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SEE PAGE 2

The Gazette

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Victoree Norris accepted for NBA HBCU fellowship

By Kesean Cleveland
Staff Writer

Victoree Norris, a finance major at Langston University, is one of 60 students selected for the first ever NBA HBCU fellowship. The fellowship, created in partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, aims to provide career development opportunities in the business of basketball for undergraduate and graduate students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"To be one of only 60 HBCU students in the entire country to participate in this program means the world to me," Norris said. "I've worked, prayed and prepared for this and I am very excited for everything that is to come. This entire process was extremely competitive and has been a very long journey but after all of the nerve-wracking interviews and countless paperwork, I can definitely say it was all worth it."

Norris will get to work with the Oklahoma City Thunder after her orientation. The Thunder were really hoping to work with a student from Langston according to Leonelle Thompson, former career service director at Langston University.

"We are in the Thunder's backdoor at Langston. I got an email before it went out nationally from the Oklahoma City Thunder saying we want Langston students to apply," Thompson said. "I think our Langston Students got it before anyone else because of the close proximity to the Thunder."

Over Christmas break, students including Norris received an email from Thompson encouraging as many qualifying lions as

possible to apply.

"When I saw that this program was looking for a dedicated finance major, among many other majors, I saw it as a sign for me to apply as soon as possible," says Norris.

It is Thompson's hope that this fellowship will lead to more opportunities in the future. "With this focus on HBCUs, (it will) increase diversity in a lot of different areas, especially on the corporate non-sports side of things... It's a great introductory point to start to diversify so many industries that exist," Thompson said. "Langston is a very well-kept secret. In my time there I wanted more organizations to know about us and I think this will help. I mean, we have a student interning with the NBA, that's pretty amazing."

Norris's looks to use this internship to help her later in the next stage of life. "I hope to gain valuable experiences, skills and relationships from this program to take with me on the rest of my career journey. I find it very important to use this opportunity to enhance my career and professional development while being around so many impactful and successful people in the world of sports ... With the help of this internship, I'll be able to network with people that I never would have even imagined," said Norris.

The NBA internship looked specifically for rising juniors and seniors and graduate students. The fellows will be required to work five full days (approximately 40 hours) per week. They will also participate in enriching professional development opportunities throughout the summer run by the NBA league office and NBA Foundation, including a two-day orientation at the NBA league office in New York City in June, workshops and team building activities.

According to nbafoundation.nba.com, "Fellows will be selected by NBA teams and the league office to work within a variety of departments, including ticket sales, corporate



partnerships, legal, social responsibility and marketing." The program will run from June 6 - August 12.

April is national internship awareness month Thompson says, providing suggestions for anyone hoping to get internships in the future: "The best advice is to apply early but also really put thought into your application, get others to help you... a lot of applications now are videos or essays." She emphasized that students should watch their e-mails, as that is usually how they will get access to these opportunities.

Norris' advice is for students to be confident when applying. "I would like to tell my peers to never count yourself out of an opportunity because of how competitive it might be. Of course, when I was first thinking about applying, I thought to myself 'what would a female finance major at a small HBCU do with an opportunity like this with the NBA? What

are the odds of them choosing me?' However, I made sure to rewire that negative thought process and truly see how valuable, deserving and worthy I am of this opportunity. A month later, I was doing my first round of interviews for this program," Norris said. "If my peers are to remember anything when it comes to obtaining an opportunity such as this one, I would like them to remember that it's all about how well you market yourself, your experiences, and embrace how much you have accomplished."

Thompson is proud of what Norris has accomplished and wishes her nothing but the best. "For Ms. Norris, make us proud. She is representing Langston and she will do well and I think this will open many doors for her... so just go out there and do you. I know you can do it."

Kesean Cleveland is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.



Students frustrated navigating financial aid

By **Nia Daniels**
Staff Writer

"Financial aid knows me by a first name basis because I come there almost every day with my financial issues, so our relationship is quaint," said Charles Gates, a junior biology major. "I've had multiple issues with financial aid where my financial aid package with Langston University didn't go through ... There were other issues where I was going over budget.

