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Langston University

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## Students take educational journey to West Africa



Before attending a welcoming ceremony, Langston University students posed in traditional African attire.

photo by Willard Pitts

BY SHAUNNA COOPER  
Editor

Imagine living in a place where the sunshine makes you smile and the people treat perfect strangers like family. Imagine walking on sandy beaches where children run up to offer a bystander fresh mangoes or a bag of peanuts (for a small fee, of course). Imagine riding in a

taxi with 12 other people... and some goats.

For the students who traveled to West Africa with Dr. Mary Mbosowo and Willard Pitts over the summer, those images are deeply rooted memories that they will never forget.

Thanks to the Langston University Center for International Development (LUCID), 30 students had

the unique opportunity to step outside the comfort zone of America and learn first-hand what it takes to survive in a foreign country.

Here at LU, the trip to West Africa is the most popular among students wishing to participate in the Summer Study Abroad Program.

Dr. Mary Mbosowo, program coordinator, said that the study

abroad trip to West Africa practically advertises itself through word of mouth. Because the program participants have such a positive experience, they come back to share their happiness with family and friends.

Thomas Flag, a senior music education major from Detroit, Mich. said, "It's an experience that you can't really explain or justify with words." He and several brothers of his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc., came back to sing praises about the trip they shared during the summer.

"Everyone over there speaks to one another and they smile. Over here you have people that don't even want to speak; you have to speak to them first," said Eric Ball, a junior corrections major from Chicago, Ill. and member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

"Students who undergo this trip virtually change for life," said

Dr. Mbosowo. She explained that African-American students get to see positive images of caring Black families and the structure that

(Please see Africa on pg.6)



Dr. Mbosowo holds a baby during a visit to an orphanage in Banjul, The Gambia.

photo by Willard Pitts

## Freshmen 101

### Upperclassmen offer words of wisdom

AKIA DOUGLAS

Every year at Langston University a new group of freshmen arrive from all over the world. Each of them will experience something different no matter where they come from. However, as new students, they will often encounter many of the same challenges.

There are many people on campus who can offer helpful and honest advice to "fresh fish." LU's seniors, who have walked in the shoes that freshmen are trying to get comfortable in, can be an excellent source of information. Self-motivation, goal setting and hard work are essential in achieving these goals.

Shaunna Cooper, a broadcast journalism major, said, "When I think of my time spent here at Langston University, I wish I would have done a few things differently. For example, I didn't take my general education courses seriously. I didn't believe those classes had anything to do with my major, so I accepted lower grades in them. Now that I am approaching the end of my educational career, those bad grades have come back to haunt me. My advice to other students is to take *all* of their classes seriously, because they do count. Whenever graduates begin applying for jobs with that newly earned degree, perspective employers will look at the person's GPA. In the end, most companies will choose to hire someone with a 3.5 GPA, as opposed to someone with a GPA of 2.6."

(Please see Freshmen on pg.4)

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## Langston Lions give blood to save lives

TATYANA-LASHAY JOHNSON  
Senior Staff Writer

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. sponsored a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, Sept. 8, as part of a competition between LU and Lincoln University to see who could gather the most students to donate blood.

The blood drive was organized to help with the nationwide shortage that Red Cross is experiencing and also to see which university would have the most people involved. Along with the actual

blood drive, donors were also informed about signing up to become a member of the registry for bone marrow transplants.

"We feel it is our way of contributing to saving lives," said Joshua A. Busby, Phi Beta Sigma's president. This was Joshua's second time donating blood.

April Dora, charge nurse with the Red Cross, wishes that more people would consider donating blood.

"We recommend that everyone at least comes out to see if they are

(Please see Lions give blood on pg.2)

# Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced by students in Langston University's Communication Department and serves as a teaching instrument. The *Gazette* is published weekly except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

## Newspaper Advisor

Chaz Foster-Kyser

## Editor

Shaunna Cooper

## Assistant Editor

Kevono Hunt

## Senior Staff

Micki Biddle

Steve Jackson

Rasheem James

Tatyana-LaShay Johnson

## Staff / Sports Photographer

De'Shawn Saffold

## Langston University

Hwy. 33, Sanford Hall, Room 318

Ph: 405-466-3296 / Email: LUGazette@yahoo.com

For calendar submissions send emails to

LUCalendar@yahoo.com

## Lions give blood *(continued from pg.1)*

able to donate," she said. "In order to become a donor, you have to take a few steps. A donor can't have any tattoos within the last year, their vital signs have to be good, and they need not to have traveled outside of the country within the last year."

A lot of questions are always being asked about donating blood. How often can a person donate? People are able to donate every 56 days. What if they have a piercing? Having a piercing is acceptable. Is donating bone marrow the same as donating blood? Not quite, donating bone marrow is a totally different procedure.

Leslie McClellon, assistant to the vice president for student services, informed students walking in about signing up to be on the bone marrow registry.

