

# the Gazette

VOL. 83, NO. 4

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021



# BACK IN ACTION!

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 biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

**Cover Designer**  
Na'Tianna Stocker

**Staff Writers**  
Jonah Fabian  
Keitoria Jefferson  
Kaila Lessier  
MacKenzie McQuarters  
Paris Taylor-Mahone

**Contributing Writer**  
Mar'Quan Goodman

**Adviser**  
Nicole Turner

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

Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to [nkturner@langston.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## When the good outweighs the bad *Student discusses pros, cons of social media*

Many people have debated if social networking is more beneficial than harmful. Does the good outweigh the bad? In today's society, we are living in a world with endless possibilities.

We have access to communicate with anyone around the world at our fingertips. It is known to be true that the internet tracks your every move, and nothing is ever deleted from the World Wide Web. Of course, this can be a deal-breaker for those who want to join social media networks.

No one wants to be secretly watched or documented 24/7. This issue is concerning, and the public believes that social media does more harm than good because of cyberbullying, impersonation, fraud and the fact that newer generations are becoming introverts.

But social networks have had a positive outcome in society. Social media enables everyone to connect, opening doors of opportunity for interaction with others near and far, allowing us to make new connections and reconnect with friends and family.

Social networks have become a hub to spread awareness and publicize organizations as well. In 2014, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge took the internet by storm, and hundreds of videos were uploaded to YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to support the disease's awareness.



**Goodman**

The challenge involved dumping a bucket of ice water on someone's head to promote awareness of the disease Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and encourage donations to

research. Once one person did the challenge, that person nominated other participants to do the same within a 24-hour window. Langston University President Kent Smith Jr. even took to social media to spread awareness, along with millions of other people who flooded social media as a tribute to the cause.

However, although many people think social networks invite the world into your personal space, having a lack of privacy, I believe that while you should always monitor what you post, social networks can pinpoint those who commit crimes and fraudulent acts.

CNN reporter Heather Kelly told Melvin Colon's story of facing murder, weapons and narcotics-related crimes. Colon posted public photos on Face-

book where he flashed gang signs. He also published more self-incriminating posts, which only his friends could see, referencing threats against others and past brutal crimes.

Sadly, for Colon, one of his Facebook friends gave the authorities access to Colon's "private" posts. Soon after, a judge ruled that Colon lost all claims to privacy when he shared those posts with friends on social media, which gave his friend the right to use the information how they wanted to, even if it meant sharing it with the government.

Leveraging Facebook and other social networks is just one of many ways law enforcement officials discover evidence from social media to solve crimes. Social networks have helped us connect and weed out the dangerous people who manipulate innocent people for fun or financial support.

Many people know of MTV's reality show "Catfish." Catfish is common term used for people who make fake profiles on social media using other people's photos, wrong locations and additional information, pretending to be anyone online but themselves. A "catfish" tricks a person, who is usually very naïve, into falling in love with him or her.

Throughout each episode of "Catfish," the creator of the show Nev and co-host Kamie help someone who has been

hoodwinked by a catfish and investigates if the other partner in the virtual relationship, the catfish, is legit or not. Some of these virtual relationships span from months to years without face-to-face contact.

In each episode, Nev and Kamie come to the rescue of these hopeless romantics, traveling to wherever they live to gain information about the person they suspect is a catfish. Nev and Kamie then use information such as phone numbers and pictures to solve the mystery of the catfish's true identity to track them down to have a face-to-face conversation to explain themselves and why they trick people over the internet.

While there are still social networks that have impeded us, such as hindering work productivity, creating social isolation or even having your personal information leaked to strangers, I think the good always outweighs the bad.

Social networks are implemented into education, data collecting and countless other aspects of our society. I truly believe social media creates new social connections and old ones. You can easily stay in contact with your relatives and friends. You can stay on top of current events. And it's an excellent way for people's voices to be heard.

*Mar'Quan Goodman is a senior broadcast journalism major.*

Do you have an opinion you'd like to express  
regarding life, politics, entertainment  
or other various topics?

Then this section of The Gazette is for YOU!  
Only two issues remain for the semester, so  
please share those ideas!

*Submit your ideas to [nkturner@langston.edu](mailto:nkturner@langston.edu)*

# Langston receives grant to research weird weather

By Paris Taylor-Mahone  
Staff Writer

In the summer of 2020, the National Science Foundation awarded Oklahoma's leading research institutions \$20 million to conduct a five-year research in development to respond to weird weather – one of these universities is yours truly, Langston University.

