

the Gazette

VOL. 82, NO. 4

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019



Who is going to stop us?



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The Gazette

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

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

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Student debuts designs at LU 'Trap Fashion' show

As a fashion designer, I had the wonderful opportunity to feature my clothes at the Homecoming fashion show, "Trap Fashion." However, despite preparing for weeks, this opportunity almost didn't happen.

I am the only designer in the fashion show who made my own outfits, and my experience before the fashion show and leading up to it was absolutely amazing. I built great relationships with each person who modeled my line. I originally had four great women lined up to each model two outfits, having eight outfits total, but because I was the only person who made my clothes, I think certain rules may have been miscommunicated with me.

I originally sized the women to fit the outfits and wear them in a way that felt perfect for their individual bodies. But on the day of the show, I was surprisingly informed that I had to have more models wear my clothes if I was going to feature eight different outfits. So, at the last minute, I decided to add two more models and only feature six outfits, which was still a good amount.

This was my first time doing a fashion show, so I definitely had to learn a lot about the rotations; overall, though, I am very grateful for the experience to showcase my line. I was really overwhelmed trying to get outfits ready at the last minute and have all my models ready to walk the runway with confidence, but it came out much better than I predicted.

After having all the models

come try on clothes and ensuring their clothes were just right, I had to go to the auditorium to get ready for the fashion show. When I got to the show they put all the designers in a room and told us to look at a paper. The paper had the name of each designer's line on it, and it showed the section where we would stand for our models to come get their clothes.

However, when I looked at the paper more closely, I realized my clothing line wasn't listed! So I immediately began to panic because I was afraid they weren't going to feature my clothes. I had worked so hard for this and spent too much time on my outfits for them not to be featured. So, I talked to one of the people in charge of the fashion show and they said that, because I wasn't in the lineup, I had to go last.

OK, I thought. At least I still got to show off my designs that I had been working on so hard for so long. And, honestly, I'm kind of glad I got to go last because it gave me the opportunity to calm down and not be so nervous.

When it was my models' time to walk the runway, I was pretty worried because not all of their dresses fit them perfectly due to the changes we had to make. Then, once the women changed and got ready, one of them noticed a slight rip in her dress. I immediately realized that I had nothing to help it, so I just told everyone not to touch it because it might get worse. Luckily, it was not noticeable from a distance.



Ealom

So, what I realized was that even though things didn't turn out perfectly, I still had a great opportunity, and my designs were still put out there for others to see.

My grandmother, who taught me how to sew, inspired the name of my line. Her name is

Roselle and her birth year is 1947 – therefore, the name of my line is RO47. And, I look forward to future opportunities to show just how important this line is to me.

Marquala Ealom is a junior broadcast journalism major.

Do you have an opinion you'd like to express regarding life, politics, entertainment or other various topics? Or perhaps you have a poem to share with the others?

This section of The Gazette is for YOU!

Submit your ideas to nkturner@langston.edu or call 405-466-3245

Biking across the LU

Professor secures \$25,000 grant for new bike program

By Monique Bonds
Editor

A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to the ROARS Peer Educators to increase mobility on campus with a new program called "Biking Across Langston University."

The grant was awarded after Dr. Desmond Delk, assistant professor of health and physical education, applied in February to the Ford Fund HBC-YOU Mobility Challenge.

Just three months after applying, Delk was selected by the Ford Fund for a Skype interview. Being that health, both physical and mental, is near and dear to Delk's heart, when conducting the Skype interview with the Ford Fund, he decided to be open and transparent about his passion.

"It was a long process," Delk explained. "The application deadline was around March (2019), the Skype interview was in May, then the representative for the Ford Fund came to campus. We introduce ourselves, what we'll be doing, how we plan to implement the program and how we plan to get students involved."

He was then awarded the grant in August. According to The Atlanta Voice website, "The Ford HBC-You Mobility Challenge is a special initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company. The challenge is the latest in the Ford Fund's decades-long commitment to supporting Historically Black

Colleges and Universities and students that attend them."

So, what was Delk's primary reason for applying for the grant? Health and fitness, of course.

"Dealing with African-Americans and the high rates of diabetes, kidney disease, hypertension and obesity, we just wanted to get people moving now, while we're young," Delk said.

