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Nursing program sets the record straight



By Lauren Stewart
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

Unanswered questions and rumors have plagued the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's nursing department since April, when nursing program seniors did not pass the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) exam.

UAPB has the lowest passing rate of the state universities on the national nursing licensing exam.

One rumor in particular, "the nursing program

lost its accreditation," is being addressed.

The university mailed letters informing students they were being dropped from classes due to the nursing program's challenges.

"The school failed to inform me on what was really going on, they were trying to sugar-coat it," said Rhiannon Lyness, a sophomore nursing major from Benton Harbor, MI.

Rhiannon found out about the nursing program by watching the local news, streaming video and group discussions on facebook

"The nursing program in academic year 2009-2010 did experience challenges, and at this point we are in the process of rebuilding the program," said Dr. Mary Benjamin, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The nursing program did not lose its accreditation; they are still accredited by the National League of Nursing.

Although the university is not permitted to enroll new students in the program, UAPB is still authorized to continue working with the current students.

To solve some of the issues, the university has

brought in new leadership. A community task force of nursing professionals has also been established to give guidance.

The May 2010 graduates not being able to receive degrees is also a concern.

However, Dr. Benjamin said some of this information that has been circulating has not been accurate.

Students from the nursing program that didn't receive their degrees did not meet all the academic requirements.

"There were steps that had to be taken by the students to meet that obligation. The university did assist those students in preparing to meet those requirements to graduate," said Benjamin.

The National League of Nursing is requiring the university to have a 75 percent passing rate for the next two years in order to keep the nursing program viable.

Melissa Lison Crowned Miss UAPB 2010-2011

By Marian Smith
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

Melissa Nicole Lison will be crowned Miss University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for the 2010-2011 school year. UAPB is preparing to celebrate its 81st Homecoming Coronation. This year's theme is Egyptian Allure: A Golden Moment.

Miss UAPB plans to make the event more edgy than it has been in the past. She feels like it will be an expression of her personality. "I'm edgy. I like to step out on a limb and have fun; be different," stated Lison.

She would like for this event to be unlike its predecessors. To aid in this endeavor, Miss UAPB has incorporated various clubs and organizations, such as Black Essence, into this year's Coronation Ball.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has undergone budget cuts, but Miss UAPB does not feel as though she has been affected by the financial modifications.

"Nothing has affected me. We don't have to go over the top and do extra for Coronation for it to be nice," Lison replied. She says she put Coronation in God's hands and this has allowed her to feel at ease when it comes to the preparation of the event.

The expectations that

Miss UAPB has for coronation are high. Not only is she being officially crowned, but she will be celebrating her birthday on the day of the event. When asked about the expectations of the event, Lison answered, "I expect it to be a heavenly experience."

Students at UAPB have some high expectations of their own.

Spencer Braddix, a sophomore, attended last year's coronation and was not impressed. "I was thoroughly disappointed with last year's Coronation. I am hoping that it will be a lot better than last year," expressed Braddix. The lack of timeliness was a factor that affected Braddix's expectation for this year's event.

Mike Holmes, a junior, hopes that Coronation is more organized. "I think it's going to be exciting. I hope that it's not overbearing or super long," added Holmes.

The Homecoming Ceremony and Ball will be held November 3, beginning at 6 p.m.

Half a century and counting

By Byrhonda Lyons
ARKANSAWYER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WRITER

"Mama Gee" and the late "Fessor" are two of the most familiar names among past and present members of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Vesper Choir.

Gladys "Mama Gee" and Shelton "Fessor" McGee are legends of the choir.

Known for their commitment to Vesper Choir, this couple was instrumental in developing the "World Renowned" Vesper Choir as we know it today.

Fessor joined the staff at Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College (AM&N) in 1957 as the choir director and served in this position until his death in 1999. And since 1957, Mama Gee has served as the "choir mom" for the Vesper choir.

"Choir is a thing you don't want to get out of," said McGee.

Mama Gee, a 1950 graduate of AM&N, joined the Vesper Choir during

her freshman year.

She and Fessor were some of the first Vesper Choir members.



Courtesy of University Museum & Cultural Center
Gladys "Mama Gee" McGee

When Fessor became the choir director, she assumed her position as the "Mama" of the choir.

Gladys McGee got her name Mama Gee from her husband and the students.

