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The Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University. It serves as a teaching tool.

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Letters to the editor should be emailed to nkturner@langston.edu. Please include your name and telephone number. The newspaper retains the right to edit, accept and/or reject items deemed to be contrary to the best interest of the publication, Langston University and/or any of its governing bodies.

LU sees budget cuts—again

Editor chats with president about Langston's financial forecast

By Marcus Garlington
Editor

It's been a tough couple years for higher education in Oklahoma. It seems that budget cut after budget cut is the only solution state legislators can offer, which makes it harder and harder for post-secondary institutions that lack million-dollar endowments to stay afloat. One such institution is Dear Langston.

As much as students and faculty are tired of hearing about budget cuts and reductions, it's the sad reality. And with the latest state revenue failure, things won't seem to be improving for a while.

What's a revenue failure? It's something that occurs when collections going to the General Revenue Fund fall below 95 percent of the certified estimate.

What makes up the General Revenue Fund? Taxes. Oklahoma basically over-estimated the amount of taxes it would receive in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. When this happens, the director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services declares a revenue failure and reduces funds going to agencies by however much is necessary to bring spending into balance.

So, to balance Oklahoma's metaphorical checkbook, agencies and institutions that

had already received state dollars had to give money back.

This is where the midyear cuts come in at public institutions that receive state funding. What this means for Langston University is that on top of \$2.9 million dollars in budget cuts from last year to this year, the university had to give Oklahoma \$100,000 of its money back in the middle of the year.

"It means continued cuts. It means you can't do some of the things you used to do or would like to do," said LU President Kent Smith Jr. "It means reduced hours... increased tuition... less staff... professors taking on more hours than they ever have before... when someone resigns, we decide not to fill their position. Everybody loses in this scenario. We've done everything that we can do as an entity behind the scenes to not impact the academic experience."

But now, it's come to the point that caused so much controversy last year: the nonrenewal of non-tenured faculty contracts.

"Our faculty contracts for non-tenured faculty says we have to notify them by April 1, if they're not going to be renewed," Smith said. "What happens is we don't know what our budget cuts are un-

til June after students are long gone. The state regents ask us to plan for scenarios—anything from 7 percent... to as high as 16, 17 percent in budget reductions. If we took that reduction, what would happen? In planning for those reductions, we know that at certain reduction percentage levels... we would not be able to renew the contracts of some faculty members. So, as a measure to prepare for cuts, which there most likely will be, we have to notify faculty members by April that there's a possibility that their positions won't be available next year. If the cuts don't come through, we might be able to bring some faculty back."

Students have expressed concerns regarding the pos-

sibility of their professors not returning, but President Smith said there's nothing the university can do to lighten the blow when that's the case.

"Honestly, these budget cuts that result in layoffs are affecting the students who are trying to get their skills enhanced," said Tori Harris, junior broadcast journalism major.

She's on track to graduate next year and is facing the reality that professors that taught her over the past three years won't be around for her senior year.

"It hinders us," Harris said. "I wish [the administration] would or could ask students what would help us. These

see **BUDGET CUTS**, page 3

Note From the Adviser

In the previous issue from March 31, the word "Greek" was on the cover, and the two "E" letters were depicted as Greek sigmas.

The *Gazette* staff was fully aware that the letters were not actually "E's" in the Greek alphabet, but we made the decision to use the Sigmas because they resembled the letter "E" while also depicting a Greek theme. The letters were strictly used as a design concept to enhance the Greek theme of the cover. This is similar to using an apple as the letter "A" or a ruler as the letter "L" or a heart for the letter "O." Design tends to break the rules of grammar to achieve creativity, which is the element we wanted to depict in the previous issue.

Campus Safety Information

Dear Langston Family,

Spring is officially here! I want to encourage everyone to stay weather aware. We ask that you familiarize yourselves with university weather procedures and safety information for all three Langston campuses.

If you observe severe weather, hear tornado sirens or receive a storm warning emergency notification, please proceed to the closest building and seek shelter. In the event of a tornado, get to the lowest level away from glass and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Typically, this will be a closet or hall. We ask that you do not seek refuge in an automobile. Please stay weather aware and monitor changes in the weather on your local news. Also, sign up for LU text alerts.