"Donating bone marrow is just as important as donating blood, and among Black Americans it is especially important because not many are registered. Students are unaware that this issue of impor-

tance also touches our campus," said McClellon.

Robert Daniels, who attended Langston University from 1995 to 1999, died during the spring of 1999 after battling with leukemia. Daniels was waiting for a match to surface from the bone marrow registry. Sadly, once a match was discovered the unknown donor declined.

"Not many people are aware that their donations could actually be saving someone's life, whether it is a family member or just someone in dying need," said Gregory A. Thomas, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Langston University is the host of four blood drives a year. In this particular blood drive 81 donors participated. "We are hoping to get a higher number of donors at each blood drive," Dora said.

The results of the Langston vs. Lincoln blood drive will be announced at the pre-game between the two football teams, and at that time the winner will receive a traveling trophy.

# Freshmen *(continued from pg.1)*

"I would also have talked to more upperclassmen in my major, and found out more information about the field in which I was pursuing a degree. Too many times, people go through all the general education requirements and start taking classes in their major, only to discover that they do not like what they are doing. By then, they have wasted time and money, which can never be regained. I suggest talking to several teachers before enrolling, or even sitting in on some upper division classes before deciding in which direction to go."

"Lastly, students should stay as focused as they possibly can, despite the many distractions that may come their way. Attending school at an HBCU was a culture shock for me, as I have attended predominantly white schools all my life. When I came to Langston University I was so happy to be

around my people that I almost lost sight of what I was here for in the first place. People tend to get caught up in the Greek system or going to the campus parties and their grades suffer. It is okay to go out and have fun, but make sure business is handled first, because after all, we are here to get an education, which will help us get a job."

Steve Jackson, a broadcast journalism major, said, "One of the things I experienced was being out on my own. Langston University taught me how to become an adult quick. Even though I had my parents helping me out, I had to learn how to fin for myself, which made me mature."

"My advice to incoming freshmen is to know what you came to school for, because that's going to reflect on what you do while you're here. If you're here to party then you're going to party. If you're here to work then you're going to work.

You can't be serious about both; it's either one or the other. There's nothing wrong with hanging out and partying, but you have to take care of your responsibilities first."

"There are a lot of freshmen who attend in the fall, but half of them won't return in the spring do to the fact that they didn't take school seriously. As a freshman you're going to make mistakes, but stay focused and remember what you came to school for."

Jonelle Polk, a music education major, said, "I had a problem with the roommate situation. I had a hard time adjusting to people who weren't like me or raised like me and things of that sort. My advice to someone in that situation would be to first give it a chance. Don't just jump to a conclusion just because things aren't the way you are used to them being at home. This is college and this is a different experience. But if you find that you can't work together you can request a reassignment."

## Seniors' Do's and Don'ts List

Compiled from seniors on LU's campus

### Do's

- Get to know the people in the Student Government Association (SGA).
- Get to know your advisor.
- Make it a point to know the people in your major.
- Get a plan of study.
- Be respectful of teachers.
- Get to know the people in Student Support Services.
- Go to class (on time).
- Attend school activities (get your face out there).
- Get involved.
- Make copies of all important documents (i.e., financial aid and registration papers).

### Don't's

- Don't surround yourself with people who aren't goal driven.
- Don't shower without shower shoes.
- Don't change who you are when you come to college.
- Don't avoid your professor.
- Don't go to the cafeteria unless you have to.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Don't sit in the back of class.
- Don't allow partying and hanging out to come before your school work.
- Don't allow yourself to be easily pressured by anyone.
- Don't interfere with Greeks at parties.

## Booster Bash

The members of the Orange & Blue Boosters Club (OKC Chapter) cordially invite you to attend their annual membership drive on Sept. 18 at the home of Winford and Sophia Willie at 7 p.m. Location: 513 County Club Drive in Edmond, Okla. Directions: Exit Waterloo Road. Go four miles west. Turn left on Kelly. Take East entry into the Oak Tree housing edition. Go through the first stop sign. 2nd house on the left (country Club Drive.) For more information call Coach Drain (405) 466-3352.

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# LU Voices

## How to make good ethical decisions

My dear Langstonites and Neophytes, I dedicate my 131st epistle and second Chapy's Corner of the semester to those of us who are trying to make good decisions for our lives!

Noah Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a decision as "the act or process of deciding; a determination arrived at after consideration, such as a conclusion."

In short, a "decision" is a choice made between two or more available alternatives. Decision making is the process of choosing the best alternative for reaching objectives.

How do we make decisions in our life? I will discuss four psychological dynamics of Conflict-Induced Stress that are present in our own motivational systems as we struggle inwardly to make decisions from one or more alternatives.

### Chapy's Corner

By Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph  
Chaplain  
Coleman Heritage Center



Then, I will conclude on how to make consistently good decisions for a lifetime.

