Our Honor Students
College of Education students well-represented on all honor lists and rolls

Award Winners
Alumni Named Educators of the Year

Faculty Honored
University recognizes College of Education Faculty for contributions to teaching, research, and service

Class of 2013
Commencement, Pomp, and Circumstance

Bona Fide Excellence
COE Stand-out Students Make Nationwide Acclaim Look Easy

Special Events
Cultural Symposium LA Gear Up

Marquesha Joann Dashanayay Moore
Highest Ranked College of Education Graduate, Class of 2013
Summa Cum Laude Graduate
All of us know, not what is expedient, not what is going to make us popular, not what the policy is, or the company policy - but in truth each of us knows what is the right thing to do. And that's how I am guided. —Maya Angelou
FORMER PROVOST AWARDED LEGION OF HONOR MEDALLION BY REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

Dr. Lamore Carter, former provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, awarded Legion of Honor medallion on 70th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2014, for his contributions to liberate the Republic of France from Nazi occupation in the events of World War II. Full story on page 13

About the Legion of Honor Medallion: The Legion of Honor Medallion was created to honor extraordinary contributions to the Republic of France; it is France’s highest distinction. American veterans who risked their life during World War II to fight on French territory may be awarded this distinction. Those selected are appointed to the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor. The Legion of Honor medal is not awarded posthumously. To be considered, veterans of all armed forces must have fought in at least one of the three main campaigns to liberate France: Normandy, Provence/Southern France, or Northern France, and subsequently honorably discharged. Military actions in Belgium, Germany, Italy, or any other neighboring European country are not taken into consideration.

D-Day
June 6, 1944

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany’s control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

(History.com)
I have recently completed the first 90 days of my tenure as Interim President of Grambling State University. Many students, faculty and staff have commented on the numerous changes that have been made as a result of my leadership. Significant change was needed and more change is coming. Grambling State University is at a juncture in its history where change is required for this institution to remain relevant and viable in the future.

You will see that a number of administrative functions have been combined to provide greater efficiency and accountability and to save resources. New activities have been added, but we must get our fiscal house in order before we can advance our efforts to enhance STEM and Workforce Development academic, research, and training initiatives. One new function that was not operational in previous administrations is Economic Development. Through this activity, GSU is partnering with the City of Grambling and other local, state and federal agencies to create economic opportunities for the university and the community because new resource streams are necessary for our future growth and sustainability. Through these efforts, a number of projects are being developed for GSU’s West Campus with revenue potential (recycling company partnership, business incubators, greenhouse and organic farming, biotechnology summer camps, and more).

This administration is currently addressing issues relating to various academic program challenges (Nursing, Laboratory Schools, Low Producing Degree Programs, etc.) that must be fixed for accreditation, licensing, and appropriate outcomes. We are working closely with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Nursing Department regarding the extremely low pass rate of GSU graduates on the NCLEX licensing exam. A clear understanding of this program’s outcome will be known later this month. We are also partnering with the Grambling High School Foundation to support their application to the Louisiana Board of Education to convert the laboratory schools into a K-12 charter school. The Division of Academic and Student Affairs is conducting an academic program review to determine the degree outcomes that provide students with the best career and job opportunities now and in the future.

Grambling State University’s goals today are the same for 1901: recruitment, retention, graduation and placement – that’s our business. However, the current culture must be changed for these goals to be met. Students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and stakeholders are our customers. We must provide outstanding customer service and treat everyone how you expect to be treated. We must conduct business in a professional manner – answer the phones, return phone calls, return emails, solve student problems and go the extra mile to assist our customers. It is everyone’s job to recruit and retain students by being caring and courteous. We must treat our students and wish for them what we want for our children. Because while students are away from their homes and families, they are “ours” and we must give them respect, honesty and guidance so that they can become successful citizens. These acts ensure Grambling remains the place where “Everybody is Somebody.”

Sincerely,

Cynthia Warrick, Ph.D.
Interim President
This issue of Insight Today is in recognition of our outstanding students and teacher education candidates. We wish to salute all College of Education students and teacher education candidates who were recognized for high academic excellence during Grambling State University’s (GSU) spring-fall 2013 honors day convocation March 25, 2014, in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center. We are very proud of our undergraduate students who earned a place on The President’s List, The Dean’s List, University Honor Roll, and induction into the Earl Lester Cole Honors College. We are equally proud of our graduate students, and I commend them for their superior scholarship in the School of Graduate Studies.

I wish to congratulate Marquesha Moore, who is featured on the cover, for an exceptional academic career. She is one of only four College of Education students to graduate summa cum laude since fall 2009. As she goes forward, we anticipate a continuum of greatness in the workplace and classroom. Additionally, Jonathan W. Washington (Minden, La.) was given The Outstanding Student Teacher Award, Breonna M. Ward (Grand Prairie, Texas) was given The Outstanding Academic Performance and Outstanding Undergraduate Service Awards, and Jessica T. Tisdale (Monroe, La.) and Kelly W. Hall, Jr. (Cullen, La.) were presented with The Outstanding Teacher Education Scholars Award.

