



PHOTO, 4B
Fitness at A-State

Agriculture career fair showcases industry jobs

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State University hosted a career fair to help students find career options in the agriculture field.

Chris Schroeder, assistant director of career development and engagement, said last semester they made the shift from college-wide career fairs to industry-specific ones to get students into an environment where they can gain as much experience as possible.

"You come through multiple events throughout the semester and get kind of that experience of talking to employers, talking to recruiters and really building up that experience," Schroeder said. "It's not necessarily just submitting resumes, it's trying to present that experience opportunity and get students the opportunity to kind of have discussions as much as possible."

Schroeder said with a big fair it's impossible for students to make it to every booth, but these smaller fairs make it possible for students to interact with every potential employer.

Schroeder said while a majority of the students who pre-registered for the fair were plant soil science majors, it was not limited to those studying agriculture. He said a lot of business majors also attended as there are many opportunities in the agricultural business field.

Representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were present at the fair to recruit students and provide more information about the different USDA positions and career advancement opportunities.



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Right) Aniya Godsey, sophomore animal science major from Osceola, Arkansas, talks to Belinda Nelson, United States Department of Agriculture human resources representative, at the agriculture career fair.

Belinda Nelson, USDA human resources representative, said the government agency's purpose is to help people and the land by studying productive soils, keeping water clean and helping plant and animal communities.

Reggie Jackson, USDA outreach coordinator, said one of the best places to have a career in agriculture is the USDA as there are many different agencies under it. "Natural Resources Conservation Service helps farmers help them land, provide financial aid technical services to farmers to make them more productive, with their

farming, with their ranching, with their forest land and any other ways that we can help give them assistance through conservation practices and initiatives," Jackson said.

Jackson said most of the USDA's new employees have been hired through career fairs because the USDA likes to bring summer interns into their agencies.

Kaylee Carr, human resources supervisor for Peco, attended the career fair to introduce the company to students and discuss opportunities.

Carr said Peco Foods is a fourth-generation, family-



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

(Left) Kaylee Carr, human resources supervisor for Peco, talks to Journey West, first-year nursing major from Silva, Missouri, and Savannah Ullnan, first-year pre-veterinary major from Paragould.

owned poultry processing facility, the eighth largest in the U.S., with locations in Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas.

They supply fresh and processed poultry products, including those used by major fast-food chains like McDonald's.

"I've had a lot of people come up and ask some really good questions. It seems like they're very interested in exploring ideas and opportunities, especially the animal science major," Carr said.

Carr said she actually learned about Peco from a career fair when she was a student at Arkansas State University and decided to do

an internship with the company. Journey West, a first-year nursing major from Silva, Missouri, attended the agriculture career fair for the class intro to agriculture business.

West said although she came to the fair because she had to, she also finds interest in Stein Industry and how they genetically modify their plants so she went to the fair to talk to speak to that company.

CONTINUED:
AG FAIR, 4A

Nontraditional Student Organization Interest meeting scheduled Thursday

Nontraditional students looking to connect and make an impact on campus can attend the Nontraditional Student Organization Interest meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Black River room at the Union.

Ethics of A.I. and automation lecture to be held Thursday

In association with the A-State Lecture-Concert Series, Jeffrey Carroll will deliver a guest lecture, "Go Fast & Break Things: The Ethics of AI Automation." The lecture will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the student union auditorium.

Soul Food Dinner event set for Friday

Enjoy a warm meal alongside inspiring performances by singers and speakers during the soul food dinner event from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Baptist College Ministry.

BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

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- MTG clubs sees increase in membership

SGA elects three new senators, prepares for election

JERRY DON BURTON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association (SGA) filled an honors college senator seat, two senator-at-large seats and read a resolution for grammar in its second meeting of the semester.

SGA elected Canyon Clardy as honor college senator. Clardy is a first-year mechanical engineering major from Paragould.

"I would like to make a difference on more of a bigger scale later in life," Clardy said. "I thought making a change here would be a good start."

Clardy said, as the honors college senator, he wants to bring more organization to the honors community. He said the honors culture is very welcoming and he hopes to bring it to SGA and spread it across campus.

