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The Gazette

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

It serves as a teaching tool.

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President Announces 10-year "Master Plan"

By Sharodon Jenkins
Staff Writer

On August 18, President Kent Smith jr. shared his "master plan" for the university at the annual convocation. The process of creating the plan first began with 14 months of planning, building and campus tours, surveys amongst students, faculty and staff for improvements, and a presentation to alumni.

The "master plan" addressed a couple of concerns. This included the reorientation of the campus entry, moving parking to the perimeter roadways, extensive trail system connecting dorms, and creating a network of sidewalks to create a sense of belonging. President Smith shared that there will be adequate parking spaces and more dorm spaces accessible for students.

For this to happen, it will require construction of new buildings on campus. One of the new buildings will be present in the Northeast part of campus near the stadium. This part of campus will have 472 beds and a new dining hall will be added. For the stadium plaza a new student recreation center will be created, locker rooms will be renovated and monument columns stating the history of Langston will be added. New architectural skin on the east facade of the grandstands will be built along with perimeter ornamental fencing. For the Southeast Campus there will be realigned

roadways, with a new parking lot, three new academic buildings, and outdoor classrooms will be added. In the Southwest Campus, there will be simplified and removed roadways, a new student services center, renovations for several buildings, and an overall gathering area will be added.

Dr. Mick Howard, English Professor and Writing Center Director said, "The upcoming renovations are well past due. The infrastructure on our campus has been crumbling for some time. And renovations are a crucial part of keeping us competitive as a university." When asked about what he would like to be preserved, he said, "The statues of the past presidents located in the centennial plaza should be preserved... It is one of the more prominent spots and allows us to reflect on our campus history." Howard is hopeful that renovations will provide stability. "Right now, with things such as air conditioning, buildings that are constantly leaking, classrooms getting closed down and dorm rooms getting closed down takes away from the student experience. I'm hoping that once these renovations are done, which will be 15-20 years out, we will be able to provide the students with some type of stable experience."

Samiya Robinson, a sophomore business finance major, has concerns about the upcoming renovations. "I personally do not completely like the way they are changing the campus.

By the university changing a lot of things including the layout of campus I feel as though it takes away from what makes the campus unique. Taking away the on-campus roads means students have to walk more, taking away the yard erases some of the school's history and limits the closeness that I feel it brings, and the addition of so many trees really is something I don't like. If you add in so many trees there will be an influx of allergies and insects and especially if they are tall, it would really limit the view of the campus and how we can interact as students." The "master plan" is intended to aid in attracting new students, faculty, and staff to Langston, but Robinson is skeptical. "I do think that renovations will allow for more housing which could attract more students; however, Langston is still in the middle of nowhere. I think the only way to get more people to come would be to place more attractions closer to the school." Robinson also mentioned "As current students now see this plan start the beginning of its fruition, we will not be able to see the fully produced outcome. All we will see is the destruction of what we already know and will be left with the image of what the campus once was."

Sharodon Jenkins is a Junior broadcast journalism major.



Honors Student Enrollment Up; Overall Enrollment Down

By Jalen Martin
Staff Writer

In the fall 2022 semester, despite seeing a decrease in overall enrollment, Langston University enrolled the largest number of honors students in the program's history. Seeing the new and returning students is motivating for faculty, exciting for administrators and gives the opportunity for upper class students to give back.

Kyle Gregory, the honors program coordinator, had positive things to say about the enrollment. Recruiting students to LU has been vital for the university. "In-person recruitment beats everything," said Gregory. There are a little over 250 students in the Edwin P. McCabe honors program making it, according to Gregory, "The biggest honors program in Langston history." He believes Langston University can sell itself as long as the message of the institution gets out. "Langston offers elite opportunities at accessible prices. Internships our students have received have included NASA internships, internships at Ivy League institutions and other elite institutions, an internship with the Oklahoma City Thunder, cancer research and limitless other opportunities ... When high school students find out the opportunities that are available to them

at Oklahoma's only HBCU, many are shocked." In-person recruitment allowed the university to physically reach more high school students, especially at college fairs. "In Oklahoma, they bus about 12 schools to one location. You're able to go and hit a ton of schools that you wouldn't have had time to hit," Gregory said.

