

Graduates prepare to walk the stage

See Page 4



COMMENCEMENT **2015**

The Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University. It serves as a teaching tool and public relations vehicle. The newspaper is published bimonthly and is dispersed across campus every other Thursday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

Adviser/Manager
Nicole Turner

Editor
Nehemiah Taylor

Sports Editor
Jarron Thompson

Opinions Editor
Ashli Bell

Photographer
Austin Terry

Reporters
Brittany Kendrick
Trevon McNabb

Staff Writers
Diondra Ross

Contributing Writers
Dhiana Brame
Ricco Wright

Cover Designer
Paul Pugh

The *Gazette* Office
Langston University
Sanford Hall, Room 318
Ph. 405-466-3245

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to nkturner@langston.edu. Opinions expressed in Voices are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles. Letters to the editor should be emailed to nkturner@langston.edu. Please include your name and telephone number. The newspaper retains the right to edit, accept and/or reject items deemed to be contrary to the best interest of the publication, Langston University and/or any of its governing bodies.

What is beauty?

Professor says it's 'in the eye of the beholder'

As a junior at Langston University, I enrolled in the Black Authors in American Literature course, in which we read several different texts.

One particular text that had an impact on me was Toni Morrison's debut novel "The Bluest Eye," published in 1970.

I enjoyed reading this novel because it explores themes of identity, black existentialism and suffering like no other, but what I found most compelling about it was the self-love it promotes in the end.

Set in the 1940s in Lorain, Ohio, the novel tells the story of one Pecola Breedlove, an eleven-year-old poor black girl with brown eyes, who is grappling with her own identity in light of society's standards of beauty.

She rejects her own black skin and brown eyes because whiteness is seen as superior to blackness. As a result, she considers herself ugly and believes that she would be more accepted if only she had pale skin and blue eyes.

The kind of black existentialism found in the novel is



Wright

still prevalent in society today. We also find it in some urban black music. For example, in his third studio album "To Pimp a Butterfly," released this year, Kendrick Lamar further addresses the same themes found in "The Bluest Eye."

Both the novel and the album examine society, race, class, love and the importance of deconstructing the societal perspective that "white is right."

"To Pimp a Butterfly" is an album that promotes self-love, self-respect and leadership, while challenging what society values and perpetuates. It also sheds light on how we must be mindful of the various institutions under which we live in so-

ciety today, ranging from the color of our skin to our physical weight to our own value system.

Pecola represents a butterfly pimped by the system—a system that oppresses minorities of all kinds and constantly tells us all that we are not beautiful if we do not have blonde hair or blue eyes or even a skinny physique.

This same system and all its oppression also purports the false reality that the lives of those not yet cultivated in the varied ways in which it values do not matter. But black lives do matter and butterflies are beautiful.

Pecola succumbs to this type of oppression because of her visceral lack of self-love and self-worth.

One could argue that she, or someone like her, should listen to Lauryn Hill's debut

solo album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" in order to acquire the self-love and self-worth she lacks and to overcome the existential angst from which she is suffering.

Society dictates what beauty is and is not. But beauty is a subjective experience—that is, a mental phenomenon that differs from one person to another.

Novels like "The Bluest Eye" and albums like "To Pimp a Butterfly" encourage us all to be critical of a system that dehumanizes those not of the dominant culture or ideology. They also invite us all to determine for ourselves what beauty can be, because beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Dr. Ricco Wright is an assistant professor of mathematics at Langston University.

This is the final issue
of the *Gazette*
for spring 2015.
We will resume
publication in fall 2015.
Have a
great summer!

LISTEN TO
LANGSTON UNIVERSITY'S VOICE OF DIVERSITY
KALU 89.3
dot 3

FOLLOW US ON @KALU89DOT3
 KALU89DOT3
CALL (405) 466-3248

Campus fails to dominate

By **Diondra Ross**
Staff Writer

Campus Domination has been canceled for this year's spring week.

