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Langston University

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Upcoming Dates & Events

Boot Camp
Training
5:30 p.m.,
Thursday,
April 2
Multipurpose
Gym/Stadium

L.U.C.K. Basketball
Tournament
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday,
April 5-6
C.F. Gayles
Gymnasium/
Multipurpose Gym

Donuts & Dialogue
9-10 a.m.,
Wednesday,
April 9
C.F. Gayles Atrium

High-school students visit Langston campus



Photo by Jonathan McGill

A group of high-school students is excited to tour Langston University. Several high schools from the Oklahoma City area and Tulsa visited LU for the annual spring High-School Day on March 28.

By **Ándria Morgan**
Contributing Writer

Langston University's annual High-School Day was March 28 on the university's main campus.

High-school students from across the state of Oklahoma were invited to "our house on a hill" to find the lion in them.

The Langston University Ambassador's program hosted High-School Day this year.

The Langston Univer-

sity Marching Pride band entertained the high-school students as they made their way on campus for registration.

Mark Vaughn and Dr. Natasha Billie spoke to the students before they revealed a special presentation from "In the LUop." The ambassadors split the students into groups to tour the campus and individual departments.

Takesha Clark, freshman broadcast journalism major, was a student who

helped represent the Department of Communication.

As a student representative, Clark greeted high-school students who visited the department and helped give them a hands-on tour of different equipment used in the communications industry.

"It was really good because a lot of students became even more interested after I told them about the different elements of the media," Clark said.

Sodexo provided lunch for the students in the C.F. Gayles Atrium and then Langston University's National Pan Hellenic Council concluded the day by putting together a Greek showcase for the students.

High-School Day is an annual event at LU. It is designed as a recruiting tool to help encourage high-school students to consider attending Langston University in the future.

Also Inside

Voices . . . p 2

News . . . p 3-6

Local, National
News p 7

Sports . . . p 8

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 Wednesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

Adviser/Manager
Nicole Turner

Assistant Editor
Venesha Reed

Photographer
Jonathan McGill

Staff Writers
Jerrod Mitchell
James Scott
Lauren Smith
Nehemiah Taylor
Talibb Woods

Contributing Writers
Ashli Bell
Kevin Gold
Andria Morgan

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.

Opinions expressed in LU Voices are those of the writers whose name appear with the articles. Letters to the editor should be emailed to nktturner@langston.edu. Please include your name and telephone number. The newspaper 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.

Student thinks student body should decide on Mr., Miss LU

Every year, three people have a chance to be the face of Langston University, and one of those three people will go even further for a chance to be the face of the state or even America.

The way these people are chosen to hold these titles is by a judging staff of no more than five people.

These titles are Miss Langston, Mr. Langston and Miss Black Langston. All of this is done after a few months of practicing and putting together a pageant.

There are more than 2,500 students enrolled in Langston University during both fall and spring semesters. With that amount of people enrolled, why are only five people allowed to make a decision about which three



Gold

people will represent LU?

After doing some research about other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the majority of them have at least two of the three of these titles at their institute of higher learning, and they allow their students to run for these positions by campaigning, which is what most colleges also do

for student government boards.

Langston does have a tradition of the pageants, and that tradition can still continue, but it should not be the only objective when choosing these special people for a whole year to be the face of so many people.

Though there our other pageants that are sponsored by or even created by organizations, it's OK for them to only have five people judging because they know what they are looking for when it comes to their specific organization.

Titles over a whole student body really have no need to be done on one event of a show; it should be much more put into the process.

We are one of the few

104 HBCUs that choose to allow a single pageant to dictate the opportunity of holding one of these prominent titles.

LU should look into restructuring these campus titles processes in a way that it is more fairly represented, not only for the people running, but the whole student body as well.

The way they are structured now, there is too much room for them to be slanted the wrong way with only five people choosing who gets to experience these rare opportunities for someone to hold a piece of history until the end of time.

Kevin Gold is a senior broadcast journalism major.

Langston University Announcements

Langston University will hold commencement exercises May 16, 2014. In case of inclement weather, the commencement exercises will be moved from an outside venue (W.E. Anderson Stadium) to an inside venue (C.F. Gayles Fieldhouse).

