

News

Meet the new 24-25 SGA ticket

ANNA COX

SPORTS EDITOR

The 2024-2025 Student Government Association administration headed by president Micayla McGowen was sworn in Tuesday after running unopposed.

The new SGA ticket ran under the slogan “The Next Step Forward,” which McGowen said focused on enhancing A-State in a useful and cohesive way.

The McGowen/Williamson ticket ran uncontested, however, they still tabled to connect with students.

McGowen, a junior marketing major with a minor in strategic marketing from East End, Arkansas will serve again as the president of SGA.

McGowen said one of her main foundations will be trying to be a voice for the students.

“That’s why we tried to talk to as many students as we could. We’re supposed to be the voice of the students so

how are we supposed to be the voice of the students if we don’t talk to them.” McGowen said.

McGowen said she wants professors to make amendments in their syllabus that have an artificial intelligence policy on how little or how much it can be used in class. She said it would protect students and faculty from issues since the policy would be clearly stated.

To do this, McGowen said she plans to meet with all of the deans to see if they could enforce an AI amendment.

Anhiya Williamson is a senior pre-med biology major from Nashville, Arkansas. Williamson is the new vice president of SGA.

Williamson joined SGA as a first-year student; however, she had to leave in the fall of 2023 because of a class conflict, until McGowen invited her to run for the SGA presidential race.

Williamson said that the formation of the whole ticket was done by trying to

locate voices from as many communities as possible.

“Let’s find somebody who can represent this community, somebody who’s Greek, somebody who’s not Greek. That type of thing to make sure that we have a good staff of diverse people,” Williamson said.

Williamson and McGowen will also focus on installing mental health days into the academic calendar. These would be days where all of the A-State facilities run but classes are canceled, allowing students to visit the Wilson Counseling Center or tutoring while still having a day of rest.

To accomplish this, McGowen said she would meet with the Academic Calendar Advisory Committee.

McGowen said taking days from the newly proposed mid-semester break could be a way to implement these days into the calendar. However, that break is a tentative addition and SGA will still have to work to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICAYLA MCGOWEN

(From left) Secretary Jackson Richmond, Cultural and Diversity Chair Martavious Hopkins, Chief of Staff Braden Ross, President Micayla McGowen, Vice President Anhiya Williamson, Public Relations Chair Rachel Mooneyham and Parliamentarian Tyler “Chan” Johnson.

get the mental health day added. “I was told that the possibility of using one of those days as a mental health day would be highly possible as long as we put in the right effort and the right

motivation to actually make it happen,” McGowen said. Braden Ross, a junior pre-professional biology major from Nashville, Arkansas, is the chief of staff chair.

CONTINUED:
SGA, 4A

Multimedia journalism program in process of planning new curriculum

RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Updates regarding the development of the new journalism curriculum were presented to members of the multimedia journalism (MMJ) and creative media production (CMP) faculty April 3.

Provost Calvin White, Ph.D., along with William McLean, Ph.D., senior vice provost for academic affairs, told attending faculty the MMJ and CMP programs could be merged, or a new journalism program be created, provided it is different from the deleted MMJ program.

The program was considered

non-viable by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) in April 2023. Per the ADHE, the last people to graduate from the program will be May 2027.

It is currently unclear which route the faculty will take, however, each program must provide two representatives by Wednesday to meet to discuss further changes to the program.

“The provost was very adamant in saying, ‘Hey, we’re hands off. We’re going to let you guys do it. We’re not going to intervene. We’ll get you the resources you need and support you. But it does have to get through ADHE,

and ADHE will be checking,” said Terrance Armstard, MMJ instructor and adviser to Delta Digital News Service.

McLean said there is no time frame for when a completed program must be presented to the ADHE.

“The big takeaway is that we want to do what is really best for the students, whatever career they pursue,” Michael Bowman said.

MMJ program coordinator Lillie Fears, Ph.D., said regardless of which direction the faculty takes, this new program will need to focus

on recruitment and retention. “We don’t want to put old wine in new bottles. In other words, don’t bring back the same thing you’ve been doing,” Fears said. “We need to do a better job of getting our message out about what we really do in multimedia

journalism. People keep saying ‘You’re just doing print,’ because they see The Herald, but we teach other skills.” In previous Faculty Senate

meetings discussing the status of the MMJ program, Chancellor Todd Shields, Ph.D., said if the MMJ and CMP programs could not work together, the program could be placed under receivership, which would place control of the curriculum under a third party.