Along with the aforementioned honors, fifteen teacher education candidates were inducted into the Iota Tau Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education; and nine kinesiology, sport and leisure studies students were initiated into Phi Epsilon Kappa International Honor Fraternity. The Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Leisure Studies presented Certificates of Academic Excellence to Tracey L. Minor for General Recreation (Monroe, La.), Breonna J. Jones (Alexandria, La.) and Steven Caldwell (Ruston, La.) for Therapeutic Recreation, Christopher Pruitt (Simsboro, La.) and Michaela Hooks (Heartland, Texas) for Health Promotion, Ashley McDonald (New Orleans, La.) for Pedagogy, as well as Brianna Phillips (Fairfield, Calif.), Karlin Gray (Memphis, Tn.), and Jarreau Brown (Riverdale, GA.) for Sport Management.

Now, it is my pleasure to extend a special tribute to four students/teacher education candidates for exemplary academic achievements for spring and fall 2013. These students/teacher education candidates are featured in the fold in this issue of Insight Today: Karlin Gray, Kelly Hall, Jr., Jessica Tisdale, and Breonna Ward. These students have exceeded in multiple areas, and we are very proud of the scholarly accomplishments and self-motivation they have demonstrated. Karlin, Kelly, Jessica, and Breonna represent some of the best and brightest in the College of Education. I am appreciative to our faculty and staff for providing a challenging, and caring environment for all students/teacher education candidates to strive for academic excellence. Thus, it is my privilege to share with you some of the “shining stars” who are beneficiaries of quality teaching that GSU’s College of Education affords students and teacher education candidates.

Please enjoy perusing the June 2014 issue of Insight Today magazine!
Our Honor Students

President's List, Spring 2013

ABNEY, GINGER
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Arcadia, LA

BARNES, DILLONDRIA
Senior Elementary Education Benton Harbor, MI

BARRIS, JOHNATHAN
Senior Mathematics Education Atlanta, GA

BAUTISTA, RICHARD
Senior Kinesiology Houston, TX

BELTON, ZAHIRA
Senior Early Childhood Education Jonesboro, LA

BORDERS, KATRINA
Senior Kinesiology Desoto, TX

BOSTON, GARICA
Senior Kinesiology Grambling, LA

BRADFORD, JORDAN
Senior Music Education Dallas, TX

BRAUG, CHESTER
Senior Kinesiology Spearsville, LA

BRIGGS, JANET
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Ruston, LA

BROOKS, BRANDON
Freshman Kinesiology St. Francisville, LA

BROWN, VERONICA
Senior Elementary Education West Monroe, LA

BROWN, SHARION
Senior Kinesiology Grambling, LA

BURTON, RYAN
Junior Social Studies Education Mesquite, Texas

CARAWAY, ASHIA
Junior Leisure Studies Minden, LA

COLEMAN, KNAKITA
Senior Special Education Plano, TX

COPELAND, DANIELLE
Senior Early Childhood Education Lacombe, LA

COUSIN, LESA
Junior Leisure Studies West Covina, CA

COX, KIMBERLY
Senior Kinesiology Dallas, IL

DANRIDGE, STEVEN
Senior Kinesiology Houston, TX

FERGUSON, JASMA
Senior Kinesiology McKinney, TX

FORTUNES, ALYSMA
Senior Early Childhood Education Brandon, MS

GANT, LATIA
Sophomore Leisure Studies Houma, LA

GARNER, ADRIENNE
Senior Kinesiology New Orleans, LA

GARRISON, JAMECA
Senior Leisure Studies New Orleans, LA

GILL, ILLISCA
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Rayville, LA

GOINS, CEDRIC
Senior Kinesiology Richwood, GA

GOODIN, CAMILLE
Senior Kinesiology San Diego, CA

GOULD, BIONCA
Senior Kinesiology Pittsburgh, PA

GRAY, KARLIN
Sophomore Kinesiology Memphis, TN

GUI, KEANU
Senior Kinesiology Ruston, LA

HAMPTON, RAVEN
Freshman Elementary Education Gibsland, LA

HARRIS, STANLEY
Senior Music Education Monroe, LA

HAYES, SALEA
Senior Elementary Education California

HICKS, MICHAELA
Junior Elementary Education Heathland, TX

HUDSON, JERKHISA
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Arcadia, LA

HUNLEY, MARCUS
Senior Leisure Studies Lee's Summit, MO

JACKSON, SHAKETHA
Senior Elementary Education Bienvenue, LA

JAMES, OPHELIA
Senior Music Education Shreveport, LA

JOHNSON, PAIGE
Freshman Elementary Education Ponchatoula, LA

JOHNSON, SAINDREA
Junior Early Childhood Education Minden, LA

JONES, BREONNA
Freshman Leisure Studies Alexandria, LA

JONES, JOY
Sophomore Leisure Studies Las Vegas, NV

JONES, KEIONTAY
Sophomore Kinesiology Shreveport, LA

KEYS, CORTNEY
Senior Kinesiology Lake Providence, LA

LARS, SHATASHA
Senior Leisure Studies Shreveport, LA

LAUDERDALE, AMBER
Senior Early Childhood Education Kannapolis, TX

LEWIS, ANTWANETTE
Senior Elementary Education Ruston, LA

LEWIS, KALEISHA
Senior Elementary Education Lake Providence, LA

LOGAN, KIMYRA
Sophomore Elem Ed & Spec Ed Mesquite, TX

LOUIS-JEAN, NYOMI
Junior Elementary Education Atlhawakee, WI

LOVE, KELLEI
Junior Elementary Education Simmsboro, LA

MARTIN, LEMESHA
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Lake Providence, LA

