

# Arkansas State University hosts 6th annual Living Legends award ceremony

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COPY EDITOR

The 6th annual Living Legends Awards Ceremony honored those who have made significant contributions to Arkansas State University and the community, while celebrating Black History Month.

Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, M.D.; Lt. Col. Fredrick C. Turner, Jr.; Cora Martin; Arthur Ray Scales and Herman Strickland were honored as Living Legends. Elder Susan Woods Rodgers and Qubilah Jones were honored posthumously as Legacy Award winners. "The character of the individual is shaped by their journey years before the acknowledgment of their accomplishments," Calvin White, provost and executive vice chancellor, said. "The African American community is well aware that our struggles come with triumph out of strife, joy out of the refusal to surrender and elation of the celebration of today."

Turner was one of the first Black graduates at A-State, the first Black A-State faculty member, a founding member of the A-State Strong Turner Alumni Association and has several scholarships and the Military Science Building named after him.

Turner said those accomplishments belong not only to him but also to his classmates Walter Strong and Larry Williams. "This is not something that

I did, this is something that we did," Turner said. "The only problem I had with accepting these honors is that I think they should have been given to someone many years before me."

Granger is the president and CEO of The 5Ps, a healthcare, education and leadership consulting organization. He served as the deputy director and program executive officer of the TRICARE Management Activity and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs before retiring from the U.S. Army in 2009.

Granger said he and his wife established two scholarships at Philander Smith University and two at A-State. One scholarship is in the College of Math and Science and the other with the Strong-Turner Alumni Association. Granger said he is preparing to establish another in the College of Math and Science.

"My question is always as a Living Legend, what are you doing to instill in the hearts and minds of others?" Granger said. "That's a huge responsibility as a Living Legend and an obligation to continue to do what you should be doing, but also hoping that the next generation not only achieves what you've achieved but most importantly, exceeds what you've done."

Strickland taught sixth grade at the segregated Franklin Elementary School in Blytheville, Arkansas.

In 1966, he taught math and science at Central Elementary School as one of the first African American teachers assigned to teach in the former all-white



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

From left Nikesha Nesbitt, Dean of University College; Adrian & Brianna Rodger, children of Legacy Award winner Susan Woods Rodgers; LaGanzie Kale & Zharia Davis, representatives of Legacy Award Winner Qubilah Jones; Cora Martin, Rev. Arthur Ray Scales, Herman Strickland, Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, Lonnie Williams, Provost Calvin White.

schools after the Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education ruled the segregation of schools was unconstitutional.

He joined the A-State faculty in 1972. He served as coordinator of professional education experiences, director of professional education programs and assistant dean of education. He retired in 2008 as emeritus associate professor of teacher education and dean of University College.

Strickland said today there are opportunities for learning that formerly didn't exist.

"Education is a continuous process. You're going to be

learning the rest of your life because everything constantly changes and you can't study enough to get ready for life," Strickland said. "Life is education to me."

Rev. Arthur Ray Scales is the founding pastor of New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Jonesboro. He also served as pastor of First Baptist Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. He was the first African American employed by KAIT 8, serving as chief photojournalist for 22 years.

He has served in many leadership roles and received many awards, including the keys

to the city of Jonesboro and West Memphis, Arkansas. He also founded the Craighead County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and helped establish a street named in King's honor.

"I didn't do it alone. People helped me do it. People allowed me to do it and made a way for me to do it," said Scales. "For that, I will always be thankful the doors were opened and I was being helped."

Cora Martin graduated from A-State with a master's degree in sociology in 1991 and worked for the Department of Human Services for 13 years, specializing in foster care and

investigations before retiring.

Martin said she decided to come out of retirement in 2005 and started working at A-State in the financial aid department as an administrative specialist.

"I would tell the students today to look back and remember the past and be a future legend," Martin said. "Stay in school, get your education, do what you came here to do. Then you can do whatever you want to do."

CONTINUED:  
LEGENDS, 4A

## Retired staff member Gina Bowman dies



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Retired Arkansas State University staff member Gina Bowman died Feb. 26.

