Interim president drafts strong plans for Langston

By Andrea Perry
Contributing Writer

Dr. Henry Ponder became interim president Sept. 11, after the formal resignation of Dr. JoAnn W. Haysbert.
Some may be hearing his name for the first time, but Ponder is no stranger to Langston. Last year, he served as Major Gifts Officer, helping to improve the relationship between LU and its alumni, and to generate more funding and development for the University.
His roots with LU go back further. In regard to his feelings for being selected as interim president, Ponder was in good spirit.
"To come to my alma mater and get a chance to serve as president is sort of the highlight of my professional career," Ponder said. "It's sort of like saying you're ending up where you started."

During his time as acting president, Ponder has several goals he plans to accomplish. Some of these goals include making LU more student friendly and employee friendly, and helping the University to continue growing in all areas, even in the programs that are excelling.
But there is one goal that stood out among the others. "The No. 1 priority that I have is to make the state of Oklahoma, its elected officials and the citizens of Oklahoma become proud of having a historically black college in the state," Ponder said.
LU is the only Historically Black College and University in the state of Oklahoma. Some states do not have even one HBCU.
Ponder said he hopes to administer a spirit of excellence on LU’s campus, not only in Langston but also in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.
Some students have felt inspired by Ponder in the short time he has been interim president.
Robert Thomas, football player and senior finance major, said, "One thing I do like is he has school spirit. He travelled to Alabama and talked to the football team before playing Tuskegee. Hopefully, our school will follow and get that same school spirit he has."
Ponder touched another student in a different way. "My impression of Dr. Ponder was that he was a man strong in his beliefs," said Shaquille Anderson, Mr. Orange and Blue and freshman chemistry major. "He had a lot of history. He’s a much older, experienced type of president, and I feel that he’ll do a good job in his position and that he’s dedicated to it," Anderson said.
Ponder said he wishes for LU to be among the top choices for prospective college students, faculty and staff all across the country.
One of the ways to carry out this goal would be to expel students who are engaging in illegal activity, violence and are not here to learn, Ponder said.
Another way would be for faculty members to put more time into their study plans and helping students. This will give LU students an environment that is conducive for learning and also give the rest of the country a great impression of LU.
Among Ponder’s goals, he said his ultimate goal lies within the student body and staff of LU.
"I want everyone to be able to say ‘he tried his best to improve the place,’” Ponder said.
Ponder said he is the proud father of two daughters and the husband and son of two strong women.
Friendly reminder: Disobeying traffic laws can be costly

Even if you’re just going five miles over the speed limit, you can receive a fine of $183.50 plus a $30 court fee. Driving with no lights on can result in a $206.50 fine. Refusing to obey the traffic laws can be costly.

I am personally excited about the opportunity to be a part of Langston, and to work with LU students to publish this newspaper on a bimonthly basis.

Your on-campus AD could go somewhere in this publication.

Call 405-466-3245 for more information.

Ponder set as keynote speaker for 2011 University Convocation

“Langston University is going to become the best University on planet earth,” said Dr. Henry Ponder, interim president of Langston University, in his speech to students, faculty and staff at the 2011 Convocation Sept. 15. Ponder was the keynote speaker at this year’s convocation, where he discussed his goals and visions he has for Langston University.

However, he spoke particularly to students, as he wants them to uphold the core values of Dear Langston. Ponder was involved in the Kenyan War, where he said he helped fight for Americans’ right for freedom.

“But with those freedoms comes the responsibility to know what you ought to do,” Ponder said.

He also explained to students that if they do not want to obtain their work while attending LU, then the students need to reconsider their reasons for attending college.

“Anyway, you can’t erase what happened here in Langston University,” Ponder said. “If we don’t get that straightened out, it affects you wherever you are.”

Bonita Franklin, professor of music and director of the department of music, said she enjoyed many of the things Ponder addressed at the convocation. She liked his manner and how he was open with the faculty, staff and students.

“He presented (the speech) real simply; I was so delighted to work with him during his presidency,” said Franklin.

