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Langston University

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NOTE

This issue was originally scheduled to publish Thursday, March 5. Due to inclement weather and the school closing last week, the Gazette staff had to wait and publish today. The next issue will be published Thursday, April 9, after spring break and the Easter holiday.

Have
a
great
Spring
Break!

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Blongshia Cha wins Miss Langston crown



Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Blongshia Cha wins the crown in this year's Miss Langston Pageant. Cha competed against four other women for the title at the annual event Feb. 21.

Cha, the 69th Miss Langston University, will advance and compete in the 2015 Miss Oklahoma Pageant on June 6.

The Gazette

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

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Student speaks out against OU fraternity racist chants

The members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at the University of Oklahoma brought, yet another, racism issue to the national spotlight on the morning of March 9.

"You can hang 'em by the tree, but they can never hang with me," were harsh words the fraternity members chanted as they were recorded on camera. The chant had a similar sound as the nursery rhyme "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands."

"At 7:30 a.m., it was truly an eye-opener because it was more than us, a black community, there," said Ash'Lee Steele, junior at the University of Oklahoma.

This issue means that racism clearly is not dead.

"To those who have misused their free speech in such a reprehensible way, I have a message for you—you are disgraceful," said OU President David L. Boren.

Boren released a statement to the public, reassuring



Tucker

many concerned individuals and giving them some sort of piece of mind.

The subject at hand is so broad and undefined, but it can easily be broken down into separate facts, the first one being, simply, that right is right and wrong is wrong. It is important that we must not ignore the subject, but, instead, bring awareness to the world in which we live. Actions have been taken, but are those actions and repercussions enough?

What about the women on the bus who can clearly be heard as they volunteer-

ingly joined the fraternity brothers in the racially fueled chants? Clearly, they were all wrong.

Suspending the fraternity members' chapter and removing their house isn't enough.

Several fraternity members and their family members were seen carrying clothes, toiletries and stereos to their cars. Most had sour looks on their faces. Requests for comments were declined by members.

Next, why is it important that the Norman Police Department be outside of their fraternity house for protection? They don't need protection. The words they said needed protection. The hearts of those affected need protection. And, the next generation needs protection.

It shames the nation to know that both discreet and blatant racism is still being taught and practiced.

As an educated black man in a society that prides itself on anti-racism, I am truly

devastated and heartbroken that everything our ancestors endured and everything Dr. Martin Luther King fought for to establish equality has basically been made a mockery of in these events.

Have people honestly not learned anything? Are they seriously that ignorant and closed-minded that they continue to judge people by their skin color. Well, I have news for them—God does not see color; he sees our hearts.

Though Boren has banned the fraternity, the other university students need justice. Those students should be expelled from the university completely for not only giving their school bad publicity, but also going against the university's code of conduct.

Students and the public need to know that this behavior will not be tolerated in the present nor in the future.

Charles Tucker is a senior broadcast journalism major.

First impressions leave lasting marks

Picture this.

You're competing for a managerial job that pays very well and has amazing benefits. You show up in a nice, professional, black suit with low pumps and a slight flip to your hair.

The other applicant, who also has an interview, shows up in a pair of sweats, blue Nikes, T-shirt and high, messy ponytail. Based on these characteristics alone, who should get the job?

I firmly believe that first impressions matter because they play a big part in how society sees an individual.

Society often tries to make it seem like we're being judgmental if we critique someone by what he or she is wearing, but in certain circumstances, one should take proper care in appearance.

Also, half of the time when we are "judging," it's an unconscious effort.

For example, the scenario I described at first was stating how two people arrive for a job interview, dressing totally different. One looked very professional, and the other looked very lazy. Of course, the one who looks professional is going to get the job.

What people don't understand is that how a person dresses or acts are reflections of the kind of person he or she is. People will not take you seriously if you walk into an interview with tennis shoes and saggy pants.

Professional speakers and trainers have always said that people make up their minds about other people within two minutes of a first-time introduction, and others



Bell

even say it only takes them about 30 seconds to make up their minds.

Now, society may say that we need to be individuals and let people be free, but you still need to take into account that there has to be a level of respect for yourself.

