

Newly elected SGA members take office

By Jerrica Hutchison
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Several new Student Government Association senators and staff members were sworn in at Tuesday night's meeting, beginning with new president and vice president Sach Oliver and Carl Lewis.

After the two were sworn in, former President Andrea Smalec adjourned the meeting and left with the former senators and staff members.

Oliver, a junior agriculture business major of Viola, opened the meeting for the new members by swearing in his new staff members.

Jake Hampton, a freshman chemistry major of Stamps, is the new chief of staff.

Oliver said Hampton was knowledgeable and had worked hand in hand with him as campaign manager.

"He has an excellent ability to lead and handle people," he said.

Kelly Moran, a freshman pre-medicine major of Batesville, is the new secretary/treasurer.

The new public relations person is Ellen Morgan, a junior international business major of White Hall.

Oliver said Morgan had previously been involved with the Up 'til Dawn project, was very active in the Chi Omega sorority and was the 2001-2002 ASU homecoming queen.

"I feel she is very qualified for the job of the p.r. person," he said.

Aida Ali, a sophomore journalism major of Tanzania and the new minority affairs director, was not present at the meeting because she was conducting events for Multicultural Week.

Oliver said he felt Ali was very qualified for the job.

After the new staff members were sworn in, Oliver said he was still looking for a parliamentarian and asked to be contacted about possibilities.

The temporary parliamentarian is Shannon Tubbs, a sophomore agriculture major of Weiner, who cannot complete the job because she is transferring in the fall.

Oliver said she was a good choice for temporary parliamentarian because she definitely knows Robert's Rules of Order.

Oliver and Lewis continued the meeting with a discussion of the proposed 2002-2003 SGA budget.

Salaries were increased to

\$15,500, and supplies were raised to \$2,715.

Oliver said operations would be increased to \$11,620, because of the increasing travel costs.

"We have to travel to Little Rock more to get more money for ASU," Oliver said, referring to the recent budget cuts.

Oliver also said Martin Luther King, Jr., Week and the Women's Conference, two activities the SGA usually sponsors, would be given to the Student Activities Board to take care of in the future.

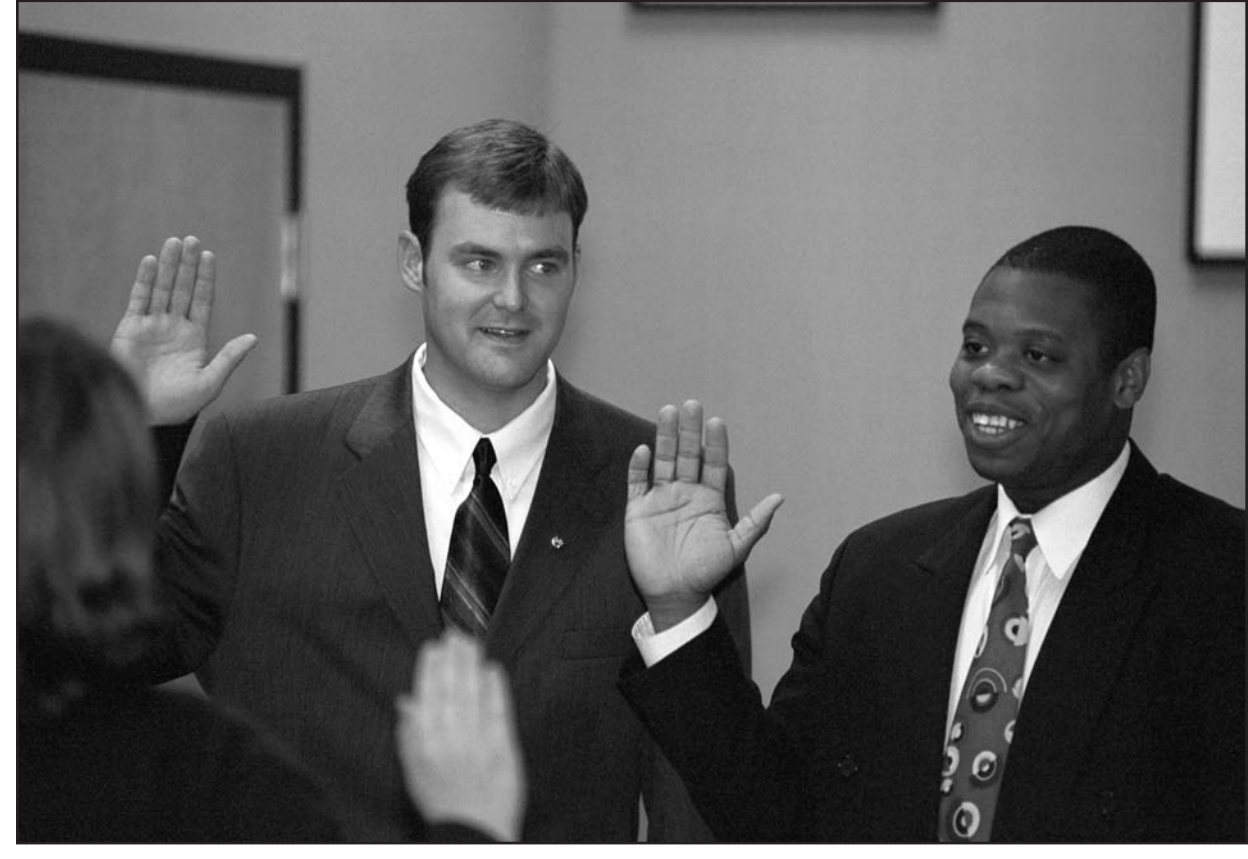
He said the \$16,360 could be set aside to take care of other events.

