Editorial: Does Dorm Cuisine: Flamin’ Hot Taco ‘Salad’

By Caitlin Etoh, Clarion Staff

IDonuagbe Akogun, a Lincoln University alumnus, is on a mission to create a cyberspace where students and teachers oceans apart can share cultural knowledge and counter cultural misunderstanding.

Akogun, who studied business administration and economics at LU from 2002 to 2007, is from the state of Edo in Nigeria, West Africa. He founded the nonprofit e-DON Initiative Program (http://e-don.org) in January 2010, he said, to help educators and students worldwide bridge cultural differences via cyber and visual education.

Akogun, who is also e-Don’s chief executive officer, said he started the program because of the “need for our world’s youth to engage in collaborative efforts to love and understand and work with one another.”

The program also aims to academically enrich people on both sides of the Atlantic, he added, by helping them see how electronic education can be an effective way to trade cultural information.

The program works via a network called Polycom, a voice communication system, and several “tele-presence” structures, such as webcams. Schools involved in the program must use identical equipment for the connection and actual communication to work.

Classes are viewed live. Any student whose university is part of the initiative can log into the courses they want to watch and see the lesson as it is being taught. Seminars and courses currently offered focus on health care, agriculture, history, science and technology, social and political sciences, and culture and traditions.

So far, two schools have signed up with e-Don and plan to kick off their programs this month. The schools, both located in Nigeria, are Bayero University in the state of Kano and the University of Port Harcourt in the state of Rivers. The fact that both schools are located in Nigeria pleases Akogun, he said, because it is his country of origin and it needs to become more proactive about its future.

The two schools were able to obtain new equipment, including computers, so that students can use it at school, which is required by the e-Don initiative. This helps the initiative achieve another of its aims: to make the service free for all students to use, no matter their financial status.

LU currently has a memorandum of understanding with e-Don that includes starting a pilot program during spring semester 2011, said Dr. Gabrielle Malfatti-Rachell, head of the LU Department of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism and director of LU Study Abroad. Requests for proposals from LU faculty who wish to participate in the e-Don pilot will be issued in January, she said.

The learning exchange works this way, Malfatti-Rachell said: Typically, a teacher and students at one e-Don site present a 50-minute lesson to students and a faculty member at another site. Once the lesson is done, the students and teacher who heard the lesson discuss it and then, two days later, they return to the site to ask the lesson providers questions and offer comments.

Akogun said he has received much encouragement to get his initiative going. At LU alone, he said, Dr. Felix Edoho, founder of the LU Institute for Entrepreneurship & Business Development, Mike Downey, general manager of KJLU radio, Malfatti-Rachell and many others have supported it.

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Library Offers iPads for Loan This Year

By Christina Barnhart, Clarion Staff

Lincoln University officials decided this year to invest in one of the latest technological inventions, the iPad.

Staff members at LU’s Inman E. Page Library recently purchased 10 iPads with the intent of providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to explore the possibilities that the iPad has to offer, said Jerome Offord Jr., university librarian and head of the LU Department of Library Science.

Five of the new iPads have a memory capacity of 32 gigabytes and five have a memory capacity of 64 gigabytes, Offord added.

The library’s iPads come complete with applications, including YouTube, iTunes and Safari, an Internet browser.

Elizabeth Wilson, who retired as university librarian last spring, first proposed the idea of the iPads, said Benecia Renee Williams, media assistant at the library’s Media Center and the Learning Commons.

“Mrs. Wilson wanted LU students to have access to more current technological sources of information, and this is when the library staff began researching the iPads,” Williams said.

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The Clarion is online! Click on “Clarion” at http://www.lincollnu.edu/pages/1436.asp
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The iPad has features that are similar to a laptop, but the iPad is much easier to manage because it is smaller than an 8.5-by-11-inch piece of paper and is easy and convenient to transport.

“When the iPads were received on campus, we held a demonstration in the cafeteria, one week before Labor Day, lining up the iPads alongside iPods, allowing students to have hands-on experiences between the two,” Williams said. “Invariably, students chose to check out the iPads over the iPods. Students are always into the latest and greatest thing.”

Depending on memory capacity, iPads can cost from about $500 to $800 in the store. At the library, they can be checked out free of charge seven days a week on a first-come, first-served basis for a loan period of up to four days.

To check out an iPad, borrowers must sign a form for LU users only, which is available at the library’s front desk. The form stipulates that a late-return fee of $20 per day will be charged if the iPad is returned after the due date. If the item is returned five days late, it will be considered missing and the borrower must pay current market value for it as well as any fees that have accumulated up to that point.

If an iPad is lost or broken, borrowers must pay the library its current market value, according to the library form, and iPads cannot be renewed to give other LU users an opportunity to check them out.

