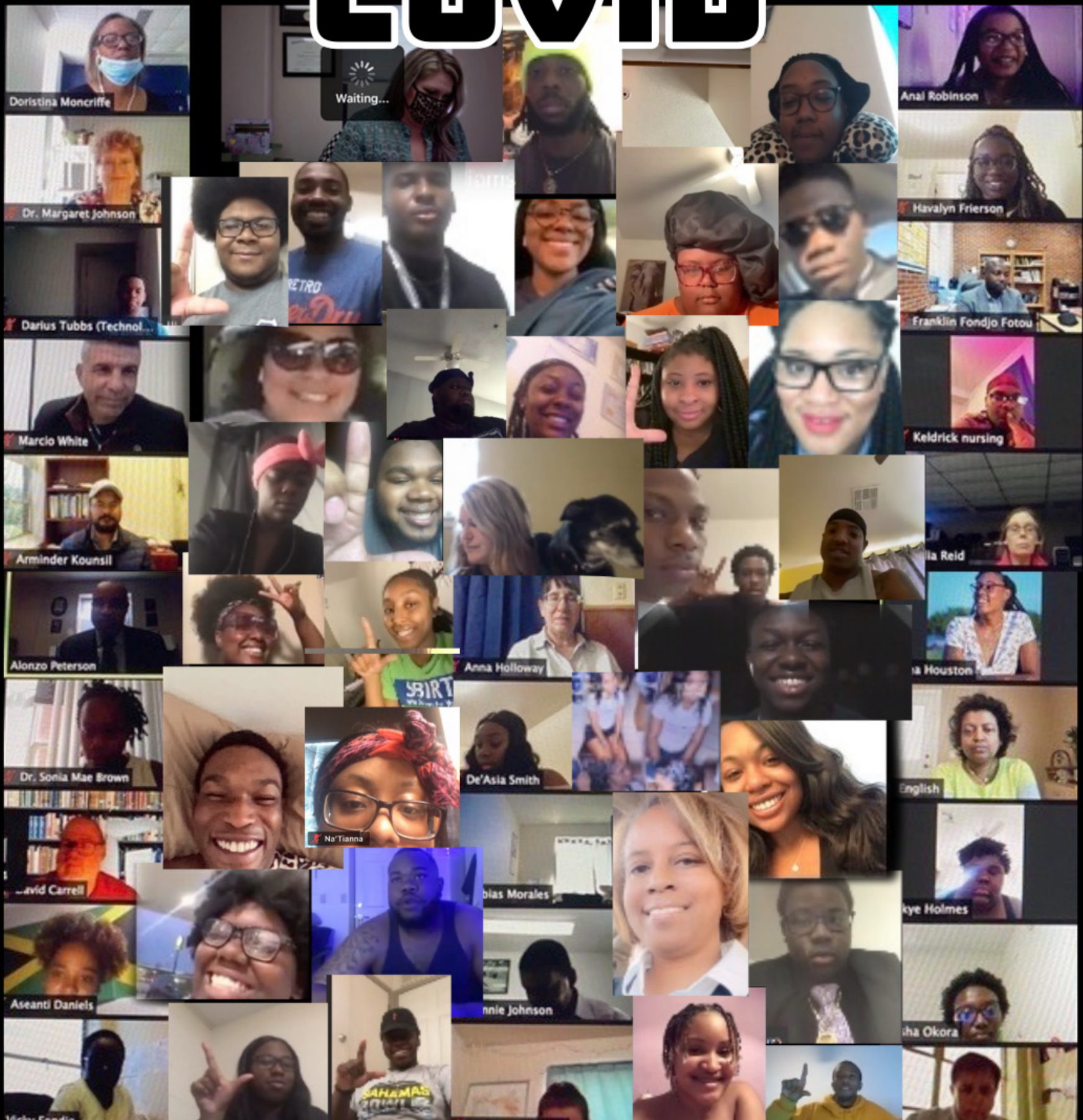


COLLEGE DURING COVID

SEE PAGE 3



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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Trump endangers Americans

The coronavirus, more properly known as COVID-19, has sent not only the United States of America into a frenzy, but the entire world as well.

