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Langston University

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the Gazette

STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY



VOL. 76, NO. 7

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

Upcoming Dates & Events

Mr. Langston
Pageant
7 p.m., Sunday,
Feb. 9,
I.W. Young
Auditorium

Real Talk
6 p.m., Tuesday,
Feb. 11,
Atrium

Miss Black
Langston Pageant
7 p.m., Saturday,
Feb. 22,
I.W. Young
Auditorium

Also Inside

Voices . . . p 2

News . . . p 3-6

LU News . . p 7

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Pettaway wins Miss Langston crown



Photo by Jonathan McGill

BreYona Pettaway wins the 2014 title of Miss Langston University. Pettaway won the crown Feb. 1, at the pageant in the I.W. Young Auditorium, where she competed against three other ladies. Pettaway stepped into the honorable title following Jasmine Redo, the 2013 Miss LU. See story on page 5.

LU students land acting roles for movies on the big screen

By Jarron Thompson
Contributing Writer

The tasks for students in college can be overwhelming for some.

Two students at Langston University, however, have found a way to complete their requirements and chase their dreams at the same time.

Duane Brooks and Mauricio Griffin are students at LU, but they also are actors who will be appearing in "America," a new motion picture co-produced by Gray Fredrickson, who also helped produce "The Godfather." "America" is a documentary focusing on the early years in the United States

when slavery was a normal way of life for many.

Fredrickson has worked with many famous actors, writers, directors and producers.

Brooks and Griffin said that they are thrilled to have had the chance to work with him.

Griffin, senior business major, has been acting for

more than six years. He said he is thankful for the opportunity he was given by John Sullivan, the film's director.

"I'm very grateful to Mr. Sullivan, and I'm glad that he took a chance on an unknown actor," Griffin said.

see **ACTORS**, page 4

The Gazette

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

Adviser/Manager
Nicole Turner

Photographer
Jonathan McGill

Staff Writers
DeNeeka Hill
Jarrod Mitchell
Khalif Sanders
James Scott
Lauren Smith
Nehemiah Taylor

Contributing Writers
Charles Granger
Trevon McNabb
Jarron Thompson

The *Gazette* Office
Langston University
Hwy. 33
Sanford Hall, Room 318
Ph. 405-466-3245
Send story ideas,
comments and
calendar events to
nktturner@langston.edu.

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Faculty, Staff and Students!

Want to express YOUR opinion?



Submit guest columns and opinions to this publication at nktturner@langston.edu

Question of the Week

Do you prefer the paper plates and plastic utensils in the cafeteria, or do you miss the original dishes and silverware?



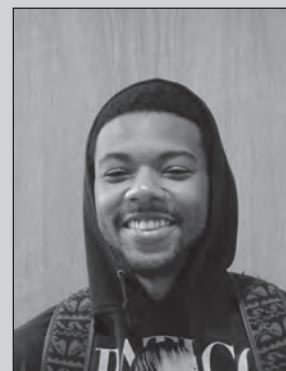
"The plastic stuff because... it's safer and hygienic wise, plastic (is better)."

Kiyah Washington,
freshman nursing major



"I like everything disposable because if it's disposable, it's as clean as possible."

Devin Wilson,
senior English major



"I prefer plastics because I don't think they are sanitary in there."

Josh Howard,
junior psychology major



"I prefer plastics because those are utensils that we can throw away. I don't feel like we should use real silverware because that's thousands of people's germs, and they are using it over and over again."

Billy Holloway,
senior sociology major

Compiled By
DeNeeka Hill

Langston student wins first place at 2014 Kansas INBRE Symposium

By Lauren Smith
Staff Writer

The Kansas IDeA Network of Biochemical Research Excellence sent a call for students to submit research abstracts for presentation at the January symposium, according to a report from the School of Arts & Sciences.

Based on information from the Kansas INBRE, or K-INBRE, website, the purpose K-INBRE is to strengthen the ability of Kansas researchers to compete effectively for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds by building a "critical mass" of junior and senior investigators, as well as undergraduates, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows supported with cutting-edge technology within a scientific research theme.

About 140 abstracts were submitted from various universities such as the University of Kansas, Haskell Indian Nations University, Wichita State University and Langston University.

Dr. K.J. Abraham, associate professor of biology and the LU K-INBRE coordina-

tor, submitted the names of Lindsey Davis, Cari Quick, Eugene DeLoach, Kellyn Pollard, Allen Micheal Eastham, Deborah Bowman, and Amber German to participate in the poster presentation.