Sincerely,
Ramario Holland, Chief of Police
405-466-3370
luchief@langston.edu

'Is having a dog really worth the risk?'

LU enforces pet-free campus

By Danielle Watson
Staff Writer

"We should be able to have our dogs on campus," said Tiajuana Randle, freshman broadcast journalism major.

Eric Harris, Centennial Court residential director, said Langston University has a no-dog policy that the student body is supposed to adhere to. However, some students are abusing the policy because they think it is unfair.

Harris said that what began with three service dogs (with

licenses to prove) quickly grew to about 30 dogs on campus without proper arrangements.

Harris said the dogs are causing foul smells, damaged property and altercations with roommates who are unhappy with a dog living in the apartment.

"Students are stepping in feces and complaining that they aren't resting because of the barking," Harris said.

The no-dog policy began with the Habitat Company, which was in control of housing for Langston University.

However, no dogs in campus housing is an unwritten rule in the Langston University handbook. Regardless, LU continues to keep dogs off campus by enforcing the same rules that Habitat set in place, which was to keep the campus pet-free.

A meeting was held in December 2016 to inform students about the policy, and about 10 percent of the student body attended.

Jordan Butler, junior psychology major and resident assistant, said that part of his job as an RA is to take notice

of dogs that are seen around campus and report it to the residential directors.

Jordan said the next step is to give the student a verbal warning, informing the student that he or she will be fined \$100 if seen again with the dog, and the fine doubles any time after that.

"You live in an environment of a small apartment," Harris said. "Dogs have to be groomed well, taken to the vet, fed and things like that. So, when you're dealing with animals using the bathroom

inside of the rooms, scratching up furniture and bad scents coming from the dogs, you run into problems with your peers and the university has to replace damaged property as well. Some students are struggling financially but are trying to take care of a dog. It's almost like taking care of a child. If one of the dogs on campus attacked a student, the university would have to deal with the turmoil that comes with the situation. Our biggest job is to keep students safe. Is having a dog really worth the risk?"

SGA candidates begin campaigns

By Walter Harris
Staff Writer

Student Government Association elections are around the corner and candidates are competing for three titles: SGA president, vice president and activities coordinator.

There are a total of eight candidates running in this year's elections.

The candidates consist of the following:

• **SGA President:**

Joice "JD" Crawford and Jamorie Matthews

• **Vice President:**

Deija Booker, Jarae Williams, Coleton Dudley and Gabriel Hopkins

• **Activities Coordinator:**

Jasmine Mayes and KaDarius Griffin

Some candidates expressed their platforms and what they want to change on campus.

"If elected, I would change the way we go about selecting and putting on events," said Mayes, junior broadcast journalism major. "I want to make it open for all students to have a say in what they want to see because a lot of people complain about the events we have, so with making it inclusive to everyone, more events are happening that the school wants to see."

Mayes isn't the only one with plans in mind, though.

"One of the strongest points in my campaign is the academic updates," said Matthews, senior business management major. "I want professors to give an update on grades every four weeks so students will be able to know where they stand prior to midterms and after."

Booker, junior corrections and sociology major, has been involved with SGA in other capacities, and she thinks her experience will

help her campaign.

"Through my experience with SGA, I'm able to see where the problems lie," Booker said. "Since I already am involved in the system I know the minor or major changes that we need to adjust to improve them, and it's just really that simple."

Want more insight about each candidate's platform? Students can attend the debate April 18, in the Allied Health Building.

BUDGET CUTS

from page 2

professors are here to help us. And when you remove someone like that, it doesn't motivate us to come back. The relationships that we build with professors really matter, and it can be the difference between me understanding a concept and not understanding a concept."

Around this time of year, many students get anxious, awaiting to see how budget cuts will manifest. This anxiety finds its way to President Smith's ears, who honestly isn't in a position to provide a remedy.

"The hard part is that these are personnel decisions,"

Smith said. "It's not like we can go and broadcast, 'FYI, we're going to lay off faculty member X.' Out of one, respect for the employee... and two, it's their legal right to have that employment piece private. But, what the student can be assured is that if a student is enrolled in a certain major, we have to make teachers available for a student to finish their major. A student doesn't have to fear that they won't be able to graduate their major, even if we get rid of their department tomorrow. We still have to provide a mechanism for the student to complete that degree in that major."

