

TIGER HAPPENINGS

"Where everybody is somebody."



10 For \$10 Challenge Raises \$55k for GSU

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Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President

President's Corner

The holiday season is a great time of the year, but let us not forget the real purpose of this magnificent holiday season and Christmas time. Of the 12 months of the year, October, November, and December are my favorites. I love the month of October, because it is the month of my birthday, a celebration that I have enjoyed for 66 wonderful years. On each birthday, I stop to thank God for another year of life. Like the faithful rising sun of each new day, I always take a moment to [\(read more\)](#)

Apple VP Named 2015 Fall Commencement Speaker

Denise Young-Smith, vice president of worldwide human resources at Apple, will deliver Grambling State University's 2015 Fall Commencement speech. The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18 in the Frederick C. Hobdy Assembly Center.

Young-Smith is a graduate of Grambling State University. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications in 1978 and later a master's degree in organizational management, when she returned to her home state of Colorado.

While at Grambling, she was a member of the Orchesis Dance Company and a photography student with Grambling's photographer, Glenn Lewis, [\(read more\)](#)



Denise Young-Smith



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Grambling Awards 23 STEM Scholarships Funded by AT&T Donation



First Row, L-R: LaTerra Smith, Elizabeth Eddy, Katerra Dooley, President Willie Larkin, Shermaine Shorter, Rochelle Joseph, Jazmyne Lewis, Genesis Williams, and David Aubrey, state director of external affairs for AT&T Louisiana. Second Row, L-R: Prentiss Smiley, Aaliyah Robinson, Zana Symone Hall, Timothy Ismael, Christina Bluford, and Wade Julien. Third Row, L-R: Otto Meyers, GSU vice president for advancement, research and economic development, Dominique Wilson, Jarett Triplett, and Joseph Dean.

Twenty-three Grambling State University students have been awarded scholarships in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as a result of a \$50,000 donation from AT&T.

AT&T made the donation in July to fund scholarships for 23 students, including one \$5,000 scholarship, two \$2,500 scholarships and 20 \$2,000 scholarships. AT&T scholars were selected based on their application, essay, faculty recommendation, involvement in STEM-related extracurricular activities, grade point average and unmet financial need.

"As a proud alumnus of GSU, I'm blessed to represent AT&T in congratulating these outstanding students that were selected to receive the AT&T scholarships," said David Aubrey, state director of external affairs for AT&T Louisiana. "GSU produces outstanding graduates, and we are pleased to support the university as it continues its mission." ([read more](#))

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Grambling's HBCU Book Challenge Raises 4,500 Books for Prison Libraries

The HBCU Book Challenge began as an effort by Grambling State University's Psychology and Sociology Club members to bring more reading materials to inmates in Louisiana. After seeing a small prison library with a shortage of books, club members were inspired to organize a book drive last spring that collected 225 books for the inmates at Richwood Correctional Center in Monroe.

"This adventure got started when we were trying to look for more ideas inside the club," Psychology and Sociology Club President Jack Chandler said. "A lot of the guys said let's go to a prison. When we were at the prison at Richwood, Dr. (Matt) Sheptoski noticed the lack of materials, and said we've got our next project."

Fueled by the success of their first book drive, the Psychology and Sociology Club members were inspired to hold a second book drive, while simultaneously challenging other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) around the country to do the same.

The second book drive raised nearly 10 times the amount of the first drive, a total of 2,167 books collected from the students, employees and community members at Grambling, ([read more](#))



Members of the GSU Psychology and Sociology Club delivered books donated during the HBCU Book Challenge to Caddo Correctional Center on Dec. 1. From left to right are: Sgt. Robert Montoya; Matt Sheptoski, faculty advisor; Jack Chandler, club president; Marcus Clark, a member of the Emergency Response Team at Caddo Correctional Center; Kristopher Brooks, a sophomore sociology major; and Franceskia Brown, a senior psychology major.

GSU Professors Present Developmental English Pilot Program at SACSCOC



Catherine Bonner and Connie Walton

Connie Walton, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, and Catherine Bonner, a lecturer in the Department of English, facilitated a group discussion about a development English pilot program implemented at Grambling State University in an effort to increase the academic success of freshman students who are underprepared for college-level English during the annual Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) meeting on Dec. 5 in Houston.

