

# GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2011-12 ACADEMIC YEAR

Presented by  
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College of Professional Studies

### Mission of Grambling State University

Grambling State University is a comprehensive, historically-black, public institution that offers a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Through its undergraduate major courses of study, which are undergirded by a traditional liberal arts program, and through its graduate school, which has decidedly a professional focus, the university embraces its founding principle of educational opportunity. With a commitment to the education of minorities in American society, the university seeks to reflect in all of its programs the diversity present in the world. The university advances the study and preservation of African American history, art and culture.

### Mission of the College

The College of Professional Studies provides students, faculty and the community with challenging academic and real world experiences in the context of local, national and global perspectives through traditional classroom setting, clinical/laboratory experiences and distance learning. Through a program of rigorous teaching, research, and community outreach/service, the College prepares students for professional careers and advanced study in the areas of Criminal Justice, Mass Communication, Nursing and Social Work. Graduates of the College of Professional Studies will be competitive in their chosen careers, in addition to being socially conscious and productive members of the society.

### Brief description of the College

The College of Professional Studies was created in Fall 2005 as part of the major academic reorganization at the University. The College brings together the four major top-ranking professional programs on the campus – the School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, the Department of Criminal Justice and the Department of Mass Communication. All four programs maintain large enrollments at the baccalaureate level, and each one of them has a graduate program at the master's level.

### Data on completers (degrees awarded)

As the College consists of four major professional programs with high enrollments, it maintains a very high graduate rate. For the 2011-12 academic year, out of the total number of 908 degrees (undergraduate and graduate) awarded by the University, 427 (47%) were from the College of Professional Studies that included 297 undergraduate and 130 graduate students. The Department of Criminal Justice graduated the largest number of students with 172 (116 undergraduate and 56 graduate), followed by the School of Nursing with 122 (103 BSN and 19 MSN), the School of Social Work with 89 (44 BSW and 45 MSW), and the Department of Mass Communication with 44 (34 undergraduate

and 10 graduate). For Fall 2011, out of the University total of 412 the College graduated a total of 181 (43.9%) students (156 undergraduate and 25 graduate). For Spring 2012, out of the University total of 496, the College graduated 247 (49.8%) students (142 undergraduate and 105 graduate). Overall, the College of Professional Studies graduated 42.3% of undergraduate and 63.4% graduate students of the University for the 2011-2012 school year. (Source: *Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness*)

Also, the programs in the College maintain good retention rates. Data on retention rates by departments from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 show that all four programs in the College maintain more than 50% retention rates. By academic program, the retention rates are: Criminal Justice 75%, Mass Communication 68%, Nursing 55% and Social Work 52%.

## Accreditations

Let's move beyond numbers to look at the credibility and national standing of each of the programs in the College of Professional Studies. The School of Nursing, the School of Social Work and the Department of Mass Communication are nationally accredited by their respective accrediting agencies. The BSN and MSN programs of the School of Nursing are accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), the BSW and MSW programs of the School of Social Work maintain their accreditation status with the Commission on Accreditation of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Department of Mass Communication maintains its accreditation with the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). The Department of Criminal Justice, one of the largest programs in the State of Louisiana in terms of the number of majors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and in the comprehensive nature of its curriculum, does not have an accrediting agency, but it maintains regional and national recognition for the contribution of its alumni to the law enforcement and criminal justice workforce not only in the State of Louisiana but also in the nation.

The School of Nursing received Continuing Accreditation for full eight years, up to 2020, for all three programs (BSN, MSN and Post-Master's Certificate) from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The School, however, is required to submit a Follow-Up Report in two years addressing two Standards – Standard 2 (Faculty and Staff) and Standard 6 (Outcomes). The School received formal notification of this from NLNAC on August 10. It may be recalled that the School conducted its site-visit during March 13-15, 2012 for a five-member team of reviewers from NLNAC. After a thorough and an intensive review of the BSN, MSN and PMC programs, the team recommended full accreditation with compliance on all six Standards. The Commission's Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) at its meeting on June 11-14, 2012, reviewed the team's recommendation, and recommended full accreditation to NLNAC. The Accrediting Commission, which makes final decisions on accreditations, approved full accreditation at its meeting in Atlanta, GA, on July 12-13. The NLNAC's five-member team that visited and reviewed our School of Nursing programs consisted of Dr. Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Nursing, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL (team chair); Dr. Rebecca S. Fruge, School of Health Sciences, Universidad Metropolitana, Bayamon, PR ; Dr. Carolyn Kornegay, Dean, School of Nursing and Health Professions, Langston University, Langston, OK; Dr. Ronnie Ursin, Nursing Director, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC; and Dr. Peggy Hawkins, Professor, Nursing Department, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE.

