

# DETERMINATION

**LADY LIONS PREVAIL  
DESPITE MANY CHANGES**  
SEE PAGE 8





## 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

Nicole Turner

### Layout Editor

Paul Pugh

### Reporters

Jerrold Mitchell  
Indy Nelson  
Austin Terry

### Photographer

Kimberly McKnight

### Contributing Writers

Desiree Mitchell  
Chelsey Watson

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

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to [nkturner@langston.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# Resisting arrest not worth the deadly consequences

Police brutality exists, race matters and black people—especially young black men—are perpetually reminded that their lives are in danger, not only from white supremacists but also from those who are supposed to be protecting them.

"Fruitvale Station" is a true story that forcefully opens the eyes of viewers and shows the reality of life.

The film makes one feel as if one is a part of it, for it gives one the opportunity to put oneself in the shoes of an innocent black man and to see how race can affect one's life.

Specifically, the film portrays Oscar Grant, a young black man with potential and a number of strikes against him, trying to turn his life around and do the right thing.

On a personal level, "Fruitvale Station" gave me a dif-



Watson

ferent perspective on police brutality and the danger in which too many African Americans find themselves.

Police brutality is probably one of the most serious human rights violations in the United States.

During the past decade, certain police officers have acted in ways that are cruel and simply just not right. Unjustified shootings, severe beatings, fatal chokings, and

rough treatment have all contributed to the problem of police brutality, not to mention the verbal abuse police exercise.

I am dumbfounded that some law enforcement officers think they are exempt from obeying the laws they enforce on a daily basis.

Yet, although police brutality is a major problem in America today, I think it can be avoided at times.

For example, in the most tragic scene in "Fruitvale Station," Oscar and his friends could have sat down quietly and done what the BART officers asked rather than resist arrest. Sure, there was no guarantee that the officers would have reacted better had Oscar and his friends obeyed them, but perhaps doing so would have added less fuel to the fire.

To my mind, there are bet-

ter ways to handle a lot of the situations that, sadly and truly, have ended fatally for one too many young black men in just the past few years, let alone in the past decade.

For me, watching "Fruitvale Station" has accentuated how my life experiences have been, and still are, different from other people's life experiences.

Not only has my perception of police brutality and of race been altered, my eyes have been opened wider to the sad reality of everyday life, particularly for young black men.

"Fruitvale Station" is certainly a eulogy for more than just Oscar Grant. I just wish there were never a need for one in the first place.

*Chelsey Watson is a freshman health, physical education and recreation (HPER) major.*

# Change is a 'two-way street'

While watching "Fruitvale Station," I kept thinking about the occurrence at the Fruitvale stop on the Oakland BART and wondered why the BART officers mistreated Oscar and his crew as they did.

Then, I heard Mr. Langston's viewpoint of how African Americans should approach incidents with police officers differently.

I understood him to be saying we should change ourselves during such incidents to fit generally accepted societal standards. I agree only to a certain extent.

On one hand, I agree that we should be respectful and try to make the best of whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, I disagree that we are the only ones who should change.

Too often are we told this, but why only us? Why do we always have to degrade ourselves and conform? Surely, we can't be the only ones



Mitchell

changing to ensure our safety when encountering a potentially dangerous situation with a police officer.

Yet, according to Mr. Langston, this is exactly what Oscar and his crew should've done to ensure their safety. In the film, when seated by the officers, Oscar and his crew were hostile, swearing and yelling at the officers.

They were hostile because they instantly noticed the officers approached the situation negatively from the onset.

Despite this, Mr. Langston said Oscar and his crew should've been respectful to and cooperative with the officers by answering "yes, sir" or "no, sir" when questioned.

I disagree here, too, because the officers treated Oscar and his crew like thugs though they weren't. Knowing they had authority, the officers seemed to know exactly what they could and couldn't do and how much power they could abuse.

They also showed little to no regard for Oscar and his crew before detaining them. In fact, it wasn't until the situation escalated and Oscar was shot in his lower back that the officers showed the kind of regard that every citizen deserves.

Had the officers approached the situation more objectively, I wouldn't have any true reason to think that Oscar and his crew were racially profiled that night.

But, they were in fact racially profiled; so, I don't think Oscar and his crew would've benefitted from being respectful and cooperative. I think the outcome would've been the same because the officers seemed to disregard approaching the situation more objectively given that Oscar and his crew were young black men.