Scholarships remained the same at \$1,000, although Oliver mentioned the possibility of raising it to create a new International Student Scholarship.

"International students aren't qualified to receive scholarships, and it costs around \$6,000 a year for them to attend ASU," he said.

He proposed creating a \$600 scholarship, which will be discussed in a later meeting.

The Elections budget is set at \$5,000, and the Senate/Executive



SGA President Sach Oliver and SGA Vice President Carl Lewis are sworn in by former President Andrea Smalec at Tuesday's SGA meeting in the Dean B. Ellis Library. The new senators voted to hold an extra meeting April 16 that was previously unscheduled.

Herald photo by Brian E. Rodriguez

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Bomb threat cancels class ASU builds for the institution's future

By Jerrica Hutchison
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Many students and professors at Arkansas State University were removed from class Wednesday morning because of a bomb threat called in earlier that day.

The 7:50 a.m. anonymous phone call stated Wilson Hall, the Dean B. Ellis Library, the Lab Science Building and the Smith Building would be bombed later in the day. Wilson Hall and the library were both closed around 8:30 a.m.

Captain Mike Archer of the University Police Department said he received word of the bomb threat immediately after the call came through.

"After they explained what the caller said, we went building to building to check things out," he said. "The whole UPD, assistants from the Physical Plant, Student Affairs and Environmental Safety went to check the buildings."

Archer said when he first found out about the threat, he called Lori

Roach, Occupational Safety coordinator, and the 911 center in Jonesboro, which was put on standby in case addition supplies, such as ambulances or fire trucks, were needed.

"It's a joint effort with various offices to identify people," he said.

Archer said the charges for a false bomb threat could vary from Communicating a False Alarm, Terroristic Threatening or Threatening with a Fire Bomb. "Threatening with a fire bomb is a Class D felony," he said.

Both Archer and Roach said there have not been any bomb threats recently.

"It's been almost a year, may have been longer," Archer said.

Roach said the university policy states buildings must be evacuated if there is a bomb threat.

"We're still doing follow-ups," she said. "We're looking at the call and the remarks that were made."

Archer said the penalties for calling in a bomb threat were very serious.

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Editor's note: this is the fourth of four installments in a series dedicated to Dr. Les Wyatt's view of ASU.

By Grover Welch
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Twelve new building projects are currently underway, or slated to begin in the next few months at Arkansas State University, leading many questioning the direction the school is progressing.

The job of the president is to think of the future and help guide the direction of the institution, said Dr. Les Wyatt, president of ASU.

"I try to see into the future of the school and read what I think students five or ten years down the road will need," Wyatt said. "And I do this with the current students and faculty in mind."

"I look at technology around us and am amazed at the things we can do today that ten or twenty years ago were unheard of, unimaginable," he said.

Processes are in place to help

guide the institution in this development, Wyatt said.

