

4-22-2005

The Gazette April 22, 2005

Langston University

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Recommended Citation

Langston University, "The Gazette April 22, 2005" (2005). *LU Gazette, 2000-2009*. Book 15.
http://dclu.langston.edu/archives_gazette_newspaper_20002009/15

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Langston University
Langston, OK 73050

Gazette

Volume 66, No. 22

April 20, 2005

Study abroad program seeks LU students

BY CHONDRA KIRKLAND

Langston will provide opportunities for students to participate in the university's study abroad program with trips to Malaysia, Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Belize, and various countries in Africa.

"Our study abroad program is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about other cultures as well as to earn college credit," said Dr. Darnell Williams, director of the Langston University Center for International Development (LUCID). LUCID is an educational unit which facilitates, coordinates and monitors all international affairs of the university, including the study abroad program.

He stresses that the program is not a touring program, and "maintaining high academic integrity in the courses is a top priority."

While on the trip students have a planned course of study to follow, assigned readings, tests, and papers to write.

Dr. Lyn Lim is the coordinator for the Malaysia and Thailand trip, referred to as the Asia program. Dr. Carol Evans coordinates the Dominican Republic trip.

Classes will be held during the month of July, Monday thru Thursday, for the Thailand and Malaysia trip. The first three weeks of classes will be in Malaysia and the final week will be in Thailand. While there, students will explore the ways of life of several different groups in Southeast Asia.

The Dominican Republic program allows students to study at the Universidad Madre y Maestra, a private university in the heart of Santo Domingo on the Caribbean coast.

"Students will live with carefully chosen Dominican families who will introduce them to Dominican society," said Dr. Evans.

The classes will provide educational services for students in all majors.

"This is very exciting and a beginning of new era," said Dr. Williams.

please see "Study abroad," pg.2.

New life pumped into Lions football team

BY TATYANA-LASHAY JOHNSON

The Langston Lions football team has grown with the addition of 61 new recruits that Head Football Coach Greg Johnson signed this semester. Twenty-two

most of the players. Alumni in various states helped the coaches to recruit other players that were located in states further away, such as Florida, Tennessee and California. The coaches looked mostly for players that already had some college experience to come



photo by Chaz Kyser

These new recruits (posed with Coach Johnson) plan to help lead the Langston Lions to a winning season: *Front (l-r):* Fred Burks, Lawton Okla.; Marcus Walker, Dallas; Byron Allen, Midwest City, Okla.; Brandon Younger, Oakland, Calif.; Benjamin Porter, Columbus, Miss.; Bill Coleman, Tulsa, Okla.; Reshard Dudley, Marianna, Fla. *Second row (l-r):* Authur Scott, Killeen, Texas; Trey Rainey, New Orleans, La.; J'Melle Hooks, Cocoa Beach, Fla.; Levi Lawson, St. Louis, Mo.; Kenneth Greene, Dallas; Khris Lockson, Oakland, Calif.; Elliot Davis, Gloster, Miss. *Back row (l-r):* Johnny Fils-Aime, Revere, Mass.; Melvin Jackson, Miami; Robert Richardson, Detroit; Christopher Hollie, Ft. Worth, Texas; John Wood, Miami; Duke Barker, Gloster, Miss.; Ranshod Wilson, Mexia, Texas.

of the players are already hard at work practicing with the team four to five days a week to ensure they have a winning season in the fall.

"The players are glad to be done with boot camp and conditioning. They went from 6 a.m. workouts two days a week and weights four days a week from Jan. 25 through March 31, to having regular practices from March 28 until our spring game, which is coming up on April 23," said Coach Johnson.

The coaching staff traveled to Houston, Dallas, Oklahoma City and Tulsa to recruit

in and be an "instant fix" to the team because they felt they might be older and more mature than high school recruits.

Now that the new recruits have signed on to be Langston Lions, hard work, sacrifice, and dedication are needed from them.

"The recruits are here to help make the team better," said Byron Allen, a defensive back and junior business management major from Midwest City, Okla. "I plan to do whatever I can. I'm part of the football family now and it's about unity."

please see "New recruits," pg.4

Bj major places in radio contest

BY AKIA DOUGLAS

Brielle Thierry, a junior broadcast journalism major from Tulsa, Okla., won third place in a radio newscast competition spon-



Brielle Thierry

sored by the Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association (OBEA). Thierry was the only Black student in Oklahoma to place in the competition.

The awards ceremony was held in Tulsa, where former Governor Frank Keating gave advice to up-and-coming journalists.

