

## A-State introduces Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation

SHELBY RUSSOM

PHOTO EDITOR

Arkansas State University broke ground for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation building Sept. 19

The new building, set to hold its first classes in fall of 2026, will be located just south of the Fine Arts Center and will become the combined home to art students and other disciplines such as engineering and computer science.

Chair of Computer Science, Jake Qualls, Ph.D., said connecting the Department of Art + Design and the College of Engineering and Computer Science opens the door for innovation.

"This collaboration will encourage our students to solve complex problems and create unique solutions that

wouldn't be possible within a single discipline," Qualls said. "And in turn, they can push the boundaries of what is possible."

The Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation is set to be a 38,887-square-foot facility with several new spaces for students to be creative.

Kathrine Baker, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Art + Design, said new spaces and equipment will allow students to explore their most expansive imaginings.

"Thinking big in small spaces is nearly impossible," Baker said. "We have often been hampered by the sizes we occupy. The Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation will allow us room to grow both as a program and what can be made."

CONTINUED:  
WINDGATE, 4A



Photo by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor

A-State staff and community members break ground on Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation.

## Arkansas Biosciences Institute commemorates 20 years of innovation and research

LAILA CASIANO

OPINION EDITOR

The Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) celebrated two decades worth of scientific exploration and research at Arkansas State University on Sept. 18.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered together to celebrate the institute's achievements and accomplishments 20 years after the opening ceremony of the ABI on September 18, 2004.

Travis Marsico, executive director and vice provost for research, innovation, and discovery at ABI, said since he began his professional journey at A-State, the promise of becoming a research institution was exciting and he wanted to be a part of that change.

"Sort of like the American dream, we are a changing institution, and ABI is right at the center of that change,"

Marsico said. "That is what is really exciting to me."

As the ABI marks this milestone, the celebration highlights festive events that honor its achievements, give historical context and how to get involved with the institution.

### Events and expectations

The two-day event kicked off with a brief ceremony in front of the ABI building at 2 p.m., followed by tours until 5 p.m. Guests viewed the equipment, scientific instruments and students working on their research projects. A dinner and celebration dance party followed at the Fowler Center from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Keynote speakers and notable attendees came to the ceremony such as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, who championed the state's involvement in the ABI, recognizing its transformative impact on research in the state's university. Others included: Todd Shields,

A-State chancellor; Calvin White, A-State's vice chancellor and provost; Shane Broadway, A-State's vice president of university relations; Carole Cramer, the founding executive director of ABI; Billy Hudson and Julie Hudson of Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Prathima Pattada, Program Director for ABI, said faculty had been planning for the event for a year, expecting 200 RSVP attendees, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests from outside the college. She said this is a big event for the ABI.

"The Institute has been here in A-State for 20 years now, and we have researched and found a lot of discoveries, innovations that have gone through, and students who have been educated and gone on to take positions in research fields and various other fields as well," Prattada said.

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ABI, 4A



Photo by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor

Travis Marsico, executive director and vice provost for research, innovation, and discovery at Arkansas Bioscience Institute at A-State, speaking to members of the A-State community at the opening ceremony.

## Volunteer A-State and the American Red Cross host blood drive

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

STAFF WRITER

Volunteer A-State teamed up with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 18-19 at Centennial Hall.

Tyler Stokes, a collections technician at the American Red Cross, said coming to Arkansas State University for a blood drive helped increase opportunities for lives to be saved.

"This job is very rewarding. Going to any blood drive is very rewarding and inspiring. It's nice to see that people like to come and donate regularly and they feel like they are doing a service to others by giving their blood," Stokes said.

Stokes said she wanted the donors to feel they accomplished something special. She said donating blood is bigger than the individual giving blood. Hannah Light, a collections



Photo by Benjamin McDowell | Staff Writer

Brooke Bernard, a first-year radiology major from Memphis, giving blood at the blood drive.

technician for the American Red Cross said one bag of blood will save more than one person.

Brooke Bernard, a first-year radiology major from Memphis, gave blood for the first time. "I always wanted to do this

for the school to try to help out but I was never old enough, now I am," Bernard said. "I could save someone's life."

CONTINUED:  
BLOOD DRIVE, 4A

## CAMPUS CRIME



SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Sept. 22 | 6:51 p.m.

Officer Caleb Lawson arrived at the police department to meet with Complainant in reference to a possible domestic incident that happened the previous night between Victim and Suspect. Complainant One said suspect one had also sent messages in reference to possibly harming herself. Lawson went to 801 University Loop and spoke with Victim who stated the previous night Suspect had taken her phone. Suspect eventually gave the phone back after an argument and Victim said nothing physical ensued. Victim also stated that the messages she sent regarding harming herself were sent in the heat of the moment. Lawson did not observe any obvious visible marks on either party when speaking to them. Suspect

was banned from A-State.

Sept. 20 | 10:34 a.m.

Officer Andrew Thrasher was contacted by Complainant who said she was being harassed and was previously physically assaulted by Suspect. Complainant also said Suspect is no longer an A-State student but continues to come to Greek life events where he harasses and follows her around. Suspect has taken her phone and berated her in public, calling her a slut and a whore. Complainant did not wish to pursue criminal charges at this time but was willing to speak with Title IX about it. Suspect was banned from A-State.

Sept. 18 | 11:14 a.m.

Officer Caleb Lawson responded to 2412 Quapaw Way in association with a parking lot accident. Lawson made contact with Complainant who stated that she was driving

in the parking lot when a vehicle came from a side aisle, hitting the passenger side of her vehicle. Complainant stated that the driver of the other vehicle stopped and gave her his information, but then left the scene. Complainant contacted Lawson by phone after the incident and said that she later started having back pain. Suspect and his passenger came to the police department later. They said they were looking for a parking spot, coming to a stop before beginning to turn into the next aisle. They stated the front of their vehicle made contact with the passenger side of Complainant One's vehicle that was driving quickly through the aisle. Suspect One said that he stopped and provided his information to Complainant. No injuries were reported by anyone in Suspect One's vehicle.