"The final decision to cancel the event was due to a lack of participation by the Greek organizations," said Desmond Harvey, director of Student Life.

Harvey also said that, traditionally, the step show admission is \$10. But, this year, only three step acts were scheduled to perform, which, Harvey said, was not necessarily worth the price.

The tradition of Campus Domination started in spring 2006, and Harvey, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Ariana Jones, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., chaired the event.

Traditionally, it is an opportunity for Greek organizations to show off their style of stepping and possibly win prize money. The best sorority and fraternity step team receives \$1,000.

Like any other spring semester, members of organizations, students and alumni were expecting a step show to end spring

"The final decision to cancel the event was due to a lack of participation by the Greek organizations."

— *Desmond Harvey,*
director of Student Life

week 2015.

"I feel it's sad that they did not consider how the organizations doing it felt," said Lexus Douglas, member of Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority Inc.

Douglas also mentioned how some organizations were practicing for months, and, she said, it is very unorganized of them to cancel during the week of the event without proper notice.

Students were disappointed that they won't get to see Greeks come together and compete, especially those who have witnessed Campus Domination in previous years.

"I think it sucks, but I hope next year we will have the event because I know we will be full of the Greeks next year," said Tyler Bowler, junior broadcast journalism major.

Harvey said he understands that some organizations put time in for practice, and he apologizes to the organizations that committed to the step show.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Langston University will hold commencement exercises May 16. In case of inclement weather, the commencement exercises will be moved from an outside venue, the W.E. Anderson Stadium, to an inside venue, the C.F. Gayles Field House.

If the commencement exercises are moved indoors, there will be two ceremonies, which will allow more family members and friends to attend the ceremonies.

The first ceremony will be held at 10 a.m., May 16, for the following schools and programs:

- School of Nursing and Health Professions
- School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
- Master of Rehabilitation Counseling
- Master of Visual Rehabilitation
- Master of Education
- School of Physical Therapy

The second ceremony will be held at 2 p.m., May 16, for the following schools and programs:

- School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- School of Business
- Master of Entrepreneurial Studies

Langston elects SGA candidates

By **Austin Terry**
Photographer

Langston University held its yearly student government elections April 28.

Candidates campaigned around the campus, persuading their peers that he was the right person for the position.

The candidates were running campaigns unopposed, but they each still put forth an effort to show why he was a legitimate choice for the position.

The candidates running were Shaquille Anderson for SGA president, Keilan Armstrong for vice-president and Paul Pugh, hoping to be re-elected as activities coordinator. All of these candidates presented detailed platforms to the student body of what their vision is and what they plan to change for the next school year.

Each of these candidates saw success from their efforts. Anderson, junior business major, received 95 percent of the votes; Armstrong, sophomore accounting major, received 89 percent; and, Pugh received 94 percent.

The men were officially announced to the student body at the student leadership awards. Students applauded and seemed very excited with the new elects as far as what is to come next year.

"The SGA elections went quite well. I'm proud that Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. can represent Langston University the way it should be," said Ricollis Jones, junior

"The SGA elections went quite well. I'm proud that Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. can represent Langston University... It is officially an Alpha University."

— *Ricollis Jones, junior*
computer science major

computer science major. "It is officially an Alpha university."

All three SGA elected officials are members of Alpha Phi Alpha.

"I'm happy for them," said Hollie Nealy, freshman biology major. "I hope they do some great things for the LU. Paul did well as activities coordinator before, so I'm sure he'll keep it that way."

Some students, however, are ready to see something new at LU.

"I want to know what's going to change because I'm tired of the same thing each and every year," said Darian Williams, senior English major.

The newly elected SGA members have already begun working for the 2015-2016 school year.

New Journeys Await

Seniors prepare for graduation

By Ashli Bell
Opinions Editor

The moment is here. After four years of hard work, long, sleepless nights, memories that could never be forgotten and long-lasting friendships, it's finally here.

