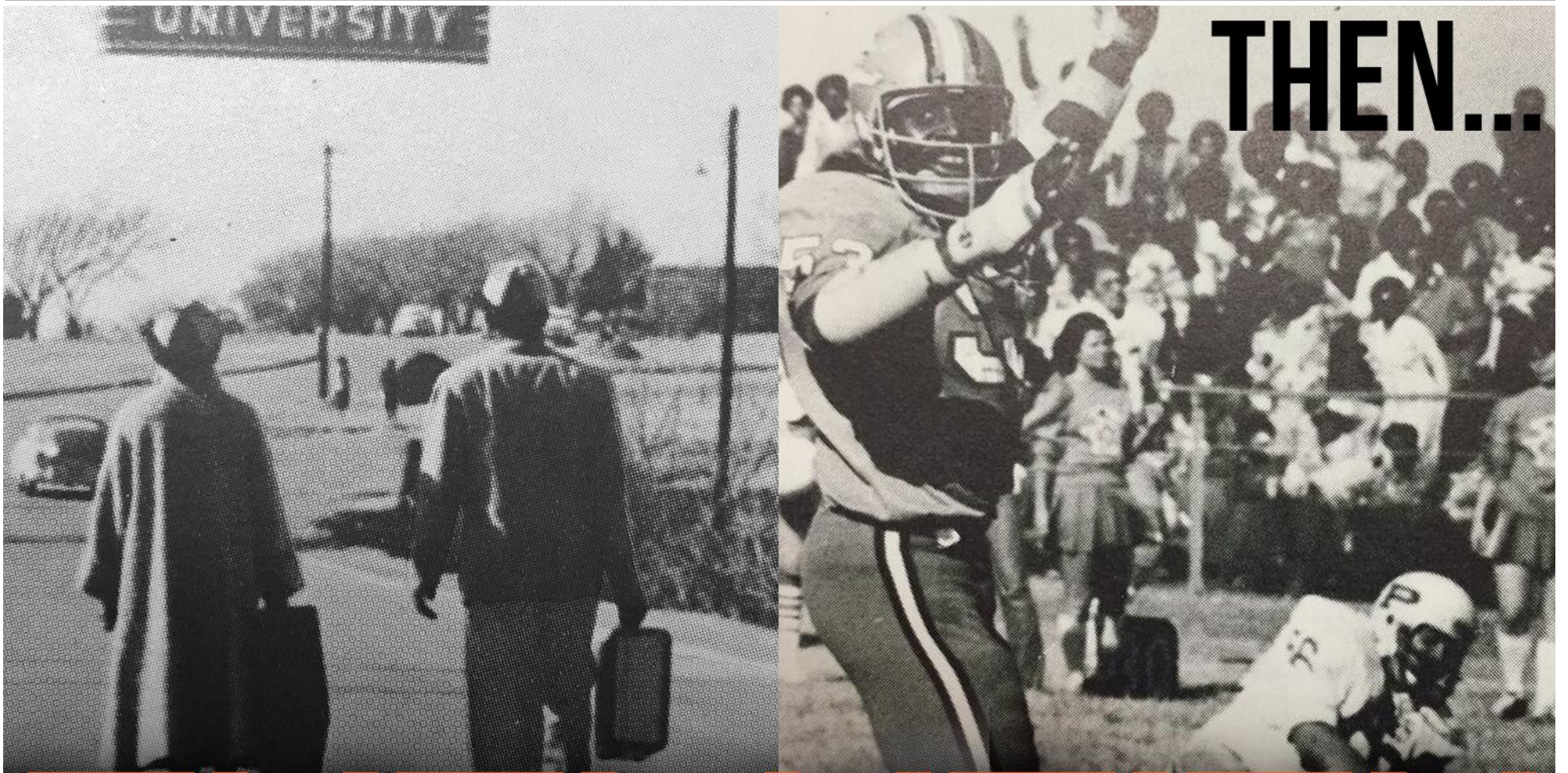


the Gazette

VOL. 78, NO. 3

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015



THEN...