"The University Planning Committee, the Student Government and the Faculty Senate all are organizations that in one way or another affect the decisions I make regarding the future of the institution," Wyatt said. "With their input and the goals we set for future enrollment or offerings I try and make proposals I think we can afford and accomplish in a timely manner."

The age of the institution plays a large role in decisions, Wyatt said.

"As we look around us we can see three buildings (Wilson Hall, the International Student Center, and the Business building) all of which are in great need of renovation," he said. "These are all projects that we are looking to complete, but as you look at your options and the extent that renovation will call for you also see the need to create new facilities for students to occupy."

The student needs will be met with newer facilities ready to handle the changing environment of higher

education, Wyatt said.

"We look at what we can do. We have just come off of a boom in the building industry that has made it possible for us to move forward with improvements at a dollar value that is acceptable for an institution our size," he said.

"With these improvements come an increased financial responsibility, so the impetus has to be what is good for the university, over what any one group or person thinks they want," he said.

"This is the motivation behind creating a unified vision for ASU. I have made it no secret that I have a direct, yet malleable vision of where we will be in ten years," Wyatt said.

"Direct, in that we have a conceptual idea of where we are going, but not something that can't change as we see new opportunities or ideas emerge. One such idea was the development of the new apartment complex," he said.

"We saw a need for improvement in the kind of housing we were providing our students and pursued that," he said. "The new develop-

ment about to be underway is the realization of that idea."

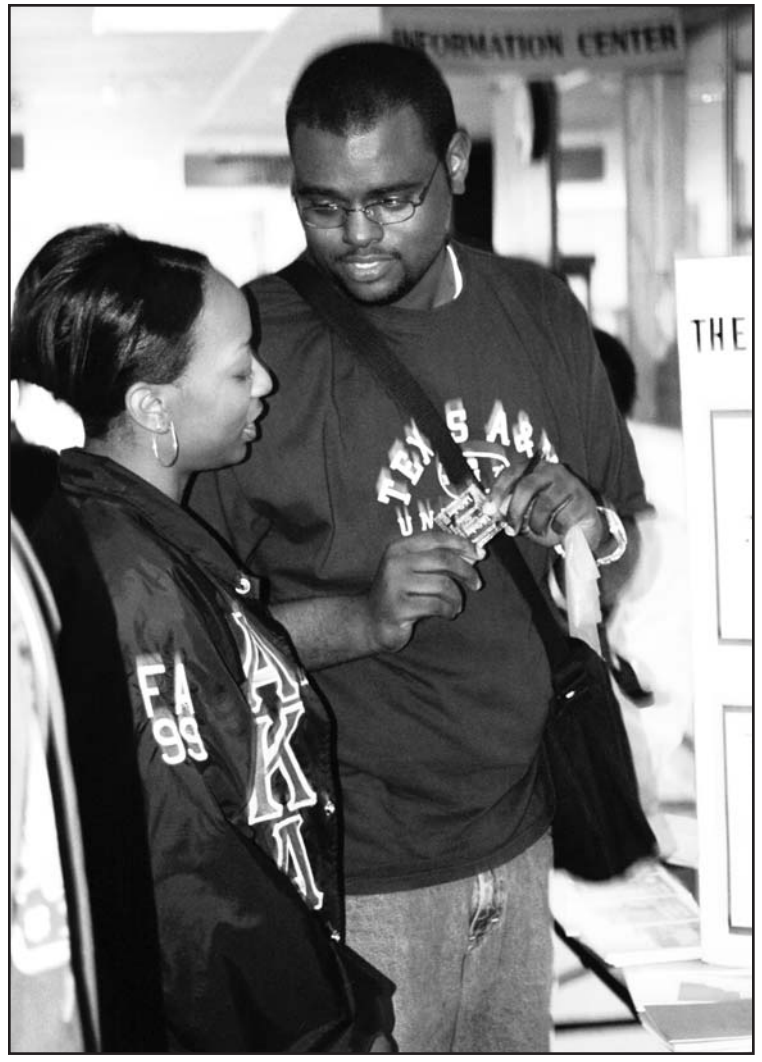
All ideas that move forward are not the product of the president's office, Wyatt said.

"In fact many of the moves we ultimately make are based on the study of our environment, here at ASU. From that we move forward with ideas and see what we can do and what those options mean for students, faculty and the future," he said.

"Now, I am not the final decision maker of the progress of the institution," Wyatt said. "I help outline and decide what we want, but then the trustees and legislature ultimately sign off on every new addition or change we make."