At 10 a.m., May 16, seniors at Langston University will end one journey in life to begin a new chapter, as they take that well-deserved walk across the stage at the W.E. Anderson Stadium and become college graduates.

These students will enter the "real world," a scary yet exciting adventure.

Mary Jordan, McCabe Scholar, biology major and student-athlete, is one of these graduating seniors.

She was recently accepted into the Purdue University veterinarian graduate program. Her time at LU was constantly full of activity, but that's how she liked it.

"I was always super busy with softball, and [as] a biology major, I had a ton of homework and labs," Jordan said.

"Doing all these activities, it forced me to become good at time management, and I think it's preparing me to be a better person," she said.

Jordan was privileged to not only excel in her

studies, but she also shined as a softball player.

She was awarded first-team All-American all four years and was player of the year her sophomore and junior year.

Steadman Bell is a graduate who will have a degree in health, physical education and recreation and dance.

"Most people come to school just to get an education, but I came to get a better understanding of life in general," Bell said.

"Me coming here all the way from Tennessee, I wanted grow up as a man and mainly find myself," Bell said.

Bell, also a student-athlete, played football for LU.

"No matter how old you are or where you are in life, you're still growing, and even like being at Langston, it's taught me patience because a lot of things don't get handled when you want them to," Bell said. "But, that's just the business world."

Bell's dream is to become a coach and mentor to kids one day.

Other graduating seniors chose to attend LU to primarily focus on their studies and discover their passion.

One student found more than that, however—she found a new family.

"I was really scared when I



Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Graduating seniors Mary Jordan, Steadman Bell and Ándria Morgan are ready for their walk across the stage to accept their degrees. Langston University graduation is at 10 a.m., May 16, at the W.E. Anderson Stadium.

got to Langston because I was all by myself," said Ándria Morgan, broadcast journalism major.

"I expected not to mesh well with people, and I'm glad I was wrong. You know, it's a really comfortable environment," she added.

Morgan also is a McCabe Scholar, but she's mostly known for her involvement in the campus news show "LU Stay Tuned." Her peers can always see her running around campus with a camera in her hand.

"I feel I've become more open-minded and patient and I found myself here," Morgan said. "When I first got here, I was lost and I didn't know who I was, but then interacting with my friends and teachers, I kind

of found Ándria."

Through her four years at LU, Morgan has grown by getting involved in many different production aspects of journalism, including producing, editing and filming.

Morgan also is a founding member of Women of Purpose, an organization that was developed on campus in August 2014.

Brandon Palmore, a computer science major, also will walk among this year's graduates.

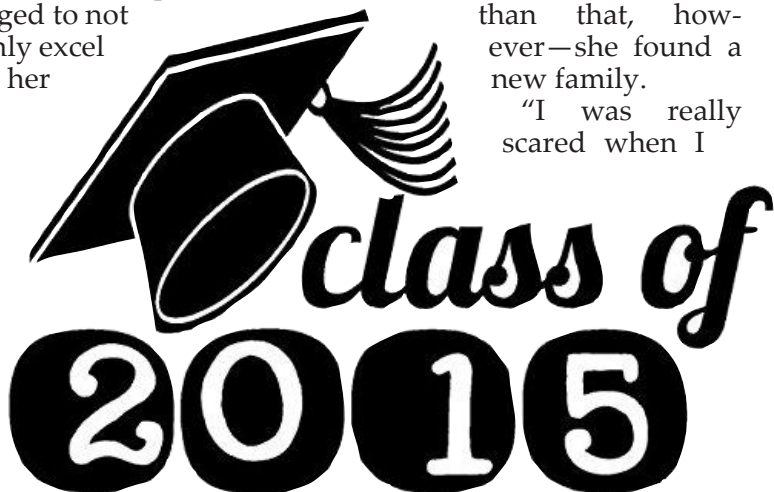
"My journey through Langston University has been one that has been a growing process for me, as well as a wake-up for me," Palmore said.