The project sees STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields that will develop measurement systems and civil ecological engineering to solve the problems triggered by seasonal weather extremes.

Dr. Charles Spurlock, LU sociology professor, explained seasonal weather extremes as "multiple days with higher-than-normal precipitation or multiple days of no precipitation with high heat."

In addition to Langston, other schools that received

"We will interview 2,500 Oklahomans with the questionnaire, gauging their understanding of weird weather risk."

— Dr. Charles Spurlock,  
assistant professor of sociology

this research funding include the University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa and Oklahoma State University. In this program, the social dynamics team gathers information on opinions and attitudes through conducting questionnaires among Oklahomans.

The social dynamics team's mission measures Oklahoman's assessment of risk from seasonal weather change and their changing position on risk related to weird weather. The social dynamics team consists of two principle investigators,

Dr. Hank Jenkins-Smith and Dr. Carol Silva. They are the representatives of the social dynamics team to the larger scientific community they are working with, which includes opinion leaders comprised of scientists and other leaders in finance, government and industry.

Dr. Spurlock is one of those scientific leaders who works with the social dynamics team.

"We define our research as finding socially sustainable solutions to wicked problems," Spurlock said. Spurlock

explained wicked problems as "characterized by widely hailed in polarizing narratives" on complex issues with limited or fragmentary knowledge, entrenched opinion leaders and a public on issues that are interwoven and complex with differently vested stakeholders. Essentially, the social dynamics team strives to find middle ground.

In a nutshell, the team will gather information and data for their research through interviews, focus groups and questionnaires.

"We will interview 2,500 Oklahomans with the questionnaire, gauging their understanding of weird weather risk," Spurlock said. "We also delve into the persons at stake wanting to know how their worldview orders their willingness to solve wicked problems, now and in the future."

The focus groups will draw upon 200 opinion leaders

whom they think are necessary in shaping technical solutions for any long-term infrastructural improvements. According to the National Public Radio website (NPR.com) and the Bryant Park Project, weird weather is explained as bizarre conditions from heat deaths to enormous blizzards.

Spurlock, in conjunction with Dr. Jenkin-Smith and Dr. Silva, are seeking students who are interested in participating in this research. There is no specific major required or prior experience, just the interest in research. If you aspire to change research dynamics toward the communities, this is a great opportunity.

Students who are interested can work in the workshops, help retrieve data or go to mini camps where they present to the public. Dr. Spurlock can be reached through his email at [cjspurl@langston.edu](mailto:cjspurl@langston.edu).

## LU students express frustrations with meal service during COVID

By Kaila Lessier  
Staff Writer

While students are back on campus, strict COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, such as the cafeteria's order of operation.

Because students cannot eat regularly in the cafe due to social distancing guidelines, most schools prepare meals beforehand to give students when it is time to eat.

According to the Langston University website, a student meal plan used to cost \$1,594.31 per semester, but now it costs \$1,384.15 due to COVID-19 restrictions and limited food choices.

However, Cornelious Florence, sophomore public health major, still thinks Langston should provide more food options.

"Although we always had to eat what they put out there [before the pandemic], it was just the fact that there were more options. So, if you did not want what was out of the main lines, you can always go get a salad or dessert," Florence said.

He also said the student body should have more of a say in how the cafe is being operated and the food is being served.

"In reality, if there were no students, there

would be no one on campus because we make the schools what they are," Florence said.

An article from Truthout.org, an independent news website, states that when university presidents were surveyed in spring 2020 about what they felt were the most pressing concerns of COVID-19, college students going hungry didn't rank very high.

According to the article, "When students don't know if they'll get enough to eat, it can lead to a series of problems that make it harder to stay in school."

Larry Harrington is a 23-year-old student-athlete at Langston who said although the cafe food is not that good, it is convenient for him and his tight schedule.

But, he said, "There should be more options to accommodate different people."

Harrington also said he thinks students should have more of a say in the food choices that are being made and believes that the cafe price should be reduced even further, especially under these conditions.

"I believe that the school picks something, and they go with it," Harrington said, regarding LU's cafeteria operations and meal plans.

**Your on-campus  
Ad could go  
somewhere in  
this publication!**

**Email**

**[nkturner@langston.edu](mailto:nkturner@langston.edu)**

**for more  
information**



# Snowklahoma 2021



Photo by MacKenzie McQuarters

**Above:**  
During the recent snow storm of 2021, students set out to capture different areas on campus affected the most by the winter weather. Pictured above is one of the Langston University ponds, located near Scholar's Inn.



