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Langston University

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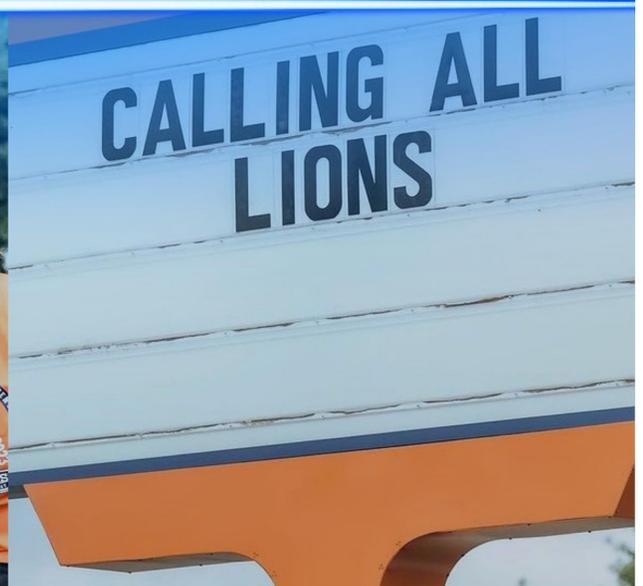
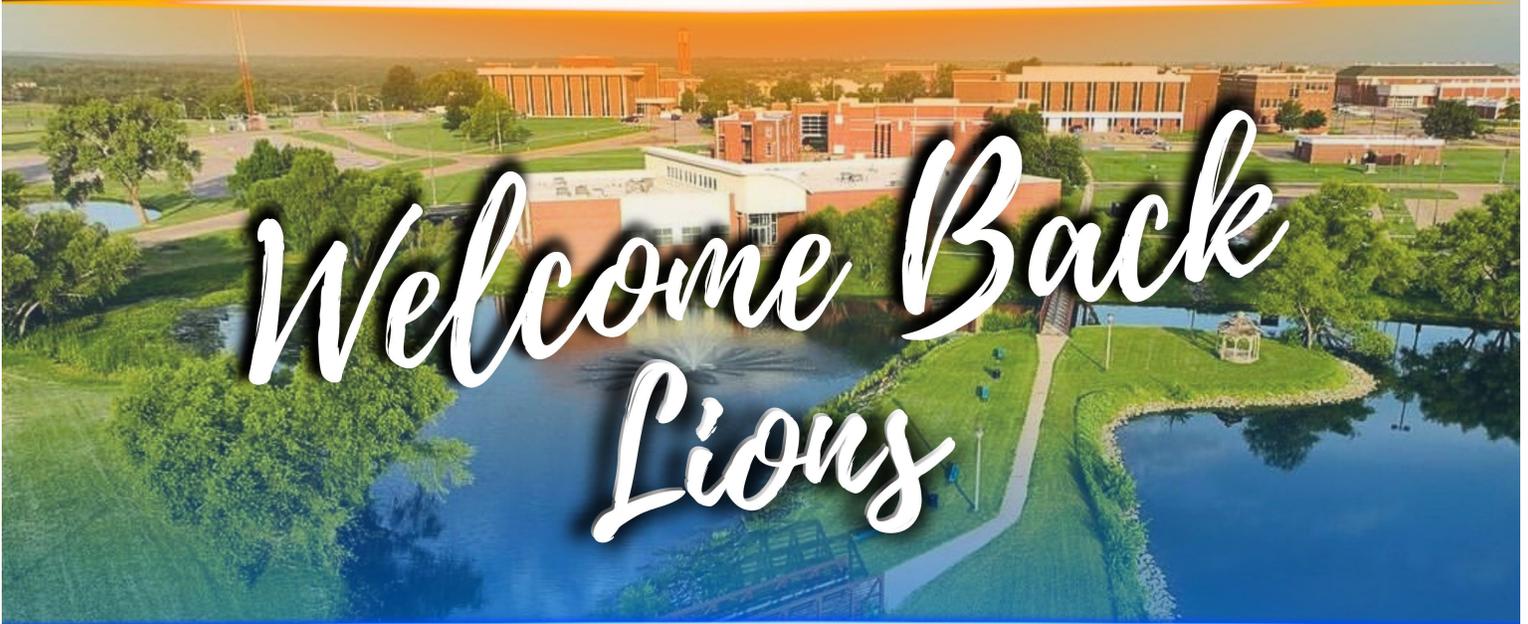
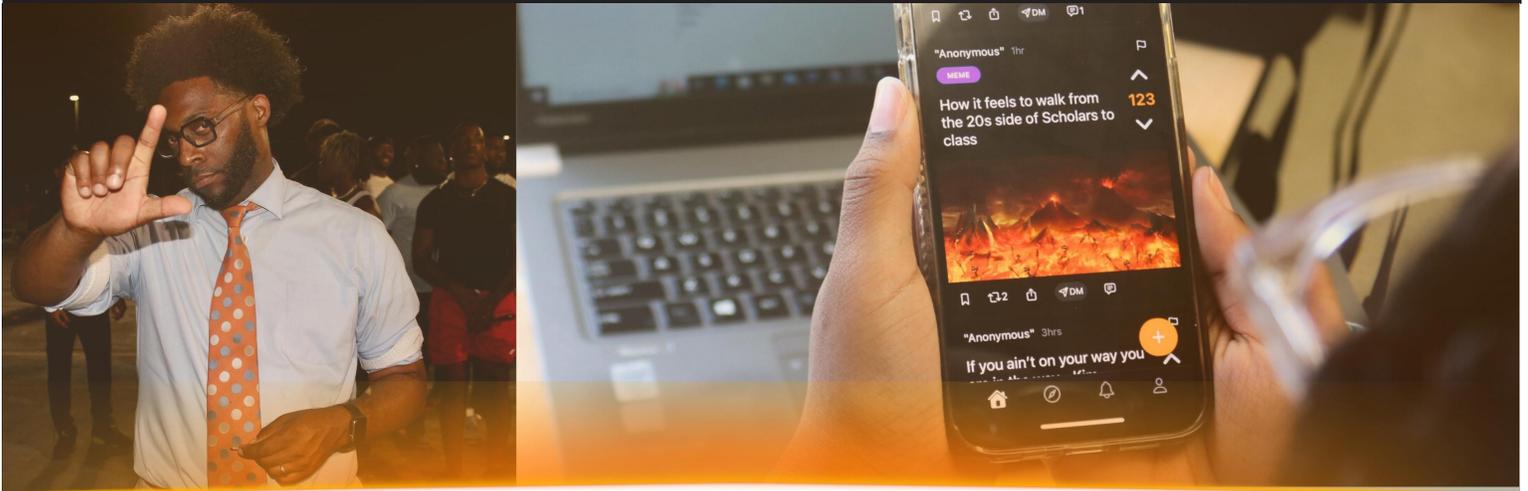
the Gazette



