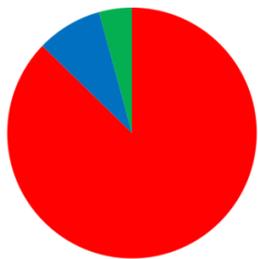


## What's Your Opinion?

We asked students if they thought A-State should offer more language degrees.

Out of 46 responses:  
 Yes, they should -- 41  
 No, they shouldn't -- 4  
 The current amount is fine -- 2



■ yes ■ no ■ fine as is

## Next Poll:

### Spring break

Where did you go over the break?

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 [heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldopinion1921@gmail.com).

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

# Arkansas State University needs a live mascot

RACHEL RUDD  
NEWS EDITOR



Rachel Rudd is a junior creative media production major from Beebe.

The University of Arkansas announced the grand introduction of Tusk VI, the live razorback featured at sporting and pep events, on March 4. I'll admit, despite being a Red Wolf at heart, I love Tusk, and this got me thinking: Arkansas State University needs its own version of Tusk. That's right, we need a live red wolf.

"But Rachel," I hear you cry, "the American red wolf is critically endangered, and according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there's only an estimated 17-19 in the wild."

This is a fair point. After all, how would A-State even manage to get a hold of a real red wolf? If only A-State was working to build a red wolf

conservation center— oh wait, it is.

According to Red Wolves for Red Wolves, the official A-State student organization dedicated to protecting the American red wolf, the conservation center will have a grand opening sometime in 2023, although Jeff Hankins, vice president for strategic communications for ASU Systems, said "work continues to identify funding sources for the project."

The plan for the center is to have six breeding pairs, or 12 wolves in total. Surely before a big game, a wolf could be taken down to the stadium?

Now, I understand that there are some differences between having a live pig versus a live wolf at a game. For one, Tusk is trained and starting with Tusk II, is frequently handled by humans.

While most of the red wolf population today does live in captivity (235 to be exact), they don't have the same amount of human interaction Tusk has. If A-State were to implement a live mascot, this would have to be accounted for.

That's the other thing, Tusk is used to traveling around and attending loud games. This theoretical live mascot wouldn't be accustomed to this, so that would have to be taken into account as well.

But I believe there is a solution

to this. Perhaps the mascot could be brought in for something like a meet-and-greet, but then return to the conservation center before the game begins. Or, there could be a camera at the center that streams footage of the wolf to the games. This would allow A-State to have a live mascot without stressing the animal.

Now, as ridiculous and silly as this sounds, I truly believe this idea has some merit (I wouldn't write a whole opinion piece if I didn't think it did, after all). Having a live mascot courtesy of A-State's very own red wolf conservation center is fantastic publicity, which could cause more students to get involved with the center or encourage more donations.

Similar to Tusk, official mascot social media accounts could even be created. This is even more publicity for the center. Plus, this would encourage fan interaction with the accounts, boosting school spirit.

I will be the first to tell you, if there was a possibility I could see a real red wolf at A-State sporting events, I would be in line for many more games. Give this live mascot the same kind of "celebrity status" Tusk has and I'm sure you'd have more people showing up to games to see their favorite local celebrity.

Having a live mascot is also a great opportunity to provide education regarding not only the conservation of the red wolf, but general information about the species. At the very least, the A-State and Jonesboro community would be informed of the red wolf's critically endangered status. The more people educated about the situation, the better.

In the end, this idea is a no-brainer. Not only would this provide excellent publicity and marketing for the campus's new program, but it would also serve to educate the public on this truly wonderful animal. Plus, it would just be super cool to have an actual wolf at football games and be part of the schools across the nation with unique live mascots.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILDSOUTH.ORG

The American red wolf is critically endangered, with an estimated 17-19 in the wild.

# A-State should have more language degrees

ANNA COX  
COPY EDITOR



Anna Cox is a first-year English and global studies major from Paragould.

Arkansas State University currently only offers Spanish, French and Arabic beginning in the fall semester. With such a diverse campus and international program, students would assume that A-State would want to have as many languages as possible to give students the tools to expand their language abilities as well as study abroad.

However, students at A-State just simply don't seem interested in learning other languages despite its benefits. According to Middlebury Language Schools, such benefits include improvement of memory, brain functions and better hiring opportunities to name a few.

The first benefit, improvement of memory, seems like the most obvious

benefit of the three. Of course learning a second language would improve your memory since you are learning a whole new alphabet, grammar and culture. Your brain has to work overtime to retain all of that information. The brain's memory is improved each time you use that second language.

Brain function is much the same. It is going to be improved as you continue to learn and practice using a different language. The switching of dialect is extremely difficult and causes you to focus when you speak rather than relying on the comfort of a mother language.

In terms of career, there are many ways to market the ability to speak a second language. Being able to translate in real time and on paper is an increasingly popular skill. Employers want people who are able to communicate in more ways than one to reach more people in more communities.

Another reason to learn a foreign language is the connection to culture that it can give you. Not only can you communicate with a new group of people, but you can also see the inner workings of their culture and understand it better.

Vicent Moreno, Ph.D., department chair of English, philosophy and world languages as well as associate professor

of Spanish, believes that language and culture go hand in hand. Moreno speaks both Spanish and English.

"You do get a sense of other cultures, other ideas. It helps with critical thinking, it allows you to see things from different perspectives," Moreno said.

Take Spanish for example. If you were to go to Mexico and speak to locals in English, they might not fully understand what you mean. Instead, if you are able to communicate with little to no language barrier, you can be inquisitive about topics and get answers that you might not be able to access using a language that's foreign to the local population.

"We don't just ask you to memorize the verbs; they all have a big cultural component. I think that is very important not to learn the language in isolation, but to connect it to the social and cultural context," Moreno said.

The problem with A-State's language department is that not a lot of people really know it's there. They might assume that A-State offers Spanish and nothing more. They most likely won't try to investigate it.

Students truly just do not know how much the language department has to offer. More could be offered if more interest was shown in the programs. It

is all about the students' willingness to learn, to open their perspectives – that's what college is all about. A-State needs to offer more languages, yes; however, students also play a part since they could try and petition for languages to be added.

All in all, I believe that everyone should try and learn another language, even if you think you'll suck.

Step out of your comfort zone and explore a new language because all of the positives and possibilities outweigh the possibility of failing. There are professors who are dedicated to helping you learn. It only takes a bit of effort on your part.

To see the full article, go to [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASU SYSTEM

Haley Stotts (left) and Samantha Morales (right), students at Campus Querétaro.

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