

# the Gazette

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY



VOL. 74, NO. 9

APRIL 5, 2012

## Upcoming Dates

**12th Annual  
Research Day  
Symposium**  
**Friday,  
April 6,**  
E.L. Holloway  
Agriculture  
Research, Education  
and Extension  
Complex

**Easter Egg Hunt,  
sponsored by the  
Distinguished  
Black Women**  
**Friday  
April 6,**  
2-4 p.m.  
The Yard in front of  
Sanford Hall

**Pre-Enrollment  
for Fall 2012**  
**April 2-May 4**

**Phi Beta Sigma  
Week**  
**April 8-14**

## Also Inside

**Voices . . . p 2-3**

**News . . . . p 4-7**

**Sports . . . . . p 8**

## 'We are Trayvon Martin'



*D.W.S. Photos*

Hundreds of students gather on campus for a "We are Trayvon Martin" rally. Students marched from Page Hall to Sanford Hall on March 29 carrying Skit-

tles candy and iced tea in honor of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old boy who was shot and killed in Florida on Feb. 26. **See story on page 5.**

## LU students hold benefit concert

**By Andrea Perry**  
*Staff Writer*

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, sponsored the Demarion Benefit Concert on March 31 in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

The event was a gospel concert to raise money for Demarion Pittman, a 7-year-old boy who is in need of a stem-cell treatment.

In 2007, Pittman was left in a hot van for more than two hours by his daycare provider. When he was found, his body

temperature had reached 117 degrees, which left him in a coma for two months.

Demarion suffered brain damage and is now legally blind. His medical bill topped more than \$1 million. Without the availability of stem-cell treatments in the United States for another 10 years, Pittman's family plans to travel to China in July to receive this therapy.

When Child Development and Early Childhood Education Instructor Jennifer Moore saw Pittman's story on KOCO Eyewitness News 5 last September, she was touched.

She then printed the story and shared it with her Family and Consumer Sciences class. Her students wanted to help Pittman. So they decided to assist.

President of the Family and Consumer Sciences Club and senior child development major Te'Aundra Perry, immediately contacted Edna Pittman, Demarion's mother.

When Perry called, Pittman said she was excited to hear from someone from Langston.

Pittman said, "I was surprised. I was wondering how they heard about it. I was just

excited that they were willing to step out there and help us try to get him to China."

That led to Moore and Perry visiting the Pittman household and later coming up with the idea of a benefit concert.

"We just thought that would be a good outreach project because we want to do things on campus but we also want to help the community," Moore said. "It happened while he was in daycare, and we train students to work in childcare centers. So, that was really near and dear to my heart, because it

**see PITTMAN, page 5**



## The Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University. It serves as a teaching tool and public relations vehicle. The newspaper is published bimonthly and is dispersed across campus every other Thursday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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# Students speak out for Trayvon Martin

*Editorial by Gazette Staff*

Trayvon Martin never saw this coming—his name in lights all over the TV and Internet, everybody focused on him.

We always ask, “How did something like this happen in the ‘Land of the Free,’ where people come for a better life and everybody is equal?” So they say, but are we? Does my darker skin not measure up? Trayvon—that name will live on forever.

Trayvon didn’t bother anyone the night of Feb. 26, 2012. He was targeted because of the color of his skin and stereotyped because he was wearing a hoodie.

Some of us wear hoodies nearly every day. Some of us are biracial and think justice should be served no matter what races are involved.

Followed on his way home by George Zimmerman, Trayvon never saw what was coming. We can only wonder what Martin might have been thinking.

Was he scared? Was he yelling for help while nobody was around?

What saddens us is that some of us are young black men who could have just

as easily fallen victim to the wrath of Zimmerman, the self-appointed neighborhood watch captain of the Sanford, Fla., community, on the evening of Feb. 26.

Zimmerman saw Martin and called the police to report a suspicious person in the neighborhood. Mind you, Martin was a young black male, wearing a hoodie. Zimmerman carried a 9-millimeter gun, while all Martin carried was a bag of Skittles and an Arizona iced tea. After dispatchers told Zimmerman to cease following Martin, Zimmerman still proceeded to follow him. This ended in a fatal shot for Trayvon. Zimmerman claimed self-defense and was not arrested.

The Sanford Police Department failed to administer a toxicology test to Zimmerman. They failed to impound Zimmerman’s vehicle. They even failed to contact and interview key witnesses.

