

the Gazette

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STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018



New and Improved

See Page 8

the Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University.

It serves as a teaching tool.

The newspaper is published bimonthly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

Editor

Kimberly Thompson

Cover Designer

Jasmine Mayes

Staff Writers

Victoria Garnes

Destinee McClain

Jadason Morris

Malcolm Quattlebaum

Derdrick White

Contributing Writers

Glenn Irons

Clifton Thurman

Adviser

Nicole Turner

The *Gazette* Office
Langston University
Sanford Hall, Room 318
Ph. 405-466-3245

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to nkturner@langston.edu.

Opinions expressed in Voices are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles. 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.

Letter to the Editor

At the beginning of the fall semester, a student athlete threatened to rape me.

I confided in one of my professors about the incident because I needed to talk to someone. What I didn't know is that this professor was required by law to report any sexual harassment or assault to Title IX.

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is a federal law that states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Langston has its own Title IX coordinators, which consisted of three administrators who worked on campus at that time. I was contacted by the Title IX coordinators and asked to meet with them.

My first encounter was with only one of the coordinators, who was amazing to work with. He was supportive and there was no pressure to report, unless I felt that it was what I wanted to do.

I told this administrator my story. I had a student athlete reach out to me through Twitter, and he asked for my phone number.

As a young college woman, it was new and exciting, or so

I thought. So, I gave him my number. He was someone to talk to and see if there were any sparks or a potential relationship with, or at the very least, a new friendship. It's college in the 21st century, and the dating world often starts through social media and texts. He is an attractive guy and seemed cool enough, so I figured it was harmless. But, I soon learned that was not the case.

He quickly became sexually aggressive. He threw a fit when I said no to him asking for oral sex. At that point, I stopped replying to him. A couple weeks later, he texted me again. This time, he wanted me to come to his dorm to have sex. Again, I said no, and that is when things escalated. He said, "I can f**k you if I want to. B****es can't control my actions at all."

These texts are what I showed one of the Title IX coordinators in my initial meeting. He was shocked at the messages I received. The coordinator was very understanding and told me that Title IX would work with me in whatever way I wanted.

I decided I would move forward with a case. I felt this was the only option because he was so aggressive. I feared he might physically hurt me or another woman.

As the case moved forward, the student athlete refused to

cooperate. He would not come in for meetings, he refused to tell his side, and he even yelled at and hung up on one of the Title IX coordinators during a phone call. His lack of response showed how seriously he was taking what he did, which was not seriously at all. There was an obvious lack of respect for authority figures at the university and for myself and my case.

I reported the incident in September 2017 and did not have a hearing until December. It was the week before finals, specifically. I waited, literally, months to get a student conduct hearing, despite having proof of my incident from the start.

While this was going on, I began to have panic attacks, had to have my depression medication increased, and I was tired ALL the time because I was stressing so much. I got an emotional support animal so I would feel safer in my campus apartment when I was by myself. I even had to take an incomplete in a course because I could not mentally finish out my last assignment. This was abnormal for me, as I have always been a highly motivated student.

As I sat in my hearing, I was questioned about why I would give a young, attractive man my phone number or what was said prior to him threaten-

ing my ability to say yes or no to sex. I felt that I was on trial, instead of the man who threatened me. I was disgusted that the people asking me those questions were also women.

One of the women on the hearing committee questioned me about why I would give him my phone number and, for some reason, it did not click in her head that I could give a man my phone number while he was being nice, and then that same man could turn out to be terrible. A female student on the hearing committee asked me the question about what preceded before he became so aggressive.

Nothing a woman does justifies a rape or a rape threat. Period. If anything, I thought the women should understand how something like this could happen, but I was thoroughly disappointed with their responses.

I left the hearing discouraged. I was told I would have a response to my case within 72 hours, which I signed a document stating I understood these things. That did not happen.

I had to go to the Office of Student Affairs and ask where my response was. One of the administrators in that office told me that it was more of a suggestion of when it should

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Student reviews 'Ready Player One' movie

By Clifton Thurman
Contributing Writer

Based on the novel of the same name, "Ready Player One" is a film that everyone should see. The film only made \$3.75 million on its opening Wednesday previews, but this film's earnings will continue to grow.