Tiffany Marple, a research analyst for Langston University, thinks that having everyone back on campus, in person, is a positive thing for the institution. "I think people are less scared of Covid now. I think that as a university as a whole, we have a really good Emergency Leadership Team," said Marple. "This year for the fall 2022 semester, we have a total of 1,903 enrolled." In terms of classification, sophomores outnumber juniors, seniors, and freshmen. According to Marple, there are 548 first-time freshmen, 860 sophomores, 284 juniors, 337 seniors, 88 graduate students and 41 students in the physical therapy doctorate program. According to the 2021-2022 Langston University fact book, there were a total of 1960 students enrolled during the fall 2021 semester. 1841 students were undergraduates, 105 were graduate students and 41 students were professional students pursuing doctorate degrees. While the total number of students at Langston University has decreased by 57 students, the overall reten-

tion rate increased by 5% from the previous year.

Terrance Woodard, a junior computer science major, thinks that enrollment benefits the university and entrepreneurs like him. Woodard runs a business named Romani Designs. "I make clothing for students on campus and I either do custom designs or sell my own designs," Woodard said. "The goal of it all is to use the funds as a way to give back to students and towards the end of each semester, I give care packages to students that apply for them to help them with their final exams."

Lonnie Johnson, chair of the communication department and English department, gets motivated by seeing all the students here. "It has a lot to do with retention... It shows me that there are a lot of people here now that are taking the next step towards graduating," Johnson said. "The reason I got into education a long time ago ... I know that having a degree can make an incredible amount of difference for any individual. The students that are here now, I know that their lives, their family's lives, are all going to see something positive happen from them having that degree."

Jalen Martin is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.

New Writing Center Program Embeds Tutors in Classes

By Casey Angle
Staff Writer

In an effort to spread its footprint across campus, the Langston University Writing Center has introduced a new embedded program that places its tutors directly in the classroom, offering immediate writing guidance to the university's students.

The Writing Center's tutors are joining classes on campus this semester to generate more interactions and connections between the tutors and the students. Students can now receive academic, in-person, feedback as they write in class. Tutors have been assigned to different professors across campus so they can attempt to help students with the writing process as it is being done. The Writing Center has over 30 student tutors that are accepting appointments and going into classrooms each week. This new program offers alternative learning experiences for students seeking help with writing in any subject, not just English courses.

Students can make an account on langston.mywconline.com, where they are able to set appointments with a tutor based on their professor. The site displays the schedules of tutors with the professor that they are assigned to, giving students time slots to choose from. Appointments can be online, face-to-face, and in the classroom.

Writing Center director, Dr. Mick Howard, hopes that the new program will build trust between the tutors and the students, making them feel more comfortable coming to the Writing Center.

Located on the second floor of the G. Lamar Harrison Library, the Writing Center offers help to students in any stage of their writing process, for any assignment, in any course on campus. The Writing Center fosters a collabor-

ative, accepting environment that is focused on relation-

ship-based tutoring.

Student turnout at the Writing Center has decreased over the last few years due to strains associated with COVID-19. In previous years, students have used their spare time to set up appointments and meet with the Writing Center's tutors. As a result of the pandemic, fewer students were signing up and tutors had less appointments throughout the year. The Writing Center wants to remind students on campus that they are here to help.

Dr. Howard said, "We want to provide the one-on-one attention that they may have never had in their entire academic career."

Since the implementation of the embedded program, the tutors have noticed an increase in appointments as they are making more connections with students across campus. The students have been submitting positive feedback through discussion boards and the tutors seem to enjoy it as well.

Student tutor, Janel Andrews, said "It was really fun, I really enjoyed it," in regard to tutoring a freshman biology class. "I think the Writing Center is very important, I feel very needed with my skills here."

The Writing Center hopes that the embedded program will show an improvement in grades and writing skills of students on campus and build their trust with the tutors.

Dr. Howard said, "We are here for you. We are not going to judge you. We are here to help"

Casey Angle is a Junior broadcast journalism major and biology minor.



Photos provided by Sasha Ndisabiye

Students Look to Get Involved in Rising Local Film Industry

By Damien Alexander
Staff Writer

Since 2021, Oklahoma has climbed to the number 13 spot of the biggest Television and Film industries in big cities. Tulsa is ranked number five on the lists for small cities and towns by MovieMaker magazine.