MATTHEWS, LAKEITHA
Senior Kinesiology New Orleans, LA

MAYFIELD, ANGEL
Senior Music Education Grambling, LA

MAYHEVER, DORKEITHA
Senior Leisure Studies Mansfield, LA

MEADOWS, LADONNA
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Asheville, NC

MEREGINI, JENNIFER
Junior Music Education Moreno Valley, CA

MERGERSON, ERICKA
Junior Kinesiology Sylmar, CA

MILLER, JUSTIN
Freshman Kinesiology Louisiana

MILLER, LAPORSHA
Junior Early Childhood Education Arcadia, LA

MILILLAN, SHANICE
Senior Leisure Studies Oakland, CA

MOORE, DOMINIC
Senior Early Childhood Education Humble, TX

MURRAY, DONALD
Senior Leisure Studies Tallulah, LA

MURRAY, MIA
Senior Art Education Carson, CA

O’NEAL, MORGAN
Junior Kinesiology La Mesa, CA

OSBORNE, ANNEHSA
Senior Leisure Studies Quilman, LA

PAGE, JORDAN
Sophomore Kinesiology Shreveport, LA

PANTALLION, ANDRE
Freshman Kinesiology Alexandria, LA

PEARSON, HAZUKI
Freshman Elementary Education Gibsland LA

PEOPLES, BENNIE
Junior Kinesiology Vicksburg, MS

PHILLIPS, BRIANNA
Freshman Kinesiology Vancul, CA

PIERCE, JASMINE
Freshman Elementary Education Pensacola, Fl.

PRATT, JIMMIA
Senior Music Education Riviera Beach, Fl.

PRICE, JERRICA
Junior Leisure Studies Jonesville, LA

PRUITT, CHRISTOPHER
Senior Kinesiology Simsbora, LA

QUARLES, JAS'RAYEAL
Senior Leisure Studies Harvey, LA

RAWLINGS, LYDIA
Sophomore Leisure Studies Lithonia, GA

RICHARDSON, TIFFANY
Junior Leisure Studies Covington, LA

RIVERS, JOHN
Senior Elementary Education Birmingham, Al.

ROBINSON, ARSENAUX
Senior Elementary Education Clarion, PA

SCOTT, DANIKA
Senior Music Education El Dorado, AR

SHAW, KAYTLIN
Senior Elementary Education Richton Park, IL

SHELLING, CRYSTAL
Senior Biology Education Monroe, LA

SMITH, IAN
Senior Leisure Studies Winnfield, LA

SMITH, NAQUAN
Senior Leisure Studies Atlanta, GA

SMITH, NICHOLAS
Senior Leisure Studies Shreveport, LA

SPEARS, ELLIS
Senior Kinesiology Zachary, LA

SPENCER, MONICA
Junior Early Childhood Education Tarzana, WA

STEELE, EBONY
Senior Social Studies Education El Paso, LA

STEVENS LA'TOYA
Senior Early Childhood Education Lawrenceville, GA

STONER, DERRICK
Senior Music Education Houston, TX

THIBODEAUX, TRAVIS
Senior Kinesiology Opelousas, LA

THOMAS, BRIAN
Senior Kinesiology Logansport, LA

THOMAS, CHUNTELL
Senior Elementary Education Ruston, LA

TISDALE, JESSICA
Senior Elementary Education Monroe, LA

TURNER, DAMARION
Senior Kinesiology Monroe, LA

TURNER, DAMIANE
Senior Music Education El Dorado, AK

VANBUREN, PHANIESIA
Senior Elementary Education Monroe, LA

VERNON, ANDRE
Senior Elementary Education Arcadia, LA

WAGNER, LAKESHA
Sophomore Early Childhood Education Dallas, TX

WASHINGTON, DAISHA
Senior Elementary Education Lake Providence, LA

WASHINGTON, KANISHA
Senior Leisure Studies Alexandria, LA

WASHINGTON, LUCAS
Senior Kinesiology Clayton, LA

WASHINGTON, MURIDIA
Senior Elementary Education Pensacola, FLA

WHITE, CHARLES
Senior Kinesiology Ruston, LA

WILLIAMS, CARVELL
Senior Music Education Shreveport, LA

WILLIAMS, MICHAEL
Senior Early Childhood Education Bossier City, LA

WILSON, LKEDRIA
Senior Leisure Studies Ruston, LA

WOODS, ALYXANDREA
Senior Elementary Education Shreveport, LA

WOODS, LAQUISHA
Sophomore Kinesiology Ruston, LA

YOUNG, JACQUE
Freshman Kinesiology Arcadia, LA
Our Honor Students
President’s List, Fall 2013