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STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023



the Gazette

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Read Online

LUPD under new management: What should you expect?

By Aniyah Robinson
Staff Writer

Joshua Busby, the Dean of Students for Langston University, recently revealed in a meeting with the SGA Senate that the Langston University Police Department (LUPD) is now umbrellaed under the Office of Student Affairs. This change became effective in July, a call former President Kent Smith made before his retirement.

Traditionally LUPD has been under the Office of Student Affairs, but this changed during former President Smith's time in office. In the meeting with the SGA Senate, Busby indicated that things would change within LUPD. However, the Office of Public Relations stated that the only change would be at the administrative level.

"LUPD isn't changing its operations on any grand scale. The only change is really at the administrative level. LUPD now reports to Dean Busby," said the Public Relations Office. With all the changes in administration across campus, it made sense for LUPD to return to the Office of Student Affairs, according to PR.

"Obviously, student affairs and the police department worked really closely together because of housing and because of, you know, situations that might happen involving students," said Langston University's Public Relations Office.

Busby is optimistic that this change will bridge the gap between both LUPD and students. However, not everyone is as hopeful that this will bring about meaningful change in LUPD's operations.

"If he [Busby] sees what we see, then maybe stuff will change. But if not, it will probably just stay the same," said Takiya Gibson, a sophomore criminal justice major.

Increasingly, students have become more vocal about the negative interactions they have had with LUPD. A large population of students own cars on campus or commute. For those students, there is an increased chance of interaction with LUPD. Some students, like Gibson, feel like they are being harassed by university police.

"I shouldn't feel like I'm driving on campus and then when I randomly see LUPD my stomach goes...drops," Gibson said.

Gibson says she has had two serious interactions with LUPD, and they have both been negative. The most notable encounter cost her \$1,200 and six hours in Logan County Jail. A year ago, Gibson was pulled over for not stopping at a stop sign for a complete three seconds. She admits to driving without a license but feels the crime does not fit the punishment.