Keating gave students four tips to keep in mind while covering stories. The first tip was not to stereotype the person you are covering. If a journalist automatically stereotypes the situation then he/she will never search further to uncover the truth. The second tip was to never jump to conclusions. When reporters jump to conclusions they can miss important story information needed to convey the truth to the public. Keating's third piece of advice was to become a part of the community. He gave an example of a television station that gave up programming to have a prayer service televised after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. The final point he gave was to seek the truth in every story that is reported. Sometimes the smallest detail that is left out by the reporter is the most

please see "Radio competition," 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 every Wednesday except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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LU

Langston OKC campus to host health fair

The Langston University School of Nursing is sponsoring a Minority Health Forum on Thursday, April 21, at the university's Oklahoma City campus, located at 4205 N. Lincoln Blvd.

The forum is scheduled to begin with registration at 8 a.m. and the opening session will begin at 9 a.m. The keynote speech will be presented by Frank Jackson from the National Cancer Institute's

Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

Following the concurrent workshops, Dr. Gordon Decker will deliver the lunch address and provide information about the health of Oklahomans. The afternoon program will include additional concurrent workshops and the closing plenary session. The forum is scheduled to conclude by 3 p.m.

Forum participants will discuss major health issues affecting minori-

ties, factors which contribute to those health issues, and strategies to reduce individual and community health risks.

Registration is \$25 (\$12.50 for stu-

dents with identification). For additional information, please contact Elaine Robinson or Farretta Hinds at (405) 466-3411 or 466-3425, Teresa Hunter at 466-3274.

Study abroad, continued from pg. 1

Dr. Mary Mbsowo, coordinator of the study abroad program, takes students on trips to Africa. She emphasizes that LUCID is always working "to help create meaningful, enlightening, and fulfilling experiences for students."

When not in class, students can visit remote villages and partake in city festivals and activities.

"Everyone should look into participating in the summer study abroad program," said Shaunna Cooper, a senior broadcast journalism major from Stillwater, Okla. who participated in last year's study abroad program in Africa. "I was extremely skeptical about going to West Africa, but when I got there I had the time of my life. I loved every single minute of my time over there and I am going back again this summer."

Dr. Lim and the other study abroad coordinators want more students to reap the benefits of seeing other countries and cultures.

"It will open our student's perspectives," said Dr. Lim.

The cost for the trips range from \$4,350 for a one-month stay to \$5,456 for the longer programs. The tuition is for six credit hours, and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Before participating in the study abroad program students must submit to a background check and provide three reference letters. Students must have a 2.5 g.p.a. and attend mandatory seminars organized by LUCID prior to the trip.

More information and application packets are available at LUCID, Cottage 2 (the small brick building next to police station). Students can also contact Patricia Burns, administrative specialist for LUCID, at 466-2943 or 466-3241 between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email Dr. Williams at dnwilliams@lunet.edu, Dr. Mbsowo at mmbosowo@lunet.edu, Dr. Lim at kllim@lunet.edu, or Dr. Evans at caevans@lunet.edu.

Radio competition, continued from pg. 1

important.

Thierry was very excited about her award.

"I think it is a great honor to win in a state competition. It shows other schools that Langston students are keeping up if not excelling them," said Thierry.

Dr. Karen Clark, chair of the department of communications, said she wants more students to enter the competition next year.

"We plan to take a closer look at the judging criteria so that we will know what the judges are looking for in our submissions," she said.

Organizations sought to adopt a highway

BY VICTOR GRAY

In an effort to keep Dr. Holloway Highway grand, Langston University's Transportation Center of Excellence and Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) are searching for volunteer groups to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Adopt-A-Highway is a part of ODOT's anti-litter campaign aimed at improving the appearance of Oklahoma. This effort has helped reduce the \$4 million annual cost of picking up litter on the 12,000 miles of state highways.

These groups will adopt a two-mile section of a state highway near their community. They will be responsible for picking up litter on the roadsides for that selected sec-

tion of highway at a minimum of four times per year for a two-year period. ODOT will furnish trash bags and safety vests, and a representative will come to their organization and host short safety training. ODOT will erect permanent identification signs on each end of the groups particular section of road. The Transportation Center will also submit thank you letters and give awards to the most productive groups.

Groups interested in the Adopt-A-Highway Program, call Victor Gray at 405-863-3565 or email vsgrey@lunet.edu or ODOT at 405 521-4037 or email beauty@odot.org.

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LU Voices

Fate: Can you change your destiny?

What's the Word?

Would you rather be with someone twice as attractive as you and half as smart, or twice as smart and half as attractive?



"Twice as smart because being with someone who is intelligent and can carry on a conversation without being superficial adds depth and realism to the relationship."

Danielle Ford, freshman psychology major Los Angeles, Calif.



"Twice as smart so that she can help me on my homework. Plus smart people have better conversations."