On Dec. 13, 2013, Pollard, senior biology major, was notified that she was selected as one of eight students to give an oral presentation at the 2014 K-INBRE Symposium.

Pollard gave her oral presentation titled, "Beta 2 Glycoprotein I-Derived Peptides Alter Angiogenesis in Melanoma Tumors."

Based on research she previously did with her mentor, Assistant Professor Sherry Fleming at Kansas State University, during her summer internship program, Pollard built a presentation that led her to be the first LU student to ever win the K-INBRE Symposium.

"As a researcher, this award has really motivated me to continue my goal of becoming an Md. Ph.D," Pollard said.

After a long day of oral presentations, Pollard was



Courtesy Photo

Kellyn Pollard (middle), LU student, wins first place at the 2014 Kansas IDeA Network of Biochemical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) Symposium for her oral presentation titled, "Beta 2 Glycoprotein I-Derived Peptides Alter Angiogenesis in Melanoma Tumors." Pollard is the first LU student to ever win first place in the competition.

announced as the third place winner of the 2014 K-INBRE Symposium.

However, there was a mistake in the award ceremony announcements, and Pollard

ultimately walked away as the actual first place winner.

"I must compliment Dr. Abraham for the time spent with Ms. Pollard and to all the faculty members in the

biology and chemistry departments for working with all of the students," Dr. Clarence Hedge, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said, in a report.

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle Celebrating Black History Month at the Oklahoma History Center

Special from OHC

In celebration of Black History Month, the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) will offer a series of free events this February.

The celebration kicks off with the unveiling of a new exhibit, "Realizing the Dream," that documents the civil rights struggle and African-American culture in Oklahoma.

Events include a gallery tour, panel discussion, historical interpretations and a screening of the Emmy-nominated documentary "The

Loving Story," a film about an interracial couple convicted of a felony under anti-miscegenation laws.

The film screening and select events are made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The initiative, "Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle," utilizes the power of documentary films to encourage community discussions of America's civil rights history.

"Oklahoma has a long history with the struggle for freedom, from slavery in Indian Territory to the sit-ins at the Katz Drug Store lunch counters," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, director of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

"These films can help us understand how Oklahomans contributed to and were affected by these stories," Blackburn said.

The screening of "The Loving Story" is from 7-9 p.m., Feb. 6. Other events include a guided tour and discussion of the new museum exhibit, "Realizing the Dream," at

10:30 a.m., Feb. 15, and "Arguing for Equality: A Panel Discussion on Oklahoma, the Supreme Court and Civil Rights," from 7-9 p.m., Feb. 20.

The last event in the series, "Sojourner Truth, Live!," features a historical interpreter portraying Sojourner Truth.

Born a slave, Truth was a preacher, suffragist, abolitionist and more. With an emphasis on her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman," the program is at 7 p.m., Feb. 27, and at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 28.

All the events are free and open to the public, but reg-

istration is required for "Sojourner Truth, Live!" and the gallery tour. To register, call 405-522-3602.

The Oklahoma History Center is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, with a mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the complete history of Oklahoma for everyone.

The OHC adheres to the highest standards of collections care, presents diverse in-house and traveling exhibits, and provides multidisciplinary educational programs.

President Smith serves as keynote speaker at Oklahoma State's annual MLK program

By Charles Granger
Staff Writer

The Oklahoma State University African-American Student Association hosted the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. program that featured Langston University President Dr. Kent Smith Jr.

Smith, as the keynote speaker at the event, focused on King's dream of educational empowerment.

He said that although King supported civil rights and equality, he also was a huge advocate for education.

"Education, for me, played the biggest role out of all of it," Smith said.

Smith said we lost the message from King that education for young people is extremely crucial.

"What a travesty that so many young people in

America's colleges and universities are choosing not to major in education because they don't see a bright future, economically, for themselves," Smith said.

Smith then shared his favorite quote from King.

"Dr. King once said, 'Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity,'" Smith said.

Smith also shared what he believed King was trying to say toward the end of his life.

"From an educational standpoint, most of us fail to challenge the status quo," Smith said.

Smith said that if students accept the challenge and face this "status quo," they have the power to make a difference in this world.

"I'm encouraging you today to think of your education a little bit differently,"

Smith said.

