



## A SEAT AT THE TABLE

HBCU PRESIDENTS VISIT THE WHITE HOUSE

SEE STORY INSIDE



## 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 Friday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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# President Smith visits White House, advocates for Langston University

By Marcus Garlington  
Editor

HBCUs all over the country have made headlines this past week, as 88 of 105 HBCU presidents traveled to Washington, D.C. on Feb. 27-28, to advocate on behalf of not only their respective institutions, but for the collective legacy and promising future of all HBCUs.

HBCUs are responsible for "over 40 percent of black congressmen, 80 percent of black judges, over half of black teachers, 30 percent of black lawyers nationally" and "over 370,000 students," said Langston University President Kent Smith Jr.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund helped the White House organize the meetings and invited all of the presidents in its constituency. President Smith was one of them.

However, the media has sensationalized the meeting with the president, which Smith called "brief."

"Actually, it wasn't really a meeting," Smith said. "It was the photo and a really quick discussion where two or three people talked about the things that we're advocating for... but really quick... like a mention to him."

"A lot of people are critical of the fact that he doesn't have a budget, saying, 'Oh, his executive order isn't increasing funding for HBCUs.' We knew that going in," Smith added. "How? Because an executive order can't appropriate funds. Only Congress can appropriate funds. All we were trying to do was to advocate to the president on behalf of HBCUs..."

"What we asked President Trump to do and what he did was [annex] the White House Initiative on HBCUs into the purview of the White House [instead of the Department of Education]," Smith continued. "And even though there's no allocated budget, the White House is in touch with all departments of the government, and they have a

tremendous capability for advocacy and influence.

"We asked for several other things from the White House," he said. "One was an increase of \$25 billion to go to HBCUs for infrastructure [because all HBCU needs] are different... Another was an increase in Pell grant funding. Over 75 percent of HBCU students qualify for the Pell grant in some shape or form."

"It's been a long-time coming. My understanding is that this is...maybe the first time as a whole that we have been invited into the Oval Office. We're not aware that it's happened before," Smith said.

But outside of that novelty factor and talking point, what was the actual purpose of the meeting? To bring issues that HBCUs have faced to Washington's front door? To secure the cultural phenomenon and legacy of HBCUs? Or was it just an opportunity for Trump to further his rhetoric that he already has and will do more than Barack Obama did for the African-American community? All of the above or none? The jury is still out on that one.

"I think that's a legitimate concern," Smith said. "I can say that we, as presidents, have the same concern, but the reality is if you're not willing to sit at the table, you're going to be eaten. This president—I certainly have philosophical disagreements with some of his beliefs and politics—but the reality is, when a president invites you, I recognize the position first."

"Let's assume for a second that he truly is going to become an advocate for HBCUs," Smith continued. "That would be great for [us]. Three of his top aides are HBCU graduates... I can't say that about the previous two administrations. And because he has folks on his executive team who are HBCU graduates, they're talking about HBCUs to him. I don't believe for a second that he woke up one morning and said, 'I'm gonna go support HBCUs!'"

Though Trump may lack



Courtesy Photo

Langston University President Kent Smith Jr. shakes hands with Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to the White House on Feb. 27-28.

genuine concern for HBCUs, there's still a chance to make lemonade out of all of this.

"It only worries me if [what we advocated for] doesn't come to fruition, and that's more dollars for institutions, as well as increased and expanded Pell grant funding," Smith said. "But, to me, it would be dangerous for him to do that. Most black people didn't vote for him to begin with... why bring us to D.C. for a photo op...? If he doesn't make good on his promises, it won't do him any good..."

And that makes sense. Trump has based his campaign on action. So, this seems to be a fitting first step on the journey to HBCUs' big castle in the sky: infrastructure and technology upgrades, endowment funds and unwavering political support. But, beneath the shallow pool of hope remains the reality of who the leader of the free world is.

Trump has contradicted himself repeatedly during the month he's been president and certainly while on the campaign trail.

Who will hold him accountable? It's not like he'll lose a considerable amount of votes on broken HBCU promises because the numbers show college-educated African-Americans don't support him much anyway. But did he seem receptive?