Kenta' Caldwell, freshman undecided Oklahoma City



"Twice as smart. Looks only get you so far. Having someone cute and smart wouldn't hurt, but he definitely can't be cuter than me."

Kai Brown, sophomore corrections/English major Denver, Colo.



"Twice as smart. Beauty is an illusion. Intelligence is a key to success in this world. Beauty will last for a season; intelligence will last as long as you do."

Oren Johnson program chairman management information systems

COMPILED BY DE'SHAWN SAFFOLD, GAZETTE PHOTOGRAPHER

Salutations my dear Langstonites. The purpose of my 151st edition of Chapy's Corner is to educate those of us who are struggling and wrestling with our own immortality, or should I dare call it Fate.

Dictionary.com defines "fate" when it functions as a noun as (1a) the supposed force, principle, or power that predetermines events; (1b) the inevitable events predestined by this force; (2) a final result or consequence; an outcome: or (3) unfavorable destiny; doom.

King Solomon, the Hebrew Qoholeth (Preacher), writes in the book of Ecclesiastes that "To everything there is a season; a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die," (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a, NKJV).

Can one change his or her fate? Let me answer that question this

way: Fate represents the winds of nature and it blows the ship (one's destiny) in a certain direction. Now we cannot control the wind from blowing or not blowing nor the winds direction, but we can control the direction that the ship is pointed towards, as well as, the speed of the ship as it travels toward its destination which is immortality (the goal). Beware of the water, which are our trials and tribulations (tests)! My brothers and sisters, steady your course and reach your goal by allowing God to point you toward a clear and certain future.

Please remember that you are on a pilgrimage toward your des-

tiny and the fastest way to your destiny is a straight line, beware of distractions. I am aware that some of us will make unwise decisions

Chapy's Corner

By Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph
Chaplain
Coleman Heritage Center



and take the circuitous (long) route as we approach our goal, but do not give up, head due north!

Dr. Eric Anthony Joseph was born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif. The newlywed is in his eighth year as a dean, assistant professor, chaplain, and chairman at Langston University. For further information you may contact Dr. Joseph at (405) 466-2901 or e-mail him at: eajoseph@lunet.edu.

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Track team slows down against tough competitors

BY JAMUEL WALLACE

The Langston Outdoor Track and Field team faced their toughest competition last Saturday at the 57th Annual K.T. Woodman Track Classic at Cessna Stadium in Wichita, Kan.

Many of the schools participating with Langston including Division I schools, such as Wichita State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Hastings College, Oklahoma State University, and Missouri Southern University.

On the women's side, Monique Carroll finished 13th in the high jump with a jump of 4'10". Dominique McDonald finished 15th in the long jump with a jump of 16'3".

In the 100-meter dash Tasia Galbreath and McDonald finished 10th and 12th, respectively, with times of 12.56 and 12.61. In the 200-meter dash Darnesha Sellers finished third with a time of 24.52, while Tatiana Simon finished seventh with a time of 24.94.

In the 400-meter dash Brandee Means finished sixth with a time of

57.60. The 400-meter relay team of Galbreath, Simon, Treneisha Foreman and Sellers finished fourth with a time of 47.68. Means, Galbreath, McDonald, and Sellers finished third in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 3:51:18.

On the men's side, Charles Loftis finished fifth in the high jump with a jump of 6'4", while Brian Smith finished eighth with a jump of 6'2".

Jamaal Moore finished 10th in the long jump with a jump of 21'9". James Hall finished eighth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21:62. Lamar Dewberry finished 10th in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10:78.

The team of Jamaal Moore, Junnell Wright, Dewberry, and Hall finished sixth in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 42:43.

In the 1,600-meter relay team of Hall, Nathan Williams, Jonathan Montgomery and Akeem Lavoll finished sixth with a time of 3:20:13.

The Lions' next outdoor meet will be at the Red River Athletic Conference Outdoor Championship in Austin, Texas on Saturday at Yellow Jacket Stadium.

New recruits, continued from pg. 1

"I'm coming out to show I'm ready and I can work hard to make a difference with the team," said Elliot Davis, an offensive lineman and a sophomore physical education major from Gloster, Miss.

Because the majority of the recruits are transfers, they may have to get used to the different coaching styles of their new coaches, as well as life in general at Langston.

"This is a new experience for me. I'm from Miami and my school's program was much different. Now that I'm away in a different environment, I have to adjust to Langston's football system," said Melvin Jackson, an offensive lineman and junior physical education major.

"My school in California was different. At Langston we are able to speak with our coaches about everything and I feel they relate to the players well," said Brandon Younger, a wide receiver and sophomore psychology major from Oakland, Calif.

