

Debate team celebrates 100th anniversary

LAILA CASIANO

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Arkansas State University's debate team celebrated its centennial anniversary April 11.

The debate team began in 1924 when two women, Alta Moyer and Mildred Cox, traveled to Memphis to debate on behalf of Aggie School to West Tennessee Normal School (currently known as the University of Memphis).

The chosen topic, "Resolved, That Immigration should be further restricted," secured Moyer and Cox's victory against Normal.

100 years later, what started with only two Aggie women debating continues its women-led legacy with Christina Smith and Jasmine Turnage as the current debate team captains.

"It is such a statement that the debate team started with two women a hundred years ago and it definitely attests to the perseverance and dedication that it takes to be a woman in a historically male-dominated activity," Turnage said. "I am proud to be one of the two

current female captains this year and think it's amazing that one hundred years after its foundation, two women are leading the team yet again.

Turnage, a senior English education major from Cabot, Arkansas said Moyer and Cox are the most significant contributions regarding the legacy of past debate team members.

Turnage said it's phenomenal to see an organization built by students and their passions, seeing the adaptation and evolution over a century-long course.

"The team and all of its members have accomplished so much; it definitely takes grit and adaptability to maintain a successful, cohesive team, and it's an amazing feeling to know that I've gotten to be a part of that," Turnage said.

Alex Orvis, a senior communication studies major from Beebe, Arkansas, said reaching 100 years is a monumental achievement, as many other organizations within this school cannot share

the same feat, so being a part of something monumental is special to him and his peers.

Adding that the connection and the culture cultivated through being on the debate team added to his experience as a member

"There is definitely a culture in the debate room, and I think that is evidence of its longevity," Orvis said. "The fact that we get to go on trips together creates a culture of togetherness, and we create a friendship. We are not just colleagues or fellow students. We actually become friends, and that culture has carried throughout time."

Rocco Hicks, a sophomore political science major from Prattville, Arkansas said the team's celebration of achieving a century was a testament to the people who came before him and the people who will soon come after.

"I'm just here for the ride, there's going to be students after me that celebrate 150 years, hopefully. There are students before me that have celebrated 50 years, ten years; my main



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA SMITH

Members of the debate team posing with awards won at the 2023 Derryberry Season Opener in Bolivar, Maryland. The team placed third.

part is to make sure that we are able to celebrate. I'm only part of the chain," Hicks said.

In celebration of their anniversary, the debate

team went to Mississippi State University for the 2024 International Public Debate Association National Championship Tournament

and Convention, April 12-15. Smith won four rounds and lost four. Hicks won three and lost five. Orvis won three and lost five. Page won three and lost five.

New dean of College of Liberal Arts and Communication announced

BRIEF BY RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The current dean of the Graduate School, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Ph.D., was named the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication (CLAC) April 11 following an internal search.

Jones-Branch will become dean effective July 1. She replaces interim dean Brad Rawlins, Ph.D. Rawlins said he is excited to return to the classroom and pursue his research interests.

"I am excited about this opportunity to work with CLAC students, faculty and staff as we

continue to emphasize liberal and communication as core and essential components of a university education," Jones-Branch said in a press release.

She started at A-State in 2003 in the Department of History, becoming a professor in 2017. She was named dean of the Graduate School in 2020.

"During the search, she shared a strong vision for the future of the college and a demonstrated understanding of the unique challenges facing colleges of liberal arts and communications. I look forward to supporting her

efforts to elevate the college and its diverse academic departments and programs," Provost Calvin White, Ph.D., said in a press release.

Jones-Branch earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in American history from the College of Charleston. In 2003, she earned her doctorate in American history from Ohio State University.

A published author, she has written about the activism of Black women in the South throughout history. She also served as a specialist in the 941st Transportation Company as

part of the U.S. Army Reserves during the Persian Gulf War.

In addition, Jones-Branch works on the Black History Moments radio show on KLEK 102.5, where she researches and records her own shows on Black history and global news.

"Dr. Jones-Branch has extensive familiarity with the college and significant leadership experience. It will be exciting to see where she takes the college in the next few years," Rawlins said.

Ben McDowell, staff writer, contributed to this report.



PHOTO CREDITLINE

Cherisse Jones-Branch, Ph.D., the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication

Nepalese students ring in new year



PHOTO BY SHYE FISHER | SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

BRIEF BY SHYE FISHER

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Students from all over the world gathered to celebrate the Nepalese New Year April 13 on the Heritage Plaza Lawn.

In Nepal, the year is 2081. To bring in the new year, Nepalese traditional lentil bean curry was served with classic naan chips. Following the refreshments, performers shared solo and group dances that originated from their native countries.

This was the first Nepalese

celebration event to take place at Arkansas State University.

"Since the Nepalese students are the largest population for our international students, we really want to show that we appreciate them and their culture," Jacquelyn Young, the international event coordinator, said. "We don't want to just celebrate Chinese New Year or only American New Year. We care about everyone's culture and heritage."

International student ambassador Oshin Thapa, a

junior biology major from Nepal, said their outfit was inspired by the Nepalese flag.

"I chose to wear this drape sari because it has blue and red," Thapa said. "Our flag has blue and red."

Siddhardh Singh, a graduate student studying agriculture from India said the borders connecting Nepal and India are open.

CONTINUED:
NEWYEAR, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

March 11 | 2:20 a.m.

Victim One called from her apartment at 121 North Caraway Rd and said she could hear tapping on her window.

Upon arrival, officer Sgt. Chase Barnett checked the area and could not locate anyone but did find a screen removed from the window of Victim One's bedroom. The window was located on the roof which is easily accessible by jumping from the stairwell to the roof.

Upon review of the cameras, Barnett determined that someone was on the roof before his arrival. Barnett also used the cameras to determine that Suspect One arrived at 10:47 p.m. and followed another vehicle through the gate. Suspect One then exited his vehicle and went to Victim One's roof window over the next three hours.

Suspect One and Victim One have a no-contact order issued and were involved in a previous

domestic incident. Victim One said she did not want to press charges on Suspect One. However, based on the history and activity of Suspect One, he will be banned from campus.

March 9 | 4:42 a.m.

Officer Alexander Donohue and Sgt. Mossman were dispatched to 223 North Red Wolf Blvd. about a noise complaint.

Upon their arrival, the hotel clerk informed the officers that he had spoken with the gentlemen before contacting us and requested that they be quiet. The hotel clerk said he did not want the officer to remove them from the property as long as they agreed to calm down, be quiet and go to sleep.

The clerk led the officers to the room where the noise was coming from. They could hear a light commotion coming from the room.

After making two knock attempts the door was answered by Witness One. The officer informed him that they were responding to a noise complaint

and they needed to keep it down. Mossman asked him where everyone else in the room was and that they would like to speak to them and make sure they understood what they were asking them to do.

At that moment a woman, who was later identified as Victim One, approached and asked if she could talk to them outside the room and appeared troubled. She said that she had asked them to leave several times and that they would not leave the room and also that they had a firearm and she was scared.

Mossman asked her how many were in the room and she informed him there were three. Mossman and Donohue entered the room and ordered the three individuals to come out.

The room was messy, with beer cans scattered around the room as well as trash cans full of empty containers.

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CAMPUS CRIME, 4A