"I found out that they weren't supposed to be sending any students to the unit because the females unit was full. So if it was a noncriminal offense, they weren't supposed to send me over there," says Gibson about being held in Logan County Jail. (The Gazette has not yet confirmed the legal validity of this assertion).

Another student, Aston Foster, a junior criminal justice/correction and psychology major, feels unsupported by both administration and LUPD. "We're supposed to be able to go to LUPD if we have anything. I person-

ally feel like I have to do everything on my own because LUPD is not going to do what they are supposed to do," Foster said.

Earlier this semester, Foster's car was keyed, and sugar was poured down her tank. Despite there being cameras placed in front of Young Hall where the crime occurred, she was told the footage was too grainy to see anything. According to Foster, when she later asked for the footage of the incident, she was told by LUPD that she legally could not obtain any footage.

For Gibson, she feels like LUPD is more concerned about hitting a quota rather than helping the students. "Police departments is supposed to protect and serve like, I don't feel like they do that at all," Gibson said, "They... I feel like they are trying to... fill a quota."

Some students suggested that to better the relationship between the student body and LUPD, changes should be made within the system. The most significant of those recommendations asks for the department to take a new training course so they are better trained in how to interact with students. Gibson recommended that Busby, as new overseer of LUPD, should shadow some of the officers for a day, just so see what they do and how they interact with students daily. Change does not just happen overnight but, students hope that with this new change, the relationship between LUPD and the student body can change for the better.

Aniyah Robinson is a junior broadcast journalism major.



Photo Courtesy of KFOR.com

"Out of order" elevators call for review of university ADA policies

By **Tristan Dozier**
Staff Writer

You arrive to your building for class with a broken leg, carrying all your textbooks you need for the day, only to find the elevator with an 'Out of Order' sign taped to the door. So, you proceed to walk up three flights of stairs with crutches to your classroom only to find the building's AC isn't working. Now tired and increasingly hot from your journey up the stairs, you are ready to learn.

A series of elevator breakdowns on the Langston University campus has left students, faculty and staff facing unexpected challenges as they navigate the start of the new academic year. The elevator breakdowns, which have impacted multiple buildings across campus (Moore Hall, Sanford and University Women's), have raised concerns about accessibility, safety and the overall well-being of the university community.

Without reasonable accommodations, broken elevators might be a violation of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Titles one and two. Title one of the ADA ensures employees with a disability or injury have the right to an accessible safe workplace, while title two mandates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities or injury to ensure students will not be refused access to education or participation in activities on the basis of injury or disability.

To address this problem, Langston University is providing reasonable accommodation to those under the American Disability Act by allowing students with ADA to attend class via Zoom or by moving classes to the first floor, if their building's elevator has broken down.

The American Disability Act was passed in 1990, with the intention to prohibit discrimination against those with disabilities or debilitating injuries, such as those permanently in a wheelchair or those that are only temporarily on crutches. The ADA is applied to all public places and private places that are open to the general public. This applies to all areas of public life from transportation to workplaces, and even schools.

According to George Burnett, former assistant attorney general of Oklahoma City, the elevators being out in multiple buildings on campus does not violate the American Disability Act so long as students, faculty and staff with disabilities or injuries that would make it difficult to travel from floor to floor are given reasonable accommodations.

"Each case is looked at specifically and ADA cases are very facts specific. As long as they have offered reasonable accommodations there is no violation."

If a student, faculty, or staff member has a case of a medical, physical, or psychological disability, they should submit documentation detailing the nature of the injury or disability, indicating the func-

tional impact of the injury or disability, diagnostic procedures used, and recommendations for assistance from a health care professional. Submit them to Connie F. Hughes, the Interim Director of Human Resources - ADA Officer. Her office is located in Page Hall room 112.

Tristan Dozier is a senior corrections major.



Photo By Kimani Bunch

Chaos erupts at Langston Center due to pepper spray

By **Julian Austin**
Staff Writer

On Thursday, August 10, an altercation broke out at the Langston Center, which led to security pepper spraying party-goers at the building, shutting down the party after only an hour.

At Langston, there is a tradition where typically on Thursday there is a student-throw event called "Thirsty Thursday," where students celebrate an early start to the weekend. Last week's event was held at The Langston Center, where hundreds of students lined up outside waiting to enter the building. After several minutes, people were patted down and let into The Langston Center.

