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ISSUE 24

SGA ELECTIONS MERRIWEATHER, HONEA FOR PRESIDENT





BY SYDNEE DUKE

Staff Writer

For the first time since 2014, there is a contested race for the Student Government Association's presidency. Faith Merriweather and Ryan Honea have begun campaigning for the

office.
Last year, 2015-16 SGA President
Will Roberts ran unopposed. In a turn
of events, there are two students
running for president, which gives
students the opportunity to hear
multiple points of view.

Merriweather and Honea are both competing in an attempt to continue

creating a voice for the students of APSU.

Merriweather, a junior political science major, has been part of SGA since her freshman year. She was elected sophomore senator her sophomore year, and the executive secretary her junior year.

Merriweather said she wanted to be president so she could continue the trend of excellent leadership she had seen in SGA.

"I want to be president because I have been a part of great leadership this year and would like to continue the legacy," Merriweather said. "As Secretary, I have seen the commitment that being a member of the Executive Council takes and I have dedicated myself to doing this.

"I think that becoming the SGA president comes with a lot of accountability and I am ready to take that on. As president, I want to work to ensure that there are no students on our campus that feel underrepresented."

Honea, a junior mathematics major and member of Kappa Alpha, has been part of SGA since his freshman year as well. He is currently the associate chief justice of the Tribunal

SEE BALLOT PAGE NO. 2

Alvarez ineligible for presidency, senate seat

BY SEAN MCCULLY

News Editor

Jay Alvarez was found to be ineligible as a candidate for the Student Government Association presidency after an SGA Internal Affairs hearing on Monday, March 28.

Alvarez was also ruled ineligible to continue serving in his current position as the senator for the College of Education, according to Chief Justice Lucas Bearden.

Alvarez was found not to be a constituent of his college and therefore ineligible to continue serving as senator for the college according to Bearden.

This resulted in his ineligibility to be president because the presidency requires an applicant to have at least one year or

two semesters experience serving on SGA.

According to the SGA By-Laws, "constituent" is defined by the most current SGA Electoral Act in accordance with the SGA Constitution and associated By-Laws.

According to SGA
President Will Roberts, the
definition of constituent is
decided by the chief justice
each year.

Current Chief Justice Lucas Bearden made the decision to keep the definition Roberts drafted during his time as Chief Justice in the 2014-15 academic year, according to Roberts.

Roberts' definition of constituent is any person whose major or minor falls under the umbrella of the college they represent.

Alvarez, a junior, said he is a double major in



political science and Spanish.

He was elected as the senator of the College of Education for the 2015-16 year on April 2, 2015.

During his time as a senator, Alvarez authored two pieces of legislation that both passed in the Senate.

His first was Resolution

No. 6, which looked to create gender neutral restrooms on campus.

Alvarez drafted this legislation in Fall 2015.

Alvarez's second piece of legislation was Resolution No. 23, which aimed to extend tuition equality to students who are undocumented Tennessee residents. 745

'I waited eight years'

APSU professor boycotts senate meetings

BY SEAN MCCULLY

News Editor

An open letter from an APSU professor of history has compared the salary discrepancies at APSU to the "robber barons of the 19th century."

Professor of History and member of the Faculty Senate Cameron Sutt sent his open letter to APSU faculty, APSU President Alisa White and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Rex Gandy.

Sutt wrote that he will be boycotting three Faculty Senate meetings in response to the salary discrepancies on campus.

"My boycott will begin March 24, 2016," Sutt wrote. "Let me say that I agree with the administration's policy of hiring new faculty as close to the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA) figures as possible.

"It is inappropriate to make others suffer because one suffers himself or herself. At the same time, something must be done to alleviate the horrendous salaries of those who have been serving APSU faithfully for years."

According to CUPA research, salaries for professionals in higher education have experienced raises of around 2 percent in 2015.

Sutt wrote that he feels he has no power as a senator in the Faculty Senate and his boycott is more of a symbolic gesture.

"I am under no illusions that this action will make the state relinquish millions of dollars for salaries or that money will start growing from trees," Sutt wrote. "My boycott is a symbol of the deep discontent and frustration that so many of us feel at the Peay. The culture of the Peay is one of paternalism and obedience: 'Just do what you're told, and you will be alright.' My boycott is a rejection of that culture and a statement that we, the faculty, are upset and we are demoralized."