EVOLUTION

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE LANGSTON EXPERIENCE **SEE PAGE 4**



NOW...



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.

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The Place I Call Home

A Poem by Shanteal Robbins

Many emotions arise when we think of the places we called home in our past
But so many people forget that the value of the home is much more than the frame
Or exterior but memories and secrets that are hidden in the walls
That's the place I call home

The artwork or crayon drawings painted over the walls that your mom tried so hard to cover up
Or the markings on the wall from measuring the heights of all the years you were in grade school
The walls hold the precious dreams of people we've always wanted to become
That's the place I call home

The carpet shows the stains of delicious family dinners in the dining room
And footprints of dogs guide you on an adventure, leading you in every direction
While the pattern of the carpet tries to outlast the wear and tear
That's the place I call home

The frigid, icy winters try creeping in under the cracks of the front door
And chains of mountains are covered with delicate snowflakes in the freezing temperatures
Peace surrounds you when the snow stops falling and all you hear is silence
That's the place I call home

Clouds start to disappear and the sun beams on the mountains breaking the winter's curse
The creatures of the forest awaken from a deep slumber and celebrate the arrival of spring
Flowers start to rise and dance in the wind and bugs start to buzz
That's the place I call home

Deer frolic in the meadows and hunting season has just begun
Papa and I jump into the old Chevy truck and race to find the biggest buck
We are proud of that buck knowing it'll keep our bellies full for the winter
That's the place I call home

Home is a beautiful and sacred place that should be beloved by all who encounter it
Home should make you feel the love your grandparents can no longer tell you
And for as long as that house stands, it should be your hallmark
That's the place I call home



Robbins

Shanteal Robbins is a Langston University freshman.

My Homeland Belize

A Poem by Asha Gore

Pearly white sands decked with coconut trees
Indian women breastfeeding their young
Proud Garifunas from the South with their
coffee brown skin

All are a part of my homeland Belize
Beautiful beaches
Majestic mountains

The lushness of the rain forest
Spirituality of the Mayan ruins
Pride of the jaguar
Beauty of the toucan
Maternity of the manatee

A land of diversity rich in culture, languages,
and races

This is the land I call home
My Jewel—Our Belize
Full of natural wonders

The greatest living barrier reef
Blue hole and underground caves
Many religions and mixed races
We should be living side by side
In peace and unity
Not seeing races or color

As Belizeans we should stand
One God, one people, one flag, and one land
"Sub Umbra Florero"
Under the tree we flourish



Gore

Asha Gore is a Langston University freshman.

Do you have
a poem you'd
like to feature
in the *Gazette*?

Do you have
an opinion
you'd like to
express
regarding life,
politics,
entertainment
or other
various topics?

Then this
section of
the Gazette is
for YOU!

Simply submit your
ideas, poems and/or
opinion-editorials to
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LU student selected as HBCU All-Star

By Maya Jackson
Contributing Writer

Mira Bakine, junior biology major, was selected by the White House on Aug. 14, to represent Langston University as a 2015 HBCU All-Star.

Mira was one of 83 undergraduates who was selected for the position, and one out of 450 students who submitted an application.

She is one of only two students in the state of Oklahoma to hold the title, second to junior mathematics major Beautiful-Joy Fields, who was chosen last year as an All-Star initiate.

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities is a program that works to promote "HBCU excellence, innovation and sustainability," according to the U.S. Department of Education website. It is an initiative that recognizes undergraduates, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in scholarship, leadership and civic engagement.

Applicants are required to submit a resume, transcript, two essays and a letter of recommendation from a specified mentor.

"She was chosen because of her extraordinary academ-

ic and leadership skills," said biology professor Dr. Byron Quinn, Bakine's mentor.

Bakine encouraged students to stay on top of their studies and to acquire a mentor that they are 100 percent comfortable with if students are interested in applying for the program.

"They need to make a name for themselves to better show who they truly are," she said, "because stepping into an environment where you're meeting other leaders and influential people, you want people to remember you, not listen to you, and then forget your name afterwards. That deals with how you introduce yourself, how you present yourself and your rep. It will reflect."