The coaches also have high expectations for the players. They are required to keep a passing g.p.a to maintain an overall team g.p.a of

2.5, respect one another, and stay focused.

"I expect our football team to have a high graduating ratio and for it to be higher than 75 percent. Without the grades, you can't get out on the field," said Coach Johnson.

"The coaches support us and expect a lot from us. We have study hall four times a week for one hour and they check our class attendance," said Younger. "They feel that we should love both football and our education."

The recruits say they are ready to add their talents and skills to the team. Some of them were brought in to upgrade or add depth to different positions. There are 25 seniors leaving behind key positions that must be filled.

During spring football practice the coaches determine who will play each position and who will be starting.

"Practices give all of the coaches a chance to see who can do what and we get to better evaluate each player," said Coach Johnson. "We also want to know who can withstand the most pain between the of-

LaToya Shumate chosen as Miss Jabberwock 2005

BY KEVONO HUNT,
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Miss Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant, sponsored by the ladies of the Beta Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was held on April 13 in the I.W. Young Auditorium. This year's theme was Body and Soul.

Latoya Shumate, a 19-year-old health administration major from Tulsa, Okla., was crowned the 2005 Miss Jabberwock.

"I feel blessed and excited, and I'm ready to start working with the Deltas," said Shumate.

Six other contestants competed for the title of Miss Jabberwock 2005: Kayla Watson, a sophomore English major from Lawton, Okla; Latrise Horton, a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Stockton, Calif; Niondre Robinson, a freshman business administration major from Dallas; Tamika Kimbell, a sophomore accounting and mathematics major from Lawton, Okla; Rickki Lowe, a sophomore elementary education major from Dallas; and Amatula Khabir, a sophomore special education major from Omaha, Neb.

Each contestant had to show their skill and prowess in a private interview, an oral expression of their critical issue, a physical fitness competition, and evening wear.

"The interview to me was the most challenging part of the competition. It was not an easy feeling to be judged by someone," said Shumate.

Lowe was awarded 1st runner-up and the People's Choice Award. Khabir won both talent and the Miss Congeniality Award. Robinson was 2nd runner-up.

fensive and defensive line."

There are three quarterbacks who will be competing for the starting position in the fall. There are also three running back positions, eight wide receiver positions, eight defensive back positions, and six line back positions that the recruits can vie for.



photo by Kevono Hunt

Latoya Shumate, a 19-year-old health administration major from Tulsa, Okla., was crowned the 2005 Miss Jabberwock.

The contestants talents included singing old school joints by the Isley Brothers and The Fugees, a spiritual interpretive dance, a spoken word poem, and playing the piano. The contestants also added a skit to their oral expression to creatively get their critical issue across to the audience. Oral expression is a new category for Miss Jabberwock and each contestant added their own flavor to their platforms.

Watson's oral expression was about bulimia in which she wore a hospital robe and had an IV in her arm as she spoke about this silent

killer of many people. Horton's oral expression was about domestic violence. She had painted bruises on her arms and over one of her eyes as she performed a monologue of a woman who did not want to leave her abuser.

This year's pageant coordinator was Jessica Lowe, a former Miss Langston and senior broadcast journalism major from Dallas.

"Working with the girls during the pageant process was truly rewarding. To me, each one was qualified to be Miss Jabberwock," said Lowe.

them and you'll be proud to say you're a LU student," said Younger.

The coaches would like to encourage all students to come to the Lions' spring football game at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23.

Go Lions!

Coach Johnson said that all of the recruits have something to bring to the team, and each player is being prepared to have a prosperous season.

"Everyone should look forward to a good, quality football season. There will be teams on higher divisions than us but we're ready for

Scenes from the 2005 Miss Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant

photos by Kevono Hunt



Rickki Lowe performs an interpretive dance during the talent competition.



Niondre Robinson pretends to break the news to a woman whose son has juvenile diabetes during the oral expression competition.



Kala Watson shows off her excellent ballet skills in the talent competition.



Amatula Khabir explains to the audience how society's harsh standards of beauty has not kept her from feeling beautiful in the oral expression competition.



Latrise Horton performs a song by the Isley Brothers, "Living for the Love of You," during the talent competition.



Tamika Kimbell plays one of Beethoven's songs, the Moonlight Sonata, during the talent competition.

Kappa Delta Pi uses Disney characters to teach leadership

As if the Eta Sigma chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education did not tackle enough educational projects this academic year, it jumped at the chance to develop relationships with Emerson Alternative School in Oklahoma City and with the Oklahoma City Chapter of The Links, Inc., to talk to students about leadership. For their presentation they used the characters in "Winnie the Pooh."

The chapter said they chose to compare leadership skills to "Winnie the Pooh" characters because most students feel very close to these literary cartoon figures.

