



Arkansas State University-Beebe

Volume 9

Meeting the Challenge

Summer 2003

Foothills becomes ASU-Searcy

Center will serve as technical campus of ASU-Beebe

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved in early February a merger of Arkansas State University-Beebe and Foothills Technical Institute in Searcy effective July 1.

A recommendation for approval for the merger came from a visiting team of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the accreditation body for higher education, during a two-day visit to both campuses in late May.

Discussions concerning a possible merger began in May 2002, and plans were presented to both institutions' governing boards for approval upon completion in November.

Dr. Eugene McKay, chancellor, said that a friendly merger was a logical next step since the



Don Harlan, vice chancellor for ASU-Searcy, and Dr. Eugene McKay, chancellor, review materials recently concerning the merger of the university and the former Foothills Technical Institute. Legislators approved recommendations from several governing boards to merge the two institutions, effective July 1, thereby creating ASU-Searcy, a Technical Campus of ASU-Beebe. (photo by Brandi Hinkle)

two institutions had operated cooperative degrees for several years and had always had a good working relationship.

McKay said he expected the

merger to be a win-win for both institutions and that the two schools working together could

Please see 'Searcy' on Page 16

Message from the Chancellor:

From potholes to jackpots ...

It has been a mixed year for Arkansas State University-Beebe, with great accomplishments and significant losses. On the positive side, the merger of Foothills Technical Institute into ASU-Beebe has been completed and officially took place on July 1. We are planning a week of celebration during the week of Sept. 22-26 after our students return.

Faculty and staff have worked together to make the transition for ASU-Searcy, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe, as smooth as possible; it will take a year or so to complete the transition from a technical institute to a technical college, but with positive attitudes and supportive communities, it will happen quickly.

I am very optimistic that the two campuses working as one institution can better serve the educational and workforce training needs of this region of our state.

The best days for ASU-Beebe are ahead, and the Searcy campus enables us to expand our curriculum and to serve more people.

In the meantime, we have been very appreciative of our external support. The legislators from our service area have done everything humanly possible to



**DR. EUGENE
McKAY**

help us. The support from our communities has been outstanding.

The university has received numerous gifts of money, time, and moral support. Just last week one of our former students walked into the office and handed me checks totaling \$50,000 to honor his wife by building a

greenhouse to support our agri programs and to establish a scholarship to help our students go to college.

The weak economy has, however, created a few potholes in the road to Oz.

We have lost more than \$1,000,000 in expected income from the state during the past two years, resulting in increased tuition costs, restricted travel, limited equipment purchases, limitations on new employees, and inadequate raises for very deserving employees. I do believe that the economy will soon turn around and these will be remembered as temporary problems.

With diverse campuses at Beebe, Searcy, Heber Springs, and the Little Rock Air Force Base, ASU-Beebe is able to respond to a wide variety of educational needs in central Arkansas, and we are eager to be of service.

What's inside ...

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ASU-Beebe

MEETING

THE CHALLENGE

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ASU-Beebe

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Record enrollment seen on campus

The parking lots were swarming, classes were full and more students were registering as the semester began, as Arkansas State University-Beebe saw a record enrollment of nearly 3,133 students this spring.

Official figures were finalized with the Department of Higher Education on the 11th day of classes, totaling students at ASU-Heber Springs, the center at the Little Rock Air Force Base, and concurrent high school and (formerly) Foothills Technical Institute enrollment.

“We had expected a surge in enrollment, and the figures are a testament to the great things our students, faculty and staff are doing,” Robin Hayes, coordinator of enrollment, said.

However, those figures were surpassed in the spring, with 3,303 students from a total of 41 Arkansas counties, and several from outside the state and the nation.

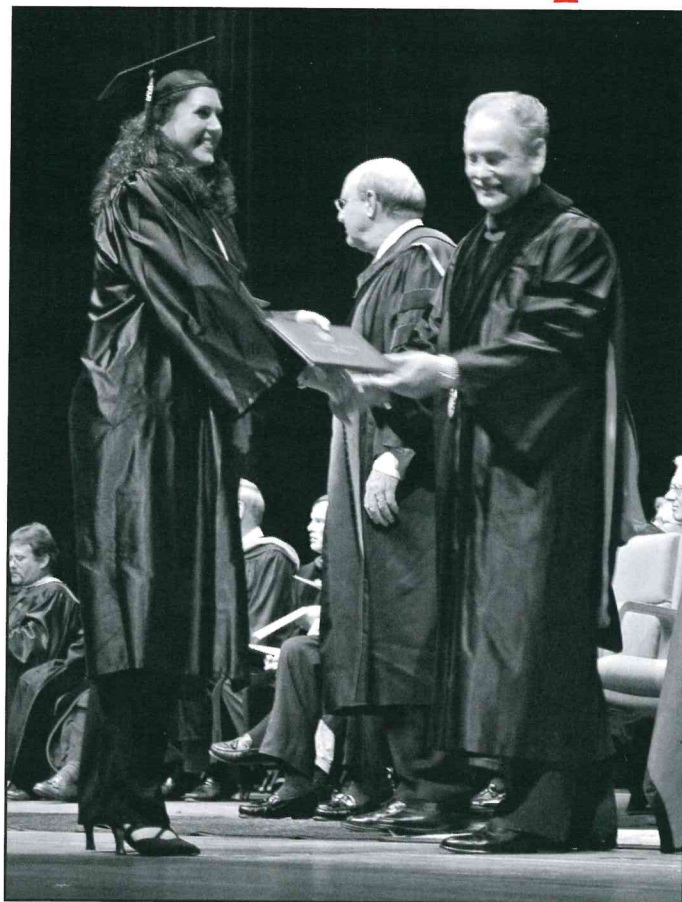
ASU-Beebe offers a wide range of classes in the associate of arts, associate of applied science, associate of science in health science, and technical certificate programs, in addition to six bachelor’s degree and two master’s degree programs through Arkansas State University.

The university’s 62-credit hour Associate of Arts degree has a 43-hour core curriculum that will transfer to most four-year universities in the state. By working closely with their university adviser, students are able to transfer all appropriate electives towards almost any academic discipline.