Finally, borrowers who have unpaid fines on their LU record cannot borrow an iPad, and identification codes have been placed on each iPad so that LU library staff members can locate and track them.

iPad borrowing privileges end on the last day of classes so that library staff members can inventory them as well as update iPad applications.

Library staff members hope to continue adding to the library’s stock of latest technologies, Williams said, but this will depend heavily on the library’s budget.

“iMacs are a hopeful addition,” Williams said. “iMacs are less prone to viruses. It would also be nice, in the future, if we could offer iMac certification classes here at Lincoln.”

LU Mourns Loss of Two

By Pinkie Gordon, Clarion Staff

Two members of the Lincoln University family passed away in October.

Daniel D. Steward, 25, died on Tuesday, Oct. 12. He was a web trainer in the LU Center for Innovative Instruction, where he provided computer support to faculty and students.

Jessica Lane Oetting, 27, died on Tuesday, Oct. 19. She was program coordinator for the LU Office of Student Activities.

Mr. Steward received his bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in computer science from Lincoln University in 2007. He was the son of longtime LU employees Dick and Deborah Steward.

During a celebration of Mr. Steward’s life on Oct. 19 in Jefferson City, some remembered Mr. Steward as “LU’s Angel” and many agreed. Mr. Steward, they recalled, was not only a kind and helpful person, but also innovative and outgoing. And, according to his obituary, “His family and many friends remember most his ready smile and his ability to make people laugh with his gift for telling stories and imitating voices. He loved watching sports with his dad, playing Super Nintendo with his brother, swapping daily texts and e-mails with his mom, and being his sister’s closest confidant. He was the heart of his family.”

Ms. Oetting received her bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2005 and her Master of Education degree in 2008. She completed both degrees at LU.

In addition to her work for the student activities office, Ms. Oetting served as adviser to the freshman class and to the LU off-campus commuter students group.

She also was active in the Muscular Dystrophy Association and was a member of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society.

Tammy Nobles, director of the LU Office of Student Activities, and friend Mecca Dixon remembered Ms. Oetting as being dedicated to the students she assisted and loved by them in return. Ms. Oetting “was the shoulder you could cry on,” they agreed, and she always helped make things better.

“I wouldn’t be who I am without her,” Nobles said.

A memorial service for Ms. Oetting was held on Oct. 22 in Jefferson City.

LU Alum Views Cyber-Learning as Way to Bridge Cultural Differences

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He also obtained backing from the National Universities Commission of Nigeria, which approves academic programs for Nigerian universities, and from professors at Bayero and Port Harcourt universities. U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., and UNESCO helped obtain government funding for the program, Akogun said, and he also contributed his own money to it.

The LU alum said that e-Don is fueled in part by his dream to make a better future for all students around the world.

“We have to invest in our students,” Akogun said, “because how will they give back if they have no knowledge of the world around them? They can’t see the dream if there is no one there to motivate them.”

Akogun is promoting his program through Twitter, Facebook and the e-DON website itself. He added that he plans to promote the program at LU in hopes that it will encourage more LU students to study abroad.

“This program is meant to help ordinary people do extraordinary things for the world around them,” Akogun said.

“We never seem to give enough credit to those who truly help us, like teachers and doctors,” he added, “and these are the true role models of our everyday world. So, I want to encourage students to be a part and to realize the positive difference they can make.”

News Briefs

Armed Robbery on Campus Reported by LU Police

Clarion Staff

An armed robbery occurred at 8:50 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, on the walkway behind Tull Hall, according to a notice issued by the Lincoln University Police Department the same day.

The police department received a report that two black males wearing ski masks and armed with a semi-automatic gun robbed a student on the walkway, the notice stated. The first suspect was described as skinny, standing more than 6 feet tall and wearing a black shirt, black pants and white shoes, while the second suspect was described as weighing about 200 pounds, standing about 5 feet 11 inches tall and wearing a gray button-up shirt over a white shirt and black pants.

The suspects left the scene on foot, heading toward the shipping and receiving building at 1002 Chestnut St.

Campus police officials request that anyone who has any information about the case contact the department at (573) 681-5555.

The police department also advises students, faculty and staff to be alert for any suspicious activities on- or off-campus and suggests that students travel in groups and well-lit areas and avoid dark, less-traveled areas and side streets.

Any suspicious activity can be reported to the LU Police Department at 681-5555 or by calling 911. Red emergency phones around campus also can be used to report such emergencies.

Gala Aims to Raise Money for Local Foster and Adoptive Children

By Kit Kaiser, Clarion Staff

The nonprofit Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association (CMFCAA) has announced its second annual Forget Me Not Gala, an event to raise money for foster and adoptive children.

It will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Motivational speaker Michelle Moe is the featured guest.

According to a press release from the association, Moe is an entrepreneur and certified massage therapist who has worked with infants, children and adults and advocates massage therapy and “positive touch” as a way to increase overall health.