In 2021, the Filmed in Oklahoma act helped independent film companies by providing them with cash rebates for their productions. The boosting film industry is creating jobs for those wanting to join the industry. An estimated 33 films and TV productions are looking for recent college graduates to fill the 10,000 jobs available to Oklahomans.

Green Pastures Studios, a film and TV studio in Oklahoma, is working on creating student internships to teach them how to be successful film makers and studio workers; they also help set up fu-

ture job opportunities.

This studio features equipment and tools for teaching students. Studios have begun to bring in big actors and are producing big films, such as the upcoming "Killers of The Flower Moon" starring Leonardo DiCaprio set to hit theaters next year.

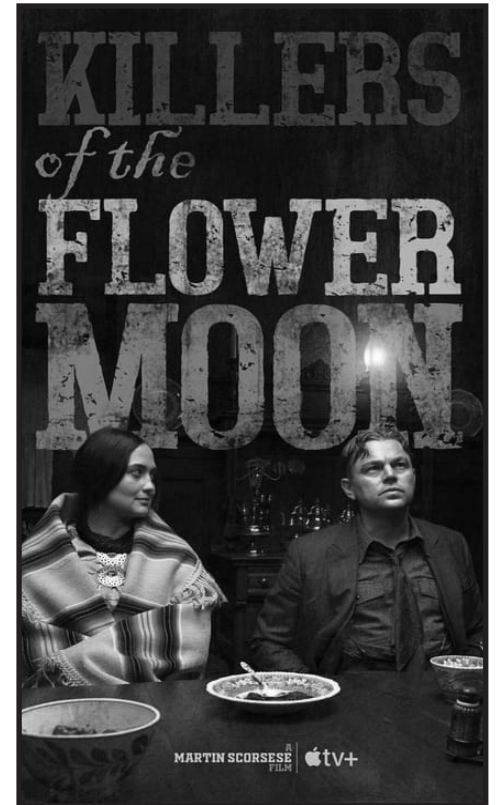
Oklahoman casting companies have also skyrocketed due to the surge of films. Companies such as Freihofer Casting have gone from working on one film a year to doing 13 films in the year 2020. This increase in films also has an impact on the state's economy. In 2015, six films produced around \$8 million in sales. Last year 33 films came out of the stated producing \$161 million in revenue.

When asked what he wants to know about film production, film club vice-president Jayden Walker said, "I want to know everything there is," and he is already on his

way towards being a part of the film industry. Young film makers such as him who are also in the campus film club have many options coming out of their college semesters, and internships at these film studios provide the opportunity to give students the knowledge and skills that they need to grow. Walker eventually wants to make a psychological thriller comedy about a man who does not save the world, so he goes back in time to train his younger self to become stronger. Another student, Sierra Williams, wants to make a mystery film where she herself goes missing.

To get involved in the campus film club, students can reach out to the club's advisor, Marlon Edwards, at marlon.edwards@langston.edu.

Damien Alexander is a sophomore broadcast journalism major.



White Rose Project

In some cases, a white rose can signify death. I chose to incorporate a white rose to signify the passing of all of our childhoods especially those that passed before we were able to even vote.

Compiled by Amaya Elam-Helms



Krystal Butler
Sophomore
Broadcast Journalism major

"Even if someone stops supporting you, there's always going to be more people to support you ... so keep going."



Marco Pruitt
Sophomore
Child Development Major

"Everything I do is for my family ... to get them out of there cause we've been in that hole I don't know how many generations ... and it ends with me."



Marcus Jackson
Senior
Computer Science Major

"I didn't want to be like that ... I didn't want to be where I was from ... I wanted to be kinder to people ... I wanted to be the opposite of where I am from."



Micaiah Adams
Sophomore
Elementary Education/Behavioral Science major

"My voice wasn't heard ... and I felt alone as a child, at eight years old."

Parking Tickets Abound; Here's How to Avoid Getting One

By Midori Williams
Staff Writer

Over a month into school students have already received several tickets for parking incorrectly on campus.