"My husband called me 'mama' so when the choir members would ask him something, he would tell them to 'call mama'," she said.

To this day, Mama Gee is still serving the Vesper Choir.

"Mama Gee is an important part of the

bit," she added.

One of her most memorable experiences with the choir was traveling to the Vatican.

"We had to walk everywhere but it was nice to go to Italy," she said.

"She is dedicated to the choir," said Bates. "She assists with clerical tasks, monitoring donations, measuring student's for their tuxes and performance dresses, making contacts, soliciting donations from Vesper alumni and giving vocal tips. She is our ambassador."

"Mama Gee has been a symbol for the choir for so long —she's synonymous with the history of UAPB," said Bates.

Vesper family," said Dr. Michael Bates, current director of the Vesper Choir. "Students continue to embrace her warmly—new students and Vesper alumni."

Though McGee has slowed down a bit, she still finds time for the Vesper Choir.

"I've had surgery this year but I'm doing well," said McGee. "I've been able to help out a

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John McLinn Ross players set to premiere new play

By Jonathan Smith
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

Director Cheryl Collins and the John McLinn Ross Players (JMRP) attended a conference in Beebe, Arkansas. Their competitive pieces were select scenes from their fall production, *The Colored Museum* by George C. Wolfe.

The John McLinn Ross Players began at Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College (AM&N) under the direction of Professor John M. Ross. The group started out as the Spotlighter's, which was a campus organization to show the talents of students around the campus.

During the 1950s, the JMRP members were the first African-American students to join the National Theatre Honor Society, Alpha Psi Omega.

JMRP is currently under the direction of Cheryl Collins.

In 1988, Cheryl Collins started her own theatre company called the Metropolitan Ebony Theatre.

"The reason I started my own theatre company is because I wanted to show a wide range of stories of 'us' in America. Around this time, the parts that were given to African-Americans were stereotypical like gangsters, prostitute, drug dealers, and slaves. I wanted to show more like the doctors, the journalists, and everyone that we could be," said Collins.

The *Colored Museum* was the first play Collins produced in her professional career in January 1989.

"The *Colored Museum*" is an African American play written by George C. Wolfe. It had its initial premiere in



1986 in New Brunswick, New Jersey at The Crossroads Theatre.

The *Colored Museum* is a series of eleven short scenes dealing with different stereotypes of black America. The different stereotypes include the black mammy, big mama, drag queens, the un-special black girl, the angry black man and people who forget where they come from.

"This is the perfect play to show the message that we are a strong race of people that have survived all the stereotypes society has placed upon us. We survived

the middle passage, slavery, rape, lynching and poverty," said Professor Collins.

Collins expects to make huge impact on the students.

"It's a controversial play and some people won't understand it and may feel insulted. If you come to the *Colored Museum* and laugh, I didn't do my job as a director," she said. "I hope you laugh and at the same time are feeling the message behind it."

This play is for the ages 16 and up. Showings for the play are at 7:30 on Nov. 18-20 and at 3:00 Nov. 20-21. Ticket prices are \$10, except for "UAPB Night" on November 18th at which students can get in free with their student identification.

"We have an excellent cast and they've been working hard since September."

UAPB kicked off Homecoming Week with the Gospel Extravaganza

By Jonathan Smith
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

The Gospel Extravaganza was held in the Fine Arts Auditorium on Sunday, October 31 at 6:00 p.m. People of all ages filled the auditorium to view the many performances. The program showcased choirs from surroundings areas, soloists and ended with the evening's special guest Vincent Tharpe and Kenosis from Memphis, TN.

The night's performers included—Kemistry, Min. Donald Walker Jr. & Company from Memphis, TN, Purpose, Highland Baptist Church, 8th Avenue Baptist Church Praise Team, Shiloh Baptist Church, UAPB's own Yard Voices of Praise and soloist Sherika Stewart and Steven Howard.

Two soloist performers, Sherika Stewart and Steven Howard were the winner's from the Sunday's Best Finale competition that was held October 24th.



