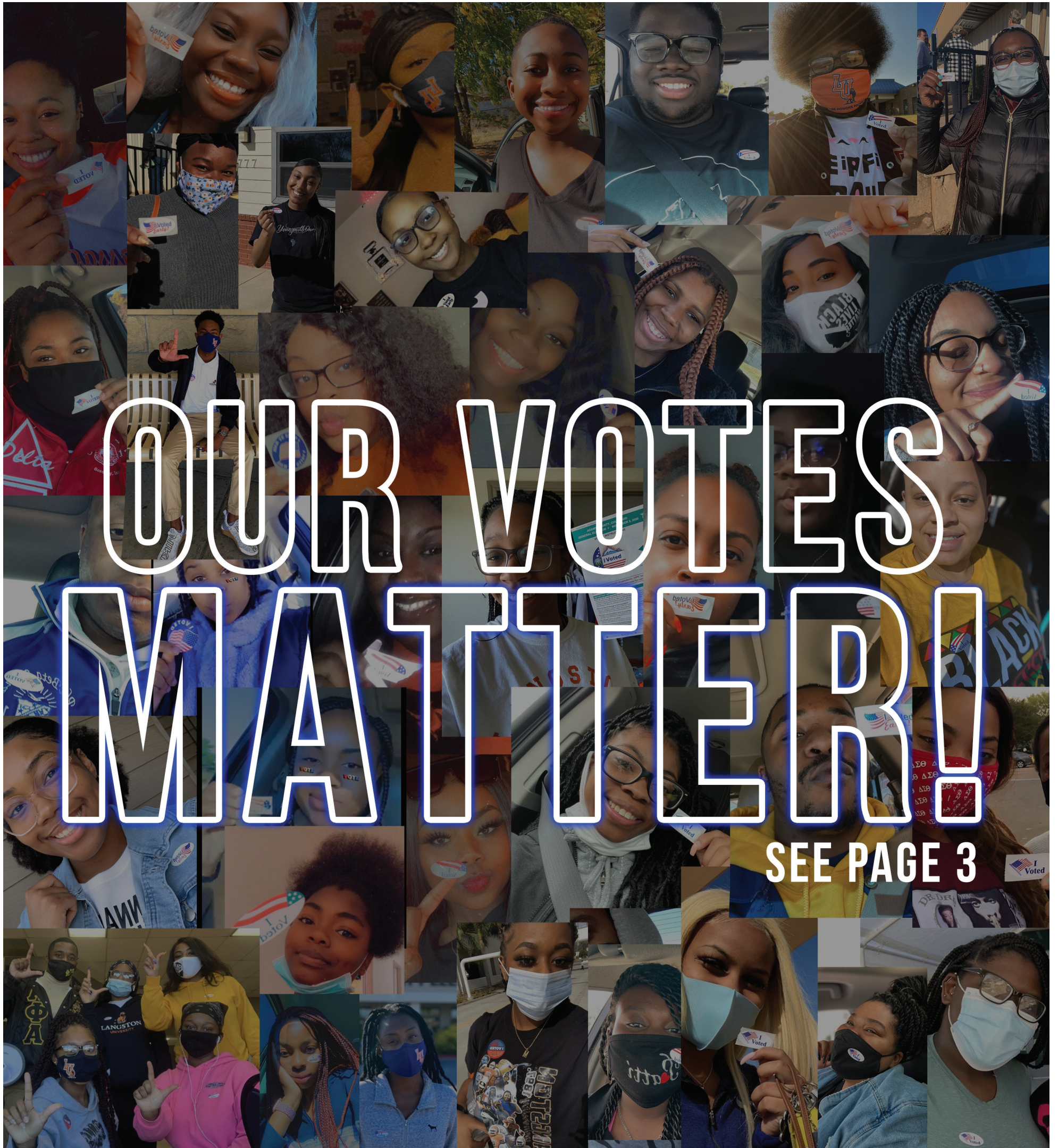


the Gazette

VOL. 83, NO. 3

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020



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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Student says four more years of Trump would be a disaster

This has most certainly been one of the most memorable elections in all of U.S. history, from the buildup by both Joe Biden's and Donald Trump's campaigns, to the actual election night that has now become several election nights.

