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Langston University

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PARDON OUR DUST

F T Z A C H A E U S B E A R D

**Number one in
the NAIA**

**2022 Men's Indoor
Track & Field
Qualifier**

**10.59 in the
100-meter
dash**

**Tied the
school record
in the 60-
meter dash
with a final
time of 6.66**

**21.48 in the
200-meter
dash**



The Gazette

The Gazette is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University. It serves as a teaching tool.

The newspaper is published biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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Send story ideas, comments and calendar events to dthom34@langston.edu.

Opinions expressed in Voices are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles.

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LUPD investigates bomb threat

By Kesean Cleveland
Staff Writer

On Feb. 8, Langston University Police announced that a bomb threat had been made against the school. HBCU's throughout the country have reported receiving bomb threats directed at their campuses since the start of the new year. On Jan. 4, at least eight HBCUs were threatened with a total of 20 schools receiving threats on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The FBI have been working with many schools including Langston to investigate the threats that have been made. According to NBC News, the FBI has identified six "tech savvy" juveniles as persons of interest in its investigation into the bomb threats.

The FBI's investigation is headed by their joint terrorism task forces and involves other field of-

ices across the country. Students on campus feel that these threats are nothing out of the ordinary. "I know it's sad but what do you expect, there are plenty of people in the world that don't like us simply because of who they think we are," said Jocelyn Denae.

In an email sent to students and faculty, Chief Curtis Stewart wrote "We have no reason to believe that this threat is credible; however, we are doing our due diligence to fully review and respond as appropriate. LUPD continues to work closely with the FBI behind the scenes to investigate the matter and protect the campus."

The Langston Gazette was unable to get an additional statement from the LUPD at this time about updates in the investigation, things students should look out for, protocols for what to do in the event of

a credible bomb threat and steps the University and LUPD have taken with the FBI and possibly other HBCU's to ensure everyone's safety.

Christina Gray, a member of the public relations team for Langston University, said that "Due to the nature of this matter as an ongoing investigation and one which affects multiple HBCUs across the country, we are limited in the information that we can provide. On February 8, 2022, Langston University received a threat similar to what other HBCU institutions have received. We have no reason to believe that the threat is credible. The University community was alerted on February 8th, shortly following receipt of the threat. The Langston University Police Department is actively working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation

(FBI) and local agencies to conduct an investigation and monitor any threat. Again, there is no reason to believe the threat received on February 8th is credible. This is all the information we are able to provide. We appreciate you and your understanding in this matter".

In a press release from February 2, 2022 the FBI said "This investigation is of the highest priority for the Bureau and involves more than 20 FBI field offices across the country... These threats are being investigated as racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism and hate crimes."

If any suspicious activity is noticed, readers can contact the LUPD at 405-466-3366.

Kesean Cleveland is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.



Photo by Kesean Cleveland

The Gazette is looking for news and story ideas for our next issue! If your department has an event or news topic you'd like us to cover, please let us know!

Send story ideas to dthom34@langston.edu

Dr. Desmond Delk wins \$50,000 META grant

By Nia Daniels
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Forbes India

Does social media affect your physical activity? Langston and Houston professors won a Meta grant to find out.

This semester, Dr. Desmond Delk and Dr. Olivia Johnson received a \$50,000 grant from Meta, formerly known as Facebook. The physical activity and social media engagement for Latinx and Black women will be observed and data will go toward research with the support of the grant. This grant was split between Langston University and the University of Houston.

According to Delk, "The goal is to see if social media provides a way of social support amongst these groups of women." The study will focus on what people's adherence is, which is the ability to stay engaged with physical activity over time. The study will consist of Black and Latinx women, ages 18 to 25, who go to Langston University and the University of Houston. They will be investigating social connections on social media and physical activity engagement. The study will be a randomized control study based around participants. The grant will allow Langston and the University of Houston students research opportunities and professional development.

Delk is an assistant professor and acting chair of the department of health and physical education and recreation. He is also the coordinator/advisor for Revealing Obstacles and the Awareness for Responsible Sexual Behaviors peer education program and leads the walking program.

