

Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students hosts Black Men in Medicine event

JERRY DON BURTON
NEWS EDITOR
BENJAMIN MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

To honor minority professionals in the healthcare field, the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) hosted the Black Men in Medicine event Feb. 27. Lorna Scaife, academic adviser for student support services and faculty adviser for MAPS, said the Black Men in Medicine event exposes students to professionals in the healthcare field who are minorities. "Students see those who look like them and they've made it," Scaife said. "They can talk to them about their journey, any difficulties they've had and for any advice or tips." The event, held in the Mockingbird Room of the Reng Student Union, had five speakers: anesthesiologist Michael

Agbor, physical therapist Dejuan Daniel; dentist Albert Gruber; pediatrician Kris Nwokeji; and speech-language pathologist Charles Ratcliff. Each speaker introduced themselves and spoke on their experiences as minorities in the medical field. Afterward, the speakers sat down with students for more in-depth discussions. Daniel said the turnout for the event was outstanding. "There's not enough people that look like us in the hospital," Daniel said. "It's our duty at this table to get more of you guys in there." Armari Jackson, MAPS president and junior biology major from McGehee, Arkansas, said the event gives students opportunities for mentorships, job shadowing and advice from medical professionals. Jackson said since there are so few minorities with careers in healthcare, she wants to introduce MAPS

members to people who are diversifying the medical field. "We want to put them (MAPS members) in rooms where they may or may not have ever met someone who is a Black male in medicine. I think they bring a perspective that your common medical professional may not bring," Jackson said. Louis Gonzalez, a sophomore biology major from Kansas City, Missouri, said he enjoyed listening to Nwokeji speak about his life and the practices he's opened. "One of the major things Dr. Kris was speaking on was to never give up," Gonzalez said. "Even though I want to give up and I'm tired and want to go to sleep, I can't give up. You have to keep going." Gonzalez said he is going to try to secure a shadowing or internship opportunity with Nwokeji. Gruber said he spoke at the event because he wanted



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUIS GONZALEZ
(From left) pediatrician Kris Nwokeji; speech-language pathologist Charles Ratcliff; physical therapist Dejuan Daniel; dentist Albert Gruber; and anesthesiologist Michael Agbor.

to share his experience and be a mentor. He said he thinks the challenges that face minorities should not deter them from achieving their goals.

"I want to start that fire or create that fire in an individual," Gruber said. "You don't have to do fantastic things, if you just change the life of one

person you change the world."

CONTINUED:
MAPS , 4A

Alumni share their experience at Red Wolf Roots: A-State Through the Decades

WILL LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

Four graduates of Arkansas State University came to the Reng Student Union to share their experiences of being Black students at A-State. The graduates gave advice and answered questions from those in attendance. The event was hosted by the Student Government Association, Student Philanthropy Council and A-State Alumni Association. Around 20 students attended. "Arkansas State was my first integrated educational experience," said Thomas Hill, Ph.D. "I came from New Orleans and they dropped me in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The two communities couldn't be more different." Hill came to A-State as a member of the ROTC and the track team. He was ranked as one of the best hurdlers in the

world from 1970-1972. He won the bronze medal at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. Hill said during his time as a student at A-State, he was one of only a handful of African American students and as such he felt a need to be very active on campus. "During those times, it was the activist '60s. Part of our job description was to 'raise hell' and we did a good job," Hill said. "There were no faculty members or staff of color. I happened to be the president of the Black Students Association. We had a white faculty member as our adviser. We've always been able to mix and mingle as we went through this institution." Nikesha Nesbitt came to Arkansas State as a graduate student with a group of her friends. She said while many of the struggles Hill faced affected her as well, she excelled past many of her colleagues at A-State. "A lot of people felt like we

shouldn't know the information and the knowledge that we did," Nesbitt said. "We excelled at a ton of things where it was taking our counterparts four or five times to pass the exam." Nesbitt graduated from A-State in 2007 and currently works as the dean of University College. Nesbitt said she was very active at A-State. "We also became disruptors and we made sure our voices were heard," Nesbitt said. "We got a little discouraged and actually thought about leaving here. But that's when we had those faculty members sort of rally around us and let us know that we belong and that we can make a difference for those behind us." Adrian Everett, director of multicultural affairs, said during his time as a student he was part of major changes to the campus. "This space in my freshman year was the recreation center. We had a coordinator at that



Photo by Will Livingston | Staff Writer
(From left) Alumni Adrian Everett, Benjamin Mack, Nikesha Nesbitt and Thomas Hill, Ph.D. speaking about their experiences as Black students at A-State.

time for multicultural affairs, but never a space," Everett said. "So SGA decided to make part of the renovations to the Student Union into the multicultural space. I got to be a part of the benefits of that." Everett graduated from

A-State in 2011 with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and again in 2013 with his Master's in College Student Personnel Services. Benjamin Mack was the youngest member of the panel, having graduated in fall of 2022

with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology. He had Nesbitt as an adviser and credited her with helping him earn his degree.

CONTINUED:
ALUMNI , 4A

Man sentenced after pleading guilty to North Park Quads vehicle break-ins

BRIEF BY RACHEL RUDD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A man pleaded guilty to breaking into multiple vehicles on the Arkansas State University campus. Second Judicial Circuit Judge Chris Thyer sentenced 19-year-old Aiden Massey to 60 months' probation after he pleaded guilty to possession of a Schedule I or II controlled substance and one count of breaking and entering. Massey was sentenced to 72 months suspended imposition of sentence after pleading guilty to five counts of breaking or entering. He was also ordered to pay all court

costs and fees, including \$550 in restitution to the victims in \$50 monthly installments. According to police reports, Massey, along with Kevin Martin Mitchell, Jr., and a juvenile were arrested by an A-State police officer for attempting to break into vehicles in the North Park Quads parking lot Oct. 18, 2023. Police have not released any information about the juvenile due to his age. Surveillance video showed Massey and the other two suspects entering 20 unlocked vehicles and attempting to enter 117 other vehicles. Mitchell was scheduled



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAIT 8
(Above) Aiden Massey

to go on trial Monday. No information regarding sentencing has been released.

CAMPUS CRIME



March 2 | 02:12 p.m.
Officer Haylee Keating was told about a subject at the dispatch center needing to file a report on harassment. Upon arrival, Keating made contact with Complainant One who said her ex-fiancé, Suspect One, had been harassing her. Complainant One said Suspect One had been driving by her house, leaving notes in her mailbox and messaging her ugly comments via text and Snapchat. Complainant One said Suspect One was not threatening at that time. She said none of this had happened on campus. Keating told Complainant

One to go to the Jonesboro Police Department to file a report since the incidents did not happen on campus. **March 1 | 5:19 p.m.**
Officer Ryan Smith and Sgt. Takeem Bowman were called to Embassy Suites to investigate a suspicious person report. Bowman found Suspect One on the sidewalk. Bowman and Smith made contact with Suspect One. Suspect One said she was trying to get a job and while filling out her application, she said someone wanted her application. She thought they wanted to steal her identity. Bowman said he made

contact with Suspect One previously. At that time, she was transported to St. Bernard's Behavioral Health Center. She was released March 1. Smith asked her if she was on any medication or seen a doctor. She told Smith she was taking the bipolar medication Vraylar, but had not taken it recently. Smith called the Mobile Crisis Unit and they were willing to come and speak with her.

CONTINUED:
CAMPUS CRIME , 4A