London Brookins, a 27-year-old junior from California, said, "It wasn't really different from a regular night when we have parties; I just

know it was just more hectic." Brookins was one of the hosts for that night at The Langston Center, which is often rented out for events such as "Thirsty Thursday."

When things started to get out of control, Brookins was at the front of the building collecting money, but was still unable to see how the incident started.

As the party continued, more and more people started lining up outside the venue, causing people to be crammed together and become increasingly impatient. "A lot of people were rushing the door, so we had to pretty much take order," Brookins said. This is when security utilized their pepper spray as a solution to control the crowd. Hannah Weather, a 20-year-old junior from Chicago, was present and in front of the line when the pepper spraying started.

Weather was not heavily affected by the pepper spray but

said, "I did see people pass out from it and start throwing up." Even though the spraying happened outside of the building, it began to travel inside The Langston Center, which led to people fleeing the building. Amid the chaos, people were falling and slipping on the floor and landing on each other. Trejon James, a senior from Topeka, Kansas, said, "The floor is really slick, so people were kind of mopping against each other, sliding and slipping, and trying to get out the door." Once people started to feel the effects, the crowd quickly dispersed.

In the days following, students expressed frustration about why the security opted to use pepper spray as a solution. Langston's public relations team made a statement on August 21st stating that the university is not involved in or associated with any events outside of Langston's campus. Ac-

ording to the office of public relations "Even though it has the name linked, attached to it, the university is in no way shape or form attached to that building." The Langston Center is privately owned, and the security was hired by the hosts of the event. It is unknown if the security personnel who used pepper spray will be impacted professionally by the incident.

According to Brookins, after the incident a gate was put up in front of the Langston Center to keep future lines in order. Brookins said, "There's lots of money to be made. Tuition needs to be paid. So, we are most definitely going to have some parties and have these students pay up their parent's money to get into these parties."

Julian Austin is a junior broadcast journalism major

RLHS adds four Graduate Assistants to their staff

Keelen Ellison



By Uri Butler
Staff Writer

Langston University Residential Life and Housing Services has expanded by adding four graduate assistants to their staff this semester.

Keelen Ellison, Bryon Hanspard, Jason Meriweather and Marc Wallace are all graduate students on campus who are directly supporting the resident directors (RDs) at each residence hall.

The graduate assistants (GAs) will represent the extension of the leadership in the residential life and housing services (RLHS) department. In return, these young men are compensated with a stipend, scholarships and benefits.

Merriweather expressed what it was like to work alongside Resident Directors by saying, "It's definitely working as second in command and being ready to take over."

Ellison a GA from Fort Worth, Texas, said, "We are basically staples in the environment to promote excellence and help alleviate stressors and built-up neglect." He described the ways he and his peers help students by saying, "We are the universal remote trying to change each student's channel, ensuring they are seen."

Wallace explained that his focus is on the community and learning professional skills while in his new position. "I enjoy meeting new people and I expect personal growth," said Wallace. Wallace also explained some of the duties he is responsible for.

"Daily, we support all our leaders at RLHS to what they might need: making sure the RAs keep up with their responsibilities and check in with student residents with their work orders," Wallace said.

Now that the semester is in full swing, the GAs have begun to identify what they like most about the job.

Hanspard said, "What I like most about working as a GA (Graduate Assistant) is the family environment with everybody...we are always connected as a staff, and we communicate efficiently."

Regarding expectations in the new role, Hanspard said, "To receive better work ethics as far as upholding myself to obtain my goals."

A new job often comes with new challenges. Ellison admits to facing change in his new role.

"Transitioning lifestyles from student to professional is challenging. Having parents or resources to assist while being in undergrad ends when you begin to grow a career," Ellison said.

Three of the four Graduate Assistants have received undergrad degrees at Langston University. Meriweather's father was also a GA when he was growing up. Seeing his dad's journey motivated his return to Langston, to follow in his father's footsteps. "When I was young my dad was a grad assistant at Fisk University. I remembered the success he experienced. It was like second nature returning to give back while pursuing masters. I always felt it was ironic doing the same thing my dad did some 20 years ago," Meriweather said.

When the work ends for the week, the GAs look forward to having the weekend to enjoying their hobbies. Ellison spends his time coaching at football summer camps. Hanspard enjoys bowling. Meriweather likes playing video games. Wallace loves operating his own snack vending machine business.

All of them having an athletic background has brought the four GAs closer than just coworkers. They all enjoy fitness. Some days they enjoy a game of basketball in the multi-purpose gym together.