When you walk into a room and present yourself in an appropriate manner,

people flock to you and are more interested in getting to know you.

On the other hand, when you walk into a room and you're obnoxious, timid or even if you look dirty or unclean, people will close you off without giving you a second thought.

What is sad about that evil fact is that you could be the nicest person in the room, but nobody would notice because of your first impression.

Society shouldn't judge based on outer appearance or by the way someone talks or acts, but for most circumstances, one first impression can either help you or hurt you in the long run.

Ashli Bell is a senior broadcast journalism major.

Alonzo Peterson accepts new role as Arts & Sciences' associate dean

By Karla Dunn
Staff Writer

The School of Arts and Sciences is the largest of the six schools within Langston University, and because of this, assistance was needed to handle the workload of managing it.

Dr. Clarence Hedge, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, appointed Dr. Alonzo Peterson, chair of the Department of Mathematics, as the associate dean. Peterson is the first appointed associate dean on the main campus.

"I think it is a phenomenal opportunity for me to gain a greater understanding of higher education administration," Peterson said.

"Both the vice president for Academic Affairs and the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences have agreed to mentor me in certain strategic areas," Peterson said. "So, I continue to be a student of sorts, even after receiving my terminal degree many years ago."

Peterson will primarily work with the departments within the School of Arts and Sciences that have teacher education programs, but he also will coordinate the committee on course syllabi, as

well as handle class scheduling for the university.

"Dr. Alonzo Peterson has done outstanding work, and he is very well organized," Hedge said. "We asked that he serve as an associate dean to assist in some of the areas to coordinate and work with the School of Arts and Sciences."

Hedge added that his intentions for appointing an associate dean is to better organize scheduling in a productive and timely manner, which will, in turn, eliminate making a lot of changes once the schedules are set in place.

As associate dean, Peterson's role in the enrollment process will not change significantly, but he does have new steps he plans to take when approaching the new semester.

"I, along with my colleagues, must continue to recruit the best and brightest students to LU," Peterson said.

"We must continue to seek grants and scholarships to assist and retain our students, and we must continue to provide the programs, courses, instruction and guidance necessary for successful matriculation and eventual graduation from the univer-

sity.

"Recruitment and retention of students is really everyone's job," Peterson said. "That includes administration, faculty, staff and even other students. These are some of the keys to the initial enrollment and continued enrollment of our students..."

Peterson has a lot of support from his colleagues as well.

"I think that Dr. Peterson is going to be a tremendous asset to Arts and Sciences," said Lonnie Johnson Jr., instructor and acting chair for the Department of Communication.

In his new role, Peterson said, he wants to assist Hedge in leading the School of Arts and Sciences' efforts toward achieving the university's goals.

"I hope to act as a facilitating link between the Office of the Dean and faculty and students," Peterson said. "I will step in and do some of the more tedious day-to-day tasks. My goal is to ease the workload of Dr. Hedge so that he will have to opportunity to concentrate on big issues like advocating and fundraising for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified and well-compensated faculty, and supervising,



Photo by Jonathan McGill

Dr. Alonzo Peterson is the new associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

evaluating and supporting in instruction, scholarly and our departments in a manner that promotes excellence creative productivity and service."

Lewis receives fellowship to find, conserve rare books

By Andria Morgan
Contributing Writer

The motto "Enter to learn, exit to serve" has not only been a motto for Langston University students. It also is very true for Jameka Lewis, head of special collections for the Black Heritage Center.

Lewis was recently awarded the Institute of Museum and Library Services-Rare Book School (IMLS-RBS) Fellowship.

It consists of a one-week course on developing collections at the University of Virginia this summer. The fellowship concludes with a con-

ference in Oakland, California.

"I was really excited. I probably screamed or something just because I knew it was going to be really competitive, and I was just hoping all of my application materials would be good enough so that I could represent Langston University," Lewis said.

Lewis applied for the fellowship because she wants to do research on rare books, specifically African-American books. She thinks this fellowship will help initiate her research.

During the fellowship, Lewis will learn how to find and conserve rare books. She plans to

use the skills she learns to bring more rare African-American books to the Black Heritage Center.

