

News

Provost announces changes to 2024-2025 calendar, inclement weather policy

Provost Calvin White, Ph.D., announced via email a new inclement weather policy along with scheduling changes to the 2024-2025 academic calendar. To align with the U.S. Department of Education, Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission, all face-to-face classes will be canceled when the university is closed for inclement weather. In addition, classes cannot be shifted to an online format, such as through Zoom or Canvas. The new academic calendar sees the return of classes starting on Tuesdays rather than Mondays. "This will give students more time to adjust to campus life and address any issues with course registration or student accounts," White said in the email sent out Monday. This new calendar adds in another break after fall 2024

midterms, scheduled to take place Oct. 10-11. This will not affect Thanksgiving break, which will remain a week long. For the spring semester, spring break will act as the midterm break. The new calendar reimplemented the single study day at the end of each term, with the email stating university classes and events could not be scheduled on the study days. "It seems like there's logical things in the 2024-2025 academic calendar that make sense for faculty, makes sense for staff and makes sense for students. It's a major win for campus," said interim chief communications officer Todd Clark.

Brief by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

This week's puzzle

E	E	S	R	A	S	S	S	S	R	P	D	D	N
B	L	P	E	U	O	N	D	E	R	R	P	M	B
A	L	T	D	E	D	U	E	A	E	M	P	L	R
T	A	J	W	R	L	J	K	U	T	O	O	R	A
L	B	A	O	J	T	O	E	S	T	E	M	E	D
R	T	S	L	R	I	U	E	T	E	S	E	D	B
A	E	P	V	S	K	R	D	R	O	B	R	R	U
Y	K	R	E	S	T	N	R	P	J	A	O	O	R
T	S	E	S	R	O	A	P	S	B	O	M	B	Y
B	A	T	P	R	K	L	E	A	D	R	A	R	R
E	B	T	R	K	B	I	P	T	E	E	R	B	T
R	P	O	S	K	D	S	P	R	E	V	A	Y	L
A	E	P	B	T	R	M	E	Y	M	D	P	T	I
L	O	B	B	R	K	P	R	M	B	B	R	J	R

RED WOLVES
STEM
BORDER
BRADBURY
PARAMORE
DR PEPPER
BASKETBALL
TIKTOK
ASPRETTO
JOURNALISM

ART + DESIGN, CONTINUED

"Even though the official opening of the Windgate Center took place in the fall of 2021, we were in the middle of the pandemic at the time and never got to properly showcase the building," said Balducci. "We are taking this opportunity to celebrate and reimagine the future of 3D arts at Arkansas State." Workshops open to the public will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Thursday, Feb. 22. The workshops will be held in the Windgate Center, with ceramics in room 121 and sculpture in room 127. Tate said he's looking forward to the lessons the visiting artists will share with A-State students. "All the artists have exhibited widely both nationally and internationally at esteemed

museums and galleries around the world. It is rare to have a group of this caliber assembled to collaborate in a shared space. Having the opportunity to work in proximity with these artists is an invaluable experience for our students, our faculty, and the community," he continued. An open question-and-answer event will be held from noon until 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, in the gallery of the Windgate Center. A reception for the artists will be held from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Lounge at Huntington Square, 401 West Huntington Ave. There will be a silent auction, refreshments, live music, and hand-printed swag bags.

CAMPUS CRIME, CONTINUED

Bradway searched the University Police reporting system and located a call on Oct. 6, where he randomly showed up in a parking lot on campus where she was, looking for her. It was not known at the time if any contact was made between the suspect and the victim at that time. Officers from UPD were not able to make contact with him that day. He is not

affiliated with Arkansas State University and has no reason to be on campus. Due to this and the escalation of behavior since, Bradway added a stalking third degree charge along with a harassing communication charge. Victim One added she has reported incidents like this to the Jonesboro Police Department as well.

TRUMPET, CONTINUED

This year approximately 200 ensembles from across the country submitted videos, with only 40 ensembles selected to compete in the small ensemble category. Simoes also serves as a judge for the national competition,

in the undergraduate solo division. He also is editor of the orchestral spotlight column in the International Trumpet Guild Journal, and a member of the board of directors of the Brazilian Trumpet Guild.