Uri Butler is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Marc Wallace



Bryon Hanspard



Jason Meriweather

Photos Courtesy of Uri Butler

Fizz App: How Anonymous is Anonymous?

By Erin Cotton and Ciera Agee
Staff Writer

The Fizz app is an anonymous social media platform, created by former Stanford University students Ashton Cofer and Teddy Solomon, targeted towards college students to promote honest discussions. It was created during the COVID-19 pandemic to help students connect virtually. Langston University students began using the Fizz app within the first two weeks of school. During this time, students were seen handing out donuts to encourage others to join.

Criminal justice major Katelynn Ra-guidin expressed that she and two other students were approached by the creators of the app to operate as team leads for the campus and promote the app during the first week of school. "This all happened during the summer around the end of June," Ra-guidin said.

When describing the nature of the app, Riley Jones, a sophomore nursing major, said, "Fizz is like a college Twitter." Since the first week of school the Langston University Fizz pager has been flooded with confessions, criticisms and relatable content about the university. Kai Smith a sophomore chemistry major, recounted some of the topics that are frequently

discussed on the app.

"The things I have seen on Fizz have been issues with fraternities and sororities, fights and posts about popular people on campus." Loren Hindsman, a sophomore general studies major expressed some of Fizz's more positive uses by stating, "I feel like Fizz is good for entertainment and promotion."

With the use of the Fizz app on campus growing, some faculty members revealed that they have knowledge of what is being said and shared by students. "We see what you post on social media and Fizz," said The Office of Public Relations. Teaa Hopkins, the Student Engagement and Leadership Coordinator, learned about the app by hearing students talk about the donuts that were passed out. Reina Griffin, a sophomore psychology major expressed her concerns about faculty viewing the Langston University Fizz account by saying, "I don't think they would approve it."

After downloading the app, sophomore Jalen Francis felt that the app was not a good idea. "This could only go left," she said. Francis also shared that she has seen the social climate on campus be affected negatively since students have downloaded the app. "Social-wise, it definitely

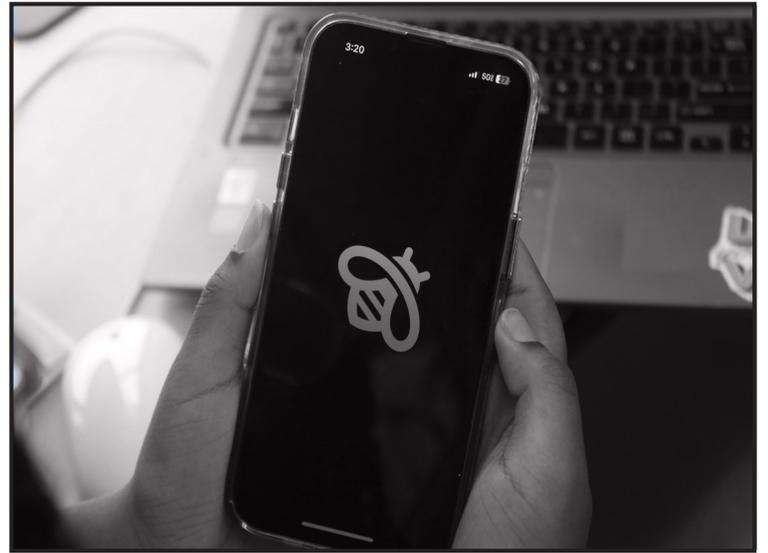
changed for the worse," Francis said. Griffin shared a similar sentiment by saying, "This was the last thing we needed around here." Griffin explained that she feels that she needs to watch what she posts on the Fizz app for fear that her identity could be revealed. "I feel like one day they're going to drop all the emails," Griffin said.

No response was given upon contacting the Instagram page linked to

the Langston University Fizz account and Langston officials declined to comment when asked about the app's affiliation to the school.

Erin Cotton is a junior broadcast journalism major and Ciera Agee is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Photo Courtesy of Erin Cotton and Ciera Agee



Heleen Sheets Becomes The New Public Relations Director

By Jasilyn Spivey
Staff Writer

There are a lot of unfamiliar faces on campus, one of them being the new Public Relations Director, Heleen Sheets. She expressed that she is honored to work at an HBCU. "For me, there's still a lot to learn. I never worked for an HBCU. So, I'm still in the learning process," Sheets said. Sheets was raised in Ohio and was a nontraditional and first-generation student. "I started to go to school when I was 18. But then I realized I could not financially afford to go to school and work... I went back at 25 as an adult and I worked full time, went to school full time."