"He said all the right things. The real proof is going to be in the dollars," Smith said.

When Trump signed his executive order on the travel ban, the effects were felt immediately. HBCUs and their students want to see that same type of swift action to revive their institutions, but the president does not have the ability to appropriate funds, so only time will tell if Trump means to help HBCUs, or if he never meant to do anything more than troll them in person.

"One of our greatest obstacles is the fact that Washington hasn't felt the collective voice of HBCU students and grads," Smith said. "They don't know that HBCUs matter to black people, white

see **WHITE HOUSE**, page 7



# Students land jobs with ONEOK

By Kimberly Thompson  
Reporter

Langston University students have been given an opportunity to work with ONEOK in Tulsa.

Senior Tia Brimer and senior Steven Harris, computer science majors, have interned with ONEOK and are set with full-time jobs with the company after graduation in May.

Brimer first heard about ONEOK at a career fair.

"My sophomore year, I attended the career fair with my sister, Kia, who had visited ONEOK that prior year," Brimer said. "So, we went over to the ONEOK table and the recruiter informed us about the different internships for that summer."

Career fairs are one of the many ways students can con-

nect with potential employers and people who can help them find full-time placements after graduation.

A career fair also aided Harris in connecting with ONEOK when the company visited the LU campus.

"ONEOK has a great opportunity for students and [computer science] is always in high demand," Harris said.

Sometimes it is not what you know, but who you know that could potentially help you in the future.

"I applied to ONEOK because of their recruiter, Jasmine Steen, which is a Langston graduate," Brimer said. "She was really helpful. She not only looked over my resume, she took it a step further by giving me her business card to critique my resume and simplify the application

process for the internship."

Brimer interned with ONEOK in the summers of 2015 and 2016. Not only did she already have the connection, but she was able to keep the connection while attending school.

While working for ONEOK during her first internship, Brimer was simply looking to learn how to program and get a glimpse of what she possibly would like to do after graduation.

From that experience, she learned how to program a mobile application. During her second internship, she got the opportunity to see more of the business side of information technology, or IT, by attending meetings with managers of each business segment to build a web-based form.

Brimer and Harris offered some helpful tips to make any internship experience worthwhile and long-lasting.

"The advice I would give students looking for internships with ONEOK, or any other company, is to start now, no matter your application, and continue to try to build your resume," Harris said. Also, to develop yourself as much as possible and do some extracurricular activities, which display leadership."

Brimer and Harris are not only helping themselves but also helping students across campus by being examples of how to network and make lasting impressions.

"If I were to give another

student advice for any internship, I would tell them a few things," Brimer said. "First and foremost, always be confident because confidence is a major key. While on the internship, be willing to learn at all times because managers look for your growth through the internship, not what you already knew coming in."

"If you don't know how to do something on the job," she said, "ask for help. Don't be afraid to not know something because most companies will train you to do your job. Lastly, do the little things that others don't do. When leaving an internship, always send a thank you email, thanking your manager for the opportunity."

## Student starts water drive for Flint, Michigan residents

By Oneka Cayenne  
Staff Writer

Imagine that your primary source of water has dangerous levels of lead, a cancer-causing byproduct and a disease-causing bacterium. Since August 2014, Flint, Michigan, has continuously suffered from a water crisis.

Lonyai Redmond, junior psychology major and member of Women of Purpose and the Society of Distinguished Black Women Inc., recently started a water drive at Langston University for the community of Flint.

Redmond is also a member of the Rebuilding Black Greatness, a social organization that is in the process of becoming affiliated with LU. The water drive is a project devised by this organization. The members are asking other organizations on campus, students, staff, faculty and even alumni to donate three cases of water or more for the people of Flint.

Redmond said she does not want this water drive to be seen as all of her doing; she said she wants it to be seen as "what LU is doing to help Flint."

Organizations that have

donated include DBW, WOP, LU Manrrs, Cultural Men of Business, the African Student Association and the English Club.