After being awarded the grant, Delk said, actually getting the bikes was a bit of a process, too, but the bikes finally arrived on campus Oct. 25. The program will start with an inventory of 30 bikes – 25 single speeds and five mountain bikes.

"I'm looking forward to the biking program because some people don't have cars on campus, and they're allowing [students] to take them off campus," said ROARS Peer Educators President Megan Buyckes, senior health, physical education and recreation major. "They're allowing students to take them to Meek's, Smitty's and Dollar General. By providing them this option, we're giving another way for students to survive on campus."

ROARS plans to develop a biking culture in the near future to normalize bike-riding across campus. With "Biking Across Langston University," members of ROARS also plan to minimize parking tickets, enhance crosswalks and install bike racks at several locations on campus.



"We're going to have a system in place," Delk said. "Once the spring comes around, people will take the bikes for the day, and they'll have to return them in the evening."

By linking the bike rentals to student accounts, ROARS Peer Educators plans to limit the amount of stolen or damaged goods.

"I'm really excited about the biking program," said Jurnie Scott, junior elementary education major. "The campus is pretty small, so riding bikes can save gas, which saves money. It's cold right now," she added, "so many students may not participate, but once the spring comes, I expect to see bikes everywhere."



Photos by Monique Bonds

Dr. Desmond Delk meets with owner of Al's Bicycles of Edmond, Henry Holasek, when the company delivered the bikes to campus Oct. 25.

Langston Community Food Pantry needs more volunteers

By Malik Young
Staff Writer

What can you do to help the community around you?

One option is to volunteer at the recently opened Langston Community Food Pantry, located in the Langston Retail Plaza across from campus at 401 W. Hale St.

The food pantry is open every fourth Saturday of each month

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its first official grand opening was in September, which drew in a decent-sized crowd, but the last opening, Oct. 26, had less participants. Despite the numbers being low, there were still new families who came and were able to be served, according to Dr. Alberta Mayberry, one of the food pantry founders.

The idea for the food pantry started about a year ago around

Thanksgiving to help college students who were unable to travel home for the extended school break. But some LU employees had a bigger vision, so they got to work and came up with the idea of a community food pantry.

"We wanted to re-open to provide for the kids, people in the community, and help the families who are in need," Mayberry said.

The pantry serves all LU students as well as the communities of Langston, Coyle, Meridian and surrounding areas.

Now, Mayberry said, the pantry is looking for students to volunteer and help with marketing, in-kind donations and "man power," such as loading and unloading boxes.

"Other ways to help include sending a check to the Langston foundation for the food pan-

try," Mayberry said.

During the most recent opening Oct. 26, LU students from the School of Physical Therapy helped with inventory and unloading of 30-40 boxes of food.

Intake and volunteer applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs and the Town of Langston City Hall.

The more people who

see **FOOD PANTRY**, page 8

Homecoming Wrap-Up

Making memories, capturing moments



Annual concert does not disappoint

By **Jeremy Anderson**
Staff Writer

Langston University celebrated Homecoming with the most popular event of the week, the annual Homecoming concert.

On Oct. 23, students stood in line for hours to see some of their favorite artists and celebrate making it this far through the semester.

The concert started with opening performances from

well-known local talent. The first performer was Langston student BFG Kloud, who was followed by a performance from up-and-coming artist Fast Cash. The main acts featured Trina and Roddy Ricch.

Some students who participate in campus organizations, such as the Student Government Association and Student Activities Board, were lucky enough to work behind the scenes and meet the special Homecoming guests.

"The best part of the Homecoming concert was getting to meet Trina. She's really nice in person and a dope artist," said Jorell Smallwood, senior music education major.

Trina also confirmed to the students who did get the chance to meet her that she will be on the third season of "Love & Hip Hop: Miami," which is set to premiere in 2020.

"You gotta stay tuned to watch," Trina said, as far as what people can expect this sea-

son. "I just started filming, I've only filmed one scene, but I do know the cast has been filming for awhile... I'll start back next week, so you just gotta pay attention. It's gonna be good, it's a little different from last year; we have some new cast members... so I'm just excited to see what's gonna happen."

Trina also discussed her own record label, Rockstar Music Group, and the many different artists on it.