**Right:**  
Some students decided to celebrate spring break early... in February! Tory Lewis, senior agriculture major, made the most of the snow storm. He set outside in his lawn chair at different spots on campus and in Langston city to capture some rare photo opportunities in the snow.

Photos by Matthew Blue



# Aspiring filmmaker on the rise at LU

**By Mar'Quan Goodman**  
*Contributing Writer*

A young entrepreneur and Langston student is set to shoot a short film on campus.

Jayden Hannah, a senior broadcast journalism major, plans to film a sequel short film, "Don't Rush 2," on campus as soon as the weather permits.

The sequel is a follow-up to his previous short horror film, "Don't Rush," which also was filmed on campus.

Since Hannah has started his own film company, Alan Rouge Productions, he has taken his film directing career very seriously. Not only does Hannah yearn to make films, but he also prides himself on making stories that reach beyond himself.

"My dream is to help and inspire others with my films," said Alan.

The driving force for the inception of Hannah's production company was simply his love of film, but it was not a straightforward jour-

ney.

"I faced a lot of funding and collaboration hardships," he explained.

While Hannah mentioned how difficult starting his company was, he still encouraged other hardworking filmmakers to do the same.

"It was tough to get others to believe in me. I would tell others to have a heavy belief in themselves," he said. "It will feel like you're alone in the beginning, but it will all pay out in the end."

Before starting his own company, Hannah spent most of his time perfecting his craft as a videographer, making YouTube content and lending a helping hand to other small, Black film production companies. Hannah thanked his supporters for all their love and encouragement and for helping him excel.

"This sequel only exists because the fans thought the story should continue," Hannah said.

Hannah and his film crew are currently in preproduction and are expected to shoot the film by the end of February 2021.



**Jayden Hannah**

# Campus Question

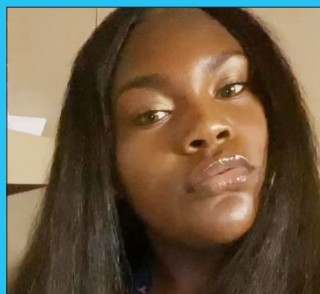
How do you feel about transitioning back to in-person classes?

*Compiled by Khalil Griffin*



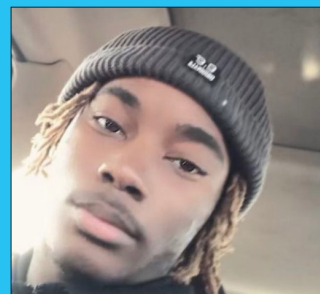
**Rosslyn Carroll**  
Senior  
Psychology Major

"As a senior, I'm glad I have an opportunity to see my professors in person. Knowing safety procedures are being done, I am comfortable going to class physically. I tend to learn more efficiently when class is in person."



**Destiny Randolph**  
Junior  
Health Administration Major

"I personally feel that transitioning back to in-person classes [could] put us all back at risk once again. I also think that most students here at Langston University [are] not too fond of the transition because we are now used to Zoom calls and might [have] developed a case of laziness, so that would lead to not that many students showing up to classes."



**Kurtis Ross**  
Freshman  
Agriculture Major

"I feel like now that the university is trying to do more in-person classes (for some), it is a very good thing because you now have the chance to have the one-on-one with your professor. You can get full clarification on assignments, and it'll lowkey be a good stress reliever. We all know that last semester everybody was posted up in their dorms ALL day; now that we're making that minor transition, people can be more on-the-go around campus."



**MaNazio Bowen**  
Freshman  
HPER Major

"I feel it's gonna be hard at first because we were getting so used to this virtual class, but I feel like everything is gonna go back to normal eventually."



# LU Marching Pride performs for third time at NBA game

By MacKenzie McQuarters  
Staff Writer

The Langston University Marching Pride Band once again had the opportunity to perform at the Oklahoma City Thunder game Feb. 17.

This was the third time the band has performed during half time of a game. Of course, with this being the first performance since COVID-19,

the band was more eager than ever to play and perform. But, also because of COVID-19, the performance was conducted a little differently.

Jonathan Allen, assistant director of bands, explained that the band actually conducted "a pre-recorded half-time performance for the OKC Thunder game" this year. He added that "many accommodations have been made in response to national CDC

guidelines for preparation for this event."

Having no performances during COVID-19 made it hard for the LUMP to showcase its name. When asked if this performance was good for exploiting the band, head drum major Torrey Purvey affirmed it is.

"Any performances we can do outside of campus, even on campus, will be great publicity for the LUMP,"

Purvey said.

The band is currently practicing for other games as well, such as future home football and basketball games later this semester. However, as a full band, the practices may be challenging along the way.