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6th Annual President’s Scholarship Gala features distinguished guests of honor

The doctorates will be presented by the University’s largest event of the year to honor outstanding contributions and achievements by Langston alumni. The President’s Scholarship Gala, which began in 2006 as part of the University’s commitment to raise more money for student scholarships, features distinguished guests of honor.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

- Comedy Show
  - 7:30 p.m. - I.W. Young Auditorium
  - Admission: Alumni-$10 with ID, LU Students-$5 with ID

- Comedy Show After Party
  - 10 p.m. - John Montgomery Building
  - Admission: Alumni-$10 with ID, LU Students-$5 with ID

Thursday, Oct. 13

- LU National Alumni Board Meeting
  - 7 p.m. - Conference Room, Page Hall, Room 315

- Mr. & Miss Langston University Coronation
  - 7:30 p.m. - I.W. Young Auditorium
  - Attire: Semi-formal

- Black & White (Dress) Party
  - 9 p.m. - I.W. Young Auditorium
  - Admission: Alumni-$15 with ID, LU Students-$10 with ID
  - General Admission: $20, child (under 12) $5
  - Students may purchase advance package for $15 for both Show & Dance

- The Orange & Blue Booster Club Annual Golf Tournament
  - 9 a.m. - Cedar Valley Golf Club, Guthrie, Okla.
  - shotgun start and four man scramble
  - Entry: $75 per person
  - Contact Winford Willie at 405-466-3086

- LU National Alumni Association, Inc. Events
  - 9 a.m. - tent south side of Montgomery Multipurpose Building, Langston
  - Admission: Adults-$10, Non-LU Students-$15, Children (under 6) Free

- Friday, Oct. 14

- Comedy Show
  - 7 p.m. - Page Hall, Room 318, Pick up event and game tickets

- The Orange & Blue Booster Club Annual Golf Tournament
  - Admission: Alumni-$20, child (under 12) $5

- Saturday, Oct. 15

- President’s Homecoming Breakfast
  - 8 a.m. - C.F. Gayles Field House-Atrium
  - Donation: $20

- Alumni Registration
  - 9 a.m. - Pick up event and game tickets

- Reserved Table: $1,000 and higher
  - Alumni Black Tie

- Geek Stop Show
  - 7:30 p.m. - I.W. Young Auditorium
  - Admission: Alumni-$15 with ID, LU Students-$10 with ID
  - General Admission: $20, child (under 12) $5

- PAN-Hellenic Dance
  - 10:30 p.m.-m. 2 a.m. - John Montgomery Building
  - Admission: Alumni-$10 with ID, LU Students-$5 with ID
  - General Admission: $20, child (under 12) Free

- Sock Hop - LU Tennis Court
  - Admission: $15 in advance (alumni tent), $20 at the gate
  - Black & White (Dress) Party
  - Admission: Alumni-$15 with ID, LU Students-$10 with ID
  - General Admission: $20, child (under 12) $5

- Reserved Table: $1,000 and higher
  - Alumni Black Tie

- Homecoming Week of Events for admission prices and information.

Homecoming Week of Events

- Parade 9 a.m. - Parade Line up, downtown Langston
  - 10 a.m. - Parade in Langston

- Battle of the Bands Immediately following the parade - Anderson Stadium, game ticket for admission

- LU Alumni Association, Inc. 11 a.m. - Special Conference Hall’s Student Success Seminar Room, 1st floor

- Football Game 2 p.m. - Lions vs. Southwest Assemblies of God University Admission: Adults-$20, Non-LU Students-$7, 12-17 years old-$5, Children (under 6) Free

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Lynnie Skeen earns ‘Teacher of the Year’

By Jamie Reed

Ms. Lynnie Skeen’s eyes are wide, there’s a smile on her face and a cheery disposition about her. Her words are hearty and pleasant as she embraces the title, “Teacher of the Year.”

Skeen was surprised to receive the award and also was surprised to be nominated for it. She thinks that the teacher of the year is a person who cares about students, goes above and beyond for them and is a part of their personal solving.

As a teacher here at Langston University for the past 11 years, Skeen has always encouraged students to do their best. “I give out turtles to signify that the race is not given to the swift, or to the strong, but to the one whoendures,” Skeen said.

According to junior nursing major Ebony Fortier, Skeen was a 9 on a scale from 1 to 10 because she is a good teacher, said Skeen would be a 9 on a scale from 1 to 10 because she is a good teacher, and her students have been able to see the other, more fun, sides of her. “She is unorganized, as far as her office goes,” Fortier said, laughing.

Skeen also does her part to show support of her students on campus, even outside of the classroom. “When she first came she attended a football game,” Kornegay said.