The School of Social Work gained the reaffirmation of accreditation of its BSW and MSW programs from the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) for full eight years, until June 2018. The Commission on Accreditation of CSWE voted on this at its meeting last October. It may be recalled that the CSWE team conducted its site visit to our

campus and the School of Social Work in April 2011. In fact, the School has submitted, as required, its annual Progress Report to CSWE this July.

The Department of Mass Communication, which gained reaccreditation of its undergraduate program last March 2011 from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC), is gearing up for a focus visit from the Council for a review two Standards – Standard 5 (Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity), and Standard 9 (Assessment of Learning Outcomes) of the master's program. The Council held the department non-compliant on these two Standards during the 2010 site visit. The revisit is scheduled for November 14-16, 2012.

## Advanced degrees

The College is proud to share that seven faculty members of the School of Nursing received their doctoral degrees in their discipline during the 2011-2012 school year. They include:

**Dr. Rhonda Hensley** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in December 2011 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Title of Scholarly Project: *The Use of Electronic Medical Record Alerts to Achieve Compliance in Pediatric Obesity Screening.*

**Dr. Jamil Norman** received her Ph. D. in Nursing from the University of Texas at Tyler in May 2012. Dissertation title: *The Effect of Guided Observation on Learning Outcomes and Simulation Based Learning.*

**Dr. Tammy Stewart Dixon** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, in May 2012. Title of Capstone Project: *Implementation of a Practice Change to Include Spirituality Assessments and Depression Screenings in the Management of Diabetes.*

**Dr. Naomi Smith** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, in May 2012. Title of Capstone Project: *Health Promotion for Weight Loss.*

**Dr. Chelsea Mansfield** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, in May 2012. Dissertation title: *A Behavior Intervention to Affect Adolescent Sexuality Among High-Risk Adolescents.*

**Dr. Latonya Williams** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, August 2012. Title of Scholarly Project: *Fit for Life: An Interventional Approach to Assist Parents and Caregivers in Developing and Maintaining Health Nutrition and Physical Activity Behaviors in their Adolescents.*

**Dr. Lalisa Wade** received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, in May 2012. Dissertation title: *The Effects of Health Literacy on Diabetic Outcomes and Self-care Practices among Rural Indigent Population.*

**Tavell Kindall** received his Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner from Grambling State University at the May 2012 Commencement.

Other faculty members in the College who are working on their doctoral degrees include:

**Clarence Williams** of Social Work is an ABD from Capella University, Minneapolis, MN.

**Sandra Lee** of Mass Communication is an ABD from the Union Institute and University at Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Chin-Nu Lin** of Nursing is working on her Ph.D. degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at Tyler.

**Sharon Murff** is working on her Ph.D. degree in Public Health from Webster University.

**Alma Britt** of Nursing is pursuing her Ph.D. degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

**Pearlie Simmons** of Nursing is pursuing her Ph.D. degree in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

## School of Social Work

### *Licensure workshop*

The School of Social Work sponsored a Louisiana Social Work Licensure prep-workshop on December 1 to give the necessary orientation and training for students and community people preparing to take the Louisiana Licensure exam to practice social work within the state. Students with MSW degree are expected to pass the LMSW exam to enable them to practice as licensed social workers. A total of 53 people participated in the workshop.

### *Health Fair*

Social Work students and community health professionals joined together to conduct a health fair on April 23 as a class project. Several poster presentations and lectures were part of the health fair that covered topics like diabetes, child obesity, rape, domestic violence, substances abuse, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and hypertension long with medical evaluations like blood pressure testing, HIV/AID testing, blood donation, etc.

### *Hooding ceremony*

Conducted on May 18, the hooding ceremony for graduating MSN students has been an honored tradition of the School. The May 2012 class was one of the largest graduating classes with nearly 45 students. All the graduating student and their families participated in the event.

### *Grant-writing*

Three faculty members (**Clarence Williams, Dr. Carolyn Hester, and Dr. Mildred Delozia**) have applied for a \$40,000 research grant with the Employees Assistant Research Foundation. This research will examine the efficacy of employee assistance program models as they relate to absenteeism, health care costs, health care utilization, etc.