As an All-Star, Bakine was given the chance to travel to Washington, D.C. in late September to attend the White House's annual HBCU Week Conference.

There, she discussed her personal goals for the university and one common goal that consisted of funding for HBCUs.

She discovered that funding is not only a Langston issue, but one at every HBCU, where the percentages of alumni who actually give back to the school is also very

low.

"One take-away was being able to meet all the other All Stars and how they are all so determined," Bakine said. "Ones who aren't necessarily the same major as you or have the same views, but they have a vision, and they want to go somewhere. They are determined about it, and they are active about their plans and not just talking about it...they are walking towards their goals, and that was just so inspiring."

Bakine's personal contribution to Langston University will be to "better the image of her HBCU." Through the Office of Public Relations, Bakine wants to publicize and highlight student accomplishments.

She plans to do so with the up-and-coming "Lion Spotlight," which will be featured on the Langston University website, soon.

"Lion Spotlight" will consist of highlighting any student who submits an application to be featured on Langston's website. A picture, short biography and description of the student's goals will be included.

"It kind of gives a face to an opportunity...any experiences that students want to share, connect or to empow-



Courtesy Photo

Langston University President Kent Smith Jr. (left), Mira Bakine and Dr. Byron Quinn proudly display their "Ls" to represent LU at the White House's 2015 HBCU Week Conference.

er our student body," Bakine said.

"Potential employers, you never know, could look at the website and it could lead

to a potential hire," she said. "It's just putting out that image that our students are competent and able to compete in the Real World."

UPCOMING

EVENTS

<p>Yard Fest at LU 2-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 Sanford Lawn</p>	<p>President's Scholarship Gala 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum</p>	<p>2015 Homecoming Parade 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 Langston City and Langston University</p>	<p>2015 Homecoming Football Game 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 W.E. Anderson Stadium</p>
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EVOLUTION

The 2015 Langston University Homecoming theme is "Evolution," which is a reflection on how LU has evolved over the years and morphed into the institution it is today. Honoring the theme, *the Gazette* staff has produced stories focusing on different aspects of Langston University, and how each of those aspects has changed. We hope you all enjoy this special section of *the Gazette*, "Then and Now."

STUDENTS

LU continues to grow in number

By Indy Nelson
Reporter

As one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Langston University tends to be small in by number but big at heart. Time, however, has certainly brought change.

Today, in 2015, Langston

holds about 700 freshmen and an estimated 2,500 upperclassmen. In 1892, Langston had an enrollment of 135 students, total, and 35 professors.

The history of Langston not only relies on the number of students who attend the university, but also the growth of the campus, and Langston's progress is steadily improving.

James Wallace, assistant professor and director of Assessment and Career Services, has been a research specialist for 20 years. He said his first visit to Langston was in fall 1978, when Langston was questioned if it could survive. He said at that time, LU was

experiencing challenges. "I believed Langston could survive and thrive, and it has," Wallace said. Wallace also mentioned how Langston is underestimated in terms of providing quality education to students who cannot attend larger universities or major prestigious schools of higher learning. He believes that anyone who comes out of Langston is just as good and can compete against anyone, nationally and internationally.

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"Students have affected me," Wallace said. "Mostly, they give my life meaning and purpose here at Langston. It's been a great experience for me."

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HOUSING

Alumni reflect on dorm life at Langston

By Jerrod Mitchell
Reporter

Langston University's dorm life has evolved over the years. Centennial Court, Langston Commons and Scholar's Inn are the apartments to which the current generation of students have become accustomed. However, there are other buildings for housing on campus, such as Young Hall. In the past, Young Hall

was used as housing when there was an overflow of students.

"I stayed in Scholar's Inn all four years that I attended Langston," said LU alumnus and Assistant Director for Residential Life Desmond Harvey. "Young Hall was open when I went here, but not many people stayed there. It was pretty similar to how housing is now."

Harvey attended LU from

2002 to 2006. The increase of freshmen this year has caused staff to reopen Young Hall. Though some students dislike Young Hall, the dormitory was one of the highlights in alumna Susan Scott Porter's college career in the late '70s.