"I'm very proud of my [WOP] sister and happy to say our generation decided to donate to help Flint," said Nia Simpson, junior English education major and second vice president of WOP.

The Flint River in Michigan has had poor water quality since the 1970s, according to the CNN website. The Flint River was never properly treated, and the lead level got out of control.

According to the CNN website, lead exposure in children can result in behavioral disorders, hearing problems and delayed puberty. Lead found in pregnant women can give them reduced fetal growth. In everyone, lead consumption can affect the heart, kidneys and nerves. Treatments for the harmful health effects of lead have yet to be developed.

If you or your organization would like to donate to help somebody in need of clean and fresh water, please email Lonyai Redmond at lonyair@yahoo.com.

## Campus peace walk honors African-American legacies



Photo by Brittini Logan

Langston University students gather for a peace reflective walk and candlelight vigil to honor Black History Month. The event, Feb. 28, was a way to reflect on and conclude the special month and honor African-American ancestors and their legacy. It started at 6:19 p.m. to represent the 19th day of the sixth month of the year, June 19 (Juneteenth), which is a yearly celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the U.S.



# Mark Barber wins Mr. Langston title

By Taelyr Jackson  
Staff Writer

Mark Barber was crowned the 34th Mr. Langston University.

The Mr. Langston pageant was Feb. 22, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

Four contestants competed in four categories, consisting of on-stage oratorical, active wear, talent and formal wear. The panel of judges also interviewed the contestants before the pageant.

Barber, a senior instrumental music education major, will soon execute his platform, "Hear Me Now," on campus.

"The idea is a concentration of the arts with an emphasis on music," Barber said.

Barber will initiate this platform through hosting special events on campus.

"I plan on implementing my platform... through events that will enlighten people on the roles of the arts in our everyday lives,"

he said.

Barber also said he wants to increase the appreciation of the arts by allowing campus artists to express their work.

Barber will serve alongside the 71st Miss Langston University Kyara Little on the Elite Connection for the university.

The first runner-up, Aczavius Smith, senior drafting and design major, also will be on the royal court and escort one of Miss Langston's attendants.

Barber is eligible to compete in the Mr. HBCU pageant in 2018. According to the HBCU Buzz website, Mr. HBCU contestants compete for a \$1,500 scholarship.



Courtesy Photo

Mark Barber, wins the 34th Mr. Langston University crown. Barber won the title Feb. 22, competing against three other contestants.

## Chellsy Carter wins Miss Black Langston



Courtesy Photo

Chellsy Carter walks across the stage after winning the Miss Black Langston crown. Carter competed against four other contestants to win the title Feb. 23, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

## LU Fashion Police

As winter slowly comes to a close, Langston hesitates on how to accept the transition in the season. Don't fret ladies, the Fashion Police have tips that will help you stay comfortable and stylish through this transition.

On a sunny day, throw on a nice pair of denim jeans with a graphic crew neck top and match it with a pair of boots (thigh-high, knee-high, combat, etc.). If you're feeling a little edgy, add a faux leather jacket or a bomber jacket to your look.

Also, you could wear an over-sized hoodie in any color of your choice, a pair of black or nude thigh-high boots and accessorize your look with a pair of earrings and a choker necklace.

If you need more ideas to switch up your style to match Oklahoma's changing weather, check out YouTuber Raven Elyse on her channel or on her blog at RavenElyseTV.com.

In one of Elyse's recent try-on videos, she mentioned that

the fashion industry is coming to a point of where both women's and men's clothing look like they are merging to a similar style when it comes to the over-sized look.

This comment seemed to be geared toward the ladies because a woman's creativity could take a man's shirt and turn it into a complete outfit made specifically for women.

As for the men of Langston, staying comfortable and stylish in the transitional season could be very simple and easy for you.

A name-brand hoodie (Adidas, Nike, etc.), a pair of dark wash denim jeans and a clean pair of sneakers or Timberland boots are great looks. If you are wanting to add a little style to your look, you could do a preppy-type look by wearing a dress shirt with a nice crew neck over it, a pair of denim jeans and a nice pair of shoes.