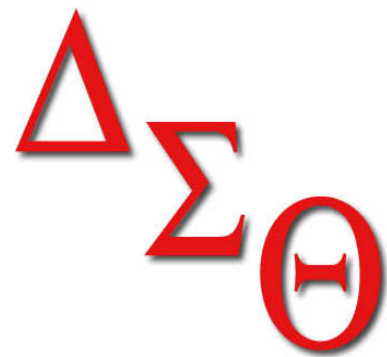
The group Purpose wowed the audience with the song "Lord is Blessing Me." Purpose is a quartet group based out of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Members include Eric Helloms, Min. Travis Jackson, Jimmy Beard, and Donny Haywood, Jr. The group plans to release their album entitled *Romans 8:28* in 2011.

The performance ended with the special guest Vincent Thar-

pe and Kenosis. Kenosis is a singing, ministering gospel group hailing from Memphis, Tennessee. The music ministry of Vincent Tharpe and Kenosis was formed and inspired by a high school gospel group where Tharpe was the director. The group plans to release their debut in come January 2011.

Delta Eta celebrates 60 years

By Marian Smith
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER



Nov. 4, the Delta Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated will celebrate 60 years of service to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. This anniversary holds a special significance because it falls during Homecoming Week.

The chapter plans to hold its annual round-up on campus, following the football game on November 6. Round-up is a gathering for Delta Eta initiates and other members of the sorority as well. Members have the opportunity to eat and fellowship with each other. At this year's round-up, a special presentation will be performed to commemorate this anniversary.

The Delta Eta chapter continues to carry out the sorority's mission Girl Talk, an event where Delta members talk about issues facing young women today

Another program is the Financial Fortitude Workshop. This workshop teaches young women how to budget money and become financially secure.

The Domestic Violence Workshop is a new program developed by the Delta Eta Chapter to provide information about preventing abuse and expose the signs of an abusive relationship.

The Delta Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta was chartered on November 4, 1950.

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Greeks perform during Senior Stunt Night

The Arkansawyer
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Room 209 - Student Union
P.O. Box 4026 - Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601
(870) 575-8522
Arkansawyer@hotmail.com

Editor-In-Chief
Byrhonda Lyons

Co-Editor
Brennon Keys

Photographer
Chandra Walker
Brittney McBride

Webmaster
Joseph Ester

Staffers: Whitney Phillips, Marian Smith, Lauren Stewart, Steven Witherspoon, Erin Joshua, Alexis Victoria, Porchanna Jones, Joseph Ester, Jonathan Smith

Seniors face Mississippi Valley in their last homecoming

By Brittney McBride
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

Homecoming is here yet again, although for some football players at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff it will be there last. Josh Boudreaux #8, Raymond Duplechain #20, Matthew Price #27, Torrence "T.J." Shelton Jr. #31, Jason Thomas #69, Brandon Ford #78, Raymond Webber #86, Arthur "Art" Thomas #90, and Ibrahim "Heero" Abdulai # 95 are playing in their last Homecoming football game, led by coach Monte Coleman.

For the last four years the seniors have experienced a great deal as members on the Golden Lion Football team. They have accumulated rankings within the SWAC and have accomplished leading national marks to remember.

The seniors have expressed that they also want to leave a mark for this year's Homecoming. Webber, a native of St. Louis states, "I plan to go out with a bang, get a lot of points with the seniors, giving one last, good show." The players also took the time to reflect back on past experiences that put them where they are today.

As seniors on the football team they



UAPB football seniors pose with Coach Coleman

have faced many memorable moments—the good, the bad, and the ugly. Ford from Detroit said his worse experience was, "Going 0-7 my sophomore season. Before we ever won a game, we had the most losses in a row that I've ever experienced."