What has been put under the national spotlight nearly every day is how world leaders have responded to this virus and the attempt they make to either limit or completely halt its spread into their nations.

It is absolutely safe to say that President Donald Trump has not handled this task well. In fact, his response to the global pandemic has been borderline disastrous and catastrophic.

As of this date, the number of American deaths caused by COVID-19 sits at 201,000, with nearly 7 million total cases. The U.S. leads the world in the number of deaths and cases by a wide margin compared to our counterparts.

With other countries finding suitable ways to suppress the virus and keep their citizens safe, why has the U.S. done such a terrible job? It starts from the beginning.



Ronald Diaz

During a campaign rally in South Carolina on Feb. 28, President Trump identified the then new virus as a hoax, particularly blaming the Democrats, saying, "This is their [Democrats] new hoax." Trump immediately downplayed the severity of the virus and "likened it to the common flu."

On March 4, just four days after these comments, the U.S. saw its first two deaths due to the virus, and from this day forward, the U.S. has been on a complete downward spiral.

Jared Bernstein and Hannah Katch of The Washington Post noted how President Trump

put Americans in the worst possible situation in case of a pandemic.

"Despite the ACA's (Affordable Care Act) historic expansion of health coverage to millions of Americans, the Trump administration has taken steps limiting access to comprehensive health coverage," Bernstein said.

This amount of irresponsibility has endangered the lives of thousands of Americans and has already cost the lives of 200,000-plus people. Had president Trump taken this virus seriously from the beginning, it's possible that the death toll could be significantly lower, as well as the amount of cases.

What certainly put American lives at risk, regardless of how nonchalant president Trump acted toward the possibility of a pandemic, was wiping out healthcare to millions of Americans whom he swore to protect.

Bernstein and Katch noted, "The pandemic has underscored the recklessness of this sabotage. Because of the

administration's attacks on health coverage, the United States entered the pandemic with 2.3 million more uninsured people than in 2016, including 700,000 more uninsured children."

Trump's attacks on health coverage, especially during the midst of a global pandemic, seem almost sinister. If The Trump Administration succeeds in repealing the ACA, nearly 20 million Americans will lose health coverage, while Americans with preexisting conditions could be either charged more or denied healthcare altogether.

As mentioned before, being so relentless to do this during a global pandemic does not sit right with me, or with thousands of other Americans. At a time where the protection of American lives is at a critical high, it does not feel or look like that is a major priority for the president of the United States.

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!

Only two issues remain for the semester, so please share those ideas!

Submit your ideas to nkturner@langston.edu.

College during COVID-19

Langston University feels effects of pandemic

A Mental Toll

By Lea Houston
Gazette Reporter

Since December 2019, COVID-19 has affected thousands of people – not only physically, but mentally as well.

According to the World Health Organization, college students, many of whom are already stressed, reported an increase in depression and anxiety during the initial outbreak.

In adults and children, fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and trigger extreme emotions. Lack of public activity and social distancing can make individuals feel isolated and alone and can increase stress, anxiety and depression as well.

Because threats of the pandemic forced some colleges and universities to abruptly close and switch to online learning in the spring semester, many students felt anxious about coming back during this fall.

Also, though many students were happy to get back to their families in the spring, others were going back to abusive homes, empty fridges or even no home at all.

When Langston President Kent Smith Jr. announced LU students had to be off campus by the end of April 2019, students had to figure out how they were going to do homework with no laptops, how bills were going to get paid and how they could take precautions to come back to school in the fall.

With cases continuing to rise, it was mandatory for LU to abide by social distancing regulation – this means mandatory masks in spaces where social distancing is difficult or not feasible, and no more than 10 people can gather inside a classroom or event at one time.

And, although wearing a mask is mandatory, the pos-

sibility of a COVID-19 spike causes students' anxiety to spike because there are so many people on campus, and they don't know for sure whether they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Furthermore, many students even questioned how LU was going to take safety precautions on protecting the campus community from people who has been tested or exposed to the virus.