According to the Rare Books School website, Lewis was one of 20 applicants selected, with about 130 applications submitted. Lewis is the only fellow from an HBCU.

This fellowship is an all-expense paid program that includes the course, travel, lodging, meals, a one-week conference in Oakland and a one-year paid membership in professional organizations: The Association of College and Research Libraries, The American

"... I was just hoping all of my application materials would be good enough so that I could represent Langston University."

— Jameka Lewis,
head of special collections
for the Black Heritage Center

Library Association, The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

Lewis would like to encourage all students to go out and

research scholarships and fellowships because "there are so many opportunities out there, especially minorities," Lewis said.

New nurse practitioner at LU commits to serving students



Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Rachelle Richardson is the new nurse practitioner for Langston University. Campus Medical Services is located in University Women, room 112.

By Xavier Flenoy
Staff Writer

The new nurse practitioner at Langston University, Rachelle Richardson, is excited to be on campus and, above all, is committed to serving the students.

"I was really surprised; I have never actually been here, but it's a beautiful campus," Richardson said.

Richardson replaced Dr. Sanford, who worked in the clinic for 21 years.

Lareisha Sears, sophomore business major, said she feels more comfortable with Richardson and thinks she is better suited for helping her and other students.

Campus medical services is located in the University Women building, room 112. Richardson is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Shane Beard, sophomore criminal justice major, said he

"... I thought they were going to ask me for a fee or something, but instead, I just got helped right away..."

— Shane Beard,
sophomore criminal justice major

had cold symptoms, and Richardson gave him cold medicine.

"Going to the clinic for the first time, I thought they were going to ask me for a fee or something, but instead, I just got helped right away—no fee, no nothing," Beard said.

Students do not have to pay when going to the clinic because the fee is covered in advance through tuition.

Richardson said she wants students to realize that she and the clinic staff see many different illnesses and injuries. However, because it is a student clinic, there's only

a certain number of things that Richardson can address because some capabilities are not available, such as blood tests and X-rays.

If it's something that is more evolved, Richardson has to send students to another facility. Most of the things the campus clinic treats include cold symptoms, the flu and rashes.

"In either case, most of the things I can take care of," Richardson said. "It doesn't matter what it is; you can present it to me, and if it's something that is beyond what I can do in the clinic, I would get you to the care that you need."

Flu season hits Oklahomans hard

By Deja McCants
Staff Writer

Breaking Oklahoma's previous record of 72 fatalities from influenza, six more people have died, bringing the state record to 90 deaths, according to the *Tulsa World*.

About 2,000 people have been hospitalized since Sept. 28, according to the Oklahoma Department of Health.

Of all deaths in Oklahoma due to the flu this season, 69 people were aged 65 and older and 12 were between 50 and 64 years old; three were between 18 and 49; four were between 5 and 17; and two were 4 years old and younger, according to the statistics released by the Oklahoma Department of Health.

NewsOK reports that in Tulsa and Oklahoma counties, there were a total of 31 deaths. Though the flu is contagious and can be contracted by anyone, there are several groups of people who are at a higher risk of infection.

Researchers at *Science Daily* say these groups include children under the age of 5—especially infants—adults 65 and

older, pregnant women, residents of nursing homes and American Indians and Alaskan Natives. People with certain medical conditions are more susceptible to infection as well, such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, HIV or AIDS and cancer.

Additional conditions also include chronic epilepsy (seizure disorders), blood disorders, such as sickle cell disease, kidney and liver disorders and people who are morbidly obese.

There are many symptoms of the flu virus. These symptoms, according to www.flu.gov, include high fever, cough or sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache and/or body ache, chills, fatigue, nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Physician and blogger at www.Dr-greene.com, Allan Zacher, said it is

important to know the difference between the common cold and the flu, as they have very similar characteristics.

Common cold symptoms such as runny or stuffy nose and headache or sore throat are often intensified if it is in fact not the common cold, but influenza.

"I am aware that it is flu season, so by washing my hands, drinking plenty of orange juice and staying away from sick people, I am protecting myself," said freshman nursing major Essence Carrington.