"Ready Player One" is about the year 2045 and the creation of the virtual reality world software called the OASIS—a place where you can do anything you want when you want. The creator of the OASIS, James Halliday, died and left his fortune and ownership to whomever

wins the game.

Wade Watts (portrayed by Tye Sheridan) has to find three keys to win, and with the help of his group, known as The High-Five, they go through dangerous challenges to save the OASIS and their world.

This film, which was directed by Steven Spielberg, is outstanding. Spielberg has done it again with this one. Spielberg directed films, such as "Jurassic Park," "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," "Jaws," "Minority Report," "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," "Indiana Jones Trilogy," "The Color Purple" and many more. Spielberg first started directing at the

age of 17. He made short films like "The Last Gun," "Fighter Squad" and "Escape to Nowhere." His first directorial debut was "Firelight."

Warner Bros. has done something here. For its four-day weekend, the film was projected to make \$52 million to \$55 million at the box office. In China, it produced \$39.2 million and \$42.6 million in overseas. In the U.S. and Canada, it made \$27.2 million in the first two days. So far, it has generated over \$181 million total.

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film is certified fresh with a rating score of 74 percent and an audi-

ence score of 80 percent. On Internet Movie Database, it has a score of 8.0 out of 10 and a score of 64 on Metacritic.

Spielberg has done a marvelous job with "Ready Player One." This is the Spielberg that everybody loves. I can assure you that this is a film that everyone should see.

The actors have done a great job portraying these characters. Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke and Lena Waithe have outdone themselves. Scattered throughout the film there are a lot of Easter Eggs, or hidden refer-

see **REVIEW**, page 7

Students attend conference in Chicago

By Nahjee Williams
Staff Writer

There is always something to learn when it comes to English majors and their passion for research, especially if undergrads are doing the same type of research as graduate-level students.

Three undergraduate students from Langston University traveled to Chicago and participated in the 78th Annual College Language Association conference.

Allyce Harrison, math major, and De'Ja Hurte, senior English major, were two of the students selected to attend.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together "college teachers of English and foreign languages, which serves the academic, scholarly and professional interests of its members and the collegiate communities they represent," according to the College Language Association website.

Dr. Sonia Brown, assistant professor of English, accompanied the three students, helping them present a panel discussion that focused on two books, "Song of Solomon" by Toni Morrison and "Giovanni's Room" by James Baldwin. Dealing with the research of both texts, the overall theme of the panel discussion included the conceptions of "home." They discussed the meaning behind black men's perception of "home" and how they deal with chaos in their lives.

The University of Kansas provided financial support for the students' trip.

"I'm thankful to Langston University and University of Kansas for providing the financial and professional support so that these students could attend," Brown said. "It was my hope that these students would interact with other students and professionals of color and become woke to the nurturing networks that await them out-

side of dear Langston."

The students had a good experience with the conference, meeting different professors and establishing connections with famous authors and poets, such as Dr. Haki Madhubuti and Nikky Finney.

There were banquets, luncheons and midnight receptions throughout the four days. Seminars, panel discussions and exploration of the city of Chicago were just part of what the students got to experience at the conference.

"I thought the experience was amazing. I love traveling, and going to Chicago was a superb way to not be in class," said De'Ja Hurte, senior English major who attended the conference.

"CLA allowed me to connect with intelligent people and it made me realize I have so much more to learn, but I loved every second of it," she said.

The conference was held April 4-7. Other colleges in at-



Courtesy Photo

Three LU students and their professor prepare for a panel discussion at the 78th Annual Language Association conference in Chicago. Pictured (from left) are Assistant Professor Dr. Sonia Brown, Allyce Harrison, De'Ja Hurte and Nahjee Williams.

tendance included Howard University, Hampton University, Clemson and Clark Atlanta University.

The three LU students were part of a select few among English professors and graduate

students who presented at the conference.

Note: Nahjee Williams, junior broadcast journalism major, was the third student who attended the conference.

Langston is only college in state to offer degree in public health

By Remi Jackson
Staff Writer

Langston University is the only school in Oklahoma that offers a Bachelor of Science degree in public health.