First, there are Approach—Approach Conflicts. These occur when a person is caught between two or more alternatives, each one positive. If the person chooses alternative one, they will reach a desired goal. If alternative two is chosen, a different desirable goal will be attained. What makes this a conflict is that both alternatives are good options, but you must

choose one or the other.

As an educational example, imagine that you are choosing your major for college. On the one hand, you want to go to medical school. Although this is a positive goal and incentive, you would also like to cultivate your aptitude for music while studying composition and conducting at our prestigious department of music. You are told by your adviser that you cannot do both; thus, you must make a choice at registration. Even though each choice has positive attributes, you have to select only one.

Second, there are Avoidance—Avoidance Conflicts. These are the most stress-induced of all conflicts because a person is faced with a number of alternatives, and each is negative. Being in this conflict is similar to being boxed in—no matter what you do, the result will be punishing or unpleasant.

Here is a vocational example: you have graduated from dear Langston and you have obtained employment with a Fortune 500 company. Suddenly, you are told by upper management that you must fire a number of the company's employees because of

budget cuts. While your supervisors are out playing golf you are faced with what appears to be a no-win situation. You must let some of your homeboys and homegirls go. This "decision" will put stress on your body.

Third, there are Approach—Avoidance Conflicts. A person with this conflict is in the position of considering only one goal, or one option. What makes this situation a conflict is that the person would like to reach that goal, but at the same time they would not like to reach it.

Here is a relationship example: consider the possibility of entering into a relationship with someone you think has it going on. On the one hand, such a relationship might turn out to be wonderful, cool and rewarding. On the other hand, the relationship might put you in the position of being hurt, rejected and vulnerable. Many brothers or sisters may not like to be placed in this susceptible position, so they may not give 100 percent to the relationship. The one who gives the least amount of energy oftentimes controls the relationship!

Lastly, there are Multiple Approach—Avoidance Conflicts, more commonly experienced by the older generation (adults). An individual may be faced with several alternatives; however, each one is in some way positive and in some way negative.

Here is an athletic example: the mighty Lions football or basketball

team just finished beating an opponent. The band, cheerleaders, dancers and fans represented as well. After the game you ask your friends where they want to go eat. All of your friends begin to weigh the pros, cons and alternatives from a plethora of options; consequently, whether they have children or not will weigh into their decision making process due to time management.

My dear Langstonites, life is filled with conflicts that may encompass the following questions: What shall I do with the rest of my life? Should I stay at home with the children, or should I have a career? Should I get married or stay single? Should I attend graduate School X or go to graduate School Y? Should I work for Company A, or should I work for Company B? Again, there are positives and negatives in each case to be considered.

My solution for your decision-making opportunities is this: when you are about to make a moral or ethical decision for a lifetime, always remember to build an altar to your Creator (God) and sacrifice your will to serve Him! (see: Genesis 13). Always weigh the alternatives and consider the consequences for your decisions.

*Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph was born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif. He is in his eighth year as a faculty and chaplain at Langston University. For further information you may contact Dr. Joseph at (405) 466-2901 or email him at eajoseph@lunet.edu.*

## Letters to the Editor

No one wants to be associated with a losing team. Throughout the years, the football team has lost several games. Yes I said it.

In past years there was team spirit no matter how many games were won or lost. Now that the team has won more than one game this season it seems like the troops are rallying.

Students have been heard congratulating the team in classes or whenever they see anyone who looks like a football player. This is a curious and questionable motive.

In the past two years the football team has received little support from its students. This could be taken as an insult to players because no one was there when they were losing, but now that they are winning everyone is trying to jump on the band wagon like it's the new fad.

Organizations have sponsored road trips to the games, but where were they last season when there were games only two hours away?

Well, their motives are just as questionable as the rest of the so-called "supporters" of the football team. Let's be real and come to the real conclusion. Everyone wants a piece of the pie, especially since it looks so good this year.

Here is an example: the NBA finals. The Detroit Pistons were the underdogs going into the finals. Everyone was focused on the Los Angeles Lakers taking the championship in four straight games. No one realized that they were in for a big surprise, except for "true" Pistons fans.

Our games have been reduced to big social events with over zealous fans who barely know who the quarterback is and the difference between a wide receiver and a running back.

With the understanding that the football team has a new coaching staff and several new players, keep in mind they need support now more than ever.

This just isn't for the football team, but for all sports. Students should be supporters all the time instead of when we are winning.

It's sad when you see students in more OSU and OU paraphernalia than LU.

By Brielle Thierry

*"What seems to be a great loss or punishment often turns out to be a blessing. I know, through my own experience, that God never closes one door without opening another.—Yolande D. Herron*

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles and are not necessarily those of the *Gazette*, Langston University or any of its administrators and/or governing bodies. Letters to the editor are welcomed from any individual officially connected with Langston University. They should be neatly typed, double spaced and signed by the person writing the letter. All letters, along with a copy on disk or cd, should be personally brought to the *Gazette* office located in Sanford Hall, Room 318. The *Gazette* retains the right to edit, accept and/or reject items deemed to be contrary to the best interest of the publication, Langston University and/or any of its governing bodies.