According Langston Student Government President Jada Meads, the LU Emergency Leadership Team (ELT) as well as SGA, Student Activities Board, faculty, students and staff have taken extra precautions to keep the campus environment safe for all. With students having the option to stay home and do classes online, it creates less anxiety for some, knowing that they're not around a large group of people and there's a less chance of them acquiring the virus.

Junior biology major Maurice Crawford said she feels more comfortable at home rather than on campus.

"I don't know who has all been exposed or tested, so I'll feel more comfortable staying at home in Oklahoma City," Crawford said. "I also don't do too well with large groups of people. Ever since the pandemic, my anxiety doesn't deal with large crowds."

Some people's anxiety and stress have been hard to control, particularly because there is still so much uncertainty attached to the pandemic. One student addressed how wearing a mask actually spikes her anxiety.

"On top of me already having bad anxiety, the mask does not help at all," said senior HPER major D'Ojonae Garbutt. "I can only wear it for so long until I have to step outside and get some fresh air. So I just stay in my room,

see **A MENTAL TOLL**,
page 6



Photo by King Mason

A student grabs a to-go lunch in the new cafeteria setup in the Student Success Center. As one of the many safety precautions of COVID-19, students can no longer socialize in large groups in the cafeteria. Instead, they must stand in a socially-distant line for the entree of their choosing. One of the stipulations is that they must wear a mask inside the SSC to pick up their food.

Campus Changes

By Ebony Lucas
Gazette Reporter

In the midst of the global pandemic known as COVID-19, many Langston University students are finding themselves with more free time than usual.

As the students returned to campus for the fall 2020 semester, they also returned to many new changes as well.

"I honestly began to notice the changes when we went home for spring break in the spring of 2020," said BreAna Walker, junior public health major.

A few things that COVID-19 has forced LU to change in-

clude entrances and exits to the Student Success Center, the way food is dispersed in the cafeteria, the amount of students in a classroom and even student activities.

"I have noticed the most change in the cafeteria," said Chelsea Nelson, junior sociology major. "The cafeteria is considered to be a hangout spot for a lot of students and now that we aren't allowed to go sit inside, the Student Success Center is now always empty."

Not only has COVID-19 affected LU student life physically, but it has also affected it mentally.

"To me, it has affected the campus life tremendously," said Kammerrin Herron,

junior psychology major. "Campus spirits are definitely down and nothing feels the same. Activities are different, classes are mostly online and it is taking a toll on the campus life as a whole."

LU faculty and staff have made modifications to buildings to help make the environment safer and social distancing easier for students while on the campus.

"One of the biggest changes I have noticed is the use of the mask," Walker said. "They also supplied every student with a 10-count pack of disposable masks."

Though this may not be the

see **CAMPUS CHANGES**,
page 6

Students say bittersweet 'see you later' to retiring honors program coordinator

By Jonah Fabian
Contributing Writer

Langston University began the fall 2020 semester with some bittersweet news. After her 14-year career with Langston University, Honors Program Coordinator Mrs. Beatrice Lawrence announced that she plans on retiring at the end of the fall semester.

Mrs. Lawrence is originally from Louisiana where she worked at a college before retiring and moving to Oklahoma in 2005. Eager to return to work, Mrs. Lawrence obtained an administrative assistant job for the English department and the McCabe Honors Program at Dear Langston in 2006.

A few years later, she was moved up to the counselor (advisor) position for the honors program. Mrs. Lawrence continued to climb the ladder as she then became the McCabe Honors Program Director in 2011.

Mrs. Lawrence has helped hundreds of students obtain and retain academic scholarships for the McCabe Honors Program and has walked with many graduating seniors as their honors director. Lawrence said one of her favorite moments of Langston is walking in her first graduation she participated in as the director of the honors program.

Though she has helped many students along the way, one particular student expressed

how much her help has meant.