"I'm in a very good situation with my financial aid, and they were taking more money from my actual honors regent's scholarship I received. Logistically it makes sense why they did what they did but there was no communication that they were going to do this, and that was the main issue I had with them. If financial aid communicated with me this prior, I would've had a different outlook on my situation. I know financial aid has a hard job; they deal with money. I feel like the biggest thing they could do is have open communication with the students regarding their personal accounts."

Currently there are eight people working on the financial aid team. They used to have ten. One of the eight works as an associate director at the Tulsa Campus, but the main central processing area is at the Langston campus. Here they process all undergraduate students from all the Langston campuses including OKC, Ardmore and Tulsa. Financial aid plays a big role in the university because they must communicate with the registrar, academic affairs and student affairs. They're the middleman of it all.

For Nacasaw Coppage, the assistant director of financial aid, the job is about "being able to alleviate the stress of students for however long they're here. Having the capability to help with their finances for school and getting to see them walk across the stage."

She loves that she can be an important part of students' success. Coppage started in 2005 as a student loan clerk, left and then came back in 2014.

Madeline Thao is a junior nursing major and visited the financial aid office this semester. She had a balance on her account that wasn't supposed to be there because she's a McCabe scholar, meaning she has a full-ride scholarship.

She went through the process of signing in correctly and waiting for

a financial aid advisor to call her name to meet with her. Once they called her into their office they directed her to another financial aid advisor, and that person told her to email another financial aid advisor for further explanation. Thao grew frustrated, feeling that they kept re-directing her to different people to talk to instead of giving her a direct answer.

"There was another time when I went there and they sent me to the business widow, and the business widow sent me back to financial aid, then I had to go back to the business widow... I would like to see better communication between students and themselves," said Thao.

Another experienced person in the financial aid office is Royce Mack. Mack is the assistant director of financial aid, and a Langston business administration graduate from the class of 1988. Mack started working at upward bound and worked with high school students to prepare them for high school matriculation. As a Langston employee she worked for the family and consumer sciences program and the development foundation before transitioning to financial aid in 2009.

She's had a feel in all areas and had a chance to work with everybody. In financial aid she worked as a default management coordinator, records department, loan coordinator position, freshmen counselor and currently is the assistant director. She is retiring from this position in June.

The goal of financial aid, as they explain it, is to ensure students have the financial capabilities they need to reach their goals and get their degree. That includes scholarships, student loans, Pell grants and financial aid "but we want students to aim for scholarships, which is free money to avoid debt," said Coppage.

Financial aid recommends for students to reach out via email, walk-ins or by logging into virtual zoom. The virtual zoom session is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All students need to do is jump on the Zoom, and it's a quick way to communicate with a financial aid advisor. At times the phones are busy so it's hard for calls to get through because the telephone volume is huge and difficult to manage.

According to Coppage it's important for students to have their student ID number ready when they

come speak to financial aid, but that information alone is rarely enough. "If you come in make sure your parent is available as well... It's always good to have the parent involved because the parent helps ensure students success by going through the process of financial aid, and the parent can help the process run smoother." Parents can provide information that some students don't know like how much income both their parents make and tax information.

"Honestly, I would prefer if the parent calls on the office phone if I can call them," Mack said. "I don't like to feel like I'm being blindsided... It is also helpful to know what parents/students are needing because we can do the research prior to and then we're ready and better prepared to answer the questions that they have."

Two important documents that students must fill out are the FAFSA and the FERPA. The FAFSA is available Oct. 1 of each year and closes

Jun. 30. Every student has to submit the application annually and if students are under 24, their parent needs to include their information and sign it. The earlier the FAFSA is completed, the better shape students are in to receive their financial aid package.

The FERPA needs to be filled out just once and is essential if students want their parents to access their financial aid information. If a parent calls the financial aid office and they don't have a FERPA the financial aid team can't discuss any information with them.