Mia Uvaldo, a sophomore business management major, has received four parking tickets this semester for parking on the curb within Commons apartments parking lot. "It is more often than not, that I don't have a parking space", said Uvaldo. She is one of many students that struggle to know where to park on campus without being ticketed. Due to there being a population of students that either own cars or use one to commute; for them, this knowledge is essential. Often, students are not aware of the regulations they are violating, but lack of campus parking knowledge does not warrant an appeal. When a student is ticketed on campus they have the opportunity to file an appeal if they feel that they have been wrongfully ticketed. An appeal form can be found at the police station. The Langston University Parking Handbook cautions, "Please be mindful that pleading ignorance of the regulations will not excuse violators of citations".

The most common reasons students receive tickets is for parking in

spots that are for faculty and staff. Mckenzie Connor, a senior biology major, claims to have just recently been informed about the meanings of parking zones on campus after visiting the police station. "Otherwise I probably still would not know and I haven't known for the past three years", said Connor. She

everyday it is to the point that I walk anywhere that I can, because when I come back anytime past two o'clock in the afternoon there is absolutely no parking", said Connor. Lack of parking spaces coupled with a lack of knowledge about campus parking regulations can lead to students being ticketed more fre-

quently. Some of the other more common reasons students receive parking tickets are for parking on the curb in non valid parking spaces, parking

in campus parking lots outside of the permitted hours, and for not having a current parking decal. The most reliable place to park, for students attending class, is parking spaces with non colored curbs. Students that can not find parking in residential areas should park in their designated overflow parking lot. handbook is available on the Langston University website under "parking and transit". Students can also ask for a copy at the campus police station. The handbook features a curb color parking key, detailed regulations, permit information, and the breakdown of fines. The curb color parking key shows that curbs without color are for student parking, orange curbs are for faculty and staff parking, grey curbs are first come first serve faculty and staff parking, red curbs are fire zones, yellow curbs are no parking, and blue curbs are for handicapped parking.

Both on-campus and commuting students must also have a current parking permit decal. According to the handbook, parking on campus without a current parking permit sticker can result in a fine of \$30. On August 31, the office of public relations announced in an email that the 2022-2023 parking decals are now available at the police department. To obtain a parking decal, all students as well as faculty and staff must provide their vehicle insurance, registration and driver's license. According to the email, "Enforcement and ticketing will begin September 1, 2022".

Midori Williams is a junior broadcast journalism major.



believes that parking on campus, whether it is to attend classes or park in residential areas, is an obstacle that students face on a daily basis. "Ev-

quently. Some of the other more common reasons students receive parking tickets are for parking on the curb in non valid parking spaces, parking

To avoid being ticketed students must familiarize themselves with the regulations provided in the Langston University Parking Handbook. The

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The Next Chapter of Lady Lions Basketball

By **Chandler Craddock**
Staff Writer

With the addition of a brand new coaching staff and only four returning players, the Lady Lions are looking to change the culture of Langston basketball. The Lady Lions, who were coached by head coach Elaine Powell and assistant coaches Hollis Giles and Terry Palmer, went 19-11 overall and 13-9 in conference. Even though coach Powell and her staff had back to back winning seasons, ultimately Langston said it was time for a transition. This transition involved the hire of new Head Coach, Kevin Herod and assistant coaches Kimiere Hawkins and Mercedes Gillon-Gantt. Coach Herod coached at Talladega College for eight seasons and had a 171 wins and 68 losses on his record. This record give coach Herod the most wins in NAIA women's basketball over the past eight years. "The NAIA selected coach Herod as

a current member of the NAIA's top 50 most influential coaches in women's basketball list." said Athletic Director Donita Drain-Rodgers. "I am looking forward to seeing the impact Coach Herod is going to have on Langston University Women's basketball and SAC conference play this year. He has assembled a very talented group of young ladies that are sure to help us pack Gayles Field House." Herrod also has five conference championships and made a few appearances in the national tournament. Herrod has been on the big stage and knows what it takes to make it there. Coach Herrod made instant moves for his new chapter at Langston, bringing in 12 freshman/transfer students and only bringing back four players from the previous season. One of the returning players, Jada Spence had high praise for her new coach saying, "He's a great coach, I feel he really is in tune with every single one of us, and

he pays attention to our mental and physical health."

The 12 new players are challenged with developing team chemistry in three months. Team building has been on the Lady Lions agenda as they prepare for the upcoming season, "We did like a scavenger hunt, where we had to find tickets all over the school. We did the tortilla challenge, like stuff like that. So I think it's been very successful," Kameron Shelly, a transfer Junior player from Talladega, said about the bonding she and her new teammates have been doing.

