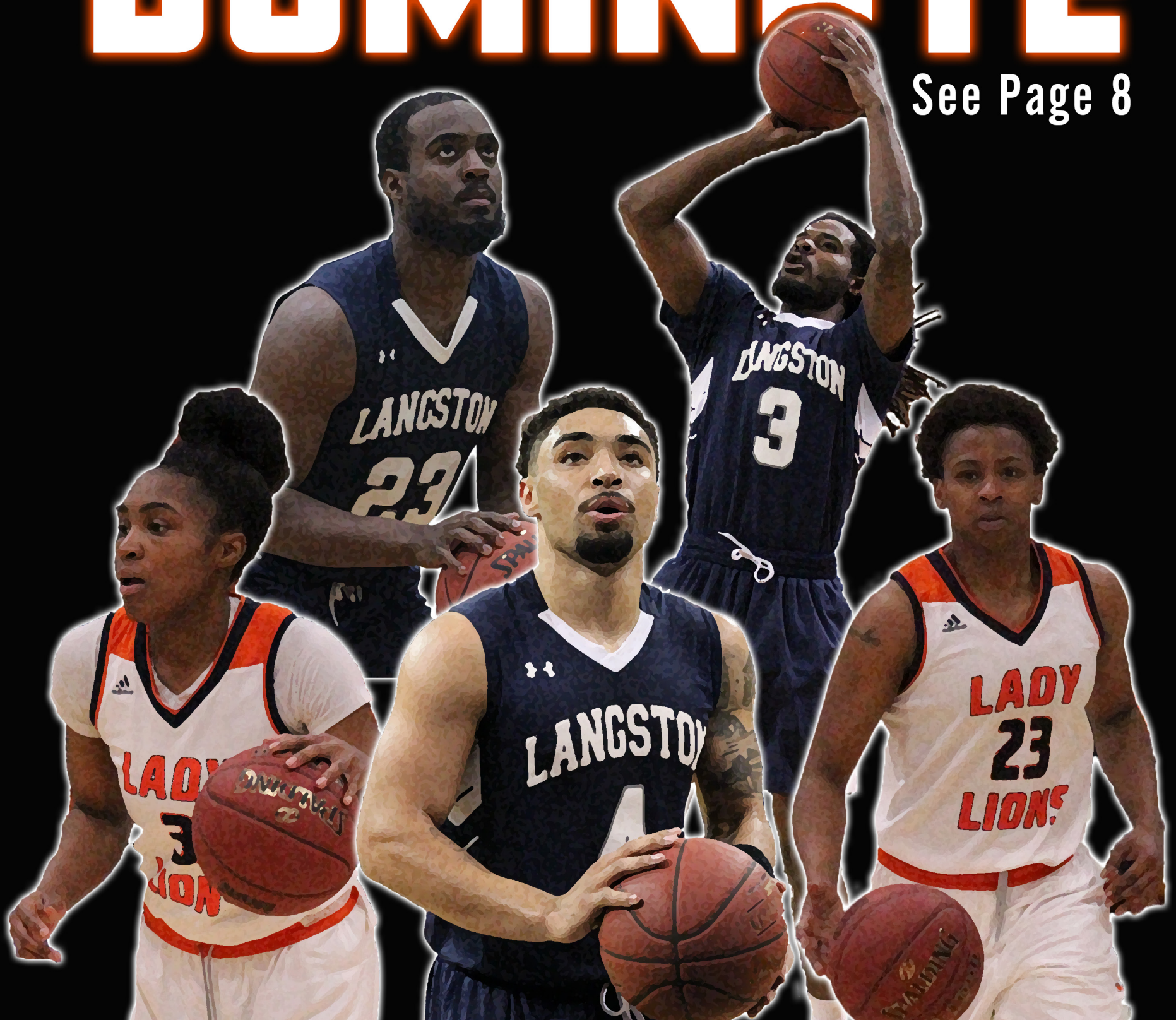


Lions, Lady Lions **DOMINATE**

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the Gazette

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

It serves as a teaching tool. The newspaper is published biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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Player, creator, father

Student reflects on life trifecta of Kobe Bryant

On Jan. 26, nine people were tragically killed in a helicopter accident in Calabasas, California. What started as a typical Sunday morning turned into an absolute nightmare.

Among those who perished was Los Angeles Lakers and NBA all-time legend Kobe Bryant. The news of Kobe Bryant's death sent shockwaves throughout the country and even the world, as the Black Mamba was globally loved and appreciated by fans. The world stood still to try and grasp the sudden reality that seemed to come in an instant.