They failed to lead an investigation into this crime. Instead, they took Zimmerman’s word that he shot Martin in his chest in self-defense.

Further, it was said that Zimmerman was protected

under Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law. The law permits residents to use deadly force if they “reasonably believe it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.”

But even the author of the law and former senator said Zimmerman had no protection under this law and that he lost his defense at the moment he began to follow Martin. The police dispatcher specifically told Zimmerman to stop following Martin.

So here are the facts, and yet some still won’t listen to the truth.

One thing about the truth is that it hurts and most people don’t want to believe in the bad. We want to believe everything is fine. We have an African-American president; we’ve come a long way.

But the question is, have we? If so, can anyone please explain how a 17-year-old boy (yes boy, NOT a man) is gunned down in cold blood and nobody lifts a finger?

We are angry as a nation. They want to make this a black-and-white issue, but it’s not. It’s a human issue.

Trayvon could have been

a brother, cousin, son, uncle, of any one of us. So yes, we’re speaking out. We are tired of this and it has to stop right now. Right is right and wrong is wrong.

Trayvon’s death has given us the opportunity to speak out against injustice for other men and women who are black and have been slain because of ignorance.

Not only are we fighting for Trayvon, we’re fighting for all the victims of crimes like this. Unfortunately, there are other “George Zimmermans,” so it’s important that we continue to speak out against this horrible crime until justice is served.

We cannot give up; we must continue to fight until Zimmerman is locked up. If you have never stood for anything, this is the time to stand up and be heard. Are you the person who sits back and complains, or are you doing something to make a change?

This is something we all need to ask ourselves. In the words of the late, great Martin Luther King Jr. “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

We are all Trayvon Martin.

## Big advantages spark from pre-enrollment

*Special from  
Kathy Simmons*

Pre-enrollment affords many benefits to returning students:

- 1) The opportunity to select a course(s) you want or need for upcoming semesters.
- 2) Avoid course cancellation because of projected low enrollment.
- 3) Allow for better assessment of cost of tuition/books and other financial needs.
- 4) Obtain the eligibility to receive free gift(s).

Other advantages for pre-enrolling for Fall 2012 include:

1) Secure housing—students must be pre-enrolled to obtain housing.

2) Complete the FAFSA and pre-enroll by the deadline to receive Financial Aid notifications before the fall semester begins.

Pre-enrollment is a great opportunity for students to get an early start on pre-planning their future academia needs.

Pre-enrollment for fall 2012 begins Monday, April 2, and ends Friday, May 4.

Students who pre-enroll before May 4 may be eligible to win a gift.

**FALL 2012  
PRE-ENROLLMENT  
APRIL 2, 2012-MAY 4, 2012**

Pre-enroll and complete FAFSA before May 4, 2012 and you may be eligible to win a Laptop, iPad, or a Kindle!!!

# New gourmet-yogurt bar supplies diet-friendly treats

**By Zach Holmes**  
Staff Writer

Sugar intake in foods, especially in desserts, is the leading cause of diseases such as diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association.

However, a new yogurt bar offers low-fat yogurt with sugar supplements for healthy yet enjoyable treats.

Many people of all ages enjoy eating a fattening treat every so often. The thought of high-calorie intake, though, may cause one to resist a treat. But thanks to a new self-serve yogurt bar in Guthrie called Cherry Berry, locals have a healthful dessert option.

Open since mid-August,

the Guthrie shop is part of the Cherry Berry Franchise, wherein each store is independently owned.

The local store offers 13 flavors such as Espresso, Mango Sorbet, Cookie Monster, Blueberry Tart and Caramel Custard.

Twelve of the bar's yogurts are gluten free and all of the yogurts are sweetened with a sugar substitute called Splenda.

As stated on their official website, Splenda is a no-calorie sweetener that reduces the calories in carbohydrates from sugar that is consumed.

The substitute is made

through a process that starts with sugar and converts it into a no-calorie, no-carbohydrate sweetener.

Without the calories, the body does not recognize it as carbohydrates, which helps make this a healthy-diet option.

According to the official Cherry Berry website, the



company has gained knowledge and experience from more than 65 years of crafting gourmet frozen treats.

The bar imports all of its ingredients from Honey Hill Farms, which reportedly picks quality ingredients from a wide array of flavors.

Along with yogurts and sorbets, Cherry Berry also offers custards made with Honey Hill Farm eggs.

Prices for the desserts depend on the weight of the portions that cost 39 cents per ounce.