As of where things stand right now, Biden's 264 leads Trump's 214 in electoral votes by a large margin, while also leading in popular votes 50% to 48%.

With a few key battleground states still counting ballots, all signs are pointing to Biden becoming the 46th president of the U.S.

I think this is exactly what the American people need: a competent president of the United States.

Over the course of the past four years, Trump has put this country in absolute turmoil. From the lies, lack of leadership and handling of a pandemic that is still raging throughout the country, he proved how un-



Ronald Diaz

fit he is to be a leader.

Nevermind the fact that Trump has virtually no political experience whatsoever compared to Biden's 47 years, and it all makes sense: his downfall was always inevitable.

Trump spent the majority of his presidency insulting peers, rivals and just about anybody who opposed him. He fired long-time employees of the White House for disagreeing with him and only hired people who simply would not oppose him.

It is safe to say his presidency was a disaster, seen by everyone except his cult of followers. When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, a leader could not have handled it any worse.

In January of this year, Trump is on record calling it very deadly, saying it can spread rapidly to people of all ages and how it is deadlier than the common flu. Yet, he kept all of this a secret from the American people for months.

In March 2020 when the first cases of COVID-19 were recorded in the U.S., Trump egregiously downplayed its severity and pretty much said all the opposite of what he is on record saying in January.

Fast forward to the present day, and Trump has let 235,000 Americans die, while nearly 10 million Americans have caught the virus. If that is not a complete lack of leadership and trust, then I do not know what is.

To make matters worse, his supporters, who act more like a cult following than regular Republican supporters, believe anything and everything that he says. They believe the virus is a hoax, just like their supposed leader, all while not practicing social distancing, not wearing masks, and also mocking people who do.

Trump continued to have massive rallies, which are basically super-spreader events, and has simply handled the pandemic about as terribly as anybody could.

Under a Biden-Harris administration, I truly do believe there is hope that the country can recover from the pandemic, while also taking huge steps forward in the fight for social justice.

Another four years of Trump would be another four years of disaster.

Ronald Diaz is a senior broadcast journalism major.

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

Do you have a poem to share with others?

Then this section of The Gazette is for YOU!

Note: This is the final issue of the fall 2020 semester, but we will resume publication in February 2021.

Please submit your ideas to nkturner@langston.edu.

Langston students stress the importance of voting

By Ebony Lucas
Gazette Reporter

Did you exercise your right to vote in this election?

As the 2020 presidential elections came and went, many Langston University students made voting a priority.

"I feel it is important for our voices to be exercised," said Kammerrin Herron, junior psychology major. "We earned the right to vote and that should be utilized accordingly."

In the state of Oklahoma, early voting took place on

Oct. 29-30, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. After early voting ended, regular voting took place at all polling locations Nov. 3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

"Although I voted on Oct. 29, I still orchestrated and participated in the 'March to Vote' event hosted by Langston University's Student Government Association on Nov. 3," said Robert Couch, junior computer science major.

While some LU students took advantage of early voting, others did not, which resulted in several long lines

at the voting booths. But the wait time didn't deter those who were determined to cast their ballot.

"What gave me the motivation to stand in line for a long time was knowing that my vote could possibly help vote out our current president," said Chelsea Nelson, junior sociology major.

Not only did it take some motivation for students to go vote, despite the things going on around us, but for some, voting is much deeper than just filling in a ballot.

"I grew up watching and learning about the period af-



ter the Civil War called reconstruction and the suppression of the African American vote in the South," Couch ex-

plained, "and the fact that my ancestors marched, fought and oftentimes died for the right, how could I not vote."