As there are symptoms for the flu, there also is a way to treat it. For example, if someone is having nasal and sinus congestion, a decongestant would be useful.

If someone were to have a runny nose or itchy and watery eyes, then

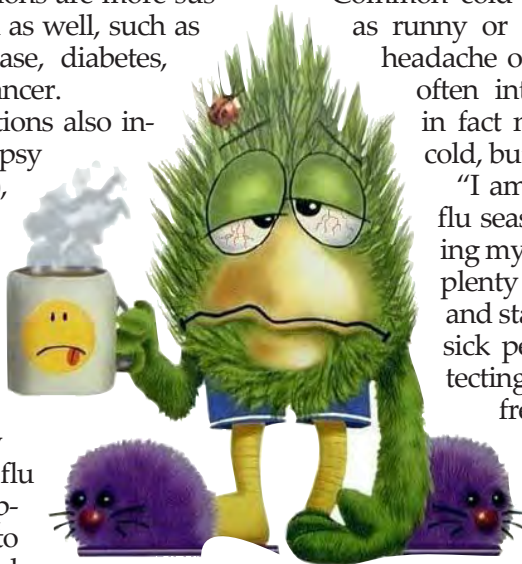
an antihistamine may be helpful, so that it may relieve symptoms, such as sneezing, itching and nasal discharge, according to WebMD.

The flu may be contagious, but there are several precautions people can take to make sure they are protected from the virus. First, avoid contact with those who are sick or could possibly have the virus.

"I avoid people that are sick or have the flu to keep myself protected," said senior education major Asya Marshall.

Also, if you feel yourself coming down with symptoms, stay home to avoid spreading the virus and getting others sick as well. Be sure to keep your hands clean, especially in bathrooms, before and after eating and when touching others' hands.

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing to prevent germs from spreading. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose whenever possible, as these areas are easily infected. Finally, always clean frequently touched surfaces, such as counters, toilet handles tables and floors.



University crowns new royalty


Far Left:

Jessica Bluitt wins the Miss Black Langston Pageant. She competed against seven other women for the crown March 6.

Left:

Landon Gray earns the 32nd title of Mr. Langston University. He competed against six other men in this year's pageant March 8.

Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Photo by Austin Terry

Debate team travels to Arkansas Tech

By Nehemiah Taylor
Editor

Langston University's debate team kicked off its inaugural season with some surprising victories.

With several rookie debaters, the debate team spent the first weekend of March at the University of Arkansas Tech for a national debate competition. The team previously ventured to Tulsa for its first competition in January. LU debaters went into Tulsa with little training and limited awareness of what to expect in the competition.

"We knew absolutely nothing beyond the training we received from a debater in Tulsa," said Dr. Ricco Wright, assistant professor of mathematics and LU debate team coach.

"A lot of the semantics and specifics didn't really make sense to us at the time, but the team went in and did



Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Dr. Ricco Wright (far left) coaches this year's debate team. The team went to its second tournament for competition Feb. 27-28 at the University of Arkansas Tech.

their best," he said.

Entering into competition at the University of Arkansas Tech, the team had more training as well as more members. With better training and additional members, the team went into

Arkansas with more confidence.

"We had practices and preparation for the tournament, we obtained people who are experienced in debate and we were becoming more of a family, so we

went into this competition in whole new light," Wright said.

During the competition, LU competed against some veteran teams, including the national debate champions, Lee's College.

Although LU had a newfound confidence, there was still a sense of anxiety.

"It was pretty much everyone's first debate," said Diane Montoya, debate team captain. "You could feel everyone's nervousness, but once we all adapted to the competition, it became fun."

In the competition, debaters had to debate on an array of subjects, including political issues, education and ethics.

Team captain Gabriel Hopkins said his favorite topic was "Our Allies Need to Do More."

"This topic was unique because going in we were thinking the topic pertained to American allies, but it

was actually pertaining to Iraq's allies," Hopkins said.

Hopkins said it was difficult because he had to change his approach, but once he got a feel of his opponents' debating style, he scored some points, but was unable to get the win.

Though LU had some stiff competition, they were able to pull off some wins in the individual competition.

Hopkins, Cami Little and Andre Lightner all made a name for themselves in the competition by coming home with wins.