"In a perfect world, the student does not feel the ramifi-

cations of budget reductions," Smith continued. "I think students that are here this year will feel a similar experience next year. But, are we looking at majors that have limited enrollment? We are. But we're talking about majors that have one or two students. It's not something that's happened yet, but we are exploring that... and part of that is our accreditation renewal. Majors were being reviewed anyway. But budget reductions force you to potentially ramp up a decision that you otherwise would have had time to resolve in other ways."

So, is there any good news? President Smith doesn't think so.

"I cannot look you in the

eye and say there's a silver lining," Smith said. "I've been here five years, and for three of the years, there have been reductions from the state. We can't sustain cut after cut after cut—and that's where all of Oklahoma's institutions of higher learning are. What gives? At what point does Oklahoma value higher education? The state of Oklahoma has had the highest cuts to higher education than any other state. We rank 50th. It's gotten tougher and tougher, and it's sad because for many of our students, Langston University is the difference between them going to college and not going."

"It may not be what students want to hear," he said,

"but I can't make up something that's not there. We have staff that is being asked to do more than they've ever had to do. We've cut everywhere humanly possible. We're trying to fund-raise. We've had to raise tuition year after year. This is not what faculty members, staff, administration or what students signed up for in higher education."

In conclusion, President Smith offered this warning: "The truth is... for long-term... higher educational institutions are economic drivers of a state. And, I firmly believe that by cutting higher education, our state legislators are making a decision that's going to negatively impact this state for years to come."

Fields wins title of Miss Blue & White

By Taelyr Jackson
Staff Writer

The Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. crowned the new Miss Blue & White.

Beautiful Joy Fields, a senior mathematics major, won the crown April 4, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

Seven ladies competed in hopes of taking on the title of Miss Blue & White. Each contestant met with the judges before the pageant for a private interview.

During the event, the ladies competed in four stages of competition: on-stage question, swimsuit, talent and formal wear.

Fields also won Miss Congeniality and best interview.

She enjoyed her pageant experience and bonding with the other contestants.

"When you have an organization that really cares about the community it serves, you tend to find women who also care about the community," Fields said.

Fields is committed to im-

"My platform focuses on having character and having respect for those you meet. It deals with social and literacy aspects for students in elementary and middle school."

— Beautiful Joy Fields,
Miss Blue & White

plementing her platform.

"My platform, R.E.S.P.E.C.T., is an acronym for Read, Spell, Excel, Calculate and Think with the Best of Them," Fields said. "My platform focuses on having character and having respect for those you meet," she continued. "It deals with social and literacy aspects for students in elementary and middle school."

Fields plans to implement her platform by making a connection with small communities and working with students from Coyle and Boley.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how many people I can impact..." Fields said. "If someone's life has been changed for the better, that's what I'm looking for."

First runner-up was Destinee McClain, a freshman broadcast journalism major.

"I had a great pageant experience and I learned a lot," McClain said.

She performed an original spoken word for her talent.

"I've been doing poetry a long time," McClain said. "I practiced [and] thought it would be a great idea to incorporate my body to."



Courtesy Photo

Beautiful Joy Fields wins the Miss Blue & White crown. Fields competed against six other ladies April 4.

LU Fashion Police



April is here, and hopefully, there won't be any heavy showers anytime soon. Easter is just around the corner and the Fashion Police are here to help with anyone in distress of what to and what not to wear that lovely Sunday morning.

As a child, mothers and fathers would love to dress us up in frilly, poofy, pastel-colored dresses or even a nice-fitting suit with a pastel-colored tie (or bowtie) with the matching ascot and uncomfortable shoes. Well, now, we get to decide what to wear.

Ladies, there are many ways you can slay for Easter Sunday. A knee-length, form-fitting dress with a nice blazer or cardigan is an excellent

choice. Match that ensemble with a nude pair of pointed-top pumps (or pointed-toe flats).

Even wearing a simple pencil skirt in any pastel color (yellow, lavender, mint green, etc.) is a great idea, and then match it with a basic white tank top and a blazer (either white or a matching pastel color) and a pair of nude heels.

