

Hermanidad de Sigma Iota Alpha celebrates Day of the Dead

VALENTINA MARTINEZ

STAFF WRITER

Beta Xi Chapter of Hermanidad de Sigma Iota Alpha (SIA) hosted “Alebrijes with the SIA’s” to educate students about Mexican culture.

The presentation emphasized the legacy of Pedro Linares and the symbolism of alebrijes, fantastical and colorful handcrafted creatures that are most seen during the Day of the Dead.

The Day of the Dead is known globally as one of the oldest and most vibrant cultural expressions among indigenous groups in Mexico. It is celebrated annually on November 1 and 2. A tradition of Day of the

Dead is filling the streets with vivid displays that honor deceased loved ones. November 1 is dedicated to children as All Saints’ Day, while November 2 is reserved for adults on the Day of the Faithful Departed.

The event organizer Kathy Ochoa, senior health studies major from Little Rock, organized this event. She said her goal was to educate students about this rich cultural history of the alebrijes.

Ochoa said alebrije’s are Mexican folk art sculptures, traditionally crafted from paper-mâché or wood, representing imaginative and intricate creatures combining features of real and mythical animals. Their origin traces back

to Pedro Linares, an artisan who in the 1930s had a dream filled with these vibrant creatures, which he later recreated using papier-mâché.

Over time, this tradition spread to Oaxaca, known for its vibrant colors and detailed designs, cementing alebrijes as a symbol of Mexican folk art.

The event featured an interactive activity where students created their own alebrijes using clay while engaging in conversations and watching the animated film “Coco.”

Ochoa said these cultural exchanges are important to promote cultural awareness of other countries represented by populations of Mexicans,

Cubans, Hispanics and Latinos on campus to ensure they all feel seen.

Ashley Ponce, a first-year biology student from North Little Rock, said she showed her Mexican spirit by making a rabbit with a variety of colors.

“The most significant moment about this event was creating colorful creatures with friends and letting everyone know that these creatures aren’t just any animals but a sign of guidance as stated in the tradition,” Ponce said. “It is very important because although we are all the same, we have our differences in culture and traditions which contain so much beauty and liveliness.”

Garret Pritt, a junior biology



Photo by Valentina Martinez | Staff Writer

Alebrijes made by students at “Alebrijes with the SIA’s”.

major from Benton, Arkansas, said learning Mexican traditions is important. “Everyone comes from a different place and when we learn more about different cultures, we are able to understand and connect with each other better,” Pritt said.

What we can learn from Native American Migration into Northeast Arkansas

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

The Central Mississippi Valley chapter of the Arkansas Archaeological Society hosted a lecture about Native American migrations into Arkansas.

David Dye, professor of archaeology at the University of Memphis, spoke at the Arkansas State University Museum about Native American migrations into Northeast Arkansas during a lecture that was open to the public.

Sarah Stuckey, archaeological assistant for the central Mississippi Valley chapter of The Arkansas Archaeological Society, said the chapter has meetings every month September through May and this presentation was for the chapter’s October meeting.

Dye said he became interested in this topic through conversations with archaeologists Dan and Phyllis

Morris. He said Dan Morris was interested in an idea no one was talking about very much about how there were people living in Mississippi and at some point in time most of them migrated to the east.

Dye said Dan and Phyllis Morris believed the triggers for migration were political and environmental: populations had expanded and the sandy soils could not provide the needed food resources.

“In part I agree with them,” the professor of archaeology said. “I also came up with another idea that I think may be equally important, perhaps even more important, which is the idea of droughts.”

During his lecture, Dye highlighted the role of tree ring analysis in assessing past droughts and their impact on populations, the role of religion and politics in these Native American societies as well as

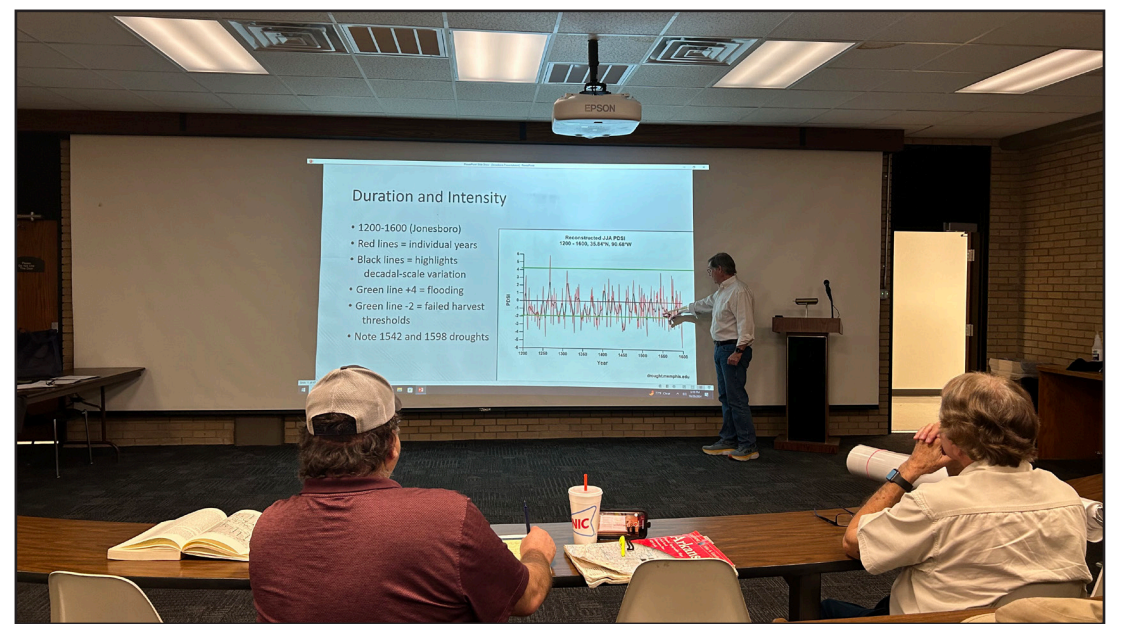
different environmental impacts that led to mass migrations.