She got her associate degree from Davis College, bachelor's degree at the University of Toledo, and her Master's degree of Organizational Leadership from Lourdes University. She was previously the PR director at Lourdes University for 23 years and the NFO supervisor for six years prior.

Sheets explained that she was motivated to re-

late and accept a position at Langston University because she wanted a change. "I would say I was looking for something new. I mean, for me for 20 something years, you've kind of done it... I was open to things," Sheets said.

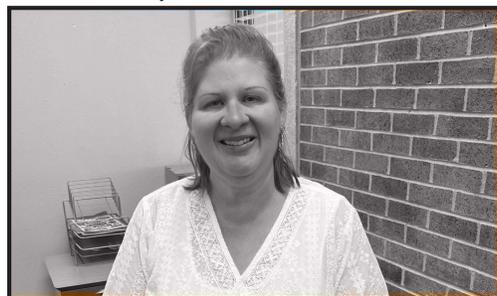
Some of her goals are to make the digital footprint for Langston University bigger and to grow awareness of not only where our students and alumni

come from but also update our free digital profiles. She is also excited to help rebuild the school's new website using her background in graphic design. "Jet and VP Powell have put so much time and effort into the rebuild of the new website. So, I'm coming on board, I've helped build two websites... so, I'm happy to assist," she said.

Sheets is hopeful that one day the PR office will be able to offer work-study positions and internships to students. She expressed that she is more than willing to give any advice to students who are looking to enter Public Relations and Marketing careers. "I'm always happy to talk with students if they're interested in marketing. To know what all is available on digital marketing really is phenomenal." Any student interested in meeting with Sheets can find her office on the third floor of Page Hall.

Jasilyn Spivey is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Photo Courtesy of Jasilyn Spivey



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Men's Basketball: New D-1 talent

By Sade Bass
Staff Writer

Langston University's men's basketball program has brought in players who they hope are going to make a massive impact on this year's season. Coach Wright brought in eight Division 1 transfers. A lot of players were stuck in the transfer portal looking for new homes due to NCAA rules and other obstacles. Due to Langston University's successful men's basketball season last year, Coach Wright recruited notable talent from high-level programs.

Ronald Mitchell is the new 6'4 graduate combo guard from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He went to Fairfax High School in Hollywood, California, and went to Colby College in Maine. During his time there, he averaged 18.8 points, 5.3 rebounds and 2.75 assists per game before transferring to Division 1 Sam Houston State University. Mitchell expressed what skills he would be bringing to Langston University's men's

basketball program by saying, "Defense, scoring, rebounding, everything," Mitchell said. Mitchell will finish his fifth year of eligibility with the Langston Lions due to the NCAA rules not allowing him to transfer to another Division 1 for his graduate year.

Colleges in the NCAA permit multiple transfers; however, some transfers could result in penalties, like sitting out a full year and possibly not being able to practice with the team. The rules strictly apply if it is their second time transferring to a four-year institution. Regardless of whether a person has participated in intercollegiate athletics, the NAIA considers and accepts you as a transfer student if you spent a year between high school and college or went to a 2- or 4-year college as a student. Transfer students to 4-year colleges are required to spend a full academic year there (16 weeks without competition), unless they have a written athletic release form from

their former institution, a GPA of 2.00, and have fulfilled all academic criteria. Some of these stipulations may explain why Langston University Men's Basketball has so many Division 1 transfers. A student who is transferring from a two-year institution is exempt from the residency requirement.

