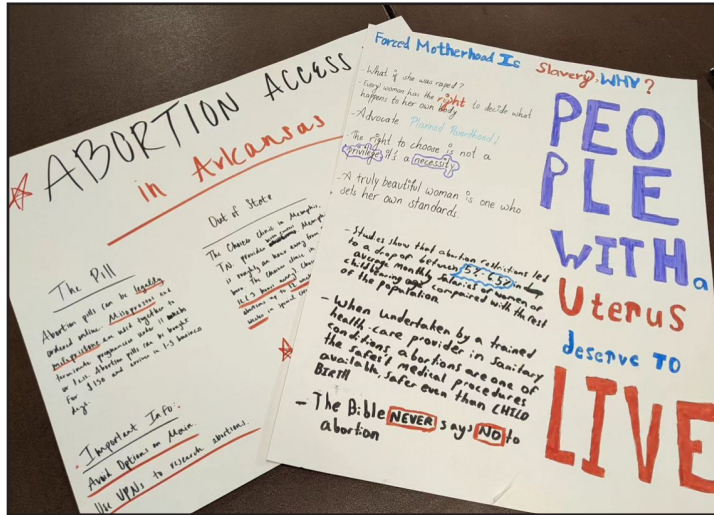
McDonald said he supports the group raising awareness about various issues, especially reproductive freedoms.

"Arkansas, one of the most extreme states has not only made abortion illegal but also taken away any exceptions for rape, incest and several instances of the life of the



Photo by Laila Casiano | Social Media Editor

Members of the Feminist Union create posters displaying the importance of abortion rights. The posters also include information about reproduction care and support and will be placed in various locations throughout campus.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FEMINIST UNION INSTAGRAM PAGE

(Left) completed posters advocating for abortion rights created by members of the Feminist Union. (Right) filled-in reference posters from Abortion Out Loud, a pro-abortion rights organization.

mother. This is just inhumane and wrong," McDonald said.

Smith said she immerses herself in the political sphere in the Jonesboro community, as they currently work as a campaign manager for Daniel Parker, who plans to run for state representative.

Smith said they plan to work alongside other local candidates who are openly pro-choice to get abortion back on the ballot.

The FemU meeting also discussed what to do in the upcoming election regarding abortion access. With Arkansas Attorney

General Tim Griffin approving a proposal that would backpedal the state's abortion ban, McDonald and Smith plan to collect the 95,000 signatures at the Craighead County Courthouse to "hopefully get abortion back on the ballot."

"People can still access abortion, people can still have access to the reproductive resources they need. They just need to know where to look," Smith said. "We can actually do something to get abortion legal in Arkansas now with this ballot initiative. It's important to get them out there."

Gov. Sanders reappoints Jerry Morgan to ASU System Board of Trustees

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has reappointed Jerry Morgan of Jonesboro, a 1992 graduate of Arkansas State University and longtime banking executive, to the Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees.

Morgan was appointed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson in December 2021 to fulfill the remaining term of Dr. Tim Langford of Jonesboro and served as chair of the board in 2023. His new seven-year term will expire Jan. 14, 2031.

A native of Harrisburg, Morgan is Regional Market President for First National Bank. He has worked in banking in northeast Arkansas for more than 30 years.

ASU System Interim President Robin Myers said he was grateful to the governor for the reappointment.

"Jerry has been actively involved with A-State and its growth for many years as an alumnus and business leader, and he's been a very strong ASU System trustee," Myers said. "As we transition

to new system leadership in the coming months, his board and management experience will be important in the search process. We appreciate Governor Sanders for selecting strong leaders and alumni of our ASU System institutions."

Morgan is chairman of the Jonesboro Advertising and Promotions Commission, where he has been active in many tourism- and sports-related economic development projects, including the Embassy Suites and Red Wolf Convention Center on the Arkansas State campus. He is past president of the Jonesboro University Rotary Club, where he has received two Paul Harris Fellow awards, and served as a board member of the Arkansas Bankers Association and Craighead County Community Foundation.

"Many of my career accomplishments are a direct result of the education and connections I was afforded from my time at Arkansas State University," Morgan said. "I have enjoyed my board service the past two years and thank Governor Sanders for giving me this opportunity to continue



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Jerry Morgan

to serve my alma mater, as well as the additional outstanding ASU System institutions across Arkansas and in Mexico. We have lots of unfinished business ahead, from hiring a new system president to launching the first veterinary school in Arkansas."

Morgan was selected as an Arkansas Business "40 under 40" honoree in 2007 and as a Jonesboro Sun "12 People That Make Things Happen" honoree. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, where he received the Alumni of the Year Award. He is also a 1924 Sustaining Life Member of the A- State Alumni Association.

CONTINUED:
MORGAN, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

Jan. 27 | 1:26 p.m.

At 12:37 p.m. Sgt. Takeem Bowman responded to 121 N. Caraway Road in reference to an active fire alarm.

Upon arrival, Bowman attempted to knock on several doors to locate an active sprinkler head. Jonesboro Fire Department and associate director of building services and zone maintenance Clint Halcom arrived on scene to assist.

It was determined that a compressor failed, causing the dry sprinkler system to have a water flow. Residence Life staff assisted with conducting room inspection to check for an active sprinkler head.

Jan. 25 | 2:08 p.m.

At 12:47 p.m., Sgt. Takeem Bowman observed Suspect One walking southbound on the sidewalk in front of 113 Dean St smoking a cigarette.

Suspect One was stopped and explained The Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act of 2009. Suspect One was also told that he was under the age of 21 and was in possession of tobacco by minor.

Suspect One was advised that he would receive a verbal warning for violating the following laws, but will receive a university referral for violating Arkansas State University policy.

Jan. 23 | 4:35 p.m.

Dispatch was notified at 2:24 p.m. of a subject at 1115 University Loop East Building 1.

Witness One went to dispatch earlier in the day to report money stolen and Witness One suspected it was the man she was talking to. Witness One identified Arrestee One as the subject she had been talking to and that had the gun on him.

Upon further investigation dispatch advised Officer Haylee Keating that Arrestee One had a felony warrant out of Craighead County. Witness One was advised that when he shows back up on campus to call Arkansas State University Police Department immediately.

At 1:42 p.m. dispatch was advised that Arrestee One was at Stadium View and was going to be en-route to 1115 University Loop East Building 1 shortly. At 2:24 p.m. dispatch was notified that Arrestee One was in the room.

Keating and Lt. Terry Phipps

went to 1115 University Loop East Building 1 and upon arrival Keating knocked on the door. Witness One opened the door and said, "he's in there."

Keating and Phipps entered the residence. Arrestee One was sitting in a chair and was advised to stand up and put his hands behind his back. Arrestee One was then handcuffed behind his back.

Phipps noticed that there was a handgun in the seat under where Arrestee One was sitting with a 33 round magazine inserted inside the gun. There was not a round in the chamber when it was cleared.

Arrestee One was put in the rear passenger side of Keating's marked patrol unit and buckled in. Arrestee One was transported to UPD at 503 Robinson Ave for questioning.

Lt. Andrew Thrasher questioned Arrestee One. The prosecuting attorney was spoken with and he stated that we will not charge Arrestee One for possessing a firearm on a university campus.

Arrestee One was banned from campus and turned over to Jonesboro Police Department due to their felony warrant.