# The White Tee Takeover

## Popular song revives old trend

BY PETER JOHNSON



(l-r) Jimmy Scales, Crystal Evans, Natural Henderson, Adrian Mercado, Randy Moore and Reggie Smith attend class in their white tees, study in their white tees, chill in their white tees, and make money in their white tees. photo by De'Shawn Saffold

A white tee epidemic is sweeping across campus. Students are stepping out in all white t-shirts as it is an easy way to go for fashion. Is this because students can look good in whatever goes with a white tee, or could it be an uproar created from a new popular song? Played on radio stations across the nation, *White Tee* (written by Dem Franchise Boys from Atlanta, Ga.), has not only Atlanta rocking white tees, but Langston University as well.

Jason Morgan, a music education major from Oklahoma City, said, "Yes, I wear white tees and listen to the song. However, the song has nothing to do with me looking clean in my white tee. I did that before I heard the song."

White tees seem to be a casual way of looking good without appearing too dressed up. The only accessories needed to make a white tee outfit complete are some nice shoes and maybe a headband or necklace.

Now, for some people a regular white tee isn't stylish enough. Tall tees are a cousin to the white tee, and it has become very popular as well. It is longer and can be purchased only at Footlocker or Champs.

Dominique Green, a computer electronics major from Wichita, Kansas, said, "I prefer tall tees to go with my shoes and headbands."

Students have really gone out of the way to look good in a white tee, while some just wear their undershirts for white tees.

Whether white tees are a fad or even a staple of hip hop fashion, as long as people are around someone will always feel comfortable in their white tee.

## Are you sure you're registered to vote?

If you mailed in your voter registration form and never received a card, you can check and see if you are on the list of registered voters. The G. Lamar Harrison Library has requested an official list of registered voters from the Logan County Board of Elections so that you can find out for sure. Just ask at the main desk of the library. If you are not on the list, you can still register to vote. The last postmark date is Oct. 8, 2004. The library has forms on site, as well as a website where you can register online. For more information, call the Reference Desk at 466-3298.

## SGA livens up campus life

BY CHONDRA KIRKLAND

Leave it up to the elected officials of the Student Government Association (SGA) and there will not be a dull moment on campus this year. An abundance of activities have been planned for students wanting to increase their campus participation.

The SGA invited the campus to come out and enjoy sounds from the islands last week at "Reggae Fest 2004." Held on an "island" near the east gate of campus from 9-12 p.m. last Thursday, the celebration turned out to be a success. Many students came and danced to reggae music from the past and the present in addition to some "top 40" hits that were in rotation to even out the vibe.

SGA vice president, Joshua Busby, seemed pleased with the turn out of the event. Busby, a junior agribusiness major from Oklahoma City, said that the affair even exceeded the expectations of the SGA.

Last Saturday, the SGA traveled to Tyler, Texas to support the LU Lions football team.

Today, Sept. 17, the SGA will conduct senator housing elections from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SGA office.

On Sept. 24, the SGA will host the Crisp Comedy Show in the I.W. Young Auditorium at 7 p.m.

To voice opinions, concerns or even ideas, the next student body meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. in the I.W. Young Auditorium. Students can also look forward to more SGA sponsored buses to football games, as well as the infamous annual SGA concert later in the school year.

## LU Hosts 9/11 Memorial

BY KEVONO HUNT

Assistant Editor



photo by Kevono Hunt

The Melvin B. Tolsen Heritage Center sponsored a 9/11 memorial with guest speaker Andrew Rice on Sept. 9, 2004. Rice lost his brother David Rice in the 9/11 attacks. He spoke on what he remembered from that day and how he and his family were affected. Rice is a board member of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow Steering Committee, and speaks regularly as a proponent for a legal, humane, and rational response to 9/11. Rice has spoken to groups and rallies in 15 states and has been interviewed by local TV and radio stations. He moved back to Oklahoma where he now works through the Red River Democracy Project to advocate for reforms in American domestic and foreign policy.

*Do you have an idea for a story that could appear in the Gazette? Is your organization hosting an event that you would like to have covered? Email all story ideas and requests for coverage to [LUgazette@yahoo.com](mailto:LUgazette@yahoo.com). Story ideas for events must be received two weeks in advance.*

# Sports

## Lions avenge last year's loss with a 37-14 win over the Steers

BY JAMUEL WALLACE  
Sports Writer

A pumped up Langston Lions team jumped out to a 30-7 halftime lead in route to a 37-14 win over the Texas College Steers last Saturday at Trinity-Francis Rose Memorial Stadium in Tyler, Texas.