Zaire Bey, band member, said they are not able to practice together and hear their full sound from all their instruments.

## School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences offers two student programs for its majors

By Keitoria Jefferson  
Staff Writer

The School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has two different programs for students to join.

One of the programs is the Students Ambassador Program. According to the Langston University website, the program is for the high-performing students who are selected at the beginning of each academic year to serve as role models for their fellow peers.

They also assist in recruitment and retention during the academic school year.

The other is the mentoring program. According to the LU website, the program's goal is to assist and mentor each incoming freshman throughout his/her entire academic journey at Langston on an individual basis with staff and administrators. Some special assistance is included as well as internships and work-study to help students succeed. For the first year, each student is paired

with a member of the faculty who will serve as a mentor and will guide, support and help navigate students through all aspects of their college life.

Chairperson and professor Dr. Steve Zeng is one of the mentors in the program. Zeng said the mentoring program is designed to increase student retention, many of whom may be the first person in their family attending college. Retention is also increased through program quality, interactive instruction and learning, re-

search engagement and graduation with strong knowledge and skills for successful careers.

According to the Langston website, the LU SAAS is committed to tripling the student population in the next five

years. The school's viability and sustainability is dependent on high levels of enrollment and student retention.

For more information about either of these programs, please contact Dr. Zeng at [steve.zeng@langston.edu](mailto:steve.zeng@langston.edu).



LISTEN TO  
LANGSTON UNIVERSITY'S VOICE OF DIVERSITY  
**KALU 89dot3**

FOLLOW US ON @KALU89DOT3  
 KALU89DOT3

CALL (405) 466-3248



# TBS offering \$25,000 to three HBCU grads

LOS ANGELES – February 8, 2021 – Historically Black Colleges and Universities are where dreams are made, and this Black History Month, TBS wants to kick off the aspirations of three lucky HBCU alumni by paying their student loans in the network's first-ever TBS HBCU Cash Out™.

Collaborating with HBCU alumni Lance Gross and Keshia Knight Pulliam, the interactive social media contest, from Feb. 8 to March 8, will award a grand prize of \$25,000 to three different winners who creatively share how attending an HBCU is helping them achieve their goals.

Acknowledging the vital role of HBCUs, which were established prior to

1964 with the principal mission to educate Black Americans, applicants may enter by following a two-step process:

- 1) Log onto [www.tbshbcucashout.com](http://www.tbshbcucashout.com) to submit their information and read the official contest rules.
- 2) Submit a video (60 seconds or less) via Instagram, Twitter or YouTube using the hashtag #HBCUCashOutContest and tagging @tbsnetwork (Instagram and Twitter) or @tbs (YouTube).

Eligible entrants must have graduated from an HBCU recognized by the U.S. Department of Education on or after December 1, 2015. For more information on TBS HBCU Cash Out™, visit [www.tbshbcucashout.com](http://www.tbshbcucashout.com).



## Black nurses launch first Black wellness magazine

*'Where wellness is not determined by zip code'*

Michelle Greene Rhodes, Founder of Michelle Rhodes Media LLC in Tampa, Florida, has created a place for Nurses to share their wellness expertise while helping the vulnerable communities in which they serve. According to [Americanactionforum.org](http://Americanactionforum.org), recent estimates attribute 10 to 20 percent of health outcomes to medical care, 30 percent to genetics, 40 to 50 percent to behavior, and 20 percent to the social and physical environment.

That means most of the work in terms of wellness happens outside of the hospital by social determinants (non-medical factors). These social determinants include factors such as where indi-

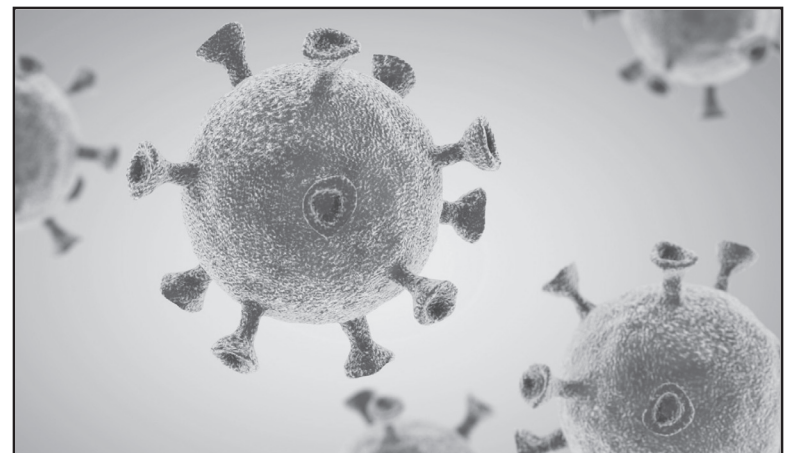
viduals live, learn, work, and age, in addition to socioeconomic status and race. These Social determinants of health have gotten a lot of attention in recently, as research continues to show a person's health can depend heavily on their zip code and circumstances in life.