"These artists, they are just

fun and energetic," Trina said. "I'm just working with them hands-on, and I just hope they be as successful as they can... It's a whole production of work, so just stay tuned and watch them... I just want to see them grow. I want to see them flourish. So I'm just excited to have them on my team. It's a process... they're new artists, so people are not familiar with them... but you're gonna see a lot of them when the top of the year comes. It'll happen."

Langston enhances tailgating experience

By **Walter Harris**
Staff Writer

A tailgate that topped all homecomings!

Langston University kicked off homecoming with two new additions in the tailgate package.

This year the university switched up the tailgate tradition and included a free concert performed by rapper Juvenile and R&B group Club Nouveau, as well as a marketplace where people could sell Langston and Greek apparel.

The tailgate is one of the most attended events of homecoming when alumni and students come together to celebrate, and many students took a delight in the events.

Donnell Carter, junior business major, thinks this was the best tailgate yet.

"I think this tailgate was way more fun than the previous ones," he said.

"A free concert added to the tailgate was the best part. Normally, everyone goes to the game then tailgates a little and goes home; but this year we got to stay a little longer and enjoy the alumni and concert. Also, I got some really cool Langston T-shirts at the marketplace."

The two new additions were not only something exciting for the students but for faculty and alumni as well. Patrick Franks, LU alumnus and library associate for the G. Lamar Harrison Library, thinks the tailgate was a blowout and the concert

made things more live.

"When I was a student there never was a concert after the Homecoming game, so it was exciting to see everyone having a good time," Franks said. "And it was a larger attendance that I have seen in awhile."

Franks has been tailgating at LU Homecomings with his family for 10 years.

With this year's tailgate experience attracting so many students and alumni, the future of LU tailgating plans to improve even more.

"It is our goal to continue to develop this integral piece of the Homecoming game-day experience," said Athletic Director Donnita Drain-Rogers. "You will be excited to hear that you no longer must come to campus to pick

up your tailgate passes. Receiving your tailgate passes early will allow you more

time to plan as well as enjoy the luxury of reserved parking."

Cheer squad gives halftime performance

By **Joshua Minger**
Staff Writer

The Langston University cheer squad took the field during halftime of the Homecoming game for the first time in five years.

"We worked hard for hours in practice," said cheer captain Paris Cortez, senior psychology major. "Our main goal was to put out a solid, clean routine that would wow the alumni and our peers."

The coach of the program has elevated the team behind mea-

sure, providing new resources for the squad.

"We added two extra practices on top of the other practices, so we could be indefinitely prepared for the game," said cheer coach Deonne King. "The team sets a goal for themselves and work until they accomplish it. We added several collegiate stunts; however, the most important factor in having that successful performance was the positive attitude and strong work ethic of the athletes. They really are perfectionists, which really helps when it matters

most."

The cheer team was ecstatic to hear that LU alumni were thoroughly pleased with the performance.

"To come back two years later and be able to see that the program is still going strong really warms my heart," said Fallyn Spivey, LU alumna and former cheer captain. "Great things are happening within the program as they seem to be building a strong foundation. I am excited to see what comes next. I know they will continue to exceed expectations."

DC Young Fly generates laughs at comedy show

By **John Crane**
Contributing Writer

MTV's DC Young Fly had a message for the students during homecoming week, which was to simply be yourself.

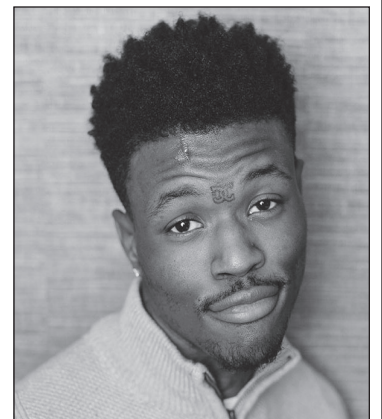
You may know DC Young Fly him from MTV's "Wild 'n Out" or his podcast, the "85 South Show." He did a 45-minute set during the homecoming comedy show Oct. 23.

During his time on stage, the crowd couldn't help themselves but to bust out laughing at everything he said. He even joked about what he did with his life before comedy. He told stories from his past, and shared a story about a time when he got 20 stitches, explaining how hard it was on the streets before he got his start on the six-second video app, Vine.

