



14th annual Create@State celebrates student research and collaboration

LAILA CASIANO

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Students showcased their research and innovations in the 14th annual Create@State hosted by the student research and creativity development program.

Create@State is a year-long program that allows students to showcase their co-curricular research and scholarly/creative works to judges from various industries, stakeholders, alums, community leaders and administration.

Over 150 students from eight academic colleges presented.

"I want this event to be a space where we can all come together and learn about what is happening in the different departments on campus," Kari Harris said. "Create@State is an opportunity for us to connect with each other and find out what's happening right here on our campus."

Harris, director of student research said they revamped the event this year to become more collaborative and cohesive, celebrating research and creative activities on campus.

"We've already celebrated student research as part of our event, but this time, the focus is purely on celebration," Harris said.

Unlike prior Create@State events, this year's event was limited to one day with no concurrent sessions. The day began with a showcase of creative activities at the Heritage Plaza Lawn, featuring music, art and student project displays.

Various departments, like the Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Art + Design, attended



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Madelyn Carson, Honors College associate director presents to students at Create@State.

the showcase to display their projects. The Honors College and Department of Political Science tabled alongside to recruit, and the Jonesboro Police Department appeared, as did members of the A-State band to play music for guests and students.

Sarah Mayberry Scott, Ph.D., an assistant professor for the department of communication, joined her students during the creative activities for the Spring 2024 special topic course, Barbie Unboxed.

Her five students displayed independent research projects that looked at the marketing of the Barbie franchise from its inception until contemporary times, the gender expression of

the masculine identities from the Barbie film, and the display and portrayal of "otherness" in the Barbie franchise.

"They (her students) wanted to share their research in this forum," Scott said. "We've got a lot of different types of research being done, but it shows that you can really use something that is interesting and use that as a platform to understand academic research and to conduct academic research."

Mason Prislovsky, a senior communications major from Portageville, Missouri, is enrolled in the course. His research examined the feminine and masculine spectrum portrayed in the Barbie film, particularly analyzing Allan's character.

"To me, Allan represents the power of visibility and inclusion," Prislovsky said. "His presence in Barbie Land reminds us that even though it's a fictional realm, it can promote diversity and complexity in our current society."

Prislovsky said that his research allowed him to reflect on real-world gender norms and the importance of breaking free from strict labels.

"This really spoke to me because it can grant me more opportunities to talk about identity, gender expression and acceptance, which is what we truly need in the world today," Prislovsky said.

Later in the day, events included a keynote panel

with Chris Jones, Ph.D., and Meredith Adkins, Ph.D., as guest speakers, a student poster presentation and an ice cream social.

To celebrate all the participants and faculty mentors, there was an event at the Johnny Allison Tower at the end of the night, with music, food and mocktails, to commemorate this year's academic work.

"I wanted to do something special, so participants and their faculty mentors are invited to a party celebration to really culminate the experiences that we've had all year and celebrate all the hard work that students have put into their various experiences," Harris said.

Increased volume of phishing emails reported

Information Technology Services has reported an influx of phishing emails attempting to reach campus inboxes. While most are being blocked at a server level, users should be vigilant against these types of scams. To reduce risk, always use the my.AState portal to access account information instead of direct links inserted in an email body. Report any suspicious email to ITS Security at security@AState.edu.

Late night breakfast is Thursday

Students are invited to Late Night Breakfast from 10:30 p.m. to midnight, Thursday in the Acansa Dining Hall. There will be board games on every table, breakfast foods to fuel your study night and many giveaways. Bring your friends and challenge one another through the inflatable obstacle course.

Standard Bearers to host 'Guide to Dealing with Anxiety'

With finals approaching, Standard Bearers will talk about anxiety at 6 p.m., Thursday in Humanities 1028. They will discuss the signs, symptoms and healthy ways to cope with anxiety.

BRIEFS COURTESY OF A-STATE DAILY DIGEST

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Letter from the editor: Thank you
- A reflection of the "college experience" from a graduating senior

NEWS, 3A

- Inside the life of custodians at A-State
- SGA fills seats and finalizes budget in last meeting of the year
- Livestreamer speech prompts student debate
- Campus Crime

SPORTS, 1B

- Who's in the suit: the many faces of Howl and Scarlet

ARTS & E, 2B

- Senior students showcase art in new exhibition
- This week's Pop Pick
- The "Tortured Poet's Department" is heartbreakingly dazzling

LIFE, 3B

- Inside the clock tower
- Meet Miss Northeast Arkansas 2024

Sexual Assault Awareness Committee educates students on consent

SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE

PHOTO EDITOR

The Sexual Assault Awareness Committee educated students about consent and sexual assault April 19, through a workshop titled "Building a Dialogue of Consent".

This workshop was held in the Mockingbird Room of the Carl Reng Student Union and featured guest speaker Rebecca Bailey, education program director of Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault, a group based in Little Rock working to end sexual violence and human trafficking.

In this workshop, Bailey discussed what consent is, why it is important in every relationship, the ways it is used and its boundaries.

"It isn't going to happen overnight but it does happen by us having these kinds of hard conversations and it happens with holding ourselves accountable and each other



Photo by Shailey Wooldridge | Photo Editor

(Left) Featured guest speaker Rebecca Bailey presenting at the "Building a Dialogue of Consent" workshop

accountable for what those actions are," Bailey said.

Jamaica Walker, case manager at the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity, helped organize the event.

"Everything that happens outside of campus happens

on campus so people on campus need to understand what consent is," Walker said.

"Understanding what consent is can be very important." During the workshop, Bailey made points about consent through a game and having

students participate in a skit. The game was an exercise in setting boundaries across different power dynamics.

The audience broke into pairs and were directed to ask each other yes or no questions. In the first round, every question had

to be answered yes. The second round was set up the same but every question had to be answered no. In the last round participants could answer yes or no but had to explain why.

The skit was presented by two student attendees, using a fictional scenario to express how easily sexual assault happens in college settings.

Jacquanay Buford, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Osceola, Arkansas, attended the event.

"They did a good job of showing how consent can be misconstrued," Buford said. "It was entertaining and informative."

Omarion Williams, a sophomore criminology major from Forrest City, Arkansas was one of the participants in the skit. He said the event taught him more about how to help other people who may get into one of these situations.

Shye Fischer, special to The Herald contributed to this report.