Students often express frustration with working with the office. Ezra McWilliams is a freshman agricultural business major and some of the issues he's had with financial aid have been receiving the proper help and knowledge about documents, scholarships and getting his bills cleared on time.

"Financial aid's system is really

continues page 8

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Stay up to date with news happening on campus

Nutrition Den to open near bookstore

By John Crane
Staff Writer

A new health-friendly shake shop called Lions Pride Nutrition Den is going to open in the town of Langston. Located in-between Tevin's and the LU varsity store is what the owner calls "A healthier version of Starbucks." It will open in the fall but is already testing the drinks out on campus.

Owners Reggie Sims and John Nichols have been planning to open this business for five years and are ready to see it come to life. They have always had a health initiative. Sims has been in this business for ten years; after he departed from his job as an engineer at GM, he took on the task of helping his community become healthier. The goal for Lions Pride Nutrition Den is to "Provide a healthy alternative to students and faculty," said Sims.

They chose Langston because they specifically wanted to bring the busi-

ness to an HBCU campus but they also plan to have other locations. Their social media representative said, "We vision a community with a gym, boot camps, second union, step aerobics, sponsorships! Homecoming makeovers! So much more!" They also have a plan to provide sponsorship to help out-of-shape students get in shape and show off their transformation around campus.

The drinks are meant to fill you up while also being tasty. They have an in-store and take-home option. Here, Stevia is used and is one of the favorite ingredients at Lions Pride Nutrition Den. The Stevia plant is an intensely sweet-tasting plant that has been used to sweeten drinks and make tea since the 16th century. It was originally grown in Paraguay and Brazil and is a sugar substitute for most drinks.

The signature drinks right now are the "Lions Pride" and the "Lioness." Both drinks comprise of fruits, berries and aloe, another one of their special

ingredients. Aloe is a plant with many different benefits including increased metabolism, plaque reduction and lower blood sugar levels. Sims said, "Lions Pride Nutrition Den's mission is to provide a healthy option for the community that tastes great and lasts."

While the establishment prepares to open, Sims stays he looks to give one or two students employment. They are looking for energetic, outgoing and trustworthy students.

"You will learn some of the things that school doesn't teach you," Sims said.

Students on campus are anxious to get a taste of these drinks; Kaleb Barnes, a senior technology major, said "I feel like it's a great investment to the campus and will give better options and nutrients to students who look for that."

John Crane is a senior broadcast journalism major.

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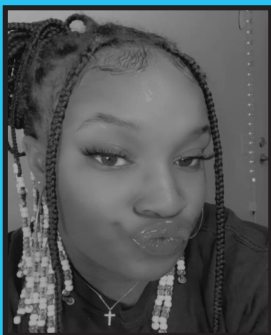
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Campus Question

Compiled by Jayden Walker



Christiana Wortham
Freshman
Child development

"More events to make the campus feel more like a lively HBCU than it does currently."



Shaya Weem
Sophomore
Sociology

"A more presentable campus"



Chris Dixon (DJ C-dot)
Sophomore
HPER

"More Students"



Ericka Paul
Sophomore
Business management

"More student involvement"

Transfer students face adversities

By DeAsia Montgomery
Staff Writer

In fall 2020, I was a transfer student who had a challenging time making the transition. I was entering a new environment as Covid-19 was still on the rise. Even though the ambassador organization and its members were welcoming and enthusiastic, I felt alone. I wondered why there are no programs sectioned to transfer students specifically. Our college experience is not as new as freshmen, but we haven't been on the same campus as returning students. There are 2,190 students currently attending Langston University. Approximately 220, or 11%, of those students are transfer students. We are starting over and starting over

can be difficult.

As a junior at Langston University, I am just now becoming acquainted with other transfer students who arrived in the fall of 2020. Why is this? It may be that I didn't get out much and I needed to do more, or perhaps transfer students are just thrown into the mix, with hopes that they will figure it out as they go.

This is not to say that transfer students are treated badly here at Langston University, but we are not a huge priority it seems when it comes to campus life.