"We all grew up with Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore, and Rabbit so this was a great fit for us and for the students at Emerson," said Hall.

The students from Emerson Alternative School who participated were Enieda Ceballas, Shequila

Garcia, Felicite Howell, Brittany Jennings, Anisha Jones, Alma Juarez, Destiny Laster and Shanquillia Vann.

"The students smiled and laughed while they reminisced about the personalities and leadership styles of those four characters," said Flagg.

Carmelita Brazille, advisor to the students in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Program at Emerson Alternative School, stated, "I am elated that the members of Kappa Delta Pi came to speak with the young ladies at Emerson. This opportunity gave these girls personable and accessible positive role models with whom they could exchange ideas, goals and dreams. I would like to see this relationship grow."

After the session ended, the students at Emerson wrote reflections on their experiences. One student

wrote, "I think it's great that you guys can find time in your busy lives to make time for us, to make a difference in our lives. I'd like to let you know this will make a huge impact on me. Thanks."

Another student wrote, "Today was great! I love how you came and talked to us about college. It was fun finding out how I am and then acting out what I am."

"The Eta Sigma Chapter of Kappa Delta International Honor Society in Education is committed to service in the community and its members are elated to be part of the Oklahoma City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Services to Youth facet program," said Dr. Ruth Simmons Herts, faculty advisor to the Eta Sigma Chapter. "Service is a light that shines within each Kadelpian's heart and mind and hopefully will serve as a beacon to others."

Area PTAs to host talent show

The Coyle, Langston and Meridian PTA will have a talent show on Friday, April 22, in the Coyle School gymnasium at 7 p.m. The fee to attend the talent show is \$4 per adult and \$2 per child, K-12. Senior citizens are free.

Some of the acts include the first graders playing recorders, the Lakeview Church Group performing a dramatic song, third graders singing "Lean on Me," Joshua Stevenson and company demonstrating martial arts, the Weathers boys singing "If You Were a Farmer," Justin McBride on guitar

singing "His Picture," and second graders singing "Love Can Build a Bridge." The talent show emcee will be Debbie Longnecker, a Coyle teacher.

The talent show is a fundraiser for the PTA and money will be split with classes in regard to the number of tickets sold. The class selling the most tickets will receive a pizza party.

"We are looking forward to our second annual talent show," said Cami Downey, PTA president. "The students have some exciting acts and the parents and community al-

ways enjoy seeing the performances."

The talent show will have judges for the top talent acts. Acts will also be judged by People's Choice Awards and families and friends can vote for their top candidates with their dollars. Trophies will be given to the top three candidates in both categories.

Acts in the Coyle, Langston and Meridian communities are still encouraged to apply by contacting Cami Downey at 405-466-2242 (Coyle School) or Julie Weathers at weathersfarm@netzero.net or 466-2816.

You may purchase tickets by contacting Sharon Kinzie at 405-466-2242.

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News to Know

COMPILED BY JESSICA P. LOWE

Oklahoma City Marks A Decade Since Bombing Tragedy

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma—The Oklahoma City National Memorial was packed with thousands of people yesterday as they took 168 moments of silence in prayer for victims lost in the worst act of domestic terrorism 10 years ago. Vice president Dick Cheney said, "That spring morning 10 years is still deeply etched in our memories." The bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was convicted of federal conspiracy and murder charges, and executed on June 11, 2001.

First Votes Chooses No Pope

Vatican City—Black smoke arose from a chimney atop the Sistine Chapel on Monday, indicated a pope was not selected although the first vote was taken. The next pope will be chosen in a structured, traditional process. The cardinals (potential candidates) must remain at the Vatican and cannot communicate with anyone outside the area where the election is taking place.

Food Pyramid Changes to 12 Pyramids

Washington—The government is in favor of 12 different triangle-shaped food guides geared to people's various lifestyles and nutritional needs. Rainbow colored labels representing different food groups run vertically from the tip to the base, instead of sections that run horizontally like the old pyramid. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns refers to it as "a system of information to help consumers understand how to put nutrition recommendations into action."

Study Develops More Doubt on Painkillers

Anaheim, California—Smokers who frequently took popular pain killers cut their risk of developing oral cancer, but increased their chances of dying from heart-related problems. The findings support the suspicion that heart risk extends to the larger group of pain relievers like brands of ibuprofen and all other over-the-counter pain pills except acetaminophen or Tylenol.

Woman Starts Fire in Paris

Paris, France—A woman who started a deadly Paris hotel fire claims that she started the blaze by accident. The woman was taken into custody Monday and was identified as the girlfriend of one of the hotel's night watchmen. The death toll has climbed to 23 people.