Prior to Sutt's open letter, White addressed the Faculty Senate at their Feb. 25, meeting and said there is a plan in place that has been through the Human Resources department and the Compensation Committee.

"I am an outcomes based person and there are a myriad of different ways to get where we want to go," White said according to minutes from the meeting. "I don't care about the process, we just have to fix the situation we are in."

Sutt came to APSU as a tenure-track professor in 2008 to teach classes on Medieval Europe and the Middle East, according to the APSU website.

He is previously from Central European University in Budapest. **745**

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PAGE NO. 1

Justices, and said he hopes to be president because he want to continue with the trend of accountability.

"The Student Government Association is supposed to be the bridge between the students and the faculty," Honea said.

During his sophomore year, Honea wrote legislation that required senators



to submit two original pieces per year of their own "meaningful" legislation which stopped students from putting their name on other students' work.

This increased the number of resolutions and acts significantly in the following years.

"I want students to know that my office is always open, and if they have a concern I want to hear about it," Honea said. "That's how we get things accomplished."

Along with the candidates running for president, there are other offices open

for re-election as well.

The candidates running for vice president include Dylan Kellogg and Austin McKain.

The candidates for executive secretary include Blaine Gundersen, Jonathan Johnson and Julia Matthews.

The candidates for sophomore senator are Luis Amesty and Jordan Kent.

The candidates for junior senator are Frank Burns and William Legier.

The candidates for senior senator are Jordan Burns and Carrie Taylor.

The candidates for College of Science

and Math senator are Colin Crist, Dominic Critchlow, Trey Eckel, Dasia Frank, Travis Hodge and Ashlyn Whittaker.

The candidates for College of Arts and Letters senator are Sara Alexander, Timothy Donahoo, Jerrica Proferes, Thomas Murphy, Austin Street and Tyler Tubbs.

The candidates for College of Behavioral and Health Sciences senator are Duane Kessler, Jose Linares and Sierra Salandy.

There are currently no candidates for the senator for the College of Education. TAS

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HIT CAMPAIGN TRAIL

BY CELESTE MALONE

Assistant News Editor

Students crowded into Einstein's to hear the 2016 Student Government Association presidential candidates Ryan Honea and Faith Merriweather speak on Monday, March 28.

Sponsored by the Student Organization Council, the debate shed a little light into the lives and ideas of the prospects.

Candidate Ryan Honea is a junior mathematics major that works with the Tennessee Equality Project and enjoys playing Dark Souls with a friend of his.

He currently holds the Associate Chief Justice position in SGA. According to Honea, his most influential piece of legislation was during his sophomore year. It required senators to write their own legislations, which made numbers jump from a little under 25 resolutions to nearly 30.

Candidate Faith Merriweather is a junior



political science major from Medon, Tennessee, and she grew up on a cattle farm. She also enjoys reading the news.

Merriweather already holds an Executive Board position as Secretary.

Merriweather said she felt being part of planning The Big Event was one of the best things she has done during her career in SGA. She helped and watched it bloom last year, and this year she was able to be a part of the planning. Merriweather also said she enjoyed getting to know more students and being able to go to them and find out what they needed.

When asked about initiatives they would implement as SGA President, they had different answers.

Honea discussed how important accountability is within SGA.

"When it comes to our Senators, we have to ensure that they are talking to our Constituents because they voted us in for a reason," Honea said.

Merriweather wants to reach out to students more.

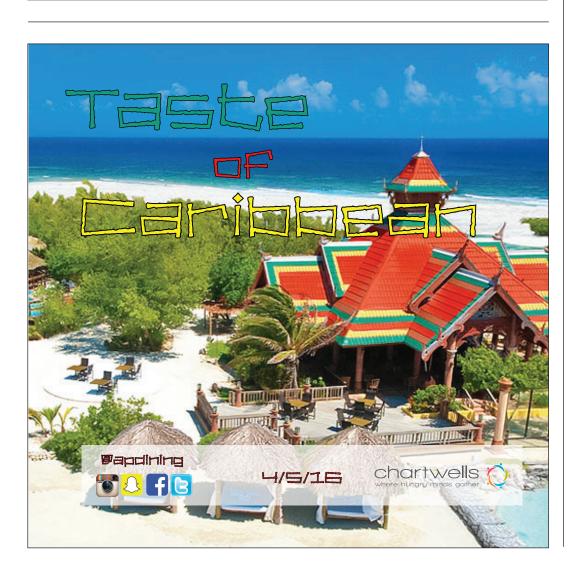
"A lot of people aren't aware of what SGA even is, or what we represent and that to me is a bad thing," Merriweather said. "How many students do we actually represent if only a select few know?"