"They could make the transfer students feel more welcomed by hosting an event that consists of knowing some important information about the university, what activities they have here, more of like an informal for transfer students," said

junior HPER transfer student Korea Kirksey. "I would like to see more welcoming people and people who can check up on us to make sure everything is good and to see if we are having a smooth transition and am I enjoying where I am at."

Transfer students have to navigate the ropes of a new school, new people and new possibilities. The stress of moving to a new campus and starting over can be overwhelming, but now I'm there facing a pandemic and I know no one that I can really talk to. Students already know one another, bonds have been formed and here I am new, stuck in a room with virtual classes. Now, here come activities on campus, but wait I don't know anyone that would like to go. Also, how do I even find out about these events? I didn't know

we had different websites to keep us updated or many people to keep me up on campus life.

Luckily, I had recently joined the LUMP band auxiliary organization. However, many of the girls I met already had friends and plans in place, what do I do now? Many transfer students do not come in and join organizations or programs right away. There should be a program to get transfer students up and going on campus, just like freshmen have, lion camp activities and they get to meet new people, do new things, and create bonds. Transfer students should have the same opportunity.

DeAsia Montgomery is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Langston advisors need standardized training

By Sasha Ndisabiye
Staff Writer

Transferring to a new university is hard. Not having standard practices for advisers makes it even harder. In the last decade, Langston University has gone from having over 600 transfer students per year, to just under 100 transfers in 2020. At any school, transferring is a lengthy and complicated process, requiring thought by any student debating the option. There are many requirements, based on the specific institution, which determines whether a student is eligible to transfer or not. As the rules and standards are different throughout most areas, each transferee goes through an academic background check to review their GPA, major courses and personal needs. These responsibilities fall to the advisors of each school/department at the college or university. Student accounts reveal experiences vary when working with advisers.

There is no basic training or qualifications necessary to become an advisor. Each department decides who will serve as advisers, and each department creates their own procedures and instructions for advisors to follow once in that position. Not having concise preparation for all advisors across the board causes diverse levels of satisfaction among students.

Across the U.S., every higher education institution has different requirements and courses available for those interested in enrollment. Education is a state right, giving each individual

state the power to make their own decisions. Within those states, the areas are broken down into educational regions, which discuss and implement rules, regulations and content material of the schools within that region. Lonnie Johnson, chair of the communication department and adviser to many broadcast journalism students, stated that in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education determines the requirements to receive a college degree. In turn, each institution must go through a process to get their degrees and courses approved by the committee.

"As you would imagine, not every institution offers the same courses and you don't want that, so there's some overlap and there's lots of differences, and the difference are good," Johnson said. "What makes it kind of difficult to navigate around is having one set of requirements that's imposed over all those institutions, when all the institutions do different stuff."

When a student comes to an advisor about transferring, the advisor must examine the student's transcript to see if the content aligns with the descriptions of the courses available at Langston. It's common for classes taken at separate institutions to have different course titles, even though the classes are similar enough to qualify for the same requirements. Once an adviser notices the similarities, they can file paperwork to the schoolboard stating that the credits meet the same requirements.

For some students, this fact is what barred them from having a smooth

transferring experience. Ja' Angela Bibbs, a junior HPER major who transferred from Jackson State University, said that, "Nobody told me who to get in contact with. I had to figure out how to make a schedule and things like that. There was just no one there to help that process."

Due to Covid-19, Bibbs decided to stay home in Oklahoma and come to Langston as a safer and cheaper option for schooling. Coming in as a sophomore during the first year back after the Covid-19 shut down, she mentioned running into issues regarding her courses and credits from her previous institution.

"When I transferred, I was a biology major transferring on a 2.9 [GPA] and when I got here, it was as if I was a freshman starting all the way over," she said. "My first week or so, I had to tell them 'Okay look, I took this class, this class... guys, I shouldn't be taking them again.'" After bringing this to the attention of her advisor, it took over 3 weeks to get her credits sorted out and for her to be moved into the correct courses. Bibbs still had to retake some courses that she felt she had already taken.