AJUMESI, FIJI Senior Kinesiology Bamenda
AKHIGBE, ESEOSA Senior Kinesiology Ruston, LA
ALVAREZ, RAMIRO Senior Leisure Studies Fontana, CA
ANDERSON, SCHYLER Junior Elementary Education Shreveport, LA
AYATEY, JASMINE Freshman Elementary Education Natchitoches, LA
BARNES, DILLONDRIA Senior Early Childhood Benton Harbor, MI
BARNETTE, KRISTY Junior Early Childhood Simsboro, LA
BAUTISTA, RICHARD Senior Kinesiology Houston, TX
BELL, DIAMONDIQUE Senior Leisure Studies Minden, LA
BELL, DORENE Freshman Elementary Education Monroe, LA
BEN, TREVOR Senior Kinesiology Ruston, LA
BENNETT, BRE’YALIN Sophomore Elementary Education Crowley, TX
BERRY, Erika Senior English Education Lafayette, LA
BOWMAN, PRESTON Sophomore Kinesiology Jonesville, LA
BRAGG, CHESTER Senior Kinesiology Spearsville, LA
BRIGGS, JANNET Junior Early Childhood Ruston, LA
BROOKS, BRANDON Freshman Kinesiology St. Francisville, LA
BROWN, ISOE Senior Kinesiology Dallas, TX
BROWN, JARREAU Senior Kinesiology Riverdale, GA
BROWNLEE, KYERRA Senior Leisure Studies Memphis, TN
BUITLER, JANIEKQHIQ Senior Leisure Studies Vilet, LA
CALLOWAY, AVINUS Senior Leisure Studies Bernard, LA
CARAWAY, ASHIA Junior Social Studies and Spec. Ed. Mesquite, TX
CHAMPION, TavIN Junior English Education Arcadia, LA
COLEMAN, KNADITTA Senior Leisure Studies Minden, LA
DAYE, EARLESSID Freshman Kinesiology Louisiana
DIXON, LASADIE Freshman Elementary Education Baton Rouge, LA
DIXON, LATROCHILLIA Senior Leisure Studies Louisiana
EARLY, FAITH Freshman Kinesiology Zachary Louisiana
EDAH-DIKE, ISI Senior Leisure Studies New Orleans, LA
ELLIS, SHANEICE Senior Special Education Shreveport, LA
ELLIS, SHANELLE Senior Elementary and Special Ed Detroit, MI
EPTING, MASHI Senior Leisure Studies Monroe, LA
FENCROY, ALEXANDRA Senior Special Education Forney, TX
FOOTMAN, KAYLIN Junior Elementary Education Los Angeles, CA
FORD, TAEILIR Senior Leisure Studies Ruston, LA
FORD, TRA’DERRIC Freshman Kinesiology Grambling, LA
FORTUNE, BETTY Senior Early Childhood Education Brandon, MS
FRAZIER, DEBORAH Senior Early Childhood Education Bastrop, LA
GANNAWAY, SAVANNAH Sophomore Elementary Education Powder Springs, GA
GILL, ILISICIA Junior Early Childhood Education Rayville, LA
GOINES, TABITHA Senior Early Childhood Education Keithville, LA
GRAHAM, AQUILLA Senior Kinesiology Rayville, LA
GRAY, KARLIN Junior Kinesiology Memphis, TN
GREENE, RAINAH Senior Leisure Studies Antioch, CA
GUIN, AUDRIANNA Junior Elementary Education Ruston, LA
HALL, KELLY Senior Music Education Louisiana
HAMPSON, RAVEN Sophomore Elementary Education Gibsland, LA
HATTER, TAMEKIA Senior Elementary Education Ruston, LA
HEIMS, BREIANNA Sophomore Social Studies and Spec. Ed. Houma, LA
HEWITT, DONOVAN Senior Kinesiology Paradis, LA
HICKS, DESHONTIE Senior Leisure Studies Chatham, LA
HOLMES, JASMINE Freshman Early Childhood Education Marksville, LA
HOOKS, MICHAELA Senior Kinesiology Heartland Texas
IGLEHART, RAYFORD Senior Leisure Studies Baton Rouge, LA
JACKSON, BETHANI Senior Leisure Studies Baytown, TX
JAMES, OPHELIA Senior Music Education Shreveport, LA
JOHNSON, JESSICA Senior Elementary Education Ruston, LA
JOHNSON, SHANTE Senior Kinesiology Ruston, LA
JOHNSON, TRACI Senior Leisure Studies Delhi, LA
JONES, BREONNA Sophomore Leisure Studies Alexandria, LA
JONES, KEIONTAY Junior Kinesiology Shreveport, LA
LARS, SHATASHA Senior Leisure Studies Shreveport, LA
LAUDERDALE, AMBER Senior Early Childhood Education Kenndele, TX
LEWIS, KALEISHA Senior Elementary Education Lake Providence, LA
LOGAN, KIMYRA Sophomore and Spec. Ed. Mesquite, TX
LOVE, KELLIE Senior Elementary Education Simsboro, LA
MANNING, NAKIA Senior Elementary Education Grambling, LA
MARTELLY, RUFUS Junior English Education Saint Lucia
MCCARTHY, JUSTIN Senior Leisure Studies New Orleans, LA
MEREGENI, JENNIFER Senior Music Education Moreno Valley, CA
MERGERSON, ERICKA Senior Kinesiology Sylmar, CA
MILLICAN, SHANICE Senior Leisure Studies Oakland, CA
MINOR, TRACEY Senior Leisure Studies Monroe, LA
MOORE, DOMINIC Senior Early Childhood Education Humble, Texas
MORRISON, NAKAYA Senior Leisure Studies Bastrop, LA
MOULTON, CHRISTIE Senior Kinesiology Louisiana
ODUMS-CAMPBELL, ENID Senior English and Special Ed. Minden, LA
PANTALLION, ANDRE’ Sophomore Leisure Studies Alexandria, LA
PAYNE, ANTOINETTA Senior Leisure Studies Opelousas, LA
PERRY, ALEXANDRA Senior Leisure Studies Shreveport, LA
PHILLIPS, BRANNAI Sophomore Kinesiology Vacaville, CA
PIERCE, JASMINE Freshman Kinesiology Pensacola, FL
PITRE, DOMINIQUE Freshman Kinesiology Missouri City, TX
PROVOST, CEDRIC Senior Kinesiology Moreno Valley, CA
RANDOLPH, GIOVANNI Junior Kinesiology Navarre, FL
RAWLINGS, LYDIA Junior Leisure Studies Lithonia, GA
ROBINSON, ARSENEAUX Senior Elementary Education Clinton, PA
SCOTT, DANIZA Senior Music Education El Dorado, AR
SHEPHERD, ERIC Senior Kinesiology Los Angeles, CA
SIMON, MORGAN Senior Leisure Studies Lake Charles, LA
SMITH, HANNAH Freshman Leisure Studies Calhoun, LA
SMITH, TYLER Senior Kinesiology Muskogee, OK
SPENCER, MONICA Senior Early Childhood Education Tacoma, WA
STAPLETON, CURTIS Sophomore Kinesiology Troy, AL
STEELE, EBONY Senior Social Studies and Spec. Ed. Opelousas, LA
STEVENS, L’TOYA Senior Early Childhood Education Lawrenceville, GA
STEWART, BRIANNA Sophomore Kinesiology Shreveport, LA
STONER, DERRICK Senior Music Education Houston, TX
TERRY, EDWARD Senior Kinesiology DECATUR Georgia
THOMAS, CHUNTELL Senior Elementary Education Ruston, LA
TISDALE, JESSICA Junior Elementary Education Monroe, LA
TURNER, CABRAYANA Senior Kinesiology Austell, GA
TURNER, DARIAMON Senior Kinesiology Monroe, LA
UNDERWOOD, KAYLA Senior Elementary Education Jamestown, LA
VANBUREN, PHANTHIA Senior Early Childhood Education Monroe, LA
VERNON, ANDRE’ Senior Elementary Education Arcadia, LA
WALLACE, JONATHAN Freshman Kinesiology Rayville Louisiana
WARD, BREONNA Freshman Elementary Education Grand Prairie, TX
WASHINGTON, JONATHAN Senior Biology Education Minden, LA
WASHINGTON, LUCAS Senior Leisure Studies Clayton, LA
WASHINGTON, MURIDIA Sophomore Kinesiology Pensacola, FL
### Dean’s List, Fall 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robinson, Miya</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Ruston, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaw, Kaylin</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Richton Park, IL</td>
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<td>Smith, Jamal</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Smith, Nicholas</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Shreveport, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Reginald</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Columbia, LA</td>
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<td>Smith, Teia</td>
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<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<td>Stromile, Ja’Marrei</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong, Shaka</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Lake Charles, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibbs, Nekebria</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Arcadia, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace, Armon</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Social Studies Education</td>
<td>Dubberly, KY</td>
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<td>Washington, Kanesha</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>West, Tahir</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Wilmington, DE</td>
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<td>Whitaker, Brandon</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Music Education</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitcomb, Sheli</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Grambling, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young, David</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
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### University Honor Roll, Spring 2013