He concluded his set by telling the audience about a conversation he had with God. He said, "Lord, if this is you talking to me, you lead, I follow, and 2013 until now have been the best years of my life."

His message to the audience was to be yourself and don't let anyone change you, which hit home with sophomore Ale'gna Waltson.

"Hearing his story inspired me," Walton said. "No matter how far off topic or how many laughs he got, he somehow strung it into being himself and nobody changing him."



Campus unites to plant, dedicate tree to Mr. Hill

By Lea Houston
Contributing Writer

A place for shade, a place for rest, a place to seek knowledge – this tree is in remembrance of professor Anthony Hill.

As students and faculty mourn and grieve over Hill, a mathematics professor who passed away in September, Langston University united as a family to dedicate a newly planted tree where Hill will never be forgotten.

Tilani Whitley, member of the Student Activities Board, decided it would be a great idea to open up all of the Homecoming 2019 celebrations by planting a tree in front of Jones Hall in dedication to Hill. The dedication ceremony kicked off the week Oct. 20.

"Everyone was affected by Professor Hill's passing in some way, so why not pay our respects with all he did for Langston," Whitley said. "This tree dedication was meant to be a celebration for him, so I believe starting out Homecoming with his remembrance really

set the tone."

Many faculty, staff and students gathered on the lawn between Sanford Hall and Jones Hall for the dedication ceremony.

"When this tree grows, eventually it's going to go in every direction of the university," said Dr. Alonzo Peterson, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. "That's what Hill was -- he had his branches, not only in every part of the university, but in people's personal lives."

Peterson and Hill met at Langston University and became close friends 14 years ago. They'd eat together and travel together while both teaching in the mathematics department.

"I realized this tree is a lasting representation of Mr. Hill on this campus," Peterson said. "He will never be forgotten because that tree will always be there, representing him. It's going to live, it's going to grow."

Not only was Hill close with his colleagues, but he also made a huge impact on students as well.

Hill was adamant that his students were always prepared for class. From getting over 200 calculators and several boxes of pencils, Hill made it a prerogative that students had the tools necessary to succeed.

As Peterson reflected on Hill's time at Langston, Peterson said Hill would continuously do whatever he could to make sure students had his support.

Hill became a huge help and mentor to so many people, such as sophomore broadcast journalism major Jayden Hannah.

"Professor Hill meant a lot to me. He was a light and a symbol of positivity on this campus. He knew how to brighten your day," Hannah said.

Hannah has known Hill since he was 15. He became acquainted with Hill during a high school program that taught young African-American males how to become African-American men. "Out of all of the mentors that were involved in the program, Mr. Hill was the most impactful," Hannah said,



Photo by Walter Harris

This tree was planted in honor and remembrance of Langston professor, Anthony Hill, who passed away in September. The tree sits on the lawn between Sanford and Jones halls.

who is now 20 years old.

From being his mentor to becoming his professor, Hannah said this tree dedication shows how much Hill impacted the LU community.

"The tree is a physical manifestation of the impact he had

on this university. When people come to the campus, they can look at something that Mr. Hill has left," Hannah said. "This tree says that the work that he did paid off in the end. Although he has passed, the work he did lasts on."

Students give up Homecoming 2019 to participate in 53-hour code-a-thon

By G'ahri Gassaway
Staff Writer

While most students spent Homecoming with friends and family celebrating Langston University, a select few computer science majors sacrificed their Homecoming weekend to generate code for 53 straight hours.

Under the direction of computer science professor Ralph Grayson, five students participated in the annual Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Code-a-Thon. The event started at 6 p.m. Oct. 25 (Friday), and it did not conclude until 11 p.m. Oct. 27 (Sunday).

A code-a-thon is an event where software developers compete, in our case computer science majors, to build original and working applications (apps,

websites, etc.) for a specific theme or problem provided by the host of the event.

During that short amount of time, the team of five students created an app for entrepreneurs to promote their services/products using a networking platform while connecting with customers. The app also allows entrepreneurs to sign up and add their business or a customer to sign up and see the services/products available. The app has the users enter their zip code, so the entrepreneurs available are always local to the user.

Langston also participated in the event last year and won a ribbon, but Grayson feels honored to be the first and only HBCU to participate in the event both years. Grayson hopes that the partnership of Langston with the Federal Re-

serve Bank of Kansas City can get more HBCUs involved in the near future.