This degree allows people to help others by working and improving lives without being in a clinical setting.

Public health works to track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poor health than others, according to the American Public Health Association website.

According to the public health page on the Langston University website, public health is a field of study that focuses on preventing disease and injury as well as promoting and protecting the health of the public.

The field challenges its professionals to confront complex health issues using various approaches. A public health professional is a non-clinical health professional who practices a skill in the methods for protecting the health of entire populations.

"We prepare students for entry level positions in state and local health agencies, non-profit organizations and hospitals as well as prepare them to continue on to graduate school," said Kathleen Montella, interim director of the public health program at LU.

The program is relatively new, so the class sizes are small. This affords students one-on-one interaction, which is often not available in larger programs.

Applications are due May 1. For more information, contact Montella at 405-466-3675 or by email at kamontella@langston.edu.

Women of Purpose hosts empowerment brunch

By Kimberly Thompson
Editor

"I'm every woman. It's all in me..." You probably know that phrase from the famous song, "I'm Every Woman," by Chaka Khan. But, in this case, it is a title for a women's empowerment brunch that Women of Purpose hosted in the Atrium on April 14.

The keynote speaker for the event was Kaiya Fletcher-Horton, a 2013 Langston University graduate.

The brunch was an idea from one of Women of Purpose's very own Tijera Mann, who was the chair of the event.

"I decided to host this event because I wanted to bring women together for a positive reason," said Mann, sophomore special education major. "I believe we don't have enough events on campus for women to get to know each other and just enjoy one another's company."

The keynote speaker wanted young women to understand that they need to stick together and help one another. Fletcher-Horton used the phrase, "If one woman wins, it means that all women win." She also encouraged women to push forward, no matter the issues that can often get in the way.

"Our speaker, Kaiya Horton, believes in women empowerment and lifting each other up... She was a perfect fit," said Ja'Lynn Taylor, co-chair of the event. "The brunch was a success. Those who came got what they needed and we enjoyed each other."

"The message I received while at the brunch was to always be encouraging to the people around me..."

— Ja'Lynn Taylor,
sophomore nursing major

Taylor explained that she wanted the brunch to truly encourage women on campus.

"My expectation for the women's brunch was for the women who attend to walk away with encouragement and empowerment through all the activities," said Taylor, sophomore nursing major.

The purpose of the event was to bring different women from different areas and organizations together for empowerment and a morning of fellowship. Women of Purpose wanted to reach any and every woman even beyond Langston's campus.

The women who did attend the brunch were left feeling encouraged, renewed and empowered.

"The message I received while at the brunch was to always be encouraging to the people around me and continue to push through any obstacles that I may face," Taylor said. "What I set my mind to and what is in my destiny will be for me, no matter happens."

Broadcast journalism major could rise to fame through social media

By **Malcolm Quattlebaum**
Staff Writer

Look out, Beyoncé, there is a new up-and-coming star, and it's not Cardi B – it's Langston University's very own junior broadcast journalism major Kidan Hull.

An Oakland, California native, Hull has complete and utter confidence that she will be the next social media megastar. She isn't too far away from stardom with over 24,000 followers on Instagram.

Hull's whole life revolves around social media.

"My greatest achievement would have to be creating a successful Instagram account," Hull said.

However, she ran into turmoil when her Instagram account was deleted two years ago as a result of technology inadequacies. She was destroyed momentarily because she had put her heart and soul into her account.

But, this was a minor setback

for a major comeback as she quickly regained her followers and produced a large variety of content.

She loves to entertain people and be at the center of attention. She is a singer, actress and comedian.

She came to LU to promote her talents while getting the HBCU experience. She hopes that gaining a degree in broadcast journalism will open doors for her to achieve her main goal, which is to host her own TV show where she can help people on many levels, similar to Ellen DeGeneres.

Hull isn't the only person confident that she will become famous. Her mother, Zewdi Maru, has great faith in her daughter. Maru knew her child was born to be a star.

"She was a funny baby, and she loved to make everyone laugh," Maru said. "She loved to be the center of attention and has always had a big personality."