If the commencement exercises are moved indoors, there will be two ceremonies. Having two ceremonies will allow for more family members and friends to attend the ceremonies.

The first ceremony will be held at 10 a.m., May 16, for the following schools and programs:

- School of Nursing and Health Professions
- School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
- Master of Rehabilitation Counseling
- Master of Visual Rehabilitation
- Master of Education
- School of Physical Therapy

The second ceremony will be held at 2 p.m., May 16, for the following schools and programs:

- School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
- School of Business
- Master of Entrepreneurial Studies

The 25th Annual Honor's Day Convocation is scheduled for 11 a.m., April 10, 2014, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.

The middle aisle has been reserved for students who were named to the Deans' Honor Roll, President's Honor Roll or Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for Fall or Spring 2013.

Please arrive by 10:45 a.m.

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and support these individuals.

LU celebrates 'School of the Month'



Photos by Jonathan McGill

Top Left: Students, faculty and staff gather in the Student Success Center Great Room for a kickoff party to celebrate Langston University being chosen as the Tom Joyner Foundation's "School of the Month" for April 2014.

Top Right: The Langston University Marching Pride band drumline performs a set during the "School of the Month" kickoff party. The drumline also marched across campus during the event as well.

Letter from the President

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni,

I am pleased to announce Roland S. Martin as our speaker for the 114th Commencement of Langston University at 10 a.m., Friday, May 16, 2014.

Martin is the host and managing editor of TV One's "NewsOne."

NewsOne is the first daily morning news program in history to focus on news and analysis of politics, entertainment, sports and culture from an explicitly African-American perspective.

Martin is a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate, and is senior analyst for the "Tom Joyner Morning Show," where his segment is heard on more than 100 stations and by 8 million people daily.

Martin has enjoyed a journalistic career that has seen him interview multiple U.S. presidents, top athletes and entertainers in Hollywood.

Martin will bring a strong, inspirational message to the Langston University graduating class of 2014.

I am certain that his background and experiences will motivate our graduates as they join the ranks among more than 16,000 living Langston alumni worldwide.

I look forward to celebrating the success of our graduating class of 2014 with you on May 16, 2014.

Go Lions!
Kent J. Smith Jr., Ph.D.
President

LU Amabassadors get new members

By Jerrod Mitchell
Staff Writer

The Langston University Ambassadors program accepted new members for the fall 2014 school year.

The program provides students an opportunity to serve the campus.

"The passion and willingness that the ambassadors displayed made me want to join," said Jarae Williams, freshman psychology major.

"The experience has been great so far," Williams said.

According to the LU website, University Ambassadors introduce new students to Langston's timeless human values of leadership, life-long learning, service to others and exemplary character.

"The new members will benefit us because they're bright and intellectual," said Karlyn Morrison, senior childhood education major.

"They understand the purpose of the program, and they genuinely

"The passion and willingness that the ambassadors displayed made me want to join. The experience has been great so far."

— Jarae Williams,
freshman psychology major

want to serve the university," Morrison said.

The Ambassadors are expected to represent the university to the best of their ability and set examples while helping freshman students get accustomed to college life.

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics donates patrol vehicle to LUPD

By Lauren D. Smith
Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (OBND) donated a patrol vehicle to the Langston University Police Department in celebration of the newly built police station.

R. Darrell Weaver, director of OBND, and Frank E. Atkinson, chief of police at LU, met March 25, in front of the new building to show their gratitude to each other upon receiving the vehicle.

"I believe it's a sowing and reaping principle... You give back," Weaver said. "You give to people who need, and you'll get something in return."

When vehicles go into surplus, instead of the OBND selling the vehicles or sending them into auction, they choose different police departments in the State of Oklahoma to which to donate the vehicles.

"It's a great help and

"I believe it's a sowing and reaping principle... You give back. You give to people who need, and you'll get something in return."

— R. Darrell Weaver,
director of OBND

a great resource both for equipment and to utilize the power of the OBND office," Atkinson said. "They support us whole heartedly; it's all a great plus."

The OBND has donated more than 45 vehicles and continues to make a difference for police departments throughout the State of Oklahoma.