"I hope we just open the door for other HBCUs," Grayson said.

Though they spent the entire weekend in Moore Hall, away from the Homecoming festivities, the students said they still enjoyed themselves during the event, especially because of the unique experience it gave them.

"I would definitely do another code-a-thon," said Tyler Fails, senior computer science major. "It allows you the freedom to think creatively and execute ideas that wouldn't have been possible, unlike just working on an assignment or project."

Although Fails was slightly bummed because she couldn't participate in Homecoming, she knows this experience could open the door to something

bigger down the line.

"It was a little disappointing that I wouldn't be able to partake in Homecoming events, but at the same time I knew that doing the code-a-thon would help me in the long run, professionally and academically, so I wasn't too upset," she said.

Some students did not know about the event, but after hearing about the sacrifice they made for Homecoming, they appreciate bringing new ideas to the campus.

"I just feel like them giving up their time during Homecoming week, so they could try to bring something towards Langston, just really shows the love that they have for their university," said Taylor Ross, senior broadcast journalism major.

Scholarship Gala rakes in over \$30,000 in donations

By Na'Tianna Stocker
Contributing Writer

If it weren't for scholarship money contributed by sponsors and alumni, some Langston students would not be as successful as they are, let alone enrolled in school.

The 14th Annual Scholarship Gala was held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum on Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. This museum was filled with people whose main purpose that night was to give back to the university that gave them the opportunity to be successful.

With donations ranging from \$50 to \$20,000, \$4,000 came from the Alpha Pi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and \$20,000 came from the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus. Langston acquired well over \$30,000 to go toward scholarships so students are able to continue their education and graduate.

The celebrity host of the Gala,

Sheryl Underwood, was very adamant that everyone donate money for scholarships. She was energetic, full of personality and very passionate about HBCUs and how important education is for black students.

"Black history is American history," Underwood said.

She mentioned how she's a strong advocate for students at HBCUs because not a lot of people support them, which makes them underappreciated.

Underwood had the crowd laughing and smiling, but she stressed how critical it was for people to donate. Donating to scholarships can eliminate stress for first-time college students and families who are not fortunate to fund their children's college expenses.

"If you're a Scorpio, you need to donate \$50!" Underwood said, among many other similar statements throughout the night that encouraged people to participate.

The Annual Scholarship Gala is important to current students

and future students because it helps keep the Langston Foundation alive, which helps provide financial assistance to students in need.

"The Gala was an amazing experience, especially now that I know that the money goes to scholarships," said Robert Couch Jr., sophomore computer science major.

The Langston Student Government Association had the opportunity to attend the Gala and understand its importance for the university and our students.

"I think the Gala is important because it gives alumni the chance to give back to students in need that want to finish their higher education," said SGA Secretary of State Lauren Gavin.

Gavin also said the Gala is a place where student-leaders are able to network and build relationships with successful alumni because, a lot of times, it is partly about who you know, not what you know.

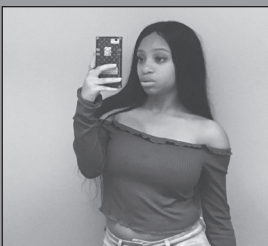


Courtesy Photo

Celebrity comedian and talk show host Sheryl Underwood hosts the 14th Annual President's Scholarship Gala with student emcees for the evening, Celois Ashonté and Reese Dowell. LU hosted the Gala on Oct. 25, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

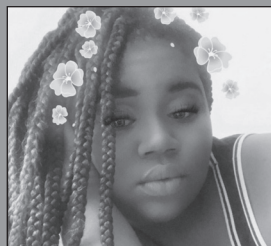
Campus Question

What was your favorite Homecoming 2019 experience?



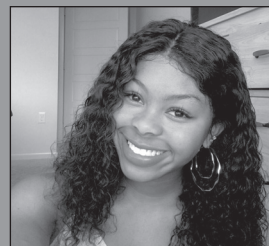
Alegna Walton
Sophomore Nursing Major

"My favorite experience was Midnight Madness. You got a little bit of everything – cheerleaders, dancing, you name it!"