Princeton Commemorates Einstein

Princeton, New Jersey—Physicists began flipping light switches and dialing phones in an attempt at a worldwide relay of lights to celebrate the World Year of Physics and the 50th anniversary of Albert Einstein's death. About 140 groups planned to illuminate everything from campus structures to private homes in a relay across the United States.

Shuttle May Go Without Final Safety Improvements

Washington—NASA administrator Michael Griffin said he might consider letting the space shuttle Discovery return to flight even if an independent panel has not finally approved some safety improvements. Griffin said NASA's managers will have the final say on whether the shuttle lifts off during its scheduled launch window from May 15 to June 3.

Working in Corporate America: Sink or Swim?

The term “corporate America” means different things to different people. To some individuals corporate America creates thoughts of multinational corporations housed in sky-high buildings with more employees than can be counted. Others define corporate America by the environment it often fosters: competitive, impersonal and mercenary. Yet to the large majority of African-Americans the term corporate America brings to mind these pictures and more. The truth is that when many of us envision “corporate America” we picture a work environment that’s dominated by White people. And we think of corporate America as a somewhat unwelcoming place—an atmosphere that has traditionally been harder for us to enter than Whites, and also harder for us to succeed in.

Nevertheless, as a larger number of companies have begun to embrace diversity, more

African-Americans have gravitated to-

wards working in a corporate environment. Working for big businesses can provide more money, more prestige, and more opportunities to have a greater effect in one’s chosen industry than working for smaller and less recognized companies. However, despite the positives, there are still aspects of working in corporate America that people of color may find disheartening. The following are issues African-Americans tend to have while working in a corporate environment.

Issue 1: It’s a Lonely Place For African-Americans: If you have ever attended a predominantly White college you’ll have more of an idea of what working in corporate America feels like than those who attended HBCUs. Just like you’ll always find more White than Black people at most public and private colleges, so will you in corporate America. You may feel very uncomfortable when you walk into a room of a dozen or more people and realize you’re the only Black person there. And when you finally realize that there’s not a single solitary Black face in the entire building besides yours, you may start

to feel very lonely and out of place.

Issue 2: African-Americans Receive Little Recognition: The thought that African-Americans have to work twice as hard as their White counterparts to be recognized and rewarded for their hard work is considered true in most working environments, but it is considered a fact of life for many African-Americans working in corporate America. Some African-Americans also feel that despite their education, having earned a position in the company and doing well there, they still have to continually prove that they belong in corporate America. Unlike their White counterparts, whose work is allowed to speak for itself, African-Americans may find that their intellect and ability to perform is always under question, as if affirmative action or a bad hiring decision is what landed them the job. Beyond this, African-Americans may

As an African-American you can’t afford to be oblivious to the fact that corporate America’s environment basically works against you, not for you.

find that they are slower to get promoted than their White counterparts, slower to get raises, and slower to get work or projects that actually utilize their skills and abilities.

Issue 3: It Doesn’t Embrace Cultural Differences: Because corporate America is largely controlled by White males they define what is acceptable regarding everything from speech, to dress, to hair styles. Some can appreciate cultural expression, but others feel that if they don’t speak it, if they don’t wear it, and if they can’t comb it that way then you shouldn’t either.

Issue 4: It’s Too Competitive: Everyone is trying to climb the corporate ladder at the same time, and some people will pull you down to beat you to the top. This can create excess stress among employees who feel like they always have to be ahead of the next person. It’s difficult to have camaraderie among employees in an environment that’s so divisive. Beyond this, some companies may pit Blacks against other Blacks as they vie for positions earmarked (openly or discreetly) to minorities.

Issue 5: It’s Grueling: Don’t ex-

pect to work 9-5 everyday in corporate America; you’ll be lucky if you don’t take work home in a corporate environment. Projects come first, not drinks after work, exercise or beauty rest. The long hours can interfere with people’s family and social life.

Issue 6: It’s Unstable: Because corporate America is so money driven directors always do what they must to cut costs or make a profit. This can equate to thousands of layoffs at a time among large corporations. It is difficult to work well and enjoy your work when everyone knows you may not have a job unless so much money is earned in a certain quarter or your company is about to be bought—again.

As an African-American you can’t afford to be oblivious to the fact that corporate America’s environment basically works against you, not for you. This doesn’t mean you can’t climb the corporate lad-

der, shatter the glass ceilings you may face, and do as well or better than your White counterparts. You *can* do this and more. You’re just going to have to be prepared for anything as you work your way up.