Photo by Lauren Smith

R. Darrell Weaver (left), director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, gives Frank E. Atkinson, chief of police at Langston University, the keys to a patrol vehicle. OBND donated the vehicle in celebration of the new police station on campus that opened in March.



I'm back! Yes, the one and only Guy with the Blue Tie.

I hope you enjoyed my female counterpart, and more so, I hope you all enjoyed your spring break. It seems like it came and went, but nonetheless, it was a much-needed break from the LU.

I thought it was entertaining that most of my fellow Lions used their long-overdue refunds to travel to Panama to spend time with the people they needed a break from; kind of odd if you think about it.

I was so happy to see the long-lasting winter season pass, and now

spring is in the air.

Now, on to Kappa week. If I could describe it, it would be like the heat wave that has hit Oklahoma: leaving girls fanning themselves and anticipating a beverage that could fulfill their awaiting thirst.

One of the highlights during Kappa week was the Sigma Gamma Rho Probate.

Congratulations to the ten young women who crossed.

I'm not going to lie; I was quite surprised by the outcome of the probate and the quality and quantity of the new members that were chosen.

I can't wait to actually hear a Greek roll call with all Greeks in existence, no shade, no tea... well, maybe just a little. Speaking of probates, who is next in line for a probate? It could be the Kappa's, or I did hear the Omegas and Deltas have a line full of surprises?!

I guess we will have to wait and see. Some things not even the Guy With the Blue Tie knows.

Let's just hope bills are paid for next semester for Greeks and non-Greeks alike.

Sincerely,
GWBT

Career Services hosts department career fairs

By James Scott
Staff Writer

The Department of Assessment and Career Services is connecting students to internships and job opportunities with career fairs within each department.

A career fair was held March 26, in the C.F Gayles Atrium that included 10 vendors looking for students in the education department who were interested in working or interning for their school districts.

Dr. James Wallace, director of Assessment and Career Services, reached out to surrounding school districts, which included districts from Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and even New Mexico.

Andria Morgan, junior broadcast journalism major, is a student employee for Wallace.

"The purpose of (the career fair) is to give students who are pursuing a

degree in education an opportunity to network and find jobs in a variety of school districts and systems," Morgan said.

Rachel Goff Belmon is an LU alumni and a teacher at Stanley Hupfeld Academy at Western Village.

Belmon, who was awarded "Teacher of the Year" at Stanley Hupfeld Academy, attended the career fair as a representative for her school district.

"We came to Langston because we realize that it's important to get students who can, one, get the quality experience they need to be a better educator, and two, get students who can relate to the student of today's generation in the rural area," Belmon said.

LU students can find out more information about these department career fairs by speaking with Wallace, whose office is in Gandy Hall on the second floor.

Langston celebrates 117th Founder's Day



The Honorable Vicki Miles-LaGrange, chief U.S. judge of the Western District of Oklahoma, addresses the audience at the 117th Founder's Day program.

Chief Judge Miles-LaGrange served as the keynote speaker of the event March 13.

Photo by Jonathan McGill

Kappa Alpha Psi hosts carnival for Greek Week



Photo by Jonathan McGill

Devin Wilson, junior English major, jumps on a bounce house trampoline at the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. carnival. The Kappa's hosted the indoor carnival during their week of events that was part of Langston University's annual Greek Weeks.

Computer science students land big internship, job opportunities

By Nehemiah Taylor
Staff Writer

"There is not any major that is better than computer science in terms of starting salaries and job opportunities... our students are being fought over for positions," said Ralph Grayson, computer science chairperson.

"Computer science students are the kreme de la kreme of this institution... looking at grade point averages and what we do on campus, you have to agree that computer science students are the better students on campus," Grayson added.

As mentioned, one of the perks of being in computer science is that students will have a good opportunity of nailing a job after graduation or even before.

Some computer science students at LU continue to accelerate on the road to success by landing some internships and jobs with fortune 500 companies.

As a sophomore, Brandon Palmore has come in contact with Koch Industries, a private company involved in a variety of other industries. Now, a senior, Palmore has been offered a paid internship with Koch Inc.

"I started off by doing mock interviews with the company, and with that, it gave me the opportunity to network with the people at Koch and some alumni of LU," Palmore said.

Junior David Harris is another LU student in whom Koch Inc. has taken an interest. Harris explained that the interview process was long but well worth the gratification of receiving the internship.