Arianna Fears
Junior English Major

"My favorite experience was the comedy show. It brought so much laughter to Langston, and there was no unnecessary drama."



Zoe McGowan
Junior Business Major

"My favorite experience was Midnight Madness. I liked seeing everyone perform. I also liked hearing everyone get introduced, including me!"



Savion Harvey
Sophomore Broadcast Journalism Major

"My favorite experience was the comedy show. I really liked DC Young Fly. He was really funny!"

69-7 victory!

Langston Lions ram the Texas Wesleyan Rams

By Devin Dourisseau
Staff Writer

Your No. 22 ranked Langston Lions rammed the competition against Texas Wesleyan at the Homecoming game Oct. 26.

Leading the lions to victory was quarterback Jordan Cooper who racked up a season-high of five touchdowns.

Cooper scored the game's opening touchdown on a 77-yard run in the first series of play, putting Langston in front 7-0, just 52 seconds into the game.

They racked up two points from a safety later in the quarter and then junior running back Tim Whitfield came up with a six-yard touchdown to put lead at 16-0 with 8:49 left in the quarter.

"If it wasn't for our O-line then that game would have been different," Cooper said. "They dominated the trenches, and I was just in the position to make plays and score those touchdowns."

The Lions collected three more scores in the second frame to enter halftime up 45-0. The first score of the half came courtesy of special teams when Lavonte Wilson blocked and returned a punt of 75 yards for a touchdown.

Soon after, the Langston offense followed with a 22-yard touchdown pass from Cooper to Isaiah Shaputis and a four-yard touchdown run by Whitfield.

The Lions managed to tack on three more additional touchdowns to seal the 69-7 victory

over the Rams. Saturday's 69 points were the highest total this season and the most since Langston scored 71 points in a victory over Texas College on Oct. 27, 2018.

As a transfer freshman, this was Cooper's first Homecoming game experience.

"It was more than expected, honestly," he said in regard to the experience. "so many alumni supporting... and I'm glad we could send our seniors off with a W."

According to the Dakstats website, Cooper finished the game 20-of-30 for 260 yards and two passing touchdowns. Whitfield finished with 72 yards on 14 carries with three touchdowns, and Shaputis finished the day with 11 receptions for 118 yards and one touchdown.



Photo by Na'Tianna Stocker

Right: Senior wide receiver Glenn Irons (No. 1) secures a long pass during the Homecoming game.

FOOD PANTRY

from page 3

volunteer, the more it will help and make things a lot easier, Mayberry said. She said it is particularly important to get the word out and let people know that the pantry is there "so that we're able to service everyone in need... Building a relationship between the university and surrounding communities" is the key, she said. The next service day for the Langston Community Food Pantry is Nov. 23.



Photo by Walter Harris

Students from the School of Physical Therapy volunteer at the Langston Community Food Pantry during its most recent opening Oct. 26.

Lions start season undefeated

By Tyler McNeal
Staff Writer

Balls are for sports. Sports are usually for fun. However, for some, ball is life. And, at Langston University, basketball season has just begun.

The Langston men's basketball team has started the season at 2-0, which is a direct reflection of the leadership of new head coach Philip Stitt, who has been working at Langston for the past six months.

"Every year you come together as a group, your goal is always to win a championship," said Coach Stitt. "On the the daily basis, we're just trying to get better as a team."

Stitt has been in this profession since he graduated from school, with over 10 other schools on his resume.

"This is my 29th year as a basketball coach," Stitt said. "All of them have been on a collegiate level, and I started right out of college in 1991."

The schools Stitt has coached at before this have had a lot more students, and more than likely bigger teams. However, he doesn't seem to mind the change of intimacy.

"I like the small environment and how every-

"We're trying to figure out what we can and can't do, our strengths and weaknesses; so our expectations change on a daily basis."

— Philip Stitt,
head men's basketball coach

body knows everybody on campus," said Stitt. "It's more of a family atmosphere. I've been at five other HBCUs, and this is the smallest I've been at, so it's a different feel."

So far, the Lions are undefeated, but the team is still taking time to work out some kinks as the season progresses.

"We're trying to figure out what we can and can't do, our strengths and weaknesses; so our expectations change on a daily basis," Stitt said. "As long as we can get individual improvement and team improvement on a daily basis, our expectations can increase."