Biden leads presidential race

By Ronald Diaz
Gazette Reporter

After a couple nights of ballot-counting across the United States, Americans are extremely close to finding out who will be their next president.

Of course, the choice is between current president Donald J. Trump and Democratic nominee Joseph Biden.

As things currently stand (as of The Gazette's press deadline Nov. 6), Biden leads the race in crucial electoral votes over Trump, 264 to 214. He also leads Trump in popular votes by 3%. Biden needs just six more electoral votes to be the next president of the United States.

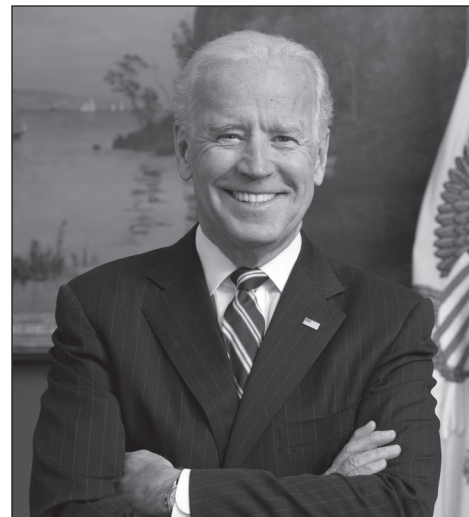
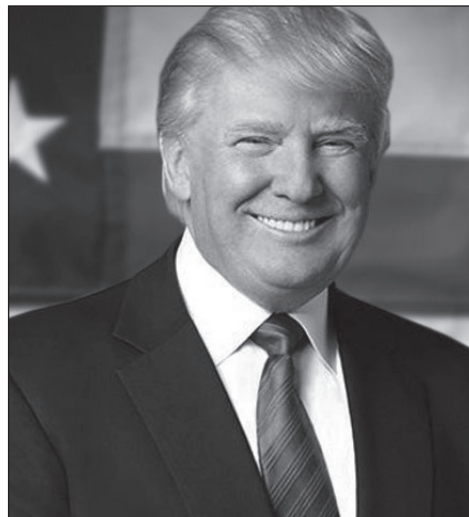
The proverbial swing came the night of Nov. 4, when Biden surprisingly took the lead in key battleground states Georgia and Pennsylvania.

However, CNN Politics reported that according to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, Georgia will most likely call for a recount.

"With a margin that small, there will likely be a recount in Georgia," he said.

This doesn't necessarily come as a surprise, given that thousands of ballots are still being counted days after the election began. It also makes sense when one considers that Georgia has predominantly been a red state.

With that being said, though, it is



Trump vs. Biden

still important that the election is fair, regardless of political views and who comes out on top, Raffensperger noted.

"The focus for our office and for the county elections officials, for now, remains on making sure that every legal vote is counted and recorded accurately," he said.

In the beginning, Trump had a sizable lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania, but with thousands of ballots being counted day by day, we saw a few notable changes to the race.

Another example is Arizona, a state Biden initially won, but more ballots were submitted and reopened the race

for the state.

Eventually, Biden reclaimed the state. Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania are key states for this election, with electoral votes of 11, 20 and 16, respectively.

The state that has the entire country watching, however, is Nevada. Nevada only carries six electoral votes, but those six votes can deem victory for Joe Biden as he sits at 264 electoral votes.

A group of writers for The Washington Post noted as much, recognizing how crucial these states are.

"Joe Biden's lead expanded in Nevada, which has six electoral votes,

with the latest ballot count report. That came hours after he overtook President Trump in the count in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes would put Biden over the 270 threshold needed," they said.

While these current election results may not come as a surprise to many Americans, it certainly does to one person: Trump.

Over the past couple days, he has fired off a massive series of tweets from his official Twitter account. From blaming voter fraud, to an overall rigged election, he is saying anything he can to try and turn the election in his direction.

It might be too late.

Regardless of how Trump feels about it, the straw that broke the camel's back was how he handled the COVID-19 pandemic.