	LU	TC
First Downs	19	11
Rushes-Yds	45-136	37-153
Passing Yds	212	30
Comp-Att HI	15-24-2	2-15-0
Plays-Yds	69-348	52-183
Pnts-Avg	4-39.5	6-41.2
Fmb-Lost	0-0	3-3
Pnlty-Yds	7-112	8-114

“Victory is always good. The guys played with a lot of composure and a lot of zeal. We didn’t play with any zeal last week. [This week] we came out flat in the second half because we were up by 23 points. We pulled it out and we got it all back together, and it’s a good

sign of us growing and maturing as a football team,” said Head Football Coach Greg Johnson.

In the first quarter, on the Lions’ second drive, running back Jimmy Scales keyed the drive as he rushed for 39 of the Lions’ 52 yards in the process of scoring a 1-yard touchdown. This gave the Lions an early 7-0 lead.

After a Steers punt, quarterback Tony Williams hit wide receiver Jimmy Early Jr. 49 yards, putting the Lions at the Steers’ 10-yard line. Two plays later, Williams’ pass, which was intended for tight end Jeff Martin, was intercepted by Kerry Ibetto.

Scales scored his second touchdown of the night on a 29-yard screen pass from QB Kendrick Dozier. Dozier ran in the first of two two-point conversions, giving the Lions a 15-0 lead.

Adrian Lacy finished a four-play 56-yard drive with a 35-yard touchdown run, making the score 15-7.

On the Steers’ next possession they were in the mood for giving



Lions fullback Fred Brown's (35) lead block of Texas College's Ty Collete (22) makes way for Jimmy Scales' (23) 9-yard run in the first quarter  
photo by De'Shawn Saffold



Steers Jermaine Smith (7) attempts to wrestle down Lions' wide receiver Jimmy Early Jr. after Early hauls in a 49-yard pass.  
photo by De'Shawn Saffold

as Adrian Stargell was rewarded the ball on his way to his second defensive touchdown of the season—a 57-yard fumble recovery, making the score 22-7.

With three minutes to go in the second quarter, RB Cermase Barry rumbled 15 yards to give the Lions a 30-7 halftime lead.

After a 77-yard kickoff return by WR Donta Spillman, Jonathan Combs' 1-yard run cut the lead to 30-14.

The game was delayed midway through third quarter when defensive lineman Solaadden Williams went down with a leg injury.

With 7:31 to go in the fourth quarter, Barry scored his second touchdown of the game with a 3-yard run, giving the Lions the final margin.

Tony Williams finished 8 of 14 for 120 yards to lead the Lions in passing. Kendrick Dozier accounted for 95 yards of total offense.

Cermase Barry led the Lions in rushing with 46 yards on seven carries, while Jimmy Scales finished with 20 carries for 44 yards.

Jimmy Early Jr. had five catches for 119 yards.

The Lions' stingy defense held the Steers offensive to 183 yards, two completions, and three forced fumbles.

(Please see Lions beat Steers on pg.7)

## LU Athlete of the Week

BY JUDY YATES

### Kristophier Tilmon

Running track is a demanding sport that requires a competitor to work out daily, all year long. Even though Langston's track season doesn't begin until late November, I found several tracksters running on the large field just south of the campus. One of these dedicated athletes was Kristophier Tilmon, practicing on his 200 meter sprints.

Tilmon is a 5'9" 160 lb. senior specializing in the high jump and majoring in agribusiness. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the Ag Science Club, and the Minorities in Agriculture Club.

While at Irving MacArthur High, in Irving, Texas, he was a district champion his senior year and advanced to regionals with a 6'5" jump. His personal best is 6'8". While here at Langston, Tilmon has made all-conference twice under track coach James Hilliard. He has two years left of eligibility even though he is a senior in class because he was red-shirted his junior year for injuries.



photo by De'Shawn Saffold

As a returning two year letterman and team captain there's a lot of pressure on Tilmon to repeat his success this season, but he is up to the challenge.

“The track spirit, the level of the sport, the competitiveness, is what keeps me going,” Tilmon said. “Everyone has a lot of love and support between each other. This is our biggest track team since I've been here and I think in the school's history. So, I'm looking forward to everyone staying with it and bringing home the conference championship.”

# Africa trip (continued from pg.1)



LU graduate Jasmine Patrick exchanges information with a student from Albion Primary School.

photo by Willard Pitts

keeps those families together. “They see what we call communalism, living as a community. Individualism is good, but communalism makes you have compassion for other people; it makes you have compassion for humanity,” she said. “Family and respect for elders are the pillars of African culture. So, yes, for students of African descent, we see it [the trip] as a finishing school.”

Willard Pitts felt the same way, and explained the significance of Langston University students and African-Americans in general going to Africa.

“The culture that we live in is Eurocentric, only because African-Americans and non-African-Americans know very little about Africa, other than what they see on television or in the movies,” he said.

Although Pitts, former chairperson for the department of communications, retired last spring, he still wanted to take the journey with Dr. Mbosowo and the group. He has been to The Gambia as many as nine times (he is not sure of the

exact number because he lost count some time ago), and said that he is going back again.