The portion cups are 16 and 20 ounces, but usually weigh more after toppings

are added.

The topping bar has more than 50 different toppings, including chilled fruit, graham-crackers crumbs, Gummy Bears, chopped pecans and chocolate chips.

The average 16-ounce cup costs around \$6; waffle bowls are also an option.

The bar's vibrant colors, party room and Wi-Fi access makes for a good location for any type of gathering. There

is no cost to reserve the party room. On Monday-Saturday, the store is open from 11a.m. to 9 p.m. and noon to 9 p.m. Sundays. The store is located at 1624 S. Division St.

For more information, please contact the store at 405-282-1707.

## Question of the Week

*What are your thoughts about the recent incidents regarding Trayvon Martin?*



"It really affected me because I now appreciate life more because it can be gone in an instant. It was very devastating."

Merlena Osborne,  
sophomore biology major



"I feel like it affects us all. It's an outrage that this day and age in the community, issues like this are still happening and nothing is being done. It's not just a black and white issue; it's an issue between right and wrong."

Jamie Ingram,  
junior corrections major



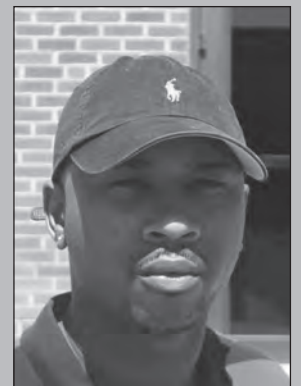
"I'm frustrated that I'm finding out a month later. We are far away from Florida, and I feel like if we'd have known a little earlier, our efforts would have been even stronger than what they are now."

Braylon Dedmon Sr.,  
senior chemistry major



"The Trayvon Martin case has affected me very much because it seems like we have no security. I feel that something should be done and I hope this changes America for the better."

Asya Marshall,  
sophomore nursing major



"It has affected me in numerous ways. One is the fact that we as black people can't really just walk around anymore and feel safe. On the other hand, I hope this situation will better the lives of everybody around the world, and actually bring us together as one and stop most of the violence."

Ritchie Cherry, senior  
education major



# Student designs LU mobile app

By Andrea Perry  
Staff Writer

Langston University is becoming more advanced with the help of junior organizational management major Brandon Clark.

As the Student Government Association special assistant to the president, Clark comes up with fresh ideas frequently.

Some of the projects Langston students can look forward to include a new mobile application of LU's website, a new student discount card and the possibility of a second childcare center opening.

Clark came up with the idea for Langston to have its own mobile app and it took off from there.

SGA President Anthony Crawford said, "It was an idea that he brought to SGA and it was something that I felt like Langston needed."

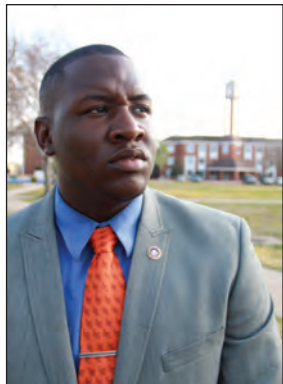
The mobile app is a project Clark and Chief Information Officer Pritchard Monciffe have been working together to develop since September 2011.

The app includes everything one may see on the university website. In addition to that, other features are available including financial aid alerts, refund alerts, a GPS system to buildings on campus and videos and pictures from school events.

The alerts are sent directly to one's Android, iPhone or iPad. With the GPS system, students and prospective students can more easily find buildings on campus and also get a history lesson as the app also includes historical information about each building at Langston.

Clark thinks this app will take Langston to the next level.

"Other schools like OSU, OU and University of Tulsa's technology-based systems are updated, and I feel that there's no way that we shouldn't be able to compete with those schools technology wise," Clark said. "We have the brains behind it. We have the money behind it, and I feel that in order for more



Clark

students to come to Langston, we have to be presentable. It has to look up-to-date."

The mobile app was scheduled to be released early January, but with the clearance process with the Board of Regents, it could possibly be released early in the fall 2012 semester.

Monciffe said the app will add recruitment.

"It's a recruitment tool for parents and students to see what we have at this school," Monciffe said. "It's an extension of our website."

The new student discount cards are set to be released April 24, and include more restaurants and businesses than the previous one.

Crawford said, "The discount cards were something that Javon Brame, the president before me, was trying to implement, but he didn't know how to go about doing it. So Brandon Clark came in and he was like 'Okay, this is what I'm going to do.'"