Tanja McKay is appointed department chair for biological sciences

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Jennifer Bouldin, dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, has announced Tanja McKay as the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. McKay has served as interim chair since June 2023. "Dr. McKay has earned the respect of her colleagues in the Department of Biological Sciences and has proven herself to be an effective and capable leader," Bouldin said. "Her ability to work collaboratively with faculty and staff has been instrumental in maintaining a positive and productive work environment. As interim chair, she demonstrated a commitment to fairness and respect, and has consistently upheld the highest standards of professionalism and excellence." After joining A-State's

faculty in 2004, McKay became associate professor and achieved tenure in 2009, then was promoted to full professor of entomology in 2015. Her previous administrative experience at A-State includes serving as associate department chair, and director of the graduate programs in environmental sciences and molecular biosciences. In addition to teaching and mentoring at the undergraduate and graduate levels, she devoted much of her 19 years of her academic career to research. She has secured more than \$9 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Science Foundation, and other sources. McKay's research interests include integrated pest management of stored product insects, both on-farm and in rice

milling, integrated mosquito management related to canine heartworm interactions, dung beetles and their importance in cattle pastures, and controlling flies using biological control in poultry and dairy facilities. "We have a fantastic team of talented faculty, staff and students in the Department of Biological Sciences, and I appreciate them all in trusting me to lead the department," McKay commented. "This role presents an exciting opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across many departments and contribute to the growth and success of our academic community here at Arkansas State University," she added. "I look forward to working on new endeavors that will enhance the department's research, teaching, service, and overall impact to the community and state."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Tanja McKay, department chair of biological sciences Arkansas State University

The Department of Biological Sciences has more than 500 students enrolled in its eight degree programs, including those at A-State's Campus Querétaro in Mexico.

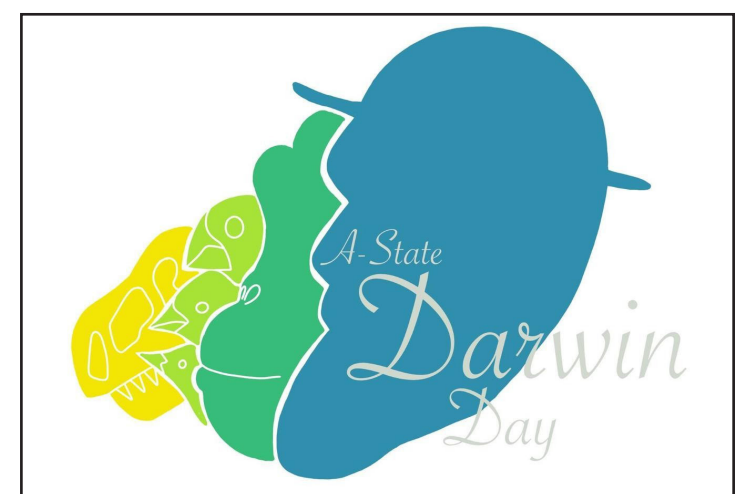
Darwin Day event planned at A-State to focus on paleontology

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

A series of events will be held at Arkansas State University for a Darwin Day celebration planned to celebrate Charles Darwin's birthday, which occurs on Monday, Feb. 12. This annual event highlights major themes and topics in the field of evolutionary biology. The theme this year is paleontology and features multiple activities. A roundtable discussion will be held in room 157 of Arkansas State University Museum on Wednesday, Feb.

14, from 4 until 5 p.m. The roundtable discussion will feature faculty from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at A-State. A public presentation will be held from 5 until 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, in the A-State Museum auditorium. ReBecca Hunt-Foster, park paleontologist at Dinosaur National Monument, will present "The Dinosaurs of Arkansas." On Friday, Feb. 16, there will be a Department of Biological Sciences seminar with Hunt-Foster, which will be held from noon until 1 p.m. in the



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Arkansas Biosciences Institute, Record in North America." room 107. For this event, The events are free she will focus on "The Early and open to the public. Cretaceous Ornithomimosaur