

## Runnin', howlin', barkin' at the park

ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR

During the baseball game against Central Arkansas, the Alumni Association hosted its annual "Bark at the Park" event to cheer on the Red Wolves.

Dogs in all shapes and sizes came with their owners to watch the game, meet other dogs and get free toys and bowls. Amanda McDaniel, director of alumni events, said it's an easy event to host each year.

"We spread the word on our newsletter and on social media and through different media outlets and just invite everybody," McDaniel said. "There's obviously no fee for this. You just come into the ball game, buy your ticket and enjoy the little swag gifts."

Attendee Avery Meredith said she loved seeing all the dogs at the event.

"It brings the whole community together," Meredith said, "My favorite part is seeing all the dogs and talking to everyone."

Meredith brought her dog, Beau, an eight-year-old goldendoodle, who she said loves



Photo by Sooyeong Choi | Photo Editor  
Avery Meredith, one of the Bark at the Park attendees, and her dog Beau, an eight-year-old golden doodle who Meredith said loves to cheer on the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

cheering on the Red Wolves. While the game went on, alumni met up with old friends with their dogs by their side. McDaniel said that since they started this event in 2019, attendance has grown exponentially and they have

to bring more treats and different swag each year. "It has grown a lot more. A lot more people, a lot more dogs," McDaniel said. Jordan Dodd, a first-year nursing major from Sherwood, Arkansas, brought



Photo by Allie Carson | News Editor  
Birk McBride, a junior physical education major from Wynne, Arkansas, and his dog Franny, an English cream golden retriever pose for a photo at Bark at the Park.

her dog, a corgi named Louie. "I got him as a surprise," Dodd said. "He turned one year old in February. He has a lot of energy all the time. He just likes making friends with everybody." Dodd said that while she hasn't gone to a baseball game

at A-State, she thought Bark at the Park would be fun to attend. "I saw that it was Bark at the Park and I was like, 'I don't do enough on campus, so it'd be fun to come with Louie,'" Dodd said. Dodd and Louie joined a small dog race between the



bottom of the third and the top of the fourth innings.

Birk McBride, a junior physical education major from Wynne, Arkansas, brought Franny, his own golden retriever, to the game. "She listens most of the time," McBride said. "She's very playful. She loves everybody."

McBride said he thinks the alumni event is a big deal for the games and the campus.

"It brings the alumni back to stuff like this," McBride said. "Alumni can bring their kids and it shows them, 'I want to come to school here one day.'"

McDaniel shared McBride's sentiment on how important it is that the Alumni Association hosts Bark at the Park every year.

"It really supports A-State baseball and it's a great way to get our fans out, both alumni and friends," McDaniel said. "What better way to do it than bring your dog with you?"

Over 1,457 fans, dog and human alike, watched the Red Wolves take home a victory against the UCA Bears.

## Students present research, creativity at 16th annual Create@State

ELLA DOBSON

STAFF WRITER

Over 200 students came together to present their work at the 16th annual creativity symposium celebrating campus-wide scholarship, Create@State.

Each year, students can participate in poster, art and performance showcases and events, including a business pitch and three-minute thesis competitions. Students are evaluated by judges and can even win awards for their work.

Director of the Office of Student Research and Scholarship, Kari Harris, said this event is a way for students to get experience in presenting before going off to larger conferences.

"This is their chance to talk about their research and the

work they're doing to a live audience," Harris said. "The really good thing about Create@State is they are getting to do this practice among their peers and among their faculty mentors and in their own community, so the stakes are a little lower."

This year, there were 176 poster presentations, 12 creative showcase presentations and eight business pitch competition participants. It was also the first year for the 3MT, or Three Minute Thesis competition.

This research symposium offers the Jonesboro community a chance to see the research A-State students are working on behind the scenes.

Katelin Kellar, a junior biochemistry major from Cabot, Arkansas, presented her research on using plants to create recombinant proteins to

make medicines cheaper. She said that Create@State allowed her to meet students and faculty she wouldn't normally meet.

"I think my favorite part of today was having a bunch of people that I've never met before come up to me and just talk to me, and I got to talk to people from different departments, and they were all really interested in the research that I was doing," Kellar said.

Over 100 judges, made up of faculty, staff and community members, helped with the event. They each judged four to six students based on both physical presentation and research communication.

Harris said this event is made of many moving parts and requires a large number of volunteers to keep it running smoothly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Presenter Faith Welch explains her poster presentation for the 16th annual Create@State. During the event this year, there were 176 poster presentations in Centennial Hall where over 100 faculty members judged the presentations.

Ella Edwards, a sophomore biology major from Little Rock, shared her research on reforming brachycephalic breed standards. She said Create@State was a great opportunity. "Pick a topic that you are

overly passionate about. Don't just go into a topic that you know. Join that you truly have passion for, because it doesn't feel like it's work," Edwards said. "It'll feel like it's an opportunity more than a burden."

To get connected with next year's Create@State, be on the lookout for an email from Harris in the fall or contact the Office of Student Research and Scholarship.

## Festival of Flowers blooms across Jonesboro

EVIE ELLIS

STAFF WRITER

Three days full of educational, flower-filled fun sprang up throughout the Arkansas State campus and community in this year's Festival of Flowers in partnership with the School of Art and Design.

Throughout the event, students could attend educational sessions such as Blossoming Biologies, Historical Botanicals, and Flowers Through the Lens of Art and Science. Historical Botanicals spoke on flowers throughout time, ranging from medieval times to the present.

Kat Baker, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Art History, said the

meanings of certain flowers and their representation in art.

"Artists will often use flowers symbolically; they can represent different ideas and colors to bring out the emotions of a piece," said Baker.

Baker said that different colors of flowers in art pieces are associated with certain concepts, like how white flowers represent virginity.

Jacinda Cribbs, a freshman business administration major from Valley View, Arkansas, said Baker explained this idea to the students.

"They used a lot of paintings, like the ones of Mary, that was pretty interesting," Cribbs said.

Cribbs said her professor encouraged her to attend the event, leading her to be

very surprised by the turnout. "The room was full," Cribbs said. "I did not expect that at all."

The Festival of Flowers not only featured educational sessions, but also included morning workshops, in which students could learn how to grow flowers or paint watercolor flowers. Attendees could apply what they learned during their sessions in a hands-on application.

These workshops prepped students for the grand finale of the event, an evening downtown. Partnering with Gearhead Outfitters, Generations Floral Company, and Something Art Cafe, including a variety of activities to suit any interest.

Zephaniah Mondy, a senior creative media production

major from Helena, Arkansas, said he enjoyed going with his friends to make buttons at Something Art Cafe.

"There was really a lot to do down here, in the place we went to a ton of events were happening," Mondy said.

Mondy didn't expect to originally go to the festival, but joined in after he realized it was happening downtown.

"I thought it was just on campus, and there wasn't anything happening for real, but I think it was actually cool, so that's nice," Mondy said.

Overall, the festival brought the Arkansas State community together to celebrate science, art and history through flowers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART + DESIGN AT ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Festival attendees learn how to arrange flowers during the second day of the Festival of Flowers three day event.