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Banks, DeAndria</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowman, Terry</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Grambling, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briggs, Ketrin</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownlee, Kyerra</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleigh, John</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Ville Platte, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell, Jaydra</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Lake Providence, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cowan, William</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Alexandria, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cummings, Demario</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Forest Park, GA</td>
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<td>Davis, Vincent</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Dunkancille, TX</td>
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<td>De Leon, Joel</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drexler, Edwin</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>Jeanerette, LA</td>
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<td>Duncan, Shonesha</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<td>Epping, Doharam</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Monroe, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epping, Mashi</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Leisure Studies</td>
<td>Monroe, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fenceroy, Alexandria</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Forney, TX</td>
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<td>Ferguson, Darrens</td>
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### University Honor Roll, Fall 2013

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University Honors Roll, Fall 2013

MCGARITY, CHELSEA  Freshman  Kinesiology  San Antonio, TX
MCKNIGHT, SHALILLIAN  Freshman  Early Childhood Education  Menden, LA
MOORE, CRYSTAL  Sophomore  Leisure Studies  Ruston, LA
MOORE, KEAREA  Sophomore  Early Childhood Education  Grambling, LA
NELSON, JARMICHAEL  Sophomore  Kinesiology  Monroe, LA
PARM, ERIN  Senior  Elementary Education  Bastrop, LA
PEOPLES, LAKIKA  Senior  Leisure Studies  West Monroe, LA
ROBINSON, JEREMIAH  Freshman  Kinesiology  Shreveport, LA
ROBINSON, XAVIERKEAN  Freshman  Kinesiology  Zachary, LA
SALDANA, ASHIA  Junior  Leisure Studies  Shreveport, LA
SPEAR, ELLIS  Senior  Kinesiology  Shreveport, LA

SWAFFORD, DAJON  Junior  Kinesiology  Jonesboro, LA
THOMAS, BRENTON  Senior  Kinesiology  Logansport, LA
THOMAS, ME’GAN  Senior  Elementary Education  Tallulah, LA
TOLBERT, KEIARRA  Senior  Kinesiology  Monroe, LA
TRAYLOR, JALENDRA  Sophomore  Kinesiology  Balch Springs, TX
VICK, MANASHA  Sophomore  Ed/Non-degree/Certifying  Baton Rouge, LA
WEBB, DEWAYNE  Senior  Kinesiology  Lake Providence, LA
WHITE, LATYSHANIQUE  Sophomore  Leisure Studies  Ruston, LA
WHITE, LE CORDEZ  Freshman  Health & Phys Ed  Shreveport, LA