America watched closely at how both Trump and Biden would handle the pandemic and what their plans would be. It is evidently clear that the majority of the country feels that a Biden-Harris administration would get the job done.

The election is not over, ballots are still being counted, swing states are, well, swinging, but the future leader of the U.S. is gradually becoming clearer.

"Keep the faith, guys. We're gonna win this," Biden tweeted.

Sorority hosts two events in October

By MacKenzie McQuarters
Contributing Writer

The Beta Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. held two October events via Zoom, DivaFitness and Money Talks with the Redz: Loan Edition.

DivaFitness promotes health and wellness by hosting affordable fitness and dance classes to the African American community.

Diva Hunt, a sophomore business major from Chicago, created this program from home and brought it with her to Langston. Hunt has been doing DivaFitness for four years. The event at LU was held Oct. 22.

"I brought DivaFitness to Langston University because I saw that there was a lack of physical activity on campus, and I wanted to close the gap by providing fitness classes to all students," Hunt said.

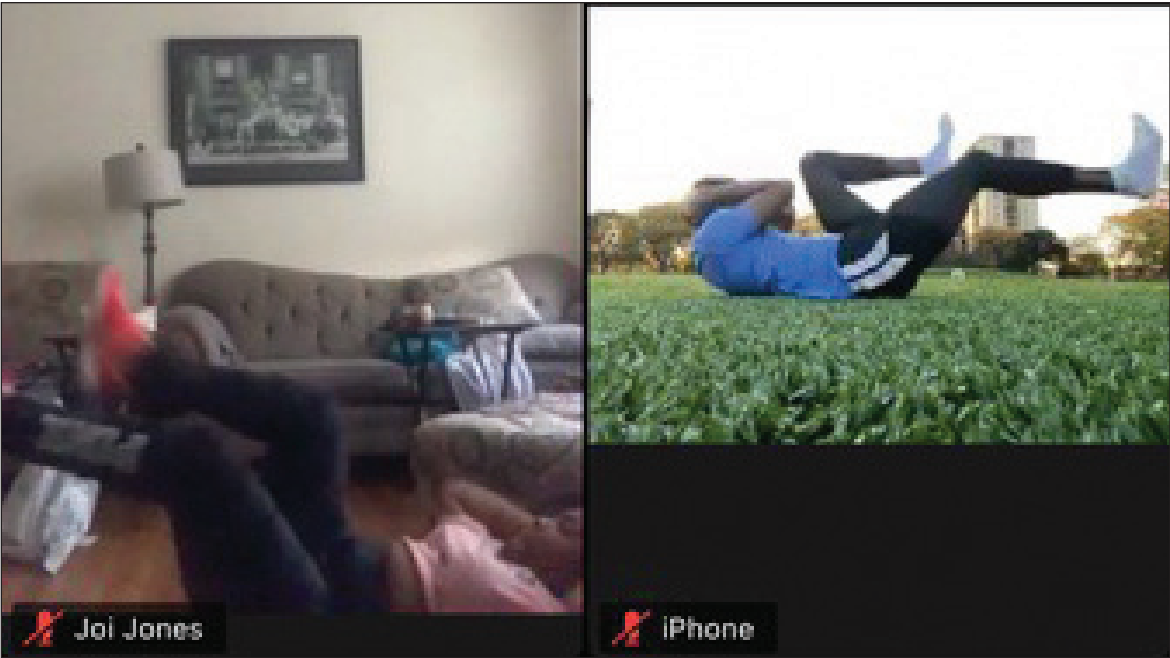
Langston alumna Vanessa Smith, robotic process automation financial analyst from ONE-OK, and member of the Beta Upsilon chapter, hosted Money Talks with the Redz on Oct. 27.

This particular event focused on loans. Smith said she is hopeful that she and the chapter can expand this into a series, covering topics relevant to college students and young adults.