"Everyone did so well, but I wasn't anticipating Cami doing so well in the competition," Wright said.

"She just blossomed at the competition, and a lot of the other debaters were learning from her," he said.

The debate team is now preparing for the national individual competition in Boise, Idaho, at Boise State University.

Student-athlete discovers talent, passion as barber

By Karla Dunn
Staff Writer

Bruce Thompson has everyone on campus talking about his fresh cuts, hottest designs and perfect edge-ups.

Thompson is a junior from New Orleans and a member of the Langston University football team.

Inspired by his barber back home, "Scoop Da Barber," Thompson started cutting hair in the ninth grade to make money.

It was then that he began to see that he had a real talent for cutting hair, and he really wanted to perfect his new craft.

"Bruce is better than some of the professional barbers working in shops right now," said Scoop Da Barber, owner of Scoop Barbershop in New Orleans. "He is only

as good as his clippers."

However, Thompson said, the most challenging part of cutting hair is "the hair texture because everyone is different... some people have kinky hair, straight hair, wavy hair or coiled hair."

Thompson started getting noticed on campus after cutting his friends' hair and some of the guys' hair on the football team.

He was also giving out two-for-one specials to people who brought a friend with them for a haircut. That's when he realized that he had started something with just his clippers, and this could become a profession for him.

"I really want to start investing in my future as a barber," Thompson said. "I want to one day own my own barbershop as well."

A lot of students on campus think Thompson has a bright future in cutting hair, and they trust him to cut their hair, too.

"I am very particular about how I like my hair cut, and I don't trust anyone cutting my hair," said Donnell Jones, sophomore business major. "But I decided to let Bruce give me a cut, and I have been going to him for two semesters now."

Thompson said the most popular haircut that all the men are getting in 2015 is the 'Odell Beckham.'

So, whether looking for a classic fade or perfect edge-up, or maybe even a new style, just ask anyone on campus about Bruce.

Pictures of his haircuts and work can be viewed on his Instagram page, "@football_animal."



Photo by Austin Terry

Bruce Thompson, LU student and member of the football team, cuts his friend's hair.

Sen. James Lankford visits LU



Photo by Nehemiah Taylor

Sen. James Lankford discusses political topics with Langston University student-leaders. Sen. Lankford visited the LU campus Feb. 24.

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Lions pull off playoff win after hard overtime battle

By Jabril Bailey
Contributing Writer

What seemed to be a mediocre game ended to be one of the best playoff games in a long time at Langston University.

The Langston Lions men's basketball team went down to the wire March 4, against the University of the Southwest Mustangs, beating them 82-79 in overtime.

The Lions started out very stagnant, and the Mustangs started the game in a very aggressive two-three zone that troubled the Lions offensively.

"Sometimes we get a little tentative against the zone; they stay on the perimeter," Head Coach Stan Holt said. "I think we did that way too much. We took 14 threes in the first half."

Defensively, the Lions were unable to stop senior guard Reginald Sonnier from scoring 18 points in the first half of play.

The 6-foot-4-inch guard out of Dallas helped lead the Mustangs to the half with a 41-33 lead.

From the moment the second half started, however, it was obvious that the Lions made great changes against the Mustangs, beginning with stopping lead scorer Sonnier.

Senior guard Landon Gray

and junior forward Andrew Roundtree were given the primary assignment of shutting down Sonnier in the second half.

Roundtree, who just recovered from a knee injury that sidelined him for a month and a half, was the unsung hero of the game. He finished the game with 13 points and 7 rebounds but his defense is what shined.

"It was a tough assignment for me, but I just took the challenge head-on," Roundtree said.

The Lions held Sonnier to six points in the last 25 minutes of play through the second half and overtime. Though Gray and Roundtree were the primary defenders on Sonnier, sophomore forward Terrel Jones also chimed in on Sonnier.

"The game was very physical, and we had to play every play like it was our last, and the coaches and the team all believed that we could win," Gray said.

The Lions had to go into overtime to finally defeat the Mustangs.