Palmore is a member of the Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

"Being a member has really given me the tools necessary to manage my time, work with people that have different backgrounds than me and... work with people who think different of me," Palmore said. "It basically gave me the skills to branch out and network."

Palmore has been involved in the Student Government Association as well.

"LU has really taught me how to be independent, self-sufficient (and) go after things that I want..." Palmore said. "It's given me many opportunities to be successful. It's helped me grow in regards of career goals and my life," Palmore added. "It's pretty much given me a ticket to do whatever I want to do in my life, and I am forever grateful for that."



LU student hosts Coyle's 'Mangeant'



Courtesy Photos

Left: Charles Tucker, senior broadcast journalism major, asks an "on-stage question" to a contestant in Coyle High School's "Mangeant" [MAN-juhnt]. Tucker hosted the Mangeant, or male pageant, April 24, in the Coyle High School gym. The Mangeant was a new competition to select this year's "Mr. CHS." The contestants were all basketball and/or football players for CHS.

Top: Charles Tucker (far right) introduces each contestant to the crowd at Coyle High School's "Mangeant". The winner, Benjamin Scott (third from left), received the next "Mr. CHS" title. He was selected based upon the crowd's applause and reaction.

Black Heritage Center gets digital archives

By Brittany Kendrick
Reporter

Do you want to look up an ancestor that attended Langston in the 50's? Do you want to look up an archive story you wrote in *the Gazette* or catalogue?

The Langston University Melvin B. Tolson Black Heritage Center has incorporated new technology that enables students and the general public to look up archives as far back as the 1800s.

Known as the Digital Commons, this repository system offers people a chance to access archived publications from LU, including catalogues, newsletters, documents, artifacts, yearbooks and also the McCabe and senior theses.

LU has been the cornerstone of some great black history, and now, the world has a chance to access these rare facts through this sys-

tem.

"We will soon expand to invite faculty, student and alumni research" said Jameka Lewis, curator for the Black Heritage Center.

"I am the proponent in making sure people have the open access to these facts and other opportunities," Lewis said.

The repository system was established August 2014 and currently has 355 items in its database, which makes the 3000 downloads an automatic success.

"This system is great because it shows you the country that a person is looking at our site from," Lewis said. "From China to the U.S., people are interested in the works that LU has produced."

This system is accessible through the LU website under the "Library" tab.

"I intend on having a presentation on the new system during the Faculty Institute in August," Lewis

said.

She also has started creating awareness of this system by emailing students, faculty and staff a link to see a publication they have listed.

"The value of preserv-

ing our history is priceless," said Lonnie Johnson Jr., instructor and interim chair of the Department of Communication. "The digital archives will be a tremendous resource for our department, the institution

and beyond."

Langston has unique facts and history that even some current students don't know.

For more information and to access the archives, visit <http://www.langston.edu>.

Spring 2015 Course Evaluations

Let
Your
Voice
Be
Heard!

Questions
or
Concerns?



<https://langston.campuslabs.com/courseeval>

or go to your LU email for Log-in Information

Contact Ms. Smith
at smsmith@langston.edu

New physical therapy facility will double in space, students

By Dhiana Brame
Contributing Writer

It is official—Langston University has made room in the budget for a new physical therapy building, which is expected to be about 25,000 square feet of beauty.

"When it's all said and done, this will be a \$6.75 million project," said President Kent Smith Jr.

"Students will have anything from student lounges to computer labs, study areas and meeting labs... We just feel like because we have the top School of Physical Therapy Pro-

gram in the state that we really should have a state-of-the-art facility," Smith added.

Because of accreditation standards, the LU physical therapy program is allowed to bring in only 13 students per academic year, which is because physical therapy requires a certain amount of space in the facility per student.

Therefore, by doubling the size of the building, LU also can double the size of incoming classes. This building has always been something that university officials knew they needed.

However, it was always just a matter of being financially able.

"We decided to move that up to the top of the list and that if money ever presented itself or opportunities, [a new physical therapy building] would be the top priority for the university," Smith said.