Dikailyn Toles, a junior elementary education major at Langston who transferred from the University of Arkansas, transferred at the same time as Bibbs, and described a vastly different experience than her peer. At the time, Toles was being advised by Ms. Kimberly Stormer, who no longer works at the university.

"We had gotten on a zoom call, and we just went through my transcripts from

my other school and plugged in those classes," Toles said. "Then she looked at what I had already, what she could substitute for other things down the line, and then we just picked some classes and I was set."

Because they enrolled at the same time, Toles was able to direct Bibbs with information she had gotten from her advisor that Bibbs had not. When asked if they would still have transferred to Langston if they had known their process was going to happen the way it did, Bibbs replied saying no, while Toles said she would do it again.

Transferring to Langston has been steadily decreasing. Langston would benefit from a step manual for advisors to use when dealing with these cases. Larger universities have resources to create entire departments to provide those specific needs for transfer students, but Langston does not have the funds to make that reality possible. Johnson joked, "Wow, so you're asking me to put a training manual together for someone advising transfer students huh," when that is exactly what needs to happen. A training program or manual created by experienced advisors would provide the advice and information necessary to aid the less experienced. Transferring is an already complex and confusing process for students and advisors should be equipped with the knowledge to service the students' needs as best to their abilities.

Sasha Ndisabiye is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Pageant marks final week . . .

By **Sasha Ndisabiye**
Staff Writer

Friday night on April 8, Havalyn Frierson spent her last night as the current Miss Langston University, handing over her crown to the next woman in line.

The Mr. and Miss Langston University scholarship pageants have been an ongoing tradition for over 75 years. Every year, Langston students and faculty put together and host this event to highlight the best students the university has to offer. This year, Langston announced Diva Hunt as their 76th Miss Langston University and O'Riyan Gause as the 38th Mr. Langston University. This being only the second year where both the Mr. and Miss Langston pageants were combined, Frierson implemented many new changes into the 2022 scholarship pageant.

Frierson spoke about wanting to revise some of the old ways of the pageant and incorporate more present-day trends.

"All our pageants have been 80's themed or you know, we always had these past themed pageants... so this year, I wanted people to re-

ally see, for whoever Miss Langston was going to be, I wanted them to see her in all these different lights," Frierson said.

Using her platform and influence, she was able to modernize the pageant even further by switching out the usual decorations, adding a spirit wear category to the pageant and putting a modern twist on the Q&A portion of the contest. Unlike previous pageants, the four female contestants sat down alongside the 2020 Miss Langston and each answered three questions. The first two were pop-culture questions, while the last was a more serious question that pertained to the individual's platform or campaign.

The number of people competing and paying attention to these pageants has also been actively decreasing over the years, according to Frierson. This lack of interest is another reason why the Mr. and Miss Langston pageants have been combined for the past two years. As Frierson's last responsibility as the 2021-2022 Miss Langston, she hoped that these changes would provide the pageant with some much-needed support and engagement.

The week leading up to Friday's event start-

ed off as what Frierson described as a "chill" start to the week, compared to the contestants that were competing. Monday and Tuesday, she spent her days collecting the last pieces for the women's opening number outfits, as well as prepping her hair and makeup for the next day. On Wednesday Frierson was joined by her Mr. Langston, Royce Anderson, for a photo shoot for the cover of the pageant program, which happened to get rescheduled for Thursday.

That night was also the first full-out rehearsal for the pageant, where the contestants go through each category to practice their walks, talents, performances and all other aspects of the three-hour-long event. Thursday came and the two current Mr. and Miss Langston finished their last photoshoot together during their year as Langston royals. On Friday, the day of the Mr. and Miss Langston Pageant, Frierson and a few others had to drive to the city early that morning to pick up the rented decorations.

"The decorations for the pageant were supposed to come on Thursday," Frierson said. "We always set it up, but usually we buy from Mary Anne's, and they deliver... and then



... in the reign of Miss Langston

they called and said they overbooked and the earliest we can get it to you is Saturday.”

