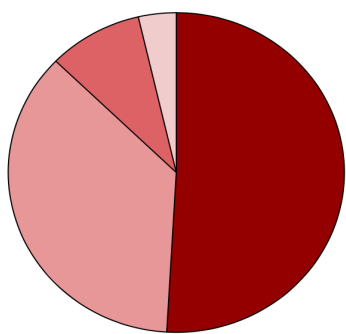


## What's Your Opinion?

What is your favorite study spot on campus?

Out of 55 responses:  
 Library- 28  
 Student Union - 20  
 Behind Starbucks - 5  
 Humanities 1st floor - 2



● Library ● Student union ● Behind Starbucks  
 ● 1st floor Humanities

## Next Poll:

### Controversy

Do you think babies should be allowed on airplanes?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to [shayaan.sayed@astate.edu](mailto:shayaan.sayed@astate.edu).

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

JERRY DON BURTON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Finally, I get a whole column to talk about myself! Four years of interviewing and writing about other people really creates a yearning for self-reflection. So, as is tradition, in The Herald's final print edition with me as its editor-in-chief, I present my farewell.

When I left Cross County High School in 2022, diploma in hand, I remember feeling a nagging wistfulness. Had I made the best use of my time there? I knew the answer was no. I had the grades and I had a tight-knit group of friends that I'm grateful to be close with to this day. But, other than EAST, I didn't join any clubs and I didn't play any sports. I didn't get involved.

So, when I arrived at Kays Hall on that sweltering August afternoon, I was determined not to repeat my mistake. College represented a fresh start, a second chance for me to take advantage of the endless opportunities before me. And, I must say, I'm proud of what I've done.

The events I've attended, people I've met, places I've traveled, work I've completed, awards I've received, connections I've made and wrinkles I've earned all point to time well spent.

There's one organization, though, a certain student newspaper, that I devoted more time to than anything else. The Herald office is my home away from home. I breathe Adobe InDesign and



eat newsprint. I have Tuesday production nights to thank for the aforementioned wrinkles. I'd do anything to work just one more semester, short of paying the exorbitant graduate school tuition.

Maybe it was the ever-present knowledge of my rapidly dwindling time here, or the shame for what I felt was a failure to make significant, meaningful

change. For whatever reason, my passion and commitment to The Herald grew twofold this semester. And, thanks to the adviser, editors, staff and a mostly welcoming campus, I'm proud of the state I'm leaving the paper.

The Herald has placed newspaper racks around campus (thanks to Gretchen), started a social media

campaign (thanks to the strategic communications campaigns class), optimized the submission process (thanks to Ibuki), boosted accessibility (thanks to Matthew, Meredith and David) and even almost sold an ad! Things are looking up.

Overall, if I had to describe my college journey in one word, I'd use "abundance." My time at Arkansas State University was punctuated with an abundance of everything. Knowledge. Growth. Friendships. But also plenty of rough times. I wasn't expecting the abundance of funerals I'd attend, for instance.

Before I go, I want to extend a sincere and genuine thank you, in no particular order, to my family, friends (old and new), girlfriend, professors, peers and haters. I won't name names for fear of leaving someone out. Just know this: if we've ever interacted, in any capacity whatsoever, I'm grateful to you. Truly.

And as for advice, I have none. Live life yourself. All the awkward silences, sleepless nights and instant ramen suppers are yours to enjoy. I wouldn't dare deny such formative moments with quick tips and tricks on how to avoid them. That's the easy way out.

If I had any advice at all to give, it'd be this: Feel it all. Let yourself experience all life has to offer. All the love, hate, anger, joy and confusion. Never suppress a thing. I am a perpetual hypocrite and fail to follow my own advice every day. But, as my old man used to declare, "do as I say, not as I do."

And wear sunscreen!

## My takeaway from A-State

AMELIA YOUNG

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFE EDITOR

My time at Arkansas State University is coming to an end, and looking back, I cannot imagine spending the last three years at any other college.

If you had told me when I was graduating high school that in just three years I would be graduating from college with a portfolio full of published stories, I would have laughed in your face. But now that graduation is quickly approaching, it doesn't seem so funny anymore.

Coming to A-State was not my first choice. I didn't even know it existed before my junior year in high school, much less that they had a multimedia journalism degree. When I discovered that they were one of the only public colleges in the state offering the exact degree I was looking for, I knew it was the place I wanted to go.

When I moved in on that hot August day, freshman year, I didn't know a single person, and while it scared me, a horribly introverted individual, I knew it was an opportunity to branch out and "try new things" (like being talkative). It only took a couple of weeks until I met some of my closest friends, who I know will be in my

life for a long time.

"Trying new things" also included writing articles for the first time. While I knew I wanted to write for a newspaper or a magazine, I hadn't written for anything other than my high school's yearbook before. Those first few articles and profiles I wrote for different class assignments were terrible and should never see the light of day.

What really helped my writing, though, was submitting stories to The Herald, then becoming a staff writer and now being the editor of the Arts & Entertainment and Life pages.

Yes, writing stories for class and receiving feedback from professors also helped my writing skills, but getting to write stories I actually enjoyed was a huge booster.

Being an editor at The Herald also helped me add so many more stories to my portfolio. So when I start applying for jobs and have to send my portfolio, I feel comfortable sending it to them and confident that I can get the job.

But my time at A-State hasn't been all amazing, there have been a few downsides. I got way too involved my sophomore year and was constantly overwhelmed by everything people in

the clubs and my classes were asking of me.

The media program was not quite what I expected. At the end of my freshman year, they got rid of my major entirely. Although I didn't know what that meant for me specifically, there were professors, like Dr. Ron Sitton, who made

me feel like the program would be just fine. Luckily the program was revamped and the major, although under a different name, was brought back.

While there are a number of cons, they are outweighed by the friends, experiences and everything else that happened during my time at A-State.



# THE HERALD

JERRY DON BURTON: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
[jerry.burton@astate.edu](mailto:jerry.burton@astate.edu)

ALLIE CARSON: NEWS EDITOR  
[allie.carson@astate.edu](mailto:allie.carson@astate.edu)

ERIC FLUKE: SPORTS EDITOR  
[eric.fluke@astate.edu](mailto:eric.fluke@astate.edu)

SHAYAAN SAYEED: OPINION EDITOR  
[shayaan.sayed@astate.edu](mailto:shayaan.sayed@astate.edu)

AMELIA YOUNG: ARTS & E/LIFE EDITOR  
[amelia.young1@astate.edu](mailto:amelia.young1@astate.edu)

SOOYEONG CHOI: PHOTO EDITOR  
[sooyeong.choi@astate.edu](mailto:sooyeong.choi@astate.edu)

ALLIE CARSON: SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR  
[allie.carson@astate.edu](mailto:allie.carson@astate.edu)

POLLY MARSHALL: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES  
[pmarshall@astate.edu](mailto:pmarshall@astate.edu)

THE HERALD OFFICE IS IN ROOM 224 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION BUILDING

NEWSROOM: 870-972-3076

AD OFFICE: 870-972-2961

FAX: 870-972-3339

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas, news tips, or Letters to the Editor may be emailed to [jerry.burton@astate.edu](mailto:jerry.burton@astate.edu). The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

These opinions are not necessarily reflective of the students, faculty or administration at A-State. Columns, letters to the editor, cartoons and other content on the opinion page are the views of the author. This content does not necessarily represent the opinion of The Herald.

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

### CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.