“In order to explode the myths, African-Americans must tell their story and their history. The only way they can do that is to return to the Motherland and make con-

*“In order to explode the myths, African-Americans must tell their story and their history. The only way they can do that is to return to the Motherland and make contact with the people.”*

tact with the people,” he explained.

Stasha Blakely, a senior criminal justice major from Tulsa, Okla., spoke very highly of her experience as well, claiming that her decision to go to Africa was one of the best decisions she has made in her life thus far. “It squashed all the stereotypical ideas that I have been told over the years about the land and the people,” she said.

Blakely is a member of the Zeta Phi Beta Inc. sorority. She and her sorority sisters have begun to implement community service projects aimed at helping different schools in Africa where they com-

pleted volunteer work.

Dr. Mbosowo said that members of the Greek organizations have been instrumental in getting whole communities more involved with donations to send back to the African people.

Although the students attended pre-travel seminars to prepare them for issues that might have arisen during the trip, they could not fathom what they would see when their feet touched African

soil. “The people just welcomed us with open arms and I loved it. I tell anyone willing to listen that they must go to Africa and see for themselves. I can’t wait to go back,” said Blakely.

The group learned how to purchase things using the bartering system, a way of negotiating prices for goods. In America, most people are accustomed to paying whatever the price is on the tag. In The Gambia and Senegal, students could bargain with a vendor for a particular item and even trade some of their American belongings for African

memorabilia.

Several young women in the group received proposals of marriage, while the male students had to simply admire from afar. Over 90 percent of the population of both The Gambia and Senegal is Muslim. Muslim culture frowns upon promiscuity and young women pursuing young men. Most marriages are prearranged, and usually, if a man chooses a woman to be his wife she cannot refuse.

In addition to learning about traditional culture, the students took weekly educational field trips to gain knowledge of certain aspects of African life. During a visit to The Gambian village of Bijilo, several students participated in an honorary naming ceremony in which individual families adopted a young man or young woman into their family. The father then gave his new son or daughter a new name of traditional African decent in front of the whole village. When he announced the name he wanted the student to have, another man would yell it out to the crowd and everyone would repeat it and clap with joy.

The students also visited Juffereh Island and Goree Island. Juffereh Island, located off the coast of The Gambia, is the land of legendary slave Kunta Kinte. Kinte is the central character in *Roots*, an award-winning television miniseries and book by Alex Haley. While there, students met and talked with an actual descendant of the original Kinte family.

Goree Island holds historical merit in that it was the final stop for captured African men, women and children that were to be shipped to Europe and the Americas to be enslaved. The group visited a former housing unit (now a museum) used by Europeans to assess their captives. Several students cried while thinking of their ancestors who could have been shackled down in one of the tiny rooms.

Dr. Mbosowo and Pitts encouraged many students to walk through the “door of no return,” then turn around and come back. They did this in remembrance of their ancestors who were told that once they stepped through that door, they would never see Africa again.

The group also did volunteer work at a local newspaper, a radio station, several schools, and an

orphanage. Several criminal justice majors even had the opportunity to sit in on a murder case being tried at the Supreme Court.

Ball noticed a few significant differences between the Gambian and American judicial systems.

“A lot of their systems are like the European systems. They wear the white wigs and stuff like that,” he said. He also noticed that during the trial, the defendants were not in shackles and chains like people usually are here in the states. “The police officers over there don’t carry guns like we do over here and one of the main reasons why is because of the respect the people have for authority,” he explained.



The curator of a museum on Goree Island holds up an example of the type of chains that Africans were forced to wear.

photo by Willard Pitts

Both Pitts and Dr. Mbosowo agree that LU’s Summer Study Abroad Program is one of the best in the state. Many students have expressed a strong desire to go again next summer.

“As far as I know, and I am not boasting, we have the best in this area,” said Dr. Mbosowo. “Langston is tops when it comes to the summer study abroad program. I know some big ones [schools] that have not been able to set up a program as we have done. Over the years we have perfected it, and we’re still going to go on to find the best possible way to make this experience better for our students, especially to prepare them for globalization. Students must be prepared for a global economy.”

# LU Health Watch: Sickle Cell Anemia

BY MICKI BIDDLE  
Senior Staff Writer

Sickle Cell Anemia is a disease characterized by a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. It is the most common genetic disease in the United States. Over 70,000 Americans have sickle cell anemia.

Normal red blood cells are round like doughnuts and they move through small blood tubes in the body to deliver oxygen. The reason these blood cells become sickle shaped is because of a substance in the red blood cell called hemoglobin that carries oxygen inside the cell. One little change in this substance causes the hemoglobin to form long rods in the red cell when it gives away oxygen. These rigid rods change the red

cell into a sickle shape.

Sickle red blood cells become hard, sticky and shaped like sickles used by farmers to cut wheat. When these hard, pointy blood cells try to pass through the small veins in the body, they clog the flow of blood and then break apart. This can cause pain, damage to organs, low blood counts and anemia

Sickle cell anemia is not contagious; it is inherited from both parents who may be carriers of the sickle cell trait. A person is said to have the sickle cell trait (but not sickle cell anemia) when that person carries both the sickle hemoglobin producing gene and the normal hemoglobin gene.