Two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered in such fields as computer-aided drafting and design, computer systems technology, electronics technology, electronics engineering technology, medical laboratory technology, agricultural equipment technology and business technology.

Additionally, ASU-Beebe offers an Associate of Science in health sciences and Associate of Applied Science degrees in early childhood education and paramedics.

In addition to the associate’s degree programs offered at ASU-Beebe, students may earn a one-year Technical Certificate if they wish to go directly into the workforce.



Anita Sue Wools, an associate of arts in liberal arts major of Judsonia, receives her diploma in December from Arkansas State University-Beebe Chancellor Dr. Eugene McKay. Also pictured is Dr. Les Wyatt, president of Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. In addition to record enrollment, ASU-Beebe is graduating record size classes during the school year.

The Technical Certificate is offered in three areas: office occupations, computerized accounting and computer information systems. Students may earn the Technical Certificate by completing 30-credit hours of prescribed courses, which can be completed in one year of study.

Another record enrollment is expected for the fall, and the last day to register or add a class for the fall semester is Aug. 25. Tuition is \$60 per credit hour for in-state, on-campus residents.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 501-882-8260 or 1-800-632-9985.

Dr. Ruth Couch says good-bye

While Dean Echols was on leave for dissertation research, Dr. Couch, Associate Professor of English, served as Acting Dean of Instruction from July to December of 1976.



RUTH L. COUCH

Acting Dean of Instruction, Associate Professor of English.

B. S. E. - South Arkansas University, M. S. E. - Henderson State University, Ph. D. - Oklahoma State University.

Began employment at ASU-Beebe in 1971.

A photo in the 1977 *Warrior*, yearbook for Arkansas State University-Beebe, depicts Dr. Ruth Couch in her position as acting dean of instruction during the fall of 1976.

Humanics course offered for fall

Arkansas State University-Beebe will offer a three-hour American Humanics course beginning this fall through a cooperative effort with University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The course is designed to prepare professionals to work for nonprofit agencies and youth and human services organizations, such as American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Easter Seals, Special Olympics and the YMCA.

American Humanics is a minor offered through UALR's liberal arts program, explained Dr. Ruth Couch, instructor, and the course at ASU-Beebe will transfer only to that program.

"The challenges of working in nonprofit organizations are

unique, however, the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the field are common to many disciplines," Couch said. She is a longtime educator and administrator and will be returning to the classroom after retirement following nine years as vice chancellor for academic affairs at ASU-Beebe.

Effective communication skills, both oral and written, as well as public speaking and listening techniques are essential, she continued. Additionally, the ability to resolve conflict, develop positive relationships with staff and volunteers, and understanding group dynamics is imperative.

Personal attributes of those in

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." Proverbs 31:26

For more than 30 years, Dr. Ruth Couch has touched the lives and helped shape the minds of hundreds of Arkansas State University-Beebe students, faculty and staff.

Born and raised in Magnolia, Couch dreamed of being a teacher and achieving her doctorate. A dedicated student, she was well on her way in a short time. After graduating from the public school system, she attended Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, receiving her bachelor of science in education in three years.

"All my life," she said, "my parents had stressed the importance of education, and several mentors in my youth encouraged me to achieve my long-term goals."

Although her father had attended some college, her mother had not, yet Couch explains that her parents were very supportive of her educational goals and very academically oriented.

Their educational philosophy might seem unusual for young girls in 1940s Arkansas. Couch quipped, "Don't all kids' mothers sit them down at a tender age and explain the virtues of a college education?"

After graduating from SAU, Couch began teaching in El Dorado and Magnolia school districts, which she did for more

See 'Humanics' on Page 20

See 'Longtime' on Page 15

ASU-Beebe welcomes Welch

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Welch of Little Rock has been selected as the new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dr. Eugene McKay, chancellor, announced recently that Welch would replace Dr. Ruth Couch upon her retirement June 30.

A Jonesboro native and 1991 graduate of Jonesboro High School, Welch graduated with his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, completed his master’s degree at The George Washington University, and recently received his doctoral degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

“Chuck has a reputation for being energetic, enthusiastic, and having the ability to work well with other people,” McKay commented. “I look forward to working with him to make ASU-Beebe an even better place for people to work or get an education.

“Let’s make him feel at home, at the college and in the community,” McKay concluded.

Most recently Welch was the chairman of Division of University Studies at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, overseeing general and developmental education studies at the college. He began working at the school in 2000 as enrollment coordinator. Welch has also spent time in the classroom as an instructor of education and political science.

A first-generation college student, Welch said not attending college was not an option he ever considered. “Although my parents hadn’t attended college,” he said, “they were always very sup-



DR. CHUCK WELCH

portive and encouraging to me. It was just a given that I would attend college.”

While at UA, he was very active in the student body, serving as president his senior year. Upon graduation, he moved to Washington D.C. to begin a summer internship at the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, followed by several months with U.S. Senator David Pryor of Arkansas. Welch subsequently filled positions with U.S. Representative Blanche Lincoln and Pryor while completing his master of arts in political management.

“I had always been politically minded,” Welch said, “but I began thinking of education as a career while working closely with Chancellor Dan Ferritor at UA during my tenure as Student Body president.”

His mentor advised Welch to begin teaching in a two-year community college, touting the benefits of such educational insti-

tutions. “The community feel of a two-year school is different than a four-year school,” Welch said, “and teaching is the primary mission and emphasis.”

Two-year schools offer higher education in or near communities that may not have four-year institutions within a reasonable geographic range of most people’s homes, and the cost is generally less than that of four-year institutions.

Arkansas is home to 22 two-year colleges that provide numerous educational programs, opportunities for career training or retraining, and continuing education.

“Two-year colleges provide a first chance for many traditional-age students who are geographically-bound or financially hindered that might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college,” Welch said. “And, for adults who must work and go to school, the two-year colleges offer flexible class schedules, evening classes, and distance education classes.”

Currently, two-year colleges serve more than 43,000 credit students across the state, according to data from the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges. In addition, more than 48,000 residents are continuing their education and upgrading skills through non-credit courses. The average student is 27.5 years old, a female, and works part-time, although many work full-time and attend classes at night, on the weekend, or through distance education.