"It was amazing. When I arrived at Langston, Young Hall had brand new furniture," Porter said. "Everything was nice; it was the place to be. Young Hall is where I met

my best friend to this day, who was my roommate at the time."

Young Hall is one of the oldest dormitories on campus.

"[Young Hall] is the same, yet it's still different," Porter said. "But it's still Langston. Langston is beautiful—it will always be beautiful."

Another alumna, Misty Wakefield, used to live in Gandy Hall when it was a dorm in the early 2000s.

"I think they should revert back to using dorms," Wakefield said.

"It's a win-win situation," she added. "When I lived in Gandy, we had a dorm mother, and she made sure students were in class. She would encourage us to get out of the building. Back then, it was for McCabe students. It was a good experience. I still keep in contact with all my roommates to this day."

ACTIVITIES

Homecoming activities mix tradition with new generations

By Diondra Ross
Reporter

The theme for this year's Homecoming is "Evolution."

Though events are traditional each year with gospel fest, the bonfire, midnight madness, the fashion show, comedy show and Greek step show, Langston Student Activities Coordinator Paul Pugh has found a way to take it to another level, mixing tra-

dition with modernization.

"(For) SAB, our motto is creating a great experience, so this year we're trying to make it even better," Pugh said. "So, it's the transformation of the experience."

Pugh also said "evolution" is like a change and a shift to get better, and that is exactly where Homecoming is headed.

Pugh chose different, modern artists for today's genera-

tion to perform at the gospel fest, midnight madness and homecoming concert—all artists to whom students in 2015 can relate.

Today's generation also has evolved in the way they dress, and the fashion show is a way to show off the new style trends each year.

Students of past generations and today's students anticipate the days of the comedy show and Greek step show.

"The comedy show and the step show excited me the most," said Tela Wilcox-Pugh, alumna of Langston University. "I love to laugh, so attending the comedy show was a no-brainer."

Wilcox-Pugh is a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and she has attended many step shows.

She said the step shows were more serious, as opposed to the comedy shows.

She said that during the step shows, there have always been feelings of seriousness, intensity and passion that exuded from the participating sororities and fraternities. Everyone wanted to be No. 1, she said.

The events are traditional, but they have adjusted to each generation at Langston University.

see **THEN & NOW**, page 8

Two new faces join Royal Court as Mr. & Miss Orange and Blue

By Takesha Clark
Reporter

Langston University's Royal Court has added new faces to the team.

Kori Long, freshman psychology major, has been crowned as Miss Orange & Blue and Trashad Owens won Mr. Orange and Blue for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. and Miss Orange & Blue is a scholarship pageant for only freshmen. It also gives students the opportunity to join the Royal Court and portray their own style and structure of leadership.

This year, about 32 ladies and 16 men competed for the title. The pageant categories include active wear, casual wear, formal wear and interview.

"Evening gowns are my

favorite because I love to see the students dressed up and watch how they command the stage with their different styles and fashion," said Stephanie Adams, one of the pageant judges for Miss Orange and Blue.

Adams said she also loved Long's active wear because she thought it was innovative and adorable.

For active wear, Long wore a one-piece swimsuit and cap that she used for her high school dance team.

Long said she changed her costume at the last minute to save money, and the costume she chose was more affordable.

With a host of many ladies competing in the pageant, as well as some complications and changes, Long said, it was all worth it. She said

she is happy she was able to make connections and bond with all her new friends.

Mr. and Miss Orange and Blues' next debut will be at LU Homecoming 2015. With ideas and future events coming soon, Long said, she is focused on getting through Homecoming and bonding with her new royal family.

Long's sister, Sydney Long, said she was proud of her younger sister.

"I was so excited for the pageant," Sydney Long, junior English major, said. "... The whole week I was telling all of my friends my sister was going to win. I made a huge poster with a 'K' on it that lit up. I lost my voice from screaming so loud... Overall, the pageant was great, and I loved watching my sister earn the crown she deserves."