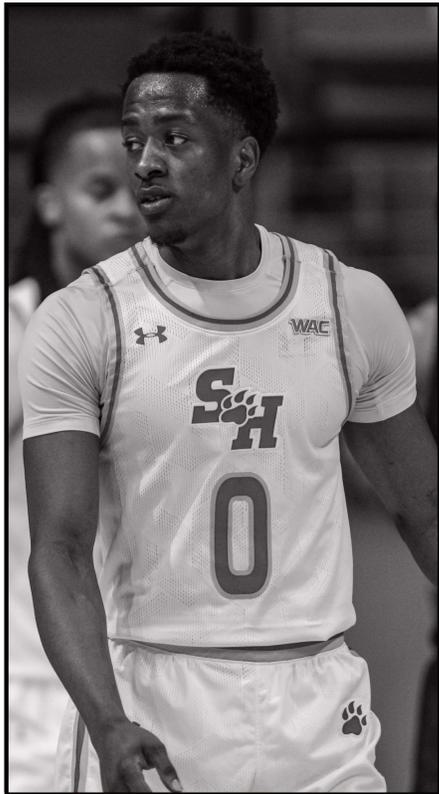
Another big addition to the team is 6'6 Forward Darrius Hughes from Kansas City, Missouri. He transferred to Langston University from Division 1 Wagner College in New York City and previously went to the University of Nebraska Omaha. Hughes transferred to Langston University to play for Coach Wright. Hughes said, "Seeing you guys make history last year, obviously having a very successful season almost getting to the national championship game and just seeing the potential they have to win it all." Hughes mentioned his strengths and skills on the basketball court, and he said, "I feel like I'm versatile as a play-

er, I can play the wing, the post, I bring toughness, good energy, inside scoring, defense, shooting and just being an all-around good teammate." Hughes seems eager to improve his game this fall and help his team to a playoff journey.

The next new addition is 6'0 Senior point guard Jerry Carraway Jr. from Dallas, TX. He is a Division 1 transfer from the Southern Arkansas University. Carraway said, "I'm a PG.... being a leader, getting everyone in the right position where they need to be, and just being vocal" is what he brings to the court. Carraway Jr. Expressed how he believes Coach Wright is going to help him as a player. "He's a cool guy, when it's time to get serious he's serious and he's going to definitely help me grow in my position and get to the next level," said Carraway Jr.

Sade Bass is a junior broadcast journalism major.

Photos provided by each player



Ronald Mitchell



Darrius Hughes



Jerry Carraway Jr.

September Home Sports Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 vs Wayland Baptist University (Texas) C.F. Gayles Field House 6:00 pm	9 vs Oklahoma Panhandle State University C.F. Gayles Field House 1:00 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 vs Louisiana Christian University W.E. Anderson Stadium 6:00 pm
17	18	19	20	21 vs Oklahoma City University C.F. Gayles Field House 7:00 pm	22	23
24	25	26 vs Central Christian College (Kan.) C.F. Gayles Field House 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30

Langston Alumna Collaborates With Student on Documentary

By TJ Cephers
Staff Writer

A lot of us grow up learning about our family history and where we come from. It gives us a sense of who paved the way for us to be here. Archietta James, a Langston alumna who lives in Garland, Texas, is one of very few others who is a living descendant of an original Black Cavalry Troop soldier, better known as "Buffalo Soldiers." Her great grandfather is Francis Clinton, one of the original buffalo soldiers. She has written a book on her great grandfather called "Francis Clinton a Buffalo Soldier and American Hero." James said that her aunt and uncle were the ones who encouraged her to write a book about her Great Grandfather and that God was the one who showed her the way to make it happen. James is also a part of a documentary film with Langston student Kesean Cleveland. Kesean is a senior broadcast journalism major who is one of the students responsible for the creation of LU Boys, which is a tik tok page and YouTube series that is filled with Langston football content. He has spent the last couple of months working with James on a documentary film about Francis Clinton and the buffalo soldiers. The documentary follows James and her family's experience going to the original fort where Francis Clinton served. According to Cleveland, "I haven't had much experience with making these types of films, but

it's been a great experience and Mrs. James has made me feel like family throughout the whole process."

James was told by her grandmother and her mother about who her great grandfather was, and her mother always kept his enlistment document in her bible to remind her of family history. James would do lots of research trying to find information about her great grandfather and the buffalo soldiers but couldn't find much about her history. James, however, didn't let that stop her. She toured some of the forts that the original buffalo soldiers lived in to find out more information. One of the forts Mrs. James visited was Fort Concho in San Angelo, Texas and Fort

Leavenworth in Kansas. Fort Leavenworth is the location seen in the documentary and is the base where Clinton was first trained and stationed as a buffalo soldier. James described the experience as eye opening and that it gave her goosebumps to be standing in the same places where her great grandfather served his people and his country. "It was the experience of a lifetime" for James to finally learn about a part of her Great Grandfather's life and get answers about who he was and who the buffalo soldiers were. James credits the trips to being the spark she needed to continue her research about the Black Cavalry Troops. Till this day James is still on the search for more answers about who and what happened to the Buffalo Soldiers. James isn't done and says a

fire has been lit for her to keep going and to want to know more.