"Other topics we would like to cover include budgeting, checking and saving accounts, credit scores, and other financial literacy foundation items," Smith said.

As a student at LU, Smith was encouraged by a professor to change her major from business to accounting. Smith learned about financial literacy and used her knowledge and resources to educate others around her.

"Building a strong foundation from a young age is the key to generational wealth," Smith said.



Photos by MacKenzie McQuarters

Diva Hunt, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., hosts DivaFitness, a virtual exercise class via Zoom. Several students joined in on the exercises from their homes.

Annual high school day draws in large numbers despite postponement

By Paris Taylor-Mahone
Contributing Writer

An Oklahoma ice storm postponed one of Langston's annual events, but it didn't postpone it for long. Originally scheduled for Oct. 28, the university hosted its high school day event Nov. 2.

However, this year looked a little different as Langston University prepared to take the event virtual for the first time.

Carlos Robinson, director of the Office of Admissions and Outreach Programs, and his team began planning for "Virtual LU Daze - High School Day 2020" at the end of September.

Nearly 500 people registered to attend; however, several high schools streamed the event live to their students, which means even more people potentially attended.

The virtual experience was thought to be more effective and convenient for students, and Robinson thinks it was extremely beneficial to prospective students and their families.

"This new normal does not compare to attending our event live, in person. It is just something infectious about the energy that we bring with having high school day on campus with hundreds of inquiring minds," Robinson said.

However, Robinson thinks they were able to reach more people across the nation this year, more than ever before, through the impact of the virtual format.

During the virtual experience, Langston produced a real-life, live broadcast with the theme, "The HBCU Experience-LU Live News Edition."

The goal was to capture the attention of some outstanding students for the class of 2025.

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Public Health Department
School of Nursing and Health Professions



LU hosts first virtual pageant



Photo from LU SGA Instagram

Two new freshmen win the titles of Mr. & Miss Orange & Blue during Langston's first virtual pageant. Imani Spearman (left), freshman animal science major, and Demarion Hayes (right), freshman busi-

ness management major, earned their crowns Oct. 8. To see the virtual recording, scan the QR code at the end of the story with your cellphone camera.

By Lea Houston
Gazette Reporter

Langston University hosted a virtual pageant for the first time to crown the new Mr. and Miss Orange and Blue.

On Oct. 8, freshman business management major Demarion Hayes and freshman animal science major Imani Spearman earned the 2020-2021 Mr. and Miss Orange and Blue titles.

Though COVID-19 still stands, nothing was going to stop these two contestants from competing with six other freshmen for the same title.

While competing virtually, they said, it was actually much more comfortable than having to perform in front of a crowd

because they only had to pull out their inner selves in front of a panel of judges.

"Anyone who knows me knows that I have horrible stage fright," Spearman said. "But because we were only performing with a panel of judges, it wasn't bad at all."

This was Spearman's first pageant, so it allowed her to step out of her comfort zone, as well as teach others to do the same.

Hayes, who also competed in his first pageant through this experience, agrees with Spearman. He also thinks having the pageant virtually brought a better personal connection with the judges as well as his pageant sisters and brothers.

The pageant was pre-recorded, so it allowed the contestants to slow down and compete at their own pace, which means they were able to take their time during segments instead of being rushed.

"The pageant being virtual allowed me to take time to interact with people on a personal level," Hayes said. "With the pageant being pre-recorded, it allowed us to take our time with everything as far as practicing, connecting with the judges, and bonding with the other contestants."

Coming in as freshmen, while also in the midst of a pandemic, it is challenging for both Hayes and Spearman to thoroughly implement their

platforms. This is particularly because most events must to be virtual and abide by the CDC social distancing guidelines.

Working against body dysmorphic disorder, while working towards body positivity, Spearman plans on representing her platform "Positive Perceptions" through online events as well as through a panel discussing how to work toward body positivity from body dysmorphia. She hopes her platform will encourage women to feel more comfortable about themselves and their bodies.