Honea and Merriweather both want the best for APSU and hope to be the next SGA president.

Elections will be held Tuesday, March 29, until Thursday, March 31. Ratification will be Friday, April 1, in the MUC 307.

Students will also be able to vote online through PeayLink. TAS

In memory of nothe Hurst Senior Assoc DP for Finance August 12, 1957- March 17, 2016



PSU wants tuition equality

BY MEGAN OLIVER

Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 22, members of campus organizations joined together to raise awareness of a tuition equality bill that failed to pass last year in the Tennessee General Assembly.

Anthony Cross, president of the College Republicans, said it is unfair to punish students with higher tuition due to circumstances they had no control of.



HARASSMENT Burt Lot

3/24/16 - 3:36 p.m. On Going

THEFT OF PROPERTY

Music/Mass Communication 3/24/16 - 1:52 p.m. On Going

THEFT OF PROPERTY

Foy Fitness Center 3/23/16 - 2:29 p.m. On Going

CRIMINAL TRESPASS

Burt Lot 3/20/16 - 12:23 a.m. Arrest

ASSAULT

Trahern-380 8th St. 3/17/16 - 8:52 p.m. On Going

"When I explain this to people I use the metaphor; you are a passenger in a car and the driver speeds and you get pulled over by a cop," Cross said. "Does the cop give you both a ticket? It doesn't make any since to give the passenger a ticket for something the driver did... Like the passenger, these children didn't have any control."

The tuition equality bill would only give access to in-state tuition to those undocumented Tennessee residents who

According to Crystal Brinkley, president of the College Democrats, the bill will affect three groups of people: students that graduate from Tennessee high schools, students who have lived in Tennessee for a minimum of three years and students who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

DACA is an immigration policy that allows some immigrants to remain in the country for two years if they were in the U.S. before their 16th birthday.

Currently, students who are protected from deportation by DACA have to pay out of state tuition to attend a public TN

The tuition equality bill is not unique to Tennessee.

Several states have already passed similar legislation.

Former Student Government Association Sen. Jay Alvarez said Tennessee should join the 22 states who have already passed this legislation.

Voting for this legislation will take place in April 2016. **TAS**

INTRODUCING YOUR **NEXT SGA PRESIDENT**

BY ELENA SPRADLIN PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

FAITH MERRIWEATHER



TREVOR MERRILL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Faith Merriweather has been a member of SGA since 2014 when she was elected Sophomore Senator for the 2014-15 year.

Merriweather is a political science major, which may appeal to students looking for a candidate who wishes to continue working as a public servant in some capacity upon graduation.

Merriweather is also a non-Greek candidate. This could work to her disadvantage seeing as our last two presidents have been members of a fraternity. However, it also makes her an underdog, which for people who love the underdog, is definitely a positive.

Merriweather appeared calm, if not somewhat informal during the 16 minute debate. It would have been nice to get to know who she is a little better, but there simply wasn't enough time. TAS

RYAN HONEA



SEAN MCCULLY | NEWS EDITOR

Ryan Honea is currently serving on SGA as an associate chief justice of the Tribunal Justices, and has a hand in many pieces of legislation this past year.

Honea is a junior mathmatics major and has the clear advantage if trend is any indication of where this election is headed. Honea is a member of the Kappa Alpha Order, although he views these entities as completely separate.

Let's be clear: no one is saying he'll be elected solely based on his Greek status. Honea is also clearly dedicated to holding SGA members accountable to students, as per his hand in Act No. 2, which mandates that SGA Senators must pass at least one piece of "meaningful legislation" during their elected year.

Honea also presented well during the debate, but again, seeing him be able to warm up more before time was cut short would have been beneficial and informative. 745

Debate too short to inform voters

BY ELENA SPRADLIN

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Sixteen minutes is not enough time to find a parking space on campus, let alone enough time for students to form an opinion on their next student government leader.

The four question debate, which clocked in at approximately 16 minutes and 14 seconds, from the time Kaitlin Roe introduced the candidates to the time Roe thanked the candidates, gave junior political science major Faith Merriweather and junior mathematics major Ryan Honea enough time to lightly scratch the surface of their potential agendas and did not offer a student Q & A session as advertised on The Gov Says.

