

Miss A-State celebrates legacy and tradition

LAILA CASIANO

OPINION EDITOR

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (Pike) presented the 50th annual Miss Arkansas State University scholarship competition, with first place winner Brooke Lynn Ray earning \$5,700. "This campus has helped me in so many different ways," Ray said. "I am honored to represent this university with pride." 10 women competed in the event, which took place in Riceland Hall at the Fowler Center. The runner-ups were: Erika Parker in first, Audriann Wolfe in second, Emma Kate James in third and Emma Scott in fourth. Ray, who also received the Talent Award and Social Media Promotions Award, is a member of the A-State Dance Team, Future Business Leaders of America and the Alzheimer's Awareness Club. This was her first pageant and said she had no clear expectations, only a goal to do the best she could. "I wanted to have fun and make connections with people," Ray said. When she stepped out on stage, she said she knew she was ready. "The pageant was so much fun and such a great experience. I felt that was a win in itself," Ray said. She said she's grateful for all the scholarships she has been awarded and it was incredibly

special being crowned during Miss A-State's 50th anniversary. She added it's been an honor to continue former Miss A-State winners' legacies. "Seeing all those women that have been Miss A-State was truly amazing. I have been inspired by every single woman that has stepped up on that stage," Ray said. Jeff Hankins, A-State system's vice president for strategic communications and economic development, said students involved in the event focused on community service and raising awareness of social issues. He said the competition provided a significant platform for them to show their initiatives. Hankins, who also serves as the executive director of Miss A-State and Pike, said the fraternity has sponsored the event for the last 50 years. The 1974 fraternity leaders Dan Medlock and Tim O. Brown secured a franchise with the state organization to create the Miss A-State scholarship competition, helping fund college expenses. "Pi Kappa Alpha handles all the business and sales operations of the event," Hankins said. "Advertising and sponsorship sales in particular give our students excellent experience to prepare for various careers." Additionally, he said the Miss A-State Board of Directors and Pike undergraduates worked diligently to prepare for the

event, especially in celebration of the semi-centennial milestone. "We have 18 former title holders who are returning to join us for the anniversary celebration and will be recognized during the competition," Hankins said. "Sponsors and past winners have been eager to expand scholarship opportunities and ensure the ongoing success of Miss A-State." The scholarship competition scoring focused on interviews and talent performances. As part of the 50-year anniversary celebration, Pike announced a \$25,000 scholarship endowment through the ASU System Foundation. "The university is a very important partner because Miss A-State serves as a local and state ambassador for the campus while also representing us at Miss Arkansas. (They're) to represent the university at various campus and community events, so the contestants are eager to get this opportunity, as well," Hankins said. Rocco Hicks, a junior political science major from Prattville, Arkansas, is president of Pike. He said the fraternity's involvement in hosting the event is a special source of pride. "To see it hit such a milestone simply makes everyone proud, from members, alumni and previous Miss A-State's," Hick said. "We truly have an experience no other fraternity can match."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISS ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY INSTAGRAM

(Left) Chancellor Todd Shields giving Brooke Lynn Ray flowers at the Miss A-State crowning ceremony.

Pike is the only fraternity in the nation that hosts a Miss America-sponsored pageant. Hicks said the values in Pike's old motto "SLAG", meaning scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen, were embodied through the event. Additionally, he said Pike's continued commitment to hosting Miss A-State has made it an anticipated event for the A-State community. Each fall, Pike appoints a

director to oversee the event. This year, Clayton Dawson ensured all Miss America rules were followed. The fraternity also created advertisements, assisted with rehearsals and set up the Fowler Center in advance. In honor of the 50th anniversary, previous Miss A-State winners participated in the "Miss A-State Walk." Sponsors also held a "Forever Miss A-State" reception before the event.

"I hope these women and the audience take away the true impact they can leave on A-State regardless of if they've been here for one year or four years," Hicks said. "All it takes is one idea and some determination and before long, you can come back and celebrate the 50th year anniversary of something you started."

Public agencies and nonprofits fair highlights alternate careers

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State University hosted the public agencies and nonprofits fair to help students find career options. Elizabeth White, Assistant Director of Career Development and Student Engagement, said in response to student feedback, the department of Career Development and Engagement shifted from large general career fairs to industry-specific ones, holding seven or eight events in the fall. She said the goal was to make career fairs more manageable and relevant. "The one thing that we heard from students was that the large career fairs that we used to do

for STEM majors and then the all careers fair, it was just a lot of employers that it could be somewhat daunting for our students to kind of go and see all of the options," White said. "We definitely have had a lot of interest in how we're going about it because they're a little more intimate. We're trying to get feedback from students so that we can pivot in a better way to facilitate for our students." City Year, a nonprofit that hires student success coaches to tutor and mentor students in under served communities, had a booth at the fair to recruit students and share information about their non-profit organization. Adriana White, a national recruiter for City Year, said it is

considered a gap-year program for post graduate students before they start their careers. "I think that there is a need for student success coaches, tutors and mentors for the students here locally and in other areas," White said. "I think this is a very diverse area with a variety of different majors and interests. The students here are always prepared and always have the best questions for us." Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) were also present at the fair to recruit students.

CONTINUED: CAREER FAIR, 4A



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Left) Tanner Ligon, recruiter at Skylark summer camp, talking to Jimmy Dye, a junior political science major from Trumann, Arkansas and Jacob Copeland, a senior computer science major from St. Louis.

CAMPUS CRIME

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Nov. 17 | 2:40 a.m.
Officer Heidi Custodio responded to North Park Quads in reference to a possible seizure. Upon arrival, Custodio made contact with the victim who said her legs have never had muscle spasms or any previous injuries. Once the Jonesboro Fire Department and Medic One were on scene, she was evaluated

and transported to NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital. **Nov. 17 | 9:35 p.m.**
Officer Christopher Sewell responded to University Hall in reference to a parking lot accident. Sewell made contact with the complainant who said she was pulling into a parking spot and hit a silver KIA SUV. Sewell then got all of the complainants information and had her fill out a voluntary statement of what had happened.

Sewell told the complainant that an incident report would be filled out on what had happened. Sewell then made contact with the victim and told her that her vehicle had been hit in the parking lot behind University Hall. The victim arrived shortly and Sewell was able to get her information for a report. **Nov. 15 | 12:13 p.m.**
While on patrol, Sgt. Chase Barnett observed a white Ford-250 traveling northbound, cross the double yellow lines at

the intersection of Cherokee Street and East University Loop into oncoming traffic. The truck in question accelerated in the oncoming lanes directly at another vehicle traveling south bound. The vehicle traveling south bound had to take evasive action to avoid a collision with the oncoming truck. Barnett activated his emergency lights and began to attempt to catch up with the truck. As the vehicle turned onto

Aggie Road, the driver changed lanes without signaling, almost striking another vehicle in transport. The F-250 came to a stop at the intersection of Aggie road and Olympic drive. Barnett made contact with the driver who said the other vehicle was his friend and he was just messing with him. The suspect said he had the truck he was driving for about a month and a half and the tags would return to his old vehicle. Barnett asked for the title or

any paperwork with the VIN on it, but the suspect could not provide any. After running the information, Barnett removed the license plate not belonging to the vehicle it was displayed on and took custody of the plate. The suspect was issued citations for reckless driving, left of center, improper lane change and fictitious tags.