If you are looking to be a little different, wear a nice pants suit with an eye-catching accessory piece.

As for men, some traditions stay the same. Wearing a nice gray suit with any pastel-colored tie or bowtie with a matching ascot and shoes will shut the scene down for Easter

Sunday.

You can even keep it simple and comfortable by wearing a white button-down dress top, a pair of slacks (khaki, grey or black), a pastel-colored tie and an accessory piece.

A little can go a long way

for men and women, but it is truly your style and your comfort that will allow you to slay all day on Easter Sunday. Hopefully these tips are helpful for you. Until next time, Lions, stay beautiful and Happy Easter!



The International Student Association
presents...

International Day

April 22

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In the Atrium



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. hosts annual Parkin' Lot Pimpin'

By **Oneka Cayenne**
Staff Writer

On your mark, get set,
SHOW TIME!

The Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. held its annual Parkin' Lot Pimpin' on April 6. Parkin' Lot Pimpin' is a highly anticipated event that occurs during Sigma Week, and it allows people to show off their cars while others admire them.

"The Purpose of Parkin' Lot Pimpin' is to bring the communities of Oklahoma together and to continuously serve the citizens of Oklahoma in a positive way," said Danny Wilson, president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

"Also, this event is traditional and has been going on for many years since before I became a member of the Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.," he said. "This event is a place where everyone benefits from it. We have free food, networking opportunities, en-



tertainment and, most of all, a safe environment."

The theme for the car show was luxury-styled vehicles. There were 16 cars, including three motorcycles from Ruff Ryders Bike Club. Cars, such as Infiniti, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and luxury muscle cars were in the car show.

"This year, the brothers of the Beta Epsilon chapter were honored to have The Dolls perform at this event as well as upcoming artists," Wilson said. "We had dance contests and trivia contests. This was a

fun-filled event that [brought] people together."

This event was planned a year early. Every Thursday, the brothers would discuss the budget, promotion tactics and all items required to make Parkin' Lot Pimpin' a success.

Jada Allen, junior nursing major, said Parkin' Lot Pimpin' is simply an LU reunion. Some who have graduated and left the school come back for this particular event, and she enjoyed reuniting with those familiar faces.

Campus Question

Who are you
supporting in the
SGA Elections?



Spain Johnson,
Freshman
Business Major

"Vote for J.D. [Joice] for president! He's determined; I know he'll make a change. I'll vote for Deija for V.P. and definitely Jas for activities coordinator."



Gloria Anum,
Junior
HPER Major

"I'm voting for Joice Crawford for president... Deija for vice president... and then Jas for activities coordinator, for sure."



Shalise Garrett,
Freshman
Early Childhood Education Major

"Vote Jas for activities coordinator! Vote J-MO for president! Vote Deija for vice president!"



Maya Jackson,
Senior
Broadcast Journalism Major

"Jasmine Mayes for A.C. because she has the most experience and really cares about the student body. I definitely support Joice Crawford for president. I know for a fact he's a man of the people and will get the job done. And I support Deija Booker for V.P. She's definitely a hard worker!"

Pepsi pulls most recent TV ad

By Takesha Clark
Staff Writer

Pepsi's newest TV commercial didn't go over as planned, which resulted in PepsiCo Inc. pulling the advertisement.

The commercial starred model Kendall Jenner where she joined a group of protestors and approached an officer with a Pepsi. The officer smiled and the protestors began cheering. The ad received backlash and viewers believed it imitated Black Lives Matter protests to sell soda.

After the airing of the commercial, viewers immediately began tweeting their opinions. Twitter user Hanorah Hardy tweeted, "Pepsi's new ad Kendall Jenner 'end racism' by handing police men a Pepsi – way to de-grade 50 yrs of black/minor-

ity struggle."

Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter, Bernice King, also took to Twitter by tweeting a picture of her father standing in front of the police while a policeman's hands were on his chest, and she captioned it, "If only daddy would have known about the power of Pepsi."

According to the CNN website, Pepsi officials stated that they were trying to project a global message of unity, peace and understanding.