As for Hayes, he plans to have open discussions with the student body to help im-

plement his platform "Unity within the Community," which focuses on adversities and critical issues such as the pandemic.

For footage of the 2020-2021 Mr. and Miss. Orange and Blue Pageant, scan the QR code below with your cellphone camera.



Students experience Zoom fatigue

By Jonah Fabian
Contributing Writer

Online learning gives a whole new meaning to “virtual reality.”

Not only are students missing out on real, live, in-person events, but many are going through personal struggles, too, as they face this new reality.

Thanks to COVID-19, the fall semester has been predominantly virtual. From homecoming to in-person classes, many events have been canceled to limit human contact. With limited in-person teaching, many students are struggling to get the same quality of learning as they did before the pandemic.

“It definitely affects the relationship between the students

“I feel like, especially in certain classes and subjects, you need to have that instruction that comes from being in a traditional classroom.”

— Kya McFadden,
sophomore education major

and teachers to where students do not feel as comfortable with their teachers,” said Alex Wyatt, freshman health, physical education and recreation major.

This virtual reality also affects people who need in-person learning to better grasp the information.

“I definitely feel that my learning is being altered be-

cause I’m a visual and auditory learner,” said Kya McFadden, a sophomore education major.

Math and science labs are often designed for in-person group projects and experiments, so it seems as though these subjects are losing their main source of teaching instruction.

“I feel like, especially in cer-

tain classes and subjects, you need to have that instruction that comes from being in a traditional classroom,” McFadden said.

These virtual lessons are not only affecting students’ learning but their overall wellbeing as well. Many students are suffering from Zoom fatigue.

According to the Harvard Business Review, Zoom fatigue is the exhaustion and physical pain that students deal with from staring at a computer screen for most parts of the day.

“I do get headaches, and my back does hurt from ‘zooming’ all day,” McFadden said.

Freshmen are joining the Langston family this year without experiencing the true HBCU experience. With events being limited, friendships and

extracurricular activities are being held away from the students.

“I think a lot of freshmen are feeling isolated and not really getting to make new friends,” Wyatt said.

Also, college students are having to deal with losing their main extracurricular activities on campus, such as sports, clubs, and organizations. This affects students’ emotional attachment to their school and their schedules.

“As a cheerleader, I miss the events we had, and I feel that it kept me busy and on a schedule,” McFadden said. “Also, as a student, we had many classes together as honor students where we would have study groups all the time, and I just miss those friendships we made.”

Business owners discuss effects of COVID-19

By Kaila Lessier
Contributing Writer

Within a short time, everyone across the U.S. had to switch from face-to-face interactions to online and virtual ones. Although this has been comfortable for some business owners, other businesses have found it difficult to make the transition.

Terreivia Shirley is a 28-year-old college graduate who attended Humboldt State University. She owns her own lash business named TS Lash Studio.

“Something like lash extensions has been thrown to the side because it is a beauty industry, so being close and touching people is mandatory...” Shirley said.

She believes this pandemic has made people too fearful of just going out and doing regular tasks as small as grocery shopping.

“There was this period when people were just living in fear about what could happen, and so my business was affected then...” Shirley said.

She also believes businesses in general, whether a small business or a large company, were affected by the pandemic because nobody wanted to be



exposed to the virus.

“I think that we’re slowly starting to pick up the pace, and that goes for small businesses as well,” Shirley said.

Shirley has three more clients this week than last week, so her business is slowly starting to see the snowball effect.

“All you have to do is hope for the best – that’s what I do – and as long as my three clients come back, I’m here for it,” Shirley said.

Though the pandemic wasn’t ideal for anyone, Shirley looks at it as an opportunity to revamp and get herself ready for the next chapter in her life.

“That downtime made or broke people, in my opinion, because that gave people the time

to figure out if you are going to sink or swim,” Shirley said, “or even if you are passionate about what you are doing.”