"She always [has] seen the greatness in me and she brought that out," said Maurice Dowell, senior nursing major.

Lawrence has advised Dowell over the course of the past four years. Dowell also is a Regents Scholar, which is a scholarship into the honors program. Dowell has had many opportunities to connect with Mrs. Lawrence, from attending scholarship galas to receiving many positions in the Scholars Club.

"What makes her unique is her compassion that she has for her job and the love that she has for the job and the dedication and commitment she has for her job," Dowell said.

The McCabe Honors Program

takes in many freshmen each year and provides them with scholarships based on their academic performance. With this scholarship, students are regarded as a scholar and are expected to take on the more prestigious roles at Langston University.

"The Honors Program brings, to Langston, the top students and the best students," Mrs. Lawrence said.

As one of those students, Dowell agreed.

"You take ownership, and it is your duty as the forefront of Langston University to serve as a leader," he said.

As the semester comes near an end, Mrs. Lawrence already has plans for her retirement.



Mrs. Lawrence

"I want to travel and see my-grandchildren," Mrs. Lawrence

see **LAWRENCE**, page 6

All You Need To Know About

2019: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread is occurring. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

HOW DOES THE VIRUS TRANSMIT?



AIR



HUMAN
CONTACT



CONTAMINATED
OBJECTS



UNDERCOOKED
FOOD



TOUCHING EYES
WITH DIRTY HANDS



DROPLETS
FROM PATIENT

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS?

Reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

DRY COUGH

FATIGUE

VOMITING

FEVER

SHORT BREATH

PNEUMONIA

KIDNEY FAILURE

DIARRHEA

The incubation period of the new coronavirus is thought to be between one and 14 days

102.4°F
39°C

HOW TO REDUCE RISK OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS?

- COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WHEN COUGHING
- WASH YOUR HAND FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP AND WATER
- THOROUGHLY COOK MEAT AND EGGS
- SEEK MEDICAL HELP IF SYMPTOMS APPEAR
- AVOID CLOSE CONTACT TO ANYONE WITH COLD-FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS



Professor has odd obsession with actor Nicolas Cage

By Paris Taylor-Mahone
Contributing Writer

After a quiz fell through due to a technical mishap, professor Daniel Thompson had to think quickly on his toes and come up with a solution so his students could still get their 10 points.

His solution? That each student quickly draw his or her best sketch of actor Nicolas Cage.

Though Thompson is a new communication instructor who joined the Langston University team this fall, he is not new to teaching. And, whether you have been to his office in Sanford Hall or not, the first thing you might notice is a collage of hand-drawn Nicolas Cage pictures that his students have drawn for him over the years – about 75 pictures to be exact.

His obsession with the actor started when he was a sophomore residential assistant at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. His boss told him to decorate the residence hall for incoming students and, being an ornery college sophomore, Thompson decided to hand out print-outs of the actor, and by the end of the semester, the entire hall was plastered with all things Nicolas Cage.

"I wanted to know how much I could get away with," he said jokingly.

Over the course of the semester, he and his residents cut

out about 2,000 Nicolas Cage heads. And thus, the Nicolas Cage obsession began.

After graduating and becoming a teacher, he carried on the Nicolas Cage theme and used the actor during class for examples for speeches because it was a way to lighten up class and make it fun.

Occasionally, he even offers opportunities for extra bonus points to his students if they draw him a picture of the actor. Thompson said he looks at this bonus-point activity as a way for students to learn about one another and express their creativity.

However, because he is new to LU, most of the students in his courses are unaware of his Nicolas Cage wall in his office. Freshman broadcast journalism major, Nia Daniels, recently visited his office but did not notice the pictures until she turned around to leave. Daniels said she was not surprised, but found it funny that he had so many.

So, if you are in one of Thompson's classes this semester – wait for it – you just might be asked to draw a picture of Nicolas Cage to snag some extra-credit points.

Right:

Communication Instructor Daniel Thompson proudly displays his collage of hand-drawn Nicolas Cage portraits, all given to him from students he has taught.



