



Year-old Model Arab League brings home awards from Fayetteville

By HEATHER MCCUTCHEON
The Herald Staff
hmm@small.astate.edu

The Arkansas State University Model Arab League recently took home several awards at the South Central States Annual University Model Arab League competition held at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

"It was ASU's first year to have a Model Arab League on campus, yet we won the event," MAL member Christi Crawford, a sophomore journalism major of Jonesboro, said.

According to MAL president Harold Pickett, a senior political science major of Batesville, the organization is a simulated meeting of the League of Arab states.

The organization's purpose is to promote knowledge of the cultures, politics, economics and international

relations in the Middle East.

"Being involved in the Model Arab League helps you to gain knowledge of how people in different countries would react to certain situations," Pickett said.

Pickett said 16 students from ASU competed in Fayetteville on March 29-31, eight representing Algeria and eight representing Palestine.

"We prepared intensively in bi-weekly meetings at which we studied the positions of our countries... and drafted resolutions that were in character for Algeria and Palestine," he said.

Pickett said once at the competition, the students argued their cases and defended their resolutions in committee meetings sessions.

He said that the team's delegations were highly successful.

He said the conference also included Middle Eastern food,

music and dance, as well as a lecture and slide show presented by Scott Ritter, former chief United Nations weapons inspector for Iraq.

Pickett, who won Outstanding Delegate on the security Affairs Committee, said the team brought home four individual awards and one group award.

"ASU's Palestine delegation was recognized as the best delegation from any participating university," he said.

The MAL organization was started on ASU campus earlier this year after MAL faculty advisor Dr. Ross Marlay, professor of political science, spoke with several of his students about the organization.

After bringing MAL to the their attention, the students decided to organize a MAL chapter.

"Starting the ASU chapter was a student initiative," Marlay said.

Faculty form two groups to oversee handbook policies

By HEATHER MCCUTCHEON
The Herald Staff
hmm@small.astate.edu

Members of Arkansas State University Faculty Senate voted Friday to form two new committees, both to address recent discrepancies with the Faculty Handbook.

According to Dr. Richard Wang, associate professor of political science, the purpose of the Reapportionment Committee will be to examine and revise the current method of faculty reapportionment, and report back to the senate with proposals for reapportionment for spring 2002.

The process of reapportionment involves counting the number of faculty receiving university contracts from each college, and using that number to determine how many senator seats will be available to each college.

Due to problems with the current method of reapportionment in the Faculty Handbook, the faculty senate voted at the April 6 meeting to keep the number of senator seats available to each college at status quo with the exception of one additional seat for the College of Communications.

Jeff Bailey, Faculty Senate chair, told The Herald at that time the decision to keep the number of senate seats the same was made because of confusion in how to count certain faculty members.

According to Bailey, this confusion was caused by discrepancies in the terminology used in the Faculty Handbook, which made the current method of reapportionment uncertain.

The Oversight Committee was formed in order to make sure that all rules stated in the Faculty Handbook are upheld.

Dr. Bill Maynard, associated professor of history, said that the American Association of University Professors has become aware of many handbook violations.

"There are people being hired on campus with inappropriate degrees," Maynard said.

The legally binding document is being repeatedly violated on this campus, he said.

"Since the handbook has become a legal document, these violations are very serious," Maynard said.

Faculty Senate member Dr. Bill Rowe, professor of art, said according to his research, it also has been confirmed that a member of the Physical Plant staff is retiring at age 52, and still receiving full retirement benefits when the Faculty Handbook states that in order to

Finish line



PHOTO BY VIKKI JONES

Sherie Kiser, a sophomore exercise science major of Westport, Ky., races Stacey Little, a freshman exercise science major of Canada, Wednesday on a giant inflatable slide. The attraction was placed on the Carl R. Reng Center lawn as part of Springfest 2001.

Members of Strong-Turner Association, 3.0 Club honored for dedication to education

By CHRISTY BROWN
The Herald Staff
clueso99@aol.com

The Strong-Turner Alumni Association paid tribute to black students who have excelled in academics at its annual Honor's Reception Wednesday in the Carl R. Reng Center Ballroom.

More than 160 black students were honored at the reception for either being a graduating senior or a member of the 3.0 Club.

To be eligible for the 3.0 Club,

students must have completed at least 30 credit hours at Arkansas State University and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.

This club was established in 1994 to "show that African Americans can achieve on a predominately white campus and compete with other ethnic backgrounds despite the odds that are facing them," Parice Porter, coordinator of minority affairs, said.

Dr. Rick Stripling, vice president for academic affairs, applauded the

Former editor of AP, publisher speaks to College of Communications scholars

By DUSTIN DEARMAN
The Herald Staff
ddearman0@yahoo.com

The College of Communications Student Honors Banquet was held on Wednesday at the Fowler Center Grand Hall.

Speaking at the banquet was Larry A. McDermott, the publisher of the Union-News and Sunday Republican of Springfield, Mass., and ASU alumnus.

