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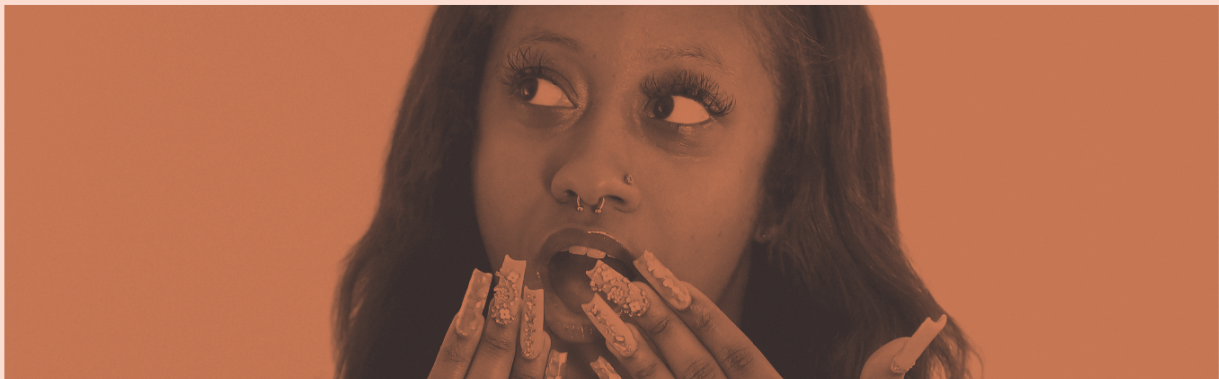
The Gazette April 5, 2023

Langston University

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STUDENT



VOICE



EDITION

the Gazette

The Gazette is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University.

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Read Online

What Does Life After College Look Like?

By Sharodon Jenkins
Staff Writer

According to a Gazette survey of 100 Langston students, 75% of students said they came to school to become a better version of themselves. Yet, the conversation among graduating seniors and even some alumni is that they have to find out on their own how to conduct life after graduation.

During college, students are not always aware of what may happen. Bre'ana Walker, a senior public health major, described her college experience as unexpected.

"I didn't know what to expect from college in general and especially what to expect from an HBCU. But it's not unexpected to the point that I couldn't overcome what I wasn't ready for."

For Walker, Langston prepared her for some aspects of her future, while others remained unclear. "I feel that Langston prepared me in a sense of staying on my toes and to always have a backup plan in case things just take a turn. But as far as life after college, maybe like grad school and things like that, I feel like it's room for improvement. They get us prepared for life, but for further education, I feel like they could do better."

Students often find themselves struggling to understand what life after college looks like. To some students Langston gets them involved in their major but not with graduate opportunities. Walker believes that Langston should have more graduate fairs.

"I feel like they should bring in more opportunities for each college and each major. I feel like they also need to expand

their horizons and host graduate school fairs. I feel like grad school isn't really talked about a lot. They tell us at the end to look at programs and stuff like that, but by the end of your last semester, it's kind of too late to be applying and looking at programs. So I believe they should have implemented things earlier in our college experience."

In college, advisors are known to guide students through their plan of study and advocate for opportunities. However, when asked about the helpfulness of her advisor, Walker shared that her first advisor deterred her experience.

"She didn't have me in the right plan of study that I told her for the major that I wanted, and that ended up making me not be able to get into that college. But at the same time once I decided to change my major to public health, my advisor from that point on has been very hands-on. She's the one that got me into looking for internships and pushing me to actually want to find what I want to do. So, while my current advisor was helpful in my major, it was a rocky relationship with my first advisor in the beginning."

When it comes to life after college, Walker is excited but nervous about going into the real world.

"I feel like I know how to carry myself at a higher standard. Now that I'm leaving Langston, I know how to go out and speak up for myself for the things that I need and deserve."

