Smith gives keynote speech at Convocation

LU President Dr. Kent Smith Jr. delivers the keynote address at the 2012 Convocation on Sept. 20. Smith encouraged positive change at Langston University and suggested faculty, staff and students start this change by joining the "Legacy Keepers Campaign."

The campaign allows LU community members to each give $116 by March 12, 2013, which will mark the 116th anniversary of LU’s founding. For more information, go to www.langston.edu and click on the "Legacy Keepers" icon.

Department of Technology receives $250,000 grant

The Langston University Department of Technology was recently approved for the Major Research Instrumental Program, which is a $250,000 grant.

Dr. Franklin Fondjo Fotou, assistant professor and chairman of the technology department, and Joel Snow, associate professor of mathematics, are the masterminds behind this program. “The program is allowing us to build a super-computer,” Fondjo said. “This will enable research for not only the department but the entire faculty.”

The MRI program serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in the nation’s institutions of higher education, museums, science centers and nonprofit organizations, according to nsf.gov.

This program will seek to improve the quality and expand the scope of research by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education.

"Everything today is computerized and all research, whether in biology or chemistry, is all done on computers," Fondjo said. “By having this super-computer, this will allow research to be done faster and more accurately.

“A supercomputer is like a shelf and on this shelf are computers. There are 30 computers total and each computer has 16 chips. Just one chip alone works four to six times faster than one desktop computer; you do the math,” Fondjo said.
Student encourages voting

By Kayla Jones
Editor

With all of the political talk about Democrats this and Republicans that, it can be confusing and overwhelming to fully grasp what it all means.

We might know the basic things, but what about the more intricate things such as Medicare, social security and financial aid?

A person who’s 21 may be wondering what social security has to do with him or her, and why he or she has to pay it?

The same goes for financial aid. Someone who hasn’t been in college or doesn’t have plans of attending college, doesn’t understand the how important financial aid is to a college student.

For America to function, we have to not only educate ourselves about the problems in our communities, but in the world as well.

It’s important to have a knowledge base about what is going on around you.

This up-coming election is so vital to how this country will survive, it’s scary. I am encouraging people to become educated about the election and what each candidate has to say.

Look up Barack Obama’s platform and see if what he’s saying really matches what his platform is based upon. Do the same for Mitt Romney. Know what he stands for; please don’t follow behind others, and make your own decision.

Voting is one of many ways to progress toward change, so when we don’t vote, nothing ever changes.

Things will never get better if we do not use our power. Voting is a privilege in our country; a lot of other countries do not get the same rights that we are afforded. So, we need to take a stand and be heard.

In 2008, the first African American was elected to office because people did go out and vote, and invested and believed in the candidate and his platform.

This year, we need to have the same passion that we had in 2008. I’m not telling anybody who to vote for, but I am saying, “Go get registered and vote.”

You can’t sit around complaining about everything if you’re not willing to do something about it.

Ask yourself, “Am I part of the solution, or am I part of the problem?” It’s the little things that make the big things worthwhile.

Filling out a registration form will not take you longer than three minutes. Going to the polls on election day will, maybe, take you 10 minutes. Your vote is priceless.

Whatever it is you believe in, believe enough to vote and be heard. To all those nay sayers who think voting is pointless and a single vote can’t change a thing, I say, you’re wrong!

Voting is our God-given right. It’s our voice as people, so take advantage.

Jones is a senior broadcast journalism major.

Question of the Week

As a student at LU, what is your favorite Homecoming memory?

“I really like the atmosphere, camaraderie and overall feel of the week.”
Devin Wilson, junior English major

“This Homecoming is the same feeling every year. People come together, celebrate Langston and give publicity for recruiting. I also like alumni seeing all of the new projects that we are doing.”
Lauren Corbitt, senior child development major

“The parade last year that my daughters were a part of. The band was hot as well.”
Gerrod Smith, senior corrections major

“Being that I have visited Langston since 2007, the parade my first time would be my favorite - the cars, horses and all of the events gave me good pictures to hold on to.”
Dominique Oliver, senior health administration major
LU becomes smoke-free campus

By Leslie Simon

The entire Langston University became smoke-free July 1, 2012. “Considering the hazards that arise from exposure to tobacco products, this ban will certainly help us provide a cleaner and safer environment for our students, employees and visitors,” said President of Langston University Dr. Kent Smith Jr.

“It is important that we do all we can to protect our campus population from being susceptible to illness or injuries that could result from tobacco use in the workplace,” he added.

