



PHOTO, 4B
Navatri Garba Night
at A-State

Agricultural Expo connects students with industry employers, internships, careers

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITER

The annual Agricultural Career Expo was held Tuesday, giving students and employers an opportunity to connect and discuss internships and careers.

Elizabeth White, assistant director of career development and student engagement, said the purpose of the fair was to connect students from across disciplines, including business and marketing, with employers in the agricultural sector.

“It’s kind of the ebb and flow of the type of employers that we have,” White said. “This year, we have some of our old partners back, like Riceland and Greenway. It really just depends on the job market.”

White said building connections early is important for students.

“The more connections students make, the more likely companies are to reach out when they have an internship available,” White said. “Even a good conversation during an event like this can open doors.”

She said the event is not just for upperclassmen.

“I really hope students realize it’s not just for sophomores and juniors looking for internships, or seniors looking for jobs when they graduate,” White said. “It’s genuinely a networking opportunity for all students.”

White said the fair helps faculty and students stay aware of industry challenges.

“Farmers are having a lot of trouble right now due to



Photo by Benjamin McDowell | Staff Writer

Agricultural Expo attendees visit a table and talk with employers. Riceland and Greenway are among the companies that participated in the expo.

current events, and we’ve seen that reflected in our attendance and conversations,” White said.

Layla Adams, a first-year animal science major from Lake City, Arkansas, said farmers face financial pressures and consolidation. She said the industry needs family farmers because food production is being overtaken by big operations and farmland is being bought out.

Adams said she sees a future in agriculture, though the work is demanding.

“Nobody in this field

has control over everything. It’s all up to God,” Adams said. “We do the best we can with what we’re given.”

Adams said her agricultural roots come from her father’s tractor business and her grandfather’s farm.

“I was always surrounded by agriculture, and I loved it,” Adams said. “I love being outside and learning about it, and that’s where we get our food.”

Keegan Reddick, a first-year agricultural business major from Blytheville,

Arkansas, said agriculture is built on relationships.

“Young people need to remember that farming is kind of like a community,” Reddick said. “Not everything should be over a screen. You build real connections in person.”

Coy Nixon, a first-year agricultural business major from Cooter, Missouri, said his family background drew him to the field of agriculture.

“There’s a lot of opportunity for new growth, technology, and environmental

science,” Nixon said.

Nixon said what excites him most is plant growth and crop protection.

“Agriculture is what you eat,” Nixon said. “Even a slice of bread came from a farm, sometimes from just one farmer in Arkansas managing a thousand acres. One person can provide for so many.”

Adams said students must balance tradition with technology.

“I think we have a generation of open-minded people,” Adams said. “But we use technology too much. We have to put in the work while also letting technology work for us, without losing what’s natural.”

Alee Cooper, a first-year animal science major from Milan, Tennessee, said she was drawn to agriculture through her family’s farm and is interested in the healthcare side of the field.

“It’s very interesting how even after you get the job, you’re still learning,” Cooper said. “They even have courses for becoming a certified crop adviser, and that really intrigued me.”

Cooper said agriculture is vital to daily life.

“It’s really a main source of our food, and most of the necessities we depend on come from agriculture,” she said. “If we didn’t have agriculture, we would be without a lot of what people take for granted.”

This is the third agricultural fair hosted since 2024. White said the university plans to expand by involving the new veterinary school in future iterations.

Magic: The Gathering Club meeting scheduled Thursday

New and experienced players are welcome to attend the Magic: The Gathering Club meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in the White River Room at the Ring Student Union.

Hall of Honor Banquet scheduled Friday

The Arkansas State Letterwinner’s Club will induct four new members into the A-State Hall of Honor during its 45th annual banquet. The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Woodard McAlister Family Club inside the Johnny Allison Tower of Centennial Bank Stadium.

Behavioral and Mental Health Career Fair to be held Tuesday

The behavioral and mental health career fair is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Cooper Alumni Center. Fair organizers request students register for the event through Handshake.

BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Nostalgia is holding us back
- Overworking should not be romanticized

NEWS, 3A

- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with El Grito
- Engineering Expo introduces students to career opportunities
- Students explore Hispanic culture with Latin American folklore
- Campus Crime

SPORTS, 1B

- Red Wolves lose to Louisiana-Monroe
- Indiana sports: blueprint for success
- Schmidt, Red Wolves win tournament
- Soccer falls 3-0

ARTS & E, 2B

- “One Battle After Another”: the best film of the year
- “The Social Network” turns 15!
- Sorry I’m Late: “Heavy Metal”

LIFE, 3B

- Student Speaks: “What are your thoughts on love bombing”
- This week’s horoscopes
- How To: make spicy chicken curry

Navratri Garba Night brings Indian culture to campus

IBUKI HINOHARA
PHOTO EDITOR

Swirling circles and steady footwork transformed Centennial Hall during Navratri Garba Night, hosted by the Indian Student Organization (ISO) on Monday. Students and community members gathered for an evening of music, dance and culture.

Navratri is a nine-night festival that honors the many forms of the Hindu goddess Durga. The festival is widely celebrated across India with Garba and Dandiya Raas, high-energy communal dances performed in circles.

At A-State, nine nights became one, but ISO organizers said the spirit remained the same.

“This festival is very important for us because these days we worship the goddess, there are nine forms,” Arshpreet Lair, ISO president, said. “International students can feel homesick, so we celebrate together, and we also want to share our culture with other communities on campus.”

ISO typically hosts Diwali, the festival of lights. Lair,



Photo by Ibuki Hinohara | Photo Editor

Event attendees dance in a circle in the middle of Centennial Hall, where the event was held.

a communication graduate student from Amritsar, India, said this was the organization’s first time bringing a full Navratri celebration to A-State. She said the goal was twofold: give Indian and South Asian students a familiar tradition to anchor the semester and welcome first-timers with a simple way to participate.

“This event is for everyone. It is open to the public,” Lair said. “We collaborated with other student groups, including the Nepal Student Organization and the Student Activities Board, to promote and make it bigger.”

James McGinnis, ISO faculty adviser and professor of information systems, served as a dance judge. He



Photo by Ibuki Hinohara | Photo Editor

Navratri Garba Night organizers serve prasad to event attendees.

said the night fits squarely within A-State’s push for inclusive cultural programming.

“It brings us all together,” McGinnis said. “This is an Indian organization, but I saw Nepali students here, and Americans too. This is my third time at an ISO event, and I have learned quite a bit.”

McGinnis said the

educational value is social as much as formal.

“You will not learn much if you stay in your little group,” McGinnis said. “Break out, mingle, ask questions. If you do not ask, you will not know. Events like this make that easy.”

**CONTINUED:
NAVRATRI, 4A**