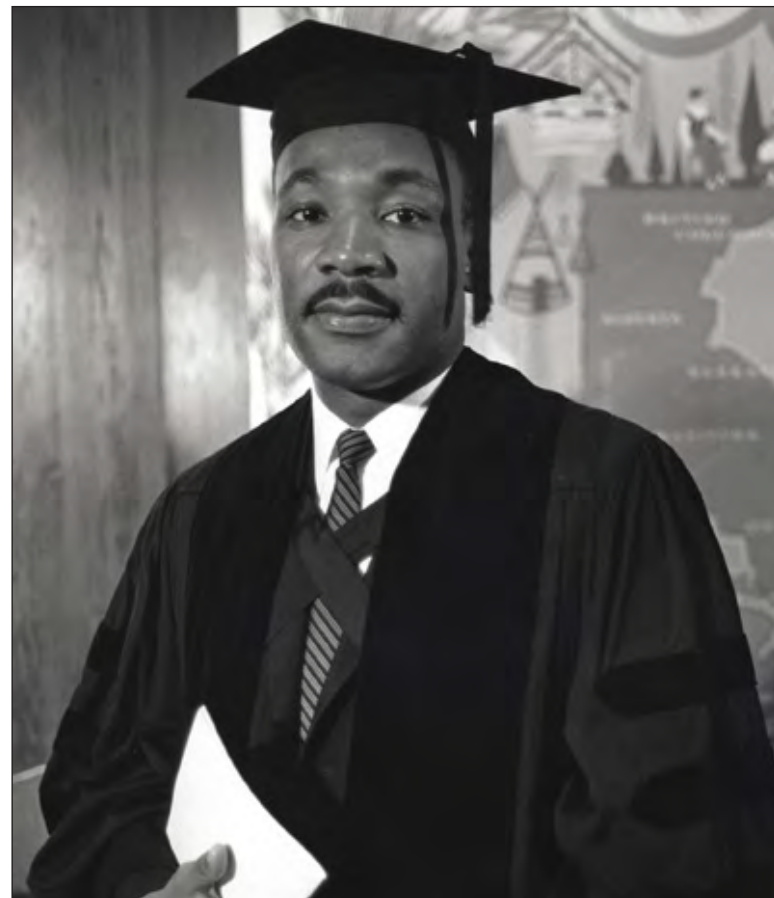
"Education is not something that you should merely be receiving... It is something that you should be participating in; it is something that you should be giving back to because it never ends," Smith said.

Following Smith's speech, Cheyenne Taylor sang "Up to the Mountain," and Pastor Reed James addressed King's call to activism.

To conclude the event, King's historical "I Have a Dream" speech was played on a screen for the audience to watch.

"I feel that the program went well, as it showed Martin Luther King in a different light...," said Pastor Calvin Miller.

"It showed him more as an educated African American and how important education is in this world," Miller said.



King

ACTORS

_____ from page 1

Griffin said the first scene in which he appeared was his most difficult in all of his experience in acting.

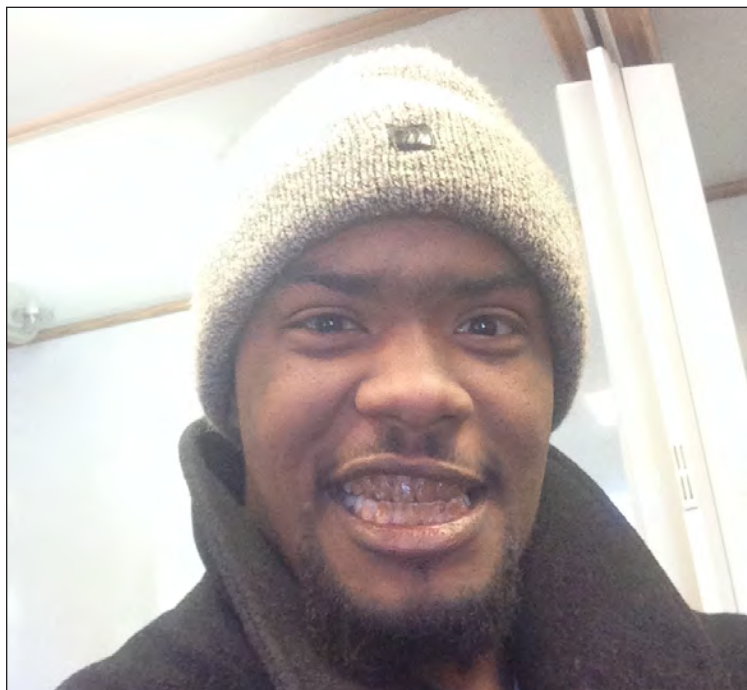
"I played a slave, and I had to plow a field in 20-degree weather," Griffin said.