Delk collaborated with a colleague and former Auburn classmate at the University of Houston, Dr. Olivia Johnson. Johnson is an assistant professor of retail and consumer sciences at the University of Houston. She also

observes consumer behavior and research related to social media and social movements while Delk's focus is on health and physical activity.

Delk and Johnson want to observe women's health outcomes, especially African American and Latinx women. According to Delk, "From an epidemiological standpoint Latinx and African American women don't have the best outcomes. For example, they face a lot of chronic disease at a higher rate, such as diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. Things like physical activity, adherence, consistency and compliance has health benefits that can bring down your blood pressure," said Delk.

Platforms like Facebook have been looking for researchers to do studies on marginalized communities. Delk came across a "Call for Proposals" advertisement on Facebook, whereas Johnson heard about this opportunity through her email. The research/criteria for the proposal had to be on safety and community health for young people and underserved communities.

When it came to writing and applying for the grant, Delk and Johnson decided to do research on college-aged students which appealed to the criteria of young people. Then for community health they chose social media because they could appeal to a larger community.

"With him being at an HBCU and me being at an HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) we had a really good opportunity on how we can create an equitable space for Black and Latinx women," said Johnson.

The proposal required background research and information to support women's physical activity adherence and social media. Another factor that they included in their proposal was culturally relevant content that people see online. According to Delk and Johnson, "We are really looking forward to creating culturally relevant content and culturally relevant experiences, regarding information about physical activity for certain bodies." Delk and Johnson want the social media content to be specifically black and brown bodies. As well as challenge women to think on how this information applies to them as Black and Latinx women, "that is one of our goals and to figure out if when you see somebody who looks like you, do you feel better about that content," said Johnson.

Dr. Emily Patterson-Harris, Dean of School of Education and Behavioral Sciences said, "Dr. Desmond Delk is an outstanding young educa-

tor so was I surprised? of course not because he is very active in pursuing opportunities, and he is very proactive for young African American students, and he is passionate about proving health outcomes for underrepresented populations."

Currently, there is no defiant date for the program to start yet. Delk and Johnson are still working on a timeline and finalizing criteria. Once the project/research is started, it will take a year from start to finish. Meta gives Delk and Johnson a year to implement the study and their findings. When the study is done, they will meet with the research team and Facebook to discuss findings.

Now, Delk and Johnson are waiting for the Institutional Review Board to confirm their research. The Institutional Review Board is in charge of making sure Delk and Johnson's research is ethical and that they're not putting anyone at risk.

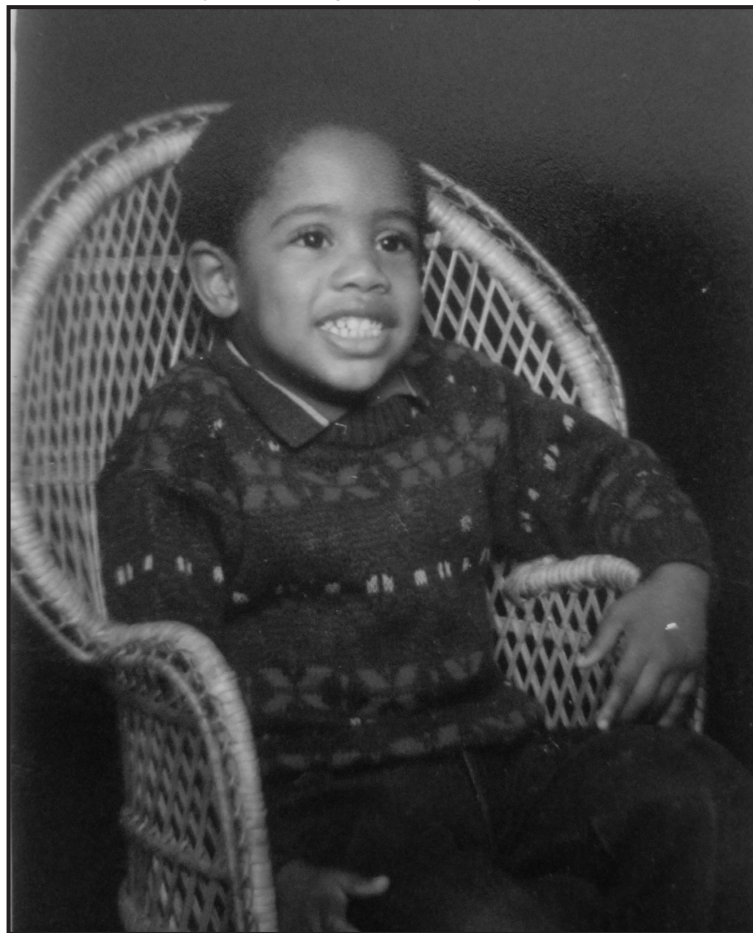
"I often hear that social media is a detriment to society. Hopefully the findings from the study allow us to contribute to the body of knowledge