"I think the progress we have seen will continue into the near future, with the student unions completion and our decision to move forward with projects for the bypass. I believe the ASU of the future is going to be able to offer today's quality service to more students and affect more of the Arkansas community as a result," Wyatt said.

Project Alpha



Herald photo by Serina Wilkins

Erica Brown, a senior social work major of Little Rock, and Shawn Brown, a junior radio-tv major of Pine Bluff, check out the information booths at Project Alpha in the Reng Center on Tuesday. Project Alpha was the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity's community service project designed to inform students about safe sex and sexually transmitted diseases.

Nine ASU students selected for research skills

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The College of Communications Undergraduate Research Association was created last year to give support to students doing research that could be published.

"This club helps students to learn the value of research far beyond the classroom," said Dr. Mary Jackson-Pitts, faculty adviser.

Six students were selected to present their research at a national conference in the first year.

This year, nine out of 65 students were selected from Arkansas State

University to present their research papers at the Southern States Communication Association Honors Conference Friday in Winston Salem, N.C.

At this conference students have the honor of presenting their hard work to professionals in the fields of mass communications and public relations.

The organization asked for funding from the Action Fund Committee, and received \$2,000 of the \$6,000 requested to help send students to the conference.

ASU will compete against schools such as Vanderbilt, Florida State University, Kentucky State University, and Louisiana Tech

University.

Pitts said students often have negative feelings toward the term "research," but the reality is, in all we do in the communications industry, we must justify our actions and decision making processes.

The papers and students selected to be presented at the conference were: Brad Fletcher, "A content analysis of sex in primetime television sitcoms;" Jessica Newburg, "A content analysis of violence in daytime Soap Operas;" Meghan Hackney, "A content analysis of internet advertising;" Jason Brown, "Magazine portrayal: A content analysis of blacks and women in magazine advertisements;" Amanda

Rogers, "Public relations and practitioners' use of technology;" Dana Scaife, "Product placement in Sitcom Television;" Trent Foreman, "College Students' Radio Listening Habits;" Robert Tabern, "Agenda Setting through Presidential Address to Congress;" and Kira Hamilton, "MTV: A content analysis of news programming after September 11, 2001."

Pitts said each student researcher in the club looks to produce research that is of concern to their area of emphasis and some students have even done applied research to assist local radio stations to understand the college students as an audience.

Roe v. Wade trial lawyer continues to promote women's issues

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"Some women are born leaders." Dr. Sarah Weddington, the keynote speaker for the Fourth Annual Student Government Association Women's Conference, is one example of a born leader.

Weddington successfully argued Roe v. Wade in 1973, the Supreme Court case providing women with a right to choose abortion. At 26, she is believed to be the youngest person to successfully argue a case before the Supreme Court. Since then she has continued to promote women's issues, most notably as former President Jimmy Carter's assistant.

Women have always been leaders, in libraries, churches and charity work. "Women often didn't see themselves as leaders. They were leaders, but women weren't comfortable using that label for themselves," she said.

Today's world for young women has many more opportunities and many more open doors, she said.

Weddington said it is important that we keep changing to include opportunities for women and ensure that women feel comfortable in leadership positions.

She grew up in the 1960s and 1970s when opportunities for women were limited.

"My father is a Methodist preacher. I grew up in little Texas

towns," she said. "But that background gave me a lot of independence."

"I grew up in a time when they said you could teach, be a nurse or be a secretary. I wanted I would teach," she said. "I wanted to teach eighth graders to love Beowulf. I tried. Then I went to law school."

The dean of her college told her "it would be too tough" for her to go to law school. "Now you know the moment I decided to go to law school," she said.

She went to the University of Texas School of Law in 1964 with five other women in her class of about 250. "I got out of law school and couldn't get a job," she said.

Weddington ended up working

with a professor doing research.

She went to apply for a credit card during this time, when the man at the desk told her she needed her husband's signature. "I said I don't think so. I'm the lawyer. He just got back from military service."

"I'm going to put him through law school and I do hope someday he will have some income," she told the man at the desk. But it didn't matter, she still needed his signature.

"So, I had to run for the (Texas) Legislature and pass the Equal Credit Bill," Weddington said.

Leadership takes practice for both young women and men, she said.

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