A quarter of the questions asked had nothing to do with policy or legislation, in fact, and were more akin to questions a grade school teacher might ask each student on the first day back to classes.

This is an unacceptable way to conduct a debate for our next SGA president.

While the candidates both provided thoughtful answers given the lack of time allotted and this is in no way their fault, it would have been a much more memorable and meaningful evening had the candidates been able to ease into the debate and provide more personal and developed answers.

If their answers lacked substance, it's because they had to for time's sake, which is again, not a strike against them, but rather the Student Organization Council and its lack of serious preparation for this debate.

There weren't follow-up questions, questions from students or even a real way to differentiate the candidates by the evening's end, as Honea himself pointed out towards the end of the debate during his closing statement.

All the candidates were given time to say was they want to provide students with a voice in a general, fairly unspecified way and talk about what they like to do when they are not working on school work before time was up, which again, has little to no bearing on how they will function as a student

This debate had potential to be a game-changer for students who either thought they already knew the candidate they were going to vote for or for students who had no interest in voting, but instead the debate was shortlived and left much to be desired.

There was nothing to be learned from this debate. It helped students put a face to a name they may have read in chalk on the sidewalks around campus.

However, if any student went in hoping to hear any specific platforms for the candidates' election, they were surely left full of disappointment.

SOC or any other organization left in charge of hosting a debate for SGA would do well to prepare more in the future, both so the candidates are made to flesh out their ideas and to ensure students can form a more informed opinion on their presidential options than a chalk sign. TAS

SGA election process needs to be overhauled

BY GLAVINE DAY

Sports Editor

If the SGA election were less of a popularity contest and the candidates were able to broadcast their opinions for campus to see instead of a 16 minute debate, there would be more voters and students would be more interested in who was their student body president.

In the Fall 2016 semester, SGA Freshman Senate elections take place.

The only way anyone can decide who to elect to SGA Freshman Senate is to look at who has the prettiest handwriting or the coolest name.

No one knows what their stances are on anything, therefore picking a candidate comes down to silly things, if students even vote.

Aside from the 16 minute debate, there is no way for any student to know where a candidate stands on certain issues.

Only four questions from the public

were taken. Four questions are not enough for voting students to form an educated opinion.

That being said, voters base their opinions on things that don't matter as much. For example, if a candidate is part of an organization, the candidate gets a set number of votes based on nothing but organization pride and bragging rights.

Another basis is, "Oh, this candidate brought cookies to my organization's meeting and asked me for their vote. Sure I'll vote for him or her."

Choosing APSU's next SGA candidate should not be based on whether or not they brought oatmeal raisin or chocolate chip cookies to your organization's meeting.

What SGA candidates should be based on are their ideas to better the campus. Debates need to be longer than 16 minutes and more than four questions should be asked.

Instead of going to organizations' meetings and asking for their vote, ask

students to come to the debate and bring questions they want answered.

According to SGA candidates Ryan Honea and Faith Merriweather, there are around 8,000 voters. In 2014, 782 students voted. Not even 15 percent of the student body votes.

The students who don't have a dog in the fight and don't know any of the candidates aren't going to vote. The candidate who knows the most people and goes to the most organizations' meetings are going to win an SGA election every time. It is not based on their opinions or stances.

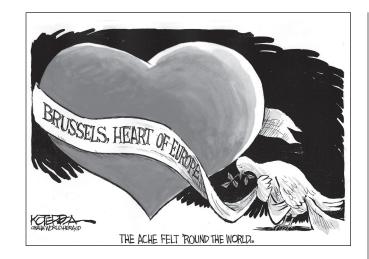
If SGA presidential candidates broadcasted their opinions, students who don't know candidates would be more likely to vote.

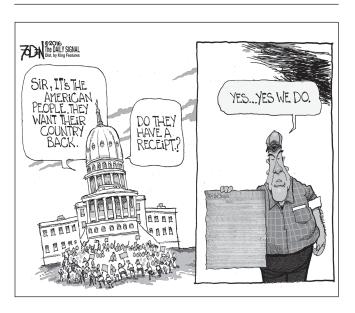
If students hear a candidate express a similar opinion, they are more likely to vote for the candidate, even if they have never met the candidate in real life.