as it pertains to the Black and Latinx women's physical activity and adherence," said Delk.

Johnson believes social media can be a positive space, but it has to be intentional on how these spaces are created.

"As a black woman who represents this population I am in awe and honored to have a voice for black and brown women. In that sense I am amazed but also scared. When you represent a population that doesn't always get a chance you realize there's some pressure because you want to do a good job... I am excited and nervous, but knowing we have the tools to make this successful is a positive feeling," from their results Johnson hopes to see how they can use their findings for other topics and not just physical adherence but, also "create spaces to recognize issues that are related to physical and mental health especially in marginalized communities."

Nia Daniels is a junior broadcast journalism major.



A young Desmond Delk, full of promise.

How to get a work-study position

By De Asia Montgomery
Staff Writer

The Federal Work-Study Program offers part-time work for part-time and full-time students on and off campus. "If you work off campus, your employer will usually be a private nonprofit organization or a public agency, and the work performed must be in the public interest," according to the Langston University Federal Work-Study website. Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students needing financial assistance on college campuses can apply for Federal Work-Study jobs. The Federal Work-Study Program provides a great deal of life experience as well as benefits. "The benefits of working a work study job are you get to do your own schedule and they don't let you work during your class times, so you won't get

overwhelmed." said junior broadcasting journalism major Terrell Hailey. Your college or university must be participating in the program. Langston University offers and makes available a federal work study program to its students. In case you are unsure if your school takes part in the Federal Work-Study Program, please check your school's website for the Federal Work-Study page. Students can receive jobs related to their major, some schools might have agreements with private for-profit employers. These types of work-study jobs must respect your academic curriculum.

According to the Langston University website "The Federal Work-Study Program emphasizes employment in civic education and work related to your course of study, whenever possible". While enrolled in college if you are looking for work, a federal

work study job is available. However, jobs are limited and applying for aid early is highly suggested. You will find many students looking for the same positions whether you go to a big university or a small college. In addition, jobs are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

You will be able to earn at least the current federal minimum wage. Nonetheless, depending on your position or skills required you can be paid more. The Federal Work-Study award depends on three key factors outlined in the Federal Student Aid report. The three things you need to consider are when you apply, your financial need and your school's funding.

Being an undergraduate or graduate student will waiver your pay. Undergraduate students are paid by the hour. Graduate and profes-

sional students are paid by the hour or by salary, depending on the work that is asked of you. The school is required to pay you at least once a month, and you must be paid directly by the school unless you choose otherwise. The number of hours you work are limited. You cannot work more than your Federal Work-Study award.

"So, I take advantage of the full amount of hours were given per week, and that's twenty hours per week, four weeks in a month. So, a total of eighty hours your allowed maximum per month as long as you are not over your fifteen hundred dollars a semester that your given." said senior business management major Coco Drane. When creating your work hours, your employer or your school's financial aid office will consider your class schedule and your academic progress as mentioned by the Finan-

cial Student Aid website. When asked does the Federal Work-Study Program get in the way of student's school or extracurricular activities on campus junior computer science major Darrall Jamerson said "No because when we originally start to sign up for it, the person will tell you we will work around the hours and stuff like that. It does not affect me because I know my schedule, I'm on a set schedule."

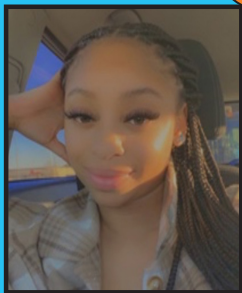
If you or someone you know is need of assistance or access to the Federal Work-Study Program here on campus you may contact Student Employment 112 Page Hall P.O. Box 1205 Langston, OK 73050 (405) 466- 3281 Phone (405) 466- 3281 Phone (405) 466-6001 Fax.