Though it was "extremely difficult," Griffin said, he is really committed to his craft.

Griffin, along with other students at LU, will perform in "Home," a science-fiction thriller by recent LU graduate Julian D. Jackson.

"Home" will be submitted into the Dead Center Film Festival in Oklahoma City on June 11.

Brooks, a junior criminal justice major, is no stranger to the camera.



"America" is the third film of which he has played a role.

He was also cast in "Rudderless," which opened in theaters Jan. 24, and starred veteran actor Laurence Fishburne and well-known actress Selena Gomez.

Like Griffin, Brooks played a slave in "Amer-

ica." He said the documentary will give people an "inside look on early slavery."

Brooks also said that he plans to continue juggling college life and performing on-screen.

"It's not very hard for me because it's something that I love doing," Brooks said.



Courtesy Photos

Far Left:

While playing the role of a slave in the documentary "America," Mauricio Griffin's teeth are fixed to look like how a slave's actual teeth might have looked.

Middle:

Mauricio Griffin dresses as a slave in the documentary "America."

Right:

Duane Brooks plays a slave in a recent documentary, "America."

Four ladies vie for Miss Langston title

By DeNeeka Hill
Staff Writer

Four young women competed in the 68th Miss Langston University Pageant on Feb. 1, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

The pageant started with the four contestants performing and opening number dance that led into their introductions.

The contestants were Beatrice Harrod, Ashley Wright, BreYona Pettaway and Dhi-ana Brame.

The ladies were judged in several different categories; an interview that was conducted before the pageant, on-stage question, lifestyle and fitness, talent and eveningwear.

"The contestants really made the pageant for me," said D'Andrael Ware, a sophomore biology education major.

Throughout the entire event, friends and family screamed

and yelled for their favorite contestant.

"I applaud each of the contestants for the time and effort spent preparing for tonight's pageant," said Dr. Kent Smith Jr.

"I also thank their families who supported them during this competition and continue to do so throughout their education at LU," Smith said.

After the four ladies made their final solo appearances on stage their eveningwear, it was time for the big announcement.

Second runner-up was given to Wright, and Brame received first runner-up. The winner and 68th Miss LU crown was given to the youngest girl on the stage, Pettaway.

The night ended in the Great Room of the Student Success Center, where Pettaway gave her thank-you speech.

"As I still attempt to process the events of last night, I just thank God for allowing it to



Photo by Jonathan McGill

Four ladies compete in the 2014 Miss Langston University Pageant. The contestants were (from left) Beatrice Harrod, Ashley Wright, 2014 Miss Langston BreYona Pettaway and First Runner-Up Dhiana Brame.

happen," Pettaway said, shortly after claiming her crown. "I

am truly blessed and tremendously honored to be able to

represent and serve my university."

What's going on, Langston University? Have you ever wanted someone to relate to? Someone who tells it like it is? A person who understands the struggles that you face at LU every day? Well, I'm 'The Guy With The Blue Tie,' and I'm here to be YOUR voice and tell it like it is.

I'm the guy in your class that you never notice, but I'm always there. I wait in line in the café behind you. I'm your typical student going to all the events, trying to stay active, while keeping my opinions inside.

I can relate to any and every one, and that's exactly what I want to do. I can be

the voice in your head, the question everyone is thinking but doesn't say, the voice of reason.

They say there are three sides to every story: his side, her side, and the truth! So think of me as truth.

Nice to meet you. This semester I will be using the *Gazette* as an outlet to talk about topics involving everything from the world to the campus, including campus events, university issues and anything you can imagine.

If there is a problem, you can guarantee I will have something to say! Who knows, one day I might even tell LU who I am. But until then, make sure you look out for 'The Guy With The Blue Tie.'

Hello there, Langston University! Have you ever wanted someone to relate to? Someone who tells it like it is? A person who understands the struggles you face at LU every day?

Well, that's what and who I am—I'm 'The Girl With The Orange Scarf.' I'm that cute

girl you walk by every day in front of Sanford, the girl you let cut in line at WOW, the girl who is cute enough to be in any pageant, and powerful enough to be an SGA President.

I've been to parties and I've seen the outfits, but I stay to myself. Yes, I can dance, but no, I didn't try

out for anything. That's not my style.

Like this article, I make my moves effortlessly like my words. I'm your best friend whom you can tell your problems to, and I'm loyal to my real love, which is graduation. I'm the 'Girl With The Orange Scarf,' and it's a pleasure to meet you!