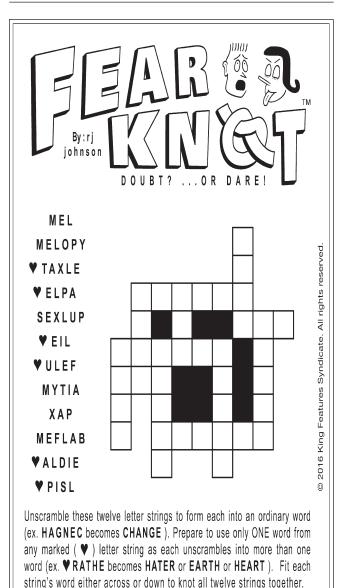
Elections should be based on informed opinions, not cookies or popularity. TAS



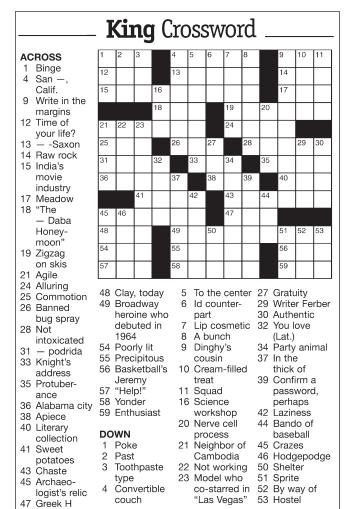


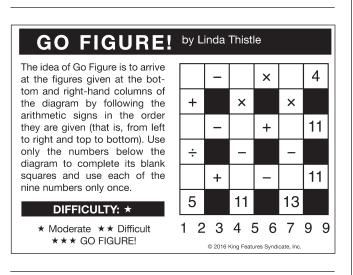




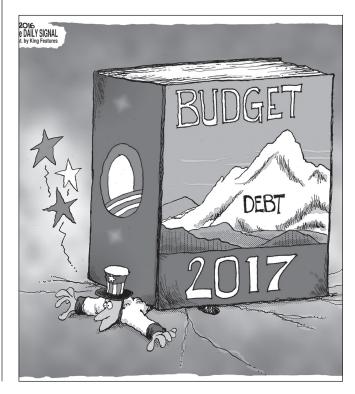


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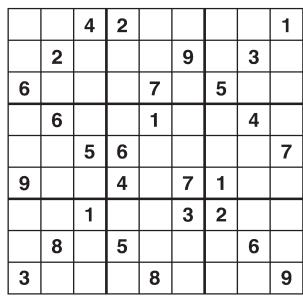


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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging **★★★** HOO BOY!

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FAMOUS *MAGIC MAZE* •

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

BAARETSNOMNEERG

Aurelian Green Monster Lennon Hadrian's Babylon Berlin Jericho Great Kremlin

Troy Wailing London Sacsayhuaman Zimbabwe

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THE ALL STATE

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APSU alumna takes on fifth year MTAC

BY COURTNEY GAITHER

Features Editor

Seasoned vet and APSU alumna Nina LaRocca attended her fifth year at the Middle Tennessee Anime Convention.

Though it can be a bit of a whirlwind while preparing costumes and planning on which sessions to attend, MTAC is mainly a place for anime lovers to show off their cosplay skills and interact with fellow goers, and that's exactly what LaRocca did.



The most difficult part of cosplay is honestly learning to just let go and let yourself not take it to seriously. At the end of the day we're all adults playing dress-up. Its all about fun. If you're not having fun, whats the point? I think a lot of people need to remember that."

-Nina LaRocca, APSU alumna

After graduating from APSU in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in theater, LaRocca and her sister moved to Chicago for a change of scenery, but that never stopped LaRocca from attending MTAC.

For the past five years LaRocca has participated in the event and dressed as different cosplay characters.

"I've been cosplaying for about five years now," LaRocca said. "It's my release, my get-away from every day life, how I bond with my friends and sister. I wouldn't have gotten into it if it weren't for my sister Krista. I love wearing partner cosplays with her."

She's always growing and learning as a seamstress and craftswoman; it's so inspiring to me. I'm so happy that I can do this with her, share something so fun with the things we love."

Not only does MTAC offer space for anime lovers to convene, it also brings in vendors, who make or buy and sell various merchandise like stuffed anime



I've been cosplaying for about five years now, it's my release, my getaway from every day life, how I bond with my friends and my sister."

-Nina LaRocca, APSU alumna

characters, costumes, jewelry and food inspired by anime or Japanese culture.