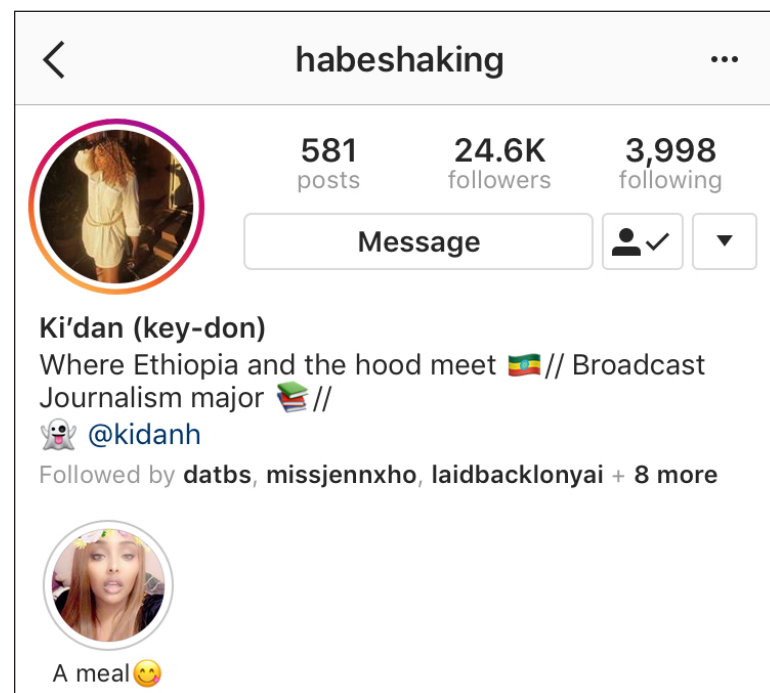
Unlike a lot of other mothers, Hull's mother approves of her social media accounts because she conducts herself in a professional way and it makes her daughter happy.

One of Hull's best friends, Roda Minas, also believes in her. But, like any friend, Minas can be hard on Hull as well because she wants her to live up to her potential.

"She is hilarious and has a great personality," Minas said. "She definitely has the talent, she just needs to put more work in and stop being so lazy, but I absolutely believe she can achieve her goals."

However, Hull has run into obstacles in her life that tested her will. During her third year at LU, she had to drop out of school for a month and go home to Ethiopia because her grandmother became severely ill.

"I fell behind in everything," Hull explained. "I was mentally and academically depressed. It took me a whole year to bounce



back to my normal self, but with the help of God, I was able to do so."

Hull is a first-generation American who comes from an Ethiopian heritage. Her parents didn't speak English when they arrived to America, so growing

up she often had to translate for them.

"I had to grow up quickly," Hull said.

Hull is proud of the woman she has become and is excited to continue her journey to social media stardom.

Sigmas change up Parking Lot Pimpin'

By **Victoria Garnes**
Staff Writer

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. hosted their famous annual event, Parking Lot Pimpin', on April 12, at the T.G. Green Park behind the Commons apartments.

Parking Lot Pimpin' is a gathering of dancing, eating and enjoying one another's company. Usually, there is a car show when the lights go down, but this year that was absent. Because of the location, there was no room to have the show.

The event, however, did feature a group of three people who put on a light show, which replaced the car show.

It featured three individuals juggling and spinning neon light sticks.

"Overall, I thought it was a great turnout, especially with it being at a new location this year," said Michael Mills, member of Phi Beta Sigma and junior criminal justice major. "It was slow in the beginning, but after awhile it started to get packed."

Despite the absent car show, no information has been provided as to why the event was in a different location this year. In past

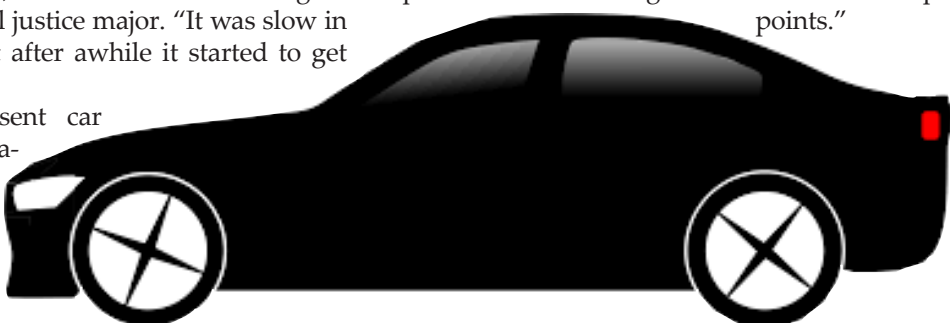
years, the fraternity has it in the W.E. Anderson Stadium parking lot.