Langston University was able to get a combination of federal and state funds in addition to setting money aside over two budget cycles to make this project happen. This building is expected to be fully functional by fall 2016.

Tyler Titsworth, student

in LU's doctoral physical therapy program, said he is eager for the new building to be finished because of the additional opportunities it will bring.

"We are very excited about the expansion of the physical therapy school," Titsworth said.

"This new building will allow us to have more students, larger spaces and the ability to increase our learning experiences that will ultimately help us be more prepared physical therapists upon graduating and entering the workforce," he said.

The biggest question now is, "What will happen with the old building?"

"I hope we can turn it in to a dance studio and

make it accessible to cheer/dance organizations on campus..." said Kiyah Washington, who is currently the Langston University cheer captain.

President Smith has yet to determine exactly what the building will become.

"We've talked about anything from a student workout facility to potentially tearing that space down, and that's where, ultimately, we think we would like to have a new student recreation center," Smith said. "But, again, that takes money and planning and time, but no concrete plans as of yet."

Until then, students on campus are proud to attend a university that is expanding and upgrading.

Spring Week turns into spring weak

By Dhiana Brame
Contributing Writer

Spring Week 2015 was considered to be more of a dead week to students.

"I'm so disappointed; I expected so much more," said Dayna Davis, sophomore broadcast journalism major.

"Spring Week is supposed to be one of the most fun weeks during the year."

Langston University Activities Coordinator Paul Pugh has expressed that the budget for Spring Week 2015 was somewhat "tight" this year.

"We used a significant amount of money to make homecoming bigger than it was last year," Pugh said. "We made Spring Week big last year (in 2014) since homecoming was so bad..."

With the tight budget that LU is allocated every year, there is just no way that students can have a huge homecoming and Spring Week in the same academic

"Spring Week is supposed to be one of the most fun weeks during the year."

— Dayna Davis,
sophomore broadcast journalism major

school year.

This budget not only covers Homecoming and Spring Week, but it also covers funds for campus organizations to travel, and it's used to buy T-shirts and provide programming for the student body as well.


The student activity fee, which is a line item on each student's university bill, has not been raised since 2001. It currently sits at \$50 dollars per student.

"Artists cost way more now, so it's hard to keep up with other HBCUs who have separate budgets strictly for their homecomings and spring weeks,"

Pugh said. "We are working with roughly a \$90,000-budget every academic year."

The Student Government Association has tried to work with the House of Representatives to raise the student activities fee but it did not receive a majority vote of yes.

"What I have been working on is getting a major corporate sponsor, so homecoming and Spring Week can be sponsored in full, and the budget we get from the student activities fee can be used strictly to do programming and events throughout the school year," Pugh said.



IN CASE OF A TORNADO

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO?