After mock interviews and an on-site interview at the headquarters in Wichita, Kan., with the department managers, Harris received a phone call offering him the internship exactly a week later.

Senior Jasmine Smith has

already started her career with USDA, where Smith works with database systems.

After graduation, Smith is hopeful that she will begin her dream job with the FBI as a computer specialist investigator. She had the chance to meet FBI representatives at a career fair.

"Technology is rapidly changing and being in this field you will always have a job," Smith said. "Working for the FBI has been my dream job since starting college... so I'm happy I finally had a chance to chat with them at the career fair."

With Smith already beginning career, she has a good advantage over the competition prior to graduation. Not only that, but she also is a minority in the field.

According to Betabeat, less than 20 percent of women and African Americans took the AP computer science exam.

"In the computer science field this is a real plus," Grayson said. "Ladies should know when getting into this field that they do have a leg up, and they would get preferable treatment ... and that's with any minority."

Harris, who is not only a standout student, but also is the starting forward for the LU basketball team, wants to demonstrate that not all student-athletes depend on their physical talent to push them to success.

"As athletes, we can't lean on our sport to make us successful," he said. "Not all of us are majoring in physical education."

Computer science is more than what most people assume. It's not just about building computers and taking or developing software; nor is it about the construction of the tools used to carry out calculations.

"Computer science is about thinking critically or thinking outside the box of how you can come up with

solutions," Smith said.

Palmore said that in order to be a computer science major, people have to change the way they approach simple problems.

"... It's not just walking from point A to point B," Palmore said. "It's thinking about and breaking down everything in between, and that is what sets us apart from other majors."

Grayson explained that not only are students sitting in a corner working on assignments, they are actually intricate parts of the company, communicating with customers, using their analytical skills, which is a way of thinking that is applicable to anything.

"There's a new branch of study that is taking the way we think in computer science and trying to apply it to different disciplines," Grayson said. "We're in the information age, and (whether) you want to admit that or not, you're in computer science."

For Smith, majoring in computer science was not her preferred plan of study, nor was attending LU. Smith aspired to attend the Art Institute in Miami, FL, and have a career in the fashion industry.

"Through high school I had my mind set on fashion and different trends... I had no plans of coming to Langston," Smith said.

Smith grew up in a single-parent household with just her mother and her older sister, who is a 2010 alumna of LU.

Smith's mother also has a career in computer science and also works for the USDA. Smith's mother was determined to set her daughter on the correct path by applying for a USDA scholarship for her.

This narrowed Smith's choices of higher learning to Alcorn State University and Langston University.

"I came to Langston and

by my sophomore year, I was on two full-ride scholarships," Smith said. "After pledging Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. my networking skills went sky-high."

Transferring from Concordia University in Austin, Harris did not know what to expect of LU. After transferring, Harris started taking his education more serious than basketball when computer science opportunities outweighed basketball.

"My old high-school teammate actually recruited me to come to LU," Harris said. "Basketball was something that I thought I would always do, but now, I'm starting to take advantage of the opportunities that have arisen in computer science."

Before college, Palmore always questioned his future, but after receiving a call from his fraternity brother, Palmore voided everything he had planned and came to

Langston.

"I've always had a good support system, but I was always the problem child," he said.

"There was a point in my life when I thought I wasn't going to college... I received a phone call from one of my frat brothers in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., and he told me that you can't be black and uneducated, and that's when I made the decision to come to Langston," Palmore said.

Palmore graduated high school with a 2.6 GPA and now sits at the top of the class in the School of Business.

"I'm in Delta Mu Delta Honor Society, which you need to be in the top 10 percent of the class, and it's been a blessing and opportunity to be here at Langston... my experiences that I've gained here are irreplaceable," Palmore said.

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Eagles release DeSean Jackson

By Talibb Woods
Staff Writer

NFL teams are cracking down on off-the-field issues, regardless of any star power.

In June 2013, Aaron Hernandez, New England Patriots star tight-end, was arrested for first degree murder. Hernandez was linked to the murder of a friend. Patriots released Hernandez within hours of his arrest.

