

Inside the life of custodians at A-State

LUKE MORSE

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Arkansas State University janitorial staff work from dawn to dusk making sure the entire campus is clean and orderly.

"I spend most of my time in the HSS, and it's mostly spotless, I never really put it much thought but I probably owe that to the janitor people," said Sloan Sifford, a sophomore history major from Jonesboro.

Sifford said students overlook the impact of the janitors at A-State due to how efficiently they work.

The 58 janitors and custodians work in every building across campus five days a week for eight hours. They are given comp time and shift changes for working overtime.

"I see them mostly in the early morning, but they're kind of omnipresent," Sifford said.

The janitorial staff works across the whole day at A-State. The group day shifts have set times they work. The staff works as a cohesive unit, working in

set groups of two to four per building. Staff members are assigned to specific buildings and times that they work.

The times the janitors work are from 4 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. depending on the building and shift the janitor is working.

"The janitorial and custodian staff at A-State are one of the biggest and diverse groups on campus," said Mia Sheppard-Taylor, director of Custodial Services. "There's not much pay in what we do, but many employees have been here for years and love it. Employees have made friends for life from working in the department."

The janitors at A-State average around \$16,000 to \$30,000 a year, making \$15 to \$16 an hour depending on the position.

"All things considered I feel pretty lucky to have found a full-time job that pays pretty decent and gives pretty good benefits," said Joseph Shipman, a janitor at the Student Union.

For the past two years,

Shipman has worked for the school as a janitor at the Student Union. Shipman works the second shift starting at 3:00 p.m. working until around midnight, getting an hour for lunch.

Shipman said the role of a janitor is to maintain a standard of cleanliness. This includes sweeping, mopping and helping with general maintenance of the building. Shipman said he enjoyed working for the school and interacting with co-workers.

"I actually didn't ever have too much of a bad time getting along with co-workers, which is funny because I'm on the autism spectrum, so social stuff has been difficult. I feel like I've been lucky to have pretty cool co-workers," Shipman said. Shipman when he first started working, he was making \$14 to \$15 an hour, but now makes \$15 to \$16 an hour since working full time. Shipman said the school has a decent schedule of annual pay raises, but more pay is always a nice thing to get.

"I can't say it's my dream



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE MORSE

Violeta Simek, custodial worker, cleaning tables in The Carl Reng Student Union.

aspiration, but as far as full-time jobs to earn a living I think it's pretty good," Shipman said. "I

really do feel very lucky that I was able to find this a few years ago."

SGA fills seats and finalizes budget in last meeting of the year

ANNA COX

SPORTS EDITOR

The Student Government Association held its last meeting of the semester by filling the sergeant at arms senate committee position, the College of Liberal Arts and Communication chair, five at-large seats and one junior senator seat. They also discussed their budget for the upcoming year.

Abby Orr, a junior theatre major filled the College of Liberal Arts and Communication chair.

The individual who filled the junior senator seat was Kyleigh Herring, a junior pre-professional biology major from Southaven, Mississippi.

The individuals who filled the five at-large seat are as follows:

Andrés Gustavo Ambriz Gudiel is a graduate student studying business administration with a concentration in finance from



Photo by Anna Cox | Sports Editor

New SGA Senators. From left: Andrés Gustavo Ambriz Gudiel, Steve Williams, Kyleigh Herring, Akshita Velagapudi, Zakeyo Chisala, Abby Orr and Farjana Swarna

Mexico. Ambriz Gudiel comes from the Querétaro, Mexico.

Steve Williams is a sophomore pre-vet major from Sherwood, Arkansas.

Akshita Velagapudi is a graduate student majoring in

business administration with a specialization in business analytics from Delhi, India.

Zakeyo Chisala is a first-year majoring in international business from Lushka, Zambia.

Farjana Swarna is a graduate

student majoring in finance from Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Velagapudi said they want to give a voice to the international students of Arkansas State University. "I want to represent a good

portion of the population which is international students," Velagapudi said.

Orr came to help bridge the gap between the arts and the rest of campus. Orr said since the Fowler Center is far away from the center of campus, they are cut off from the students.

"The arts are important whether or not you're an artist, they can enrich your lives," Orr said.

Chisala said that he also wants to focus on helping unite the international community to the domestic community.

"My heart's desire is to ensure that international students are unified and everybody else feels involved one way or another," Chisala said.

The budget was created and presented by President Micayla McGowen.

The SGA budget breakdown goes as follows:

- President - \$7,500
 - Vice President - \$6,500
 - Chief of Staff - \$4,000
 - Cultural and Diversity \$3,000
 - Public Relations - \$3,000
 - Secretary - \$2,450
 - Parliamentarian - \$2,200
 - Supplies and operations - 2%
 - Office Supplies - 100%
 - Senate-appointed positions (set) - \$1,500
 - Action fund commissioner - \$1,000
 - President Pro-Temp - \$500
 - Public Relations - 3%
 - Marketing - 100%
 - Executive fund - 54%
 - Activities - 100%
 - Special Assistance - 41%
 - Special Projects - 88.4%
 - Bike Share Program - 5.4%
 - Food Pantry - 6.2%
 - NPHC - \$1,500 (estimated)
- The budget passed with no fails.

Livestreamer speech prompts student debate



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

BRIEF BY

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

A crowd gathered outside the Reng Student Union after a live streamer came to campus with a sign that read "Sin is slavery." Christopher Svochak,

who makes videos for a YouTube channel called Kingdom Reconcilers, said he goes to college campuses and other places such as homeless shelters to preach. He said he streams his

conversations since some people he has spoken to have gotten violent and so people can hear his message online.

CONTINUED: LIVESTREAMER, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

April 19 | 4:13 p.m.

Officer Robert Kary was dispatched about an accident that occurred at 801 University Loop E. St. Upon arrival, Kary spoke to the driver of the vehicle, Complainant One. Complainant One said that he was driving his truck, a 2012 Silver Chevy Silverado, and pulling a U-Haul trailer through the gate to move his daughter in for school. Complainant One said that he used his daughter's ID to scan the ID reader and the gate arm raised. He said he drove the truck through and the gate closed on the trailer before he could get it through the gate. Pictures were taken of the

damages to the gate arm and a statement was collected from the driver. The U-haul agreement was provided as well and included extra insurance on the agreement.

April 17 | 11:11 p.m.

Officer Robert Kary was dispatched to 101 N. Caraway Road about a subject that had fallen. Upon his arrival, Kary located Victim One who was lying on the floor of the cafeteria. Victim One stated she had tripped over another person and fell. Victim One said she was having immense pain in her left hip area. At approximately 11:27 p.m., Emerson Ambulance Services arrived on scene and transported Victim One to NEA Baptist Memorial

Hospital for medical treatment. April 16 | 10:47 p.m.

Officer Chance Matthews witnessed a black vehicle without headlights pull up to the four-way stop of Marion Berry Parkway and Aggie Road. The car turned down Marion Berry Parkway heading south and Officer Matthews engaged in a traffic stop. Upon walking up to the car and speaking with Suspect One, Matthews informed them of who he was and the reason for the stop. He told Suspect One he needed to see his driver's license.

CONTINUED: CAMPUS CRIME, 4A