Swimming in the

Corporate Environment

1. Have a Plan: If your goal is to climb the corporate ladder at the company you’re working for then you’ll need to know how to climb it. It may not be a typical straight ladder—parts of it might be broken off and it may zig-zag. So have a plan before you start climbing. You’ll first need to know what rung on the ladder you’re starting from and how many steps you need to climb to get to where you want to be. Find out what the people in the positions you desire did to get to where they are. Where did they start on the ladder? How many years did it take them to get the position they have? How many times did they get promoted? What was special about them? What advice can they give you? Knowing these things will help you map out a plan to get you to the rung on the ladder you desire.

2. Adapt To a Predominantly White Environment: However you

go about doing it, you need to get comfortable and be able to act comfortable around your non-

Black co-workers. Because they control the environment you also have to ensure that they feel comfortable around you if you want to succeed. For the most part, this can be done by being the professional you should be. However, making White people more comfortable with you *may* take any number of actions, which might include not talking about “Black issues” on the job to not wearing your hair in natural styles. This is not to say that you *have to* or *should* change anything about yourself. Whether you choose to conform if need be on the job is a personal choice.

3. Gather Support: Feelings of alienation on the job can lead to a lot of stress and possibly make you perform poorly. And no one wants to spend eight hours of their day feeling vulnerable and lonesome. But chances are that your situation isn’t half as bad as you think. Feelings of alienation are strengthened when you assume that your non-Black co-workers and employers will be less friendly and supportive of you because of your ethnicity. Most intelligent people realize that you don’t have to share someone’s skin color to work well with them and develop friendships. However, when working in a predominantly White environment you may have to be the one that reaches out to your co-workers for support, and that’s okay. If you don’t find enough support on the job then you’ll have to get it after hours. Build up a support group of other professionals, family and friends that reinforce your sense of adequacy and make you feel more secure about your position at work.

4. Get a Career Mentor. Having a career mentor, or someone that is dedicated to helping you in your career, is critical to your success. Though you can have a mentor outside your company, if you work in a corporate environment

Now What?
advice for the graduating senior

By Chaz Foster-Kyser
journalism instructor

you definitely need someone who works with you. Seek out someone with influence that appears sincere and amiable when talking to you. They can serve as a mentor in an unofficial capacity or you can actually ask them to be your mentor.

5. Be Better Than The Best: Just “doing your job” in an atmosphere filled with competitive people isn’t going to get you one ring up the corporate ladder. You have to show your employer that you can do more than hang with the big boys—they shouldn’t have anything on you. You need to make yourself the employee that other employees come to for help, and if possible, who your manager comes to for advice sometimes. If you’re better than the best then when the time comes for a promotion there shouldn’t be one reason why your employer doesn’t consider you first.

6. Speak Up For Yourself: Speak up if you find you’re being treated differently than your White co-workers. Speak up if you feel excluded; speak up if you feel other people’s biases are affecting you. Don’t let anyone get the impression that you can be ignored, taken for granted, and not considered as a valuable employee that deserves the same opportunities as everyone else.

7. Develop a Tough Skin: Working in corporate America may send you home crying some days if you don’t develop a tough skin soon after you enter it. The environment isn’t fit for people who can’t stand pressure in many forms—Black or White. You’ll need to be a hardier more flexible you when you walk into work everyday. And you have to adopt the attitude that you’re going to excel in the corporate environment, come what may.

Chaz Kyser is a journalism instructor and newspaper advisor at Langston University. The articles that appear in the “Now What?” column are taken from a book she has written, “Embracing the Real World: A Black Woman’s Guide to Life After College.” Send comments about the article to cjkyser@lunet.edu.

LU Calendar

Ongoing Events

The student loan information sheet and deadline will be May 9th. Find out if you eligible for student loans; inquire prior to leaving the university before the spring semester 2005. Don't default the office of Financial Aid! For more info visit Page Hall, Rm. 311 or call 405-466-3282.

Immediate Events

April 20, 21 & 22

The Gazette will be selling graduation ads in the union from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wed. and Thurs., and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside the union on Friday. Send a shout out to your favorite senior in the Gazette's graduation edition newspaper for as little as \$1. For more info call 405-466-3245.

A Cheerleader Clinic will be held on April 20 through 23 multipurpose building at 6 p.m. Pick up applications in Rm. 204w Sanford Hall. Bring a copy of a high school or college transcript. There will be a try-out fee of \$5.00. Actual try-outs will be Monday, April 25 at 6 p.m. in the multipurpose building. To watch will cost a \$1 at the door.

Thursday, April 21

The School of Arts and Science's 6th Annual Symposium will be on Thurs., April 21 at 8 a.m. in Hamilton Hall on the 2nd floor.

The Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma will host their 9th Annual Sexiest Lady Contest at 6:14 p.m. on Thurs., April 21. An after party will be held in the gym.