Please see ‘Welch’ on Page 16

From the Office of Institutional Advancement

Alumni, Development reaping great rewards

It's been a great year at Arkansas State University-Beebe and in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Our Alumni Association is growing, and the membership is doing more and more activities.

Our 5K in April was a big success, and last fall many people rode the bus to the ASU football and basketball games in Little Rock.

We have another convoy and tailgate party planned for the Indians game at War Memorial Stadium in October 4th versus Louisiana-Monroe. Tickets will be \$14 and includes a ticket to the game, tailgate party on the ASU-Beebe campus as well as transportation to and from War Memorial Stadium. We think this will be a great activity to involve families and encourage fellowship with each other.

Scheduled for 2007 is a large 80th celebration on the campus, and you'll be hearing more about that in the future.

We have found that alumni of ASU-Beebe are very proud of their association with our institution, and we appreciate the support we find throughout our communities. This year, Billy and Brenda Shurley of Cabot donated money to build a green house at our farm facility and endow a scholarship. We can't thank them enough for their generosity.

ASU-Beebe is blessed to have great support from our family and friends. The yearly Annual Fund, used primarily to fund faculty, staff, student and alumni activities not funded by the state, has steadily increased over the last two years. It is a great way for alumni, friends and local businesses to show financial support for the university.

The Annual Fund Drive typically takes place during October, November and December.

This last year, the Development Council saw a need for scholarships for ASU-Beebe students. The council endeavored to raise \$100,000 in a scholarship endowment campaign over the next two years, beginning in July 2002, and has reached 50 percent of its goal.



KEITH PINCHBACK

Pledges may be made in \$1,000 increments to be paid in one, two or three years, and the tax-deductible donation may be made in equal payments per year or a one-time donation.

The scholarships will be perpetual, with the earned interest used to fund the scholarships, and the rate of interest will determine the number of scholarships to be funded. The name of each donor will be prominently placed on a plaque with his or her amount given in the Student Center,

highly visible to the public.

The full-tuition (based on 12 hours) scholarships will be dispersed over a period of two semesters to applicants who fulfill the following requirements: those students entering sophomore year after completing 24 hours at ASU-Beebe; and maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 during freshmen year of studies and a 2.5 GPA during first semester of the scholarship.

The ASU-Beebe scholarship committee will choose recipients. This is a great chance to help area students with an opportunity for higher education they may otherwise never see.

For more information on making a pledge, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement by calling 501-882-8334 or via e-mail at gkpinchback@asub.edu.

Numerous opportunities will arise with the addition of ASU-Searcy, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe. With our continued growth, increase support of our alumni will be needed. Please contact our office for any questions or opportunities that might surface.

Without your past and present moral and financial support, ASU-Beebe could not have reached the heights it has achieved. If you haven't come by the campus in a while, stop by for a tour, we are very proud of what is happening at ASU-Beebe.

Keith Pinchback
Director of Institutional Advancement



Departmental winners at the annual students awards banquet were (front row, from left) Rachel Walton, James Dixon, Misty Stewart, Lai Ka Chun, Heather Wilkerson, (back row, from left) David Hatfield, Thien C. Van, Carlene Colebank, and Joe Berry. The students were presented division awards for outstanding leadership and outstanding scholastic achievement in their major fields of study.

Several honored at annual awards banquet

Several Arkansas State University-Beebe students were honored at the annual Awards Banquet held recently at the university. The students were presented division awards for leadership and outstanding scholastic achievement in their major fields of study.

Selected for the English and Fine Arts Awards were Carlene Colebank, of Bradford, for music, Jarrod Smith of Bradford, for theater, and Heather Wilkerson, of Searcy, for English. The ASTI/Applied Arts Awards went to James Dixon, of Griffithville, for computer systems Technology, David Hatfield, of Cabot, for computer information systems and lab sciences, and Rachel Walton, of Beebe, for Computer Aided Drafting and Design. Chosen for the Education and Social Science Awards were Joe Berry, of Austin, for Political Science and history, and Misty Stewart, of Cabot, for psychology. The Math and Science Division Awards went to Lai ka Chun and Thien C. Van, both of Searcy. James Branson Jr., of Cabot was awarded for the Arkansas State University at Jonesboro programs at ASU-Beebe.



OUTAR



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FARRIS

The citizenship awards, the university's most prestigious awards, went to Jacob Farris and Rachel Walton, both of Beebe. Farris is a liberal arts major. Both his sister, Belinda, and his father, Barry, received the citizenship, while attending ASU-Beebe.

Additionally, those students who qualified for Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges were recognized, including Farris, Hatfield, Lai Ka chun, Smith, Stewart, Walton and Wilkerson, were: Cassandra Bailey, Angela Blair, Bobby Carter, Simon Dean, Robert Giles, Jalyynn Glover, Brandon Holland, Andy Isom, Jessica Jones, Dustin King, Dana Martin, Robert Peronia, Greg Pickens, Erin Riggs, Addison Safely III, Daniel Skipper, Tina Smith, Michele Smith, Cheryl Thome, Alison Tiner, and Katrina Winters.

Each year, one ASU-Beebe instructor is chosen by the Leadership Council students for the Positive Teacher Award and a staff member is presented the Positive Staff Award. Dr. Qifang He, associate professor of science, was selected for the Positive Teacher and Neil Outar, Student Center manager, was chosen for the Positive Staff Member Award.



With this ring

Phillip C. Glover (2003) of Cabot married Ashley B. Pedersen of Cabot June 1, 2002, at Ward First Baptist Church.

Paul Emery Lott (1999) married Stephanie R. Booth on July 21, 2002, at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist church in DeValls Bluff.

Jeremy S. Ramsey (2003) married Amy L. Ellis on July 19, 2002, at First Baptist Church in Pangburn. Jeremy is majoring in business administration at ASU-Beebe and is employed at Wal-Mart Distribution.

Kristin S. Ghent (2002) married Jeremy S. Turner on July 20, 2002, at the bride's home. Kristin is a 2001 graduate of Searcy High School and attends ASU-Beebe and is employed by Regions Bank in Searcy.