ELC Honors College Inductee

FONTILLAS, ALYSSA  Sophomore  Kinesiology  McKinney, Texas

School of Graduate Studies, Spring 2013

ADAMS, LAJACKLYN  Elem Ed and Spec Ed  Fuzhou, China
AGBOR, ROSEMARY  Developmental Education  Grambling, LA
ALBRITTTON, JAMICIA  Developmental Education  Louisiana
ALLEN, CARLEVER  Social Sciences  Louisiana
ALLEN, CHRYSTY  Developmental Education  Louisiana
ATKINS, LAKISHA  Developmental Education  Wayne, VA
BAILEY, SUZAN  Developmental Education  Buffalo, NY
BEASLEY, TERI  Developmental Education  Jonesboro, LA
BRADLEY, SHAQIQUONDA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
BRADLEY, VALENCIA  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
BROWN, CHASSITY  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
BROWN, SONJI  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
BURCHAM, ROBIN  Educational Leadership  Shreveport, LA
BURRELL, MYSTEE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
CAREY, BRANDY  Curriculum and Instruction  Shreveport, LA
CARR, MEREDITH  Developmental Education  Abilene, TX
COLEMAN, EDDIE  Developmental Education  Little Rock, AR
COLLINS, NORAL  Developmental Education  Louisiana
COSTA, KATHERINE  Developmental Education  Battleground, LA
CRAWFORD, SANDIE  Developmental Education  Louisiana
CROWE, KARIMYN  Curriculum and Instruction  Grambling, LA
CROWE, KATINA  Elem Ed and Spec Ed  Shreveport, LA
CROWE, TAMlKA  Elem Ed and Spec Ed  Jonesville, LA
CROWE-GARNER, CYNTHIA  Developmental Education  Grambling, LA
CURRY, CRYSTAL  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
CURTIS, CHERYL  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
DAYS, VANISE  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
DOUGLAS, CATHY  Social Sciences  Grambling, LA
EDWARD, SARAHLEE  Special Education  Grambling, LA
ELLIS, RUDOLPH  Developmental Education  Lake Providence, LA
FIELDS, ISAAC  Elem Ed and Spec Ed  Shreveport, LA
FLOYD, ASHLEY  Curriculum and Instruction  Shreveport, LA
GEORGE, GLORIA  Developmental Education  Louisiana
GERDES, MICHELLE  Developmental Education  Louisiana
HARPER, ANGELA  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
HICKS, JOEL  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
HILL, SHAKEYDRA  Curriculum and Instruction  Grambling, LA
HOBBS, KRISTOPHER  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
HOSKIN, BRITTANY  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA

HUYANG, YUFENG  Curriculum and Instruction  Shreveport, LA
HUDSON, DEVARIA  Developmental Education  Grambling, LA
HUNTER, LAKELEE  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
JACKSON, SHALOND  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JOHNSON, AISHITUA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JOHNSON, DAVARIKA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JOHNSON, JACQUELINE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JONES, ERNIE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JONES, GABRIELLE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
JONES, LEAH  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
LARD, NIKELYIA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
LEE, PAMELA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
LEWIS, DARRELL  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
MCMILLIAN, LASHONDRA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
MILLSAP-WHITE, TOMICA  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
MITCHELL, CARLA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
MOORE, KEAREA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
MURPHY, ROBIN  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
PATTON, KARLOS  Social Sciences  Monroe, LA
PIERRE, GERMAINE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
PLEASANT, KENDRICK  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
RELFORD, NATASHA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
ROBERTSON, SHERITA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
ROBINSON, ANDRE  Special Education  Shreveport, LA
ROBINSON, LATISHA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
SCOTT, SHANNON  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
SMITH, BOBBIE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
SMITH, LEMETRIA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
STEVENS, MARTIEZ  Educational Leadership  Shreveport, LA
SWEET, CHAE  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
THORNTON, RHONDA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
TOOKES, MARQUITA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
WALKER, JOHNY  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
WESLEY, MELISSA  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
WHITE, SHARON  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
WHITE, TYESHA  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
WILLIAMS, TERESA  Social Sciences  Shreveport, LA
WOOD, BENJAMIN  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
WORTHAM, BREnda  Curriculum and Instruction  Shreveport, LA
ZACHARY, BRANDON  Developmental Education  Shreveport, LA
### Our Honor Students

**School of Graduate Studies, Fall 2013**

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### Fraternal Honors

**The Iota Tau Chapter Of**

**Kappa Delta Pi International**

**Honor Society In Education Award**

- Fenceroy, Alexandra: Forney, TX
- Green, Alexandra: Monroe, LA
- Gunn, Audrianna: Ruston, LA
- Jones, Lyntoinette: Bunkie, LA
- King, Tracie: Walls, MS
- Lane, Quinterio: Wisner, LA
- Lauderdale, Amber: Houston, TX
- Lewis, Baldwin: Shreveport, LA
- Mason, Micayla: Shreveport, LA
- Mayfield, Angel: Grambling, LA
- Stevens, Latoya: Lawrenceville, GA
- Strong, Shaka: Lake Charles, LA
- Tisdale, Jessica: Monroe, LA
- Turner, Damiane: El Dorado, AR
- Williams, Amber: Jonesboro, LA