In contrast to Mr. Langston's perspective, my view is that black people shouldn't be the only ones changing if we all hope for fewer tragedies like the one in "Fruitvale Station."

Because police officers have partial authority over such situations and how they play out, they, too, should change. America needs both groups to change, not just one of them, for this traffic is a two-way street.

*Desiree Mitchell is a freshman business management major.*

# 2015 Opening Convocation welcomes students, faculty

By Indy Nelson  
Reporter

The freshman class, professionals, staff and upper-classmen were welcomed at Langston's annual Formal Opening Convocation on Sept. 24.

The convocation greeted the Langston community with encouraging words from Miss Langston Blongshia Cha.

"Langston provides us opportunity to establish our goals," Cha said. "Langston has a rich history of success. Remember why you are here, class of 2019; you are the largest class, ever."

The convocation also included the induction of the Student Government Association officers by Dr. Raphael Moffett, including President Shaquille Anderson, Vice President Keilan Armstrong and Activities Coordinator Paul Pugh.

The convocation began when Dr. Kermit McMurry,

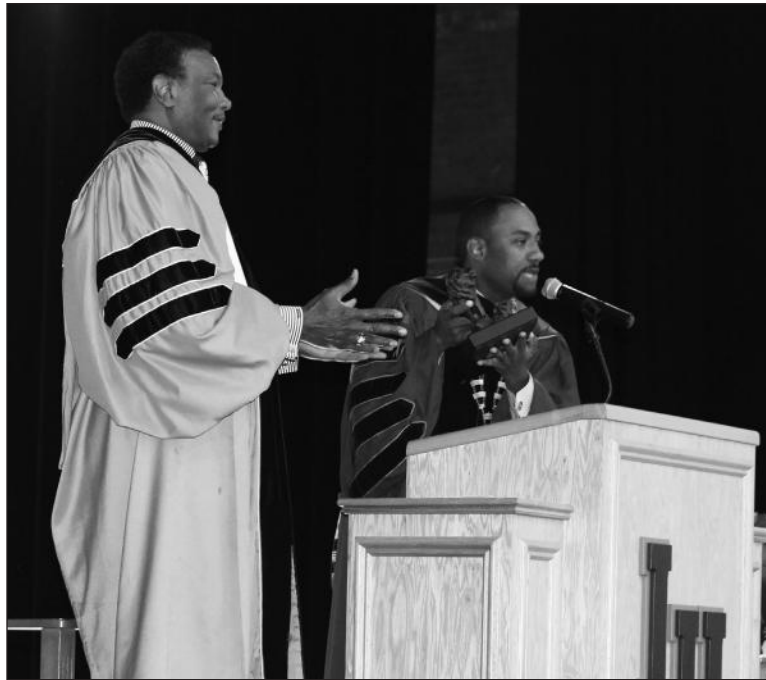


Photo by Kimberly McKnight

President Kent J. Smith Jr. presents Dr. Kermit McMurry with a Langston Appreciation Award during the 2015 Formal Opening Convocation on Sept. 24.

vice chancellor of student services for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, spoke about the value of education and how

students as youth will make changes to the world with ambition and perseverance.

"This institution has a dedicated facility dedicated

to your success," McMurry said. "I have a place in my heart for students. Students are jewels; they are the heart of the campus."

He made sure students had an extensive mindset of what they can do, and he reminded them that their fate is in students' own hands.

McMurry emphasized that education is key to all doors in life and all decisions are influential. He said that whether they believe it or not, students should make sound and rational decisions.

In life, people have decisions that may be difficult, McMurry said, but, people should always strive for a resolution.

Also, he expressed, value is greatness and a powerful tool to utilize opportunity to make this world a better place. Lastly, McMurry explained that the world has its challenges, socially and culturally, and students must be able to think not average, but beyond measures.

"A worthwhile purpose will set you above the crowds who have settled," McMurry said. "In order for you to reach your portion of success, you must sail, not drift. Prepare yourselves for the winds to come."

He expressed how significant education is the key to open the world of opportunity.

It's a matter of how students value what is presented to them, including education, world issues and self morals.

Langston President Dr. Kent J. Smith Jr. gave McMurry a Langston Appreciation Award, and President Smith concluded convocation by giving incoming students encouragement.