De Asia Montgomery is a junior broadcast journalism major.

Campus Question

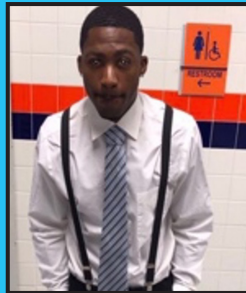
Compiled by John Crane

What are your plans for Spring break?



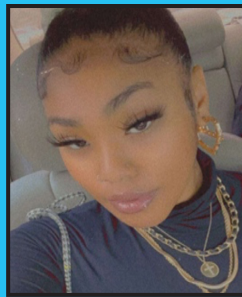
Ale'gna Walton
Senior
Health Administration

I am Going back to Fort Worth, Texas to see my family. I missed them so much. It will be fun to make up for some of the time I have not spent with them during this semester.



Bruce Simpson
Senior
Education

I plan to go to South Padre with some homies. It's a graduation celebration trip.



Adriana Anderson
Sophomore
Business Finance

The plan is to take a girl's trip with my campus friends. We have been trying to find somewhere to travel that won't be to covid heavy.



Dwanique Smith
Senior
Mass Communication

For spring break, I plan on getting stuff together for my event, Wings and worship, and spending time treating my daughter to fun things like Chuck E. Cheese.

PARDON OUR DUST

Langston track team dominates top 10 NAIA

By Lhea Lilly
Staff Writer

Langston University Track and field have not always been a popular sport on the Langston University campus, but through the arduous work and dedication of student athletes and the appointed coaching staff, they are dominating with their numbers. The Langston Lions track and field team opened the season strong, having three runners in the NAIA Top 10 ranking on Track & Field Results Report System. Zachaeus Beard comes in at number one with a time of 6.66, Dion Collier comes in at number five with a time of 6.77 and Malik Williams rounds them out at number 10 with a time of 6.88. Langston is the only team with three student athletes in the top ten ranking.

The Lions' track and field numbers are a testament to the coaching leadership. Head coach James Hilliard shared his philosophy for success, not just on the track, but in life, saying, "The hard part is to get them mentally dialed into what they need to do. Regardless of how physically prepared they are, mentally they can be a wreck and it is not going to be a good day." Hilliard says he tells his athletes "I need 1% improvement every day in what you do in your life: that 1% adds up to a 10, adds up to a 20, so when you break it down into

smaller increments, you make greater gains than when you're trying to make a big jump."