Dajai Jones, sophomore biology major, still had a good time at the event, though.

"I had planned showing my car off this year in the car show, but they didn't have it this year," Jones said. "But it's OK, I still had fun, and this event is always the best one the Sigma's have. Sigma Week is the best week in my opinion because of this event."

While there was a lot of dancing going on, there was a lot of strolling going on as well from the whole blue and white family. The women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. were sure to support their brothers at Parking Lot Pimpin'.

"I will say this is probably my favorite event that the Sigma's have every spring," said Jasmine Campbell, junior public health major and member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. "I'm happy to be a part of it and have a good time. It never disappoints."



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TUTORING WALK-IN AVAILABILITY

UNIVERSITY WOMEN 3RD FLOOR COMPUTER LAB
4:30-9:00PM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
BIOLOGY	HUMANITIES	ACCOUNTING	TRIGONOMETRY
ACCOUNTING I	ECONOMICS	FINITE	
FINITE	PSYCHOLOGY	PHYSICAL SCIENCE	

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Delta Sigma Theta's crown new Mr. Debonair, Miss Jabberwock

By Destinee McClain
Staff Writer

The contestants walked that walk at the Mr. Debonair and Miss Jabberwock scholarship pageant, crowning Joseph Barron, sophomore music education major, and AuJane Patterson, junior business management major, as the new heirs to the throne.

The competition was held at Langston University on April 16, hosted by the Beta Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

The contestants competed for a \$500 scholarship. Three contestants competed for the Mr. Debonair and five contestants competed for Miss Jabberwocky. Over 50 people attended the pageant.

The contestants competed in five competitions: interview, on-stage question, athletic wear, talent and formal wear.

Barron played the piano for

his talent and Patterson sang a song while playing the guitar. There were five judges for the pageant, including former Mr. Langston Mark Barber.

"This was my first time judging a pageant and it was a great experience," Barber said. "The Deltas did an amazing job putting the show together, and they made sure us judges had whatever we needed. However, I had some tough decisions to make."

Barron said he spends all his time working with school, the Langston band and his organization named J.B. Productions, which focuses on writing, acting, directing and filming scripts and screen plays, and that he took a chance entering in the pageant.

Barron continued by saying that the judges saw all the dedication he had to all the things he was doing, and knew he was right for the job.

"I was so glad to see JoJo

Barron win the pageant," said Avalone Fishback, sophomore computer science major. "Between his job and his production that he runs, I knew he deserved it."

The pageant's theme was based on the movie, "Grease," made in 1978. The contestants and guests wore '70s-themed costumes.

"I especially liked how everyone was dressed for the theme," said Demarreo Felder, sophomore education major. "There was a lot of crowd participation; even Miss Langston and the Elite Connection participated."

The pageant was successful in its production and competition.

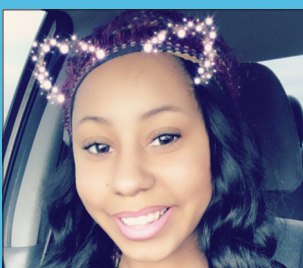
"I think the pageant went well for everyone because it was competitive and it was a lot of fun getting to know everyone through the rough and late-night practices," Barron said. "We stuck together like family."



Courtesy Photo

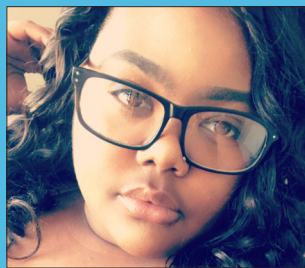
AuJane Patterson and Joseph Barron win the titles of Miss Jabberwock and Mr. Debonair.