Not long after the news broke, more devastating news was revealed. Kobe Bryant's 13-year-old daughter, Gianna Bryant, was also killed in the crash. Official reports say that in addition to Kobe, 41, and Gianna, 13, others on board



Diaz

the helicopter included Allysa Altobelli and her parents, John and Keri Altobelli, mother and daughter Sarah and Payton Chester, Mamba academy basketball coach Christina Mauser and pilot Ara Zobayan.

If someone would have said a month ago that Kobe, Gianna and seven others would be killed in a helicopter crash, I would say that person was insane. The man that Kobe came

off as was someone who was invincible. Everyone had a belief that nothing could harm the Mamba. This is someone who tore his Achilles midgame and still walked to the free-throw line to nail his shots.

What pains me even more is the fact that his daughter was also killed. Gianna was walking in her father's footsteps. She formed a love for the game of basketball, and Kobe taught her little by little until she gained ground into becoming her own. Her talent and skill developed at a rapid pace, and she adopted the name "The Mambacita" after her father, The Black Mamba.

We cannot control tragic events that happen so suddenly. They leave us with a reminder that days aren't promised, and anything can happen. There is a reason that when

things like this happen, people are urged to call their loved ones and tell them just how much they love them.

Kobe Bryant had just finished the first chapter of his career, which was wildly successful:

- Five-time NBA Champion
- Two-time Finals MVP
- 18-time NBA All-Star
- 11-time NBA All-NBA First Team
- Both Nos. 8 and 24 jerseys retired by the Los Angeles Lakers

These are only a handful of the accomplishments Kobe garnered during his time in the NBA. Throughout his career, he developed "The Mamba Mentality," a fearless, courageous, determined and will-powered mindset that many NBA players after him wanted

see **KOBE**, page 7

Faculty & Staff Spotlight

By Monique Bonds

Editor

Teaching at Langston University is more than a job – for some, it is their dream.

"[As a child], I dreamt of becoming a college professor," said Susan Mathew, assistant professor of psychology. "The dream has come true at Langston University, as I love to teach students with passion and confidence."

Previously employed as the assistant director of graduate admissions at Oklahoma State University, Mathew came to LU in the fall of 2018, and she has loved every moment since.

"I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work with students and share my skills and knowledge with them," Mathew said. "I love the fact that most faculty and staff members know each other and address them by their name."

Working with both LU students and her husband, Dr. Kjoy Abraham, who also works at the university, Mathew has surpassed accomplishing her childhood dreams.

"Langston University has provided the platform for my professional development, specifically in terms of teaching, research

and service," Mathew said. "As educators, we are all life-long learners, and I continue to learn from the students I interact with. I gain the most from seeing students become successful and connecting students to opportunities outside LU."

Originally raised in India, Mathew moved to the U.S. 25 years ago to further her education of psychology.

"Psychology allows us to understand human behavior in relation to personalities," Mathew explained. "I particularly enjoy organizational psychology to understand how the administration of any institution functions and how they interact with their employees to get the job done."

Earning two degrees from OSU – her doctorate in higher education administration in 2001 and her doctorate in educational psychology in 2010 – Mathew worked nonstop to achieve her goals, and she expects nothing less of her students. Undergraduate students who've had Mathew as a professor would often describe her as challenging.

"Students who want to be challenged and pursue graduate education would say that I am dedicated to teaching, confident, tough, demands hard work, easily accessible and



Dr. Susan Mathew

fair," said Mathew.

Outside of being a professor, Mathew spends her free time cooking and trying out new recipes. "I enjoy watching cooking videos and actually trying recipes that I like – I will say that I have been pretty successful with these recipes," she said.

In the future, she plans to improve her study of psychology.

"[I plan to] continue to work with other psychology faculty members to help improve the psychology program to meet student needs, create research opportunities for students and assist with student placements and serve the university to the best of my ability."

Bills, bills, bills

Students unable to return due to outstanding balances

By Antonice Johnson
Staff Writer

The campus might seem a little empty this semester because several students weren't able to return due to outstanding balances with their university bursar accounts, which covers tuition and fees.

Christopher Brooks, former junior broadcast journalism major, did not return this spring because he didn't have the funds to pay his bill.

"Not being able to come back to Langston this semester really puts my life on hold," Brooks said. "This is a huge setback for me, but I had no other choice and ran out of options."

The financial aid office should always have resources to guide students and inform them of their options in paying tuition and fees.

"Financial aid tried to help me, but I feel as if they could've done a little more because I'd rather still be at Langston right now," Brooks

said. "I was able to sign two promissory notes since I've been at Langston and tried to sign another one in order to stay, and sadly I was informed that I couldn't. But I know students who have signed more than two and was able to return."