Jason L. King (2002) married Kathleen Meacham on June 14, 2003, at Dripping Springs Assembly of God Church in Judsonia. Jason is a 1994 White County Central graduate and attended ASU-Beebe. He is currently employed by Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Searcy.

Jamie M. Haney (2000) married Wesley A. Marter on June 21, 2003, at the new Worship Center at Trinity Baptist Church in Searcy. Jamie is a 1998 graduate of Searcy High School, and a 2000 graduate of ASU-Beebe with an associate of science degree in health sciences and graduated from Harding University in May with a bachelor of science in nursing. She is employed with White County Medical Center.

Jason N. Holloman (2003) married Debra K. Feagin on May 24, 2003, in an outdoor wedding at Miss Magnolias in Heber Springs, Arkansas. Jason, formerly of Loveland, Colo., is a 1998 graduate of Searcy High School. A graduate of ASU-Beebe, he will continue his education this fall at the University of Central Arkansas,

pursuing a career in physical therapy.

Andrea E. Ball (1997) married Russell L. Scott on May 24, 2003, at Faith Freewill Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Andrea is the daughter of Bill and Kathy Ball of Beebe. Andrea is a 1995 graduate of Beebe High School and received her bachelor of science in physical education/sports management at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She has been employed in Athletic Marketing-ASU Athletic Department for three years.

Landon D. Hutsell (2001) married **Konya L. Lafferty** (2003) on May 31, 2003, at First Baptist Church in Kensett. Landon is a 1994 graduate of Cedarville High School and a 2001 graduate of ASU-Beebe. He is currently employed at Wal-Mart Distribution Center in St. James, MO. Konya is a 2000 graduate of Searcy High School and a 2003 graduate of ASU-Beebe. She is currently employed at Country/Lowery Drug in Searcy. She will be attending the University of Missouri at Rolla in the fall.

Aimee N. Jones (2003) married Christopher M. Freppon on May 16, 2003, at Westview Missionary Baptist Church in Searcy. Aimee is a 2002 graduate of Riverview High School and is currently attending ASU-Beebe.

Hannah M. McAnally (2003) married Lewis R. Curtis on April 5, 2003, at Crosspoint Ministries in Beebe. Hannah is a 2001 graduate of Beebe High School and is currently a sophomore at ASU-Beebe. She is employed at Mt Carmel Day Care and Roper's Restaurant.

Brittney Sellers (2000) married Boone Hawkins on Feb. 14, 2003, at Ann's Bridal and the Rose Room. Brittney is a graduate of Riverview-Judsonia High School, attended ASU-Beebe and is presently a cellular specialist at Russell Cellular.



With this ring

Arples Johnson (2001) married Amy R. Orman on May 10, 2003, at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Forrest City. Arples is a 1999 graduate of Carlisle High School, and received an associate of applied science degree in computer systems technology from ASU-Beebe.

Molly M. McCulloch (2003) married Ricky Wooten on Dec. 28, 2002, at Beebe First Baptist Church. Molly is a graduate of Beebe High School and is currently attending ASU-Beebe. She is currently employed by Beebe Childcare Programs.

Adam D. Adair (1998) married Jennifer A. Eich on Jan. 4, 2003, at the Central Baptist Church in Newport. Adam is a 1995 graduate of Newark High School and a 2000 graduate of Arkansas State University with a bachelor of science in accounting. He is currently employed by Yarnell's Ice Cream in Searcy.

Charles McKendree (2000) married **Mary Walker** (2002) on Dec. 28, 2002, at Floyd First Baptist Church. Charles is employed at the Dillard's Corporate Headquarters in Little Rock, and Mary is employed at ASU-Beebe.

Jeri E. Lewellyn (2003) married Matthew W. Edwards on June 14, 2003, at New Testament Missionary Baptist Church in Lonoke. Jeri is a 2002 graduate of Lonoke High School and is enrolled at ASU-Beebe, pursuing a nursing degree. She is employed at Arkansas Rural Water Association in Lonoke.

Vonda G. Scheel (1998) married George E. Bradley on Nov. 23, 2002, at the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church. Vonda is a high school graduate of Lighthouse Christian Academy and earned her AA and BS in education at ASU-Beebe. Since receiving her state certification, she teaches first grade at

the Lighthouse Christian Academy.

Karla A. Harris (2000) married **Scott H. Blakely** (1997) on Dec. 7, 2002, at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Searcy. Karla is a 1991 graduate of Searcy High School; she received her undergraduate degree from UALR and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at the UA. She is employed by Axiom Corporation in Fayetteville. Scott is currently pursuing his undergraduate degree at the UA. He is employed by Home Depot.

Angel D. Renner (1996) married Stephen E. Waggoner on Dec. 28, 2002, at the United Methodist Church in McCrory. Angel is a 1993 graduate of Heber Springs High School and a 2000 graduate of the University of Central Arkansas with a bachelor degree in psychology. She is employed by the Community School of Cleburne County.

Juanita S. Smith (1996) married Hervey M. Madden Jr., on June 21, 2003, at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock. Juanita received a bachelor of science in education from Harding University in Searcy. She is presently teaching third grade at William Jefferson Clinton Elementary in Sherwood.

Rachel L. Eddington (1995) married Dustin A. Heuer on May 31, 2003, at First Baptist Church of Newport. Rachel is a Registered Nurse who is presently employed at Harris Hospital.

Kevin McKay (2000) and Krista Cummings were married July 26, 2003, at the United Methodist Church in Beebe. Both have bachelor's degrees from the University of Central Arkansas, and Krista is pursuing a master's degree in speech therapy at UAMS. Kevin is employed by Best Buy in Little Rock.

ASU-Beebe students participi

Mission of center special to one student

Growing up along the banks of the Mississippi River, Blaine Kalb never thought he would find himself alone, with no job, no food, and homeless, but that's where he was Dec. 10, 1999, the day he checked himself into the Wilbur D. Mills Assisted Living Center in Searcy.

At nearly 40 years of age, he was destitute. He had worked many years as a tugboat captain, but after losing his license for drug use, he wandered from place to place, job to job, and finally found himself at rock bottom.