These are just a few tips to keep you warm,



comfortable and expressing your personality through your fashion and style.

Until next time, Lions, stay beautiful!



## Women's History Month special Staff member makes great impact

By Jessica Joseph  
Contributing Writer

Beatrice Lawrence was born Sept. 26, 1952—a time when segregation still existed. Lawrence, known as “Mrs. Lawrence” to most on campus and “Mrs. B” to others, knew things were wrong and she wanted to make a positive impact on the world. She now is the coordinator of the McCabe Honors Program at Langston University.

Lawrence attended Thibodaux High School in Louisiana, about 75 miles southwest of New Orleans. Afro hairstyles were very popular in the 1960s. One day, an administrator told Lawrence she wouldn’t be able to bring her “hair pick” to school anymore due to the racial riots. She figured it was because she was black.

“That formed my belief that something had to change, and I could not be quiet anymore,”

Lawrence said.

She then went to the principle and said that if she could not bring her hair pick to school anymore, then the white students shouldn’t be able to bring their “rat tooth combs.” In theory, both objects can be used as weapons, so she thought they should both be banned.

“When you complain, have some action behind it,” Lawrence said. “You won’t be effective in identifying a problem if you don’t also identify a solution.”

This resulted in the principle’s action of banning both combs.

Lawrence’s father received his master’s degree at the University of Southern California in 1959. He had to obtain his degree in California because there weren’t any universities in Louisiana that he could attend because of segregation. She remembers taking trips with her family to California.



**Lawrence**

They traveled in convoys, meaning more than one car. It was not just them on the road; there would be other black families trailing right behind them. Each car/family felt it necessary to carry a gun, even though they were stopped multiple times by police.

“I remember my dad getting pulled over and calling a young, white police officer ‘sir,’” Lawrence said.

“When you complain, have some action behind it. You won’t be effective in identifying a problem if you don’t also identify a solution.”

— Beatrice Lawrence,  
coordinator of the  
McCabe Honors Program

She said that her father wanted to show the officer respect because the smallest thing could trigger a bad situation.

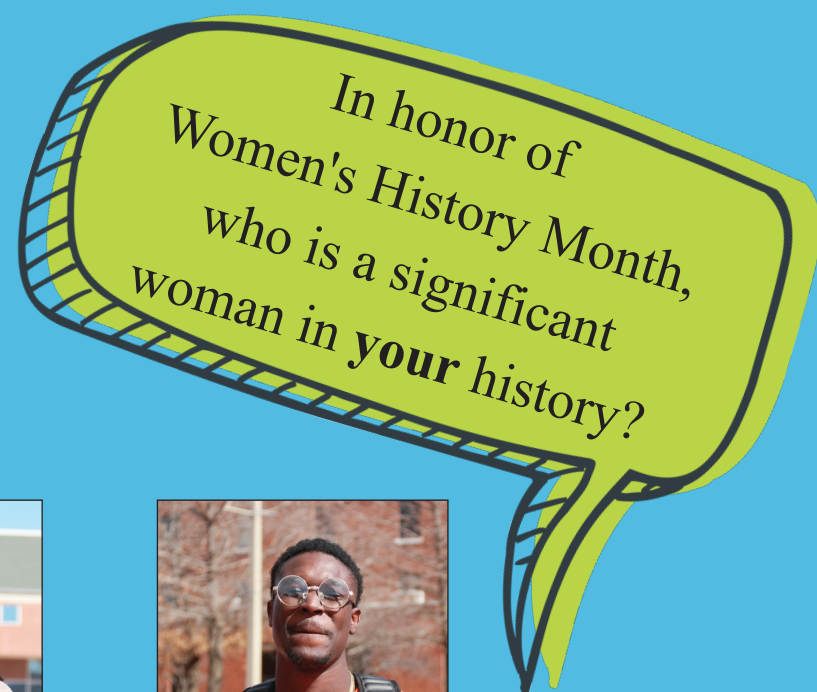
Along with respect, education was very important in Lawrence’s family. Her mother and grandmother were teachers. Her father was a minister and principle. In high school, Lawrence graduated as one of nine black students. She then attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas,

and received her bachelor’s degree in psychology. She attended Nicholls University to receive her master’s.