These women want to bring a new culture to Langston sports and community, "The biggest goal for us is winning conference first, and then after that, the national tournament. Like that's our big goal, we want rings, three of them." Kameron Shelly response when asked what was their team goal for this season. Winning is an the minds of the players, but for Coach Herrod

it's more than just winning basketball games and his players can see that. "We weren't really involved in too many things that went on in Langston last year, but this year it's completely different. We have much high expectations from our coaches, for us to be involved in the Langston community. So you're going to see us at pretty much every Langston event, you're going to see us supporting every single team that we can... because if we don't support our Langston community, what makes you think that our Langston community is going to come and supports us when we need it the most?" The Lady Lions season starts October 28th in Shreveport, Louisiana, but the Langston community can catch them in action on November 5th as they play their first home game of the season.

Chandler Craddock is a senior business management major with a Broadcast Journalism minor.

Coach Wright Brings JV to the Lions

By **Sam Battle Jr.**
Staff Writer

This past April, Langston's men's basketball hired head coach Chris Wright. Wright previously coached at Talladega University for the past 4 seasons, going 31-7 and making an appearance in the NAIA National Championship game. According to assistant athletic director Fachaitte Kinslow, the goal in the hiring was to see a "winning program." When describing Wright and his coaching staff Kinslow said, "They're excited to be here."

With the new coach came two new junior varsity teams, blue and orange. Junior varsity is the level below varsity and is used as a means to help build the program. The teams are coached by assistant coach-

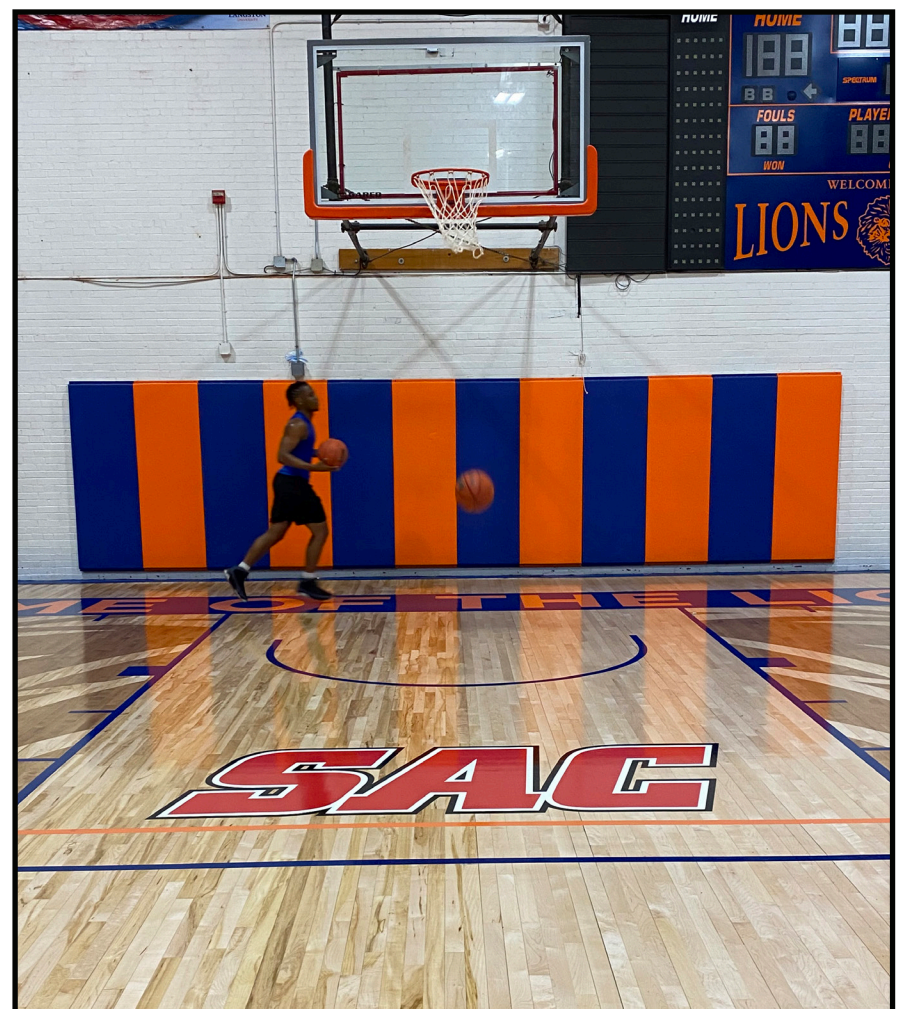
es Jon Warren and Markel Williams. Both formerly played for Wright, and Warren coached alongside Wright en route to their National Championship appearance this past season. Although he is familiar with coaching both varsity and junior varsity, Warren feels as if now his transition to Langston opens up more opportunities and gives him more of a chance to "grow as a coach," instead of just knowing everyone at his alma mater to "get by." He feels this is just a "bigger and better opportunity" overall in branching out and meeting people.