Walker believes that in order to become more engaged with life after college, students must be able to advocate for themselves. A piece of advice that

she left for students who will soon follow her footsteps is "Start early, don't wait until your senior year. Start your sophomore year to plan, start saving and cut out bad habits that are causing problems at that time. Because as you get older and enter those transitional stages, those bad habits will catch up with you and deter your mind, leading you to believe that you are not doing what you need to do. So I'll just say get rid of those bad habits as soon as possible and keep your circle small. Do not be afraid to exclude people from your circle that may have been there in your younger phase because life is carrying on after college."

Graduating can feel like a huge step into the unknown, especially if you have not had any conversations on where to go from there. Thomica McCloria, Class of 2022 health administration graduate, is a employee of the Oklahoma City VA medical center as part of administrative staff for their social work department. She shared about her transition into the professional world during a panel discussion about stepping into the future hosted by the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

"It was scary at first... so I really needed to get into the mindset of being comfortably uncomfortable, you know? Life's gonna throw a lot of curveballs at you, and you're gonna feel scared and a little lonely. But at the end of the day, no one's gonna get you out of that hole except for you. And I often say that the

**continues on
page 4**



Langston Faces



Photos courtesy of Julian Austin. Pictured left to right: Jimmy Lee, Cameron Moore, and Zakiya Wall

Opinion: Students want more from Black History Month events

By Taniya McQueen
Staff Writer

As of 1986, the whole month of February is considered Black History Month. The purpose of the month is to celebrate the achievements and have a time to remember the history of African Americans.

Paying tribute to generations of black people who struggled to gain citizenship in America should be our focus every day. It is sad enough that we get the shortest month of the year. Considering the fact that we are attending the only HBCU in Oklahoma, you would think this month would be full of black excitement.

As the first of March approached, I was a little upset about the lack of experience I had at my HBCU. The only major event pertaining to our history that I can look back and remember is Martin Luther King Day. On January 16, there was an MLK parade full

of activities and music from the band.

There were very few events in February about black history. The ones that took place were barely known about because of the lack of promotion from event coordinators. The events this month consisted of ceremonies and celebrations for other organizations. In my opinion, Langston could have incorporated some black history during some of those events.

A statement made on the Langston University's Instagram page states "As Oklahoma's only HBCU, we are proud to celebrate Black History Month every month as we continue to shape the leaders and history – makers of the future." Whenever I read this on February 1st the word I immediately spotted and got excited for was "celebrate." As someone who graduated from a predominately white school, I looked forward to coming to an HBCU

and really connecting with my people in every way.

Jimmy Lee, a sophomore at Langston University, said "I lowkey forgot it was black history month. It was also kind of quiet on all my social media pages, I do feel like all I remember seeing was memes about Valentines Day." Hearing that had me questioning my community.

At Fisk University, an HBCU in Nashville, TN, they had a BHM tribute during a basketball halftime show. I couldn't say the same about my HBCU. There were four home games at Langston during the month of February and there were no halftime tributes. Nothing was memorable. I have seen pictures and quotes about black history month around the café but nothing major.

The last time Langston University posted something on their website about BHM was February 16, 2016. On that

day they also held an event in the auditorium. There were events held such as "The Spirit of Black Wallstreet before & after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre". This event took place in the Gymnasium. This event was barely publicized.

As I take the time to have a recap of 2023 black history month, I realize that there isn't much I can say. This reminds me of the high school I attended. I never felt like I got the chance to learn the history of African Americans. Langston has let me down for the first time ever since I got here. For improvement of this problem in the future we could have parades, watch documentaries or have tributes at our black college. I am hoping that next year will be different and I have something to not only look forward to but to tell memorable stories about.

Taniya McQueen is a sophomore Broadcast Journalism major

"Life After College" continued from page 2

scariest 10 steps that you need to take in life end up being the most fulfilling so just take it one day at a time, and know you'll get the hang of it eventually."

McCloria recounts her experience at Langston as more positive than negative. "I made a lot of connections through networking and joining different organizations. I believe that being able to communicate with other people and learn about their various experiences has aided me in acquiring these tools and resources to prepare me for the future. It also helped me learn more about myself."