TJ Cephers is a junior broadcast journalism major.



In Photo: Archietta James, Jaylah James (granddaughter), John James (son)

Photo provided by Archietta James

Will a new dispensary tempt students to break the drug policy?

By Krystal Butler
Staff Writer

Langston University and many other campuses, like Oklahoma State University and the University Central Oklahoma, are dry campuses, meaning under no circumstances are students allowed to have alcohol and illegal substances on campus even if you are of legal age. Over this past summer, Stash House just opened, which is a dispensary that is only four minutes away from campus. Given that Langston is a dry campus, having a dispensary close by could possibly give many students access to these controlled substances and bring them on campus.

The Langston Policy about drugs on campus states that "Students attending Langston University, regardless of their age are considered to be responsible adults, capable of ever-increasing maturity in effectively managing their affairs. Although Langston University, as an institution, does not condone violations of the law for persons of any age, Langston Uni-

versity does not operate in loco parentis with regard to our students. Langston University does not view our responsibility towards students as one of solely or primarily controlling in their behavior, but rather as one of educating students to make and implement appropriate and effective decisions in their lives." (Langston Website 2023) In other words, Langston wants to minimize reckless behavior of students by eliminating when students could possibly put themselves or other students and staff in danger. Langston also wants all students to be in the right learning environment, in order for graduates to make wise and useful decisions as they start their careers.

Many students were not aware of the nearby dispensary. David Farris Jr, a sophomore criminal justice major feels that "It makes students more tempted to do illegal substances and it also tests your discipline." All students interviewed were aware of the school's drug policy and were introduced to it at

the beginning of the school year. Upon questioning Dr. Johnson, an assistant professor of English, whether she has ever had a student show up for class who smelled or seemed to be under the influence of anything, she responded, "A basketball player that was in my class, and it was a rather large classroom, but I had to get everybody out because everyone was smelling him, and it was that bad." Homecoming and similar events could tempt students to do substances. Brysen Bartley, a junior hyper major said of the new business, "it is close, and you don't have to drive to Guthrie."

Proximity may play a big part in the usage of illegal substances, because of easy access. Dr. Brown, the director of Healthcare Administration, noted the impact of drugs on students' health.

"It impacts the brain, ... your reaction time is lessened, learning is decreased, and you have a lack of emotional maturity." Christian Mitchel, a junior engineering technology major, believes that some

students are more likely to do substances. "Students that are from out of state, or further away from home. Being away from home is a way to gain freedom."

Langston University campuses are strict on their dry campus policy. This is different from the University of Oklahoma; they are not entirely a dry campus, and "alcohol can still be served in non-residential campus facilities." (Spigel 2004). Campuses that do not have strict dry policies are often more likely to have an incident occur. OU enforced new policies around drinking alcohol, but Langston University will not condone drinking, or doing drugs, even if you are of legal age to so.

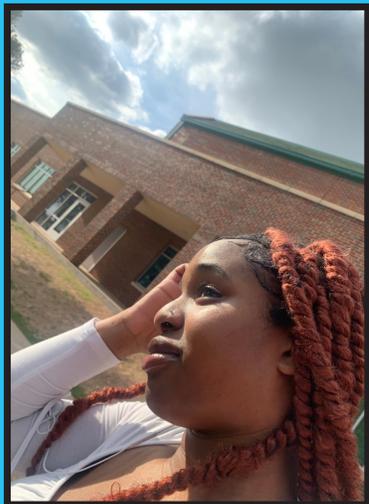
Students can find resources and more information about substance awareness, from Dr. Brown, located in the Allied Health building room 225. You can also find the "student conduct" and "Arrest and Serious offenses" at Langston.edu.

Krystal Butler is a junior broadcast journalism major.

Campus

Compiled by DJ Farris

Quotes



"I always get made fun of for having a huge noggin. It's not fair but I deal with it anyway." - Joyous Hurd LU '26



"A true friend does not require conversation. A true friend is somebody who you know you can call and count on when you need them the most. If you haven't learned the meaning of friendship you haven't learned anything at all." Jerry LU '26



"You'll never encounter the same person twice, like a unique tree in a forest if you find it twice you are lost, you'll never meet the same person twice. Life is ever-changing, so embrace every encounter that you have for it is part of your remarkable journey." - Jordan Austin LU'26



Diggy: "Right now you're unsatisfied with your self and you are living someone else's dream why are you not working harder?" - Jaquan Pickens LU'26