Financial aid is usually the main reason students are able to attend college. However, financial aid must be taken care of properly and timely.

Shelia McGill, executive director of the Office of Financial Aid and Enrollment Management, explained the situation and how outstanding student bills affect the university on several levels.

"In October of 2019, a lot of students couldn't attend homecoming due to problems with their bills," McGill said. "Langston decided to do this because, at the time, the number of students with an outstanding bill was over \$10 million, which includes students who have already signed a promissory note."

McGill continued, saying,

"I have students tell me all the time Langston is their home, and I could understand why they're feeling this way, but it's [just] home for the time being," she said. "It's just a stepping stool in life while trying to figure out where to go next, and that's why students don't take paying their bills serious because they're too comfortable with being here."

What it really boils down to is that students must be willing to do their own research and find their own resources in order to pay their tuition and fees.

"Langston doesn't have any penalties towards students who don't pay their bills, which is causing the school to miss out on a lot of money," McGill said. "Students don't understand that if no money is coming in, we're not able to have events, order needed equipment or do any of the things the students would like because bills aren't getting paid."

Students should take ad-

vantage of their resources or money that's available. But, most importantly, students must complete the FAFSA in a timely manner.

FAFSA is the only way for students to qualify for any type of federal student aid, which could be completely free, but there is no way of knowing how much a student qualifies for in financial aid if the FAFSA is not completed before the beginning of each academic year.

"FAFSA and scholarships, which are all posted on our school website, is the most important thing to do when dealing with bills," McGill said. "And, more than half of the students on this campus don't fill out their FAFSA, and financial aid ends up bending over backwards, making accommodations for students, when it's not doing anything but hurting the school more in the long run because all of these students are still here because of promissory notes, but no money is being paid

and students don't understand this. We try to make students understand that this is their investment. School is not free, and nothing in life comes easy."

Some students, however, do realize the importance of taking care of their bills, as well as taking advantage of scholarships and other funds available.

"I almost wasn't able to return because of my bill, but I used my resources and connections that I have on campus and, with me having good grades, received another scholarship covering my bill," said Destiny Madden, junior biology major. "Students are scared to ask for help regarding their bills, not knowing it's actually people on campus that'll help, but [students] aren't aware of this because they're too afraid to ask."

For more information about federal student aid, go to <https://www.langston.edu> and click on the "Admission/Aid" tab.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

CCAMPIS

CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM



CHILDCARE FUNDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ASSIST QUALIFIED LANGSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH CHILDCARE COSTS.

GRANT FUNDED BY:
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATES:
OCT. 1, 2019 - SEPT. 30, 2020

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
Participant(s) must provide copies of current enrollment at Langston University and award summary of the Pell Grant. The CCAMPIS stipend will only cover the balance of childcare cost after the Department of Human Services (DHS) has paid.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications are available below for child care stipends immediately. Please call: Dr. Evia Davis (405) 466-3338 or Mrs. Sonya Moore-Davis (405) 466-6167 for additional information.


Langston offers new associate's program

By Kammie Onyekwere
Staff Writer

Been at Langston for two years? You could graduate with an associate's degree.

Students who have 60 credits or more now have the opportunity to receive an Associate's of Arts in General Education. To be eligible, students must complete 41 hours of their general education courses and 15-19 hours of their major courses. Once students have earned enough hours to qualify, they can then apply for graduation to receive the degree.

"This provides students a greater opportunity to hit milestones earlier, and more students can graduate," said

Alonzo Peterson, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

This new program has been effective since fall 2019. There are two options for students to choose from who are eligible. The first is the conferred option, which is free.

If students choose this option, they will not receive the physical degree, but it would be documented as an earned associate's degree on their transcript.

The second option allows students to receive the actual degree in the mail, but this option requires a fee.

"Theoretically, you can have two graduations now," Peterson said.

Peterson explained that this new degree program is avail-

able at all three Langston University campuses. He said the institution reduced the required general education hours from 50 to 41. In addition, there has been an increase of course offerings in English, Natural Science Biology and Mathematics in the general education core curriculum, but the number of general education elective hours has decreased to nine credits.

Therefore, Peterson said, this plan lowers the number of required general education hours from 62 to 60, which aligns the Associate's of General Education degree with the general education curriculum.

So, ideally, all students who

see **ASSOCIATE'S**, page 7

McCabe Honors program is 'privilege' to students

By Sakinah Muhammad
Staff Writer

The Edwin P. McCabe Honors Program is a scholarship-based initiative that grants Langston University students the opportunity to meet worldwide scholars and travel across the globe.