This ideology resonates in the performance

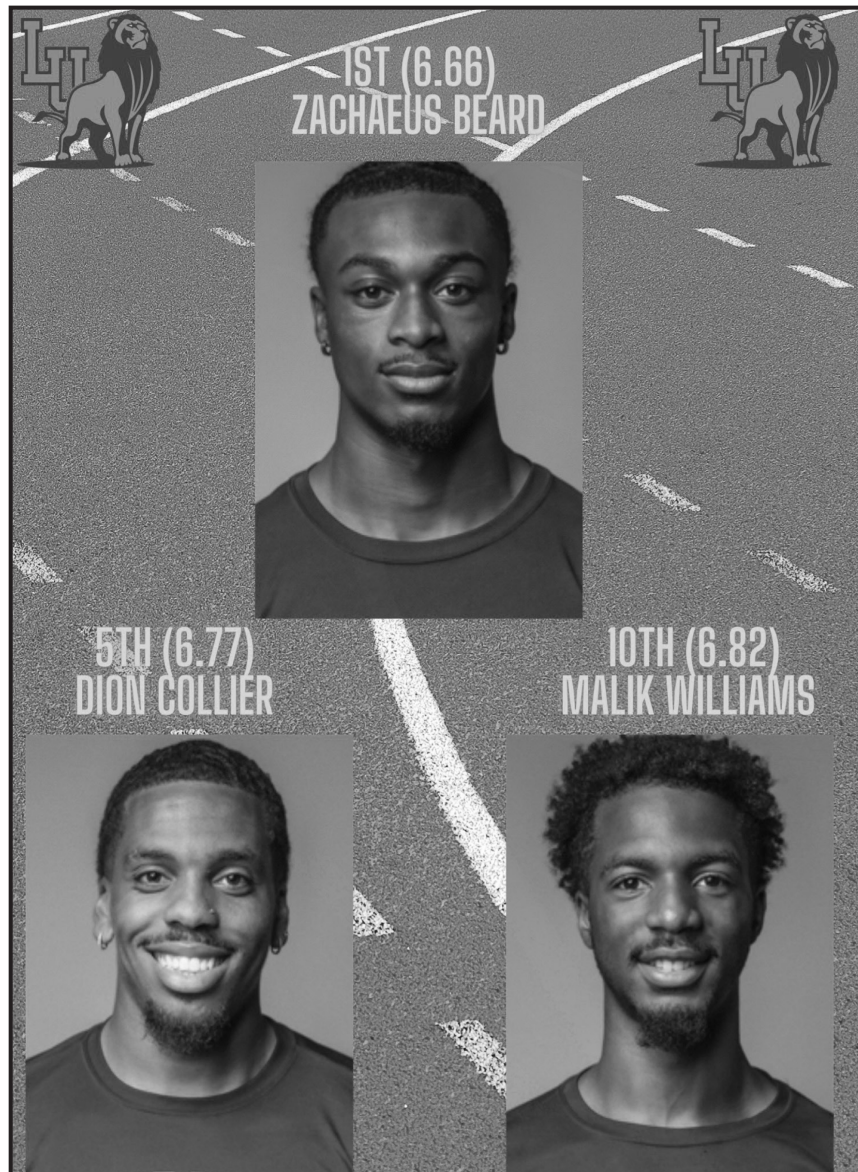
of the athletes. For example, Beard improved from December 1, 2021 from 6.72 down to 6.66 on January 22, 2022.

Hilliard is clear with

his students about his academic expectations for student athletes: "My academic expectations are as high as my athletic expectations," he says. "I

do not give you money to do your academics, you come to college to graduate. I give you money to help use your athletic ability to get a college education." Hilliard was unwavering regarding his dedication to academics, he states, "If you receive an F while you are under scholarship your moneys is reduced, I do not pay for F's, I do not pay for failure." Hilliard emphasized that he has a talented group of kids and is proud of all of them. "One of the greatest things for me as a coach is to see them grow, not just athletically, but as a person." Hilliard started coaching women's cross-country in 1991 and took over the men's and women's track and cross-country program in 1993. The women's 4X1 100-meter relay team won their first National Championship in 2005 under the direction of Hilliard. At that time, the students were not able to take advantage of the track we now have as it was not finished until late 2006. However, the student athletes were so dedicated that they drove their own cars to and from Guthrie Highschool track and trained hard to bring back Langston's first National Championship for women's track and field.

Lhea Lilly is a junior broadcast journalism major and HPER minor.



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Crash in commons forces students to relocate

By **Sasha Ndisabiye**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday Feb. 8, students, faculty, and police gathered around a black SUV that crashed into the side of Commons apartment 10F.

That morning, I had only one class before my shift at the Langston writing center to tutor composition students. My roommate had left for class earlier while I laid in bed getting the only hour of relaxation I had before turning to my responsibilities. I finished my usual routine of eating breakfast and watching TV, when for an instant the surrounding walls and the floor above me shook with great force after the screeching of car tires.

There was a quietness that took over for only seconds before you could hear the swinging open of neighboring doors and the echos of concerned voices that filled the breezeway. Living in building 10 myself, I was stunned by the impact, and unenthusiastically made my way to the front door. With the first tug, the door did not budge; I assumed it was locked.

It was not locked but was still unable to be opened from the inside. Outside sat a large Ford vehicle caved into the wall only a few feet to the right of my living room window. Further examination of the front door proved the side of the door closest to the knob had applied so much pressure against the door frame that it could not open. I couldn't help but hysterically laugh at the situation and began to bang on the door hoping to get someone's attention.

Residents surrounded the car to assess the damage and others checked the safety of the driver as well as their peers. Kayla Smith, upstairs neighbor to apartment 10F, was also home during the accident and rushed out of her apartment to see what the commotion was.