CNN also reported that the commercial resembled photos of Ieshia Evans, a protestor who was detained in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"I don't believe the commercial was intentional," said Tessa James, former LU student and Tulsa resident. "I just think that because they really don't understand what African-American's

struggle with in modern society, they didn't see its potential of being a target to the Black Lives Matter community."

Though some think the ad was not intentional, Rolling Stone reported that Jenner allegedly said to someone over the phone, "I stop the police from shooting black people by giving them a Pepsi. I know, cute, right?" Jenner has not responded to the backlash, but Pepsi has apologized for putting her in that situation when they were pushing for a message of unification.

"If a black person would have played her role, it would have been more appealing," said Norbert Ralph, senior drafting and design major, "mainly because we are constantly losing our lives and protesting to end racism for all races, not just our own."



Photo from <http://money.cnn.com>

Kendall Jenner hands a police officer a Pepsi in the most recent PepsiCo Inc. TV commercial. The company recently pulled the ad because of the controversy it has sparked across the nation.

'Backyard Bugs' invade Science Museum Oklahoma

Special from
Science Museum Oklahoma

Science Museum Oklahoma guests are invited to celebrate Earth Day with special activities in the museum's gardens and explore the just-opened exhibit "Backyard Bugs: An Oklahoma Insect Adventure" on April 22.

Visitors can take part in upcycling activities and a butterfly release in the SMO Gardens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. alongside museum educators and gardening experts from SMO and the Oklahoma Gardeners Association. The butterfly release will take place at the event's conclusion.

Inside the museum, guests can explore the Science Museum Oklahoma-based Oklahoma Museum Network's brand new "Backyard Bugs" exhibit to learn about the six-legged neighbors that are critical to our ecosystem.

To continue the experience at home, guests can purchase a caterpillar, lady



bug or butterfly habitat from the museum's Science Shop.

"'Backyard Bugs' takes Oklahoma's insects to a larger-than-life level," said Eileen Castle, director of the network.

"Our giant animatronic insects, interactive exhibits and live insect displays give visitors a truly unique perspective of a bug's world," Castle added.

The exhibit includes an enormous animatronic praying mantis and monarch butterfly, more than a dozen varieties of live insects and arachnids, in-

cluding a black widow, a scorpion, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, darkling beetles and hornworms.

Hands-on components include a build-a-bug station, DIY firefly flash patterns, a climb-in honeycomb and more.

The 9-foot praying mantis operates using an infrared technology that enables it to detect the movement of people in the exhibit and even to distinguish between children and adults.

The praying mantis not only reacts to exhibit visitors but also to the exhibit's animatronic butterfly.

"Our giant animatronic insects, interactive exhibits and live insect displays give visitors a truly unique perspective of a bug's world."

— Eileen Castle
museum director

Castle said that one of the driving forces behind the exhibit's design was to make guests feel smaller than the insects they encounter day-in and day-out.

"Insects are often feared, loathed and even taken for granted—but they're absolutely essential to life as we know it," she said. "They pollinate flowers and crops, help keep the environment clean, and are food for thousands of species."

"Backyard Bugs: An Oklahoma Insect Adventure" will be open through August at the museum, located at 2020 Remington Place in Oklahoma City. The exhibit

and all Earth Day activities are included with general admission.

Science Museum Oklahoma is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Daily general admission is \$15.95 for adults (ages 13 to 64) and \$12.95 for children (ages 3 to 12) and seniors (65 and older). Annual memberships begin at \$95.

For more information about Science Museum Oklahoma, visit <http://www.sciencemuseumok.org>.

Coach's passion leads to 20-plus-year career

By Kimberly McKnight
Editor

The “early bird gets the worm” is the true definition of the head track coach at Langston University, James Hilliard. As a self-proclaimed morning person, 5 a.m. practices are nothing more than a walk (or run) in the park for him. When the track team arrives to morning practice sluggish and cranky, Hilliard is wide awake and enthusiastic with the team.

“Morning practice was a love/hate relationship; mostly hate. But when my coaches told me it was preparing me for the real world, as far as getting up early, I looked at it totally differently,” said Darion Williams former LU track and field athlete. “Afternoon practice always gave us a chance to get better and work harder.”