She also feels that she was not adequately advised throughout her collegiate career until junior year. "I think when I started getting into my major courses, and I was learning from professors who were actually in the field, that's when I felt a little more comfortable. Those prerequisites felt rushed, and it felt like we were only doing it for a grade that didn't really count toward your major. But once I got into my specific school (school of nursing and health professions) I had a lot of professors who helped me grow and just guided me through this experience of junior and senior year and even helping me through my master's program and things

like that."

McCloria also feels that once she started getting into her major courses, her professors went further in depth with the material and allowed her to engage in real life scenarios. "Then I started to see these things unfold in my internship when I had to take my internship my senior year, so it was cool to connect the pieces in class to what I was seeing in my internship, and I feel like that prepared me a lot when it came to going out into the real world and finding a job." She also mentions that she does not feel she lacks more than some of her colleagues.

"I actually feel like I'm more developed than some of my colleagues, especially since I work in healthcare. I am aware of information that they are not aware of. As a result, I frequently find myself teaching them. And I believe it all stems from the professors I had during my junior and senior years. And I'm glad I'm able to educate my coworkers, and it just makes me happy that I can be of assistance."

McCloria shared that what kept her motivated for life after college is knowing that she is the only thing that she can control. "If I'm lacking, it's on me, and I need to figure out how to do that. No

one's gonna hold my hand through life, so I need to pick myself up and rise up to the occasion in order to get where I need to be."

McCloria suggests reaching out to alumni to help students become more engaged with the topic of life after college. "Because they have firsthand knowledge of what it's like, particularly alumni from your specific university or school, such as School of Business, you can learn what steps they took, what fields they ended up going into, and you'll have a better idea of what your life may turn out like if you follow these specific steps and simply continue to learn from others."

McCloria's advice to graduating seniors is, "I would tell them that it's best to prepare early. The last thing they want to do is procrastinate on all of the things they need to do and end up feeling stuck and pressed for time. It can be hectic, so they should just make sure they are as prepared as possible and set themselves up for success. Try not to develop a habit of procrastination, as this will have an impact on them in the future."

Sharodon Jenkins is a junior broadcast journalism major

Chantele' Gordon



Poem: Because...I'm a Lady!

We're pretty and fly,
 We keep our heads held up high,
 Love the diamonds, rubies and pearls,
 Won't let any men take us into a dark world.
 Hair flipped and full of lust,
 Nails did so they won't rust,
 These hips and these thighs don't keep men to stay,
 But sweet love and cookin' won't run them away.
 The fellas love our smiles and our eyes,
 Fellas,
 Fall in love with our hearts before getting between our thighs,
 We don't have to tease,
 Because our beauty on the inside will make men. . .
 Please.
 Fellas your words are sweet like a melon,
 But how do you really treat women?
 Remember. We're pretty and fly,
 AND!
 We keep our heads held up high.

CREED III: MOVIE REVIEW

By Midori Williams
Staff Writer



On March 3rd Creed III was released. Michael B. Jordan both starred as Adonis Creed and directed the film. Jonathan Majors played Damian Anderson Creed's primary opponent and childhood best friend. A Gazette survey of 100 students indicated that 72% of Langston University students are interested in watching Creed III in theaters.

Despite receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from most critics, one criticism of the film that some critics hold is that Creed movies follow a repetitive "Rocky formula," meaning they use the pattern of introducing a new problem for the main character to overcome and ultimately "fight" through. Even though this pattern is evident within all Rocky movies as well as the Creed trilogy, Markel Williams, the head strength and conditioning coach at Langston University, believes this is why he enjoys the movies so much.

"Something all of the Creed movies have in common is that there's always obstacles to overcome mentally and physically," Williams said.

Coach Williams has conducted boxing workouts with the Langston University softball team as well as other student athletes and believes that motivational sports movies like Creed III can be positively influential.