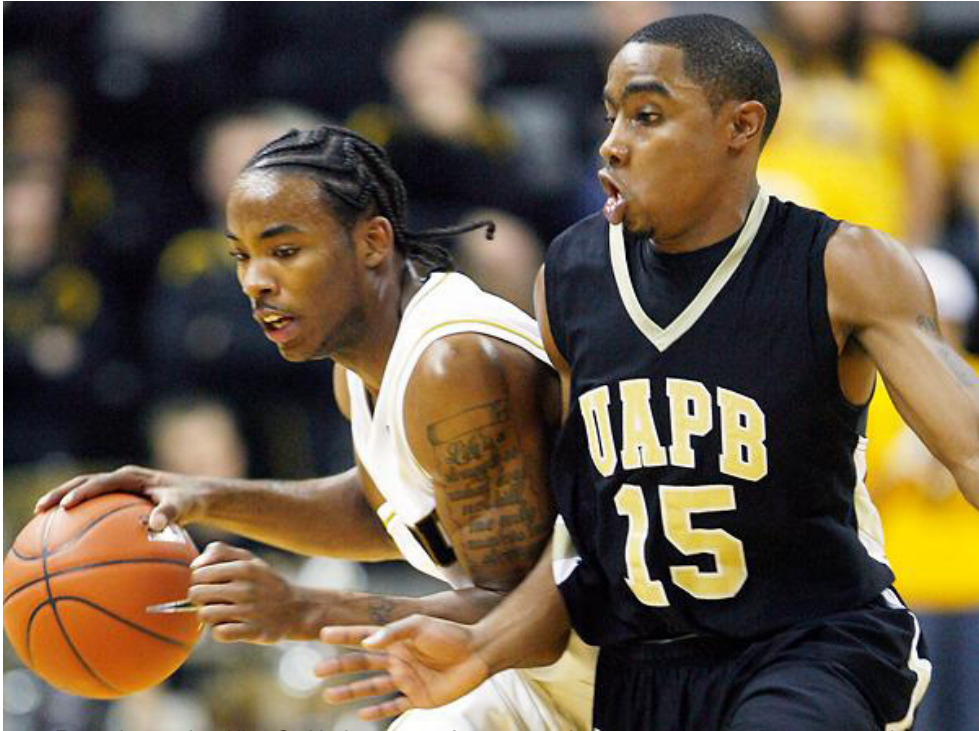
Many players say that the good experiences out-weighted the bad. Abdulai, a Nigerian native, recalls his most memorable moment from years ago, "The first day at camp my freshman year, getting in pads, running around, and getting to

know everybody. You always remember that first day."

Johnny R. Randle, Graduate Assistant Coach, has influenced the seniors by giving back. He was a 2005 graduate and former member of the UAPB football team. He wanted to leave the seniors with words of encouragement, his favorite quote from Coach Coleman, "As iron sharpens iron, so does men sharpen men."

The Homecoming game will be played November 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Golden Lion Stadium, against Mississippi Valley State University.

UAPB Men's Basketball team begins season



Returning senior, Allen Smith last season's game against the University of Missouri- Columbia

By Alexis Victorian
ARKANSAWYER STAFF WRITER

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff men's basketball team is preparing for their first basketball game against Philander Smith Nov. 4.

The "Hoop Squad" has seven returning players who are carrying over the momentum from last year's SWAC championship. The rest of the team is comprised of new players from all over the country.

"It's our first year together, so we're trying to build chemistry, but the team is very athletic and versatile, said Domo Moore, a senior. "We have players that can play any and every position."

A few of the players that have completed their four years on the team agree that the team is destined to go very far in the season because of the chemistry between the new and returning players.

"There is a lot of leadership on the team because they know what they're trying to do" says senior Tyree Glass, one of the aforementioned players who has completed four years, and is now watching the team from the sidelines.

The team's biggest competition is Jackson State University. Knowing this, they have set goals and expectations for the season. "We want to win regular season, beat other teams by at least 20 points per game and of course win the SWAC again" said senior Terrell Kennedy.

The team has 31 games before the SWAC tournament.

The team is ranked number 4 in the conference, but they hope to move up a few slots as the season begins to pick up.

UAPB Men's Basketball team plays Philander Smith at 7 p.m. in the HYPER complex.



UAPB volleyball team takes on Christian Brothers on Tuesday, November 3 in the Hazzard Gymnasium.

UAPB Freshman Named SWAC Player of the Week



Britta Wilmers poses with the Golden Lion

By Byrhonda Lyons
ARKANSAWYER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WRITER

Freshman Britta Wilmers was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference

(SWAC) volleyball player of the week.

Wilmers posted a league-high 32 kills in a conference win over Southern. She added five digs, three service aces and a .519

attack percentage (35-52) as UAPB moved into second-place in the SWAC West.

She is from Rhenbach, Germany.

Natural Hair and Nappy Heads

By Kamilah Blackston
BLACK COLLEGE WIRE

As an avid tweeter, throughout last semester and this past summer, I've been seeing a lot of tweets from males criticizing how females dress, act, and especially how they wear their hair.