Hilliard keeps a very close eye on who is actually warming up and who is simply going through the motions. After the team has properly warmed up, he rallies the team to tell them what the day’s practice will consist of.

Hilliard is not one to give someone slack during practice. If an athlete starts to feel aches or pains, he will more than likely tell that person to “go see the trainer” or “Ah! You’ll be alright; walk it out.” For the next hour and a half, Hilliard spends his time training the sprinters’ group to help them reach the goals they have set for the season. This is how Hilliard begins the majority of his weekdays for at least 16 weeks of the year.

It’s not common for a person to already know what college he or she will attend while still in elementary school, but Hilliard knew exactly where he would go at a ripe, young age because it was predestined for him. Hilliard is a third-generation Langston University graduate. His father and his grandparents attended our illustrious HBCU, and they instilled the Langston spirit in him from the moment he could talk. Hilliard was asked to coach cross country at Langston,

and then he became the head track coach after the then head coach became the head football coach. He has been coaching track since 1992.

Hilliard said the most exciting part about being a coach is watching athletes achieve something they never thought they could do.

Hilliard ran in high school, but did not continue to run while he was at Langston. He still had a love for the sport, though, which is obvious considering he’s been the head track coach for over 20 years. His philosophy is that you don’t have to play (or run) a sport to coach it. You just have to love it.

“I have always enjoyed the sport of track and field since I was in high school,” Hilliard said. “Most people don’t get into track like track and field athletes do.”

Hilliard is an Amarillo, Texas native at heart but was raised in Denver, Colorado. “I’ve been coming to LU since I was a baby,” Hilliard expressed.

After Hilliard graduated college, he started teaching photography at LU. His mom and dad were teachers, so they were his main influences.

“I look at it like this – photography is the only thing that can stop time,” he said.

His dad was the person who piqued his interest in photography because his dad worked for the government, which sent him all over the country, and his dad would come home with different types of photographs for Hilliard to see.

His photography class is very hands-on. He expressed that most students think they’re going to breeze through the semester and take photos on their brand new iPhones, but that is not the case. He takes them back to the beginning of photography. He teaches them how to make box cameras out of cardboard, develop black and white photos and mix solutions to help develop their photos.

“My philosophy is if you understand how something gets to be what it is, then that gives you greater control over

it,” he said.

Hilliard has one daughter and two sons; all three of his children are over the age of 30. Surprisingly, none of his kids influenced him to be a coach, though.

A person learns a lot of life lessons, whether it is good or bad. While being a teacher at Langston for so many years, the one thing Hilliard said his students have taught him is patience. He expressed that one has to learn how to have patience when dealing with certain types of students and athletes.

“Everybody looks at a challenge in different ways, but anything can be conquered if you put your mind to it,” Hilliard said.

Hilliard is a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and it’s best that people understand the reason. In 2005, he saw his women’s 4-by-1 meter relay team make it to the finals at the national track meet. He was unable to watch the ladies compete, though, because he had to fly home to make it back in time to see one his son’s graduate high school.

“After he graduated and we had dinner, I flew back to Kentucky to be with the team to ride home with them, and by that time, they had won the national title in the 4-by-1 meter relay,” he said.

Some people in the world boast about their biggest accomplishments, but Hilliard is not one to keep track of his. However, one accomplishment he can point out was helping Willie Fallard run again.

Fallard got shot in the leg when he was on a school break in California. The doctors projected that he would never be able to walk again, but Fallard beat adversity and began to train again. Hilliard helped him gain confidence and trained him so he could run again, just like Fallard said he would. Fallard competed in the conference track meet in the 400 hurdles nine months after he had been shot.

Hilliard has made a significant impact on the athletes that have run in the LU track



Photos by Kimberly McKnight

Top: Hilliard (middle) works with athletes as they practice the shotput.

Bottom: Hilliard coaches a runner during afternoon practice.

program.

“Coach Hilliard has impacted my life on and off the track by simply giving me words of encouragement,” said Darion Johnson, track and field athlete. “I get easily discouraged from the track to the classroom, so any words of motivation from him seem to keep me going because he expects a lot from me and I want to make him proud.”

Hilliard ends his day with another practice at 3 p.m.