McDermott has been an editor and publisher with Newhouse

Newspapers for 12 years. In January 1999, after serving as executive editor from September 1991 until January 1998, he was named editor and associate publisher.

McDermott was a reporter, editor and corporate executive for the Associated Press.

His AP experience as a reporter included sports writing, features and political analysis.

He began his journalism career as a reporter at The Jonesboro Sun, where he worked for two years while attending ASU. He also

Picnic lunch



PHOTO BY VIKKI JONES

Several students line up in front of the Carl R. Reng Center for chicken provided by Tyson Foods. Tyson brought popcorn chicken and buffalo wings for Wednesday's lunch. The picnic was held as part of Springfest 2001 where students could play on giant inflatables and find a cure for their spring fever.

Two international students receive \$300 scholarship for academic achievement, leadership abilities

By GROVER WELCH
The Herald Staff
groveblue@yahoo.com

The Office of International Students honored the achievements of foreign students at Arkansas State University with the awarding of the Richmond-Haydar scholarship on Wednesday night.

The two recipients of the award were Anil Baral and Meiliati Bun.

Baral is a graduate student at ASU pursuing a doctorate in environmental science with a 4.0 grade point average.

Meiliati Bun is an under graduate in computer science with a 3.62 grade point average.

Both students have spent their entire education in the United States at Arkansas State University.

The scholarship is awarded in the name of Mossie Richmond and Afak Haydar, both alumni of Arkansas State University.

This year's finalists included Anil Baral of Nepal, Mounir Ben-Fredj of Tunisia, Meiliati bun of Indonesia, Eunhee Cho of Korea, Baljit Rehal of India, and Kristine Worden of Canada.

All finalists had proven themselves in their individual academic fields as well as being involved with

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— Dr. Rick Stripling, interim vice president of student affairs

academic clubs and pursuing leadership roles on campus.

"It was a difficult decision to decide from so many excellent candidates, one which I took great pride in being part of," Dr. Herman Strickland, associate professor of elementary education, said.

He presented the awards to the recipients.

Both recipients will receive a \$300 scholarship as well as have their names added to an honorary plaque which hangs in the International Student Center.

Richmond was a professor, administrator and assistant vice president of student affairs until his

death in 1995.

Haydar was a professor of political science and associate dean of university college, until he retired in 1997 to pursue educational roles in Pakistan.

The Richmond Haydar scholarship is given through the charitable contribution of its donors. These include Mian Emer Mehmood, Velmar Richmond, Dr. and Mrs. Afak Haydar, Dr. and Mrs. Wilbert Gaines, Drs. J.W. and Jennifer Mason, Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Smith, and Dr. and Mrs. Herman Strickland.

Dr. Rick Stripling, interim vice president of student affairs, spoke at the dinner and reiterated the importance of international students at ASU.

"International students provide the cultural exchange that we, at ASU, value," he said.

Sighting Haydar's worldly connections he said, "There is value in the cultural diversity they (international students) bring to ASU because it broadens our outlook and helps create contacts the world over."

"Dr. Haydar believed education must be available to everyone, especially those who want it, but have limited access," Stripling said.

CONVOCATION of SCHOLARS 2001

honorees for their dedication to academic excellence.

"This is a special week in the life and times of the university. It is a time to recognize exceptional academic performance," Stripling said.

"It is important to pause and take time out of the academic vigor and

say, 'job well done,'" he said.

Organizers invited LaToshia Scaife, a May 2000 graduate and 3.0 Club member to speak at the reception. Scaife currently lives and teaches in the Jonesboro area.

Scaife praised the honorees for their commitment to education and encouraged them to continue to excel.

"Your career as well as your influence must start now," she said.

The Strong-Turner Alumni Association was formed in 1982 in

honor of Walter Strong and Frederick Turner, the first black graduates of ASU.

The purpose of the organization is to increase interest and participation of black students in the university. Organizers said they want to promote awareness of the legacy of black history at ASU.

"This program has turned out to be a very big success. It is great to watch African American students achieve and excel to a higher level," Porter said.

CONVOCATION of SCHOLARS 2001

served as editor of The Herald.

He currently is co-chair of the Massachusetts Media-Judiciary Committee.

McDermott spoke about the importance of journalism and how his determination and drive brought him to the upper ranks of his profes-

sion. McDermott commended the College of Communications and ASU on its advancement since he attended in the 1970s.

This also was the first year the Speech Communications Department has been a member of the College of Communications.

Several organizations also honored student achievement.

• American Advertising Federation: Amanda Suel, outstanding member; Alissa Harris, outstanding senior.

• Association of Women in Communications: Shay Nanke, Alissa Harris, members of the year and Alicia Smith, honorary member.

• National Broadcasting Society: Shay Nanke, member of the year.

• National Press Photographers Association: Bethany Erwin, photographer of the year; Brooks Sample, outstanding senior.

• Public relations Student Society of America: Andrea Smalec,