According to the Oklahoma History website, okhistory.org, this program was named after Edwin P. McCabe, who established Langston City and was also connected with the establishment of Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal College, now known as Langston University.

"Membership in the Honors Program is a privilege and full of responsibilities," said Beatrice Lawrence, coordinator of the McCabe Honors Program, "such as meetings, community service and special seminars to promote scholastic excellence."

Students are required to take exclusive honors courses designed to aid in communication skills, analytical thinking, creativity and leadership. The McCabe Honors Program is designed to cultivate a work ethic that will stick with students throughout their scholarly career.

While being a part of the scholarship program, honors students are challenged to be the best they can be with the support and guidance of both their advisers and peers.

There are currently 130 students total in the McCabe Honors Program, consisting of 77 freshmen, 22 sophomores, 16 juniors and 15 seniors.

Through the McCabe Honors Program, there are two scholarship packages available: the McCabe Scholarship and the Regents Scholarship.

According to the LU website, the McCabe Scholarship covers any expenses students may have after all federal and state grants and/or scholarships have been applied.

This includes tuition and fees for up to 18 credit hours per se-

mester, campus housing, a meal plan and a textbook stipend. The Regents Scholarship covers campus housing and a meal plan.

Requirements for McCabe applicants are a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 (UNWEIGHTED) for high school and college (concurrent/dual enrollment) courses and a minimum ACT composite score of 22 or SAT equivalent.

For Regents applicants, a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 (UNWEIGHTED) for high school and college (concurrent/dual enrollment) courses and a minimum ACT composite score of 20.

Students interested must submit a transcript, a resume of extracurricular activities and volunteer work in the community, and an essay of 200 words on a given subject.

All scholars must participate in the LU Scholars' Club and pay annual dues.

To keep the scholarship, McCabe Scholars must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 each semester, enroll in honors courses, scholars club membership, and attend required school functions.

Students must also adhere to all university and honors program rules and regulations, participate in the Oklahoma Scholar Leadership Enrichment Program seminar, and the preparation of and presentation of Senior Research Thesis.

Regents Scholars must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 each semester, enroll in honors courses, scholars club membership, attend required school functions and adhere to all university and honors program rules and regulations.

If scholars meet these renewal requirements, they will receive eight consecutive semesters of scholarship or ten consecutive semesters for certified double-major and education majors, according to the LU website.

"Being in the honors program has really enhanced my work

ethic," said Malaysia Richmond, freshman nursing major.

Some benefits include financial assistance through 4 semesters, special honors courses, individual advising and counseling provided by the Honors

Program staff, opportunities to travel, attend and present ideas at national, regional and state conferences and conven-

"Being in the honors program has really enhanced my work ethic."

— Malaysia Richmond,
freshman nursing major

tions, and first in line for opportunities such as internships, scholarships, postgraduate opportunities and employment.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black(Er) Day School: Seminars on Black Life, Black History, and Black Culture

Time: 12:00pm- 1:30pm

Sat. Feb. 1, 2020- "Examining the Black Past" (Hamilton 205)

This seminar will examine Africa as the origin for all peoples. Participants will discuss the concept of slavery vs. chattel slavery, and we will explore the empires of African as well as African cosmologies, African traditions, and African cultures.

Sat. Feb. 8, 2020- "African American Vernacular English or Black Vernacular English" (Allied Health 105)

By the end of this seminar, students should be able to 1) understand the cultural significance and historical background to African American Vernacular English (AAVE); 2) understand the difference between a language and a dialect; 3) recognize basic linguistic and grammatical features of AAVE and how it contrasts with Standard English (SE); and 4) recognize their bidialectalism.

Sat. Feb. 15, 2010- "Black Literacy, Black Literature, and Black Writers" (Black Heritage Center)

This seminar will explore literacy in the Black community. We will review the pioneers of African American thought, African American Literature, and African American Letters. Students will learn about the restrictions on literacy for blacks and will understand the historical contributions of Black Americans to American Literature.

Sat. Feb. 22, 2020- "The History of Black Music" (Black Heritage Center)

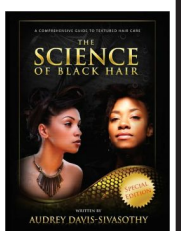
This seminar will explore the history of Black music by discussing the significance of music in Black Culture. Participants will be exposed to the African contributions to Black Music and will discuss the pivotal icons and influences within Black Musicology.

