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InsideASU

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dr. Everett J. Freeman

Art in motion

The simple lines. The acrobatic leaps. The graceful turns and spins. Dance is art in motion. And the Dance Theatre of Harlem is one of the best at creating this art form, but you don't have to travel to New York to see the Dance Theatre of Harlem. All you have to do is come to the Albany Municipal Auditorium on Feb. 1.

The dancers will do more than perform; they'll present an interactive performance in which they explain what it takes to be a professional dancer. Audience members won't just sit in their seats as viewers. They'll ask the dancers questions and may even join the dancers on stage.

I'm sure that budding dancers in Southwest Georgia will relish this opportunity, but even non-dancers can appreciate the poise, the beauty and the dedication of professional dancers. With ticket prices as low as \$5, the experience is certainly affordable.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble is part of our Fine Arts Department and Lyceum Performance Series which this year honors Dr. T. Marshall Jones, who was a pioneer in fine arts education at Albany State. Each year the Lyceum Committee works diligently to bring affordable arts experiences to Albany and the Southwest Georgia community.

I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see firsthand "art in motion" and the other Lyceum performances.



Members of the ASU Marching Rams Show Band perform at a football game during in fall of 2010. On Jan. 29, the band will make its fourth appearance in the Honda Battle of the Bands at the Georgia Dome.

ASU Marching Rams prepare for fourth appearance in Honda Battle of the Bands

By Joseph West
Publications Specialist

The ASU Marching Rams Show Band, one of eight bands chosen to participate in the [Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase](#), is putting in overtime this week getting ready for the Jan. 29 performance at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The band will be practicing Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday of this week, said Michael Decuir, director of ASU bands.

"Everyone is excited about the upcoming performance," Decuir said. "It seems like this year they are more excited than before any of the other previous showcases."

A total of 45 marching bands from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) began competing for the eight slots in the Honda Battle of the Bands last fall. The selection process included online voting by fans and selection by HBCU band directors and presidents.

For being selected as one of the eight bands to perform in the Honda Battle of the Bands, ASU will receive \$20,000 for music scholarships.

Other HBCU marching bands selected to perform in the 2011 Honda Battle of the Bands are Bethune-Cookman University, Clark Atlanta University, Jackson State University, South Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, Virginia State University and Winston-Salem State University. The 2011 Honda Battle of the Bands marks the ninth year of the event.

This will be the fourth time the ASU Marching Rams Show Band has appeared in the Honda Battle of the Bands. ASU also participated in the 2007, 2008 and 2010 events.

"We really appreciate the support that we've received from the president, the ASU family and all of those who voted for us in the online competition," Decuir said. "The members of the ASU Marching Rams are some of the most dedicated and hardest working students. This honor just proves that our fans realize the band members' commitment to our university and appreciate it enough to go online and vote for us."

For more information about the Honda Battle of the Bands or to purchase tickets to the event, visit www.HondaBattleoftheBands.com.

UpcomingEVENTS

AMF Leagues will host the **ASU Golden Rams Bowling League** on Mondays at 9 p.m. starting Jan. 24 and running for 13 weeks at the AMF

Bowl-a-Rama Lanes, 1200 West Broad St., Albany. The cost is \$12 per person for three games per week. League benefits include a free custom-drilled ball, 10 free games at the end of the league, 20 percent off at the snack bar, a discount on open bowling prices and two free games per week via email. For more information contact [Peter Stevenson](#) in HPER at (229) 430-1394.

All junior, senior or graduate College of Business majors who are interested in attending the free three-day **Allen Entrepreneurship Institute** are invited to an orientation on Friday, Jan. 28, from 9 to 10 a.m. in Peace Hall Room 121. For more information, call (229) 430-2749 or e-mail sheila.harris@asurams.edu.

ASU's Marching Rams Show Band will perform in the **Honda Battle of the Bands** at the Georgia Dome on Saturday, Jan. 29. ASU band is one of only eight chosen from 45 HBCU bands to perform in the showcase.

Katherine M. Kikivarakis-Laster, author of the book "He Chose Me," will hold a benefit book signing at the Flint Riverquarium from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. A portion of the proceeds will benefit **Chosen to Conquer** and its Make Up for Life, which assists women with the affects of breast cancer. Laster, who works in Financial Operations at ASU, wrote her book to help other women dealing with divorce, single parenthood and cancer. For more information, contact Laster at kmlaster242@yahoo.com.

Albany State University will hold the **Southwest Georgia Education Career Fair 2011** from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the HPER Gymnasium. For more information, contact Gloria Williams, director of Career Services, at (229) 430-4654 or careers@asurams.edu.

The ASU Holley Ambassadors will hold a "Golden Event" at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in the L. Orene Hall Building. After 5/cocktail attire is requested. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased from any Holley Ambassador or from [Robert Newton](#), Holley Ambassadors advisor, at (229) 430-4646.

Recreational swimming is now available at the HPER pool from 7 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lifeguards will be on duty. An ASU student ID card is required.



Photos by Rachel Neville
Samuel Wilson and Gary Rawls perform in the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble's production of Billy Wilson's "Concerto In F."