Additionally, he said he is already pursuing a project to boost morale within the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Jonathan Toma, a sophomore finance and accounting double major from Hot Springs, Arkansas, was one of the at-large senators elected during the meeting.

Toma said his interest in SGA came from wanting to get more involved at A-State as well as creating a change for the athletic community on campus.

"I work closely with them through NIL, I work for the impact club, so I get to see the ins and outs of how athletes are viewed and treated and such," Toma said.

He said he wants to assist student athletes in preparing for life outside of college through career readiness initiatives. He plans to talk to the members of the SGA executive board to figure out how he can start leading athlete enrichment programs including financial literacy.

"I just want to help people," Toma said. "Sports has always been something that interested me, and as I got older I stopped viewing athletes as just players and more as people who are also going to enter the workforce and

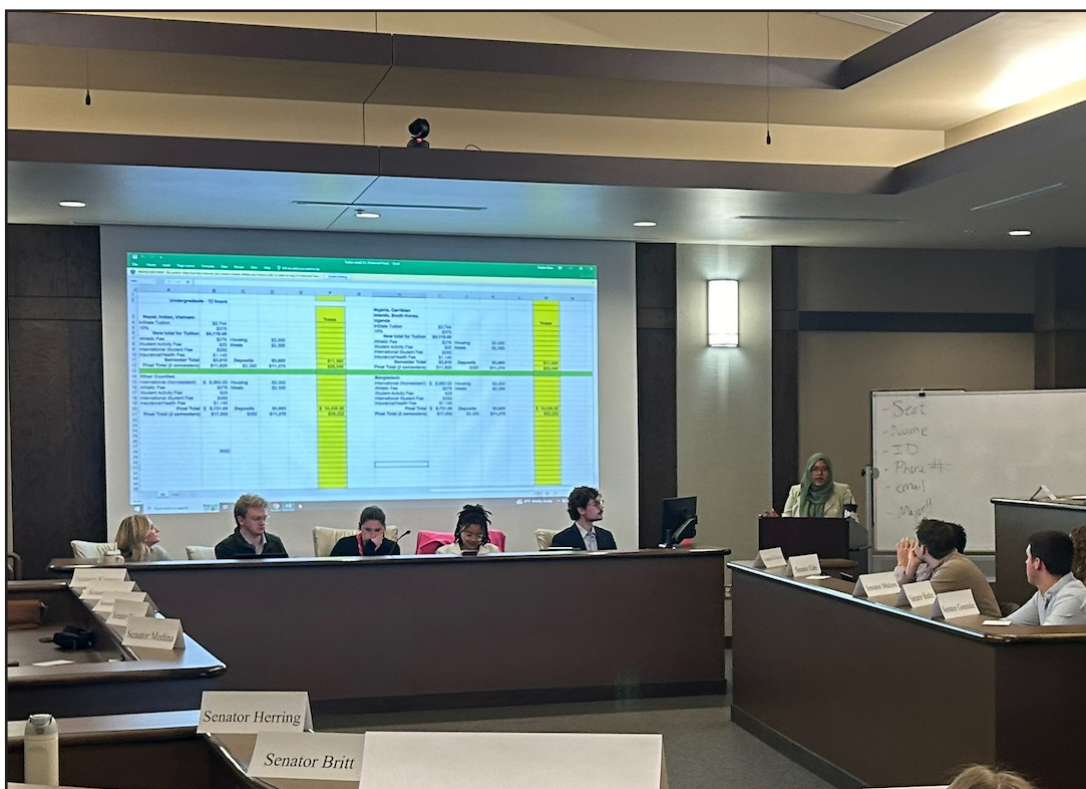


Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | News Editor

Senator Farjana Swarna presents her resolution to make tuition more equal among international students.

work alongside me in the future." Braylen Childs was also elected for senator-at-large. He was not available for an interview by the time of publication. Micayla McGowen, SGA

president and senior marketing major from East End, Arkansas, said SGA is preparing for election season. She said students can submit an application by Feb. 28 to run for any senator

seat they may qualify for.

CONTINUED:
SGA, 4A