The Forget Me Not Gala also features live music and a silent auction with jewelry, art, handmade quilts, trips and photo packages up for bid.

CMFCAA was founded in October 2007 by a former foster youth as well as foster parents and adoptive parents. According to the association’s website, it is the only community service organization in central Missouri that provides for the needs of foster and adoptive children beyond what the state provides. The association’s mission is to “educate, support and advocate for foster and adoptive children, youth and families in central Missouri by offering services, and partnering with community and governmental agencies to develop healthy and self-sufficient individuals and families.”

Deanna Alonso, CMFCAA executive director, is a Lincoln University student who spent five years in foster care. In April 2010, Alonso and her husband adopted three children and revealed their plans for the future: to “reach out to as many children in the foster care system as we can through support, advocacy and just unconditional love.”

Tickets to the Gala cost $35 per person and $60 per couple. The price includes a three-course meal and a vegetarian option is available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ccfosteradopt.com.

For more information on CMFCAA or the Forget Me Not Gala, visit www.ccfosteradopt.com or call (573) 298-0258.
Trash on campus: Does it concern you?

By Kit Kaiser,
Clarion Staff

There are many aspects of a university that will instill pride within its students and faculty: the quality of education, the performance of an athletic team, the availability of technology and resources, the dedication of professors or the unity of student organizations. There might be numerous reasons that cause us to don blue and white, or proudly paste Blue Tigers decals in our car windows. But, for every raison d'être that fosters gratification among Lincoln University students, staff and faculty, there can be just as many that cause disgrace. For the Clarion staff, one of these is the noticeable amount of trash strewn across campus in various forms.

To some students, it might seem superficial to consider rubbish as a source of scorn. Yet, it is difficult to negotiate a campus littered with soda bottles, its restroom stalls painted with derogatory remarks and its walls marred by deliberate property damage. Some students place the unsightliness on a scapegoat – the grounds and maintenance crews. However, in a recent telephone interview, Mark Friedman, Building and Grounds director, said that his staff of 45 people has “regularly scheduled trash pick-up days.”

Clarion staff members have seen these employees using metal claws to grab litter that is only a few inches from a receptacle. Some of the improperly disposed trash lands in the lake near Inman E. Page Library. The lake is home to brightly colored koi, aquatic turtles and amphibians, and it adds an aesthetically pleasing touch to the library building’s design. But this soupçon of beauty is but a surface, for the wildlife must tangle with the floating debris that the wildlife must tangle with on a daily basis. Lewd artwork and degrading commentary are part and parcel of most students’ restroom breaks. Friedman said that graffiti is not as severe now as it was in previous years, but it still occurs on the hiney-hiders in seldom-used restrooms. “We have an annual budget, just like other departments, and to get rid of graffiti we have to clean and then repaint those areas,” Friedman said. “That uses up our budget when it could be used in other areas.”

Another area of concern that Friedman mentioned is vandalism, especially in residence halls. “There has been an increase in intentional vandalism in Dawson Hall since freshmen have been housed there,” he said. “When they were in Martin, it was difficult for them to cause damage because it is mostly concrete bricks … indestructible.” Friedman also mentioned an incident with the huge concrete balls that decorate the library’s walkway, saying that students “deliberately pushed them over. We found one all the way down on East Dunklin, and the other one is still at the bottom of the lake.”

Needless to say, these issues originate with our student body. It is either pure negligence or malicious intent that prevents soda bottles from proper disposal, creates detestable easels out of restroom walls and pocks the walls in residence halls with fist-shaped holes.

However, it can be easy for us to abstain from writing on the walls, and even easier to make certain that garbage is not discarded on the ground. For inspiration, consider Friedman’s observation: “If there was an increase in awareness,” he said, “and our work was cut by half, it would save the university time and money … money that could be more directly spent on the students.”
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LU drum major JaLisa Hall arches back during a recent football game. Photo by Keno Anthony

**Drum Major Adds to LU Band History**

*By Brittney T. Hughes, Clarion Staff*

Whenever Lincoln University’s own school band, the Marching Musical Storm, takes to the football field, the three drum majors command all attention.

Yet, one of them stands only 5 feet 2 inches tall.

Coming down the tunnel and throwing up her sorority’s pyramid-shaped hand signal before arching backward to touch the ground, LU drum major JaLisa Hall exhibits precise and remarkable physical capabilities.

And, at age 21, she is making history as the only second female drum major in the LU marching band’s 62-year history. LU’s first female drum major was Chasity Coleman, who helped lead the band in 2003.

Hall said that being a drum major is more demanding for females than it is for males.

“It’s tough!” Hall explained. “So, I have to exaggerate all of my moves on the field.”

Hailing from Kansas City, Kan., Hall played trombone in the marching band during all four years of high school and began playing in the LU band in 2007. A senior majoring in wellness at LU, Hall aspires to become a physical therapist.