Clark made contact with the company that created the discount cards, then drove to businesses in Guthrie and Stillwater to propose this opportunity.

LU students can look forward to discounts from businesses such as KFC, Sonic, Missy Doughnuts and Long John Silver's.

As a business student, Clark said he plans to open his own business.

It was brought to his attention by one of his advisers that many students are on the waiting list for their children to attend the Langston University Early Childhood Laboratory.

This made Clark want to provide a place for parents

to bring their children while they attend classes, a place with extended hours.

"I don't want anybody waiting," Clark said. "I'm not a father, but I do understand the troubles of parents."

Clark is still considering opening a center among other future businesses such as a restaurant where students can get breakfast anytime.

Clark said this is only the beginning for his goals.

"I knew Brandon Clark since he first got to Langston University, and there's a big difference in the things he was doing when he first got here and the things he's doing now," Crawford said. "Sometimes I feel like a proud father."

Clark is the president of College MEN, a campus organization that focuses on reversing the negative connotation associated with African-American males, and the co-founder of Young College MEN, a mentoring program housed at Millwood High School in Oklahoma City.

Clark, who is very close to LU's newly appointed president, Dr. Kent Smith Jr., shares the same sentiments with him in regard to progressing Langston.

"I feel like more people as myself are going toward taking LU to the top, because we have the best track team I'll say in the world, a great

women's basketball team, a great football team and great biology and chemistry programs," Clark said.

"There's no way that LU can't take it to the next level

if we have students that are valuable to this campus. I'm open to anything else that needs to be brought to the attention of progressing LU," he said.



Mobile application

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**Langston University**

**DISCOUNT CARD**

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Find us on Facebook

Expires 4.1.13

Want to advertise on the card? E-mail [bruce@collegediscountcards.com](mailto:bruce@collegediscountcards.com)

<b>KFC</b> 10% OFF Only valid at 112 W. Noble/405.282.2040 kfc.com	<b>LONG JOHN SILVER'S</b> 10% OFF ljsilvers.com 2323 E. Noble 405.293.6092	<b>Roma's Italian Restaurant</b> Get a FREE Cheesecake on minimum \$25 order to go Get a FREE Drink w/ purchase of food 1202 S. Division St 405.260.1552
<b>El Vaquero</b> BUY 1 GET 1 FREE Entrée 5020 W. 8th St. 405.377.8476	<b>TACO HAYO</b> \$1 OFF Any Fresh Mex item with the purchase of a 32oz Drink 1320 S. Division 405.282.8342	<b>China Garden</b> FREE Drink w/ purchase 215 S. Division St 405.260.8288
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<b>Red Rose</b> 10% OFF ONE MEAL 409 W. Oklahoma 495.260.0723	<b>SONIC</b> \$99 44 oz. Drink 719 S. Division St 405.282.5041	<b>Katie's Diner</b> 15% OFF Entire meal w/ purchase of drink 128 W. Cleveland 405.282.2462
<b>Upload your first pic at FreezeCrowd.com for a chance to Win \$500</b>	<b>BAGEL CAFE</b> FREE Small Drink with purchase of ANY \$5.49 sandwich 405.743.2233 502 N. Main St	<b>KYOTO JAPANESE RESTAURANT</b> 15% OFF 2012 N. Boomer Rd 405.377.8168

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Want to advertise on the card? E-mail [bruce@collegediscountcards.com](mailto:bruce@collegediscountcards.com)

<b>Pizza Hut</b> 15% OFF Appetizers 218 Heather Rd 405.282.5566	<b>HUNAN CHINESE RESTAURANT</b> FREE Drink w/ purchase 215 S. Division St 405.260.8288	<b>Heavenly Cakes 'n' Sweets</b> 10% OFF 103 S. 2nd St 405.436.0668
<b>GUTHRIE'S VICTORIAN TEA ROOM</b> FREE DRINK w/ entrée guthriesvictorian.com 103 South 2nd St 405.281.4269	<b>Missy DOUGHNUTS</b> Buy a Dozen Doughnuts and Get 2 FREE 1112 N. Wentz St 405.260.0603	<b>PAPA JOHN'S</b> \$7.99 Large Pizza 1- Topping 925 N. Boomer Rd 405.372.1600
<b>Johnny's Original Rib Shack</b> 10% OFF! 2325 E. Oklahoma 405.282.0031		



# Students hold rally for Martin

By Kayla Jones  
Staff Writer

Langston University students came together March 29 for one purpose — Trayvon Martin. Students gathered in front of Sanford Hall for a “We are Trayvon Martin” rally.