Lawrence moved to Oklahoma in 2005 after she got married. She has three sons and eight grandchildren. She is the third generation of five generations of HBCU graduates in her family. “What we do and how we do it is important in the continuation of our culture,

see **LAWRENCE**, page 6

## Campus Question



Kayshe Houser,  
Sophomore  
Business Major

"The most important woman in my history is my grandmother."



D'Andrael Ware,  
Senior  
Biology Education Major

"An important woman in my history would have to be my mom."



Danny Wilson,  
Senior  
Health Administration Major

"My mom because she has shown me life tools. As a young black man, we need that. She's helped me through adversity and obstacles."



Javonte Mayer,  
Sophomore  
Biology Major

"I would say my grandmother because she raised me and my mama. She had to take on the both of us, even though she was only responsible for one."



# ROARS Walking Program

## Professor encourages campus to be active

By **Walter Harris**  
Staff Writer

A new walking program is bringing awareness to maintain a physically active lifestyle.

The ROARS Walking Program began in fall 2016, offering physical-health activities. Dr. Desmond W. Delk, assistant professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, is the founder of ROARS.

"We have to give students an outlet to maintain physical activity, but it's also just something to do leisurely," Delk said.

"And, if students show up, then that means I have to show up and be engaged as well. So, it's a benefit for both," Delk added. "The health, physical education and recreation department wants to offer students and faculty help to maintain physical health styles of life. Walking is an activity a lot of people can engage in, and we just want to encourage everybody."

Quanesha Pickens, junior HPER major, regularly participates in ROARS.

"I enjoy being able to get my exercise and going outside and enjoying the fresh air while getting my exercise," Pickens said. "I feel like it's a great activity. It gets me out of my room and keeps me in shape. I have asthma as well, so it also helps me exercise my lungs. I encourage people to come out and walk, enjoy the fresh air. Not only do you have company, but you meet new people as well."

Delk said ROARS is not only available for students, but it's also open to everyone, including faculty and staff. He said that he also plans to ramp up the program.

"We are going to try to enhance it as well – more exercises and more activities in addition to just the general walking," Delk said.

Guamil Tabby Pule, administrative assistant in the Office of Student Affairs, is a staff member who has joined the walking program.

"I enjoy walking with oth-



Courtesy Photo

Several students and Dr. Desmond Delk (second from right), walk on the track during the ROARS Walking Program on March 1.

ers," she said. "I don't like exercising alone because it's not motivational, and it's motivational to watch everyone else walking with you. I like that I get to get my workout in and meet other people while doing it. Also, Dr. Delk makes it fun for us and he is very encouraging."

Nicole Turner, instructor of communication and adviser of *The Gazette*, is a faculty member who attends the RWP regularly.

"I love that I get to meet students, staff and faculty from all over campus through this program while also getting in a nice workout," Turner said. "It's a great way to meet peo-

ple, get involved and maintain physical health. I definitely encourage more people to come out and support the program."

The RWP meets Monday – Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in room 141 in the C.F. Gayles Gymnasium.

"Be ready and bring some walking shoes," Delk said.

## Student Life hosts Black Soul Night

By **Jasmine Franklin**  
Staff Writer

Langston University hosted a Black Neo Soul in the Student Success Center on Feb. 21.

During the event, Terri Link, the director of Student Life, said Neo Soul usually is on Tuesday nights, but to celebrate Black History Month, they wanted to call it Black Soul.

"We wanted to have an event where we could pull in students who are interested in music, art, poetry, dance, instruments and just have... a low-key, loungey, chill-type feel and just have a good, relaxed time," Link said.

There were six performances during the event, which included a live band with head singer Thaddeus

"We are trying to draw more attention to black history and more talent that the African-American culture has up here at Langston University."

— *Tommie Harris,*  
*LU spirit liaison*

Johnson, poetry readings, dancers and solo singers.