BUILDINGS	EMERGENCY SHELTER SITE (PRIMARY)	EMERGENCY SHELTER SITE (SECONDARY)
Agricultural Building	Basement South	Restrooms 112-113; 227-228; 328-329
Agriculture West Complex	Public Safety Building Cart Barn Basement	Interior Restrooms 311-312 (Main Area)
Agriculture South Barn	Public Safety Building Cart Barn Basement	Restrooms 105-106
Allied Health Center	Basement	Lecture Room 105
Anderson Stadium	Gayles Gym Basement	Stadium Locker Rooms
Breaux Hall (Early Childhood Lab)	Agricultural Building Basement North	Interior Corridor
Cafeteria	Gayles Gym Basement	Multi Purpose Locker Rooms
Calvin Hall/ITS	Gandy Basement	Restroom within Calvin Hall
Centennial Court Apartments	Moore Hall Basement Mechanical Area	Young Hall Dorm (1st Floor Corridors)
Cimarron Apartments	Gayles Gym Basement	Restrooms within Apartment
Coleman Heritage Center (Chapel)	Public Safety Building	Page Hall (1st Floor Corridors)
Commons Apartments	Agricultural Building Basement South	Page Hall 1st Floor Corridors
Cottages #1-#5	Public Safety Building Cart Barn Basement	Restrooms within Cottage
Gandy Hall	Building Basement	First Floor Corridor
G. Lamar Harrison Library	Page Hall Basement	First Floor Restrooms
Gayles Gymnasium	Men's & Women's Locker Rooms	Basement
Hamilton Hall	Allied Health Basement	1st Floor Corridors
Hargrove Music Hall	Page Hall Basement	Music Hall Band Room
I.W. Young Auditorium	Moore Hall Basement (Mechanical Room)	Music Hall Band Room
Jones Hall	Allied Health Basement	Restrooms 117-118 and Corridors
Moore Hall	Basement Mechanical Room	1st Floor Restrooms
Multi Purpose Complex	Gayles Gym Basement	Multi Purpose Locker Room/Restrooms
Page Hall	Building Basement	1st Floor Restrooms
Physical Therapy Complex	Gayles Gym Basement	Restrooms 104-105
Physical Plant	Gayles Gym Basement	Restrooms within Building
Public Safety Building	Public Safety Building Cart Barn Basement	Restrooms within Building
Retail Plaza	Page Hall Basement	Page Hall (1st Floor Corridors)
Sanford Hall	Sanford Hall Basement Mechanical Room	Restrooms 1st - 3rd Floors
Scholars Inn Apartments	Clubhouse Shelter Basement	Agricultural Building Basement North
Student Success Center	Gayles Gym Basement	Multi Purpose Locker Room
University Women	Moore Hall Basement Mechanical Room	1st Floor Restrooms and Corridors
Young Hall Dorm	Moore Hall Basement Mechanical Room	1st Floor Corridors (A side & C-side)

In case of emergency, call Langston University Police Department at 405.466.3366

Six ways to minimize finals stress

Special from
Oklahoma Society of CPAs

Stress before final exams is unavoidable. While many use retail therapy to ease anxiety, excessive spending during finals only increases stress levels.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 46.3 percent of students surveyed found academics traumatic or very difficult to handle. Keeping calm and staying on budget during finals is vital.

The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants offers six simple steps to keep spending and stress in check while preparing for final exams:

1. Avoid procrastination. Procrastination seems unavoidable during finals week. Procrastination negatively affects college students' physical, mental and emotional state.
2. Take financially conscious study breaks. Although research shows study breaks increase retention skills and critical thinking, it is important to choose study break options that do not break your budget. Studying in a restaurant or coffee shop might present the temptation to spend more money. Instead, try studying at home, a friend's house, a park or library.
3. Increase exercise and limit caffeine intake. People tend to make unhealthy choices under stress. Many students turn to coffee, energy drinks and other caffeinated products in order to stay alert while studying. Caffeine can increase nervousness and lead to fatigue. Exercise is a great alternative because the brain releases endorphins, which relieve stress.
4. Avoid overcommitting. Time management is key to success when preparing for finals. Overcommitting during finals week will only heighten stress levels. Scheduling study hours at specific times in the day will help ensure you are prepared for your exam.
5. Get plenty of sleep. College students should get at least seven hours of sleep a night. Lack of sleep makes it difficult to retain long-term information. It might seem beneficial to pull an all-nighter before a final exam, but sleep deprivation will prevent clear thinking during the exam.
6. Sell textbooks back as soon as possible. Book stores have a higher demand for textbooks at the end of the semester and are willing to buy back books at a higher price. This can make a big difference in alleviating financial stress during finals.