The ban complies with Gov. Mary Fallins’ executive order that bans smoking in the workplace, “he said. This measure will improve the overall quality of the campus.

The idea of a smoke-free campus is not only beneficial to the students and staff who smoke, but also beneficial to the nonsmokers as well.

There are serious health risks that arise from secondhand smoke; exposure to second-hand smoke is sometimes called involuntary or passive smoking.

According to cancer center of America, second-hand smoke contains many substances, several which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals.

Others though, think this is a good policy, but are not sure that it will actually stop people from smoking.

“Everybody is going to do what they want, because they’re grown,” said Myah Doakes, junior broadcast journalism major.

English department in state of transition

By Kayla Jones

The English department at Langston University is in a state of transition.

According to dictionary.com, English is a course or individual class in the study of English language, literature or composition.

Dr. Ben Bates, associate professor and the new chairman of the English department, is gearing up for the challenges in front of him.

“I’ve been teaching for 24 years and I’ve spent half of that teaching English,” he said.

English is the way to communicate; without it, there is no way we can understand one another.

“I believe helping others with their writing helps me become a better writer,” Bates said.

The department’s faculty prepares students for life; they help students develop their speaking and writing skills.

The department has a role to play in a student’s progression, socially, academically, politically and economically.

Dr. Edmund Kloh, English professor, is a huge supporter of learning English the right way.

“If you have good communication skills, you can go anywhere and work and live a better life,” he said.

English departments are important aspects of all universities.

With excellent communication skills and writing skills, succeeding in any career will not be a problem.

“I gave my class an article written by Rachel Jones titled, “Not White Just Right.”

In the article she said that she’s living a life she never thought she would live because of her communication skills,” Kloh said.

Shameosha Anderson, an English major and a graduating senior from Witsia Falls, Texas, came to Langston because she wanted to attend an HBCU and it is closer to home.

“I chose English as my major because I want to be a lawyer and this will help me with all the paperwork,” she said.

She added that she thinks the department is going through many changes and it is not where it needs to be but things are slowly improving.

“The teachers in the department are willing to help,” she said.

Students are not feeling as challenged as they would like, so now it’s up to the university to take what students are saying and find better ways to appeal to the student-body.

Some of the classes I’ve taken aren’t challenging enough,” she said.

GRANT

from page 1

Langston University will receive the grant Feb. 1, 2013.

Once LU receives it, the technology department will be on its way to installing this super-computer.

Fondjo said the installation will only take a couple of days. Once installed, he said, research will be faster and more efficient to LU faculty and students.

For information about the MRI program go to www.nsf.gov.
Football game will air on Cox TV for first time in LU history

By Da'Rius Oden
Staff Writer

For the first time in Langston University history, the 2012 Homecoming football game will be broadcast through Cox digital television.

The game can be seen live in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and an encore presentation will air Oct. 16.

“The event came about quickly through an alumnus, who was associated with the Gales Endowment Association, speaking with the athletic director here at Langston to build the relationship that has developed within the last month,” said Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement James Dunavant.

“This should have happened prior to this year, Langston does not always receive the accreditation we deserve,” said Terrisha Wilson, football manager. “Hopefully with this new exposure given to (LU), we can raise enrollment for the school and football team alike, due to the fact that sports play a big role at universities.”

Tallib Woods, junior defensive back, agrees this will help the university but said more importantly, that he hopes the team walks away with a victory.

“This is the first time this has happened in our local community, and what makes it extra special is the fact that we are facing one of our rival teams.”

Jive national recording singer and songwriter, K. Michelle, will kick off the game by singing the national anthem. The Homecoming game will be available to stream from the Internet at www.langstonsports.com.

Elle Varner, K. Michelle will visit LU campus for Homecoming week

By Craig Murray
Contributing Writer

Elle Varner and K. Michelle, R&B music recording artists, will visit Langston University for this year’s homecoming celebration.

According to allmusic.com, Varner will be in Oklahoma City for a concert Oct. 12 before she comes here.

She sings R&B, soul and pop music. The hit song that jumpstarted her career is her single “Refill.”

According to artistwiki.com, “the single peaked at No. 20 on Billboard’s hot R&B/Hip-Hop chart.”

Varner is signed with MBK/J records, “a team that recognized her many talents, from her unique voice,” according to artistwiki.com.

Varner will be at Langston at 1 p.m. Oct. 13, on the Sanford Hall Lawn.

K. Michelle is a songwriter who is signed to Jive records. She was a cast member on the TV show “Love and Hip-Hop Atlanta.”