**Clarence Williams** received a \$7,500 grant under the Behavioral Health Capacity Expansion grant to expand the behavioral health workforce through internships at mental health and/or substance abuse facilities. Four students received stipends of \$812 while also receiving over 20 hours of professional training in substance abuse and mental health through attendance at state conferences. The students also worked on a research project to study a behavioral health issue.

**Dr. Mildred Delozia**, project director, along with **Professor Clarence Williams and Dr. Carolyn Hester**, submitted a proposal to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the development of Center of Excellence (COE) with a five-year \$3.472 million grant. The Center of Excellence program is designed to support programs of excellence in health professions, like education for underrepresented minority (URM) individuals in designated health

professional schools. If funded, the School of Social Work will recruit African American students, with special focus on males, to expose them to an intensive mental health program with supportive mentoring.

**Dr. Mildred Delozia** has submitted a proposal to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for a project entitled, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Children. This is a four-year \$1.04 million grant proposal. If funded, it will provide scholarships to 20 Master of Social Work (MSW) students worth \$13,000 each per year.

**Jacqueline Garrison** has submitted the continuing grant proposal for next three years (2012-2015) for \$421,533 to the Louisiana Department of Social Services Office of Community Services (LA DSS/OCS) for the project entitled, Title IV-E Child Welfare Training. This project's goal is to improve the quality and delivery of services provided by the Department of Children and Family Services to children and families who are in need. This is accomplished by providing specialized professional preparation in child welfare to graduate and undergraduate social work students.

## **School of Nursing**

### ***Nursing building dedication***

At a dedication and naming ceremony on May 2, 2012, the nursing building was named the Betty E. Smith Nursing Building in honor of the late Dr. Smith, the founding dean of the School of Nursing. Joining Grambling State University in 1983 Dr. Smith developed the BSN program in 1984 and the MSN program in 1997. She retired in December 2006 after more than 23 years of service with Grambling State University. A dedicated educator, registered nurse and nursing advocate, she departed this life on March 29, 2010.

### ***100% pass rate of MSN graduates on their certification exam***

One significant accomplishment of the School of Nursing is its ability to maintain the 100% pass rate of MSN graduates on their certification exams. All 19 MSN graduates of the 2011-12 school year took their certification exam and passed. The school kept up this tradition since the first graduating class in 1999. The School has graduated about 160 MSN graduates since its inception of the program in 1997.

### ***Curriculum Award***

The School of Nursing received the Infusing Geropsychiatric Nursing into Curriculum Award for the NLNAC-Accredited Pre-Licensure RN Nursing program. This award was granted by the National League of Nursing (NLN). The award was presented at the NLN Leadership Conference January 2-9, 2012 in Chapel Hill, NC. A consultant visited the campus on December 15 to assist with achieving the goals to infuse geropsychiatric nursing competency enhancements into the curriculum. Dr. Mary Jo Stoglin was instrumental in presenting the proposal for this project.

### ***Annual Health Fair***

The School of Nursing faculty and students conducted its annual Thanksgiving Health Fair at the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesboro, LA, on November 19, 2011. It consisted of free health screenings for diabetics, blood pressure, cholesterol, vision and hearing, depression, etc, and education health education tips on several areas. The health fair was well attended by the people of Jonesboro and the neighboring communities. Dr. Mary Joe-Stoglin and Ms. Sharon Murff organized the fair.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tequita Bryant run/walk scholarship***

The third annual Tequita Bryant memorial run/walk was held on April 28, with about 200 students, community people and faculty participating. The funds raised from the run/walk and donation from the Bryant family were given in two scholarships of \$500.00 each -- one for a pre-nursing student and another for a student in the professional program.

### ***Pink Day***

'Pink Day', in recognition of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, was organized by MSN and BSN students on October 31, 2011. The school set up its mobile clinic in front of the Favrot Student Union building with students and faculty providing information and consultation on cancer, its prevention and cure.

### ***Honor society***

Twenty-six students of the School of Nursing were inducted into the Mary E. Mahoney Honor Society at a ceremony held on April 18. Dr. Florencetta Gipson of Monroe spoke on the occasion with Amanda Sharp giving the overview and history of the honor society.

### ***Research symposium***

The graduate faculty and students of the School of Nursing conducted its annual research symposium on April 30 with several faculty members and graduate students presenting their research.