Students wanted to honor Martin, who was shot and killed in Sanford, Fla., by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch captain.

The rally gave students a chance to speak against injustice, no matter their skin color, age or gender.

Sherri Bordeaux, a sophomore criminal justice major, said the rally made her feel proud to be a student at LU.

“I am filled with so many different emotions right now,” Bordeaux said. “To see everybody supporting one cause like this brings tears to my eyes.”

The student body organized this rally because they thought it was time to show people that LU stands behind Martin and his family.

All the participants were given Skittles candy and iced tea to carry during the rally.

Kaci Ferguson, a senior broadcast journalism major, said the rally felt amazing because it was powerful.

“To see all the Langston students come out and support one cause is moving to me,” Ferguson said.

With the media and Sen. Connie Johnson in attendance, students took turns to say a few words about the situation.

The rally was opened in prayer, and following that Dr. Angelia Jones, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, spoke to the student body.

“I am feeling fantastic; I am so proud of Langston University and the students,” Jones said. “This is what Langston University is all about. Our motto is ‘Enter to learn and exit to serve.’”

She said young people are caring, compassionate, intelligent and they believe in social justice. She said it was a historic moment in time.

The newly crowned Miss Langston University, Donterka Matthews, serenaded the crowd with two selections, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and Langston’s alma mater, “Dear Langston.”

Kenneth Smith Jr., a graduating senior from Chicago, recited poetry at the rally.

“The poem came about after the killings over Jordans, and from that I developed pieces along the way and it’s something that I keep in my memory,” Smith said.

The 911 call tape of Martin yelling for his life was played at the rally, in which the gunshot that took Martin’s life could be heard.



Photo by De’Shawn Saffold

**Above:** Langston University students hold a banner with Trayvon Martin’s photo on it. They carried the banner and held it up during the “We are Trayvon Martin” rally on March 29.



Photo by Sherrard Curry

**Left:** Students, faculty and staff march from Page Hall to the front of Sanford Hall during the Trayvon Martin rally. This was significant because Martin, a 17-year-old boy, was shot and killed in Sanford, Fla., by a neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. Participants carried Skittles candy and iced tea in memory of Martin, and they wore hoodies in his honor because Martin was wearing a hoodie and carrying Skittles and an Arizona iced tea when he was killed.

## PITTMAN

from page 1

can happen to anyone. That’s why we stress the importance of doing the checks and balances and making sure you’re aware of where all children are at all times.”

Moore contacted her colleague who owned a gospel record company, and the concert featured gospel music group DES Gospel, and performances

from some of LU’s Greek organizations including Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Omega Psi Phi and Tau Rho Beta.

Having traveled all the way from Lawton with his music group, the benefit concert meant a lot to co-record label manager Corey Ferebee (also known as Ferb).

Ferebee said, “When I saw how Langston has come together to support the young man, it made our family net-

work in the record label more close, because we were coming out to do something for somebody else.”

Pittman was unable to sue the childcare center because they did not hold liability insurance. This led to all medical costs weighing on the parents. Pittman, with the help of Representative Mike Shelton, worked to ensure that other parents in the state of Oklahoma would not have this problem, and on April 22, 2008, Oklahoma Gov-

ernor Brad Henry signed Demarion’s Law, which requires all daycare facilities to carry a minimum of \$200,000 in liability insurance.

Pittman said she and her husband’s faith in God is what has carried them through the years. A total of \$55,000 is needed for the trip to China, and the family has raised more than half of it.

Pittman said, “I know that stem cell research will not completely heal my son, but I know

that God will.”

The family was at the benefit concert and Demarion smiled and moved to the music as the performances went on.

“Each year, our goal is to get behind a project like this. I think the students will really benefit from it,” Moore said. “Being the only HBCU in the state, I think we should have a greater voice in what happens to children and families.”

To donate to Pittman, contact Moore at 405-657-9265.



# Two LU-Tulsa students receive Jeannette House Memorial Fund

By Ashlea Gray  
Contributing Writer

The Jeannette House Memorial Fund, a historic scholarship, has continued its mission of helping students by awarding two more applicants this scholarship opportunity.

Langston University-Tulsa campus students Rori Hernandez and Brie Wright are the latest recipients of the scholarship, receiving \$500 each to help them with their education.