Senior guard Curtis Jones led all in scoring with 30 points, followed by junior center Daniel Malumba, who finished with a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

At the time of publication, the Lions had advanced to



Photos by Jabril Bailey

Top: Andrew Roundtree, No. 0, rises above the defenders for one of his six rebounds of the game.

Right: Center Daniel Mulumba throws down a monstrous dunk that electrifies the crowd.

the conference tournament semi-finals, but lost to Louisiana State University-Alexandria.



OKC Thunder fights for eighth playoff seed

By Austin Terry
Photographer

Since moving to Oklahoma City, the Thunder franchise has been one of the elite teams in the NBA.

Superstars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook have consistently kept the team a main title contender, but that is not the case this season.

Instead of being at the top, the Thunder finds itself battling for the

last position in the playoffs.

Both Durant and Westbrook have missed significant time this season because of injuries, forcing other players to step up and make plays to keep the team's postseason hopes alive.

Fans of the Thunder aren't worried about the late playoff battle, though.

"This last spot is ours... now that KD and Russell are back, our team is at full strength and once again

elite, so I doubt we'll be beat," said Christian Carr, senior psychology major.

NBA experts also seem to think that the Thunder will win the eighth seed and make the playoffs.

According to the ESPN website, the Thunder's percentage to make the playoffs went from 0.9 percent to 43.3 percent, which is the highest of the three teams battling for the final spot.

The Thunder currently holds the

eighth seed by a half game over the New Orleans Pelicans and two games over the Phoenix Suns.

With a little less than two months left until playoffs, each team is confident that it can win the last spot.

The Pelicans think that with the return of Anthony Davis, it will be the Thunder's stronger competition.

Durant and Westbrook won't be easy to beat now that they are healthy, so NBA fans will be paying close attention to this battle.

LU track teams have high hopes for NAIA indoor championship

By Trevon McNabb
Reporter

Langston University's track and field team competed in the NAIA indoor championship track meet March 5-7, in Ohio.

The men's and women's team came off a good showing in last year's championship. This time, the expectations are higher with a few returners and a good recruiting class added to the roster.

"The goal is for everybody to compete hard and try to do their best in each event," said sophomore sprinter Cameisha Young.

The team will compete in several events, including the women's 4x400 relay. In this event, they are confident that they have a good chance at earning a place on the podium.

In some individual events, such as the 60-meter dash and the 400-meter run, the team is expecting its individual teammates to finish at least in the top

eight.

Freshman mid-distance runner Ryan Robinson said he thinks the team will have a good showing and do well at nationals.

The Lions might have tough competition as they go up against the best that the country has to offer during this track meet, but with team chemistry, added depth and rigorous training, things look bright for the track team.

"I have some athletes that should be finishing on the podium, [which] means you have to finish in the top eight, and that's what we are shooting for – that's for both indoor and outdoor," said Head Coach James Hilliard.

Just before publication, *the Gazette* received LU's trackmeet results.

Emmanuel Robinson placed sixth in the 60-meter hurdles; the men's 4x400 relay placed eighth; and Latisha Jacobs placed seventh in the women's 60-meter dash.



Courtesy Photo

Though not earning a place on the podium, the women's 4x400 relay team remain confident as they enter into the outdoor track season.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Landon Gray



Sport: Basketball

Classification: Senior

Home Town: Detroit, Michigan

Favorite Food: Lemon-Pepper Chicken

Favorite Movie: "The Mask"

Playlist Hit: Migos-"One Time"

Compiled By
Jabril Bailey

FACULTY AND STAFF CATAPULT HEALTH SCREENINGS

Catapult will be conducting free confidential health screenings on campus for your convenience. The screening will consist of a diagnostic blood test, measured biometrics, a printed personal health report, and a consultation with a Nurse Practitioner.

Health Screenings are only for benefits-eligible employees and their covered spouses who are enrolled in one of the A&M BCBS health plans. (BlueOptions or BlueEdge)

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You will be prompted to choose your location, date, and time. You will then be asked to provide your name, phone number, email, and date of birth.

Available appointments are as follows:

March 26	8:30AM—2:30PM	138 & 139 Allied Health Center
March 27	8:30AM—2:30PM	138 & 139 Allied Health Center