"Movies can remind you that there is a way you haven't tried yet, and give you the motivation you need to get it done," Williams said.

One of the primary reasons he enjoys both participating in and leading rigorous boxing workouts is to build mental toughness.

"It can give you confidence so when you do hit a brick wall you can hit it back," Williams said.

As a player on the Langston University softball team who has participated in some of these boxing workouts I found that not only was the experience mentally strengthening and therapeutic, I was also able to push myself physically. Coach Williams expressed that watching

athletes who are excited to learn proper boxing techniques is what is most fulfilling to him as a coach during these types of workouts. "When they learn the skill, and they start throwing punches and understanding the science behind boxing, that's the fun part," Williams said.

Creed III built upon the legacy of the first two movies to offer a cohesive yet unique watching experience. This movie differs from Creed and Creed II because of the cinematic creativity and symbolism coupled

with crystal clear camera work. The filming style of this movie, especially during fight scenes, was incredibly sharp and focused. The cinematic creativity and visual effects that warped time added to the intensity of the fights and placed emphasis on the deeper meaning within the film.

In many ways Creed III demonstrated a lot of the same characteristics as the previous movies but dove deep into themes like family, being an underdog, overcoming childhood trauma and toxic masculinity as well

as facing injuries. Creed III offered a wide range of family dynamics. In the film Creed shows a softer side through embracing a heartwarming role as an involved father to his young daughter. He navigates vulnerability in his marriage, experiences a feud that threatens the sense of brotherhood he has with his best friend and grows closer to his mother amidst her ongoing health problems.

An impactful aspect of the film is the awareness it brings to toxic masculinity through showing Creed's journey to heal from childhood trauma by opening up to his wife about how he is struggling mentally. This kind of vulnerability and healthy character development is refreshing to witness in a character that represents strength for a lot of viewers. Rather than masking his emotions and channeling them into aggression, Creed is able to break out of his comfort zone in order to further his healing process and strengthen his relationships.

Another noteworthy part of the film is the scene where Creed officially comes out of retirement and his coaches are analyzing his numerous injuries. For many athletes who are nearing the end of their careers, including myself, it is relatable to have these tough conversations about how to move forward and strengthen areas of the body that have taken a beating over many years of competing.

Along with Michael B. Jordan and Jonathan Majors, the cast features Tessa Thompson, Phylicia Rashad and Spence Moore II. Unlike the other movies in the Creed trilogy Sylvester Stallone did not co-write the screenplay for Creed III. Instead, the screenplay was written by Keenan Coogler, the brother of Ryan Coogler who directed the first Creed movie, and Zach Baylin. Since its debut, Creed III has received a large amount of positive reactions. On Rotten Tomatoes Creed III has earned an 88% from critics on the tomatometer as well as a 96% audience score.

Midori Williams is a junior broadcast journalism major and biology minor.

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Jordan or LeBron: Who's the G.O.A.T.?

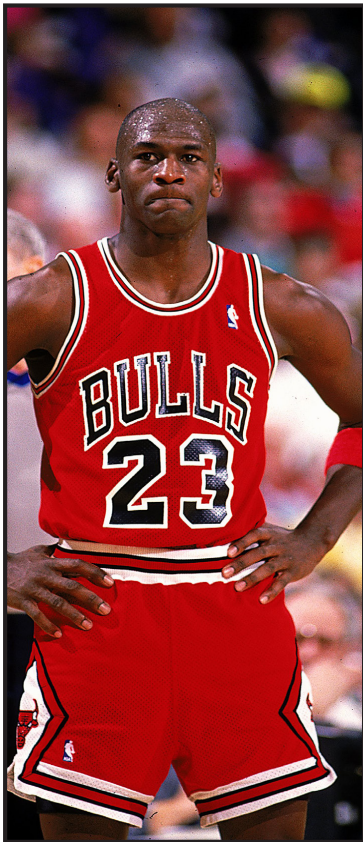


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

By Sam Battle Jr.
Staff Writer

Who do students think is the greatest of all time to play in the NBA: Michael Jordan, LeBron James, or someone else? The G.O.A.T. debate has been around for many years and has intensified recently.