We are ecstatic to elevate black nurses as they bring wellness education, to help our corporate partners disseminate cultured wellness information, to elevate some and give to give hope to others within every zip code.

The Color of Wellness Magazine launched Jan. 20, and has raised almost \$10,000 in presales.

Follow our launch at [www.Facebook.com/ColorWellnessMagazine](http://www.Facebook.com/ColorWellnessMagazine)

THE COLOR OF  
WELLNESS



## Required Testing for Residential Students

The health and safety of our community is of the highest priority. In an effort to minimize risk for spread of COVID-19, the university will continue its layered approach to mitigation by conducting required COVID-19 testing for all on-campus residents on Thursday, Feb. 25, and Friday, Feb. 26.

Testing will be held in the Multipurpose Gym, located on the Langston campus. Additional details concerning testing protocols and appointment times will be shared prior to testing.

Please contact the LU Emergency Leadership Team via email at [luel@langston.edu](mailto:luel@langston.edu) if you have any questions.



# Langston sports are back!

By Jonah Fabian  
Staff Writer

For the first time in nearly 10 months, Langston sports are back in action, but what does that mean for fans looking to attend the games? While a future possibility, fans are going to be out of luck trying to support their Lions in person, at least for now.

In spring 2020, Langston University announced that all athletics were canceled due to the uprising of COVID-19. This cancellation led to the postponement of all fall 2020 athletic seasons.

After much debate within the Sooner Athletic Conference, a plan was set to play in spring 2021. With the tipoff of the Lady Lions basketball team Jan. 14, Langston sports were finally back at it.

Basketball and track were the first sports to begin, but

“There is a certain energy that is missing from the game day experience without the fans.”

— Donnita Rogers,  
director of athletics

many strict rules were set to safely host an event. According to the basketball game operations manual, all required personnel to host a home basketball game should be divided into three tiers, none of which includes spectators.

While players and administration are excited to host sports again, the atmosphere does not seem to be the same.

“There is a certain energy that is missing from the game day experience without fans,” said Donnita Rogers, director of athletics.

Kyle Taylor, director of

sports information, agreed.

“You lose a certain amount of ambiance in C.F. Gayles when you have no fans in the building,” Taylor said.

There is no telling when any changes in fan attendance will happen in the near future. This is seen by many as a disadvantage to not only the fans but the players as well.

“Our arena is unique; we have tremendous support from our student population that makes it difficult for opposing teams to come in here to play and win,” Taylor said.

Langston is known throughout the SAC as always delivering an HBCU “welcome” for opposing teams.

“Langston University is one of the toughest gyms for opposing teams to play in, and we are known for having one of the greatest game day experiences in the Sooner Athletic Conference. Our fans bring so much energy to our players,” Rogers said.

While fans are not allowed in the games to cheer Langston on, fortunately, the players are not left in complete silence. As well as cleared administrators and coaches, the cheer team is allowed to bring their spirit to all home games.

“If it weren’t for Coach [Deonne] King and our talented cheer team, we truly would have a dead atmosphere,” Rogers said.

The ultimate plan is to have as many fans cheer on

our Lions while being safe in the process. Unfortunately, with the uncertainties that come with COVID-19, plans to allow fans into games are not set or allowed to be discussed outside of higher administration.

“I want Lion Nation to know that we are doing everything possible to phase in a student game day experience on a limited capacity as soon as the COVID-19 numbers in our county and state warrant this opportunity,” Rogers assured. “I can’t wait to have our student body, fans and auxiliary groups back in the gym.”

While students and fans wait to return to games in person, there is a live stream option on the Langston Sports Facebook page. To stay updated on future games and plans of return, follow Langston Sports on social media or check out [Langstonsports.com](http://Langstonsports.com).



Photos by Na'Tianna Stocker

#### Above:

No. 3 Asheika Alexander, senior forward, makes a steal and brings the ball down the court during a 2021 home game. The Lady Lions defeated Central Christian College, 82-60, on Jan. 26.

#### Right:

No. 2 Elloheim Clark, junior guard, holds off an offender while handling the ball. The Lions lost to Central Christian College on Jan. 26, 68-80.