"I was on the balcony at first, and I look down and see a girl in a car who had hit our building... Then my initial thought was that she had hit my friend's house, so I went down there to look for her and saw that her roommate Sasha was there. She was telling me that she was trapped and so we were trying to get the door open, but it would not open from the outside."

The only other way to exit the apartment was through the back bedroom windows, so another student went to take off the back screen which allowed me to climb out. In the front I was greeted by an officer who had just gotten to the accident (the Langston Police Department was not available to comment for this story).

By 2:30 p.m., the remaining residents of the apartment and the adjacent upstairs apartment were in the parking lot discussing what happened and the possibilities of what would happen now. Many heard different stories as to what caused the accident both



from the driver herself and others who had talked to her. Asia Cockrell, the other resident of apartment 10F, said, "Originally, she had said that her brakes stopped working, and then it was her gears, and then she said that she had accidentally stepped on the gas, so honestly, I don't know what to believe." The driver of the vehicle was not available to comment for this story.

Housing staff and maintenance had come to oversee the damage to the building both inside and outside. Having gone back through the window and into my bedroom to change out of my pajamas and grab a few items, another loud pounding echoed into the apartment. I walked into the living room and noticed the front door moving slightly with every blow until the largest maintenance man had bust through the door.

At that point, it was apparent that the damage was bad, and the residents of this apartment and the apartment above would have to relocate. That fact was later confirmed by a commons residential assistant who informed the four students that we would be moved to Scholars Inn.

Together we started to pack all our belongings, filling multiple vehicles to the point of almost being unsafe. Unprepared and angry, Shalaela Jones, Havalyn Frierson, Asia Cockrell and I spent the rest of the day getting everything out of the apartments as fast as possible.

Around 5 p.m., the tow truck arrived to pull the car out of the wall, which was left in place because we wouldn't know if the car was supporting the wall until it was taken out. The officer apologized that we hadn't gotten all our belongings out of the apart-

ment yet, but they couldn't wait any longer and the car had to be towed. After the car was pulled out, no residents were allowed back inside until the structural integrity of the building was determined. A quick inspection was done by the officer and then those of us moving were allowed to continue. Over 25 people had come to watch the car being towed, and they dispersed once the scene was over.

The students who were relocated have had many issues since the accident and transition into the new dorms. A couple weeks prior to the accident, Langston experienced a snowstorm that shut down campus for a few days. According to all four residents, we had stocked up on frozen and nonperishable goods to hold them over during the bad weather. Due to the Scholars Inn not having the same amenities, such as a full kitchen with a large fridge, oven and stove tops, most of those goods went to waste. This cost us hundreds of dollars' worth of food, which was lost during the move. Another example involved this year's Miss Langston Havalyn Frierson, who lived in the apartment above 10F with roommate Shalaela Jones. Frierson said "I have reactive hypoglycemia... It's like a type of diabetic condition but it's the exact opposite of diabetes. So, my body over produces insulin, so my blood sugar will get very very low to the point that sometimes I pass out." In Commons, Frierson had the resources to accommodate for her dietary restrictions, which she did not have access to after the move. While she stayed in Scholars, she had to buy multiple appliances to be able to cook the necessary foods to maintain her health.

At the time of the accident, the residents involved were told that there were no open apartments in Commons available, and we should get comfortable in the Scholars dorms. Later, we heard that there was one apartment open, but it was offline due to the unclean state. We settled into the new dorms and unpacked our items under the impression that this was going to be a long-term stay.

After multiple meetings between housing and the residents, on Feb. 15, the residents were informed that housing was in the process of cleaning two apartments in Commons and hoped to get us moved back by the end of the week. For a second time, housing told us to pack all our stuff, and be ready to move within the next couple of days. Frierson and Jones fortunately have moved back into a different building in Commons apartments and are working on getting settled back in. A week after housing told us to pack, by Feb. 23, roommate Asia Cockrell and I have yet to be able to relocate to our original residential area.

Sasha Ndisabiye is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Lady Lions strike electrifying tournament start

By Keitoria Jefferson
Staff Writer

Photos by Na'Tianna Stocker



On February 22, The Langston University women's basketball team hosted the first round of the SAC Tournament facing Central Christian College.

The lady lions led Central Christian 54-29 at the half while scoring 5 of 20 from the three-point line. The final score of the game was 102-59, leaving the team with 64 total rebounds, 17 assists, 3 blocks, and 5 steals at the end of the game. 49 of the points were from off the bench.