On February 7th, in a home game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, LeBron James broke the all-time scoring record that was previously held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar who previously held the record for scoring with a total of 38,387 points for his career. For many, James breaking the record set him as the clear G.O.A.T. now, but the debate continues.

In a campus survey of 100 students after James broke the record asking whom they thought the G.O.A.T. is between LeBron and Jordan, the vote resulted in 52 students choosing James and 48 picking Jordan, showing that breaking the scoring record did not set James clearly ahead of Jordan. Bryce Johnson, a freshman HPER major from Kansas City Missouri who photographs the men's and women's basket-

ball teams, gave his thoughts on how he determines who the greatest of all time is.

"Points, rings, how they score, accolades and leadership is what I consider for my choice on who the greatest of all time is, but overall, it comes down to points and stats to me."

LeBron for his career is averaging 27.2 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 7.3 assists per game. He has won four NBA Championships, claiming the Finals Most Valuable Player Award in all, four Regular Season Most Valuable Players Awards, and has been named to 18 All-NBA teams.

Jordan during his career averaged 30.1 points, 6.2 rebounds, and 5.3 assists per game. Winning six NBA Championships being named Finals Most Valuable Player all six times, regular season Most Valuable Player five times, All-NBA 11 times, and won Defensive Player of the Year once. Jordan only played in the NBA for 15 seasons while James has played in the NBA for 20 seasons and is still currently playing.

Are stats the only thing that matters? There are so many different things that can go

into what makes a player the G.O.A.T, things like "who they are on and off the court," as mentioned by Johnson, or the "legacies and impact on the game," which sophomore Keshun Blair stated as something he considers when deciding who is the G.O.A.T. "For me, it's like how do you decide who really the greatest is," Blair said.

There are so many different things to consider for who the G.O.A.T. is, which is why there is so much debate, and not just between Michael Jordan and LeBron James. Throw Kobe Bryant in the mix, who was Bryce Johnson's pick for who the greatest is, someone who has five NBA Championships and whose legacy and impact on the game of basketball was like no other. Kareem Abdul Jabbar has won six NBA Championships, which is more than LeBron, and held the scoring title before him. Maybe it is time to stop debating and just enjoy and appreciate greatness for what it is.

Sam Battle Jr. is a Junior broadcast journalism major.



Photo of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar handing basketball to LeBron James courtesy of AP News

Opinion: Langston needs a spring music Festival

By **Sam Gichohi**
Staff Writer

Langston University is known for producing great musical talent. From our amazing students in the Langston Marching Pride to upcoming independent artists, the variety Langston students showcase is something people appreciate on and off campus. Although Langston has left a great musical legacy on stage and on the field, some students question if there could be more opportunities for them to add to Langston's legacy.

Freshman education music major Xavier Jones feels, "as a freshman, so far I haven't really experienced too many events for music artists other than being in the band. I think adding a music festival would be really cool."

A campus survey question was asked if Langston should add a yearly music festival and 90% of students agreed. An annual concert or festival dedicated to student musicians would give students something to look forward to during the spring semester.

Not only would a music festival dedicated to Langston student performers be enjoyable, but it

also would inspire students.

Sophomore agriculture student Mykel Scorza said "I'm surprised the event hasn't been made yet. During freshman year, there were a couple of performances but that was it."

From hip hop and R&B to gospel, Langston has a rich history of providing an opportunity for artists to perform on campus. Yet, it is only set during the start of school or "Welcome Week" which takes place during the first week of the school year and during homecoming weekend every October.

Recent artists such as Jacquees, Boosie, Cupid, Too \$hort, & Oklahoma's legendary Charlie Wilson have all graced Langston's stage in Fall Semester. Although all of the artists Langston allowed on campus have been phenomenal, it would not hurt to provide the same opportunity for current artists and musicians to perform spring semester.