### ***Nurses week***

As part of the National Nurses' Week celebration, the School of Nursing celebrated the event with Dr. Danita Potter, and Dr. Rhonda Hensley making the presentations. Dr. Kenneth Koroma presented a grant-writing workshop.

## **Department of Mass Communication**

### ***Business journalism grant***

The business journalism concentration got a boost during the 2012 spring semester thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism for a visiting professor to teach two courses with special focus on business writing, editing and reporting. Mr. Will Sutton, a veteran journalist and former deputy managing editor of *The New & Observer* in Raleigh-Durham, NC, was selected as the visiting professor to teach the courses and mentor students on business journalism. He also worked with students to publish articles in *The News-Star* of Monroe and *The Times* of Shreveport. The Reynolds Center also funded four visiting professionals to visit the campus during this semester. The objective was to create an opportunity for students to interact with and learn from them as well as mentor and assist students with internship placements. Dr. Martin Edu, who attended a workshop with the Reynolds Center on business journalism, wrote this \$50,000-proposal for this grant.

### ***Multimedia Journalism Concentration***

In an attempt to keep up with the changing academic and industry trends, the Department has developed a new Multimedia Journalism concentration. This is an effort to better prepare students for the workplace and provide them a competitive edge in the job market. The new concentration was approved by the College Curriculum Committee

during spring 2012, and it will be presented to the University Curriculum Committee this soon so as to begin implementation from spring 2013.

### ***Alumni Reunion***

The Department hosted its fourth Alumni Reunion program during the Homecoming week in October 2011. The event was attended by nearly 50 alumni, whose donations have enabled the Department to establish a scholarship program for students. Donations received at the annual Alumni Reunion events have enabled the department to award scholarships to students in the last three years.

### ***Film Studies Concentration***

With the appointment of Ms. Lena Wilson-Claybon, a television/film writer and producer, as a visiting artiste, the department was able to offer two courses in film studies concentration spring 2012. She conducted a workshop, entitled *The ABCs of Film and Television Production* in November which was well attended by students and even by some faculty. During summer 2012, she planned a Film Workforce Training Program to pair students with professionals to produce a full-length television pilot.

### ***Voter registration drive***

The campus radio station, KGRM 91.5 FM, conducted a voter registration drive on campus at the court yard next to the Favrot Student Union on April 24, 2012. With plenty of music, food, Black & Gold souvenirs, and the campaign slogan, "Make Your Vote Your Voice," the drive resulted in more than 400 students registered. Other sponsors of the drive included the Student Government Association, Epsilon Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Master of Public Administration students, and the College Democrats of America.

### ***KGRM's Season of Giving***

As it has been the practice for several years now, the KGRM 91.5 FM organized the Season of Giving campaign during the 2011 Christmas time. With enormous support from the campus and the neighboring communities, the campaign collected a large number of toys, bicycles, and a variety of gift items to be given away to families and children in need. It was a joyous occasion as it meant to be for all in the community.

## **Department of Criminal Justice**

### ***Swanson Mentoring program***

The innovative Grambling Swanson Mentoring Program, initiated last year, was very active during the 2011-12 school year. The program was selected to be a part of the new upcoming project, Grambling's Center for Civility and Social Justice. Two of the mentees from the program are now attending school at Grambling. The project is headed by Dr. Joyce Montgomery-Scott with the assistance of other faculty/staff members, including Mae Conley, Mahendra Singh, Lurie Thomason, Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, Daniel Dotter, Louis Minifield and Inetha Wimberly.

### ***New computer lab***

Thanks for funding from the Title III Programs, the Department of Criminal Justice will soon have a computer lab to help enhance students' research and writing skills. The lab will have 35 computers and four printers networked and located in CJ building, Room 131 being renovated for this purpose. The lab will be used for two research classes (CJ

406 and 407), Juvenile Justice & Delinquency (CJ 251), Criminology (CJ 204) and Contemporary Corrections (CJ 400).

## Faculty Scholarship

### **Publications**

**Marianne Fisher Giorlando** (2012) Louisiana: the History of Crime, Policing and Punishment. In *Social History of Crime and Punishment in America, An Encyclopedia*. Wilbur R. Miller and J. Geoffrey Golson (Editors).

Stevens, Tia, Merry Morash, and **Suyeon Park** (2011) Late-adolescent Delinquency: Risks and Resilience for Girls Differing in Risk at the Start of Adolescence. *Youth and Society*, 43 (4): 1433-1458.