However the biggest part of MTAC is cosplay, short for costume play, which is when people dress up as characters from movies, books or video games and take on their persona.

A large part of cosplay comes from the Japanese culture of manga and anime.

"The most difficult part of cosplay is honestly learning to just let go and let yourself not take it too seriously," LaRocca said. "At the end of the day we're all adults playing dress up. It's all about fun. If you're not having fun, what's the point? I think a lot of people need to remember that." TAS





APSU theater alumna Nina LaRocca, top right, poses in cosplay costume as Rey from "Star Wars VII- The Force Awakens" and Shelby Watson, bottom left, cosplays as Bender from "Futurama" during MTAC on Friday, March 25, 2016. COURTNEY GAITHER | FEATURES EDITOR







Classics department reigns in awards

APSU's classics department competes in Classics Association Of The Middle, West and South



APSU's department of classics organization. | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY MARINA HEAD Staff Writer

In recent months, several members of the Classics Program have represented APSU in front of members of other schools, and Professor Tim Winters achieved an award for his accomplishments.

Six classics majors at APSU attended the fifth annual Undergraduate Classics Conference at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on Feb. 20, 2016.

These students are Etenia Mullins, Brittany Orton, Kate DiStefano, Amber Kearns, Alexander Kee and Rebecca Illig.

The UTK Classics Department website states that submissions for the conference were abstracts fewer than 250 words "from any discipline within classical studies."

These disciplines include history, literature, language, archaeology and so on.

Steve Kershner, a professor of APSU's Classics Program, said in a written statement, "Each student gave a 20 minute paper on classical topics from...reading the tragic figure of Oedipus as an Epic hero to the legal motivations for the Roman restriction of prostitutes."

Kershner said that Etenia Mullins was considered "best in show" by several attendees for what they considered a unique "analysis of Livy's prose style using contemporary creative non-fiction ideas." [Livy is the nickname of Titus Livius, an ancient Roman historian].

A total of 29 abstracts were submitted for the conference.

Among the participating universities were Baylor University, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of South Carolina, University of Montana, the American University of Rome, Tel Aviv University of Israel, Rhodes College, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and APSU.

One woman traveled from Israel

for the conference and another from Rome.

Of all the schools, APSU had the largest showing with six participants. Kershner said all of the APSU students "performed with great sophistication and poise" and received a lot of questions from the

In addition to students, Tim
Winters, a professor of the Classics
Program at APSU, received an Ovatio
Award at a yearly meeting of the
Classical Association of the Middle,
West and South.

The CAMWS website describes these awards as "honorary citations written in Latin" given to "members for their service to CAMWS and the Classics profession."

Only three ovationes were awarded at the 2016 CAMWS banquet on March 18.

According to Kershner, CAMWS named the award after the ovationes once given as a sort of recognition ceremony for Roman generals returning from war.



Ultimately, we are aiming at a scholarship that will be \$1000 a year"

-Tim Winters, APSU classics professor

The Classics Program will also be adding a scholarship beginning next semester for a sophomore student with a classics major.

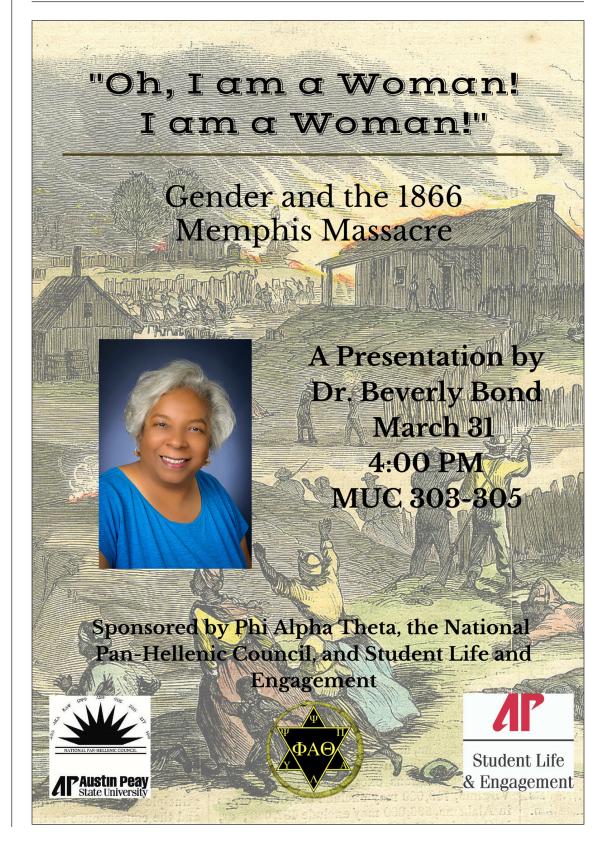
The award is in honor of Kaye and Grady Warren, who spent 40 years teaching Latin in Clarksville.