The scholarship was started in 2000 and is named in the memory of Jeannette A. Hardeman-House, a wife, mother and graduate of Langston University.

House also was a Christian who strongly believed that God was always first and education was second. It was an essential goal of hers to receive a college degree, which she did in 1979 from LU, just one year before she died at the age of 64.

House was a mother of eleven children and worked hard to take care of them.

In addition to picking cotton, she also worked odd jobs such as repairing, painting and demolishing old homes.

While on a demolition job, a falling 2x4 piece of wood struck her, breaking her neck.

She had to have two holes drilled into her head with heavy weights attached to the holes for appropriate healing.

For six months, House had to lie flat on her back and at the same time still take care of her family.

Throughout all the obstacles she faced, she still managed to open a home daycare for Langston students, faculty and staff, and she did it on a limited income.

Hernandez, a mother, wife, student, community volunteer and advocate for people with disabilities was encouraged by House's story.

"Jeannette House has inspired me as a Christian to keep working hard not only with my children but with any

"Jeannette House has inspired me as a Christian to keep working hard not only with my children, but with any child I can reach."

— Rori Hernandez,  
LU-Tulsa student

child I can reach," Hernandez said.

Like House, Hernandez believes God comes first and education second. Hernandez

wants to be a strong activist for education and Christian values in her community.

She said God has chosen rehabilitation and mental health

counseling for her career.

Wright is a single mother, and during the time of the scholarship, she was unemployed.

She said she heard about the scholarship through Patricia Burns, House's daughter, and figured this scholarship would greatly help her. Wright was motivated by House's story.

"Her ability to push through the tough times that black women faced in her day showed that with the power of prayer and the courage of her family there was nothing that would hold her back," Wright said.

Wright also is pursuing a career in rehabilitation counseling and along with her degree, she plans to obtain her Certified Rehabilitation Counselor License as well as a Licensed Professional Counselor License.

This scholarship continues to carry on House's belief of helping students better themselves.

Since 2000, 24 scholarships have been given.

Those who are interested in applying for the memorial scholarship must attend LU and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

## Channel 97 Broadcast Schedule Monday-Friday April 2-6

MONDAY-FRIDAY	
9-10 a.m.	OETA – Stateline Programs
10-11 a.m.	Academic Success (Smart Tips for Serious Students- Time Management)
11 a.m.-Noon	The 5 Tips (To Study Skills Success)
2-3 p.m.	LU Student Produced Music Videos
3-4 p.m.	LU Student Produced Shows/Video Essays
4-5 p.m.	LU Theater Arts Production
Monday	
Noon-2 p.m.	Movie: October Sky
Tuesday	
Noon-2 p.m.	Movie: The Social Network
Wednesday	
Noon-2 p.m.	Movie: The Wiz
Thursday	
Noon-2 p.m.	Movie: Precious
Friday	
Noon-2 p.m.	Movie: Sherlock Holmes

## Channel 97 Broadcast Schedule Monday-Friday April 9-13

MONDAY-FRIDAY	
9-10 a.m.	OETA – Stateline Programs
10-11 a.m.	Academic Success (Smart Tips for Serious Students- Time Management)
11 a.m.-Noon	The 5 Tips (To Study Skills Success)
Noon-1 p.m.	LU Student Produced Music Videos
1-2 p.m.	LU Student Produced Shows/Video Essays
2-3 p.m.	Homecoming: Fall 2011
Monday	
3-5 p.m.	Movie: The Resistance (Julian Jackson Feature)
Tuesday	
3-5 p.m.	Movie: The Totality of Darkness (Julian Jackson Feature)
Wednesday	
3-5 p.m.	Movie: The Social Network
Thursday	
3-5 p.m.	Movie: Sherlock Holmes
Friday	
3-5 p.m.	Movie: Precious

# Annual speech-essay invitational gives students a voice to be heard

By Kayla Jones  
Staff Writer

The Department of Communication is gearing for the annual Speech-Essay Invitational, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 20.

This will mark the second year the communication department has opened the event to high-schoolers.

Lonnie Johnson Jr., the event co-coordinator, said the speech invitational gives students an outlet to make their voices heard.

"I put a lot of value in giving the chance for everybody to be heard," Johnson said.

Faculty members in the communication depart-

"You can expect some definite opinions on some controversial issues."