Sickle cell anemia affects people of all ethnicities. However, African-Americans are more at risk of in-

heriting the disease. In the United States alone, one out of 10 African-Americans have the sickle cell trait, and one out of every 625 newborns have the disease.

A simple blood test called the hemoglobin electrophoresis can be done by a person's doctor or local sickle cell foundation. This test discovers whether a person is a carrier of the trait or if they have the disease. This information is invaluable to someone thinking about marriage or having children.

If you want to learn more about Sickle Cell Anemia, visit the Sickle Cell Information Center's website at [www.SCInfo.org](http://www.SCInfo.org), or the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's website, [www.sicklecelldisease.org](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org), phone: 1-800-421-8453.

Next up for the Lions is a game against the Lincoln University Blue Tigers, a team the Lions lost to 17-14 in overtime last season in Jefferson City, Mo. The game will be held on Sept. 25 at Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City.

LU—Jimmy Scales 1 run (Israel Jacobs kick good)

LU—Kendrick Dozier 29 pass to Jimmy Scales (Kendrick Dozier run good)

TC—Adrian Lacy 35 run (Sal De La Cruz kick good)

LU—Adrian Stargell 57 fumble recovery (Israel Jacobs kick good)

LU—Cermase Barry 15 run (Kendrick Dozier run good)

TC—Jonathan Combs 1 run (Sal De La Cruz kick good)

LU—Cermase Barry 3 run (Israel Jacobs kick good)



Lions Adrian Fisher (52) brings down Steers' running back Jonathan Combs (11) for a loss in the third quarter.

photo by De'Shawn Saffold

Elijah Booker had seven tackles and a fumble recovery to lead the Lions defense. Jason Fobbs added six tackles, while freshmen Tyrell Woodward and Jermal Callio each

had four tackles and a sack.

The lone bright spot for Texas College was WR Donta Spillman who accounted for 163 all-purpose yards.

	1	2	3	4	Final
Langston Univ.	7	23	0	7	37
Texas College	0	7	7	0	14

**Support our Lions!**  
*Cheer them on as they send the Blue Tigers of Lincoln University home crying!*

Sept. 25th at 6 p.m. in Taft Stadium, Oklahoma City

## What's the Word?

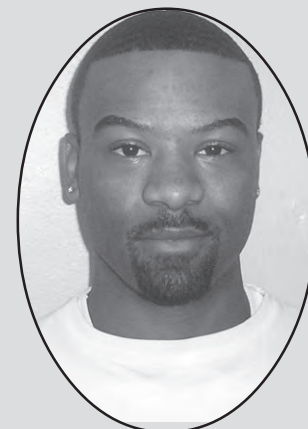
COMPILED BY KEVONO HUNT, Assistant Editor

*What is the biggest socioeconomic problem that Americans face today?*



*"Healthcare—something as simple as going to the doctor is something that the working class can't do."*

Amber Crawford, sophomore nursing major  
Portland, Ore.



*"Education—because there is still a steadily increasing illiteracy rate among Americans."*

Preston Malone, senior English education major  
Dallas, Tx



*"Healthcare—average people, like students and the elderly, can't even go to the hospital because they don't have adequate healthcare."*

Robert Marsh, sophomore nutrition major  
Detroit, Mich.



*"Unemployment—in this economy more businesses are moving toward technology to fill some of those jobs that were normally performed by individuals, which increases the unemployment rate."*

Jullian Grant, sophomore biology major  
Edmond, Okla.



# LU Calendar

## Ongoing Events

**The Pre-Alumni Council** will have meetings the first Thursday of the month. Membership dues are \$10. The meeting location will vary. More information: Contact Vonnie Ware-Roberts, ext. 2999.

**The National Association of Black Journalists**, a student organization on campus aimed at undergraduate broadcast journalism majors and those interested in journalism, hold meetings every Wednesday at noon in Sanford Hall, Rm. 310W. More information: Call Dr. Karen M. Clark at ext. 3297 or Steve Jackson at (405) 834-4829.

**Free AIDS testing** is available the first working day of the month at Langston University's Clinic, which is located on the first floor in the University Women Building.

**Sellers Chapel A.M.E. Church** wants willing workers and singers for Christ. Sellers Chapel is located on 119 Washington St. More information: Contact Rev. Dr. Samuel R. Craig, pastor, or Elizabeth Bestic, pianist at 466-4269.

**The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Lambda Omega Christian Sorority Inc.** invite you to receive free food for your soul. They will serve food at bible study every Thursday in the Young Hall Lounge at 7 p.m.