"I was big and strong," Kalb said, "and I lied about my age when I was 17, dropped out of school and began working on riverboats, eventually working up to captain. But, I started using pot, crystal meth and alcohol off the job - and then on the job.

"Looking back, it was a good thing the Department of Transportation started drug testing after the Exxon Valdez incident," he said, "because I got caught. If I hadn't, I could've destroyed my life and those of others, and stretches of the environment, since we carried oil, too.

"But I didn't want to look at reality then, so I distanced myself from my family, and I wouldn't

get help," he continued. "I lost my captain's license for using drugs, and eventually my self-respect."

For eight years, Kalb intermittently lived with family and friends, and when he would wear out his welcome, he said he would "head to the woods," surviving the best he could.

"I stole vegetables from gardens and eggs from right underneath chickens when I could," he said with a wry smile. "I sold scrap metal and drugs, fought in tough man contests, and did anything to make some cash for a while.

"I slept in cars, barns, and abandoned houses," Kalb said. "It was a miserable existence. I was spiraling downward when I heard about the Mills Center."

Kalb checked himself into the center and immediately began counseling and rehabilitation. Less than two years later, he is clean and sober, serving as manager of the 20-unit complex and attending school at Arkansas State University-Beebe, where he is majoring in sociology.

Residents of the complex are required to become gainfully employed, participate in programs to keep themselves off drugs and alcohol, and pay 30 percent of their income for rent



As manager of the Wilbur D. Mills Center, his duties range from routine upkeep and emotional support for its residents. As a student, he emphasizes the importance of clean living and rehabilitation.

and utilities. Counseling, rehabilitation and medical care are included in the program.

"As the residents recover, they learn social skills and improve their ability to support themselves financially, emotionally,

ate in local homeless count



**assisted Living Center, Blaine Kalb's
enhance of the facility to providing
vering drug addict, he says he realizes
tion such as the program provides.**

and spiritually," Kalb explained. "They learn things that most people maybe learned growing up, like to pay your bills on time, get up and go to work, don't do

Volunteering to brave the weather and unfamiliar territory, 31 Arkansas State University-Beebe sociology students participated recently in a homeless count in rural counties in Arkansas.

Delta Hills Continuum of Care conducted the survey March 6 in 19 counties in northern and eastern Arkansas, focusing on the homeless and their needs. The Delta Hills Continuum of Care is a coalition of several community non-profit agencies, led by Health Resources of Arkansas Inc. (formerly North Arkansas Human Services System, Inc.) of Batesville.

Counties included in the survey area were Clay, Cleburne, Cross, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, White, Woodruff, and Van Buren.

The purpose of the survey was to help identify the number of homeless persons and families in the counties covered by DHCC, as well as the types of services they need in order to become self-sufficient and return to the mainstream of society.

The student volunteers fanned out across the area, contacting shelters, low-rent housing projects, human service agencies, police/sheriff's departments, county judges and others who might have contact with the homeless.

"Some of the students were

very creative," Lisa Powell, director of grants for Health Resources, said, "contacting hospitals, schools, churches and soup kitchens.

"This point-in-time survey is one of the biggest projects we've taken on," she continued, "allowing the DHCC to pinpoint the number of homeless, where they are, where services are needed, and what is needed to help resolve issues of these people.

"A rural survey is much harder to do than one in urban areas, but the student volunteers were great," Powell said, "making it possible for us to collect data that will be used to support programs and make our communities aware of the homeless and the issues they face."

"The students worked many hours," Mark Tovey, Wilbur D. Mills housing coordinator, added, "and help us accomplish a count that we otherwise wouldn't have been able to complete in such a wide spread area at one time."

The results are being process for demographics and needs assessment, and will be used to apply for grants and funding for programs such as housing for the homeless, food, counseling and rehabilitation, Powell concluded.

In addition to programs for the homeless, Health Resources provides behavioral health treatment, housing for the mentally ill, housing for the elderly or disabled, alcohol and substance abuse treatment, and residential youth services.

See 'Social' on Page 13

Arkansas State University-Beebe

Bookstore Dedication

April 30, 2003

The entire campus community welcomed in April visitors to the dedication of the beautiful bookstore in the Student Center. A one-stop shop for your academic support needs, from pens and pencils, to textbooks and CD-ROMs, the store also carries ASU-Beebe memorabilia, gift merchandise and sundries.

The new Central Stores/Purchasing facility was also celebrated with an open house earlier in the afternoon.

BOOKSTORE



Flower garden dedicated to England



The flower gardens outside the Student Center on the campus of Arkansas State University-Beebe were dedicated in the spring to Walter England, dean and associate professor of English from 1964 to 1983, with many family and friends in attendance. England expounded upon his teaching philosophy, saying, "Like a flower, a student will blossom with care and attention." The plaque commemorates his years of service with his likeness and the inscription, "With love from your family." A member of the Development Council, England is still very active in affairs of the university, including allocation of the departmental Walter D. England Scholarship. Pictured with England are (at left) Dr. Eugene McKay, chancellor, and his wife, Louise England.