Last spring, Hall competed with four other band members in a public audition for two open drum major spots. In addition to demonstrating showmanship and an overall positive attitude, the candidates were judged on their leadership skills and grades. Hall and Jeremy Verge were chosen to join LU’s lead drum major, Charles Smotherson.

Hall contributes her success as a drum major to her mother, Carol Hall of Kansas City, Kan.; Rhonda Harper, the Marching Musical Storm band director; past drum majors Terrell Stringer and LaDerrick Murphy; and Smotherson. They each encouraged her to keep her head up, Hall said, and ensured her that she could do anything that she set her mind to.

Harper said that the drum majors represent the “top leadership” of the band’s more than 100 student members. While band directors teach the music, drum majors execute the field commands: They control the start and stop of the band while it performs on the field.

LU students give Hall rave reviews for her performances. Valentine Dama, a journalism major, said that Hall “is such an absolute JOY when she’s performing with the band — GO GIRL!”

Trevell Phinisee, an LU business administration major, is enthused by her landmark role.

**2010 Homecoming Show Stepped It Up!**

*By Christina Barnhart, Clarion Staff*

Homecoming for Lincoln University means exciting activities geared toward students, faculty, staff and alumni. This year, one of the main events so attracted this varied audience that they packed Richardson Auditorium on a Friday night. It was the Step Show.

The LU Step Show is a competition — and, indeed, it is the “Battle of the Greeks,” according to one publicity flier — that features step-dance moves performed by members of LU sororities and fraternities.

Step dance emphasizes foot movement, or footwork, over upper body movement. At LU, competitors create a step dance around a chosen theme. And, this year, a panel comprised of LU faculty and staff members, alumni and community members judged the competition, held on Oct. 8.

The Step Show has become a Lincoln Homecoming tradition. Yet, participants say, it takes a lot of time to prepare their step dances.

“I feel it’s a wonderful thing for a woman to get out there and show that she is just as capable as the guys,” Phinisee said.

Hall’s activities might show why she was selected for a job requiring leadership and dedication: She juggles leading the band, performing with the LU Dance Troupe and being an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

“Flamin’ Hot Taco “Salad”

You don’t need tortillas to have a fiesta!

**Step 1: Prepare the meat** - Pour 1/3 cup of water to the bowl of meat. Using your fork, stir in the taco seasoning until it is evenly distributed. Cover the bowl again and place it in the microwave for two minutes. Carefully remove the bowl from the microwave and set it aside.

**Step 2: Prepare the cheese** - Open the jar of microwavable cheese and add 2 tablespoons of water, stirring slowly with a spoon. Then place the cheese, without the lid, into the microwave and warm it up as specified on the jar or until it reaches your preferred temperature and consistency. Tip: Periodically, remove the cheese from the microwave and stir it to keep it smooth.

Finally, add 1/3 cup of water to the bowl of meat. Using your fork, stir in the taco seasoning until it is evenly distributed. Cover the bowl again and place it in the microwave for two minutes. Carefully remove the bowl from the microwave and set it aside.

**Tools**

- Microwave, 1 medium-sized microwavable bowl, 1 microwavable plate to cover bowl, 1 fork, 1 spoon, 1 serving plate

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups of water, total
- ½ pound of ground beef
- ½ packet of taco seasoning
- 1 jar of microwavable cheese (in microwavable jar)
- 1 large bag of Flamin’ Hot Cheetos
- 6 sour or dill pickle slices, diced

**Step 3: Prepare your plate** - Open the bag of Flamin’ Hot Cheetos and pour your desired amount of the plate. Next, pour your desired amount of warm melted cheese over the Cheetos, and then add enough taco meat to suit your taste. Add the diced pickle slices and, if you wish, top the plate with a tablespoon of sour cream. Use the remaining water to cool your “Flamin’ Hot” mouth.

**Step 4: Enjoy your dorm cuisine!**

**Dorm Cuisine**

*Photo, story and recipe* by Pinkie Gordon, Clarion Staff

So, you want to have a get-together in your dorm. Or, maybe you want to watch a movie or spend some time text-messaging a friend while you’re both in the same room. Great! Now, whatever you’re up to, remember that Flamin’ Hot Taco “Salad” is a fun snack to have on hand.

This recipe relies on the fire of Frito-Lay’s Flamin’ Hot Cheetos. According to Frito-Lay’s website (www.fritolay.com), Cheetos are sold in 36 countries. Outside of the United States, they come in flavors that differ from those available stateside, including Cheese and Bacon Cheetos in Australia, Honeydew Cheetos in Japan, Sweet Basil and Fried Pork Cheetos in Thailand and Chicken Grill Cheetos in Indonesia. Yet, I love the spice of the Flamin’ Hots, which are sold in the United States and Canada.