As a successful business owner, Shirley explained, one has to know how to roll with the punches.

“In the end, this time was essential,” Shirley said.

For other business owners, the pandemic gave them time to expand their business. This is what happened for LaDerrius Brown, a 22-year-old business owner from Memphis. He owns a clothing brand named Prolific Clothing.

“The pandemic was on perfect timing. As soon as it happened, that’s when I officially got my website,” Brown said.

“All you have to do is hope for the best – that’s what I do – and as long as my three clients come back, I’m here for it.”

— Terreivia Shirley,
owner of TS Lash Studio

However, he said, the pandemic has slowed things down a little bit for him and his business.

“There’s a lot of ideas and stuff that I want to bring to light, but I cannot do that because of all of the social distancing rules,” Brown said. However, he said, “It ain’t no rush as much as it was pre-pandemic. I can sit down and strategize and look at a bunch of different outcomes for my business.”

Overall, Brown said, the pandemic taught him how to hustle harder and always be prepared.

“I hope for my business to go worldwide. That’s the biggest goal,” Brown said.

For one Langston student, Khalil Griffin, COVID-19 ultimately motivated him to actually start his business.

Griffin, a junior broadcast journalism major, said the pan-

demic helped him take a leap of faith.

“It was like my little quarantine project,” Griffin said. “As a young little boy, I knew I always wanted to have my clothing line; this pandemic and the way the world is going today just gave me that extra push.”

Griffin added that the pandemic also gave him the proper time to prepare for his business.

“...With everyone pretty much on house arrest, it was like, boom, surprise – here’s what I’ve been working on,” Griffin said.

Griffin said, for him, the best way to position his business is through social media.

“We aren’t really able to be in large crowds, so I wouldn’t be able to sell any merchandise in person as much, but as far as my website, I can,” Griffin explained.

Track team awaits season

By King Mason
Gazette Reporter

The student-athletes and coach of the Langston University track and field team expressed how COVID-19 has impacted them and their season this semester.

James Hilliard Jr., head coach, said the team has not yet been competing in any indoor or outdoor meets.

"...Our season will not start until January," Hilliard said. "The Southwestern Athletic Conference decided not to have any sport-related meets and games."

Also, there are some changes as to how the athletes can train that meet social-distancing guidelines. They cannot train as a team, but they can train individually.

"We are not able to practice, but we are doing individual

conditioning right now," Hilliard said. "The restrictions make you adjust to the protocol," he added.

Zoey McGowan, a senior hurdler, said she is actually enjoying the one-on-one practice schedule.

"Instead of practicing in one big group, we all practice at separate times," McGowan said. "It makes it easier to do so."

Regardless of the pandemic, the track and field team athletes are striving to get better every day so they'll be fully prepared for when they can compete again.

"This past year hurt me," said freshman hurdler Stephen Rodgers, regarding the fact that he hasn't been able to compete in meets. "I really do miss the fun and the competition," he said. "I'm ready, and I hope it starts back up!"



Photo by King Mason

Right: Zoey McGowan, senior hurdler on the LU track and field team, practices alone instead of with her team. The track team athletes have been practicing individually instead of as a big group to abide by social-distancing protocols.

Fall 2020 Move-Out Procedures

As the end of the semester approaches, the Office of Residential Life and Housing Services (RLHS) would like to provide information to help students best prepare for their departure at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated changes to the move-out procedures to ensure safety within our community. These procedures will be effective for all students living within on-campus residential housing.

Fall 2020 Departure

As we have communicated previously, all students currently living in on-campus housing must move out by noon on Saturday, November 21, 2020, with the exception of non-traditional students who reside in Langston Commons or Cimarron Garden Apartments. Failure to check out by the deadline will result in a \$100 fine for improper checkout.

Check-Outs

To reduce interpersonal interactions, all students will be required to utilize express checkout. Within each respective residential area, there are express checkout lockboxes. Students are required to submit their checkout form and key. Failure to submit the checkout form and key will result in a \$375 fine for a lost key. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, every unit in Housing will be disinfected and sanitized during the Winter Break and prior to all students' return in the spring semester.