University offers dynamic new viewbook for students

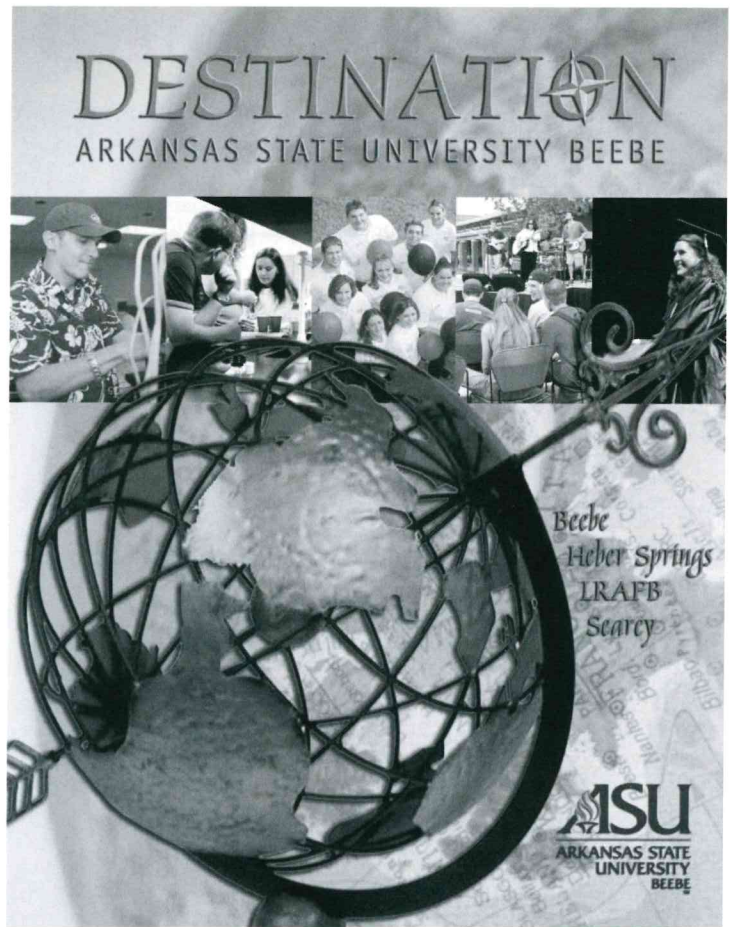
“Throughout our lives, the choices we make, circumstances and, sometimes, blind luck help determine the direction we travel and where our future lies. Arkansas State University-Beebe can be your vehicle on the road to success.”

And so begins the new viewbook, a recruitment tool used to draw prospective students.

Spearheaded by the Offices of Admissions and Public Information, creating the publication was a very involved process, utilizing the talents of staff, faculty and students.

“We believe attracting students, enrolling them in courses, keeping them here and helping them achieve their educational goals involves the entire campus community,” Brandi Hinkle, director of public information, said, “and so this project involved all those individuals and reflects that learning philosophy as well.”

Copies of the new viewbook are available through the Office of Admissions by calling 501-882-8260 or 1-800-632-9985.



Social studies student takes special interest in homeless assignment

• Continued from Page 10 •

drugs, and care for yourself.

“People who have become school teachers, nurses, business owners and others in our communities have all been a part of the program in the past, and they learned how to function again in society as their mind and body healed, sometimes taking months and years,” he said.

Residents can stay as long as they follow the structure of the program, contributing to their recovery and following the rules. Although the complex is co-ed, Kalb said, residents are forbidden to engage in romantic relationships.

Kalb said he hopes to continue

his education, eventually acquiring a master’s in sociology and working in that field to help the homeless. With a 4.0 GPA his first semester, he said he feels he is on the right track to succeed in his goal.

“At 40 years old and as a high school dropout, I was uneasy about going back to school,” he said, “but the faculty and staff have been amazing. I’ve gotten scholarships to help pay for school and terrific assistance here.”

When he learned of the survey to be conducted by Health Resources of Arkansas, Kalb approached Phil Petray, sociology

instructor at ASU-Beebe, to ask for aid in conducting the survey. Kalb said the 31 students who volunteered will help validate and prove the need for funding of programs for the homeless in the area.

“I hope to encourage and educate people,” Kalb explained. “I’m grateful for the help I received when I needed it, and the place I work and live has helped me to heal and be a responsible member of society.

“There’s always hope, and there’s always help,” he concluded. “It’s never too early to get help and it’s never too late, and doing the right thing works.”

Center at LRAFB offers upholstery

JACKSONVILLE - Arkansas State University-Beebe has begun offering courses in upholstery at the Little Rock Air Force Base Education Center. ASU-Beebe took over the program from Pikes Peak Community College when they decided to close their operations at LRAFB.

The certificate program offers two options; auto and household upholstery. Each eight-week course qualifies as four credit hours through ASU-Beebe.

Instructor Eugene Moseley has been teaching the course for eight years, having begun the course himself through Pikes Peak Community College at the base in 1991.

"I began taking the courses as electives while studying automotive electronics," Moseley explained, "and began working as a lab assistant for the upholstery program."

"I had a dream to restore and customize a 1965 Mustang," Moseley confided. He continued taking the courses, earning his certification through the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration. The program at the base is also certified through the IICR.

Many of the students in the courses, however, are not pursuing certification. Rather, they are taking the courses for leisure and to work on special projects.

Jackie Johnson, a retired registered nurse of North Little Rock, began taking courses shortly after she retired, and has been reupholstering pieces for her home.



Instructor Eugene Moseley helps a students pad and restore a loveseat as part of the coursework in the upholstery certification program at the Arkansas State University-Beebe center at the Little Rock Air Force Base. The University recently began offering the 10-class program.

"It's very relaxing for me," she explained.

Programs at the LRAFB are primarily provided for military personnel, however, courses are available to citizens on a space available basis. Courses at the ASU-Beebe center at LRAFB Education Center are normally

scheduled during five eight-week terms throughout the year.

The first fall term begins Aug. 11. For more information about the upholstery program or other ASU-Beebe offerings at the LRAFB Education Center, please visit www.asub.edu or call 501-988-4151.

Longtime educator retires

• Continued from Page 4 •

than nine years. She received her master's from Henderson State University, working part-time as a dorm assistant.

Couch entered the doctoral program at Oklahoma State

University, and while studying for her doctorate taught part-time as well as a graduate associate. Upon completion, she began teaching as an assistant professor of English at ASU-Beebe. She was ASU-Beebe's first full professor and the first woman on the faculty to achieve a doctorate.

Dr. Eugene McKay, chancellor of ASU-Beebe, recently characterized Couch as "intelligent, witty, hard-working and dedicated to improving higher education."

Over the years, she has taught composition, world literature, and mythology to countless students, and advanced from associate and professor of English to division chair and finally to vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1994. Her tenure of nine years in that position makes her the longest-running academic affairs officer in the school's history.

Through the years, Couch said she has seen many changes in the campus, the students and the community. More students are attending college, she said, as the



COUCH

importance of a college education has grown, and scholarships and federal financial aid programs have made it possible for more individuals to afford higher education.

The use of computer technology, an emphasis on diversity, and the use of encouragement rather than strict discipline by faculty have also changed the landscape of higher education, she said, broadening the scope of what students can achieve.