Campus Question



Raven Minor – Junior
Early Childhood Development Major

"I'm a fan of Nicki Minaj, but I like Cardi B more because she's more of my style, just like me, and I feel and understand her music more."



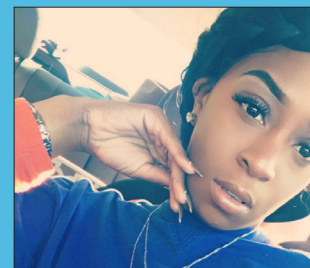
Kalifa Cooper – Sophomore
Psychology Major

"Cardi B. Simply because she grinds hard. She came from being a stripper to an A1 artist and she's real."



Jasmine Nealy – Sophomore
Biology Major

"Cardi B because she's a true hustler. She worked as a stripper to help pay for her studio time and she writes her own lyrics."



Nya Fowler – Junior
Public Health Major

"I feel as they CAN'T be compared. Cardi B is like the ratchet god that every woman can relate to. Her music is cool for the time being. But Nicki Minaj has been around since I was in middle school, still telling stories and giving us something to twerk to. Cardi just got here and Nicki already claimed her throne."

Langston University Final Examination Schedule

Spring 2018

ALL CLASSES STARTING ON	AT THIS TIME	TEST DATE	TEST DAY & TIME
Monday	8 a.m.	May 11, 2018	FRIDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	9 a.m.	May 10, 2018	THURSDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	10 a.m.	May 7, 2018	MONDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	11 a.m.	May 8, 2018	TUESDAY, 1-3 p.m.
	Noon	May 8, 2018	TUESDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	1 p.m.	May 9, 2018	WEDNESDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	2 p.m.	May 10, 2018	THURSDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	3 p.m.	May 9, 2018	WEDNESDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	4 p.m.	May 9, 2018	WEDNESDAY, 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m.	May 11, 2018	FRIDAY, 3-5 p.m.
	9:30 a.m.	May 10, 2018	THURSDAY, 1-3 p.m.
	11 a.m.	May 7, 2018	MONDAY, 8-10 a.m.
	12:30 p.m.	May 8, 2018	TUESDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	2 p.m.	May 11, 2018	FRIDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
	3:30 p.m.	May 9, 2018	WEDNESDAY, 10 a.m.-Noon
Wednesday	4 p.m.	May 10, 2018	THURSDAY, 8-10 a.m.
Thursday	4 p.m.	May 8, 2018	TUESDAY, 3-5 p.m.

ALL Final Exams for evening (*beginning at 5 p.m.*), weekend and other classes not on this schedule willl be held at the LAST REGULAR CLASS MEETING.

* Final Examination Schedule for all Multi-Section Mathematics Courses on MONDAY, May 8, 2017 *
8-10 a.m. TRIGONOMETRY/ELEMENTARY STATISTICS/FINITE MATHEMATICS
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA
1-3 p.m. COLLEGE ALGEBRA
3:30-5:30 p.m. INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Thomas 'Hollywood' Henderson to speak at LU's commencement

Special from the Office of the President

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni:

I am pleased to announce that Langston University alumnus Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson, former linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys, will serve as our speaker for the 118th Commencement of Langston University on Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m.

Henderson, a native of Austin, Texas, travels across the United States sharing his experiences as a former professional football player to encourage youth to excel academically as well as in athletics.

He is the author of the best-selling book, "Out of Control," and is also the president and owner of Thomas Henderson Films.

Henderson has been called one of the best linebackers in NFL history, with a seven-year career as a top NFL player appearing in three Super Bowls. In February, Henderson was inducted into the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

After taking time off from school to work on his NFL career, Henderson earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from LU in 2003.

Henderson now works tirelessly within communities, making major contributions through his charity founda-

tion, East Side Youth Services and Street Outreach, to motivate and inspire young people.

Henderson will bring a strong, inspirational message to the LU graduating class of 2018. I am certain that his background and experiences will motivate our graduates as they join the ranks among more than 18,000 living Langston alumni worldwide.

I look forward to celebrating the success of our graduating class of 2018 with you on May 12.

Go Lions!

Sincerely,
Kent J. Smith Jr., Ph.D.
President
LUNAA Life Member #864



Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson

LETTER

from page 2

be done than an actual deadline. Paperwork said otherwise, but I had no response still.