"You're not here for a season—you're here for a reason, freshman class. I don't want you to lose sight of not just college, but your college degree," Smith said. "We need you more than ever for the next three to five years."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mr. and Miss Orange & Blue Pageant**  
7 p.m.  
Thursday,  
Oct. 1  
I.W. Auditorium

**Zumba Dance Klass**  
hosted by  
**Kappa Alpha Psi**  
7 p.m.  
Friday,  
Oct. 2  
Atrium

**Pink Cafe**  
hosted by  
**Women of Purpose**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Thursday,  
Oct. 8  
SSC Alley

**NAACP General Body Meeting**  
6 p.m.  
Thursday,  
Oct. 8  
Allied Health



# Students research at NASA Ames Academy

By Jerrod Mitchell  
Reporter

Three students will travel to San Jose, California, to conduct research for NASA. Danielle Wright, Nicolas Davis and Halina Garraway were selected out of 15 students to study with the NASA Ames program.

According to the NASA website, the NASA Ames Academy is an intensive educational program emphasizing group activities, teamwork, research and creativity. The curriculum balances direct contact with science and engineering with an awareness of the managerial, political, financial, social and human issues faced by aerospace professionals.

"The NASA internship came about with a grant of \$4,500 in which we selected three students from 15 students who went to NASA Ames," said Dr. Randy Hunt, professor of education. "The students have to

be a sophomore, junior or senior with a 3.0 GPA or above, with an emphasis in the areas of chemistry, biology, mathematics or computer science."

NASA has been in Langston's curriculum for years, providing students with an experience of a lifetime.

"While here at Langston, I do encourage those individuals who are in the STEM area to look at nasa.gov, not only for internships, but for jobs," Hunt said.

Halina Garraway, junior mathematics major, visited the NASA base in April and was selected to further her research.

"I researched the topic of 'The Effects of a Non-Local Viscosity on the Evolution of Protostellar Disks.' I used a software stack to manipulate a code, which utilizes the infamous Donald Lynden-Bell equation," Garraway said. "This software stack extracted certain variables and characteristics, such as viscosity, surface

density and surface temperature of the star, volume of the star.

"What I took from this

internship was that I am capable of achieving anything I put my mind to. Never in a million years did I think

that I would be granted with the opportunity to participate in an internship with NASA," she said.

## Note to faculty and staff from HR

Open enrollment begins in October.

Due to Banner HR Implementation, annual benefits enrollment is Thursday, Oct. 1, through Friday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. During this time, employees can use Web for Employees, <http://webmp.okstate.edu>, to review benefits, including dependents, if applicable, and make desired changes. Changes will become effective Jan. 1, 2016.

If certain employees are nontobacco users, in order to receive the \$20 monthly tobacco-free incentive, they must log in to Web for Employees and confirm they are non-tobacco users, regardless if they choose to make changes to their elec-

tions or not. The incentive does not apply to those who waive health insurance.

Waiving health insurance is a multi-step process and all steps must be completed:

1. Change default election from BlueOptions to Waive online and click submit.
2. Complete and submit a Waive LU Employee Health Insurance 2016 form.
3. Submit a copy of proof of other insurance.

The Waive LU Employee Health Insurance 2016 form and copy of insurance card can be submitted in

the following ways (please only submit once):

1. Scan and email to [cataft@langston.edu](mailto:cataft@langston.edu) or [jl-cole@langston.edu](mailto:jl-cole@langston.edu); or
2. Campus mail to Human Resources, 222 Page Hall; or
3. Fax to LU Human Resources at 405-466-6002; or
4. Hand-deliver to LU Human Resources at 222 Page Hall

Failure to complete the above could result in default enrollment in the BlueOptions plan.

If you have any questions about open enrollment or your 2016 benefits, please contact Human Resources at 405-466-338 or [cataft@langston.edu](mailto:cataft@langston.edu).

## Campus Question

What TV show were you most anticipating during Premiere Week and why?



Sharphira Fields—Senior Biology Major

"I really like 'Empire' because Cookie is my alter ego, but my friends who really know me, know that is me, 24/7."



Daeisyy Wright—Sophomore Criminal Justice Major

"I watched 'Empire' because I really liked the first season. My favorite part was when Cookie threw shade to 50 Cent about Empire."



Simone Stevens—Junior Psychology Major

"I liked ('Scandal') because I was anticipating it. I am absolutely obsessed with Olivia... I also love how serious it is and how the intensity is mixed with the drama."