The JV teams develops and prepare players for the varsity level, Warren said. It's strong on discipline and making the players better men, as well as helping them compete at a high

level. Warren coaches for the orange team who have 20 players on the roster and Williams coaches blue who have 22 players. Both him and Williams plan to run the teams the same as the varsity.

Kinslow said, "It will not even be like it is a JV team," meaning the teams are expected to perform at a high level. The teams are a "great add" and contribute 42 new athletes to the program. The team is operated as a sport likewise to the varsity team. They travel and get the same luxuries as the varsity, but play fewer games throughout the season. Kinslow expects to see "a lot of excitement even at the JV level."

Sam Battle Jr. is a Sophomore Broadcast Journalism major



The Beat of the Drums:

Langston enrolls largest LUMP band in school history

By Jamar Donaldson
Staff Writer

Every weekday the band practices, getting ready for the upcoming season. While the sun goes down, the band lines up from the President's house to the library, preparing to march to the stadium with its reverberating drums and resounding horns.

This year the freshman class added 102 new students to the Langston Marching Pride Band. The new freshmen joining the returning 146 students gives the band a total of 248 members this year. Last year, the band only had 191 members by the end of the spring and only took 146 students to Mardi Gras to perform. The band is only growing bigger to show off their talents led by Mark Gordon. The Langston Marching Pride Band has the second highest retention of any group on the Langston campus with 76 percent of students returning. "Our goal is to get our retention percentage at 80 percent," stated Gordon. In

addition, to having a high retention rate, 81 percent of the band has a 2.5 G.P.A. or better.

Gordon listed a few upcoming performances, "Go vote for the Langston band at the Honda Battle of the Bands in February in Alabama." The Honda Battle of the Bands competition will feature the top six HBCU bands voted to get picked to perform at Alabama State. Last year the band performed in the National Battle of the Bands against the top eight HBCU bands in Houston at the NRG Stadium.

This year's LUMP band also has seven drum majors, the most in university history; JaRon Cook, Curtis Ross, Deon Cole, Nate Chambers, D'Mandre McCall, Robert Gray and Jireh Brown. Brown is the first ever Bahamian drum major in university history. "The first Bahamian drum major representing the Bahamas 242! As far as Langston University, we just put in hard work and dedication, and hard work beat talent every day," said Brown. Being led by Professor Mark Gordon and

Professor Jonathon Allen, the Langston band announced a new assistant band director, William Young, who has over 22 years of experience. "I'm excited to be here at Langston with my experience and want to shout out all the schools I'm coming from," said Young. Young is a graduate of Southern University, the former fine arts director of Duncanville ISD, the former band director at Cedar Hill High School, Skyline High School, Northwest High School, and the former assistant band director at Carter High School.

Sept. 3, provided students with their first official look at the Langston Marching Pride Band this year. Students were able to see what they had to offer at halftime during the band's field show and 5th quarter performance. Students may vote for Langston to compete in the Honda Battle of the Bands by going to <https://www.hondabattleofthebands.com/>.

