

Halloween Art Bash held to engage community

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STAFF WRITER

The Department of Art + Design partnered with the Bradbury Art Museum and the Student Art Union to host the Halloween Art Bash on Oct. 31.

The event was an opportunity for the Department of Art + Design to reach out to the Jonesboro community. The department has been making efforts to get the wider community more involved in the arts and the Halloween celebration was a chance to achieve that.

Lydia Dildilian, associate professor of painting, said inspiring the community was very important for the

art department as a whole.

"It's a big goal for us here in Art and Design to really connect with our community," Dildilian said. "For us, it's really about community embracement and also just sharing what we do and sharing the passion."

Brian Holmes, president of the Student Art Union, said the club chose Halloween for their fundraiser because it's a holiday that emphasizes creativity and expression.

"As a Student Art Union, our purpose is to help empower artists, not just on our own campus, but also in the community," Holmes said. "I think Halloween really exemplifies that, it lets people express their creativity."

The two-hour event included snacks, trick-or-treating, a costume contest and pumpkin painting.

Trick-or-treating was free, there was a \$5 fee to access the costume contest and pumpkin painting. Proceeds from the event help the Student Art Union cover costs for materials and other events.

Kaleb Racy, a sophomore graphic design student from Jonesboro Arkansas won the costume contest dressed as Luigi from the Luigi's Mansion video game franchise.

The A-State Museum hosted trunk-or-treat at the Art Bash, which was moved inside the Windgate Center for Three-Dimensional Arts



Photo by Jack Douglas | Staff Writer

Students participating in the costume contest at the Halloween Art Bash.

due to inclement weather.

Elisabeth Engel, director of A-State museum, said they want to support other

departments through activities

such as hosting class tours or participating in campus events.

"It helps us be present in

our campus community and

make students aware that there is a fun place to visit

and relax nearby," Engel said.

STEPPERS, CONTINUED

Martavius Hopkins, a junior criminology major from Portageville, Missouri, and member of Alpha Phi Alpha, said the fraternity spent months perfecting their choreography.

He said the theme inspiration was the result of the fraternity brothers wanting something fun, with the goal of creating a fan favorite and rousing loud crowd reactions.

"The escape room idea was also because of our after party, which was Halloween themed," Hopkins said. "We wanted to express this idea of escaping and then getting to go and celebrate at a party."

Hopkins said it's important to have events that highlight stepping on campus to support and represent A-State's Black student community.

"We only have nine divine organizations and stepping is something different that not everybody gets to do, so it's really important to us. That's why we take it so seriously," Hopkins said.

Sharing a similar sentiment, Evans, a senior nursing major from Little Rock, said as a predominantly white institution, showcasing the

history of NPHC is essential for the broader A-State community.

"Showcasing our history and where the NPHC comes from, where the divine nine comes from and proudly showing the importance of stepping and where it started, it just emphasizes the great things the Black students can contribute to A-State," Evans said.

With roughly 270 attendees,

Evans said she hopes next year's show will be bigger and better as NPHC always aims to surpass previous events.

Evans said she encourages those who missed the show to attend the spring semester's Stroll Off.

"You don't wanna miss this event. Not only does it showcase our talents within our community, but it also shows

the history that's behind it, because there is more behind just stepping and strolling," Evans said. "It comes from a long line of history, so if you missed it this semester or in the past, you definitely want to show up in the spring."

WBLC adds Director of Student Engagement and Outreach

A-STATE

PRESS RELEASE

The Women's Business Leadership Center (WBLC) at Arkansas State University strives to positively impact the lives and futures of young women on campus. The center, founded in 2016, provides many opportunities for ladies attending the university including mentoring, scholarships, internships and other educational opportunities.

"This year has been one of rapid growth and change," said Dr. Patricia Quinn Robertson Johnston, executive director of the Women's Business Leadership Center.

Johnston said they have added Gwennette Confer in a new position as director of student engagement and outreach.

"I want to focus on building strong, meaningful connections between students, mentors and the broader community," said Confer.

Confer said she will work to create and facilitate a wide range of opportunities for student engagement, including leadership academies, mentoring events, conferences, workshops and retreats.

"A significant part of my work will be leading initiatives that connect university students, high school and junior high girls to participate in leadership development at an early stage. Additionally, I will oversee WBLC service projects, ensuring leadership interns gain valuable, hands-on learning experiences," she continued.

The number of students



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE

Gwennette Confer, new director of student engagement and outreach for the Women's Business Leadership Center.

who participate in the variety of programs offered by WBLC has quadrupled. Students across campus from different majors have been part of programs such as step up, reach back; career readiness; service project "Leadership Interns" and scholarships.

This year, 23 students traveled to New York and 11 students traveled to Atlanta for a conference this month.

"Since 2016 we have provided thousands of hours of mentoring and career preparation for WBLC Leadership Interns who are A-State students," Johnston added.

The annual Women's Leadership Conference, which is free for all attendees,

usually hosts about 500 people including high school students, college students and professionals.

"I want students to know that the WBLC is a welcoming and inclusive space where they can grow both personally and professionally, regardless of their major.

While the center focuses on leadership development, it is open to all students, not just those in business-related fields," Confer added.

She added that they typically award more than 20 scholarships each year and expect the funding for those scholarships to continue to grow.

This week's puzzle



housing scholarship

ford mustang

stepping

art bash

non traditional

baseball

election

dia de los muertos

traveling

overtime

howl