Junior Music Education major Darnell Parker feels "Being an artist myself, I find myself wanting to start my artistry now versus waiting till senior year. I'm really treating my last couple of years like a performing arts major."

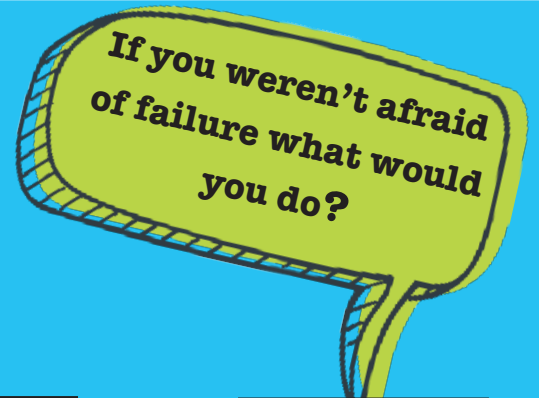
If given the opportunity, more talented students could get this chance to showcase their talent. Darnell also said "This is my fifth year now, I honestly lost my motivation with music because of school. I'm now in this position of being both an artist and student simultaneously but while on this journey music is where I feel best in my element."

Langston should consider the possibility of hosting an event that allows our talented students and amazing artists within the community a chance to represent Langston loudly and boldly. A spring concert, festival or talent showcase could hold this opportunity to shine Langston's light. Open mic from students, our marching band, majorette dance team and members from the divine nine could serve as student performances on the day and get students hyped for an evening performance from special guests. It would be wonderful to allow students the opportunity to experience campus spirit and pride on an annual basis.

Sam Gichohi is a junior broadcast journalism major.

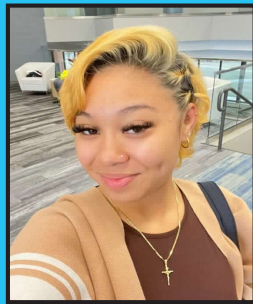
Campus Question

Compiled by Ma'Kalynn Richardson



Dacia Hindsman
Sophomore
Business Administration & Management Major

I would host my own fashion show and I would promote my clothing business to everybody.



Katelynn Raguindin
Sophomore
Criminal Justice Major

I would be more confident in who I am as a person, and a lot of missed opportunities in the past, I could have had them now and it would've put me in higher pedestal in life ... not being afraid to fail would have made my life do a whole 360.



Rayven Thurmon
Sophomore
Broadcast Journalism Major

Travel the world, articulate anything on my mind, and go after any opportunity I want with no hesitation.



London Brookins
Junior
Nursing & Business Major

If I wasn't afraid I would try multiple paths and see how they turn out for me. If something doesn't work, keep trying something else until I find something that works.

"I Fear For My Life" describes prison life

By Chantele' Gordon
Staff Writer

"Understand, be careful who you bring in your safe space," said Kemba Smith-Pradia to the students at Langston University at noon on March 22. Smith-Pradia shares her experience of being involved with the wrong man and reminds the women to know and understand their worth.

The presentation, called "I Fear For My Life," was provided by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), the 400 Years of African American History Commission (400 YAAHC), and Lincoln University Law Enforcement Training Academy (LUETA). The focus was to bring attention to legislation, law enforcement policy, prosecution and defense-related needs, concerns, and contributions of African Americans and other people of color towards equal justice.

Kemba Smith-Pradia is a mother, public speaker, advocate, consultant and author of "The Poster Child." She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, the NAACP and the Justice Roundtable. She has worked with the White House, the United Nations and members of Congress, and has led many trainings for federal and state probation organizations.

Before Smith-Pradia became the woman she is today some not-so-good decisions were made that landed her in prison for six and half years. Being involved with wrong person through the acts of love put Smith-Pradia in a situation she never thought she would ever be in. Smith-Pradia went from college student to drug dealer's girlfriend to domestic violence victim to federal prisoner in 1994 for a 24.5 years prison sentence. The case of Smith-Pradia gained support across the nation that was able to help release her from prison. Relationships are not always what they seem to be, "You never know where relationships and people you meet can take you," said Smith-Pradia.