Friday, April 22

A talent show hosted by the Coyle, Langston, and Meridian PTAs will be held on Fri., April 22 in the Coyle School Gymnasium at 7 p.m. The fee to attend the talent show will be \$4 per adult; senior citizens are free.

The Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma will face off against other Greeks in the 2005 Greek Basketball Tournament in the gym at 7:14 p.m. on Friday, April 22.

A music fiesta with different genres of music, including reggae, R&B, African music, Caribbean music will be held on Friday, April 22 from 9:01 p.m. to 12 a.m. midnight in the gym to celebrate Langston's diversity. The

Lion of the Week

Phylisha T. Frazier-Gassaway

BY MICKI BIDDLE

"In the Shadow of the Son," a novel written by Phylisha T. Frazier-Gassaway, is a story of a little girl who grew up believing that she would always live in the shadows. For over 20 years, Gassaway, an English instructor at Langston University, has been pursuing her dream of being a published author, yet the shadows of fear and nervousness kept her from submitting any of her works.

After the recent death of her infant daughter, Asia, somehow Gassaway found the courage to submit the first three chapters to a publishing company.

"I knew that I was called into the literary ministry, but I didn't want to move until the time was right," said Gassaway. "When our daughter died, I really felt that as a tribute to her I would use my life to help others."

Within two weeks of sending her submission, she received a congratulatory letter and before the month's end, she was looking at a contract—and a deadline!

The deadline spurned a hectic daily schedule. She went to work, cared for her husband and two sons, and then wrote until five o'clock the next morning. She completed her book in two weeks. Although the book is only 68 pages long, it still carries a weighty message.

"It's a quick read, but it's deep," Gassaway said. "Initially, I thought that the subject was going to be a hard sell, but the more that I get responses from my readers, I am finding that neglect and abuse of this nature has no racial, gender, or time barriers. It is still a major factor today."

Writing and publishing a book for the first time can be a challenging learning experience.

"I have learned that although there is a circle of life and history often repeats itself, one person can make the difference that may ultimately have the power to change the world with just one written word," she said.

Gassaway can be found in the writing lab at Jones Hall on campus. Always willing to help, she is loved by students and faculty alike. Sporting bright, tropical colors and usually a flower in her hair, Gassaway says she is preparing herself for a life on an island somewhere.

"I will be at St. Lucia one day!" laughs Gassaway. "I'm an island girl at heart—I have to be near the beach."

Gassaway will host a book signing in the Sanford Hall lobby on April 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where she will have the book available for purchase. Her book can also be purchased at Barnes and Noble, and through www.PublishAmerica.com, Borders.com, Amazon.com, and Gassaway's own website, www.ptgassaway.com, where the preface and first chapter of the book can be viewed.



event is organized by LUSIA, The International Student's Assoc. The cost is \$2 with ID and \$3 without ID.

The Alphas at OSU will have a Phreezenic Party at Stillwater Parks and Recreation, 913 E. 9th St. and Perkins. The party starts at 10:06 p.m. and is \$5 before midnight. Ladies get in for \$1 per article of clothing. For more info call Cory at 405-203-4647.

Saturday, April 23

The Miss Black Langston Pageant will be held on Sat., April 23 on the I.W. Young Auditorium at 7 p.m.

A Temple of Boom Car and Audio Show, sponsored by the the Beta Epsilon chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, will be held in the Sanford and Jones Hall parking lot at 12:14 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. A party will be held later that night at 9:14 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

A Speech Competition for students currently enrolled in Introduction to Speech will be hosted by the Department of Communication in Rm. 123 east in Sanford Hall. The qualifying rounds will be held on Wed., April 27 at 2 p.m. Finalists will then be selected for the competition round which will be on Mon., May 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. Cash prize will be awarded. For more info consult your speech teacher if enrolled in the class.

Thursday, April 28

The Langston University Scholar's Club presents the 6th Annual Evening of Elegance Ball on Thurs., April 28 at 9 p.m. to midnight in the multipurpose building. Tickets are \$3 for one person, \$5 for a couple. Tickets will be on sale starting April 25 in the union. You may also purchase tickets in the University Women Building, Rm 109. Attire for this event is semi-formal.

Friday, April 29

Concert choir auditions will be held on April 29 and May 6 from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Sign up in the choir room in the Hargrove Music Hall. Come prepared to sing one song of any style.

The International Day Celebration, sponsored by the The International Student's Assoc. will be held on April 29 from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Scholar's Clubhouse. Over 30 dishes from around the world will be given out and different musical genres will be played. Cost is \$5 for students.

EVENTS COMPILED BY BRIDGETTE JONES

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENT INFO TO LUCALENDAR@YAHOO.COM
ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF EVENT