

Students walk to raise awareness on sexual assault



Photo by Ella Dobson | Staff Writer

Students walk past the Administration building on campus after leaving the Chi Omega fountain to start the Awareness Walk hosted by the Department of Institutional Integrity and Title IX.

ELLA DOBSON

STAFF WRITER

To honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month, held in April, the Department of Institutional Integrity and Title IX held a Walk for Awareness.

Students gathered at the Chi Omega fountain Friday to begin the two-mile walk around campus. Led by team members of the Title IX office, the route stretched around The Circle apartments and the Dean B. Ellis Library before turning by Pack Place and heading down Sorority Row.

Deputy Title IX Coordinator Kelly Sabin said the goal of this event was two-fold: to show support for sexual assault

victims and make students aware of the Title IX department and the resources they offer.

"I hope that people walk away with knowing that they matter, that their experience, no matter how traumatic, matters and that people are there to support them," Sabin said.

Throughout the walk, facts about sexual assault were written on the concrete path in chalk. These included statistics about sexual violence. One note read that 53% of women and 29% of men are sexually assaulted.

Students and faculty alike showed up to walk, covering a variety of colleges and including academic advisors and administrators. Carlie Glass, an academic

adviser for the Beck College of Science and Mathematics and a 2023 A-State alumnus, said she's happy the university is raising awareness about this topic.

"People aren't always aware. If you have ever been a victim of something like sexual assault, you're very aware. You're aware of the statistics," Glass said. "But if you haven't, and you don't know anyone who has, then it's not something that's in the forefront of your mind, but these are important issues to know about."

Before the walk began, representatives from the NEA Family Crisis Center said they were grateful to participants. The Family Crisis Center provides support services to survivors of sexual assault, domestic

violence, and human trafficking, according to their website.

They also advertised for the grand opening of the new Sexual Assault Support Services center on April 22, as well as a sexual assault awareness seminar on April 23.

Emily Royer, a junior political science major from Gosnell, Arkansas, said she views public events to raise awareness as very important.

"It's really important that people know there's a group of people out there for them," Royer said. "A lot of victims may feel like they're alone and isolated, so the campus organizing things like this helps that group of people understand that there's a community for them."

Annual farm day brings spring buzz to A-State farmers' market

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The College of Agriculture at Arkansas State University hosted the annual Bill and Alice Nix Farm Day at the Judd Hill Farmers' Market, commemorating a yearly tradition and showcasing the value of agriculture for the A-State and Jonesboro communities.

The spring farm day event, originally began in 2007 as a free petting zoo for the public. Nineteen years ago, the Nix couple would allocate an endowment to the A-State College of Agriculture to give the community a glimpse of the College's inner projects.

Today, the event's name honors the couple's memory and generosity. Still a key part of the College of Agriculture, the event continues to carry out its founding legacy almost two decades later.

Mickey Latour, Dean of the



Photo by Ahtziry Zuñiga | Staff Writer

Members of the Jonesboro community, campus and local, walk around the Judd Hill Farmers' Market for the annual Bill and Alice Nix Farm Day.

College of Agriculture, stated his enjoyment at watching the community engage with all that agriculture has to offer.

"I love for people to come out here and just have a wonderful time, you know, it's

just wholesome," said Latour. "You look outside, and we have a mixture. We have everything from educational activities all the way in the back with the cotton, where they can look at a variety of things and

insects, to the animals that we have to get pictures with."

The gates of the Judd Hill Farmer's Market were flooded with town and university locals alike for the opening of the farm day, and, past the market's entrance, booths were set up all around the patio for visitation. Agriculture was represented in many ways, with table setups displaying agricultural processes live and in action.

Members and staff of the A-State College of Agriculture gathered eagerly to display their love and appreciation for agriculture, as well as the College's accomplishments. Land Smith, a junior plant and soil science, and geographic information systems and precision agriculture major and College of Agriculture Ambassador from Tyronza, Arkansas said his main hope is to educate the community on agricultural processes.

"Allowing the community to understand what we're doing

here at A-State is our main purpose here today," said Smith. "It's just mainly to let everybody get involved and learn something about agriculture."