By this time, his energy has wound down a tad, but he still makes sure everyone has warmed up and gets all the athletes ready for their afternoon workouts.

Though Hilliard is working with the sprinters, he still keeps his eye on the whole track. It is safe to say that Hilliard has made some big strides for his students and his athletes, and he doesn’t plan on stopping what he loves any time soon.

Track team begins outdoor season

By Michael Colston
Staff Writer

Langston track team members are looking to "work harder and improve every day" as they start the outdoor track season, said Head Coach James Hilliard.

The track team's first few meets "didn't go as planned coming back fresh off spring break," Hilliard said, because "the team did not do what

was needed over the break to come out with a strong start to the season."

The first meet was held at Oklahoma Baptist University on March 9 where freshman Keandria Ford placed first in the long jump with a jump of 5.88 meters. This jump qualified her for the national track meet.

"I didn't know I qualified until the next day," Ford said. "[The] coaches didn't tell me;

they wanted me to be surprised, and I was!"

The second meet was held in Hutchinson, Kansas, where Senior Tara Howard, qualified for the national meet in the 100-meter dash. She qualified with the time of 11.87 seconds and came in first place.

"I was really surprised when I started off and when I realized what kind of race it was going to be," Howard

said. "I tried to stay calm and focused on my main goal of winning the race."

The two ladies also run with each other in the 4x1 and 4x4 relays.

"We want every single one of our runners to qualify, but that won't just be handed to them," Hilliard said.

"They have to go get it, and the ones that want it the most will get exactly what they want, and that is qualifying

for the state meet," he said.

According to the Langston Sports website, the team's most recent meet was at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas April 7.

Senior Magnus Scott qualified in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.63 seconds, senior D.Q. Piolet qualified in the 110-meter hurdles, and senior Kaytlen Dickerson beat the school record in high jump, jumping 5 feet 4 inches.

Langston Soccer Club offers fun competition

By Kimberly Thompson
Reporter

When students think about Langston University's sports, basketball, football, volleyball, track or softball might come to mind. But LU also has another sports team—the Soccer Club.

The Soccer Club was established in fall 2011. It is a student-run organization, which offers recreational soccer games for LU students who share a passion for soccer.

Dr. Michael Hamilton, assistant professor in the School of Business, serves as the volunteer adviser and coach for the Soccer Club.

Richard Jimenez, senior

computer science major, said the Soccer Club is perfect for those who like to play recreationally, yet still need enough time to study and socialize with their friends.

"The addition of soccer in Langston University not only promotes a great sport, but also it might influence more students to enroll," Jimenez said. "This is an opportunity for the Soccer Club to brand our club as a source of recreational sport for Langston University students."

The number of students who participate in the Soccer Club vary each semester. This spring semester, there are 25 players on the team.

Deaundrea Grant, junior business administration major, has been a part of the Soccer Club for three years.

"I enjoy the competition," Grant said. "I'm extremely competitive when it comes to sports—I always want to win."

The Soccer Club provides a competitive edge, but it also helped Grant in more ways than one.

"I would say that being a part of the club has made me more vocal," he said. "In soccer, communication is pretty important. Without it, you won't win too many games."

The requirements to be involved with the club are as simple as attending the weekly

practices and the games. Having soccer experience is a plus, but everybody is welcomed to join, both males and females, Jimenez said.

Jimenez also said that quality training sessions are designed to meet the soccer skills of all the club members. The Soccer Club practices once a week on Wednesday evenings at 5 p.m. on the practice football field.

The Soccer Club doesn't just play for fun, but also competes in the Edmond Adult Soccer

League.

Hamilton has two soccer coaching licenses, a state D License and E License from the Oklahoma Soccer Association, which is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation. In addition, Hamilton holds a certificate of completion of the P.R.E.P.A.R.E. course from the National Center for Sports Safety and a certificate of completion of Heads Up Concussion in youth sports from the Center for Disease Control.



Photo by Kimberly Thompson

Members of the Soccer Club participate in a practice game.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Only 11 percent of the human population is left-handed.
2. The name "Oklahoma" comes from the Choctaw words: "okla" meaning people and "humma" meaning red, so the state's name literally means "red people."
3. 94 percent of Americans eat pizza regularly.