Two senior business majors receive more than \$12,000 in scholarships

By Nehemiah Taylor
Staff Writer

Senior business majors Takeisa Sims and Shamika Taylor were top applicants for the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program scholarship (DDEFTP) in which they were both awarded a combination of more than \$12,000.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's website (fhwa.dot.gov), DDEFTP was established to improve the transportation workforce by attracting college students through research and education.

The DDEFTP scholarship program is open to all students. To qualify, students must submit a research project on how their discipline will improve transportation in their state.

This is Sims' second year being a winner of the DDEFTP scholarship.

"In 2012, I was awarded \$10,000 in which I was the No. 1 applicant," Sims said, "and in the following year of 2013, I applied, and I was again chosen as a No. 1 applicant for \$10,000."

In 2012, Sims was granted the opportunity to present her research in Washington, D.C., and received the award for the best poster presentation.

"I wasn't expecting that, but I just gave my all and, being a Langston University student I knew I had to represent my university in everything, just as I do everyday!" Sims said.

This year, Sims' awarded research was personal. Her mother worked on the freight field for 15 years and was exposed to the hazardous materials contained in the bins.

"I was really concerned with the safety, and, not only the safety but, what would be the best and efficient way for companies

to transport materials with the least amount of space and at the fastest time," Sims said.

This was Taylor's first time applying for and receiving the DDEFTP scholarship, which was more than \$2,500.

"I was excited when I got the good news, mainly because I felt like my essay wasn't thorough enough, but once I got the email, I was excited," Taylor said. "To work as hard as you can, even if it's not what you feel is your best, and they award you is always a good feeling," she said.

Taylor was awarded for her research on Boeing jets, in which she researched the mechanical errors that caused multiple Boeing jets to combust once they took flight.

"I researched the mechanical errors that caused the problem and proposing the solution to fix it," Taylor said.

Prior to applying for the DDEFTP, Sims and Taylor traveled to Washington, D.C., for the annual DDEFTP Convention. While there, they went to seminars where they learned how to promptly propose solutions for issues in the business setting.

They were also given the opportunity to network with business professionals.

"This was the biggest convention in its nature, and it opened up a network to a lot of significant people, especially in D.C.; they have so many contacts there," Taylor said.

Both business majors, Sims and Taylor aspire for careers outside of the mainstream "business" world.

"My dream is to be a corporate lawyer and to own my own PR firm," Taylor said.

She said that she also has a love for fashion and has done some styling on the side. She would like to be-

come a retail buyer, along with her other careers.

"I just don't want a career; I want multiple," she said.

Taylor recently applied for law school and is waiting on admission.

Sims recently applied to get her master's degree in social work and wants to open orphanages to assist

foster children.

"I am a foster child, and I grew up in foster care... I want to open up orphanages across the country to help children find their 'forever families,'" Sims said.

The DDEFTP is open to all college students.

"My adviser, Ms. Yolanda

Boyles, always tells me you have to take every opportunity that comes your way, even if you don't want to do it... the most important thing I learned is that you have to get these scholarships, and I encourage anybody to go out and apply for this scholarship," Sims said.

Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters president visits Langston broadcast journalism students



Top:

Vance Harrison, president of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, visits students in the communication department. Harrison spoke to the students as part of a Guest Lecture Series that Kim Flannigan, instructor of communication and KALU director, devised for the students, which will help them prepare for a journalism career. Other speakers for the semester include Terry Monday, 103.5 FM production manager, and Daniell Skinner, a lead news anchor in Mississippi.

Bottom:

President of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Vance Harrison (standing), speaks to broadcast journalism students about the do's and don'ts of the broadcasting field.



Photos by Nicole Turner

Sodexo works to beautify campus

By James Scott
Staff Writer

"One of the best things about coming back for the fall semester is driving up the Oklahoma plains and looking at the lush, green grass and trees as I drive back to campus," said Kishon Cain, a junior computer science major. "That's when I know I'm back home at Langston."

Sodexo, with the help and vision of Dr. Kent Smith Jr., has been able to satisfy high standards by developing a successful deployment strategy in the grounds, custodial and maintenance departments. This will ensure the beautification of the campus in a new way.

According to a document issued by Sodexo management, Sodexo has been in contract with LU for the past three years, and the relationship with LU has been one of working together to bring out the best in all LU facili-

ties.

According to the Sodexo document, Sodexo has made a three-point plan to emphasize the look and feel of the campus for students to enjoy their experience here.

According to the Sodexo document, first, was to focus on the overall curb appeal of the campus, and to refine the operations of the grounds department.