Sat. Feb. 29, 2020- "A Review of *The Science of Black Hair*" (Allied Health 105)

By the end of this seminar, students should be able to: 1) understand the dynamics of African American hair; 2) identify what causes hair breakage and damage; 3) explain the difference between a moisture building regimen and a protein building regimen; and 4) apply the basics of healthy hair management.

Facilitator: Sonia Mae Brown, PhD*

Dr. Sonia Mae Brown holds a PhD in English from Howard University and is an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of English & Foreign Languages.



Food pantry seeks volunteers

By Asheika Alexander
Staff Writer

"I expect to get new, innovative ideas, technology and efficiency from the university and university students. I need manpower," said Alberta Mayberry, when discussing the primary needs of the new Langston Community Food Pantry.

Mayberry, who is retired as the director of libraries at Langston University, is now the main volunteer at the food pantry. Mayberry is huge advocate for the idea of community and how we should have one another's backs during trying times.

So, after realizing the number of students and people in the community in need of food, she called a community meeting, which included Joshua A. Busby, the dean of students at LU. Busby agreed to collaborate with the Community Food Pantry so students could have access.

However, Mayberry stressed

"My organization has volunteered there a few times, and it's an amazing thing to be a part of, to know what were are doing benefits our community as well as my fellow peers."

— Michael Mills,
senior
corrections major

the fact that she now needs volunteers to help work at the pantry because she cannot run it alone. In particular, she said, she wants others to know how to properly run the pantry without her; that way, it can remain open and available to those in

need when she is not longer able to volunteer.

Mayberry explained that donations usually arrive the day before the pantry is open to the public. Donations come from students on campus, surrounding communities and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. This means that numerous pallets are lined up outside the door, which need to be unloaded, organized and stocked in order to collect inventory.

Michael Mills, senior corrections major, has experience volunteering with the pantry.

"My organization has volunteered there a few times, and it's an amazing thing to be a part of," Mills said, "to know what we are doing benefits our community as well as my fellow peers."

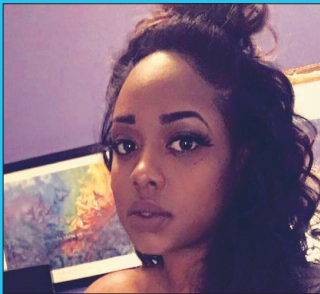
To volunteer, students can fill out an application at the Langston Community Food Pantry, located at 401 W. Hale St. in the Langston Retail Plaza, or contact Mayberry at 405-203-7695.

LANGSTON COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY SPRING 2020 SCHEDULE				
		DELIVERY		DISTRIBUTION
JAN	28 th *	10:30 am 12:00 pm		29 th * 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm 30 st * 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Feb 1 st * 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
FEB	25 th *	10:30 am 12:00 pm		26 th * 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm 27 th * 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm 29 th * 9:00 am – 11:00 am
MAR	24 th *	10:30 am 12:00 pm		25 th * 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm 26 th * 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm 28 th * 9:00 am – 11:00 am
APR	28 th *	10:30 am 12:00 pm		29 th * 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm 30 st * 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm May 2 nd * 9:00 am – 11:00 am
MAY	26 th *	10:30 am 12:00 pm		27 th * 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm 28 th * 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm 30 th * 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Campus Question

Who inspires you most during Black History Month?

Compiled by Monique Bonds



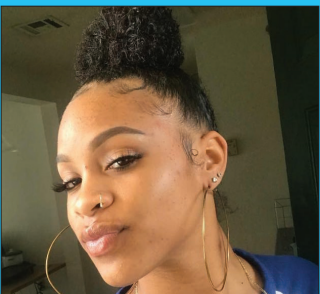
Aria Sanders
Junior
Elementary Education Major

"Who inspires me the most is Beyonce because she is the epitome of a woman. She is strong, independent, passionate; she's an activist, a feminist, and she's just an all-around BOSS! Like, she has an all-female band, and her Super Bowl performance was just oh-my-God."



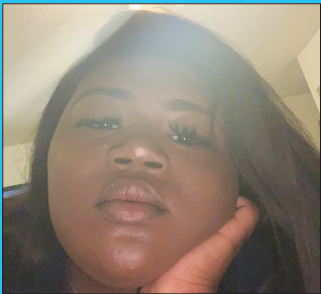
Ma'Kalynn Richardson
Freshman
General Studies Major

"Personally, I would say my mother. During her divorce, she stayed strong; she held her ground as an independent mother and didn't show any weaknesses. She did what she had to do for her two kids, and that's why she's my inspiration."



Je'Liyah Plummer
Junior
Nursing Major

"Martin Luther King inspires me because he fought for our rights as African Americans to be treated equally."