**The Phi Epsilon Kappa International**

**Honor Fraternity Award**

- Caldwell, Steven: Ruston, LA
- Hart, Jamea: Monroe, LA
- Jones, Barbara: Alexandria, LA
- Minor, Tracey: Monroe, LA
- Outley, Brandi: Ruston, LA
- Perry, Alexandra: Shreveport, LA
- Richardson, Tiffany: Covington, LA
- Washington, Muridia: Pensacola, FLA
- Willis, Christopher: Homer, LA
- Tracey L. Minor: Monroe, LA
- Breonna J. Jones: Alexandria, LA
- Steven Caldwell: Ruston, LA
- Christopher Pruitt: Alexandria, LA
- Michaela Hooks: Heartland, TX
- Ashley McDonald: New Orleans, LA
- Brianna Philips: Fairfield, CA
- Karlin Gray: Memphis, TN
- Jarreau Brown: General Recreation

**The Outstanding Academic Performance Award**: This award recognizes excellence in academic performance, intellectual creativity, and quality of work.

**Breonna Monique Ward**: Grand Prairie, Texas

**The Outstanding Student Teacher Award**: This award is given to a graduating senior (honor student) in recognition of leadership, communication skills, professionalism, and enthusiasm demonstrated during student teaching.

**Jonathan William Washington**: Minden, LA

**The Outstanding Teacher Education Scholars Award**: This award is given to teacher education majors who demonstrate outstanding scholarship and who are recognized by the Department, College, University, or outside agencies for their dedication, hard work, and professional contributions to the school and community.

- Jessica Tierra Tisdale: Monroe, LA
- Kelly Warren Hall, Jr.: Cullen, LA

**The Outstanding Outstanding Undergraduate Service Award**: This award is given to the undergraduate student who had demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the University community while maintaining strong and consistent academic performance.

**Breonna Monique Ward**: Grand Prairie, Texas

**The Louisiana Recreation and Park Association (LRPA) Scholarship Award**: The LRPA recognizes outstanding students who have achieved excellence in the field of recreation, park, sport, and leisure. Students recognized for the award must be members of LRPA, have achieved the prescribed GPA of at least 2.9, and serve as an advocate in the profession and in the community.

**Jon H. Boggs**: Alexandria, LA
**Kelly Warren Hall, Jr.**: Cullen, LA
Faculty Members Honored

The University recognized the following faculty members for their exemplary performance in research, service, and teaching at the Honors Convocation on March 25, 2014, Fredrick Hobdy Assembly Center. Photographs courtesy of Glenn Lewis for Grambling State University.
Dr. Lamore Carter was part of the famed Red Ball Express, the moniker for the massive convoy system that supplied the Allied Forces during World War II. On June 6, 1944, Allied Armies hit the shores of Normandy and advanced rapidly; however, as their supplies depleted, it significantly slowed their pace as some tanks and other equipment grinded to a complete halt. According to historians, it was the creation of the Red Ball Express that made the difference during those weaning days of the war. The Red Ball Express was created during a 36-hour brain storming session specifically convened to address these deficiencies. “Without the Red Ball Express the campaign in the European Theater might have dragged on for years with the mobility of the allied forces greatly diminished,” as stated by The Price of Freedom, Americans at War exhibit. “The Red Ball Express was one of the most important factors in the rapid defeat of the German Army.”

Although it lasted only three months, August 25 to November 16, 1944, the men of the Red Ball Express, who were nearly 75% African American, played a crucial role in the eventual victory. These brave men, who served in a segregated United States Army, won the kind of acclaim on the ground that the Tuskegee Airmen won inflight. “Red Ball Express was the Army code name, and the route stretched from Saint Lo in Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front along France’s northeastern borderland,” writes Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service. “The route was marked with red balls. On an average day, 900 fully loaded vehicles were on the Red Ball route round-the-clock with drivers officially ordered to observe 60-yard intervals and a top speed of 25 miles per hour.” However, at the peak of its operation, the men of the Red Ball Express transported 12,342 tons of supplies in 5,938 vehicles to northern drop-off points each day.

Dr. Carter and his unit, the 391st Quarter Master Company, were essential for the operation. “I was a platoon sergeant with the 391st Quarter Master Company, having arrived in France (UTAH Beach) in early October 1944,” said Carter. “My unit was part of the Red Ball Express soon after arriving. The 391st was part of the Red Ball Express from its beginning until it ended after the Battle of the Bulge. The 391st QMTC was assigned to the 3rd Army (General Patton’s army) and wore the 3rd Army shoulder patch and the Red Ball Express patch on our jacket sleeves. It was our job to supply General Patton’s 3rd army tank corps with what they must have to move toward the German offensive in France and eastern Belgium. We supplied gasoline, oil, ammunition, and cigarettes, for example—all kinds of assets for his forces.”

Seventy years later, the French Republic, on behalf of the French people officially commemorated Dr. Carter’s military service that so greatly benefited them. In a poignantly worded email, Carter learned that he was a Legion of Honor medal recipient. “I am very pleased to express my true congratulations for this distinction whereby the French government pays tribute to your honorable participation during World War II, and whereby the French people express gratitude for your contribution to the liberation of our country (from the Nazis),” said Jean-Claude Brunet, Consul General of France in New Orleans. “I will be honored to bestow upon you the medal of Legion of Honor.”