Tommie Harris, LU spirit liaison, co-hosted the event.

"We are trying to draw more attention to black history and more talent that the African-American culture has up here at Langston University," Harris said.

Langston loves everybody, Harris said, but Student Life wanted to focus atten-

tion solely on Black History Month.

Junior health, physical education and recreation major Anthony James helped set up the event for Black Soul.

He said it was a great opportunity for him to see his peers perform, not just because of Black History Month but because the performers exposed themselves and their talents.

## LAWRENCE

from page 5

and we have to have a sense of responsibility to our race," Lawrence said.

LU has had the opportunity to have Lawrence as the English department's administrative assistant, counselor for the Honors Program and now, the coordinator of that same program. She has taught math for six years, but, she said, she did not like it. Why not?

"I did more counseling than teaching," Lawrence said.

Lawrence understands the importance of not only academic support, but mental and emotional support, as well as the benefits of life-coaching.

"She does the campus a great service by getting great students to come here, keep-

ing them here and keeping them motivated," said Marcus Garlington, senior broadcast journalism major. "She is our biggest cheerleader, but, most importantly, she is our greatest advocate."

Annette Stanley is the director of Title III programs and has known Lawrence for 10 years. "She's led the honor's program with dignity, motivation, intellect and tirelessness. She is totally supportive of all the honor students," Stanley said.

This graduating honor's class is Lawrence's largest.

"We brought in 123 in 2013, and we'll be graduating about 45," she said. "I see this class in all leadership positions all over campus. I love to see them all doing exemplary work. They even knew how to grab the next class and motivate them. I'll miss them."



# Trump blasts media outlets, refers to them as 'fake news'

By **Tori Harris**  
Staff Writer

Donald Trump now commonly refers to any media outlet that criticizes him as "fake news." Does Trump have any basis for referring to the news as "fake?" Has he ever had any basis for any accusation he's made in the last two years?

"The FAKE NEWS media... is not my enemy; it is the enemy of the American People!" Trump tweeted Feb. 17.

Trump has been attacking the media since the start of his presidential campaign in June 2015.

According to *The New York Times*, he has blamed the press for obstructing his agenda. The article also states that Trump and some of his top advisers firmly believe that an "elitist news

media lost its credibility by failing to enliven his political rise."

His ongoing dispute with the media has actually done the opposite of what he was probably hoping. His stories seem to be luring more and more viewers and readers. But, he is not the only president who has been against the media and spoken poorly of them.

"Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln and many of our greatest presidents fought with the media and called them out on their lies," Trump said Feb. 18, at a Trump rally in Melbourne, Florida.

The First Amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion... or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

It may seem that the journalism professionals have made it their business to crucify Trump, but the reality is that a good journalist doesn't pick a side. Their ethical duty is to play the news straight and let readers decide without coaching. If the facts make Trump look bad, it's not the journalist's fault.

According to the Ethnic Net website, journalists have the right to know what's going on in society; they must aim to provide truthful information and obtain facts and disclose any opinions to the public.

If information is incorrect, it has to be corrected immediately. Journalists have the obligation to respect the dignity of every individual, but more importantly, to tell the truth.

The role of the media is to inform the public and imple-



Photo from <https://dailymail.com>

ment knowledge of information the public may not know. It is Trump's constitutional right to have the ability to express the news as "fake," but it is the readers' own discretion on how they interpret news.

"I think it's important that we have the media and those in journalism to be a fourth estate in keeping a check and balance in what happens in government," said political commentator Alice Stewart on CNN.

## WHITE HOUSE

from page 1

people and really, the country. We've made a huge impact on this country, but have been silent while doing it."

Smith also met with Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), whom he describes as "very receptive" to LU.

"He got elected and was on campus within a few weeks," Smith said. "I didn't want to go to D.C. and just meet with the executive branch because, ultimately, this is going to go to the Senate and the House for them to vote. We talked about our research programs, things that we want to advance at the university, and he specifically asked what are ways in which he could be helpful. I said, 'Well, when you see bills that come forward that support HBCUs, I'm asking you to advocate for them.'"

