

TIGER HAPPENINGS

"Where everybody is somebody."



GSU Wins 42nd Annual Bayou Classic 34-23

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Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President

After rallying from a 17-point deficit, the Grambling State University Tigers (9-2, 9-0 SWAC) defeated the Southern University Jaguars (6-5, 6-3 SWAC) 34-23 at the 42nd Annual Bayou Classic at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Nov. 28.

The Tigers are undefeated in the Southwestern Athletic Conference for the first time since 2008. Grambling also snatched their first Bayou Classic victory in three years, tying the classic record 21-21. GSU quarterback Johnathan Williams and SU quarterback Austin Howard were named game MVPs. Williams finished 20-for-34 for 272 yards and three touchdowns.

The Tigers clinched a SWAC championship berth two weeks ago, and they will face the Alcorn State University Braves (8-3, 8-1 SWAC) in Houston for the conference title on Dec. 5. Grambling defeated Alcorn on October 17 with a score of 35-34 in Lorman, Mississippi. Game time is 3 p.m. (Central) at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, on December 5. It will air on ESPNU.

President's Corner

Wow, what a week at the Bayou Classic in New Orleans! This was my first Bayou Classic, and I must admit that I have never seen such tradition and pageantry. From the time I arrived to my return on Monday, my schedule was non-stop, but well worth the effort. The contacts, connections, and the commitments made by so many people to support Grambling show me that there is great promise for our university. There are so many adventurous encounters that I could describe. However, I **don't have enough space** in this article to account for all of the wonderful experiences. [\(read more\)](#)

GSU Mourns the Loss of Amanda Lee

Grambling State University is offering condolences for the family and friends of Amanda Lee, a 2013 graduate of GSU and an incoming graduate student, who passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 27.

Lee traveled to Grambling from Riviere Cyrique, Dominica, in January 2010 to study accounting. She graduated from GSU in December 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. She was set to return to Grambling in the spring semester to pursue a graduate degree. Lee was a member of St. Benedict Catholic Church and a member of the choir. [\(read more\)](#)



Amanda Lee



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Bayou Classic University-Business Summit Focuses on Cyber Technology, Workforce

The New Orleans Convention Company, Inc. (NOCCI) held its third annual Bayou Classic University-Business Summit in Shreveport on Nov. 6 to discuss the future of business, education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and hiring.

The summit, held in collaboration with the Minority Business Expo, features a half-day panel series with community, university and

business leaders to gain solutions necessary to help grow and sustain business in north Louisiana. The workshop included three seminars on economic opportunities for business, workforce development and cyber technology.

"We needed to bring our corporate leaders to the table to have conversations with our college professors and our school leadership, so that we can determine what the next workforce has got to be," Dottie Belletto, president of NOCCI, told The Gramblinite. ([read more](#))



Prentiss Smiley Wins National HBCU Title III Administrators Scholarship



Prentiss Smiley (middle), receives a scholarship check from President Willie Larkin (right) and Beverly Hill-Hercules (left).

A Grambling State University student has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Title III Administrators, Inc.

Prentiss Smiley, of Homer, Louisiana, is a senior double majoring in computer information systems and history. He is the president of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College and host of the campus radio talk show "Good Morning Grambling."

"It is an honor to receive the National Association of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Title III Administrators, Inc. Scholarship. I am extremely thankful to Mrs. Beverly Hill-Hercules for encouraging students from Grambling State University to compete against numerous students from other HBCUs across the country," Smiley said.

Smiley plans to use the scholarship money to pay for tuition and books for next semester. "It will also serve as a source of motivation to continue to earn good grades and give back to the community through service learning."

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Accounting Class Teaches Grambling Senior Citizens about Making Safe Investments

Grambling's senior citizens are now more prepared to invest in high-yield savings accounts and to safely bank online, thanks to a workshop presented by Nonso Okpala's Intermediate Accounting II class at Grambling City Hall on Nov. 10.

Okpala, advisor of Grambling's chapter of National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), said that a speech by Janet



Nonso Okpala's Intermediate Accounting II Class

Guyden, provost and vice president of academic affairs, at the NABA banquet last April inspired his accounting students to become more active in the community.

Three representatives from the class, Michael Stringfellow, Janiecia Mayfield and Nadisha Guavo, made a 15-minute presentation to a group of about 35 senior citizens. The presentation included information on how and where to invest in a high-yield savings account, the different annual percentage yield that each respective bank offered and the volunteer income tax preparation service offered by the accounting students at Grambling State University." [\(read more\)](#)

Senior Art Exhibition Held for Demetrius Love

A Grambling State University student is using his artwork to encourage people to reflect on past mistakes and use what they learn to make better decisions in their lives. The Department of Visual and Performing Arts is hosting an exhibition by Demetrius Love, entitled "Unique Provisions," at Dunbar Gallery from Nov. 16-Dec. 3.

"My exhibition is about the battle between light and darkness and good and evil and the struggles that we deal with and my struggles as an individual. In a sense, it relates to everybody, and it's a way for me to tell my story," Love said.

Love is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in visual and performing arts with a concentration in studio art. [\(read more\)](#)



Demetrius Love

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Showcasing Gramblinites who shine.



GSU Inducts 50 Freshmen into New Student Leadership Initiative

Nearly 50 of Grambling State University's best and brightest freshmen have been initiated into the Student Leadership Initiative Nov. 19 in the Betty E. Smith Nursing Building.

Beverly Hill-Hercules, executive director of Title III programs, and Vivian Larkin, first lady of Grambling State, created the Student Leadership Initiative for incoming freshmen with natural leadership qualities.

"We really wanted to focus on building great leaders for the world of tomorrow," Larkin said. "Initially, we were interested in establishing a Black-male initiative, but we quickly realized there was a larger need to work with the incoming freshmen. We wanted to make sure those students know about **Grambling's resources, can persist, deal with challenges, rise** to the occasion and graduate in four years. We realize that this organization fits with one of the missions of the university to increase enrollment, student retention and four-year graduation rates." ([read more](#))



President Willie Larkin congratulates inductees into the new Student Leadership Initiative on Nov. 19.

GSU Student Darnel Williams Named Apple HBCU Scholar



Darnel Williams and Denise Young-Smith of Apple

A Grambling State University student has been awarded a one-year college scholarship and a summer internship at Apple's headquarters in California as part of a new initiative by Apple to invest in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Darnel Williams is one of 30 students who are members of the first cohort of the Apple HBCU Scholars Program. Apple made a \$40-million, multi-year commitment, the largest and most comprehensive corporate investment ever given exclusively for students and faculty of four-year HBCUs.

"I don't know how to relate how I feel," Williams said. "I am very excited because it is Apple. This is a company where they have a lot of great minds, and I hope to bring my knowledge to what they are doing and to learn a lot from the people who already work there."

Giving back is your best gift, [donations accepted here.](#)