Campus Question

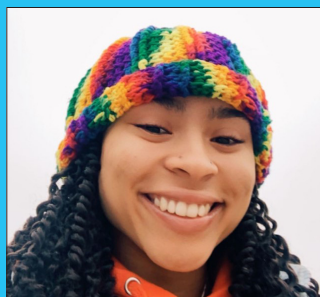
How do you pass the time when you're not in class?

Compiled by Ebony Lucas



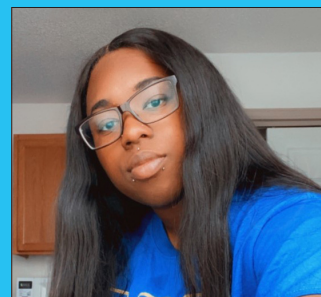
Eva Hornberger
Junior
HPER Major

"Most of the time when I'm not in class I'm watching something on TV, being lazy. Other times I'm trying to get out and walk, going fishing with my brother and starting my weekday workout plan, trying to keep my mental health right and my physical health where they need to be."



Alexxis Harris
Junior
Technology Major

"When I'm not in class I'm usually at work, or I like to go to the lake or hang out with friends."



Kammerrin Herron
Junior
Psychology Major

"When I'm not in class I'm usually at work, doing homework, handling sorority business, etc."



Alayah McCoy
Sophomore
HPER Major

"I usually finish up homework for the week. Once all my assignments are turned in, then I binge watch shows or movie series. Some assignments are really time-consuming, so I'll be working on those."

California wildfires continue to blaze

By Ronald Diaz
Gazette Reporter

For the past couple weeks, wildfires have blazed their way along the Western coast of the U.S.

California has seen the worst of it, however, as these wildfires have threatened to wipe out over 1,000 homes in northeast Los Angeles. While no strangers to wildfires, Californians believe this most recent uproar is the worst they've seen in recent memory.

"We've got a fire here that is bigger than the city of Denver, and it did it in two weeks," said Sky Cornell of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Roughly 4,000 residents had to be evacuated from their homes and are still placed under evacuation orders, while residents in the Pasadena area are under evacuation warnings in case the fires spread too close. Pasadena is home to the famous Rose Bowl, as well as the annual Rose Parade.

This particular blaze is just one of 24 series of wildfires that have been terrorizing the state of California. Five of these wildfires have been recorded as the largest in state history.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said that over 5,000 square miles of land have been completely charred, and the number of evacuated residents rose to

"Nearly 19,000 firefighters are currently battling 27 major blazes. At least 7,900 wildfires have erupted in the state this year, many during a mid-August barrage of dry lightning that ignited parched vegetation. Twenty-six people have been killed."

— Gavin Newsom,
California governor

23,000. While the reported damage looks completely devastating, Gov. Newsom still doesn't believe citizens are truly understanding the impact these wildfires have had on California.

"By no stretch of the imagination do we think this tells the entire story," Newsom said. "Damage assessments are continuing."

The wildfires have taken their toll on residents of California and, unfortunately, some a lot more than others.

While battling the El Dorado wildfire last week, a firefighter tragically perished. The El Dorado wildfire is 80 miles east of Los Angeles, and the firefighter who died was Charles Morton, a 38-year-old native of San Diego. Morton was a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service while also being a squad boss for the Big Bear Interagency Hotshots.

According to the Forest Service, Hotshots are the most

highly skilled members of a squad, and they are tasked with fighting the most difficult part of wildfires.

The El Dorado fire has burned at least 22,000 acres of land. It is almost ironic that a wildfire so massive could be started by something so small. The fire ignited when a couple tried to use a smoke-emitting device to reveal their baby's gender.

Wildfires have been terrorizing California all year, with nearly 8,000 fires stretching across the state. The Associated Press in Los Angeles reported the toll wildfires have taken on California.

"Nearly 19,000 firefighters are currently battling 27 major blazes," Newsom said. "At least 7,900 wildfires have erupted in the state this year, many during a mid-August barrage of dry lightning that ignited parched vegetation. Twenty-six people have been killed."