Langston University Final Examination Schedule

Spring 2015

ALL CLASSES STARTING ON:	AT THIS TIME:	TEST DATE	TEST DAY & TIME
Monday	8 a.m.	May 15, 2015	FRIDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	9 a.m.	May 14, 2015	THURSDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	10 a.m.	May 15, 2015	FRIDAY, 1-3 p.m.
	11 a.m.	May 12, 2015	TUESDAY, 1-3 p.m.
	Noon	May 12, 2015	TUESDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	1 p.m.	May 13, 2015	WEDNESDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	2 p.m.	May 14, 2015	THURSDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	3 p.m.	May 13, 2015	WEDNESDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	4 p.m.	May 13, 2015	WEDNESDAY, 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m.	May 15, 2015	FRIDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	9:30 a.m.	May 14, 2015	THURSDAY, 1-3 p.m.
	11 a.m.	May 11, 2015	MONDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	12:30 p.m.	May 12, 2015	TUESDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	2 p.m.	May 15, 2015	FRIDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	3:30 p.m.	May 13, 2015	WEDNESDAY, 10 a.m. Noon
Wednesday	4 p.m.	May 14, 2015	THURSDAY, 8-10 a.m.
Thursday	4 p.m.	May 12, 2015	TUESDAY, 3-5 p.m.

ALL Final Exams for Evening (beginning at 5 p.m.), Weekend and other classes not on this schedule willll be held at the LAST REGULAR CLASS MEETING.

* Final Examination Schedule for all Multi-Section Mathematics Courses will be administered on MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015*

8-10 a.m.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

1-3 p.m.

3:30-5:30 p.m.

TRIGONOMETRY, ELEMENTARY STATISTICS and FINITE MATHEMATICS

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Track team has 'blazing' performance at outdoor conference championship

By Jarron Thompson
Sports Editor

After blazing performances at the Red River Athletic Conference Track and Field Championships, the Langston track team is optimistic about its future.

Sophomore Janaa Evans won the high jump, javelin throw, long jump and was named conference MVP on the women's side.

Other Langstonites were also impressive, qualifying for the upcoming Outdoor National Championships.

Darian Johnson qualified for the women's 200-meter dash B-standard, and Latisha Jacobs qualified for the women's 200-meter dash A-standard.

Jacobs, a junior nursing major from Oklahoma City, was pleased with her results, winning the 100- and 200-meter dash.

"After taking a break from track for a couple of years, I wanted to come back and

prove to people that I could still do it," Jacobs said. "I think the work that I put in should help me to be successful."

Head Track Coach James Hilliard Jr. said he was "pleased with the overall effort" that the team gave, and he's ready to prep the athletes for future events.

"We want them to return as all-Americans and possibly national champions," Hilliard said.

Other outstanding athletes include junior Matthew Wright, who qualified A-standard in the men's 400-meter dash and Damarius Bell, who won and qualified in the long jump. Freshman Daylen Baker, the lone thrower from Ardmore, Oklahoma, won the shot-put and the discus for the Lions.

Both the men's and women's team fell short by placing second runner-up to Wylie College at the conference meet.



Photos by Jarron Thompson

Top: Darian Johnson (far left, lane one), Joi Townshed (lane two) and other sprinters jump out of running blocks to start the 100-meter dash at the Red River Athletic Conference Championship track meet. Also running in this heat was Litisha Jacobs in lane five (not pictured). The women's track team placed second overall at the championships April 24-25.

Bottom Left: Damon Wallace stays ahead of a competitor in a long-distance run during the Red River Athletic Conference Championship. The men's track team placed second overall at the meet, falling short behind Wylie College.



Lady Lions lose third game of conference tournament

By Trevon McNabb
Reporter

The Langston University softball team clinched a spot and made a run for the conference championship, which was May 1-2, in Farmers Branch, Texas.

The Lady Lions had injuries and a loaded schedule, but they were still confident about their chances to take a spot in the tournament.

"We have to learn to play our game and come up clutch in crucial situations," said junior short-stop Angel Council.

The team came off a couple tough losses to teams such as Baccane and Louisiana State University-Alexandria.

"I think we have to hit consistently and make fewer errors," said student coach Ashli Bell.

Once at the conference tournament, though, the team lost in its third game. Bell said the game was a hard loss because for most of the innings, the Lady Lions were ahead.

However, after a tough battle that stretched into eight innings, the Lady Lions fell short by one point and lost, 8-7.