Dr. Henry Ponder talks about time as president

By Jasmine Redo
Contributing Writer

Dr. Henry Ponder will reach the end of his presidential term at Langston University in July when Dr. Kent Smith Jr. formally fills the position.

Jamine Redo, junior broadcast journalism major, had the opportunity to sit down with Ponder to reflect on his time spent at LU as the interim president.

The following is an excerpt from that interview.

Redo: What are your feelings as your presidency comes to an end?

Ponder: Well over the next five months, I look forward to keeping things going the way we have them and having communications with our new president, President Smith, and finding out the kinds of things he would like for us to be doing to get ready for his arrival so that when he comes, everything is ready for him to hit the ground running.

Redo: What are your views on our newly elected president, Dr. Kent Smith?

Ponder: I think that we have a young man that is talented, who has some experience. He has done an awful lot of work with students so the students ought to find him very enjoyable and pleasant to work with.

I think he is young enough to know what the university ought to be doing and so he is not too old and not too young; he Dr. Henry Ponder

KALU launches DOT Campaign to represent LU student voices

By Darrell Strong
Staff Writer

Langston University’s radio station, KALU 89.3 (emphasis on the dot), is taking initiative to rejuvenate the campus sound and launching a DOT Campaign March 1.

The campaign will run through March and end in early April.

It includes students from various backgrounds, working together to make KALU the voice of the campus.

“KALU 89.3 is the voice of diversity for Langston University,” said Courtney Johnson, a junior broadcast journalism major.

Da’Rius Oden, a junior broadcast journalism major, said the DOT campaign was started because it was done in the past and was very successful, and because there are many students at LU who don’t know the campus has a radio station.

Oden and Johnson are two of the many radio personalities KALU 89.3 has to offer. Johnson’s on-air personality is “Lady Jay” and she will provide all of today’s top-hit songs. Oden’s show is “Love Diaries” and provides love advice and local news as well as trending topics from Twitter.

But for shows such as Johnson’s and Oden’s to be successful, they need students to actively listen and participate.

“The DOT campaign needs student support,” Johnson said.

She said that if she and other disc jockeys don’t promote the radio, then LU students won’t listen.

see Q&A, page 3

see DOT, page 3
Hello, Langston University! What is your favorite Whitney Houston song?

-Kenya Clayton, freshman broadcast journalism major

“I Wanna Dance with Somebody.”

-Dasha Jordan, sophomore psychology major

“I Will Always Love You.”

-Ayrisha Coit, sophomore biology major

“Heartbreak Hotel.”

-Duné Barksdale, sophomore nursing major

“My Love is Your Love.”

Silvia Walker is a graduate entrepreneurial studies student.

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A big thank you to Ms. Andrea Perry for her appreciation of those who came before us, and for her courage to talk publicly about values and beauty of people of African descent.

Many of our leaders have been called ugly names for merely mentioning truth and facts about our beauty, our contributions, our journey.

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WEB & MVP support student parents

By Kayla Jones
Staff Writer

Thanks to programs such as WEB, Women Emerging Beautifully, and MVP, Men Valuing Parenting, student parents have a campus home.

Ikeya Barker, a member of WEB & MVP, said these organizations are here to be a support system for parents on campus.

“We’re basically trying to keep the retention rate up with parents in college and give them a helping hand when needed,” she said.

WEB & MVP were created to give extra help to students with children. These organizations focus on both parents and children.

“We’re here to give the parents a shoulder to lean on,” Barker said.

Morgan Livingston, a sophomore criminal justice major, is also a parent on campus.

“It’s hard going to class and taking care of a baby, so the more help I can get, the better,” Livingston said.

For the past month WEB & MVP have been planning activities geared toward the children and parents. One activity the organization has planned is a fashion show called “Little Me.” The children will dress up as different Greek organizations.

The fashion show is scheduled March 15 in the Student Success Center Great Room. The show will feature four categories: business, casual, sportswear and Mardi Gras. During casual wear, the children will do a mini skit.

Barker said this is one of the many activities they have planned for this semester, and there’s a lot more to come.

“We come together as an organization and throw out different ideas,” Barker said.

Another project they are working on is getting their baby-sitting program in Cimarron Apartments back up and running for those parents who cannot afford daycare.

“We’re in the process of finishing up the room,” Barker said. “Sigma Gamma Rho Inc. helped clean up the place and SIFE is helping re-decorate.”