LAWRENCE

from page 4

happily said.

She plans on traveling to her hometown of Thibodaux, Louisiana, to see her son and his family "as much as possible," she said.

The honors students wish her the best, and Dowell made it a point to say just how much Lawrence will be missed at LU.

"I just want to say thank you for your time and your commitment and dedication that you have shown to Langston University and your never-ending support," Dowell said. "To me, she was like a mother figure, and I know that she may be retiring from Langston, but I know

we will still be in contact."

Dowell added that Mrs. Lawrence's retirement is, "not a goodbye, but more of a see you later."

Mrs. Lawrence took her time to reflect and left with these final words: "As I leave the halls of Dear Langston and my dear scholars, I hope and pray that I have inspired each scholar to be and do their best at all times. I have always had high expectations for each and every scholar because I knew that each scholar would live up to my high expectations. I want each scholar to know that I sincerely believe that they are our future's saviors, and I am very secure in the knowledge that they will fulfill that purpose. It has been my honor to serve and be a part of the Dear Langston family."

Xtreme Hip-Hop with WOP

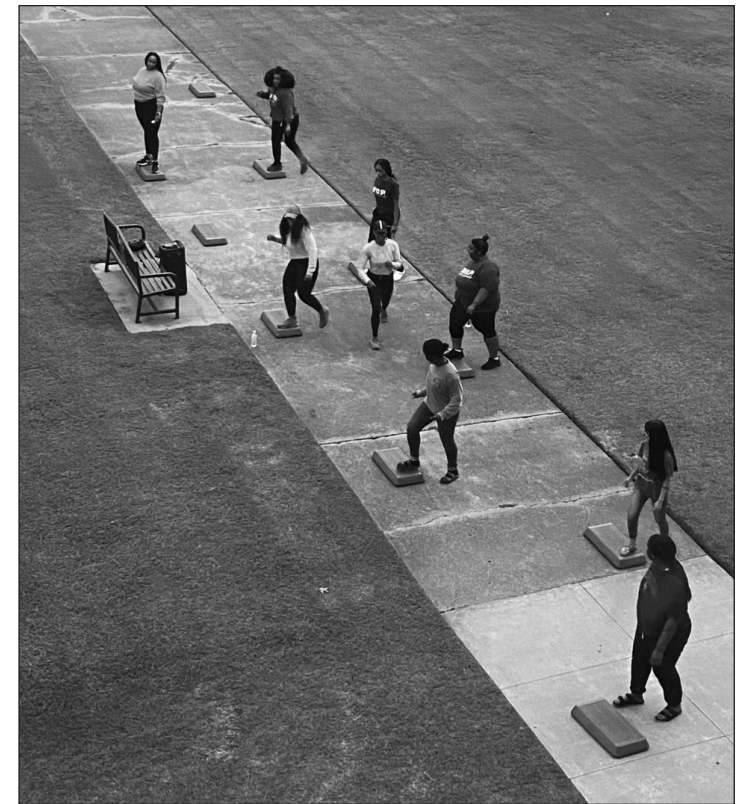


Photo by Doristina Monciffe

The ladies of Women of Purpose work on their hip-hop moves during their event, "Xtreme Hip-Hop." The women hosted the socially distant event Sept. 22, in front of Sanford Hall.

A MENTAL TOLL

from page 3

do my online classes and attend events on Zoom."

Other students are frustrated with the cancelation of in-person class lectures, which has also become a factor of increased anxiety. A majority of students comprehend information better with on-hands learning and in-class lectures, so it has taken a toll on them, unable to go to the teacher right then and there.

Darienn Pitt, staff columnist of The Crimson White newspaper, said that when students are at home rather than in a school setting, they tend to become too comfortable and lazy.

"Online learning requires much more discipline and self-motivation to stay on task," he wrote in his article. "Students have to take time to study and apply what they are learning without being in the setting of a classroom."