Photo by Kimberly McKnight

Kori Long (left) and Trashad Owens, proudly display their royalty after winning the 2015 pageants and being crowned the new Mr. & Miss Orange and Blue.

BRINGING THE T



By Indy Nelson
Reporter

Black Hollywood is breaking down the barrier of the stigmatized picture of black people being behind the scene and on the scene.

There was a time when blacks were either limited in films or eliminated from films completely. You would rarely see a famous actor of color on screen.

In old Hollywood it was difficult for blacks to be on television because we were viewed as unattractive and ignorant people.

Thanks to Leena Horn, Dorothy Dandridge and Oscar Micheaux, the few African Americans who inspired black people to be in control of their own image on television, they proved



Dorothy Dandridge

the stereotypes of blacks were false.

Today, African Americans certainly are proving their success and talent.

Now, you see Kerri Washington starring in "Scandal," Terrance Howard and Taraji P. Henson starring in "Empire," Viola Davis in "How to Get Away with



Leena Horn

Murder" and Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross in "Blackish."

Television has evolved immensely. Blacks are streaming everywhere in Hollywood, including radio, film and TV, and that is why we now call it our own—Black Hollywood.

LU Fashion Police



Everyone isn't able to attend New York's or Paris' Fashion Week, but there was a show.

Witnessing the Second Annual Rock the Ribbon Fashion Show, "Fashion's Fight Against Breast Cancer," there was potential for greatness, but there was a turn in the opposite direction.

The show did draw in a large audience, and, though the show began an hour late, the fashions displayed showed elegance, class, sophistication and chic-ness, with a touch of urban-ness. Some designers geared their pieces to the audience of college students, but other pieces were a bit TOO risqué. Under the impression that the fashion show was amateur, there were participants who had a potential future in modeling.

On another note, the Fashion Police Spotlight goes to James Ford, sophomore broadcast journalism major from Oklahoma City, for being fashion-forward and "baggy" free.

Royal Diamonds dance their way onto campus

By Kimberly Thompson
Contributing Writer

There is a new royalty dancing across campus, The Royal Diamonds.

Devarian Birdwell is the founder and drill master of a new Langston University dance team, the Royal Diamonds. This team is open for not only females but males as well.

"I have seen so many talented individuals on campus that have been uncased; when it is time to audition, coaches and founders only look for a certain image," Birdwell said. "I created the team to open the door for any unique individuals so that we could come together as one. You will never be able to succeed, unless you try."

Birdwell started the team when he realized his dance career was over.

"Dance is life, and I wanted to continue my dance career," he said. "I have danced my

whole life, so I had to keep dancing, and the only way to continue dancing was to create my own (team)."

The Royal Diamonds' motto is "Stay classy, everything else should fall into place."

Captain of the Royal Diamonds Dai'juanna Strotter, freshman, was first asked to be on the Dancing Dolls dance team.

"I wanted to join the Dancing Dolls, but then I did not want to join after I saw one of their performances," Strotter said. "They did not look so hot to me, so I tried a new team."

Strotter said she liked the fact that the Royal Diamonds was a different type of dance team and that it is coed.

"The Royal Diamonds are a new team and will make a bigger impact on campus, and I wanted to be a part of it," Strotter said.

The Royal Diamonds posted fliers across campus, searching for the next Royal Diamond

team member.

The Royal Diamonds is currently looking for more members. They currently have eight dancers and two managers, but the team wants a total of 15 members.

Tryouts for the Royal Diamonds are Nov. 26-30. The team members are looking for experienced dancers who have a positive attitude. There is a \$10 registration fee, and practices are held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Strotter said she became captain of the Royal Diamonds because she wanted to be able to mold the team. She also wanted to prove to all the rest of the dance teams that the Royal Diamonds is capable of dancing and performing as well as any other team on campus.

"I would encourage anyone to join our team because each team is different, and we are an eclectic mix of all the dance teams on campus," Strotter said.