Jerrell Beck—Junior Accounting Major

"I liked the premier [of 'Scandal']. I wasn't expecting Olivia and the president's fling to be publicized in the first episode, but overall, it was a great show."

# BRINGING THE T



## Latest News in Black Hollywood

By **Indy Nelson**  
and **Jerrod Mitchell**  
Reporters

Students, you all certainly need to know about the T. Howard Foundation. It is for minority students who are seeking an internship or career in the multimedia entertainment field.

The foundation's mission is to increase diversity in the entertainment industry and prepare interns for their future careers.

The internship is open, and the deadline to apply is Oct. 31, for students who are interested for spring 2016, summer 2016 and fall 2016.

You can find all of the eligibility requirements and application online at <http://www.t-howard.org>.

Drake and Future's surprise mixtape claimed the top spot, and debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart.

The mixtape was announced a day before it's release and moved 375,000 albums in its first week, according to the Rap-Up website. This mixtape is one of the biggest debuts of 2015.

"What A Time To Be Alive" is Drake's second release of 2015, fol-

lowing "If You're Reading This It's Too Late."

Writer's Favorites: "Big Rings" & "Diamonds Dancing"

Fall fashion is finally here. This is the season most of us love. A bitter-sweet mixture of hot and cold, you get the best of both worlds between the weather and your ensembles.

The trendies of the season, ladies, is the dark plum matte lipstick and nail polish. It ties a glam and punk look into one or it gives off a sexy and classy "vampy look." It works for daytime and nighttime.

As far as gear, the olive green color is taking over everyone's Instagram page, ladies. Olive green is a neutral color you can match with fun prints and colors. It's your casual-cute look. You can find this color in dresses, shirts, jackets and pants, available in all stores.

Now, gentlemen, your trendy accessory is the casual low-cut hoodies and the blazer jackets in all colors.

You can easily dress these down or up, whether it's with your favorite combat boots or dress shoes, paired with a good dark jean of your choice. On the far right, celebrity Kanye West eludes this stylish trend.



## L'U Fashion Police

We all know when autumn comes around. The weather changes, the leaves start falling and state fairs come to town, bringing with them that glorified food.

And, everyone is comfortable in their own skin— some more than others. The point I am bringing to attention this time is "over-exposure."

Ladies, when we expose, less is always best, as well as choosing a specific area of exposure.

AVOID THE TRIPLE THREAT! The triple threat is cleavage, stomach and thighs. The best representation of a woman is classy, yet sexy; not cheap and easier.

Gentlemen, when dressing casual, it's understandable to be comfortable, though it would be great if you could AVOID sagging your pants below your waist.

If your pants are loose, wear a belt. If your basketball shorts are too big, tighten the drawstring. Big, saggy clothes on

guys are not attractive anymore.

Fashion Motto of the Week: "AVOID the Don'ts; outbreak the Do's."

Fashion Spotlight: This spotlight goes to sophomore Jasmin Qualls for taking the advice from us on what IS business casual. She was business, yet fashionable and very acceptable.

Also, Langston University has approved a new organization known as The Fashion Club. Keep an eye out!



# Poets showcase talent at opera house

By Kimberly McKnight  
Photographer

Langston transformed into an opera house for a night during the "We Real Cool" event Sept. 17, where poets showcased their artistic talents.

The poetry opera night originated from Dr. Ricco Wright, assistant professor of mathematics. He had noticed that the arts and artistic culture was minimally displayed at Langston University, and he felt the need for students to express this side of themselves.

"In terms of having true talent, people who live and breathe spoken word, I just thought, hey, why not call these people to show their talent and to show Langston students what their all about and to inspire the youth," Wright said.

Wright had a group of poets speak for the Langston audience. A few were guest speakers, and some were Langston's own students.

Claire Collins began poetry because of injustice and being made fun of when she was in middle school.

"Poetry is a great vehicle for sharing our human expe-

riences," said Collins, who was a featured poet at the event. "Poetry brings us out of our isolated selves."

Many of the poets that night had their own flavor they brought to the table to engage the audience.

Another featured poet, Sterling Matthews, had a poem written about NWA, which is a hip-hop group from Compton, California. He knew that piece was going to resonate with the age-group at Langston.

"The ability to transfer your emotion and or thought to a mass group of strangers, I love the power in that," Matthews said.

Matthews said the Opera House was a wonderful thing for Wright to start because it's a great way for students to have a different form of therapy.