Although having classes virtually can be quite challenging, some professors feel like it's just another challenge that LU students are strong enough to face, such as Communication Department Instructor Kim Flannigan.

"Langston University has historical evidence to prove our constant resilience to challenges in which we have consistently defeated," Flannigan said. "I want our students to be forever learners, no matter the mode of instruction."

CAMPUS CHANGES

from page 3

ideal college semester for some students, others find themselves adjusting well to the changes.

"I feel that the precautions in place are justified. With these changes, I still try to socialize safely when I can, and I now have a lot of free time that I plan to take advantage of," Nelson said.



IT'S YOUR RIGHT
GO
VOTE

Election Day: November 3, 2020

A message from Dean Busby

Dear Students,

I hope this semester is proving to be a successful one! This has certainly been an academic year like we have never seen before.

As we continue to navigate the complexities of this pandemic, it is my sincere hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe.

I am sure you all have seen the events happening at universities across the nation. Specifically, the media surrounding large parties happening at institutions such as UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State and Notre Dame. In light of what has taken place at other universities, it is my hope that we will not find ourselves in a similar situation at any point during this semester.

This has caused these institutions to take serious steps, including suspending in-person instruction, enforcing remote

learning only, suspending all in-person activities and even sending students home. These measures were a direct result of the significant COVID-19 outbreaks that took place within their communities.

Recently, I have become aware of these same types of large gatherings happening on and off-campus; specifically, on the Langston campus and in the surrounding communities. It has come to my attention that a large number of our students are hosting and attending parties without wearing face coverings and without observing physical distancing guidelines.

Make no mistake about it, we all play a critical role in keeping our community safe and healthy. All students, faculty and staff must commit to doing their part to ensure that we are doing everything we can to avoid an outbreak on campus.

Each of us must make short-term sacrifices to ensure the

long-term success of this academic year. Many of you are doing all that you can to keep our community safe. For that, I say thank you.

For those who are choosing not to adhere to public health and university guidance, let me be clear: your behavior is threatening a successful semester for our community at large. I am asking each of you to do your part: 1.) Wear your face covering. 2.) Practice physical distancing. 3.) Avoid large gatherings.

Be the leaders that I know you to be, exercise personal responsibility, and do all that you can to help keep our community safe. I assure you that my colleagues and I are doing

the same!

In our current environment, we have put in place numerous precautionary measures and enforced guidelines to assist in embracing safety on and off campus. As a reminder, students engaging in behavior that violates university rules on or off campus are subject to due process as outlined in the Langston University Student Code of Conduct. If a student is found responsible for behavior that puts our community at risk, sanctions may range from probation to suspension.

I am asking that you rise to this challenge, please do your part to keep our community safe and to Protect the Pride.

Let's do this together. I

pledge that I will be in it with you every step of the way! I've been pleased to see those of you who are wearing your face masks and social distancing with friends and colleagues. Please understand that you must practice those same preventative measures within the residential communities and when you are off campus.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the LU COVID-19 Resource page frequently. I wish you a safe, healthy and successful academic year!

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Busby,
Dean of Students

Ready... set... ZOOM!

Langston offers virtual backgrounds to students

We want to set you up for success! We have created a central landing page for Zoom resources. We encourage all members of the community to consider use of the LU branded Zoom backgrounds for your next virtual meeting, presentation or interview.

Virtual backgrounds benefit your online security, as they ensure personal working environments are obscured.

We also wanted to help prepare you for your next virtual presentation with the LU Branded Powerpoint Templates. Be sure to check out these pro tips to help you get ready for your next Zoom Meeting. Learn more and get the LU branded templates by checking out the LU website.

For questions or additional resources, please contact the Office of Public Relations via email at lupublicrelations@langston.edu.

Registering to vote!



Photo by Doristina Monciffe

Student groups set up in the Student Success Center on National Voter's Registration Day, Sept. 22. About nine campus organizations corroborated to sponsor the event and set up voter registration booths at various locations across campus. More than 90 students, faculty and staff registered to vote during the event.