The baby-sitting program will need volunteers to help take care of the children.

WEB & MVP meet every Thursday in Cimarron Apartment K-9 at 6 p.m.

All parents are welcomed.

Q&A

is just right, and I think it was a good choice that the board made.

Redo: What impresses you the most about Dr. Smith?

Ponder: The thing that impressed me the most about him is that he is a (Tweeter). He communicates with students the way they communicate with each other, so that ought to make it very nice for us.

In this age, when you are trying to recruit students, you have to (Tweet) them because this is the way they are making their decisions.

Dr. Smith is a young man who has done that repeatedly and I think that he is going to get right in and get things going.

He and his family just seem to be a good match for Langston University.

Redo: Are you planning to implement any ideas for your remaining presidency?

Ponder: I do not know any other way to be president but to be president. I will attempt to do things that I feel should be done with the input of faculty and students, get consensuses and do them, and if we decide that should be done, then it will be done.

I am going to try and have this institution ready for (Dr. Smith) when he arrives. Then I will easily go back to my old job.

Redo: How can the students help the new president when he arrives?

Ponder: The best thing students can do is go and see President Smith when he gets here. Students do not always get what they come for but they have the right to come in and ask for it.

Whether you get it or not, is not the important part. The important thing is that you feel comfortable coming in to ask for it.

Redo: Why weren’t you a candidate to hold your position as president?

Ponder: Faculty and students said, “We want you for our president,” and I told them repeatedly I would not be a candidate for this job; that is not why I came here. But they kept insisting so I said, “Well, if I do not become a candidate, I would be letting a lot of people down,” so I became a candidate.

But let me be very clear – yes, I would have loved to be president of Langston University; I am not denying that it is a great honor.

I became a candidate and did the best that I could. I did the interview and went through the process and the search committee, in its wisdom, did not think I would be the best president for Langston University. I honor that because I respect the integrity of that group.

When they said that I was not a final candidate, I just accepted that and said that is what it is. I took my best shot and did not make it.

Redo: If you had one thing to say to Dr. Smith, what would it be?

Ponder: It would be to listen to what the students have to say and find a way that the students can talk to you instead of talking to your administration.

DOT

Oden said the campaign will introduce students to KALU 89.3 and everything it has to offer, and when the DOT campaign is over, students should have full knowledge of KALU 89.3.

“The DOT campaign is a diamond in the rough and is waiting on its launch, but needs the student-body support,” Johnson said.

Ponder: The best thing students can do is go and see President Smith when he gets here. Students do not always get what they come for but they have the right to come in and ask for it.

Whether you get it or not, is not the important part. The important thing is that you feel comfortable coming in to ask for it.
New bookstore challenges LU campus prices

By Zach Holmes
Staff Writer

The citizens of Langston have much to be excited about this year, from new street lights and road improvements, to the city’s recent bookstore opening.

In December, Textbook Brokers opened a new bookstore in the Langston Plaza.

According to the company’s official website, the store is one of five in Oklahoma in the company’s growing chain across the country.

Store Manager Zach Smith has worked for Textbook Brokers for four years, making the Langston opening his first one.

“The official grand opening was in December but business didn’t start to pick up until January, because it was the beginning of a new semester. We hope for more of a customer increase in August as the next semester rolls on,” Smith said.

The store, which specializes in used books, challenges the LU Bookstore with more affordable prices. In a day and age where everyone is shopping online, the store matches most Internet prices.

“We are able to sell books for better prices because of our huge network of companies within the company,” Smith said.

Although most LU students currently purchase their books from the LU Bookstore, Smith encourages students to visit the Textbook Brokers for a good deal.

“We’re not here to hurt the campus bookstore, we just want to get you in and get you out really fast, with the right book for a cheap price,” Smith said.

Two of the most common books for a Langston student would be biology and college algebra. The school’s bookstore sells a biology book for $192.80 and a college algebra book for $121.75.

Textbook Brokers sells this biology book for $98.95 and the same college algebra book for $82.95.

While Textbook Brokers doesn’t rent out books yet, Smith said everything will be in full swing by the next semester.

“After the summer it will be set up in the system to rent books. It won’t be all of the books but the books that will be of better value will be available for rent,” Smith said.