However, during the meeting, White said Arkansas State University does not want to place the program under receivership.

“What happens is it creates ill feelings toward everybody. It turns folks off,” Fears said. “(White) said he’s seen situations where folks get so mad, that they won’t come back to the university for anything.

He said (the administrators) don’t want to do that.”

Whatever the faculty decides for the program, both MMJ and CMP members said they wanted to create the best possible option for students.

“The big takeaway is that we want to do what is really best for the students, whatever career that they pursue, whether it’s a creative media career or journalistic career,” said Michael Bowman, Ph.D., associate professor of creative media production. “That’s the primary focus that we’re trying to achieve.”

8TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PROMOTES STRENGTH AND GROWTH



PHOTO COURTESY OF FARIHA AJNIN

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

STAFF WRITER

The eighth annual Women’s Leadership Conference taught women how to stay strong on the path to becoming successful business leaders.

The conference featured keynote speaker Patricia Riddlebarger, who spoke about women persevering through hardships. The conference featured breakout sessions that covered multiple topics to help women start and maintain their own businesses and ways to be leaders.

Hosted by the Women’s Leadership Collaborative and Women Business Leadership Center, the conference took place April 4 and was held in Centennial Hall.

“This conference gives women a chance to network, learn, receive encouragement and engage. It is important for employers to encourage their female employees to attend this empowering event,” said Patricia Johnston, executive director of the Women’s Business Leadership Center (WBLC).

The conference’s theme was strength. Johnston

said the WBLC chose this theme because it represented the individual strengths of students, faculty and more.

The first breakout sessions offered encouragement and ways for women to build their careers. These sessions consisted of topics on how to maintain stability in life, ways to be authentic in a career and how to build a team of leaders.

CONTINUED:
CONFERENCE, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

April 7 | 4:23 a.m.

Sgt. Chase Barnett was running radar on Red Wolf Boulevard when he observed two vehicles traveling toward him at a high rate of speed.

Barnett targeted the vehicle with the handheld radar device and observed the front vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed. Sgt. Barnett clocked the vehicle, a blue Mustang, traveling at 81 MPH in the posted 45 MPH zone and locked it into the radar.

The vehicle passed a slower-moving vehicle on the right before changing lanes back into the left lane.

Sgt. Barnett pulled out and was able to catch up to the vehicle. A citation was issued to the operator, Arrestee One, for reckless driving due to the excessive speed and unlawful passing on the right.

April 6 | 8:20 p.m.

Victim One was returning to his campus residence at 120 Dean St. A vehicle in front of Victim One scanned their ID and raised the gate arm.

Victim One did not stop to scan his ID and instead violated policy and attempted to follow the vehicle through the gate. This action resulted in the gate arm coming down on the roof of his vehicle, causing damage.

Officers decided to complete a report at the request of Victim One but explained the violation of policy and informed Victim One that the university would not be responsible for the damage to his vehicle.

April 6 | 1:45 a.m.

While conducting foot patrol at 101 Caraway Road, Sgt. Chase Barnett located Suspect One in the St. Francis River room on the 3rd floor of the union. Barnett confronted Suspect One, who stated he was not a student and was staying out of the cold.

Barnett conducted a consent search of the subject and located his ID. Barnett observed a bag of cookies which Suspect One said he took from the catering area of the closed Student Union.

Dispatch confirmed Suspect One was banned from campus. Suspect One said he has been staying in

the closed Student Union unlawfully for about a week.

During the consent search of his property, Barnett located a red A-State bifold card holder with a credit/debit card belonging to Victim One as well as a card inside with a PIN written on it. Suspect One told Barnett that he found the item.

Suspect One was secured in handcuffs behind his back while Barnett collected the property Suspect One took. Barnett asked him about two black aprons on the table, which he confirmed he took from the Sodexo dining area along with the cookies belonging to Victim One. Suspect One was searched again then secured in the back seat of a marked Patrol vehicle and transported to Craighead County Detention Center where he was turned over to their custody.

The stolen cookies were disposed of as they were unsealed in a bag. The aprons and debit card were secured into evidence.

Barnett called the number associated with Victim One and left a voicemail about the recovery of the debit/credit card.