Eric Daniels, director of Sodexo facilities, said that an example of this is the main campus yard, where current and potential students have a positive reaction when they first arrive on campus.

The Sodexo report also stated that the grounds department has covered all dead spots with turf to allow the campus to look more lush and green in the spring and summer.

Daniels said that in front of Moore Hall, Sodexo employees have cut down distressed trees on the north entrance in plans to plant

new trees and flower beds to bring out the already signature building standing in the center of the campus.

Daniels said the student experience is a key element in maintaining a nice campus.

The custodial department was organized to ensure quick response to special events so that recovery was nearly instant, and that routine custodial services were performed constantly without notice.

"I have to make sure this environment is safe, clean and conducive to our students, faculty and staff when they come to work without having any worries," Daniels said.

Sodexo and the physical plant have even helped keep students enrolled by allowing student workers to work and pay off their financial bills, Daniels said.

Daniels said he can see LU and Sodexo working hand-in-hand for many years.

Activist visits Langston



Photo by Jonathan McGill

Dr. Lamont Hill speaks to Langston University students in the I.W. Young Auditorium. He visited LU on Jan. 30. Hill is an activist, social critic and African-American leader whose commentary has been featured on NPR, in *The Washington Post*, *Essence*, *The New York Times* and regularly on Fox News.

Intramural sports, fitness classes begin on campus

By Jarrod Mitchell
Staff Writer

Student Affairs officials are encouraging students to get involved with intramural sports on campus this spring.

Kavaris Sims, a graduate assistant for the Division of Student Affairs, said the importance of Langston University unity and fitness is crucial and everyone is welcomed to participate.

According to the LU website, extracurricular activities such as intramural sports are planned and fostered at LU because of the significant contribution these activities make to the education of the student.

"Students, staff, everyone is invited to come out Feb.

3," Sims said, "fitness training begins, and the following week, we have our captains' meeting. We're in the process of doing registration now."

Getting active with sports on campus enhances students' college experience and teaches life lessons.

The intramural sports include dodgeball, volleyball 3-on-3 basketball, 5-on-5 basketball and flag football.

"Last year, we had some awesome games," said freshman student George Edwards, who participates in the intramural sports program at LU.

"A lot of students came out," Edwards said. "It was really competitive."

The games will begin the second week of February.

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE PRESENTS

Fitness Recreation

YOGA AND BOOT CAMP

YOGA: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY | TIME: 3:00PM - 4:00PM | LOCATION: ATRIUM
 BOOT CAMP: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY | TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 | LOCATION: MULTIPURPOSE/STADIUM
 STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014 AND ENDS WEDNESDAY APRIL 30, 2014

LU

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Basketball team fights hard in conference play

By Khalif Sanders
Staff Writer

The Langston University men's basketball team ended the month of January with a 63-50 win over Paul Quinn University, giving them a 4-5 record in conference.

With the regular season coming to an end, The Lions look to finish the season strong, starting with Texas College on Feb. 7.

The Lions have 11 regular season games left and have plans of contending for a championship.

Joseph Atkinson, senior business management major, said a championship isn't out of reach yet, but if they want it, they have a lot of work to do.

"We have had a lot of chemistry problems with the different players coming and going during the season and the different line-ups we've had on the floor, but right now, the will to win is there, and we are focused on winning games," Atkinson said.

Atkinson had his first 20-point game of the season against Bacone University.

The Lions have been working hard to keep the energy up during conference play.

"We want to keep a fast pace for all 40 minutes of every game from here on out," said Trevon McNabb, basketball manager and sophomore broadcast journalism major.

"We've been working more on pressure defense and pushing the ball more in transition. If we can stick together, we can beat anybody in conference," McNabb said.

Conference play ends March 1.

Students trek through snow for class



Photo by Nicole Turner

Students make their way to class in the morning, despite the first big snow fall of the winter. Several inches of snow covered campus grounds Feb. 4.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Alex Cabrera



Sport: Basketball

Position: Small Forward

Hometown: Roselle, N.J.

Classification: Freshman

Major: Criminal Justice

Favorite Class: Introduction to Law

Hobby: Reading

Instagram: @kidnamed_AL

Twitter: @BlakegriffinJr

Compiled By
Trevon McNabb

This is the first issue of the *Gazette* for the spring 2014 semester.

We will continue publication every other Wednesday for the remainder of the semester.

To subscribe to the *Gazette* mailing list:
Email the adviser at nkturner@langston.edu