“Pre-Enrollment for Fall 2012 April 2, 2012 thru May 4, 2012
Pre-Enrollment for ALL students
DON’T DELAY...SECURE HOUSING
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March 12, 2012 thru May 4, 2012
Pre-Enrollment for ALL students
De-Enrollment date for non-payment of Spring 2012 balance: May 11, 2012

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY
PRE-ENROLLMENT DATES
NEW BOOKSTORE CHALLENGES LU CAMPUS PRICES
By Zach Holmes
Staff Writer

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“We are able to sell books for better prices because of our huge network of companies within the company.”
— Zach Smith, Textbook Brokers manager

Textbook Brokers, a new bookstore in the Langston Retail Plaza, displays a sign in front of the store to attract student customers. Textbook Brokers opened in December.

Photo by Rashawn Mance

The Gazette | March 1, 2012
Kavaris Sims proudly walks across the stage after winning the Mr. Langston 2012-2013 pageant. Sims, a senior computer science major from Austin, competed against four other men for the title Feb. 16 in the I.W. Young Auditorium. Sims is the 29th Mr. Langston.

By Andrea Perry
Staff Writer

Kavaris Sims shined Feb. 16 at the Mr. Langston University pageant in the I.W. Young Auditorium. Though he competed against four other collegiate men, he stood out among the rest throughout the competition.

Sims, a senior computer science major from Austin, began his reign as Mr. Langston 2012 the night of the pageant.

He has since accomplished much from receiving opportunities from mentorship programs and hosting the Lady Lioness basketball games.

“Kavaris is already an excellent Mr. Langston,” Deshnick Lewis, university events coordinator and mentor to Mr. Langston said, “Kavaris is already an excellent Mr. Langston. He’s been Mr. Langston for a week and a half now and he’s done so much. He did a school assembly yesterday, and he was outstanding. He’s an excellent representative and example of what a Langston University male should embody.”

Sims said he had planned to run for SGA President this year, but his mentor, Marc Flemon, intervened and encouraged him to try out for Mr. Langston, because it would be a great opportunity to get his message across.

Sims’ platform is called “The Power of a Mentor.” Because he was mentored as a young man, he plans to give back to others much like himself.

“I’m just grateful that somebody believed in me and told me I can do it,” Sims said. “I just had to start believing in myself.”

Others were inspired by Sims the night of the pageant, including the other competitors.

Quentin Dixon, Mr. Langston 2012 contestant and junior business management major, said, “His passion transcended beyond just the title. Once the judges saw his passion, I think they knew that he was the right man for the job.”

Sims said he plans to be a servant to the university just as Mr. Langston 2011, Donavity Robinson, was.

Sims said, “To anybody that’s sitting in their dorm room and they read the article, just follow your dreams. You have this chance. Get out of the room, and go do something with yourself. Langston gives you that passport to the world, and you ought to use it.”

Takeisha Sims wins Miss Black Langston title

By Andrea Perry
Staff Writer

Miss Black Langston 2012 was crowned Feb. 25 in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

Five ladies vied for the title, but only one, Takeisha Sims, a sophomore organizational business management major from Los Angeles, was chosen to wear the crown.

Sims said she was able to win the competition with God’s help.

“What set me apart is my anointing from God. I don’t mean to sound prideful and confident, but I know it was him. He got that crown. It had nothing to do with me, because all I prayed for was for his light to shine, not me.”

Sims reminisced on her first year at LU.

Sims said, “When I first got here as a freshman and I saw the royalty, coming from high school, a young girl, and just seeing how they looked like women, I desired to look pretty everyday like Miss Langston and Miss Black Langston.”

Sims also decided to participate in the Miss Black Langston pageant, because she was impressed by the rich tradition and history it held.

Mentor to Miss Black Langston and university events coordinator, Deshnick Lewis, coordinated the event to represent the past, present and future queens. Lewis was joyful to find that Sims won.

Lewis said, “I know Takeisha worked hard to achieve this goal. She’s already a Langston University ambassador. It was inside of her the whole time, and I know that she will do well this year, because she’s prepared for this already.”

Miss Black Langston 2011, Autumn Susberry, also shared the same sentiment.

Susberry said, “I feel as though she [Sims] will do amazing as the new Miss Black Langston University, and I’m very proud of her already.”

Sims remembers being a little girl playing in her mother’s pageant crowns.

Sims said, “Now I have one of my own, and it was nothing but the grace of God.”
Little Lions Cheer Squad has Valentine’s Ball in LU Atrium

By Andrea Perry
Staff Writer

The Langston Little Lions Cheer Squad had a Valentine’s Ball on Feb. 12 in the Atrium.