The following Friday, the week of finals, I was sent my response for the student athlete's punishment. He was given 50 hours of community service through the agriculture department and disciplinary probation through the spring and fall semesters of 2018. Failure to complete this punishment would only result in him maybe facing more disciplinary action, emphasis on "maybe."

I laughed as I read the letter. He was given a slap on the

wrist and will not learn any type of lesson because LU seems to condone this type of talk and action toward women. I'm hoping the university does not actually condone this type of behavior, but from the responses I got, this seems to be the case.

While I had a great experience with Title IX, student conduct left me feeling discouraged. I felt blamed and like I was asking for or deserved the aggression I received from the student athlete.

During a meeting with Title IX, I received a paper that said, "One is too many." My experience says that one is not enough. In the end, LU did very little to ensure my safety.

After my hearing, I learned

that LU accepted another student athlete with a history of sexual violence toward women. I worry that women on this campus are not safe and that our safety is not a top priority, despite us making up 65 percent of the campus population.

Though I was not physically harmed, the experience left me mentally damaged.

The primary reason for this letter is to explain my story and

ask that administration do a better job of dealing with these cases. I ask that the student conduct hearing committee and student affairs look more thoroughly at the punishments given for these types of infractions, especially considering the dean of students has the final word on conduct cases. And, finally, I ask that better, fairer, more diverse members be picked for student conduct hearings.

Register for text alerts with RAVE

Special from the Office of Public Relations

Stay updated with the campus alert system! It's important for you to be informed, and we want you to be the first to know when your campus is closed or if there is an emergency. Sign up for text alerts via the campus RAVE system, which is available to all campus faculty, staff and students.

Register for campus alerts by visiting <https://www.getrave.com/login/langston> or navigating through www.langston.edu > Logins > Campus Alerts and following these simple steps:

1. Click on "Register."
2. Complete the sign-up form with your name, email, password and phone number.
3. Your registration process will be complete, and you will be signed up to receive campus alerts straight to your mobile device.

If you have not already signed up for RAVE, be sure to register today!

REVIEW

from page 2

ences to other films, video games, and characters.

"Ready Player One" is not just for the younger audience; it's for everyone who is a fan of pop culture. The use of pop culture in the story was seamless. The characters in the story care about pop culture. From '80s arcade games to '90s films, this film has them all. Our collective history is part of the movie. It's enjoyable with references from "Back to the Future," "The Iron Giant," "Jurassic Park" and "The Shining," to "Chucky," "King Kong" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

In the story, people are more focused on virtual reality than reality itself and have devoted their real lives to VR. It's easy to understand why players focused on VR are looking for an escape—they don't fit into the real world.

With emerging technology, I think the same scenario from the story can happen to us as well. We put so much emphasis on technology that we miss the most important things going on in our lives.

Think what you want.
Couldn't get no d[REDACTED]
from me even if you
tried your hardest. I'll
f[REDACTED]k you if I want to.
B[REDACTED]es can't control
my actions AT ALL

This is a screenshot of one of the texts from the student athlete.

LU gets new track and turf

By Derdrick White

Staff Writer
and Glenn Irons
Contributing Writer

The Langston Lions football team will start off the 2018 season with new, state-of-the-art football turf and a new, cushiony track.

After the success of last year's undefeated season and first home playoff game in 44 years, the Lions have earned a new track and field. The old turf had been down for 14 years, said Head Coach Quinton Morgan, but after two months, the new turf is finished.

The field features the Langston Lion logo at midfield, which stretches from one 45-yard line to the opposite 45-yard line. Both end zones are blue with the word "Lions" painted on them in orange.

"We really need and deserve this new field," said Jaylen Lowe, starting quarterback. "The old field would scrape and burn my skin after every tackle, so maybe now I won't have as many scars."

Morgan said LU's athletic director, Donnita Drain-Rogers, and President Kent J. Smith Jr. are to thank.

"They both put their heads together and came along with this great field," Morgan said. "We're excited about it, the kids are excited about it, and we can't wait to show it off."

The field also could help recruit players for next season.