#LUBuckShot CHALLENGE

Instructions:

Take a photo of either your style or your culture or what you perceive to be BUCK

Rules:

Must be a Langston University student/employee/alumni and must post to social media (FB, IG, Twitter)

Must Include:

- The physical presence of the memoir *Buck*
- Hashtag #LUBuckShot
- Tag @MK Asante and @Ricco Wright (FB)
- Tag @mkasante and @moderndayplato (IG)
- Tag @mkasante and @jabriajanae (Twitter)

Winner:

MK Asante will choose the most creative post and the winner will receive a lunch date with him in OKC

Sponsored by The Royal Mien Collective and Invented by Jabria Janae

Campus Question



Michael Watts —
Broadcast Journalism Major

"My favorite part is the comedy show because it's relaxing and you can laugh the night away."



Kiyah Washington —
Health Administration Major

"My favorite part of Homecoming is definitely seeing the alumni come. I love hearing about the history of Langston."



Christian Carr —
Psychology Major

"The concert. I love when artists come to Dear Langston and give us a good show."



Mariah Sneed —
HPER/Physical Therapy Major

"My favorite part of Homecoming, so far, was the fashion show, seeing all the different outfits and models."

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness campaign needs student ambassadors to raise awareness

Special from IMAGES USA

Just as students are returning to campus embarking on new classes, student activities and volunteerism, the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) campaign is giving students an active role in raising awareness of the message "Get Educated, Get Tested, Get Involved and Get Treatment."

The Student Ambassador Program will be accepting applications from students who are interested and committed to addressing challenges surrounding HIV/AIDS on their college campuses.

This work is more important than ever as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that African Americans and Blacks account for 47 percent of the nation's new HIV infections. Moreover, among the African-American and Black communities, people aged 15-24 years old comprised 27

percent of new HIV diagnosis in 2013, an estimated 5,868 diagnoses.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities continue to play a significant role in social change around the country surrounding this epidemic.

"As a proud product of an HBCU, I know how HBCUs play a vital role in our response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic by educating students and preparing the next generation in efforts towards promoting prevention, testing, treatment and care," said Amber Mazyck, a recent graduate of Bethune Cookman College and student ambassador.

"These efforts are particularly important for HBCUs to mobilize and engage because young African Americans are significantly affected by the impact of HIV and AIDS, but we can be the greatest game changers," Mazyck said. "We must invest in our students and our communities to make the necessary steps to create



an AIDS-free generation."

NBHAAD's HBCU Initiative provides student communities access to outreach materials and resources for HIV/AIDS education, testing and treatment. Student ambassadors will be empowered to create safe spaces at events, so students have the freedom to discuss topics related to HIV/AIDS in Black communities in a supportive environment.

Student Ambassadors' creativity and innovative spirit will help in planning events and hosting activities for the annual Feb. 7, commemoration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Student Ambassadors may also provide information on local testing sites and linkage to care opportunities for those living with HIV/AIDS and/or newly diagnosed.

Student Ambassadors participating in the program will have ongoing professional development and public health resources from local, regional and national public health entities, particularly in HIV/AIDS and STI prevention and support.

Participating in HIV/AIDS awareness efforts positions ambassadors to have a direct impact in encouraging others to make wiser and safer decisions. Information is presented more relevantly and relatable when disseminated on the peer-to-peer level, as Howard University Professor Goulda Downer, Director of the HIV/AIDS Consortium, suggests.

Student ambassadors are empowered to coordinate activities in collaboration with other organizations, faculty and health centers. Some sug-

gested activities to increase awareness are health fairs, town hall meetings, candle light vigils, fashion shows and social media engagement.

Social media greatly influenced past HIV/AIDS awareness efforts, serving as a major component at HBCU campus events.

Fort Valley State University held a two-day event in observance of NBHAAD that provided free HIV testing and information about HIV/AIDS wherein social media played a central role.

A fashion show, seminar and HIV informational event were promoted and shared using the hashtags #NBHAAD and #FVSU.

Spelman College's National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) section used their Twitter and Instagram accounts to promote their NBHAAD event and message.

Many inspirational events held throughout the country on Black college campuses sparked conversation, raised awareness and integrated social media in innovative ways.