With the pageant being that night, together they had to rent a U-Haul to retrieve the decorations in time to get the stage ready before the show. After that last complication, it was time for Frierson to finish getting ready and writing her final commencement speech.

The contrast between girls running to grab a slice of pizza in between categories during rehearsals to watching them present themselves beautifully to the audience speaks volumes towards the professional yet playful nature of this university tradition. Everyone in the auditorium that evening was dressed to impress despite the limited number of people in the audience. Although the audience may not have been as full as in previous years, it did not deter the amount of encouragement and prideful energy radiating from the room.

As each one of the contestants entered from either side of the stage, a roaring of applause and cheering would take over. The night went on as each contestant showed off their perfect walks, outfits and talents. De’Asia Montgomery strutted out in a fell denim custom jumper proudly displaying LU colors, both

opulent orange and brilliant blue. Ja’coven Hinson gave a tuba performance that brought the audience out of their seats to sing along to the well-known Langston tune often performed by the band.

Even with flashing lights and LED cubes decorating the background, the focus remained on the woman elegantly parading the stage in floor-length sparkling gowns and the men in their clean-cut suits and shiny watches. Eventually, the night began to come to a close with only the crowning ceremony remaining. The crowd grew impatient as the hosts teasingly stalled the announcement, only for screams to erupt and fill the auditorium as Miss Hunt and Mr. Gause walked to center stage.

There are many responsibilities that come with being the face of a university. The individual must be available to represent the school by visiting secondary schools to speak with young students, attending important sporting events and working with administration on student body issues and priorities.

The journey to this moment was long. Even for events like the orange and blue and the Mr. and Miss Langston Pageants, preparations start months in advance. In this case, the

pageants started with an informational that was held during the beginning of January and then with practice beginning in mid-February. In 2022, the people that coordinated the pageant also created etiquette classes for the contestants to take. Each of the four classes were taught by former Langston royalty and focused on skills particularly mastered by those individuals. After etiquette classes, pageant practice began with each week concentrating on a different section of the pageant as they went down the line from introductions, all the way to last remarks. Being an invaluable part of the process, Frierson acknowledges the time she spent putting together the 2021-22 pageants and the relationships she made along the way. As a final goodbye as the former Miss Langston Frierson said, “I’m grateful that this position gave me the opportunity to grow as a person, grow as a woman, and to be able to leave something behind at Langston. You know, I would just like to say thank you for the opportunity.”

Sasha Ndisabiye is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.



Photos by Paris Rain

Whisper Report: A sitdown with DJ C-Dot

By Lhea Lilly
Staff Writer

Becoming a DJ was never a goal for Dixon when he started his journey at Langston. However, being surrounded by his good brothers Lando Boomin and DJ Ro, he became more acclimated to the process and what it takes to be a professional DJ. One day, unexpectedly, DJ Ro reached out with an opportunity for Dixon to cover a gig for him since he had become familiar with the world of DJ'ing from being around it.

"I said yea and from there, I just took off and I started taking it serious," Dixon said.

Dixon has always had a love for music and putting music together since growing up in church playing the drums; Dixon has been playing the drums since he was two years old. In addition, he was part of the drill teams playing the snare and the bass, "pretty much everything," he says.

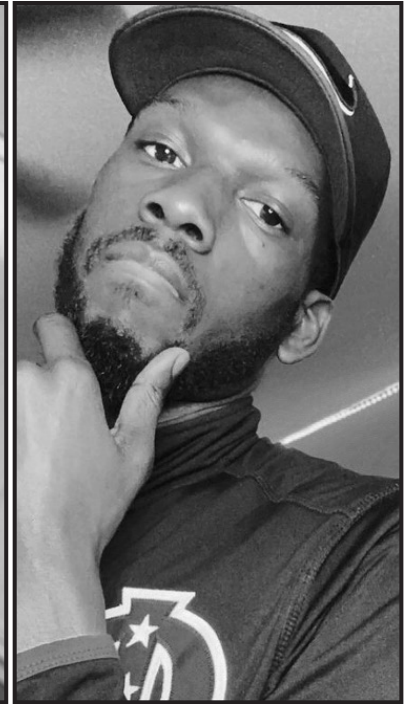
After a recent sit down with the campus's most active DJ, I have a newfound respect for the art of being a DJ. A disc jockey is not just someone playing music from their phone or iPod; they are the creators of great vibes and unmatched energy for any event.