"Ultimately, we are aiming at a scholarship that will be \$1000 a year," said Winters.

This scholarship, in addition to new classes that teach about scientific and medical terminology or about classical roots in book series such as "Harry Potter" and "Percy Jackson," is part of a push to expand the Classics Program. 745







Govs track hits ground running at Black and Gold Invitational

BY HENRY KILPATRICK Staff Writer

The Govs track and field team kicked off their 2016 outdoor season with top 10 finishes and plenty of personal improvements during the Vanderbilt Black and Gold Invitational to gear up for the season ahead of them.

Senior Kymmalett Ross was one of the few fourth place finishes for the Govs, hitting the 12 minutes, 11 seconds mark in the 100-meter dash.

Ross was also a part of the collaborative fourth place finish in the 4x400-meter relay, joined by junior Allysha Scott and seniors Molly Jordan and Breigh Jones with a final time of 3:49.94.

Ross went on to set a personal best 65:16 for a sixth place finish.

Junior Terri Morris broke the 56-second mark in the 400-meter dash for the first time since the 2014 OVC Championships, with a time of 55.77 earning her a fourth place spot. Junior Myiah Johnson finished in seventh place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14:29, which is her first time to break 14:30 since April 2015.

After an injury that left her out of the indoor track and field season, junior Chancis Jones returned to place sixth with a 5.70-meter long jump mark.

Freshmen Savannah Amato and Dascha Hix did not fail to impress in their first outdoor competition by finishing in the top 10 in pole vault.

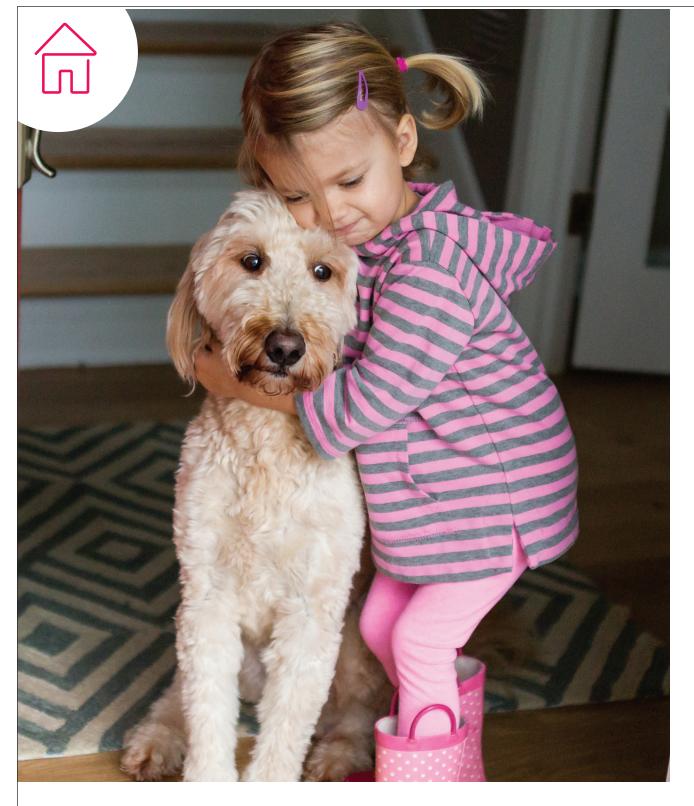
Amato finished in sixth place with a 3.70-meter mark and Hix earned a ninth place finish with a 2.55-meter mark.

Sophomore Sonja White proved herself in the invitational by finishing 11th in the 100-meter (14.41) and 12th in the 400-meter (personal-best 1:05.55) hurdles along with finishing the 200m dash four-hundredths of a second off her personal-best.

The Govs will head to Gainesville, Florida for the Florida Relays from Friday, April 1, through Sunday, April 3. TAS



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FROM WORLD CUP TO APSU

Pamela Peñaloza played for Columbia, will play for APSU in upcoming season

BY HENRY KILPATRICK

Staff Writer

Who knew discovering a sport at the age of 14 could lead someone to play in the World Cup only a year later?