This NFL offseason, Philadelphia Eagles released star wide receiver DeSean Jackson, 27, because of his ties with gang members. Jackson was seen throwing up gang signs in a game against the Washington Redskins and on his Instagram page.

"After careful consideration over this offseason, we have decided to part ways with DeSean Jack-

son," a spokesperson for the Philadelphia Eagles said.

The Eagles wanted to release Jackson rather than trade him so that other teams would be aware of this issue.

A report from NJ.com said, "Eagles had become increasingly concerned about Jackson's off-field activities and his reputed ties to Los Angeles street gang members."

Jackson renegotiated his contract for an extension of four more years two seasons ago.

He also released a statement that denied all rumors and concerns about his on-field and off-the-field activities.

He began thanking the city and team for the opportunity, then thanked (former) Eagles head coach Andy Reid.

Jackson later said, "I would like to make it very clear that I am not

and never have been part of any gang."

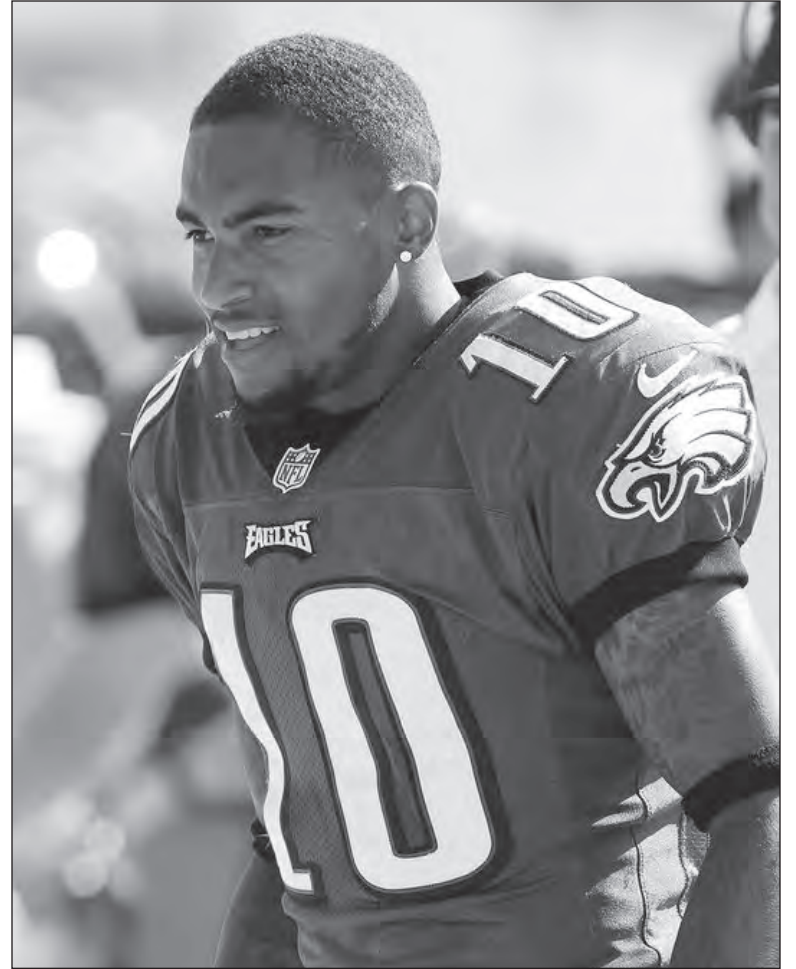
Jackson added that the accusations were very irresponsible.

Andy Ried, now Kansas City Chiefs head coach, had nothing but good things to say about Jackson. He said Jackson is a good person and was great for him while coaching there.

Less than two weeks after the postseason, Jackson's home was robbed for \$20,000 in cash along with a handgun.

Nine teams so far are interested in Jackson, with the Washington Redskins being the front runner to meet with him soon.

The Carolina Panthers and New York Jets are other teams that are highly interested in the young star. Jackson recorded 21 touchdowns, tied most in the NFL, and no other Eagles player had more than eight touchdowns.



Jackson

Langston Credit Union merges with Tinker Federal Credit Union

Special from TFCU

Tinker Federal Credit Union (TFCU) welcomed more than 200 members of Langston Federal Credit Union as part of a merger that concluded March 26.