Arianna Fears
Junior
English Major

"My grandmother because she's a real influential woman. She was an orphan, she got adopted, she made something better for herself as a black woman. She's just the embodiment of a Black queen because she'll do anything she puts her mind to, no matter how big or crazy it is."

Film series presents in-depth view of American Civil War

By Ebony Lucas
Staff Writer

The Langston University Department of English and Foreign Languages has teamed up with The Department of Social Sciences and Humanities to introduce "America After the Civil War."

This four-part film series event, hosted by Dr. Margret Johnson, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Nicholas Timmerman, assistant professor of history, was open to all students, faculty, staff and the Langston community. It was held on Tuesdays and Thurs-

days from Jan. 28 to Feb. 6, in the Black Heritage Center.

"I thought our Langston University students and community would like to learn, in depth, about reconstruction," Johnson said.

The film series showcased a documentary produced by PBS titled "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War."

According to the PBS website, the four-hour documentary "explores the transformative years following the American Civil War, when the nation struggled to rebuild itself in the face of profound loss, massive destruction, and revolutionary

social change."

Madison McClellan, junior psychology major, said she enjoyed the event.

"I believe [it] was very educational and informative on certain things that were not taught to me during my high school history class, like how African Americans positively fought racism with racism," McClellan said.

Timmerman said his biggest hope for those in attendance was for them "to realize that history matters. Learning about the past is a very useful tool to deal with the issues of today," he said.

The documentary also presents the social, economic and political upward movement of African Americans during reconstruction right after the American Civil War and their following downward movement due to white supremacist attitudes and political and economic policies.

"I found the documentary very interesting because I was able to learn more about black history and how African Americans positively fought racism with racism," said Chelsea Nelson, sophomore sociology major.

Timmerman explained that

events like this help our students and community learn in a different way.

"Langston University is well poised in the state of Oklahoma, as the only HBCU in the state, to host events similar to this for our students to go beyond the four walls of the classroom and engage with the harsh realities of the past," Timmerman said.

In addition, Timmerman said, this film series and other similar events help shed light on the rise of several positive historical elements, such as the expansion of African Americans in higher education, the explosion of the African American church, African American music that is root to other types of American music and several individuals who became the first African American politicians in the nation's history.

"I understand that not everyone loves history, but the past can be inspirational," Timmerman said.

RECONSTRUCTION AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

LU hosts plasticulture seminar at farmer's market conference

By Lea Houston
Staff Writer

The Langston University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences is excited to partner with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to work with the Oklahoma Farmers Market and Agritourism 2020 Conference and Expo.

This event was held Feb. 10-12, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Edmond Conference Center.

Micah Anderson, LU extension educator, presented a three-hour seminar about hands-on experience with plasticulture.

Anderson said plasticulture includes a machine that makes a bed, lays irrigation lines onto the bed, then lays plastic on the bed, which helps protect the plants and soil.

"Our job is to educate other small farmers and help establish gardens with our plasticulture system."

— Micah Anderson,
extension educator

As an extension educator, Anderson's primary responsibility is to manage a market garden utilizing plasticulture; the garden, which is located by the T.G. Park in Langston City, grows several produce items, including okra, peppers, onions, watermelon, cantaloupe and much more.

"Our job is to educate other small farmers and help establish gardens with our plasticulture system," Anderson said.

On Feb. 10, Anderson discussed irrigation supplies and allowed the audience to physi-

cally put together the supplies while showing them how to use an injector. The discussion concluded with a question-and-answer session.

"This [was] one of the biggest events that we partner with," said Joshua Ringer, extension researcher for the School of Agricultural and Applied Sciences.

The conference and expo event included workshops and sessions targeting growers, market vendors, market managers, community partners and agritourism producers.

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CALL (405) 466-3248

Corona Virus Update: No cases confirmed in Oklahoma

Special from
LU Health Services

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to monitor and share information regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). As of today, no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV exist in Oklahoma. Despite the low risk of infection to our university community, the Emergency Leadership Team continues to monitor the situation closely.

The Health Services Clinic in conjunction with the ELT will provide updates on 2019-nCoV as they become available. Below you will find additional guidance based upon frequently asked questions.

What are symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

For the vast majority of people who have had the illness, symptoms were mild (like a cold or flu), and they re-

solved after several days. Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and sore throat.

What happens to the students attending Langston University if there is a confirmed case on campus?

If a 2019-nCoV case is confirmed, then CDC protocols will be followed. Infected persons will receive medical treatment and the necessary support. Those who have had close contact with the patient will be contacted and monitored by the Logan County Health Department. Langston University will fully support that effort.