The poetry night was intended to make certain that students fall in love with poetry, if they weren't already.

"Anytime intellectuals get together, something great always happens, and then when you put intellectual poets together, it's an up war of monumental art," said KC Crowley II, senior accounting major who attended the

event. "Poetry is my thing – if it's poetry, I have to be there. I've been writing poetry since I was in the seventh grade. I also had to support Dr. Wright."

The guest speaker for the night was Quraysh Ali Lansana who wrote "The Breakfast Poets." He had a love for books and music. Lansana is the youngest of six, so his home was filled with all of his siblings' music. He had a relation with words and music. Growing up, listening to Stevie Wonder was his greatest influence, as a poet.

Lansana wanted to share poems that were geared toward the history of Oklahoma. He recited specific poems for the Langston audience because he knew they have probably been through the same things, growing up black in Oklahoma.

"Folks sleep on this state. This state is very important regarding race and social class," Lansana said.

Lansana likes the idea of being able to say a great deal with few words.

"My poems aren't dense but generally short because I want to privilege the ideas," Lansana said. "The poems are about the ideas, not me."



Photo by Jailyne Jones

Guest poet Claire Collins performs at the LU opera house event, "We Real Cool", on Sept. 17.

The opera night exceeded Wright's expectations and some students' expectations in the audience as well. Wright said he was completely impressed.

"My experience was mind-stimulating and uplifting all in one," said Dazjon Johnson, junior business management major.

Wright is making the "We

Real Cool" opera night an annual event every September.

During the spring, he plans to have a poetry slam in April. Students will have the chance to compete against one another and they will be judged. He wants the students to have something to look forward to in regard to poetry.

## Student finds herself 'X-Posed' at her book review on campus



**Top:** KaJuanita Tate, junior biology major, publicly announces the release of her fiction piece, "X-Posed," at her book review Sept. 29, in the Black Heritage Center. Tate's book is the first and only one she has written, which she edited and published herself. At the review, Tate read an excerpt from Chapter 10 of the book. She credited happenings from her childhood and growing up as inspiration for the book's storyline, and she is now working on part 2. Tate is selling copies of "X-Posed" for \$15; call 405-466-3245.

**Right:** LU student KaJuanita Tate holds a copy of her book, "X-Posed," at the book review Sept. 29.



Photos by Kimberly McKnight



# LU alum gives keynote address at high school reunion banquet

*Special from  
Beverly Riddle*

Professor Charles C. Thomas, former resident of Tulsa and nephew of Tulsa citizens, Floyd and Uretta Threat, was the main speaker for the L'Ouverture School Reunion Banquet in McAlester in September.

Thomas, a native of McAlester, graduated from Tous-saint L'Ouverture High School as valedictorian of his class. While attending L'Ouverture, he represented the school on all levels, earning local, state and national recognition.

He was Oklahoma State Speech Champion at The University of Oklahoma and winner of contests at Oklahoma Eastern A&M and other institutions throughout the state.

In Atlanta, Georgia, he won the NFA National Talent Contest after winning the regional competition at Prairie View A&M. Graduation from L'Ouverture awarded him medals and honors in music, debate, math, agriculture, cheerleading, oratory,

typing, acting and citizenship.

Continuing his education on scholarships he received, Thomas attended Langston University and graduated with honors as Most Outstanding Male Student, Most Likely to Succeed and Best Dancer. There, he served as organist for assemblies, pianist for the university choir, drum major of the marching band, percussionist in the concert band, lead actor for the Dust Bowl Players under "the Great Debater" Dr. Melvin B. Tolson and Basileus of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Again, he represented on local, state and national levels.

In Chicago, Louisiana and Texas, he led convention sessions for Kappa Delta Pi, Alpha Kappa Mu, Kappa Kappa Psi and Omega Psi Phi education and honor societies.

Inspired by his mother, Wilhelmina Thomas, and aunt, Sylvertia Rhone, he traveled to California and completed graduate studies in music and theatre at San Francisco State College. He

represented the college at speech tournaments and music concerts, winning honors.

There, he co-founded the Afro-American Folkloric Troupe, traveling with them to New York where he now resides in its main hub of Manhattan. He debuted at Town Hall, City Center, Cornell University, Broadway and Off-Broadway venues to critical acclaim.