"The things we learn make us better people," she continued, "making us problem-solvers, thinkers, and more reasonable and responsive citizens. We learn respect for others and their opinions, and we appreciate each other for our differences."

Couch further explained her view of education in a person's life, saying it opens the door for opportunities, renders the probability of better health and relationships, provides for good income, and overall leads to a better quality of life.

"To know that I've had a part in students' success and helping students to develop a good self-concept is the most rewarding and satisfying achievement to me as an educator," Couch said.

"One of the most fulfilling things I've known over the years has been the sense of community I've had and the continued opportunity for personal and professional growth," Couch concluded.

Couch said she will continue teaching as an adjunct instructor upon her retirement June 30.

Students receive CARTI funding

Arkansas State University-Beebe students Amber Freeman, 26, of Searcy, and Jared Hammons, 23, of Cabot were among 22 Arkansas stu-



FREEMAN

dents selected to receive Dennis Jungmeyer Scholarships valued at \$2,500 each from the CARTI Foundation.

Presented annually to current or former CARTI pediatric cancer patients, the scholarships are named in honor of North Little Rock resident Dennis



HAMMONS

Jungmeyer, a CARTI Foundation Board Member and a cancer survivor.

A graduate of Bryant High School, Freeman was diagnosed in 1986, at the age of 10, with an astrocytoma brain tumor. Now 27, she is majoring in early education. She is the wife of Shane Freeman of Searcy and daughter of Liz and Terry Bray of Benton.

Hammons, 23, is studying computer technology and is a graduate of Cabot High School. Diagnosed with leukemia at the age of three, he is the son of Annette and Johnny Hammons of Cabot.

Welch selected as newest VC

• Continued from Page 5 •

“In short,” Welch said, “two-year schools provide opportunities for higher education which might not otherwise be available or feasible for many people throughout Arkansas.”

“I’m looking forward to working with the excellent faculty and students of ASU-Beebe through the Office of Academic Affairs,” Welch said. “As a staff, we are a support mechanism to help students reach their goals of obtaining a higher education.”

Welch is the son of Charles and Ramona Welch, formerly of Jonesboro. His wife is the former Mandy Mosier of Mena. The couple is expecting their first child in November, and the family will make its home in Beebe.

Angel Tree Project



Leadership Council Chairman Jacob Farris stuffs bags with toys donated during the fifth annual Angel Tree Project, sponsored by the student organization. More than 30 area children received Christmas presents as a result of the generosity of Arkansas State University-Beebe students, faculty and staff.

Searcy campus becomes part of ASU-Beebe family

• Continued from Page 1 •

better respond to the educational needs of students as well as the needs of business and industry.

ASU-Searcy will continue to focus on high-quality vocational/technical programs and such pre-college programs as the GED and the Area Technical Center Education programs.

Don Harlan, vice chancellor for ASU-Searcy, said, “We feel like the merger will provide greater opportunities for the students who desire to continue their education, and it will not in any way compromise the programs for students who want to attend

the Searcy campus for one year of education and training that lead to entry level skills for employment.”

ASU-Beebe had 3,303 students this spring, making it the third largest of the 22 two-year colleges in the state and 14th largest among the 33 public institutions of higher education in Arkansas.

“With our continued growth and the addition of ASU-Searcy, we should be serving more than 4,000 credit students and perhaps another 3,000 non-credit students within three years,” McKay said.

“Having the Searcy campus as a part of ASU-Beebe enables us to provide a wider range of high-quality programs and services, from the GED to the associate degree, and through the MBA with the ASU-Jonesboro programs offered on the Beebe campus,” McKay continued. “We look forward to new opportunities to serve.”

“We are also encouraged and enthusiastic about a closer working relationship and feel like it will benefit all of our students, faculty and staff in the future,” Harlan added.

Faculty, staff achieve professional recognition

Debbie Bratton, director of the Learning Center, presided over sessions at the National College Learning Center Association and the Mathematical Association of America. She serves as the membership chairman for the Arkansas Association for Developmental Educators and Treasurer for the local chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher Society.

Sean Culpepper, program coordinator of the Learning Center, was a co-presenter at the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges annual meeting.

Connie Nowell, director of the TRiO programs, serves as President of the Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs. She also was conference chair for the association's 2002 conference, and represented the group at the annual Council for Opportunity in Education meeting. She also serves as the Arkansas representative on the board of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs.

Neil Outar has been promoted to coordinator of campus life. He will continue to manage the Student Center facilities but will expand his duties to include supervision of dining services and assist with student activities.

Dena Prior, director of financial aid, completed her term as treasurer of the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA) and was a presenter at the Arkansas Association of Student

Financial Aid Administrators Fall Conference.

Tonia Spradlin, student development specialist of the Learning Center, served as board member of the Arkansas Tutoring Association.

Angie Totty, director of student life, serves as the ASU-Beebe representative for the National Association of Campus Activities and SWACUHO, the regional housing association.

Brian Berry, counselor and coordinator of academic advising, was elected president of the Arkansas College Personnel Association. Berry also served as president of the Beebe Lions Club, and is on the board of directors of the Beebe Kiwanis Club. He is also on the alumni board of the Arkansas Tech chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Ben Pickard, vice chancellor for student affairs, serves as co-chair of the Mississippi/Arkansas Two-Year Chief Student Affairs Officers. He also serves on the Arkansas State University Alumni Association board of directors, and as president of the Rotary Club of Searcy.

Shelley Price, counselor and coordinator of testing and career services is president of the Arkansas Career Development Association for 2003-2004. She also represents ASU-Beebe on the ACT Council.

Dr. Mark Taylor, director of guidance services, completed his service to the board of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges by serving as immediate past-president. He

was also the Two-Year School representative to the Arkansas Association on Higher Education and Disability, and currently serves as a member at large of the Arkansas College Personnel Association.

Kristi Tucker, counselor and coordinator of disability services, is chair of the Arkansas Association on Higher Education and Disability.

Bill Long, Art and Theater Department chair, was chosen to represent ASU-Beebe in the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges outstanding instructor division of awards.

Charles Cole, associate professor of industrial technology, presented a three-day workshop on Advanced Programmable Logic Controllers in February at Arkansas Nuclear One in Russellville.