Joell Royal, Project Coordinator for Howard University's SHOP Project, discussed how social media has played a role on HU's campus.

"We have learned how to engage students to spread the word [about HIV]," Royal said. "You must have something of substance before students will follow you or retweet. It's about finding the balance between educational and personal messages. We encourage students to speak about HIV as they would any other topic via general

conversation. Social media is a way student's get information in real time.

"We teach them to promote health as a topic they love on a daily basis as a normal conversation," Royal continued. "Students are on social media all day speaking and generating conversation, which is key to building rapport."

Social media's ubiquity and extensive peer networks give students unique abilities to not only disseminate information, but combat misinformation to potentially save the lives of their peers.

The goal is for the Student Ambassador initiative to be an even greater success in the 2015-2016 academic year by engaging more college campuses and recruiting additional students to get involved.

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Strategic Leadership Council plans to make an even greater presence as it comes off the heels of its 15th year anniversary.

By receiving the latest information and resources on HIV/AIDS in the African-American and Black communities, those with undiagnosed HIV infections and those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS will have the tools to live longer, healthier lives with consistent, accessible linkage to care and treatment services.

Considering HBCUs have produced some of the country's most prominent African-American leaders—such as Oprah Winfrey (Tennessee State), W.E.B. Du Bois (Fisk University), Martin Luther King Jr. (Morehouse) and Alice Walker (Spelman), it is anticipated that students currently matriculating on HBCU campuses are poised to lead the charge for fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day initiative encourages students to apply for the student ambassador program before the closing deadline, Jan. 9, 2016.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.nationalblackaidsday.org>.

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BUILDINGS

Union transforms into SSC

By Kimberly McKnight
Photographer

Let's take it back in time. About 10 years ago, there was no such thing as the Student Success Center at Langston University—it was known as the union.

When you walk into the Student Success Center, you walk directly into the college atmosphere. Students are scattered throughout the building, talking in groups, mingling with friends, studying in a corner or hanging out in the Game Room.

If someone were to walk in the doors of the union and walk down the alley during the year 2000, everything to the left of what is now called the SSC was nonexistent.

"There was no Seminar Room; there was no Great Room, no Financial Aid, no Student Affairs—that entire section is brand new," said Desmond Harvey, assistant director for Residential Life.

What is now called the Game Room across from the convenience store used to be the overflow area for the cafeteria.

"To see that now evolve into a game room is pretty cool; the space is still being utilized effectively," Harvey said.

Before the convenience store, a Burger King was in its place, and now, where World of Wings, or WOW, is located, there was a Louisiana soul food spot.

"We still had Langston bucks during that time, but it wasn't tied to your ID card, so you had your ID card, then your Langston bucks on a separate card," Harvey said.

The cafeteria, which is straight down the alley, west of the convenience store, used to be much smaller. It has been expanded to the south, which has added more space.

Outside of the convenience store and the book store, there are orange pillars that students sit on, but several generations from the past called it "The Wall."

"Alumni fuss about 'The Wall' getting torn down because that was the hangout spot," Harvey said. "It was a brick wall where people used to, literally, sit on the wall and hang out..."

The new SSC has added more meeting spaces for the students, which were not there before.

"It has provided a centralized area for Financial Aid, Student Affairs and Admissions," Harvey said.

Student Affairs was once in Page Hall; then, it moved to Gandy Hall, along with Admissions and Financial Aid. However, the SSC allowed for these offices to be more visually appealing.

"It's a better spot, better to access and visualize,"

Harvey said, "especially for perspective students who are visiting the campus since the campus and

facilities look better now."

There is still room for improvement, however. Though the Great Room is

a huge space for students, it is still limited during business hours, Harvey said.

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Donations will be accepted to support the LU Development Foundation.

Photos by Revelations Studios

Friends... Please Support the 10th Annual President's Scholarship Gala Afterwards come Celebrate with the LU as we commemorate 35 years of Membership and Service to Our Beloved Fraternity.

All Donations received will go to support LU Students through the Langston University Development Foundation's General Scholarship Fund.

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