The ball was a semi-formal event and lasted from 6 to 9 p.m. The ball served as a fundraiser for the cheer team and also as an event to introduce the girls to something new.

Children who attended the event were from Coyle Public Schools.

Cheer Squad Director La-Naye Daniels, who grew up attending debutante balls, said, “It gave the kids the opportunity to be exposed to something different and also gave us a chance to give back to the community. They’ve never had an event like this outside of Langston.”

The dance included refreshments, a photo booth, candy gram sales and live music played by Nathaniel Jones.

Kenisha Session, the corresponding secretary, said, “The kids enjoyed the whole meaning of the ball, and the parents were very appreciative.”

It was a special event for Perrier Flannigan, a 6th-grader and cheerleader for the Langston Little Lions Cheer Squad.

Flannigan said, “It was great. That was my first time going to a dance. We spent a lot of time finding my dress.”

Some parents served as chaperones to the event and said they also enjoyed themselves.

The Langston Little Lions Cheer Squad became a campus organization at LU in January. The team started with 13 girls last year and has now reached 20 girls between the ages of 7-13.

The Little Lions cheer squad cheer beside Langston University cheerleaders at the Lions’ and Lionesses’ basketball games and also during football season.

The cheer squad also has children who sometimes act as lion mascots.

Daniels said the cheer squad is flexible with the ages of girls who can join the team as long as they are serious and have a desire to cheer. Registration for the team ends May 1.

“We just want to get our organization out there and let people know we are on campus,” Daniels said.
LU Band visits black towns in Oklahoma

By Jennifer Williams-Bradshaw

Staff Writer

Originally, there were 50 black communities in Oklahoma; now, there are 15 remaining.

Deep rooted in history, Oklahoma is home to historically black towns such as Rentiesville, Muskogee, Taft, Boley, Tatum and Clearview. These historically black towns helped create what is now Langston.

The Langston University Department of Music, in conjunction with The Oklahoma Historical Society, came up with a way to acknowledge these towns by doing an “Exploring Our Roots Black Towns Tour.”

The tour, which was Feb. 17-19, taught the participants about the black towns in Oklahoma.

The LU music department toured six of the 15 historically black towns. The Langston University Marching Pride Band took a walking tour in Taft and Tatum. The LUMP performed musical selections in Muskogee and Ardmore.

Rentiesville, population 132, was the first stop of the tour. Mayor Mildred Burkhalter spoke to the LUMP about the history of Rentiesville.

“Rentiesville was named after William Rentie because he had no children and wanted his name to live on,” Burkhalter said.

Rentiesville used to have hotels and restaurants, and now it doesn’t have a post office. Burkhalter is fighting the federal government and the state to keep Rentiesville on the map.

Taft, another historically black town, has the first and longest-running black female mayor in Oklahoma, Lela Coley Davis.

Davis, age 70, explained her experiences in trying to change Taft.

“They closed the schools here, but they have three state-funded prisons. Instead of trying to keep the school system open, the state has opened prisons here,” Davis said.

Founded in 1903 by T.M. Haynes on land owned by Abigail Barnett, called a Creek “Freedman,” the town of Boley is full of history. Boley has an annual rodeo and is home to Smokaroma, a business that makes smokers for Chili’s restaurant chain and is used by BoBo’s Chicken restaurant chain.

The LU music department also visited the town of Clearview, which also was founded in 1903. Mayor Marilyn Jackson spoke briefly to the students.

The population of Clearview, in 1904, was 250. In 1964, Clearview lost its school.

Bruce Fisher from the Oklahoma Historical Society, gave a video presentation of a film created by Curry Ballard, a black filmmaker, which depicted life in the small black towns in Oklahoma.

Larry Birden, band director, presented each historically black town with a plaque in appreciation and acknowledgement of helping create what is now Langston. These towns helped establish the City of Langston as well as the university.

“With not much revenue, these small towns are disappearing,” Birden said.

Study abroad students prepare to travel to China

By Jennifer Williams-Bradshaw

Staff Writer

Students in the Langston University Study Abroad Program will travel to China on May 21-31.

Students will travel to and learn about Beijing, Xi’an and Shanghai, visit the Forbidden City, explore The Great Wall and view the Terra Cotta Soldiers, as they explore the customs and cultures of China.

Dr. Mose Hooks, LU Center for International Development director, has been to China 10 times for the federal government, educational institutions and civic and community entities.