What if I recently traveled and have concerns that I've been exposed to 2019-nCoV?

Students, faculty and/or staff who have traveled internationally to locations with confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV since Dec. 1, 2019, are requested and expect-

ed to do the following:

1.) Students should visit the Health Services Clinic located on the first floor of University Women for a brief assessment. The clinic may be contacted via phone at 405-466-3335 to set an appointment.

2.) Faculty and/or staff should contact their medical provider for an assessment. If necessary and appropriate, your medical provider can furnish a release to return, which should be filed with Student and Employee Services.

What preventive actions can be taken at this time?

- Everyone 6 months and older is encouraged to get a flu shot.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you

are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and immediately throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Where can I find updated information?

For information regarding the 2019-nCoV virus, please visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/inml>.

ASSOCIATE'S from page 3

enter as freshmen could have earned an associate's degree by the time they complete their sophomore year, or by the time they complete 60 hours, which is the amount required for an associate's degree.

Peterson said the purpose of this is to give students the opportunity to receive a degree before four years, which raises graduation and retention rates for the university. Higher retention means Langston would be eligible to receive more government funding, Peterson said.

Mar'Quan Goodman, senior broadcast journalism major is

eligible for this opportunity. Goodman said he will choose the option to receive his physical diploma because it's something tangible that won't lose its value.

"It's a great opportunity for Langston students," Goodman said. "So many of us have gotten a second chance for a better future."

KOBE from page 2

to have.

On the court, Kobe was all about winning and how to get there no matter the cost. Whether it were injuries or new teammates, he took what he had and made the absolute most of it. Game-winners, buzzer-beaters, posters, championship parades – Kobe brought the people everything he could. Kobe gave his all and we, as fans, returned that love with appreciation and admiration.

While Kobe's on-court persona and attitude attracted people and athletes from all over, it is when he retired that the world saw the real Kobe: the father.

Kobe and his wife, Vanessa Bryant, were raising four daughters: Natalia, Gianna, Bianka and Capri. Kobe stated multiple times in interviews that his family meant the most to him, and he prided himself in raising them. He loved to spend time with them, and there is one method that Kobe used to en-

sure he would be able to spend as much time with them as possible: traveling by helicopter.

In an interview with Barstool Sports in 2018, Kobe said that flying by helicopter to see his family became preferable because the traffic in LA was so bad.

"I had to figure out a way where I could still train and focus on the craft but still not compromise family time," Kobe explained in the interview. "So that's when I looked into helicopters and be able to get down and back in 15 minutes. And that's when it started. And so my routine was always the same. Weights early in the morning, kids to school, fly down, practice like crazy, do my extra work, media, everything I needed to do, fly back, get back in carpool line, pick the kids up..."

Bryant had been flying the same helicopter for years. Zobayan was one of the most trusted pilots that Kobe knew, and Kobe flew with him several times. However, some can't

help but wonder whether it was faulty mechanics inside the helicopter, or if the foggy weather played a role in the sudden crash. For just about anybody, including myself, nothing about this made sense.

Kobe was the only athlete ever to also win an Academy Award. His animated short film "Dear Basketball" received praise from critics and fans alike as it detailed Kobe's life and how he developed his love for the game. In other words, Kobe Bryant's life was, in a way, just getting started.

The fearless, competitive basketball player we grew so accustomed to was merely the first stage in what was bound to be a transcending trifecta of a life: Kobe Bryant the player. Kobe Bryant the creator. Kobe Bryant the father.

"I'm reflective only in the sense that I learn to move forward. I reflect with a purpose." ~ Kobe Bryant.

Ronald Diaz is a senior broadcast journalism major.

Quote: "Your body is the biggest investment you will ever make in your life. Don't abuse it." Unknown



GUIDING RIGHT, INC.

SPRING 2020 SCHEDULE FOR HIV/STI TESTING

LOCATION: COUNSELING & HEALTH SERVICES

UNIVERSITY WOMEN BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR

TIME: BEGINNING @ 10:00AM - *(LIMITED # OF AVAILABLE TEST KITS)

JANUARY:

Tuesday, January 28th

FEBRUARY:

Monday, February 10th
Tuesday, February 25th

MARCH:

Monday, March 9th
Tuesday, March 24th

APRIL:

Tuesday, April 7th
Tuesday, April 21st

MAY:

Tuesday, May 5th

Lions, Lady Lions fall short to SAGU

By Savion Harvey
Staff Writer

The Langston men's and women's basketball teams traveled to Waxahachie, Texas, Jan. 25, to take on Southwestern Assemblies of God University, entering a crucial midseason stretch.