**The Langston Chapter of LUNAA** will have monthly meetings in the Research and Extension Building in Rm. 105S. Please come prepared to pay your annual dues. National dues are \$50.00 and local dues are \$25.00

## Immediate Events

### Friday, September 17

**A party will be hosted** by the Alpha Pi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and the Iota chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. on Friday, Sept. 17 in the multi-purpose building at 10:22 p.m. Cost: \$2 before 11 p.m. and \$3 for the rest of the night.

### Thursday, September 18

**The members of the Orange & Blue Boosters Club** (OKC Chapter) cordially invite you to attend their annual membership drive on Sept. 18 at the home of Winford and Sophia Willie at 7 p.m. Location: 513 County Club

## Lion of the Week

BY SHAUNNA COOPER, Editor

### Brielle Thierry



photo by De'Shawn Saffold

**P**eople who listen to the campus radio station, 89.3 KALU, may have heard this young woman spinning records that were out before she was even born.

Nevertheless, Brielle Thierry will tell you that she has an old soul, and she knew exactly what she was doing when she had a Donnie Hathaway special during her Sunday radio show last spring.

"Nobody sings like the old school artists anymore. Young people need more love in their lives. Who can sing about that love better than Donnie? Donnie Hathaway is the man!" she explained.

Thierry, a junior broadcast journalism major from Tulsa, Okla., landed the role as music director for the radio station earlier this year. She ranks second in command for the 89.3 KALU student staff. Before she accepted the position, there had not been a student music director in over two years.

Although many people think that working in a radio station is all fun and games, Thierry would like to point out that her position requires much time and patience.

"My work consists of getting in touch with record label representatives and artists. Basically, I contact the rep from a specific

record label for our region, discuss what types of music our listeners want to hear, and have them send the product along with any promotional items they may have," she said.

Thierry also listens to up and coming artists' singles or albums to see if they fit the particular format used by 89.3 KALU.

"There are a lot of people who think that their music is the best. Their friends have pumped their heads up so much that they forget to pay attention to the sound quality," she said.

For all those prospective rappers trying to get a foot in the door, 89.3 KALU can serve as a sort of stepping stone to the top. But before people start bombarding the station with demos and inquiries, Thierry offered three suggestions: have clean lyrics, have a good sound, and above all, be assertive.

"For every one person that does not like your sound, there may be 1,000 others that do, so never give up," she encouraged.

"If you know someone who wants to get his/her music played on 89.3 KALU, your source for news and music, bring it to Sanford Hall, Rm. 304, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m." she added.

She also pointed out that on Monday, Sept. 20, student DJ's will be taking over the airwaves once again from 6 to 12 a.m. She encourages everyone to tune in and support the newcomers.

One might think that since Thierry does so much work for the station, she plans to get a job in radio once she graduates. "Tricked ya!" she playfully revealed. "I want a job in public relations when I'm finished with school."

Her work ethic and passion for greatness will definitely come in handy, no matter what path she chooses to take.

"When you love what you do, you will make sure that it is the best it can be," she said.

*To nominate an outstanding LU faculty, student or staff member for the Lion of the Week, send an email to LUGazette@yahoo.com with the person's name, contact information, and explanation of why they should be nominated.*

Drive in Edmond, Okla. Directions: Exit Waterloo Road. Go four miles west. Turn left on Kelly. Take East entry into the Oak Tree housing edition. Go through the first stop sign. 2nd house on the left (country Club Drive.) More information: Call Coach Donnita Drain at (405) 466-3352.

### Tuesday, September 21

**A meeting for all teacher education majors** will be held on Tuesday, September 21 in Sanford Hall, Rm. 218W. Teacher education majors include Biology, Chemistry, Early Childhood Development, Elementary, English, Family and Consumer Science, Mathematics, Music, Physical, Special, and Technology education majors.

### Wednesday, September 22

**University Libraries Programming Committee** will have a book review of *Heavenly Father, Thank You For the Blessing*, written by Dr. Marvin Burns, Dean, School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, in the Davis Room on Sept. 22 at 3:30 p.m. More information: Call (405) 282-3146.

### Tuesday, September 21

**An informational for the 2005 Langston University Scholarship Pageant** will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21 in the Coleman Heritage Chapel at 7 p.m.

### Friday, September 24

**The SGA will host the Crisp Comedy Show** on Friday, Sept. 24 in the I.W. Young Auditorium at 8 p.m. More information: For more information: SGA office, ext. 3443.

### Monday, September 27

**A video shoot** for Sony International Recording Artist Minister Kaine will be held on Monday, Sept. 27. The video shoot is open to the public with hopes of getting all the area college and high school students to come and be extras in the video. The video will be shot at the firehouse in Norman at 9 p.m. After the shoot there will be a free mini concert. More information: Call Antonio McGlothin at 405-341-3800, or send an email to Ministerkaine@hotmail.com.

### Thursday, September 30

**The SGA will hold a student body meeting** on Thursday, Sept. 30 in the I.W. Young Auditorium. Time: 7:00 p.m. More information: Contact SGA president Vanessa McGlothen at ext. 3443.