“My experiences were totally diverse,” Hooks said. “I traveled to China first to review early childhood education before normalization and with a delegation that included the founders of Head Start from the University of Syracuse.

“Other trips were for the federal government for people-to-people relations, leading educators and community leaders to explore characteristics of China.

“The last trip was to lead a group of University professors from the United States to present research regarding education at universities in China by the People to People organization founded by President (Dwight) Eisenhower.”

Hooks said education has always been a serious agenda in China during and before her experiences of travel in the country.

Students who plan to make the trip must pay a nonrefundable enrollment fee of $95, plus $145, for insurance. The total cost for the trip is about $3,900.

Program fees include round-trip and internal flights, bus transfers, 10 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, breakfast daily, eight dinners, one lunch, a full-time tour director, education visits, select guides and entrances to special attractions as per itinerary.

Students are required to buy passports and visas; shots are not required.

“There are no shots required to enter the country, but it’s best to check with your own personal doctor and the state department. People’s health conditions vary,” Hooks said.

The study abroad trip to China will be a short trip, lasting only 14 days. The flight to China is between 14 and 16 hours long.

For more information, contact Hooks in her office, located in Moore Hall, Room 119.
Basketball seniors play last home game

By Jabril Bailey
Staff Writer

The seniors on this year’s Langston Lioness basketball team played their last home game on Feb. 23, proving once again that all good things come to an end.

The Lionesses hosted Jarvis Christian College from Hawkins, Texas. “There is definitely an emotional attachment. I love these girls and I love my team,” Coach Jerome Willis said.

The Lionesses went into the game with one thing in mind — to win. With a win, the Lionesses clinched their fourth consecutive Red River Athletic Conference title and an automatic berth into the national tournament. “It’s a bittersweet feeling; we win conference and a bid to the national tournament, but it’s my last home game with my team,” said senior guard Shontice Simmons.

Simmons, from Fort Washington, Md., averaged 14 points a game this year. “The girls will be ready to play, a lot of emotion will be involved, but they will be ready,” Willis said.

The Lionesses defeated Jarvis Christian 85-64 with Kimberly Jones leading scoring with 16 points.

The Lionesses will play Southwest Assembly of God on Friday, March 2, at 4 p.m. in Waxahachie, Texas in the first round of the Red River Conference post-season tournament.

It’s a bittersweet feeling; we win conference and a bid into the national tournament, but it’s my last home game with my team.”

— Shontice Simmons, senior guard

Senior LU basketball players stand proudly after playing their final home game. The Lionesses pulled their final home victory of the season against Jarvis Christian College, which also made them the Red River Athletic Conference champions for the fourth consecutive year. These seniors were honored after the game Feb. 23 and presented with individual posters of them in action during their senior year as an LU basketball player.

2011-2012 Lioness Seniors:
1. 5’8” G Shontice Simmons from Fort Washington, Md.
2. 5’6” G Deanne Adger from Dallas
3. 5’11” G Shantoya Fisher from Oklahoma City
4. 5’6” G Jamiee Harry from Euless, Texas
5. 5’10” G Ayanna Jackson from Hugo, Okla.
6. 6’2” C Kimberly Jones from Baxley, Ga.
7. 5’4” G Amanda Morales from Hartford, Conn.
8. 5’8” G Joy Stevenson from Chicago

LU Soccer Club
Spring 2012 Schedule
Oklahoma College Club Soccer League
Division II

Please be sure that you have completed a 2012-2013 FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) by visiting [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Students and parents should file their income tax returns early, because FAFSA income information for tax filers will need to be pulled directly from the IRS website. March 15, 2012 is the priority processing date for Federal Aid applicants.

Information that you will need to complete the application include:

- [Langston School Code: 003157](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- [Parent Taxes from 2011](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Should you need further assistance in completing this application, please contact Office of Financial Aid - (405)466-3282.

LU Soccer Club
Spring 2012 Schedule
Oklahoma College Club Soccer League
Division II

Date Time Opponent Location
March 4 2 p.m. SWOSU Weatherford
March 10 3 p.m. ECU Ada
March 24 1 p.m. OCCC Oklahoma City
April 1 2 p.m. SWOSU Weatherford
April 7 3 p.m. ECU Ada

* For more information about the LU Soccer Club, or if you are interested in joining the team, contact Dr. Michael Hamilton at 466-3471.