— Lonnie Johnson Jr.,  
instructor of communication

ment were inspired to start the competition because they wanted students to feel comfortable expressing themselves.

They wanted students to have a voice and an opportunity to express their opinions.

"I want to give the ability to everyone to have a say about how they feel; that's when things start to

change," Johnson said.

There are six different categories this year comprising of Alternative, Alternative Teams, Team Acting, Research Informative, Research Persuasive and the Persuasive Essays.

This isn't a typical speech competition because students can look forward to some slamming poetry and acting, which was suggest-

ed by Dr. Ben Bates, professor of communication, who teaches theater arts courses.

"You can expect some definite opinions on some controversial issues," Johnson said.

Jasmine Redo, a sophomore broadcast journalism major who won 1st place in the Alternative category last spring, said she really enjoyed competing in the event.

"This competition gave me a chance to really express my thoughts and how I felt, and I really had a good time doing it," Redo said.

The competition is open to all LU students and surrounding high schools.

Faculty members want everyone to get involved and to use this as a teaching tool for all students, both in high school and college.

Friends of the Library will provide lunch for all speech invitational participants in the Black Heritage Center.

"We're grateful to the Friends of the Library for donating lunch for all of our participants and judges," Johnson said.

For more information, contact Johnson at 405-466-3244 or Dr. Lisa Rollins, head of the Department of Communication and co-coordinator of the event, at 405-466-3297.

All essay submissions are due by April 13.

## NTU Art Association promotes African-American art

By Jennifer Williams-Bradshaw  
Staff Writer

The NTU Art Association of Oklahoma, Inc. is currently accepting nominations for the Oklahoma African-American Hall of Fame. NTU "en too" is a Bantu word, meaning "essence or being."

The mission of NTU is to promote an understanding and appreciation of Africa and African art, traditions and cultures.

This nonprofit organization provides exhibits, workshops and other programs that promote public interest in African and African-American art to people of all ages and backgrounds.

"We exist to provide artists an opportunity to connect with collectors, interior designers, community businesses and art organizations that are interested in exhibiting, working with and buying authentic, original art produced by African Americans," said Victor Driver, director and member of NTU.

The Oklahoma African-American Hall of Fame features some of the most distinguished African Americans in Oklahoma, which have been chosen by a nomination process.

Some of the individuals who will be showcased in the exhibit include the University of Oklahoma's first African-American law student Dr. Ada Lois Fisher; U.S. Attorney General John E. Green Sr.; U.S. Chief Federal Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange; Civil Rights Ac-

tivist, publisher, radio personality and educator Clara Luper; Oklahoma Representative Leader and people's advocate Opio Toure; educator Dr. Nancy L. Davis and renowned artist Dr. Wallace Owens.

NTU is also looking for artists, musicians, photographers, writers, art lovers and supporters.

The exhibit can be viewed at the Langston University-Oklahoma City campus, located at 4205 N. Lincoln Blvd., in Oklahoma City.

"We exist to provide artists an opportunity to connect with collectors, interior designers, community businesses and art organizations that are interested in exhibiting, working with and buying authentic, original art produced by African Americans."

— Victor Driver,  
director of NTU Art Association

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# Expectations high for the LU track team

By Jabril Bailey  
Staff Writer

The heat is rising, and so are the hopes for the Langston University Track and Field team.

"My expectations are always high," said Head Coach James Hilliard. "I expect us to be on the podium at nationals in at least four events."

Hilliard, from Denver, Colo., is a graduate of LU with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. Hilliard is the longest-tenured head coach in the history of the Langston University Athletic Department.

During his tenure as head coach, Hilliard has had 101 All-American Athletes and

seven individual National Champions.

"You have to have a plan in your workouts, and we try to get the meets that will put us in the level of competition that we need to keep us sharp," Hilliard said.

The track team is preparing to participate at the Ole Miss invitational in Oxford, Miss., April 6 and 7.

"In track, if you're fast, you're fast. If you can throw, you can throw. If you can jump, you can jump. You've got to bring you're a-plus game every time you go in there," Hilliard said.

For more information on this year's track team schedule, go to [www.langstonsports.com](http://www.langstonsports.com).



Courtesy Photo

Clyde Young wins the NAIA National Championship for the 60-meter indoor hurdles. Young is currently ranked No. 1 in the NAIA 110-meter hurdles.



Courtesy Photo

JáKyra Shelton competes in the triple jump during a track meet at Oklahoma Baptist University. Shelton placed 3rd in the event.

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