This has not only garnered attention for HBCUs, but specifically for LU. In addition to the Oval Office photo

being circulated by nationally syndicated news outlets and Kelly Anne Conway's viral sofa picture (which Trump described as a three-to-10-second break she took after standing on the couch to take an iPhone photo at the behest of one of the HBCU presidents), President Smith appeared on the televised "Roland Martin Show," a Sirius XM radio show, and he has received much attention from Oklahoma's local news stations.

So, how could we capitalize from the visibility of this meeting, if nothing else?

"People are hearing about Langston who have never heard about it before," Smith said. "Roland Martin's show is national. The Sirius show I did this morning is coast-to-coast. I've been able to talk so much about what Langston is, what we stand for, academic programs and affordability. I'm writing an op-ed piece for the *Tulsa World*... It's provided an opportunity for me to give insight to an

audience whose attention we don't usually have."

In Vice President Pence's statement on the series of meetings, he said he was "committed to ensuring HBCUs get the credit and attention they deserve." He said nothing about funds, but President Smith is reading between the lines.

"To me, credit and attention will translate to funding," Smith said. "Make no mistake... if they're accountable, that means funding."

But, who cares? Who will hold Washington accountable for assurances made to HBCUs? Who in Washington can HBCUs depend on to support them in the absence of their presidents?

"We can't know right now," Smith said. "When the bill goes forward to increase funding for HBCUs, let's find out who votes for it. That's the only way we'll know who's with us."

Overall, Smith enjoyed his trip to the U.S. Capitol.

"The best of this experi-

ence was clearly advocating for HBCUs," he said. "When I think of our historic legacy, it's really a phenomenal story. We were born out of segregation and racism... and when I think of how far we've come as institutions against all odds, and still, even to this day, not have the support and even understanding among people that we should have... it's really—I found myself grappling with that while I was there. Amongst all these educators, I was thinking about what we stand for—that's really what it's all about. This allowed me to pull the lens back and realize we're a part of a much bigger picture. I got a chance to reflect on the national power and what's really left of a 150-year-old dynasty."

This brief history lesson led Smith to discuss Betsy DeVos's statement on HBCUs using it to corroborate her platform as a proponent of "school choice."

"[DeVos's statement] bothered me greatly because it's

just not true," Smith said. "HBCUs weren't birthed out of choice but simply because existing institutions would not admit black people. It was racism. And it's just that simple."

"You have to provide the true history, and choice is not that. Frankly, some of our students don't have a choice. Nationally, HBCUs provide education for many students that have been or would be turned away elsewhere, and many are doing very well."

Now, from Solange's critically acclaimed album "A Seat at the Table," where do we go from here?

"What we're doing now is formulating in writing our national agenda," Smith said. "That's where we'll start with the congressional delegation to say, 'we want to see bills with X and Y.' When a bill moves forward to allocate significant funds for HBCUs, that's my line for demarcation. If the funding doesn't come, all that other stuff... was a joke."



# T'ara Howard sets new track record

By Michael Colston  
Staff Writer

T'ara Howard, senior accounting major, recently set a new school record in the 60-meter dash during the past indoor track meet at the University of Nebraska on Feb. 17.

Her time of 7.68 seconds got her a spot in the upcoming NAIA Indoor National Championships. The record was 7.71 seconds, which was set in 2007 by 11-time All-American Dominique McDonald, Langston University class of 2009.

Howard has been running track for seven years, and she has made it to nationals twice before this season.

Every practice, and all the hard work and intensive training has led to this moment for Howard, and not only does she work hard every day at practice, she takes time out of her week just to better herself on the track in every event she

“It was very shocking at first when I found out I actually broke a 10-year standing record, but I give God all the praise.”

— T'ara Howard,  
women's track team member

runs.

“It was very shocking at first when I found out I actually broke a 10-year standing record, but I give God all the praise,” Howard said.