The Lady Lions fell to SAGU 75-67, despite a second consecutive double-double of 22 points and 15 rebounds from Talia Edwards.

The men's team also fell short to the 22nd ranked SAGU in overtime, 97-94. David Hunt II and Alfonzo Anderson had 24 and 21 points, respectively.

Philip Stitt, head coach for the Lions, said the team knew Nykolas Mason for SAUGU was their best player, and the Lions wanted to make him earn his points.

"He was hitting big shots down the stretch, and our guys were answering on the other end as a team," Stitt said. "One issue we have had all year is fouling, and it's something we stress everyday

in practice. Our team is extremely hard on the defensive end as we lead the conference in turnovers forced with 19 per game."

Three other players besides Hunt III and Anderson scored in double figures at high efficiency resulting in Langston shooting 48 percent from the field.

"We really shared the ball with each other in this game as we had a season high of 23 assists," Stitt said. "We're a very hard team to beat when we make the extra pass. Ideally, having multiple players in double figures is our goal every game. It is very hard to scout us when you don't know who the points will come from any given game. Our bench has been doing a tremendous job for us all season and is vital to our success."

On the women's side, the Lady Lions relied too heavily on three-pointers, said Daisha Jones, sophomore biology major, who works on staff for the Lady Lions.

"The Lady Lions couldn't

shoot well enough to win," Jones said. "I'm not good at math at all, but shooting 22 percent from three isn't good. But I'd say it's best to focus on the positives of the game, such as the defense."

SAGU committed a game-high 30 turnovers with LU's Asheika Alexander having seven steals to lead the Lady Lions' defense.

Alexander explained her mindset during the game when picking up those steals.

"One thing about me, I try to pride myself on the defensive end because I know that's what creates offensive tempo," Alexander said. "So me being active on the defensive end is what was needed to get my team going. That's the mission."

And, that mindset is what kept the team going.

"Seven steals is impressive, regardless if it's men or women's basketball," Jones said. "I remember almost every woman on the court getting a steal. I hope this level of play can continue on for the rest of the season."

LU destroys Bacone!



Photo by Na'Tianna Stocker

The Langston Lions dominate the court in a home game against the Bacone Warriors on Feb. 4. The Lions picked up a blowout win, 103-36.

The Lions are now 12-11 overall and 4-9 in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

Track teams travel to Kansas for indoor meet

By Na'Tianna Stocker
Staff Writer

For the second year, Langston returned to Kansas State University to compete in the Deloss Dodds field events against schools in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The men clenched third place overall and the women placed sixth.

Zachaeus Beard, a sophomore from Simsboro, Louisiana, picked up two wins at the meet on Jan. 25, placing first in the 60 meter dash and the 200 meter dash, securing 18 points toward the team's total points. The Sooner Athletic Conference recognized Beard's accomplishments at the meet by awarding him as the SAC Field Athlete of the

"I feel honored and appreciated to be player of the week. This really helps motivate me because it tells me that people are watching me and my work ethic."

— Madyson Saulsberry
junior, women's track

Week.

"I was not surprised," he said, "because I feel like I'm supposed to do that. I hold myself too high."

Langston currently has three conference award selections for Indoor Track and Field Athletes of the Week

who were all chosen in the month of January. Keandria Ford was also named SAC Field Athlete of the Week on Jan. 13.

Madyson Saulsberry, a junior from McKinney, Texas, competed in three events and placed in the top 10 for two

of them. Placing fifth in the triple jump made Saulsberry the third SAC Field Athlete of the Week, leading all schools in the SAC with the most conference award selections.

"I feel honored and appreciated to be player of the week. This really helps motivate me because it tells me that people are watching me and my work ethic," Saulsberry said.

Saulsberry turned in a mark of 10.37 meters for triple jump, securing four points for the team's overall score. Saulsberry also ran the 4x400 relay with Alysa Morgan, Ashley Benard and Ahmia Dorsey, placing eighth and securing another point for their team's score. Though Morgan competed with an injury, she thinks her team did

decent.

"I went out there and gave it my all, just like any other race," Morgan said.

In order to compete with an injury, Morgan has to stretch and ice her knee daily. The aches and pains take a toll on her body, but it does not affect her mentally because pain is temporary, she said.

"Melissa (the assistant athletic trainer) does everything for me. She makes sure I go to treatment every day and she makes sure I get back healthy. She does everything for me, I love her," Morgan said.

There are six more track meets in the month of February, and March 3 will begin the NAIA Indoor National Championship competition in Brookings, South Dakota.