Mayuko Shoka, Fredrick Davis and Ashley Murphy take to the stage in Lowell Smith's "Fragments."

Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble to perform in Albany on Feb. 1

By *Cindy Gambill*
Executive Editor

In 1955 Arthur Mitchell, an African-American ballet dancer, made history when he began his 15-year tenure as a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet. At the time, such an accomplishment was a first. His love for dance led him to begin teaching dance classes in a garage on 152nd Street in Harlem, the community in New York City where Mitchell grew up.

In 1969 Mitchell partnered with Karell Shook, one of the most influential dance instructors of the 20th century, to open the [Dance Theatre of Harlem](#). Inspired by the efforts of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the Civil Rights Era, the two wanted to make the art of dance available to the Harlem community and the rest of New York City.

Today the Dance Theatre of the Harlem is known throughout the world for its excellence in the art of dance. On Feb. 1, that art will come to Southwest Georgia when the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble performs at the Albany Municipal Auditorium. The 7:30 p.m. interactive performance is part of the Albany State University Department of Fine Arts and Lyceum Performance Series.

"The DTH Ensemble's performance in Albany will expose Southwest Georgia citizens of all ethnicities, ages and from all economic strata to the art of dance by an internationally acclaimed dance company," said Dr. Leroy Bynum Jr., dean of the ASU College of Arts and Humanities.

The interactive performance includes a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to become a dancer. The audience can participate in the interactive performance rather than just observe. The presentation will end with an opportunity for audience members to ask dancers questions.

Tyshiba Maxie, owner of Uptown Dance Studio in Albany and a coordinator of the event, said the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble's performance is the "opportunity to experience a first class performance that truly depicts the cultural evolution of formal dance."

In addition to the evening performance, the dancers will present a free lecture/demonstration at 11 a.m. Feb. 1 for local dance students.

"Local dance students are extremely excited and anxiously anticipate the arrival of the DTHE," Maxie said. "Students definitely feel this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and look forward to the lecture and demonstration portion of the event just as much as the actual performance. Students are eager to learn the path dancers of the DTHE took to perform at their level."

While dance students look forward to the performance, non-dancers will enjoy the experiences as well.

"Non-dancers can gain an appreciation for the arts in general," Maxie continued. "The performance is famous for its exciting depictions of the Civil Rights Movement, social issues, education and collaboration of various forms of the arts."

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded ASU a \$10,000 grant to help finance the DTHE's performance. Tickets for the performance, which range in cost from \$5 to \$20, are available at the Albany James H. Gray Sr. Civic Center Box Office and online through [Ticketmaster](#).

For more information about the DTHE performance or lecture/demonstration, contact the ASU Department of Fine Arts at (229) 430-4849 or (229) 430-4832.

InsideASU

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The Albany State University Police Force's efforts keep ASU as one of the safest campuses in the University System of Georgia.

Maintaining an excellent reputation for keeping the university safe

*By Joseph West
Publications Specialist*

There has been significant change in the Albany State University Police Force through the years. Twenty years ago the department had more than 20 POST certified officers. Today it has only 17 officers, but it also has six security guards, four communications officers, a secretary and a receptionist. The department also has three police officers assigned to Albany Technical College campus.

Retaining POST certified officers has been a problem within the department for a number of years now. The department has also had its struggles with high turnover because of budget constraints. Still, the ASU Police Department has one of the best records for safety in the University System of Georgia.

According to the city's statistics, Albany State is one of the most secure and safest venues in the city.

ASU President Dr. Everette J. Freeman said, "That is because of the great work done by Chief Brown, Assistant Chief Fields and all of the other officers of the ASU Police Department."

One of ASU Police Chief Robertson Brown's highest priorities is ensuring that ASU police officers get more training, better pay and improve the connection they have with other police departments.

"We are also working hard to be seen as more than a training ground for new officers, but low salaries usually force the department to hire untrained candidates and train them," Brown said. "After two years they leave to work with a department, literally, across the street making \$10,000 more a year."

To maintain excellence within the force, the leadership has to draw on other resources. Key among those resources is the significant experience of the senior staff. With a combined law enforcement experience of more than 100 years, the ASU Police Department has a substantial knowledge base. Another thing is that the department's leadership constantly inspires the officers and guards to maintain the ASU Police Department's excellent reputation.

"Our department strives on education also," Brown said. "We have several officers that have bachelor's degrees as well as master's degrees. There several officers that are in the process of obtaining a degree or some form of higher education. The department understands the importance of education, and encourages all of its officer to achieve higher education."

Assistant Chief John Fields said, "Our officers have done an awesome job in keeping the university safe. ASU is one of the safest universities of the 35 units of the University System of Georgia."

To help maintain high morale in the department, Brown and his senior staff regularly recognize the exceptional performance and accomplishments of department personnel. The department hosts an annual public swearing-in ceremony for all newly hired officers. Those ceremonies include promotions for officers advancing through the ranks, presentation of special service awards for excellence and presentation of a Top Gun Award for demonstrated exceptional marksmanship.

"The most important thing about police work is that you have the opportunity to take care of people," Brown said. "That is what means the most to me."

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