Several ASU-Beebe faculty and staff members volunteered in March to assist with fund raising at Arkansas public television station AETN. Those who helped were: **Charles Moore**, associate professor of electronics; **Macon Edwards**, director of institutional advancement; **Dr. Melissa Meador**, associate professor of biology; **Dr. Jim Brent**, assistant professor of history and political science; **Faye Moore**, student development specialist; and **Cindy Wheeler**, human resources assistant.

Teddy Davis, chair of education and social sciences, attended and participated in the NCA Self-Study Fair, in which the ASU-Beebe self-study document was

Faculty, staff achieve professional recognition

on display.

Sandra Adams, assistant director of ASTI, **Carol Harvey**, job placement/internship coordinator, and **James Darnell**, associate professor of computer-aided drafting and design, were all judges at the Skills USA-VICA state competitions in Hot Springs in April.

Vicki Wicker, associate professor of psychology, served as a panelist on educational technology at a meeting presented by Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Associate Professor of Electronics, **Charles Moore**, was recognized by Arkansas officials for his helping establish the Auto Stereo Contest held each spring on the ASU-Beebe campus.

The Service Awards Banquet recognized several employees for their years of service at ASU-Beebe. Awards were presented for the following: **Five years:** William Akin, James Brent, Charles Cole, Rhonda Durham, Sharon Garner, Carl Harvey, Faye Moore, Roger Moore, Lawanda Harvey, Suzanne Patterson, and Joan Strayhorn; **Ten years:** Allen Bailey, Satinder Bains, Kathy Bradberry, Nancy Long, Nelda Quick, Sandra Sloan, and Mark Taylor; **Fifteen years:** James Britton, William (Martin) Spears, and Kay Turley; **Twenty years:** Janet Corchado, Teddy Davis, Peggy Inns, and Bob Rosenwinkle; and **Twenty-five years:** Anita Baker and Wanda Johnson.

Dr. Steve Manning, professor of biology, was published in the

Spring 2003 issue of *Friends of Nigeria Newsletter*, in which he reviewed the book "Journey from Kilimanjaro."

Several faculty members were named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. They were nominated by honor students in their classes. Honorees from ASU-Beebe included: **Sandra Adams**, assistant director of ASTI; **Buddy Baker**, assistant professor and director of MLT; **Chris Boyett**, distance learning coordinator, **Jim Britton**, associate professor of science; **James Darnell**, associate professor of CADD; **Maris Fletcher**, assistant professor of English; **Marcus Good**, CST instructor; **Jeannie Lindsey**, assistant professor of physical education; **Bill Long**, assistant professor of English and fine arts and division chair; **Charles Moore**, associate professor of electronics; and **Shirley Powell**, professor of business.

A photograph taken by **Charles Moore**, associate professor of electronics, was published in a national amateur radio magazine. Moore took a photo of an ASU-Beebe student standing in front of the destroyed Beebe High School auditorium, following the 1999 tornado, in which he and members of the ASU-Beebe W5ASU ham radio club assisted the Red Cross with emergency communications.

Dr. Dennis Humphrey, assistant professor of English, wrote an article, "Uncanny Visions in Wuthering Heights," which was published in the Spring 2003

issue of *Philological Review*.

Sharon Garner, program coordinator at the ASU-Beebe at the Little Rock Air Force Base, was commended for her work with veteran's records by the State Approving Agency for Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Ruth Couch, former vice chancellor for academic affairs, chaired a team that visited Hibbing Community College in Minnesota during the spring.

Steve McMann, assistant professor of biology, was first author on two papers that were published in the "Journal of Herpetology," and was third author on a paper that was accepted in the journal "Copeia."

Chancellor's Awards were presented to **Stephanie Ball**, assistant professor of CST; **Carl Harvey**, computer lab technician; **Carol Harvey**, job placement and internship coordinator; **Robert Doyal**, multi-media technician; **Rhonda Durham**, assistant professor of business; **Bertha Free**, custodian; **Jo Howell**, student development specialist; **Charles Moore**, associate professor of electronics; **Angie Totty**, director of Student Life; and **Dr. Ruth Couch**, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs.

The ASU-Beebe Web site, designed and maintained by **Robert Doyal**, multi-media technician, was named one of six finalists in the Arkansas Business publication's Web site contest. Three of the finalists represented colleges or universities, including Lyon College and Sam Walton College of Business at UA.

Alumni Giving

Our special thanks to ...

ASU-Beebe is honored to recognize these alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have made an investment in Arkansas State University-Beebe during the 2002-2003 Annual Giving Fund Campaign:

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The ASU-Beebe Office of Institutional Advancement has several annual gift categories to fit every level of giving: Lifetime Members (cumulative gift of \$10,000 and over); Chancellor's Cabinet (\$5000 - \$9,999); Chancellor's Circle (\$500 - \$4,999); Diamond Club (\$250 - \$499); Anniversary Club (\$100 - \$249); Friends of the University (\$35 or couple \$50 - \$99). Information on the ASU-Beebe gift clubs may be obtained by contacting Keith Pinchback, Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 1000, Beebe, AR 72012 or call 501-882-8255.

Humanics offered

• Continued from Page 4 •

American humanics studies demonstrate a positive attitude, initiative, diligence, honesty and integrity, leadership and the ability to work with a team of individuals, and high ethics, Couch said.

The course will cover the historical and philosophical foundations of American humanics and address the role of nonprofit organizations in meeting the service needs of society.

The class will include one hour of instruction each week, in addition to a two-hour internship to be completed each week. The organization and mentor for each internship must be approved by the instructor.

The class will meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m.



Office of Institutional Advancement
P.O. Box 1000
Beebe, AR 72012-1000

The student body selected its 2002

Harvest Fest royalty during the annual festivities in November.

Angela Blair, (center) a sophomore education major from

Greers Ferry, was crowned queen. First runner-up was Allison

Hensley, a freshmen agriculture business major of Vilonia and

second runner-up was Michele Smith, a sophomore accounting/management major of Cabot.

Donations of \$1 were accepted at the door, totaling approximately \$185, with proceeds benefiting the

Leadership Council Angel Tree Program.

Harvest Fest Queen



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