An Omaha, Nebraska, native, Chris Dixon is a sophomore with a major in HPER and has a desire to be a coach; he is also a part of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity here at Langston University.

When asked about the most rewarding thing about becoming a DJ Dixon said, "getting to meet new people, traveling and of course the money." However, he said the hardest part about being a DJ is "people wanting you to DJ for less than what you are asking, even though they want you to be there an hour early ... Its actual work that all DJ's do that don't get accounted for. I think that's the hardest part. You are the first one there and the last to leave."

Those adversities within the business have not stopped DJ C-dot from making his mark. He recently went back home to Nebraska for a gig which was his first time DJing back home and it went very well, he said. Dixon has also done several big events on here at Langston, like the homecoming concert, welcome back week concert, meet the Greeks and midnight madness. He has been a part of nearly all the recent big events that have happened here on Langston's campus. He says many people have been asking about "Parking lot Pimpin," which is one of the biggest events hosted by the Sigmas according to Dixon. The event was shelved back in 2019 due to the pandemic, but he says he is working to bring it back this year or next. Additionally, Dixon will be DJing during Delta Week for the block party being held on April 9th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Delta's pageant on April 24th at 7 p.m.

Dixon left with some motivational words for anyone who wants to pursue being a DJ or any dream in general: "Keep moving forward no matter what, don't look back. What's done is done, leave it in the past, focus on the future and remember to always do right and kill everything that you do."



Financial Aid continued from page 3

slow; they have no problem finding us on time ... but when it's time to receive money or our scholarships to hit our balance, the system is slow."

McWilliams recently was verified for his FAFSA and financial aid advisors said they could help him with filling it out, but when he went for assistance, they said they couldn't help him.

"I had to struggle, and I'm still figuring out right now for the verification so I can come back next semester," said McWilliams. He says he wants information to be readily available to him and have classes offered by financial aid that teach students to fill out loans and accept scholarships and financial aid.

Financial aid advises students to complete their financial aid package during the beginning of the school year, more specifically the month of August. The busiest months for them are October, November and December; consequently, financial aid packages will take longer to process during those months.

Coppage and Mack continued to share tips for how to properly navigate the system; for instance, for students to know what their balances are on their account they must come to financial aid first and then go to student employee services second.

In contrast to McWilliams, sophomore nursing major Shanteara Robinson has never experienced issues with financial aid. "I can't remember the last time I've been to financial aid," said Robinson.

But for Damira Flavors, a senior biology major, the main issue with financial aid "is the lack of communication with things that hap-

pen to my bill."

"We could better serve the students if the student takes advantage of all the information we put out," Mack said. "We have so many avenues for the students to obtain information. We have flyers, personal and campus emails, we set up seminars and set up in the student success center. We do everything we can possibly think of to reach out to the students. There is a parent corner for financial aid and other resources but if students don't read it they're not in the know. I don't think students take advantage of the resources available to them."

According to Mack, financial aid struggles with getting students to read and respond to emails sent out to them from financial aid. Coppage's advice to students is, "Don't be afraid to ask questions because we don't expect you to know everything. We can work together to figure it out and guide you in a direction you need to go."

Decapreall McNeil, a freshmen agriculture crop and soil science major, wishes financial aid would employ student workers "that could relate to us and give me better understanding from a student view and perspective ... I didn't really start hearing about Page Hall until the end of my first semester. I wish there was more awareness brought to financial aid."

The financial aid office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can find more information at www.langston.edu/financial-aid-2.

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