THE HERALD

INFORMING THE CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY SINCE 1921 | VOLUME 105, ISSUE 13 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

astatetheherald.com | @astateherald | @astateherald | @AState_Herald | The Herald Newspaper

PHOTO, 4B
Here at A-State

Chalking up a career

Future teachers find opportunities at education fair

EVIE ELLIS

STAFF WRITER

Life after graduation is often a daunting next step, but students at the Cooper Alumni Center got a glimpse of their future at the education career fair last week.

Arkansas State University hosts many career fairs throughout the year, giving students regular opportunities to meet possible employers. The education career fair, held Thursday, March 5, gave school districts and even camps the chance to connect with students who are finishing their degrees and give them a head start on entering the workforce.

Elizabeth White, assistant director for career development and student engagement at A-State, said these fairs have become essential due to the vast number of students graduating from teaching programs each year.

"Today we have about 27 districts or educational institutions that are hiring, whether it is teachers or trying to figure out if they need student nurses within their districts or even a school psychologist," White said.

White said plenty of students attended throughout the day, and some seniors even returned to campus from student teaching placements just to attend.

"They may already have an idea of a contract they're signing, but we still want them to meet other districts and network for their future," White said.

Throughout the Cooper Alumni Center, representatives from school districts spoke with students interested in new positions. The fair provides an opportunity for the participating districts to recruit new educators.

Wes Hooper, communications director for Cross County School District in Cherry Valley, Arkansas, said the event is great for networking.

"It gives us the opportunity to put our information out to students who are looking for jobs," Hooper said.

The Cross County School District serves several communities and works differently from many other schools in the region.

"A typical school around here would use the TESS system for supporting teachers," Hooper said. "We use something completely different called TAP, and we're also one of the very few schools in the state to offer performance-based pay for teachers."

The Teaching Excellence and Support System (TESS) is the standard evaluation system used in most Arkansas schools, where administrators observe classrooms and review evidence of teaching to provide feedback. The Teacher and Student Advancement (TAP) system works differently, focusing on ongoing coaching and performance bonuses to reward strong instruction and improve students' educational development.

By attending the fair, Hooper said Cross County hopes to show future teachers opportunities to work in schools that take different approaches to supporting their staff.

On the other hand, some districts came with a more direct message.

The Marion School District serves about 4,300 students across six schools, including several magnet programs that focus on areas like math, science and the arts.

Latoya Beale, director of student services for the Marion School District, said the district attended the fair because they are actively looking for qualified teachers.

"We came to the fair today because we need teachers. We need teachers who have been trained in education programs," Beale said.

CONTINUED: EDUCATION, 3A

Photo by Evie Ellis | Staff Writer

(Left) Jessica Stacy, Cross County School District elementary principal and Wes Hooper, communications director, prepare their table at the education career fair. The fair was held Thursday, March 5, at the Cooper Alumni Center.

Pre-Law Club "Jeopardy!" night shows a different side of studies

ERIC FLUKE

SPORTS EDITOR

Diverting from their usual agenda, the Pre-Law Club held a laughter-filled "Jeopardy!" night competition to calm the nerves of its members and guests following midterms.

On the third floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences building this past Thursday, members divided themselves into three teams to compete in a recreation of "Jeopardy!" based on the different focuses of law majors. Six categories of questions, ranging from what lies in the Constitution to pop culture lawyers, challenged the knowledge of the three competing teams.

The night acted as a relief for the pre-law students who recently finished their midterms exams, taking a break from the usual agenda of educational lectures offered by the club.

Business chair Sakshi Kaura, a senior economics major with an emphasis in pre-law from Jackson, Mississippi, said they planned the "Jeopardy!" night with this energy in mind.

"The reason why I wanted to have a game night was for everybody to come in together and relax," Kaura said. "Pre-law students especially are so competitive and it was so much fun to see everybody's competitive side because we usually in most of our meetings don't talk."

Competition became tense between the three teams as the early part of the game stayed close in score, but one team stood above the rest in the end with a sizable lead, earning themselves Amazon gift cards. Still, many laughs and jokes were shared between the teams amidst their competitive spirits.

Kaura said "Jeopardy!" was the best way to slow down the pace of the semester for its members.

"If we think we need a break from the seriousness, we do something fun like this," Kaura said. "The first idea everybody came up with was 'Jeopardy!' I think it's the easiest way for students to compete and answer questions."

Pre-Law Club Vice President Cian Deevers, a senior political science major from Jonesboro and member of the winning "Jeopardy!" team, said he wanted the event to show attendees the pre-law major is not always as boring people make it out to be.

"I hope they learned that law is not always as scary, boring and serious as it may seem," Deevers said.

Lilly Courtright, a first-year criminology major from Union City, Tennessee, and Ahtziry Zuñiga, a first-year political science and global studies major from Jonesboro, were a part of the winning team along with Deevers.

Courtright was one of the members who showed evidence of the success of the executives' planning, who said she enjoyed her night competing in "Jeopardy!" While she said most of the questions were a review for her, she still found plenty to learn about.

"It was really competitive, and I had a lot of fun," Courtright said. "The questions were pretty substantive. I'm in a civil rights and liberties class and that's mainly what we talk about, but I didn't know most of the questions about contracts."

While most meetings feature guest speakers and focus more on being educational, the club executives hope to hold more laid-back events like this in the future.

The pre-law club meets next at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Humanities and Social Sciences building, Room 3026. The next meeting will feature an LSAT examination review.

Photo by Sooyeong Choi | Photo Editor

Pre-Law Club members sit around a table and play a custom "Jeopardy!" game with law-themed questions. The event was hosted by the club to act as a night of fun and relaxation after mid-terms.

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A
- No babe, Kamala would not have actually been much better
- War! What is it good for?

NEWS, 3A
- Dyslexia research, literacy innovation lab established
- Campus Crime

LIFE, 4A
- Club Spotlight: Pickleball Club
- Dungeons & Dragons isn't as cringy as you think

ARTS & E, 1B
- Herald Staff Oscar picks
- 30 years later, not enough people talk "The Birdcage"
- Noah Wyle and "The Pitt" redefine the medical drama

SPORTS, 2B
- A-State fails to secure back-to-back SBC titles
- Georgia Southern upsets Red Wolves in SBC Tournament
- The Great Manning Debate