"We're talking about a top-of-the-line facility now," Morgan said. "The turf is very soft. The kids love it. It's like sleeping on a new pillow. It's not every day that you get an upgrade to your facility. We just thank everyone for the support and we're just working our hardest to put a good product out on the field for you guys."

Morgan also thinks the new field will bring more competition and camaraderie to the spring, leading up into fall camp.

"Our kids work hard day in and day out; a lot of their hard work goes unnoticed by everyone else on campus," Morgan explained. "All they see is wins in the win column, so it's satisfying to see the kids getting what they deserve."

The football team already had its first practice on the new field April 13.

"The turf feels like I'm running on cushion, and I'm just



Photo by Derdrick White

The new football field features Langston University's logo at its center, which stretches from one 45-yard line to the other. The football team began practicing on the new turf April 13. In addition, LU also put in a new track. These projects took about two months to complete.

excited to be back," said wide receiver Michael Andrade.

Another player, junior guard Henry Mitchell, called the field a "blessing."

"I honestly feel like it's a blessing to be able to be the first ones to play on the new field," he said. "I want to thank the group of men before me

that paved the way for us to be in this position. I feel like the new turf will help me be a better football player and move faster."

Track team prevails despite not having actual track to practice

By Jadason Morris

Staff Writer

The Langston University track and field teams have persevered through their season, despite practicing on a grass field for over a month.

The teams haven't practiced on a track because of renovations, including a new track and new turf on the football field. Despite the situation, the Lions haven't allowed it get the better of them.

At their recent April 12, track meet, the Bethel College Invite, freshman Cinque Sambula finished fourth in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:03:01. Junior Korrior Session finished second in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.56 seconds.

The men's 4x100-meter relay team, consisting of sophomore Romiki Dorris, freshman Devonta Trotter and juniors Session and Bryan Vinson, finished fifth with a time of 42.35 seconds. The 4x400-meter dash team, consisting of

Dorris, Trotter, Sambula and Vinson, took home second place with a time of 3:22:76.

Sambula addressed team's practice situation and how hard the team has worked to overcome it.

"It's been a pretty humbling experience," Sambula said. "We've been practicing on the grass and pavement and everything like that. But you have to look at it as a way to work even harder as an athlete, knowing that you're at a disadvantage compared to other teams. Even though we haven't had a track, it didn't mean we could slack off. We still had to work 10 times harder."

Along with their teammates, the women's track and field team hasn't allowed their practice situation to affect their performance, either.

The women's 4x100-meter relay team, consisting of freshman Alysa Morgan, freshman Christian Tudman, sophomore Keandria Ford and sophomore Alexandria Neely, finished third with a

time of 49.89 seconds. The 4x400-meter relay team, consisting Neely, Tudman, Morgan and freshman Madyson Salsberry, also took third place with a time of 4:10:29.

In the field events, senior Janaa Evans took first place in the long jump with a jump of 5.53 meters. Ford finished fifth with a jump of 5.20 meters. In the triple jump, Salsberry finished second with a mark of 10.84 meters.

Salsberry credited her teammates for pushing one another to work hard in practice and overcome the timing of the situation.

"Preparing for the track meets without having a track has been difficult," Salsberry admitted, "but it's also been motivating because, if we can do it without a track, when we get our track back, we'll be 10 times better."

According to the Red River Conference website, Evans was recently chosen as the Red River Athletic Conference Field Athlete of the Week for her

performance from April 9 to 15.

Along with winning the long jump title, Evans finished seventh in the shot put with a throw of 11.50 meters and ninth in the triple jump with a mark of 9.91 meters.

Head track and field coach James Hilliard Jr. has remained positive about not being able to practice on the track. He looks at it as a life lesson, and his athletes have prevailed. But, he said, they have had to improvise.

"Well, basically, they've had to make some adjustments, and that's just like life," Hilliard said. "Everything's not going to go the way that you want it. In order to be successful, it's not a straight, paved, smooth road. So, they've had to make some adjustments, and we'll see if their adjustments are going to show."

The Lions resumed action at the conference track meet April 20, in Marshall, Texas. To see results of that track meet, visit the Langston Sports website at <https://www.langstonsports.com>.