There are two reasons as to why Smith-Pradia shares her story.

First reason: she believes every young person will make a mistake in life and have the chance

to share their story, so that the next young person does not make the same mistake.

Second reason: because Smith-Pradia left behind hundreds of Kemba Smith-Pradias in federal prison and it is important to her to be the face of first-time non-violent drug offenders. It is "important for me to help others get free," said Smith-Pradia.

Smith-Pradia attended Hampton University when she had her first encounter with the law. Smith-Pradia was young and had low self-esteem, not knowing her worth like she does now. When she got involved with Peter Hall, the campus drug dealer, she had no idea where the relationship would take her. One take-away from Smith-Pradia's story is, "I need each and every one of you all, male and female, to love you, because if you don't love you the way you need to you will allow anything around you." Smith-Pradia's involvement with Hall became abusive and fearful to the point she did what she had to do to protect herself and her family.

"Understand. Be careful who you bring in your safe spaces," Smith-Pradia said.

While incarcerated, a black owned magazine called Emerge highlighted Smith-Pradia's story. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund took on her case because she was a black woman that made a bad choice and the mass population of the prisons were black women. The only way to get Smith-Pradia out was to get President Bill Clinton to sign a document to release Smith from prison.

In December 2000, Smith-Pradia was released from prison because her story sparked a movement for women with a similar story. "Understand the power of choices", said Smith-Pradia.

Prison is not a vacation. Some individuals like Smith-Pradia never know when they will see their family again or actually go home. The chapels can be the only space to feel safe. Asked what helped her keep going while not knowing when she would be going home, Smith-Pradia said the other women around her were a source of strength. "Even though I had the support, there were women that were around me that didn't have the support and so I was grateful through the holidays that my parents would visit

me and bring my son, but there were some women incarcerated who could not see their kids ... I'm glad you brought this up because I look at them and gain strength from their strength."

Smith-Pradia has spoken with her colleague Dr. Kideste Mariam Yusef at Bethune-Cookman University, Florida A&M University, Bowie State University, North Carolina Central University, Denmark Technical College, Benedict College, Dillard College, Sam Houston State University, and Langton University. Yusef built her foundation by working hard and believing in herself. Yusef is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and the Department Chair of the undergraduate Criminal Justice and Master's in Criminal Justice Administration program at Bethune-Cookman University. With many expertise involving community-police relations, police use of force, race and social justice, and performance management. Served 1st Police Accountability Fellow for the Center for Race, Crime, and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Also served the 2010-2011 Emerging Scholar for the Consortium for Police Leadership in Equity program at the University of California, Los Angeles. Over the years of Dr. Yusef doing her service she has received many awards including Dean's Award for Excellence in 2018, Orlando Magic Social Justice Game Changer in 2021, Presidential Award from the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice in 2021, Keynote Speaker for City of Orlando Black History Month in 2021. Not only do Dr. Yusef's awards show the type of woman she is: Strong, Smart, and Black. Recently Dr. Yusef was chosen to be the face of the Kenneth Grant Inspirations Represent African American Photography exhibition, which highlights Black excellence throughout Volusia County. She is the overseer of phase two of the "I Fear for My Life" Initiative that creates space for discussions between African American college students and local police based on mutual fear as the common ground.

Chantele' Gordon is a junior english major.

Student Survey Says...

Poll:
17%
Run a small business on campus

(From an in-person survey of 100 Langston students by Taniya McQueen-Thomas)

Poll:
36%
Are student parents

(From an in-person survey of 100 Langston students by Ma'Kalynn Richardson)

Poll:
53%
Are first-generation students

(From an in-person survey of 100 Langston students by Midori Williams)

Poll:
78%
Don't like pineapple on pizza

(From an in-person survey of 100 Langston students by Sam Battle)