Two of the leading scorers of the game, #2 Jadyn Chestnutt and #25 Talia Edwards, both finished the game with near double-doubles. Assistant head coach Terry Palmer said that "overall last season that they've been kind of inconsistent. I think we did a better job tonight of getting them involved than we had prior to the season but for the most part they played a terrific game around the basket with how they finished in layups. I probably had a couple secondary sites that I think they could have made on the initial shot but for the most part everything was fine. they really play with good energy and they were quick to the ball, which is always important."

Coach Palmer, responding to questions about changes to be made going into the second round of playoffs, said "defense rotation, but I think the biggest thing is communication. You can overcome so many things if you communicate beginning of the game to the end so as long as we're able to communicate it a little bode well for us going down the rest of the season with this next game against USAO or specially on the road."

On Feb. 24 at the Drove Fieldhouse, the Lady Lions lost to USAO (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma), who was the No. 4 seed in the SAC Tournament, with a score of 92-61. They now wait to see if they can earn a bid in the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship opening rounds.

Keitoria Jefferson is a senior broadcast journalism major.



Career fair draws 79 employers

By Mackenzie McQuarters
Staff Writer

Langston University held their annual career fair on March 2. Students were able to come to the gym and talk about future jobs with possible employers.

There were a total of 79 organizations in attendance. Companies from Tulsa, Topeka, Jackson and Kansas City were there to offer students any information that was needed.

Ms. Leonelle Thompson leads the Office of Career and Professional Development at Langston University and organized the event.

"It is held twice a year, it is a great way for people to see Langston and Langston students to

know more about their career," Thompson said.

She also helps the students with proofreading resumes, offering internships and providing trips.

One of the companies present was The Kansas City Teacher Residency, which is a company that offers students teaching positions.

According to the representatives, students can have any major and still apply to become an educator.

The district says teachers of color can have a positive impact on student outcomes, but students of color do not have equitable access to them.

One thing people can expect from them is support. KCTR sup-

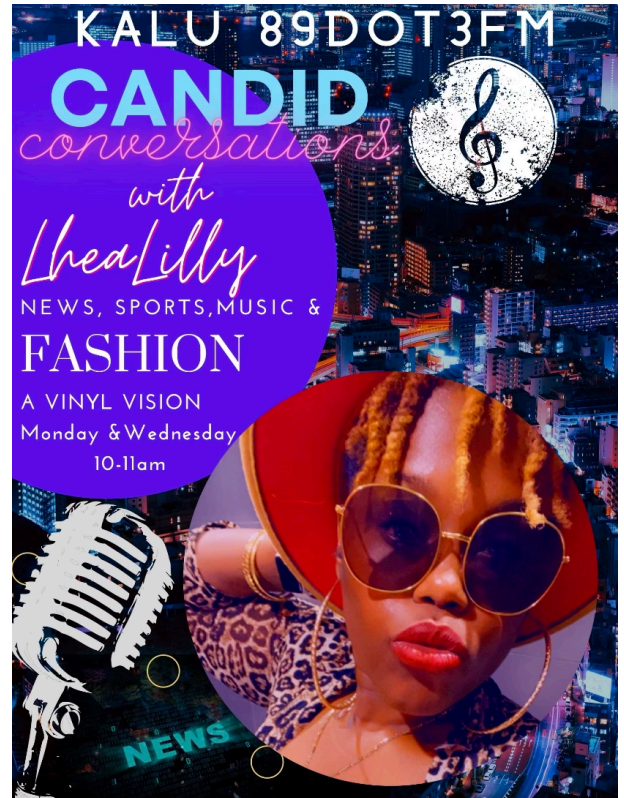
ports new teachers during their residency and first several years of teaching. Additionally, KCTR builds partner schools' capacity to support teachers.

The career fair is an opportunity for students to explore and ask questions.

Jasmine "Donut" Guy, a Langston University student, visited the career fair and expressed her experience with the companies.

"The Career Fair is well organized this year and I'm glad to see other students being engaged," Guy said.

Mackenzie McQuarters is a senior broadcast journalism major.



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AND SUPPORT TO LANGSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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