“He was a pusher because she pushes us to do our best, and an encourager to do our best, and an encourager to do our best, and a friend as well as a teacher. She’s a pusher because she pushes us to do our best, and an encourager to do our best, and a friend as well as a teacher. She is unorganized, as far as her office goes,” Fortier said, laughing.

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“Since he’s a great teacher, he doesn’t like to lecture.

Skeen said her students are dedicated and are not just observant. She has students that are what inspire him.

“Some things about it since he was graduate student in the School of Nursing and Health Professions, the award for “Teacher of the Year.”

Want to get into the HOMECOMING SPIRIT?

Join KALU every day this week, broadcasting on the yard.

Monday-Saturday

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

PHOTO: Courtesy Photo

by Victor Driver

Victor Driver has loved producing art and everything about it since he was in kindergarten.

He remembers sitting in front of the TV on a Saturday morning watching the Saturday morning newspaper so he could see the big, colorful cartoon strips.

“I give out turtles to signify that the race is not given to the swift, or to the strong, but to the one who endures,” Skeen said.

The most rewarding part of teaching, Skeen said, is seeing students “get it.” Skeen said her students are dedicated and are not just observant. “She has students that are what inspire him.”

“She’s a pusher because she pushes us to do our best, and an encourager to do our best, and a friend as well as a teacher. She wants to make sure we know the material and get it into our being,” Fortier said. “I think it’s awesome that she got the award.”

Skeen said she enjoys storytelling and focusing on people. He said it stimulates someone to think it’s clearly defined or it’s not, something,” he said, “whether or not to be the teacher of the year, but a well-deserved, respectful, approachable and professional teacher of the year.

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Quarterback Darrion Lewis looks to throw the football to an open teammate in the game against University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Sept. 3.

**LU football team has winning spirit**

**Lions ready for Homecoming**

**By Charles Alexander**

**Contributing Writer**

The 2011 football season is officially underway and the Langston football team is currently holding a 2-2 record with its recent loss to Emporia State University, dropping the team to .500 in winning percentage.

This football season may seem to be even keel with an equal number of wins and losses for the Lions, but the players think there is still much season left to play.

Lions quarterback, Darrion Lewis, believes they have what it takes to go all the way.

“We have the chance to do something really special,” Lewis said. “As a team we have a lot of leadership.”

Some think the LU Lions have plenty of talent on this year’s team, but what really helps spark the team is the philosophy of the coaches.

“Our team has a lot of talent but we spend a lot of time learning,” Lewis said.

One thing most people believe about football is that you can have the most talented team in the world, but it’s up to the coaches to determine how to use that talent.

Head Coach Mickey Joseph thinks that talent is great, but the work the players put in is a factor on how far they will go.

“This team can go as far as the coaches and players take it,” Coach Joseph said. “I don’t know how far this team will go, but we work hard.”

The LU Lions seem to have a winning spirit, especially after recovering from a two-game losing streak.

“Before the season started, everybody thought we would go 0-4,” Lewis said.

The Lions heard the talk, but did not let it get to them.

Although the Lions have been on a downhill slope, it shouldn’t be too late to get back on a roll and try to have yet another successful season.

The Lions played their first home game of the season Saturday against Panhandle State University.

**Men’s basketball coach prepares for new season**

**By Charles Tucker**

**Contributing Writer**

Is there any hope left for the Langston University men’s basketball team after suffering a record of 2-25 last year?

Just ask the new head coach, Nigel Thomas, and he will tell you, “when there is a will there is a way.”

“I am very blessed to have the opportunity to do what I have always envisioned myself doing,” Thomas said.

Thomas was previously the assistant coach but was announced as head coach on June 22. He decided to bring on his longtime friend and teammate, Jarriel Vicks, as his assistant coach.

Thomas and Vicks are both alumni of Langston University as well as former LU basketball players.

“It’s a tremendous transition from being an assistant and making suggestions to now being a head coach and making decisions,” Thomas said.

This year is a battle mentally, physically and emotionally.

There are only six returners coming from last year’s 13-depth chart roster but they have a solid recruiting class.

The mind set of the team is that the players are on the eve of their sixth week of conditioning and just completed their first official practice.

“These young men have worked extremely hard to condition the mind, body and souls; now it’s time to put in our X’s and Os,” Thomas said.

The players may work on all levels, but they enjoy what they get out of it.