Due to the additional decontamination/sanitization measures being implemented, all students will be required to pack up all belongings within their apartment units

and/or room spaces.

Residents will be allowed to leave all packed boxes and belongings within their room, if they are enrolled and have a Spring 2020 schedule. There will be no exceptions. RLHS will provide boxes at each respective clubhouse/office beginning on November 4, 2020 to assist residents with this process. Detailed instructions on the move-out protocols and the process for leaving belongings in rooms is forthcoming.

Spring 2021

The Spring 2020 Housing Applications are now available online at MyLangston. RLHS will reassign students to their previous assignment from Fall 2020. Please note, RLHS reserves the right to make changes to room assignments due to unforeseen circumstances. If students wish to submit a room change request, please email luhousing@langston.edu. Room change requests must be received via email by 5 p.m. CST on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020.

For students to reserve their Spring 2021 housing assignment and receive their key, the following must be completed:

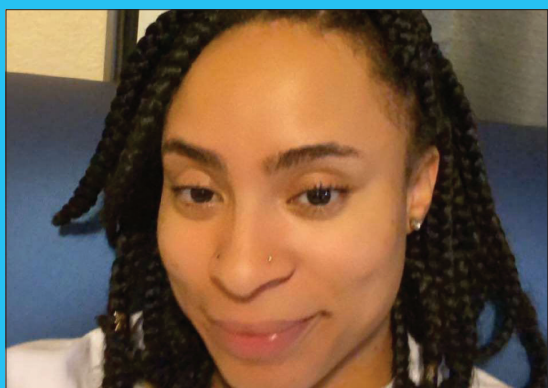
- Balance under \$200;
- Spring 2021 Housing Application completed; and
- Spring 2021 Enrollment with confirmed Academic Schedule.

If there are any questions regarding housing, please contact us by email at luhousing@langston.edu or by phone at 405-466-6028.

Campus Question

In the midst of a pandemic, what was the semester like for you?

Compiled by Lea Houston



Alexxis Harris,
Junior Technology Major

“This semester has been extremely weird with Covid going on. So many teachers don’t know what’s going on, so it’s almost like the blind leading the blind. It has been difficult to stay engaged in school when it feels like we’re about to leave and I’ve learned nothing all semester. I have made the best of it with my friends, but the new adjustments [are] something I have to remember every day.”



Jada Meads,
Senior Public Health Major

“Although Covid caused a lot of pressure at the beginning of the semester, I’d have to say now that we’re at the end, pressure makes diamonds. I feel like my mental health is in a way better state than it was in the beginning of the semester. I feel like I’m definitely fully prepared as a student and as a student-leader to move into my spring semester. I believe it took a toll on everyone’s mental health, not being on campus as a family, not being as involved as we usually are, [with] difficulty putting on events. I definitely feel like it took a lot of the HBCU’s spirit out of everybody, including myself.”



Patricia Bazile,
Senior Biology Major

“I’d say the pandemic, in some ways, was an eye-opener and a slight blessing for me. Personally, I was able to isolate myself and focus on me as well as move into my own space. As a student, I definitely feel like I’m missing out on the usual fun Langston has, but if we don’t do anything else, we’re going to make the most of what we have.”



Kaci Craft,
Senior Biology Major

“My semester was surprisingly easier than any other, academia-wise. I am a biology major, so the only thing I am really being stripped of is in-class labs, which I don’t mind since virtual labs are like mini video games. Personally, not having any distractions or events to go to was peaceful since last year I had to go to everything. As it is my last year, I did miss homecoming festivities, but we have every year after the pandemic to attend as alumni, so that’s something I am excited for. Overall, my physical and mental health has definitely improved since everything was moved to online. I just pray our graduation in May isn’t interrupted.”