He now serves as a professor at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York. He is former chair of the Department of Performing and Creative Arts, former chair of the African American Institute, cited by congress, senators, New York State, New York Assembly, city council, NAACP, Recording Academy Grammy Initiative, Who's Who in The World, Worlds Who's Who of Musicians, Who's Who in America, International Man of the Year and The Ebony Success Library.

He is proud of his many students who are serving humanity with love, dignity and pride as L'Ouverture and Oklahoma served him.



**Charles C. Thomas**

## Historical society announces new historic places

*Special from  
Oklahoma Historical Society*

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce five new National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma.

The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in our past.

Tulsa adds a new location to their ever-increasing inventory.

The Sally Ann Apartments are located at 1300 S. Jackson Ave. and were built by O. A. Moreland.

The buildings are significant in the area of community planning and develop-

ment for their association with apartment construction in Tulsa in the 1940s. They also are significant for their architectural style representing the Modern Movement.

The James Martin Baggs Log Barn joins a growing list of properties identified in the statewide barn survey of Oklahoma to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Baggs Barn, constructed in 1909, is significant for its architectural style. Located in a rural area of Pushmataha County, the barn is identified as an excellent example of a log Transverse Crib Barn.

The Seminole Muni-

pal Building, built in 1936, was identified as an eligible property for the National Register of Historic Places by a group of students from the Institute for Quality Communities from the University of Oklahoma.

The Seminole Municipal Building, located at 401 N. Main Street, is significant for its association with community planning and development and entertainment and recreation.

The KCS Railway Depot is located at 1 S. Highway 59 in Stilwell. The depot, built in 1915, is significant for its role in Transportation.

The Stilwell KCS Railway Depot provided local residents and businesses with

goods and services that otherwise would have been difficult or impossible to acquire and with a way to market their products.

The Fuksa Portion of the Chisholm Trail Roadbed, located in Garfield County, is a remnant of the historic north-south route between Texas and Kansas across the Indian Territory.

It is significant because it is associated with events that have contributed to the broad patterns of our history.

The Chisholm Trail corridor was heavily used in the second half of the 19th century by Texas ranchers to deliver their cattle to markets and new railroad

shipping facilities in Kansas. Three million head of cattle driven over the Chisholm Trail between 1867 and the mid-1880s spurred the growth of the Midwestern meat-packing and shipping industries, encouraged settlement and ranching development on Great Plains grasslands, and affected the eating habits of the nation.

Listing in the National Register is an honorific designation that provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties.

The SHPO identifies, evaluates and nominates properties for this special designation.



# Changes don't stop Lady Lions

By Austin Terry  
Reporter

Last year's season was one to remember for the Langston University volleyball team.

Not only did the team make it to the conference tournament, but it was the first sixth-seed to beat a third-seed in years. With a mixture of returning players, new players and a new coach, the Lady Lions hope to build off that success and reach higher peaks in the 2015-2016 season.

The Lady Lions went through a lot of changes as a team before this season began. Jacob Rodriguez took the reins as head coach and implanted his own style of play for the Lady Lions. Players are still adjusting to him, but they feel confident in him as a coach.

"I believe over time he will help us become a championship team," said Kori Williams, sophomore education major.

The team now sits at 2-4 in conference play. Though it's not the start the team was hoping for, players are sure that things will turn in the opposite direction.

"It's a lot different this

"I believe over time he will help us become a championship team."

— Kori Williams,  
volleyball player  
and sophomore  
education major

year," said Magdalena Lopez, junior health management major. "We have a lot of new players as well as a new coach; so, of course, it's going to take some time for us to get to know each other on the court."

The Lady Lions recently split their last two games; first losing to the University of St. Thomas on Sept. 25, then bouncing back to defeat Texas College on Sept. 26.

The Lady Lions are confident this year's team will continue to improve and reach the goals they have set for themselves.

They take the court again



Photo by Kimberly McKnight

Only these four ladies returned to the LU volleyball team this season, and the rest of team consists of new players. Pictured are (from left) Ashley Michalski, Kori Williams, Magdalena Lopez and Amber Warren.

on Oct. 2, against York College at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m. against the University of the Southwest. Both of these games are home games.



GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

**THEME**  
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA

**venue**  
University of Oklahoma  
Scholar Room, Oklahoma Memorial Union,  
900 Asp Avenue, Ste. 428 Norman, OK 73019

**time**  
9am-4pm

**date**  
Friday October 16, 2015

Global African Diaspora Development Network  
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Frontier City Invites All Greek Organizations to  
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