Overall, the big picture of the farm day event aimed to further immerse and educate the community on the importance of agriculture, most valuably as part of the larger Arkansas population. In the state of Arkansas, agriculture is the number one industry and a principal facet of the local economy.

As members of the celebrated natural state, Arkansans are surrounded by agriculture in their day-to-day life, and it's important to celebrate the resources our town has to offer.

Dixie Book, a junior plant and soil science, and geographic information systems and precision agriculture major and College of Agriculture Ambassador from Piggott, Arkansas, stated the importance of recognizing the abundance

of agriculture in our lives.

"I want people to understand the big picture of Ag," Book said. "It's not what you see on the Internet or what you watch in the news. I want people to know why we do what we do...I think it's important to show everybody why what we do is important and why it has to stay. It affects everybody. No matter what you're doing, it's usually tied back to agriculture in some way."

Additionally, big opportunities are coming for the College of Agriculture and A-State, as developments continue underway for the new College of Veterinary Medicine, a close partner to the university's agricultural community.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine, which just got its final approval last week, also has about 1000 applicants already for the first 100 or 120 students," said Latour. "Things are fantastic on campus right now, and we're so closely connected with them, and it's wonderful."

BRIEF: editors win big



Photo by Polly Marshall | Herald Adviser

The Herald Editors pose for a photo after the Arkansas Conference Media Association awards. The Herald and ASU-TV came home with a combined 55 awards from the annual Arkansas College Media Association conference. ASU-TV won six awards, including a first-place win for television feature. The Herald won 49, including 14 first-place awards and two general excellence awards. ASU-TV won first place in the Television Feature category for "Game Changers." Christian Wilcox, Tristan Bates, Liliana Dawson & Thanh Nguyen produced the feature. Red Wolf TV students were also recognized for their work in television features, social media promotion, newspaper video podcasts, and sports reporting. The list of awards that The Herald won can be found at www.astatetheherald.com!

Arise to "The Finish Line:" A strong finish

EVIE ELLIS

STAFF WRITER

As the semester races toward its final stretch, Arise Nations Jonesboro hosted an event titled "The Finish Line" to motivate students to finish strong.

The event was held Thursday in the Reng Student Union Auditorium.

Arise has held campus-wide Bible study events every month since February, each with a different theme to align with student interests.

Ian Buchanan, the youth and young adult pastor at Arise, said the event was designed to meet students where they were at during this time of year.

"We start a lot of stuff, but then sometimes along the way we don't finish," Buchanan said. "That's exactly what we're going to be talking about today, finishing."

With finals week approaching, many students consider withdrawing from courses or dropping out due to stress, Buchanan said.

To reflect the theme of the

night, Buchanan said Arise picked out scripture that focused on endurance and consistency.

"Our main scripture is Ecclesiastes 9:11, 'for the race is not given to the swift, for those who endure to the end,'" Buchanan said.

Chris Harper, the assistant pastor at Arise, said consistency is everything in educational settings.

"The finish line is not the end, just a stop for now," Harper said. "Don't pause, finish."

Harper said even while academic pressure may feel overwhelming, it shouldn't define a student's future.

"Don't let circumstances pull you down; there is more to come," Harper said.

Arise also invited a local business, Overflow Soda Co., in an effort to help relieve stress for students.

Yvonne Alonso, owner of Overflow, said the business intentionally places itself at events like these.

"It's not just about the drinks, it's about shining the light of Jesus to everyone



Photo by Evie Ellis | Staff Writer

Chris Harper (Left) and Ian Buchanan (Center) host Arise's "The Finish Line" Bible study night. This particular Bible study was hosted with the goal of preparing students for finals week.

we encounter," Alonso said.

Alonso said she runs the business with the help of her husband, Rick Zacharko, and said their mission statement, "poured out with purpose," reflects their goal of having meaningful interaction with every customer regardless of background or belief.

The event ended in a spontaneous moment of praise. Buchanan said these are the moments they've continued this campus ministry for.

Buchanan said it is never about the numbers, and he hopes that the students walk away with a finishing mindset.