Michelle will be singing the national anthem at the Homecoming football game at 6 p.m. Oct. 13.

Admission to the game is $25 for the blue section, $20 for the orange section and LU students can pick up tickets at the bursar window for free.
This year’s Homecoming football concert has been canceled.

This was the annual concert that was originally scheduled for Oct. 12 in the C.F. Gayle’s Field House.

Representatives from LU said they began contacting many popular artists as early as July.

The acts who were contacted included national recording artists Meek Mill, Future, Ace Hood, 2 Chainz and Young Jeezy.

Chester Woods, assistant activities director, said that with prices being set so high for these artists, the university staff began negotiations to sign the artist for the best agreeable price.

He said prices ranged from $42,000 for Future, $50,000 for Meek Mill, $53,000 for 2 Chainz and Young Jeezy wanting $55,000.

Many of these artists are currently touring together and are represented by the same management.

“I’ve been trying to book an artist since July but their managers decided to put things off until the last minute, wanting to charge the university extra fees due to last minute arrangements having to be made,” Woods said.

“The university is not at fault,” he added. “We will not be taking advantage of. We are just trying to give back to our dear students and community.”

Lauren Corbitt, LU student, said, “I really don’t go to parties or concerts, but for the people that are interested in seeing performers it sucks.”

Reggie Smith, a former LU police officer and now a Guthrie police officer, said he is disappointed that the concert is canceled.

“(The concert) would have been a great thing for the students of LU and the town of Langston,” Smith said. “Being a former student, I know how boring it is. I know students were excited for something new. When I first was told about which artists were coming, I was excited myself but not anymore.”

The university is not at fault. We will not be taken advantage of. We are just trying to give back to our dear students and community.”

— Chester Woods, assistant activities director
Langston student feels ‘privileged to be here’

By Charles Tucker
Contributing Writer

When asked at the age of 14 where he would be in seven years, it was either in jail or dead.

Now a college student at Langston University, Jonathan Sortino is living proof that there are second chances at life.

Sortino, now 21 and from Pasadena, Calif., grew up in a neighborhood full of violence and situations similar to those that can be seen in movies.

However, Sortino saw the light at the end of the tunnel called opportunity, and he ran for it.

“I’m glad to have made the decision to go off to college,” Sortino said.

After he was born in Los Angeles, he and his family moved to Pasadena when he was 10. His family consists of his mother, Malisa Bottoms; father, Robert Sortino; sister Amanda Sortino; and brother Elijah Sortino. He is the oldest of three children.

After two years in Pasadena, his parents divorced and his mother moved to San Diego. With all that was going on in his life, Sortino felt alone. So he decided to join a gang known as the Bloods.

“I did that because I felt I needed to be protected and also I just thought it was cool,” Sortino said.

Sortino was influenced by his friends to join a gang. It was a random day when he was asked to help fight against these guys.

“We pretty much fought a lot people,” Sortino said. “It was the thing to do at that age and it was defending something valuable—your pride.”

Sortino said he felt like they were more than friends; they were like brothers.

It seemed like he could have gang banged for the rest of his life, but the unthinkable came when he continued to witness disturbing events.

“I had to stop because too many of my friends were getting raped and killed by the people in my gang,” Sortino said.

Sortino decided to pursue something more positive and move away from the gang activities. He decided to try the game he always loved, which was baseball.

He played as a child and during his middle school and high school years. Sortino was so talented he was selected to be a part of the best in California and travel for the USA team.

He was then given the opportunity to try out for the Oakland Athletics and was selected. He only played shortly however, because of an arm injury.

At that point, Sortino was faced with a decision and that was to try college. The gang was still there and he didn’t want to make backward steps. He ultimately decided to attend Langston University.

“The only thing I knew about the school is that it was historic and my friends loved it,” Sortino said.

With this opportunity at Langston, he was an LU-elect his freshman year and class king. He finally felt like things were going well for him and felt like this place suited him perfectly.

Now a junior nursing major, he is a part of the LU Student Government Association, serving as activities coordinator, chairman of the student body, escort for the elite connection and an employee in Student Activities.

He said he plans to someday become successful and provide for his family, giving them more opportunities than he was provided. Ultimately, he said he wants to help people through his savior, Jesus Christ.

Wesley Martin, senior corrections major, is a friend of Sortino. He said he doesn’t believe that Sortino would accept any of his true friends to settle or fail.

“If I was to sit down and talk to him about life, goals, religions, girls or anything, he would talk to me about what’s best for me and (tell me) I should think critically about things before assuming,” Martin said.