**Joyce Montgomery-Scott and Mae Conley** (2011) An Investigative Study of Support Networks Criminality, Incarcerated Mothers. *The Journal of Justice Studies*.

**Potter et al** (2012) Selected African American First-time Teenage Mothers' Perceptions of Nurse Caring Behaviors during Postpartum Period. *International Journal of Advanced Nursing Studies*, 1(1).

**Norman, J.** (2012) Systematic Review of the Literature on Simulation. *The ABNF Journal*, 23(2), 24-26.

**Norman, J.** (2012) The 2-Minute Drill: Incorporating Simulation into the Large Lecture Format, *Journal of Clinical Simulation*.

**Kim, K. S.** (2011) Public understanding of the politics of global warming in the news media: The hostile media approach. *Public Understanding of Science*, 20(5), 690-705.

**Kim, K. S., & Song, G.** (2011) Who pays for news? An exploratory study on willingness to pay for digital news content. *Korean Journal of Journalism and Communication Studies*, 55(4), 134-161.

Shim, J., Jeong, W., & **Kim, K.S.** (2011) A comparative analysis of news values on the educational news: South Korean and American newspapers. *Korean Social Science Journal*, 38(1), 99-132.

**Gaylon Murray** (2012) Integrating Service-Learning into Public Relations Courses, *Journal of Service-Learning in Higher Education*.

### **Presentations:**

**Marianne Fisher-Giorlando**, Images of Louisiana Prisoners. Media Representations of Women in Louisiana's Prison News Magazine, *The Angolite*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2011.

**Marianne Fisher-Giorlando**, Women at Angola, 1953-1961: Through the Lens of *The Angolite*, the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola's Prison Newspaper. Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, October 2011.

**Dr. Laura Willsher** made a presentation at the Louisiana Nurse Practitioners' Conference (LANP) in New Orleans, Fall 2011.



**Dr. Danita Potter** made a poster presentation on “African American Teenage Mothers’ Perceptions of Caring” at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), New Orleans, LA, Spring 2012. She also made a presentation on Mental Health Issues, Depression in Teenage Girls at the Northeast Louisiana Children’s Coalition in Monroe, LA, April 2012.

**Dr. Rhonda Hensley** presented a presentation at the Louisiana Nurse Practitioner Conference (LANP) in New Orleans, Fall 2011.

**Dr. Jamil Norman** made a presented on “The Effect of Guided Observation on Learning Outcomes in Simulation-Based Learning” at the Beta Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Shreveport, March 2012. She also made a presentation on “The Role of the Nurse in Women’s Health” at the Louisiana Association of Student Nurses’ 57<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference, Alexandria, LA, Fall 2011.

**Dr. Latonya Williams** made a presentation at the Pediatric Conference in Monroe, LA, April 2012.

**Dr. Tammy Stewart-Dixon** made a presentation at the Title III Conference in New Orleans, LA. May 2012.

**Dr. Mildred Delozia** made a workshop presentation on “Dismantling the cradle-to-prison pipeline: The African American community as a change agent” at the National Association of Black Social Workers Southwest Regional Conference, Houston, TX, November 2011.

**Dr. Montgomery-Scott, Dr. Lurie Thomason, Dr. Mahendra Singh, and Mr. Trinity George**, a graduate student, made panel presentations at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) Annual Conference, New Orleans, July 2012. The panel sessions included: Creating and Maintaining a NABCJ Student Chapter; and Grambling Swanson Mentoring Initiative, the Gateway from Incarceration to College, the innovative mentoring programs initiated by the department.

**Dr. Gaylon Murray** made a presentation on “Applying Public Relations to Service Learning Projects” at the Gulf South Summit on Service Learning and Civic Engagement conference, Hattiesburg, MS, March 2012. He also made a poster presentation on “Mass Communication and Military Families” at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Biennial Research Symposium, Patrick AFB, FL, December 2011.

### ***Recognitions:***

**Dr. Mahendra Singh**, Head of the Department of Criminal Justice, was inducted last week into the Wall of Fame of the School of Criminal Justice of Michigan State University. This is the highest recognition awarded by the School. Dr. Singh, who received his master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, has been with Grambling State University since 1984. A good researcher and teacher, he also directed and taught for the Department of State-sponsored Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program for several years.