Bowman served as director of media relations in the Office of Communications and Marketing for 14 years. She retired in 2022.

After earning her journalism degree at A-State, Bowman served as an assistant director in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. While earning her degree, she was the sports editor for The Herald.

She was promoted to assistant athletics director for media relations in 1994 and was one of the first female sports information directors for an NCAA Division I school.

She was also A-State's Senior Woman Administrator from 1994-2002.

"We were more like sisters than then friends. We just had that bond that good friends do. She was the best at what she did. Everybody loved her," said Phareta Calkin, an electronic print press technician for Printing Services and one of Bowman's friends.

Bowman was among 100 employees selected for inclusion on the Staff Centennial Wall of Honor. The A-State's Lettermen's Club named her an Honorary Letter Winner at the 2021 Hall of Honor banquet.

Bowman became popular through #Regina

on social media, where followers would await the university's weather-related closing announcements.

Calkin said Bowman would get asked if she was "#Regina." She said a moment that stuck out to her was when the two were at a basketball game and students had "#Regina for the win" painted on their chests.

"We just got the biggest kick out of that," Calkin said. "She loved doing that and she loved that the students."

Survivors include her brother Micheal Bowman, Ph.D., associate professor of creative media production, and other family members and friends.

A scholarship to honor her and her former colleague, sports information director Jerry Schaeffer is being established to support the SID students assistants program.

"She was a mother figure sometimes to the athletes," Calkin said. "She always had an open door and an ear to listen and give advice and she was good at that."

Brief by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

## CAMPUS CRIME



JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

Feb. 28 | 11:03 p.m.

Sgt. Chase Barnett observed a vehicle traveling westbound on Johnson at the intersection of East Johnson Ave. and N. Caraway Road. The vehicle had no lights on.

Barnett initiated a traffic stop on the above vehicle. The vehicle, operated by Suspect One, came to a stop.

Suspect One informed officers she did not have her license on her at the time but did have one out of Wisconsin. Suspect One gave Barnett a name that, upon checking the information, no return was found.

Barnett confirmed with Suspect One her information and checked again with no returns. Barnett removed Suspect One from the vehicle and again confirmed her information and stated that if she had an ID it would be found.

Barnett informed Suspect One he needed her correct information or she would be going to jail. Suspect One was asked again for her

information and she gave the same information with a birth year, before correcting it.

Barnett tried to locate returns for Suspect One with the assistance of A-State and Jonesboro dispatch, with no luck. At this time Suspect One was placed under arrest for failure to present driver's license and obstructing governmental operations.

Jonesboro dispatch found a possible match for the unknown driver, however no picture was present on the return to verify. Barnett placed Suspect One in handcuffs and placed her in the rear seat of the marked patrol car. Suspect One was transported to Craighead County Jail at which point Barnett and a Jonesboro Police Department officer continued to try to verify Suspect One's identity.

Suspect One gave multiple variations of her name, date of birth and social security number to both officers before the JPD officer located a booking photo of Suspect One from a previous arrest and confirmed her identity.

Suspect One was found to be suspended and had multiple

warrants out of Jonesboro which were served by JPD.

Suspect One was turned over to the custody of Craighead County Jail and Barnett's patrol vehicle was checked for contraband.

Feb. 25 | 12:25 a.m.

Sgt. Chase Barnett was on patrol when he saw a vehicle traveling eastbound on Johnson Ave. disregard a traffic light and make a left-hand turn northbound onto Caraway while traffic was flowing on Caraway with a green light.

Barnett conducted a stop on the vehicle which came to rest at a residence. Barnett made contact with the driver Suspect One and introduced himself. Immediately Barnett could detect the odor of alcoholic beverages on Suspect One's breath. Suspect One's speech was slow and slurred and he had glassy eyes. Barnett got his information and ran his driver's license out of Oklahoma. Barnett found his license was suspended.

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JUMP TEASER, 4A