At first glance, most people will see a girl in APSU soccer athletic wear with a smile that lights up a room and energy to combat that of a 5-year-old on a sugar

Most people won't know this girl has traveled the world playing a sport she loves: soccer.

Pamela Peñaloza grew up in Bogotá, the capital city of Columbia. She said she was the energetic child out of her two sisters growing up and enjoyed playing sports such as basketball, tennis and fencing, but it wasn't until she got older that she began to find a passion for soccer.

When Peñaloza was around 14 years old, her uncle introduced her to soccer and began to teach it to her.

She said she started out as a goalkeeper but soon found she preferred running and scoring to staying in one place throughout the game, a desire which led her to become a forward.

Peñaloza's uncle also introduced her to her coach in Columbia, who encouraged her to become an international player. She said she took his words to heart and began to train every day.

The opportunity finally arrived after all of her hard work earned her a spot on the women's Columbian national soccer team.

Making the team was only the beginning for Peñaloza.

At the age of 15, she traveled to places such as Brazil and Bolivia for qualifiers and went on to play against teams in the U17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan such as Canada, Nigeria and the host team Azerbaijan.

Although Peñaloza has played soccer at such a high caliber, her inner teenage girl shines through and reminds people she is still young at heart.

She loves to hang out with her friends, listen to music and watch movies such as dramas, comedies and romance.

the U.S. She blushed as she admitted listening to music from Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber and various rap artists. On most nights, Peñaloza can be found having conversations over the phone or

Peñaloza said she listens to a lot of Columbian music but she enjoys music from

on FaceTime with family and friends from Columbia with a big smile on her face and plenty of laughs from both sides.

Peñaloza said she has a close relationship with her parents.

"My parents always supported me and wanted me to be happy," Peñaloza said. "They always came to my games too."

Peñaloza said she did not fall victim to the freshman homesick blues despite the distance between Clarksville and Bogotá.

She said the first week was tough because she did not know everyone, but her roommate McKenzie Dixon and her teammates were incredibly nice and supportive of her, making her feel right at home.

After overcoming the language barrier with her teammates due to her inability

to speak English fluently, Peñaloza said she has formed a close bond with them.

"We're like a family," Peñaloza said.

That close bond will been seen out on the pitch soon and Peñaloza could not hold in her excitement thinking about getting to play alongside her teammates this upcoming season.

"We're going to kill it," Peñaloza said.

Coming to APSU wasn't Peñaloza's first time venturing into the States since she has family living here.

One of her biggest adjustments moving from Columbia to the U.S. has been the

"The most shocking thing is the food," Peñaloza said. "In Columbia I ate really well but here, I like it but it's different. It's too fried and everything is so artificial. In Columbia I used to drink a lot of natural juices but here I can't."

Peñaloza said women's soccer is different here than it is in Columbia as well, with games in the U.S. being played at a much faster pace.

Despite being nervous about the new style of play, Peñaloza said she is eager to take the field. "I'm just really excited to see how it goes," Peñaloza said. Peñaloza said growing up playing soccer as a girl in Columbia was a little

different from doing it as a girl in the U.S. She said she grew up during "a transition period" and that 10 years ago, it was

not often heard of for a girl to play soccer. Now Columbia has a recognized women's international team that is well known

throughout the world. Peñaloza said she was drawn to APSU by two of her teammates she played with

on the Columbian National team. She said they suggested to her that she should give APSU a look after they had both been recruited and toured the school.

After talking with coach Kelley Guth and sending over her paperwork, Peñaloza soon found herself on scholarship to play soccer not only in college but in the

In her debut coming up May 10 through 17, Peñaloza will play her first game with the APSU team in Costa Rica followed by her first season with the Lady Govs this coming fall.

Peñaloza was red shirted for her first season due to test scores she had from Columbia which made her ineligible for her freshman season.

Despite not getting to play, she has continued to train and prepare herself both mentally and physically for next season.

Peñaloza shows that looks aren't always what they seem.

Behind her room-lighting smile and never-ending energy is a girl that has traveled the world with a determination to dominate the pitch and a love for a sport that brings the world together every four years.

Peñaloza has the heart of a champion and the personality to go with it, but at the end of the day, she's just like any college student – except with a few more trophies. TAS