**Dr. Carolyn Hester**, Interim Associate Dean of the School of Social Work, was awarded last month the Delton O. Abrams Leadership Award by the North Louisiana Regional Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers. This is in recognition of her leadership in social work education and service to the community.

**W. Lloyd Grafton** has been accepted in Federal and State courts as an expert in police policy and procedure. Last November, he attended a three-week workshop on Advanced Report Writing and Court Testimony for expert witnesses. He also attended in December a week-long seminar at Texas A&M University on Defensive Tactics.

**Dr. Danita Potter** was recognized as an Outstanding Alumnus of Alcorn State University and was featured in the campus journal, *ASU Today*. She received a similar recognition as an outstanding alumnus from the Carroll High School, Monroe, LA. which also invited her as a guest speaker to Carroll High School Medical Magnet Program.

## **Student accomplishments**

### ***School of Nursing***

**Sacora Lawrence** was inducted in the Earl Lester Cole Honors College during Fall 2011.

**Amanda Sharp** participated in the Mayo Clinic Program in Rochester, MN during Summer 2012.

**Shylisa Brown-Hicks** was the recipient of the Minority Nurses' Scholarship and was featured in the *Journal of Minority Nursing*, Spring 2012.

**Whitney Hall** participated in the Minority Advanced Careers in Nursing (MACaN) program at Penn State, University, PA, Summer 2011.

Twenty-six students were inducted into the Mary E. Mahoney Honor Society, May 2012.

### ***School of Social Work***

Eight MSW students presented their research at the Annual National Association of Social Work, Louisiana Conference in Baton Rouge, LA, March 2012. Their research ranges from effective model of staff retention, juvenile delinquency in rural communities to burnout and secondary traumatic stress intervention strategies. The students are: **Xavier Henson, Elvis Tillett, Lafonia Seals, Nicholas Leo, Nyla James, Shaketa Haynes, Chrystal Davis, and Stacey Smith.**

**Nola Eugene**, who graduated with BSW degree in Fall 2011, is enrolled for a master's program in the School of Public Health at Texas A&M University.

**Jermecia Hemphill**, who graduated with BSW degree in Fall 2011, has been commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the US Army.

**Elvis Tillett**, MSW student, presented a research paper entitled, "Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Juvenile Corrections: A Louisiana Perspective" at the Pi Gamma Mu Triennial Conference, Washington, DC, October 2011.

**Dedric Smith**, BSW student, received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Tom Joyner Foundation during Fall 2011..

**Bionca Ball**, BSW student, presented her research on "American Education and the Impact of Reduced Resources" at the University of Louisiana System Academic Summit held at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA, April 2012.

### ***Department of Criminal Justice***

**Trinity George**, a graduate student Criminal Justice, made a panel presentation at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) Annual Conference in New Orleans, July 2012.

### ***Department of Mass Communication***

More than 30 mass communication students were placed in internships with a broad range of regional and national media and other organizations, including KNOE-TV, KTVE-TV, *Smooth Move Jazz*, *Post and Courier*, *Oakland Post* of Charleston, NC, Detroit Tigers, Sports Fan Network, etc.

**Justin Anderson**, mass communication major, participated in the Summer Research Opportunities Program, Penn State, University Park, PA, Summer 2011.

### ***The Gramblinite awards:***

The student editors and staff members of the campus newspaper, *The Gramblinite*, participated in four contests -- one statewide, two regional, and one national. Given below a brief listing of honors the newspaper and individual contestants won:

In the Excellence in Journalism Competition of the Black College Communication Association (the national contest of HBCU newspapers), the newspaper received first-place honors for its sports coverage. Individual student honors went to **Kevin Keise**, who won honorable mention in the best sports story category.

In the regional Top 10 Best of the South competition, the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC) designated two Gramblinites as being worthy of being among the Top 10 journalism students from a nine-state region. The category was Best Opinion-Editorial Writer, and winners were **Jeremy Smith**, No. 9, and **Erina Love**, No 10.

The other regional contest, the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Mark of Excellence Awards, *The Gramblinite* was recognized as the second-place finisher in the Best Non-daily Newspaper category, and two students won first place. **Imani Jackson** won for General Column Writing, and **Landis Anderson** for Editorial Cartooning.

In the Louisiana Press Association (LPA) Better Student Newspaper College Competition held in May 2012, two Gramblinites won the awards – Jeremy Smith won first place for General Column Writing, and Ciley Carrington won second place for Feature Photography.