Some of the tweets that I read said things like, "Natural hair is sexy;" "I hate weaves;" "If you wear weave, don't talk to me;" and "Natural Hair Rocks!"

Since first seeing guys tweet about natural hair during last semester, I cannot help but notice that an overwhelming number of females have resorted to going natural.

Many females said that the reason they went natural is because they want to take care of their hair and be healthier. They no longer want to put chemicals in it.

Unfortunately, I feel that for most females on this campus, the choice to go natural was not because of this, but because going natural is becoming a trend.

While talking to a male friend of mine, I asked him his thoughts on girls going natural. He said that he preferred natural hair and that he hated weaves with a passion.

When I asked him if he felt that a female going natural was a personal preference or a trend, he replied, "Females always say they are going natural because they want to be healthier. If girls really were pressed about being healthier, why do you have a gut? Why don't you work out regularly?"

Why don't you eat healthier? It's definitely a trend."

I think it is safe to say that his point was made.

I wholeheartedly believe that the natural hair craze is becoming a trend if it is not one already. In the same way that many females follow and copy Rihanna's hairstyles and Nicki Minaj's pink lips, this is the same path that the natural hair trend is following.

Everybody cannot wear short hair. Everybody does not look good with bright pink lips. Only a handful of females can pull off a short hair cut, let alone natural hair.

Unfortunately, if you are one of those few, there are hardly any hair stylists in Greensboro, North Carolina that actually know what they are doing.

A lot of girls stray from who they are by trying to be like other people. If we all did the same thing, nobody would be different and I feel it is safe to say that a lot of girls on this campus are starting to look just alike.

Women need to find out what looks good on them and what does not.

If your head is bigger than your body, short hair might not be the way to go. If your hair is dry, brittle, and extremely nappy, natural hair is just not for you.

A lot of girls need a wakeup call. Some girls might just have to resort to a perm if the texture of their hair is not too pretty. If you know your hair does not grow, you might want to consider getting a sew-in and keeping one.

We all try to be queens and some people feel like going natural is getting back in touch with your roots. However, if you are looking more like a slave than a queen, you might want to take a trip to the beauty supply store and get some perm or weave.

This natural hair trend is getting out of control. I hate that girls walk around thinking that natural bush is fly when it is not. Ladies, please go do something to that head because that bush is making you look foolish.

Regardless of what guys may say about females' hair, or what looks good on somebody else does not necessarily mean it looks good on you. The sooner women realize what looks good on them and what does not, the better off they will be.

Maybe after reading this, some people will take this advice as constructive criticism and get their life together.

As for the males who have something to say about every aspect of a female's appearance, do not think you are so GQ that you can't use some tips. I can go on (about) scruff, unkempt hairlines, and dusty locs all day. Some of you need to get your lives together as well.

Natural hair looks good on some people, but everybody cannot pull it off!

Individuality is what makes people interesting, but lately the only thing interesting about many girls is that mess on their heads.



Don't Shoot the Messenger Statement
Don't Shoot the Messenger is for entertainment purposes only. These remarks do not represent the opinions of the Arkansawyer staff, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff or Student Affairs.

1. Who was in their feelings about last weeks questions? #GetOverIt
2. Who all got mad and tweeted after reading last week's questions? #TwitterBeefing
3. Who should we blame for the freshman class dancing to Panty Dropper in front of the Chancellor? #GPADropper
4. Is this what they're teaching in the Harrold Complex Living and Learning Center? #KeepItPG
5. When is the Chancellor going to pass the torch? #ExpirationDate11/05/10
6. Who still don't have their refund check? #YouAintGotEnoughMoney
7. How many girls transferred after being on the H-list? #TuckYourTail&Run
8. Did the girl who made it the list apologize? #SorryMissJacksonWooo
9. What's the point of being suspended if you can step in the Greek Show? #CheckTheRoar
10. Who's going to win the step show? #WhoeverWeChoose
11. So Greeks already hazing? #StopSnitching
12. Wonder who was faking at the Gospel Extraganza? #GetRealorBeStill
13. So Bill Crosby (yes, Crosby) is coming to #UAPB #imjustsaying

***For the rest of our questions, check out www.thearkansawyer.com

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