He said archaeologists do not like to use external factors, like climate, to explain why people do things and would rather use internal things like conflict within a group of people or the economy.

“My philosophy is, ‘if it looks like a duck and it swims like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it probably is a duck,’” Dye said. “When you see a major drought hitting a place for 25 or 30 years, and those people pack everything up and they leave, I think that drought probably has something to do with that.”

Mitchell Chelle, an archaeologist working for the Department of Energy Southwestern Power Administration, said a lot of people are fascinated by archaeology but don’t know how prehistorically rich this area is.

Chelle said students can



Photos by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

David Dye, professor of archaeology at the University of Memphis, points out individual years of drought on a graph showing climate information about Jonesboro from the year 1200 to 1600.

gain knowledge of cultural practices that are still active today from being involved in discussions like this. “David (Dye) talked a lot

about in his lecture tonight, about the fundamental consistency of human nature and how we look at these cultures in the past, and we sometimes

think, Oh, they’re very different, but that’s just a real thin veneer of difference underneath. People are all the same,” Chelle said.

Eight inducted into new Sports Media Wall of Honor

ALLIE CARSON

STAFF WRITER

Eight individuals who have worked in sports media and distinguished themselves through service to Arkansas State University athletics were inducted into the Press Box Wall of Honor Saturday.

The list of honored individuals included Charles Cromwell, Keith Merritt, Collin Pillow, Charles Rasberry and Jerry Schaeffer. Gina Bowman, Dick Clay and Bill Keedy were also honored posthumously as members of their families accepted the award on their behalf.

The honorees represent 170 years of service either on the university’s staff or covering A-State athletics. In some way, they have all helped shape Arkansas State media for the better.

Charles Cromwell, a Pine Bluff native, graduated from A-State in 1974 where he earned a degree in, what was previously known as, radio and television.

During the ‘70s, Cromwell did play-by-play and color analysis at KASU. After he graduated, he was the



Photo by Allie Carson | Staff Writer

Charles Cromwell, former sports editor and columnist for the Jonesboro Sun, speaking about his induction at the ceremony.

news director at KASU for a year before he went on to be the sports editor and columnist at the Jonesboro Sun from 1977 to 1993.

Cromwell, along with fellow inductee Dick Clay, were both recently inducted into the Arkansas Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame.

Keith Merritt from Jonesboro was the “Voice of the Indians” from 1983-1991. He was the play-by-play broadcaster for both the men and women’s basketball teams during his time with A-State and received many awards for his broadcasting talent.

Collin Pillow from Piggott, Arkansas, worked in the School of Media and Journalism at A-State from 1998 until he retired in 2021. He served as sports producer for ASU-TV’s coverage of Red Wolves football and basketball from 2001-2019.

Pillow helped create professional learning opportunities in video production, as well as help many A-State students start their careers in broadcast.

CONTINUED:
WALL OF HONOR, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Oct. 26 | 11:19 a.m.

Officer Caleb Lawson was dispatched to 322 University Loop West for a complaint from the library personnel about an event that was happening in the lobby.

Lawson made contact with the suspect, who said they obtained permission from library personnel to use the facility for a medical marijuana sign-up event. She also said there was not any money being paid at the event.

After a few minutes, the suspect was able to find an email that was supposed to be in reference to the event.

The only thing that Lawson could read on the email was someone asking if the library was open for public use.

Lawson tried to have the suspect show more of the email, but she was evading any kind of direct questions regarding the permission for the event.

Lawson and the suspect spoke with personnel at the library who had called their

supervisor. They advised that they were waiting for the dean of the building, Jeff Bailey, to call them back. After a few minutes, Jeff Bailey called the desk and Lawson spoke with him.

Lawson advised him of the situation and the information that he had on hand. Bailey said the library is open for public use, but only for individuals.

He said events are only for student organizations and other A-State affiliated events and the people at the event would need to leave.

Lawson spoke with some of the individuals at the event and they said they paid \$49 to be there and that if they had not pre-paid they would have to pay today.

There were also business cards on the table for the event showing a payment of \$49. Lawson went and spoke to the suspect again and told her the information.

She was told that, due to the way that the situation was handled, the deceptive way she had tried to use the facility and that she lied about money being taken from people at

the event, she was going to be banned from the library.

Oct. 25 | 9:30 p.m.

Sgt. Jeremy Oswald met with the victim in reference to a breaking and/or entering that occurred at 2301 University Drive.

The victim said she parked her white 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe at approximately 2:50 p.m. and returned to her vehicle at approximately 5:15 p.m. Upon returning to her vehicle, the victim said she noticed her wallet had been stolen out of her front passenger seat. She said she thought she had locked her doors, however, no forced entry into the vehicle was noticed.

The victim said at approximately 3:20 p.m., her Regions debit card had been used at JJ’s Wings for the amount of \$37.57. The victim said she spoke to JJ’s Wings and viewed their security footage.

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CAMPUS CRIME, 4A