Martin added that Sortino has a passion for helping others. Sortino is one of four barbers who cut hair on campus.

Jazz Roberson, God brother of Sortino, said Sortino is one of kind. Robertson said Sortino is destined for something great to happen to him because he is a “task finisher.”

Sortino said he is grateful for the opportunity that LU has given him.

“When I think about life right now and what I’ve been through, I know that I’m privileged to be here,” Sortino said.
**Sports**

**LU incorporates new sports**

**By Talibb Woods**  
**Contributing Writer**

Langston University Athletic Department has made many changes this year in hopes of building a better program.

With a new athletic director, Mike Garrett, the Athletic Department seems to be taking steps in a new direction.

Women’s volleyball was added in fall 2012 and the wrestling club team was added by other faculty members.

The wrestling club is new to LU, but is not an official sport part of the Athletic Department.

The club held tryouts and is looking to grow into a bigger club but it is not a needed sports team at the moment.

“We have enough sports – 10. And that’s enough for (LU) to move up,” Garrett said.

He added that the new team and clubs weren’t part of his plan; he had always wanted to bring the school to a higher division.

“I inherited those clubs as well as the softball team.”

— Mike Garrett, Athletic Director

Title 9 purposes, which means the university is required to have the same amount of men and women teams.

Many think that Garrett’s new addition of teams and new staff are in efforts of making Langston University a Division II school.

“We have enough sports – 10. And that’s enough for (LU) to move up,” Garrett said.

He added that the new team and clubs weren’t part of his plan; he had always wanted to bring the school to a higher division.

“I inherited those clubs as well as the softball team,” Garret said.

Garret is a former college football player and Heisman Trophy winner where he played at the University of Southern California.

He also served as athletic director there for 17 years before coming to LU.

The football team, under Head Coach Mickey Joseph, had a great season last year with high expectations this season.

There have been changes in the football staff to help make the team more successful than last year, with new coaches as well as tougher opponents scheduled.

The women’s basketball team has added a new head coach this year as well, Dave Johnson.

**Football team prepares for game against Texas College**

**By Jabril Bailey**  
**Sports Editor**

The Langston University Football team defeated Southern Nazarene University on Sept. 29 with a 17-14 win over the Crimson Storm. This win put the Lions at 2-3.

During the weekend, the Langston Lions traveled to Plainview, Texas to take on the Wayland Baptist Pioneers.

The results were not recorded by the Gazette publication date.

The Lions now look ahead for the highly-anticipated Homecoming game against long-time rivals Texas College.

The game will begin at 6 p.m. promptly. The game will also be televised locally by Cox Cable.

Tailgating starts after the parade in the Anderson Stadium parking lot.

For more information about the results from the game against Wayland Baptist, go to www.langstonsports.com.

Senior running back, Jayce Boyd, tears away from defensive players to gain offensive yardage for the Langston Lions. The football team had a home opener shut-out against Bacone College on Sept. 8, winning 19-0.
### Broadcast Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
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**Listen TO KALU89.3**

**Featuring Fat Tony Ghetto Gourmet**

**Every Friday @5pm**

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#### Channel 97 Broadcast Schedule

**Monday-Friday**

- **Oct. 8-12**
  - 9-11 a.m. **MONDAY-FRIDAY**
    - Academic Success: Writing a Great Research Paper
  - 11 a.m.-Noon
    - Special Edition
  - Noon-5 p.m.
    - LU Student Produced Projects
  - **Monday**
    - 5 p.m.
      - Movie: Cold Mountain
  - **Tuesday**
    - 5 p.m.
      - Movie: The Man in the Iron Mask
  - **Wednesday**
    - 5 p.m.
      - Movie: Gladiator
  - **Thursday**
    - 5 p.m.
      - Movie: Do the Right Thing
  - **Friday**
    - 5 p.m.
      - Movie: The Color Purple

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<td>Noon-5 p.m.</td>
<td>LU Student Produced Projects</td>
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**Monday**

- 5 p.m.
  - Movie

**Tuesday**

- 5 p.m.
  - Movie

**Wednesday**

- 5 p.m.
  - Movie

**Thursday**

- 5 p.m.
  - Movie

**Friday**

- 5 p.m.
  - Movie

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#### Top 10 Movies at the Box Office

1. Hotel Transylvania
2. Looper
3. End of Watch
4. Trouble with the Curve
5. House at the End of the Street
6. Pitch Perfect
7. Finding Nemo
8. Resident Evil: Retribution
9. The Master
10. Won’t Back Down

*http://www.imdb.com/boxoffice