Members from the small Langston FCU now have access to full-service branches across the state as well as online access to TFCU's accounts and services.

"We are excited to have these members on board and look forward to being a part of their financial future," said President/CEO Mike Kloiber.

"TFCU exists to help its members achieve their goals and dreams, and we hope these new members will begin to see TFCU as their credit union," Kloiber said.

Through the merger,

"We are excited to have these members on board and look forward to being a part of their financial future."

— Mike Kloiber,
president/CEO of TFCU

Langston University employees and students and the Langston Community now have the opportunity to become members of TFCU.

A nonprofit, member-owned, financial cooperative, TFCU returns profits to its members through financial education, higher dividends on deposits, lower interest rates on loans and low or no fees on services.

TFCU has numerous

full-service branches and electronic service centers throughout Oklahoma.

The Stillwater branch is located just 18 miles from Langston, and TFCU's mobile and online services make it easy to apply for loans, complete transactions and access financial information.

TFCU is the largest credit union in Oklahoma, with over \$3 billion in assets and more than 290,000 members.

Track team members qualify for nationals

By Ashli Bell
Contributing Writer

The Langston University track team finished its indoor season with nine athletes going to nationals, two on the men's side and seven on the women's side.

James Hilliard, head track and field coach, said he has a lot of freshman this year, but some of his

top returners are Darion Johnson, Kierra Patterson, Ashley Neal and Ricollis Jones.

Their outdoor meet this season was in Tulsa. As a team, both men and women finished in 10th place.

Jones won the 100-meter dash and qualified for nationals.

This past weekend, they traveled to Shawnee, Okla., for one of their toughest

meets of the season.

"The weather was nice, and it was a pretty good track meet," said Freshman T'ara Howard.

"Overall, we placed second, and we qualified for nationals in the 4x100-meter relay," Howard said.

Howard also placed third in the 100-meter dash and fifth in the 200-meter dash.

Other successes includ-

ed sophomore Johnson, who placed first in both the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash.

Sydney Scott, freshman, placed fourth in the 400-meter dash; Darian Williams, freshman, placed 10th in the 400-meter hurdles; and both Janaa Evans, freshman, placed third and Adrienne Sheets, freshman, placed fifth in the long jump. Evans also

placed third in the high jump.

Jones placed second in the 100-meter dash, sixth in the 200-meter dash and fourth in the high jump.

"We did all right this weekend; (but) we still have a lot of work to do," Hilliard said.

The track team will travel to the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, for their next meet April 4-5.

Softball team works to win conference

By Khalif Sanders
Staff Writer

With the playoffs around the corner, the Langston University Lady Lions softball team is looking to tighten things up in conference play.

After a disappointing week with two losses against Peru State in Nebraska, the Lady Lions' record is now 3-5 in conference play, with an overall record of 14-21.

The Lady Lions have a lot of work to do if they plan to win conference.

"Our goal right now is to become conference champs, and we are on our way to achieving our goals," said Kayla Mercado, junior criminal justice major and second baseman for the Lady Lions.

"We just have to reduce our errors and become more confident in ourselves," Mercado said. "We work well together and have great teamwork and communication, and I'm sure we can reach our goals."

With 19 games left in the regular season, the Lady Lions face a heavy schedule with the games being played in 20 days.

There are many contributing factors to the Lady Lions' record this season.

"We will click as a team once we get past our factors," said Alessia Gallegos, freshman

"Our goal right now is to become conference champs, and we are on our way to achieving our goals."

— Kayla Mercado,
second baseman

HPER major and pitcher.

"We have a new coach and eight new players, not including red shirts," Gallegos said. "If we could put it together, we will be unstoppable."

Led by senior infielder Devon Miller and six other seniors, the Lady Lions are right where they want to be to begin their playoff run, starting with a home game against Bacone College on April 5.

"It's time to start winning games, especially with the playoffs starting at the end of the month," Miller said. "We must defend home field and win as many away games as possible if we want to win conference."

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

LaChelle Bell



Sport: Softball

Position: First Base and Pitcher

Hometown: Sterling, Kan.

Major: Broadcast Journalism

Favorite Food: Chinese Food

Hobby: Zumba

Compiled By
Jonathan McGill