The discussion, entitled "Utilization of a 'Speak Student' Approach for Teaching English Composition to Underprepared Freshman Students," showcased the successes of a developmental education pilot program implemented at Grambling State University during the fall 2013 and spring

semesters, which was sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The educators provided an overview of how contextualized and strategic instruction were used to facilitate student learning as demonstrated by student performance in the pilot, as well as their performance in the second sequence English course during the following semester. ([read more](#))

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Coach Fobbs, Quarterback Johnathan Williams Take Home SWAC Honors

The Grambling State University football team took home some of the highest post-season honors in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). Coach Broderick Fobbs was named SWAC Coach of the Year for the second year in a row, while quarterback Johnathan Williams was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year.

Williams leads the SWAC and the entire FCS with 36 touchdowns. He also leads the SWAC with 2,910 passing yards in 11 games. Williams is one of four Tigers to earn first team All-SWAC honors. A total of 10 players were recognized. A dual-threat quarterback, Williams also leads the SWAC in total offense at 296.8 yards per game.



Johnathan Williams



Broderick Fobbs

Joining Williams on the first team is wide receiver Chad Williams, offensive lineman Justin Miller and defensive back Guy Stallworth. Running back Martez Carter, wide receiver Chester Rogers, defensive lineman Jamison Goins, defensive lineman Michael Jolivet, linebacker Arkez Cooper and kicker Marc Orozco were named to the second team.

In addition, Williams, a graduate student who plans to work in engineering technology drafting and design, was also recognized with the Player Leadership Excellence Award at the Bayou Classic coaches luncheon.

Legendary Coach Eddie Robinson Named 2015 AFCA Trailblazer Award Winner

Legendary Coach Eddie G. Robinson has been named the American Football Coaches Association's (AFCA) recipient of the 2015 Trailblazer Award. The award will be presented posthumously at the AFCA President's Kickoff Luncheon on Monday, Jan. 11 at the 2016 AFCA Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Robinson passed away in 2007 at the age of 88.

The AFCA Trailblazer Award was created to honor early leaders in the football coaching profession who coached at historically black colleges and universities. The award is given each year to a person that coached in a particular decade ranging from 1920-1970. This year's winner coached from 1941 to 1970.

Robinson attended Leland College in Baker, La., where he played quarterback and led the team to a combined 18-1 record over the 1939 and 1940 seasons. During his final two years at Leland, he also served as an assistant coach. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1941 and received a master's degree from the University of Iowa in 1954.

In 1941, Grambling, then known as Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute, hired Robinson to coach football and basketball and teach physical education. In his first season, he had no assistants and no budget for replacing equipment. He handled virtually everything himself, from mowing the field to taping players' ankles to writing accounts of the games for the local newspaper.



Coach Eddie Robinson

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Doug Williams Inducted into Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Ring of Honor

Grambling alumnus Doug Williams was inducted into the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Ring of Honor on Dec. 6. Williams became the eighth Ring of Honor member, and his 12 Williams sign is featured on the east side of Tampa's Raymond James Stadium.

Williams attended Grambling State University, where he played for legendary Coach Eddie Robinson. Williams guided the Tigers to a 36-7 record as a four-year starter, and led the Tigers to three Southwestern Athletic Conference Championships. Williams was named Black College Player of the Year twice.

Williams was a first-round pick for the Buccaneers in 1978. He led the team to three playoff appearances in five seasons. After leaving the Buccaneers after the 1982 season, Williams played for the Washington Redskins, where he was named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXII after becoming the first African American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl.

Through his football career, Williams maintained a close relationship with Robinson, succeeding him as head football coach in 1998. Williams led the Tigers to three consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference titles from 2000 to 2002. He left Grambling in 2003 to become a personnel executive for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Williams returned to the head position at Grambling from 2011 to 2013, when he led the Tigers to another SWAC title during the 2011 season. Williams is currently a personnel executive for the Washington Redskins.



Doug Williams

Two Former Professors Named to Governor-Elect Edwards' Education Committees

Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards, who has announced education as one of his top priorities, has created two committees to examine the future of education in Louisiana. Two former professors, Grambling Mayor Edward Jones and Vicki Brown, have been named as members of these committees.

The Higher Education Transition Committee will make policy recommendations for higher education in Louisiana, particularly looking for ways to increase the state's investment in higher education and to make college more affordable for students.

Mayor Jones, a 1974 graduate of Grambling State University, has been named a member of the 22-person committee. Jones has nearly 35 years of teaching experience, with the last 25 spent as a faculty member in the Department of English at Grambling State University.



Mayor Edward Jones

"We have been given the task of making recommendations to the governor-elect on how we can enhance higher education in Louisiana," Mayor Jones said. "We are interested in how we can better prepare our students in higher education to perform better in the workplace, to give our students the knowledge and skills they need to perform in the workplace, especially in the industries that are located in our state." ([read more](#))

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