Howard is ranked No. 9 in the NAIA. She would have to make it in the top eight at the championship meet to make it to the finals, win it all and become an All-American. Only the top eight in the NAIA division become All-American athletes.

“This past meet was not her best. I honestly think her best is yet to come, and

I'm counting on it to be at the indoor national championship,” Head Coach James Hilliard said.

Coach Hilliard teaches his runners to just “be in the moment” because if they are not, they could easily be distracted and not perform to the best of their abilities.

According to the Langston sports website, the NAIA National Championships will be held in Johnson City, Tennessee on March 2-4.

The team's first outdoor meet will be at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee on March 25.



Courtesy Photo

T'ara Howard bursts out of the blocks as she runs the 60-meter dash at an indoor track meet. Howard broke a 10-year standing record Feb. 17, at a track meet in Nebraska.

## Lions secure No. 3 seed in conference tournament

By Perry Smith  
Reporter

The Langston University men's basketball team played its last game of the season at home, beating Paul Quinn College, 112-83, Feb. 25.

As the home game featured senior night, LU senior forward Terrell Jones had a double-double for the night and a season high in rebounds, as he snagged down 18 and scored 12 points.

Senior guard Curtis Jones had a game high in points, finishing with 30, and he had six rebounds.

Also, senior guard Michael Harris provided another double-digit game, rambling up 19 points off the bench as he scored in double figures in six of his

last eight games.

The Langston men came out focused as they led by 15 with a score of 47-32 in the first half of the game. Langston's total field goal percentage for the game was 56 percent.

Langston finished the season on an eight-game winning streak as the team made a strong push to seal a spot in the Red River Athletic Conference tournament; they did not lose a game during the entire month of February.

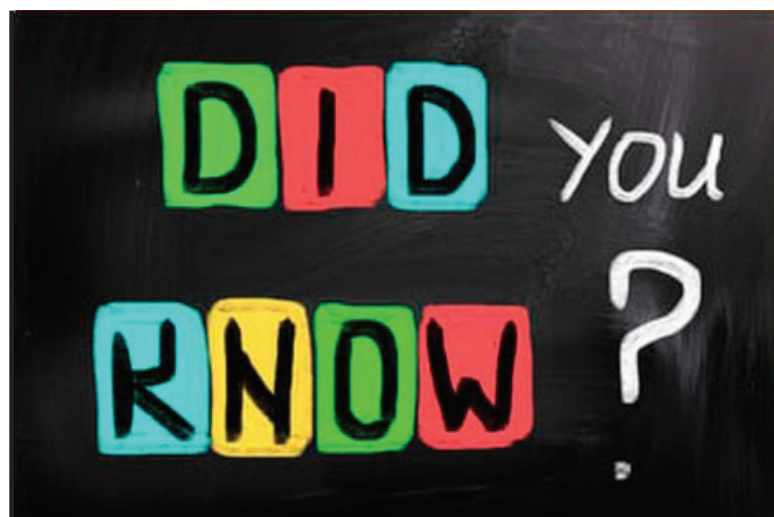
“I feel like we responded with our actions on the court,” said senior guard Renard Green, who had 12 points and one steal during the game. “We know how important these last games were, and we're senior heavy, so the will to win is always going to be there.”

According to the Langston Sports website, the victory secures back-to-back 20 wins for head coach Stan Holt. The win also secures Langston the No. 3 seed in the RRAC tournament.

“We sat at one point of the season at 12-8, and it would have probably been easier to feel sorry for ourselves and maybe not finish the season the way we did,” Holt said.

“But [I] credit our seniors for understanding the situation we were in of refocusing and rededicating themselves to the last eight games of the season,” Holt added.

Langston is 20-8 overall and 12-6 in conference. Langston faced the University of St. Thomas in the first round of the conference tournament March 2, at Louisiana State University — Alexandria.



1. In the 2016-2017 season after losing its 2nd game of the season, the LU football team went on a hot winning streak of 5 games, scoring a combined 224 points to the opponents' 77.
2. Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson attended Langston University his first semester of college in 1997 before transferring to Santa Monica, then Oregon State in 2000.