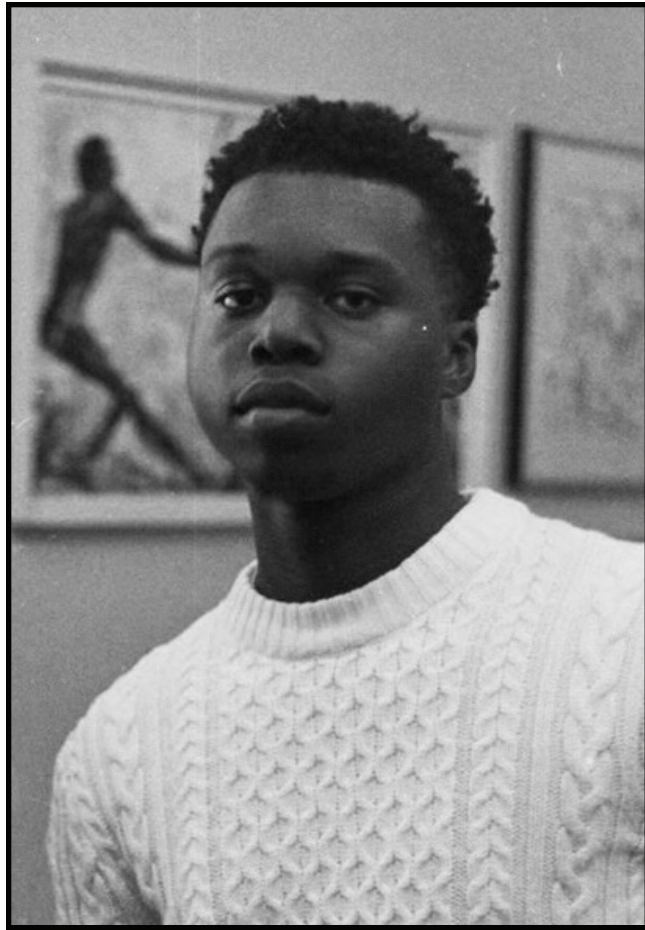
Jamar Donaldson is a junior broadcast journalism major.



Photo via LU Marching Pride Instagram

Opinion: Langston Lacks Scholarship opportunities for Bahamian Students

By Gerard Lewis
Staff Writer



Jireh Brown, an international student, senior music major and Kappa Kappa Psi fraternity member, has attended Langston University since the Spring semester of 2019 as the first Bahamian student. Since then, his lowest grade point average was

a 3.4 with his highest being a 4.0. He is also a drum major for the marching pride band. Although he was able to obtain a substantial band scholarship, he realized he would still have a balance that would have to be taken care of. Some students pay their balance by applying for academic scholarships, so Brown looked into that option. He said, "I have been trying since I have arrived here, still no results. I have yet to receive any academic scholarships. No matter how many 4.0 or 3.0 G.P. A's I have made, no matter how many organizations I am apart of or good standings I hold with the university, there has yet to be something put in place for international students as far as academics." He said an academic scholarship would really help him and his international peers by, "helping us limit the strain of paying an extra few thousands of dollars that would have to be paid out of pocket at the end of each semester." He recalled Langston University to be, "a great place to come, but it is just not as accommodating as it should be for international students, and I wish it were different."

The largest organization on Langston's campus is the marching pride band. Of some 200 members, 50 are Bahamian international students, some of whom are section leaders. Despite being involved with organizations and jobs aside from the band, many of these students manage to maintain grade point averages in competition with scholarship recipients. Even though these students are representing the school at a high level, no strides have been made to address the situation.

Mrs. Doristina Moncriste is the international student advisor. According to her "scholarships for international students are generally hard to find. Currently the scholarships our students are getting (available to international students) are for those students in band. One of the scholarships does have an academic component to it in reference to keeping a certain grade point average. Some of the Stem fields such as biology, chemistry, math and technology have opportunities for grant funding. If the student is maintaining a certain GPA and is exceptional in certain courses, they can be paid as a tutor or can receive a stipend for working on different grant projects with teachers."

The institutional foundation that controls the grants for the university is mainly located on the OKC campus. She says she has contacted the department before to find out if there are funds that international students can apply for, but has only been successful with one student. In general, most academic scholarships require the student to be of American citizenship. Moncriste said, "I have tried to reach out to the foundation or do research, as well as encourage students to apply for scholarships offered by the alumni association but have yet to be successful with finding any available for international students." Brown is currently working shifts at the HEF plant with the time he has available in efforts to help reduce his balance.

Gerard Lewis is a sophomore broadcast journalism major

Pictures from the Miss Orange and Blue Pageant by Krystal Butler