At an official ceremony at the World War II Museum in New Orleans, La, on June 6, 2014, Carter was awarded the Legion of Honor medal with the rank of Chevalier. “This is the greatest honor I have ever received in my 90 years,” Carter said. “It surpasses everything I’ve ever been awarded, and I am humbled by it. It is particularly significant in that this is the actual 70th anniversary of D-Day.”
INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR TEACHER CANDIDATES

Dean Larnell Flannagan (above) and Dr. Raunda Williams (below) speak with potential teacher candidate students to explain the prerequisites and rules governing Seminar, a mandatory education course.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

The International Cultural Symposium is an annual event hosted by the College of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, to promote knowledge and understanding of diverse nationalities and cultures. This year’s event included student exhibitions representing Israel, Mexico, Ethiopia, France, China, and Japan. Attendees were given informational items such as brochures and flyers; authentic music was played at each exhibition, and food native to the country was served.

Dr. A. K. Nur-Hussen, professor and event organizer, is an Ethiopian native. He and Dr. Kathryn Newman, who has visited Ethiopia, explains the Ethiopian alphabet to attendees visiting the exhibition. Nur-Hussen offered to demonstrate an example of a native Ethiopian dance, but later decided to save it for next year.

The event was well attended, and participating students received extra credit for their exhibits. “Overall, I am really happy and pleased with how it turned out,” Nur-Hussen said. “The students deserve a lot of credit for their hard work and creativity.”
JOHNSON KEEPING HOPE ALIVE IN NEW BOOK OF POETRY

Johnson’s new poetry collection offers readers hope, encouragement, inspiration, and humor to face life’s challenges

BY JANET D. BRYANT

Poems that Inspire Hope gives a moving testimony to the power of God’s love in all areas of life. Patricia Powell Johnson, Ph.D., offers a compelling message of hope that encourages readers to put faith into action. Johnson’s life experiences are the driving force behind the poems, and she writes openly about her thoughts, emotions, beliefs, conflicts, hopes, and dreams.

Ultimately, her work is about giving encouragement and inspiring readers to find a new way of looking at their own lives. “The book is about life, faith, family, friends, and the future God has in store for you,” Johnson writes. “The poems inspire you to cast aside worries and to trust God more. They inspire hope in the reader for a better today, a better tomorrow, and a better future.”

The poems are diverse in subject matter and in their approach to enlightened hope and inspiration; you will be moved to smile, laugh, and cry; you will find purpose in pain and inspiration to lean forward through challenging times. In Love, she uses the voice of wisdom undoubtedly seasoned with the salt of experience. In Natural Woman, she uses the voice of a grateful daughter that has witnessed the feats of great, godly women. In A Visit from the NCATE Board of Examiners, she uses the voice of humor to describe the rigors and stress involved with accreditation. It is a must-read, must-have!

Poems the Inspire Hope is published by iUniverse, and can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and iUniverse.com.

A book signing is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, 2014, 12-2pm, Holiday Inn West, 5555 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, La.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION PARTNERS WITH SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP TEACHERS

College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction partners with area schools to continuously provide teachers with the best practices for their classrooms based on evidence gathered from the latest research.

In 2013, Dr. Larnell Flannagan, dean, College of Education, reviewed and modified the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with Coleman School, Gibsland, La., and Mooretown Professional Development School, Shreveport, La. As a result of the modified MOU and the advent of common core state standards, the goal has been to have an even greater commitment to developing teachers by increasing their understanding of the standards and how it incorporate them into their classrooms. The common core standards are designed to be robust, rigorous, and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. Research suggests that the best classroom teachers know how to motivate and engage students, and our professional development sessions are designed with such concepts in mind.

Professional development offered by Curriculum and Instruction includes ongoing opportunities for teachers to read and reflect on current research topics of interest that are consistent with state and local school improvement priorities. Since 2012, the following topics have been offered: (1) Strategies to help struggling readers, Dr. Elaine Foster; (2) Overview of Common Core State Standards, Dr. Patricia Johnson; (3) Reading in Content Areas, Dr. Mary Ghongkedze; (4) Math Strategies in Elementary and Secondary Students, Mr. Eugene Taylor; (5) Adapting the Common Core Standards in English Language Classes, Dr. Payne Pamela; (6) Differentiating Instructions, Dr. Patricia Johnson; and (7) Reading/Writing Connections, Dr. Loreta Jaggers.

Dr. Mary Ghongkedze is the coordinator of professional development.
THE PERSONIFICATION OF EXCELLENCE
Marquesha J. D. Moore

BY JANET D. BRYANT

“From the Heart”

I was born in Portland, Ore., and lived with my mother, her husband, and my four brothers. We moved to New Orleans, La., in 2003, to live near family who had previously moved there. I am the oldest and only girl, so I took the role of being my brothers ‘second mom’ and ‘teacher’. It’s possible that my desire to teach manifested from me playing those roles growing up.

As I leave my alma mater and take my place in the classroom, I would like to tell all my fellow undergraduates at GSU and any other institution that if you have a passion for something keep at it because there is nothing like living your dreams and changing the lives of children and their parents. It is important to study hard and make great GPAs, but what truly matters is the person you become and the knowledge you actually use. I am forever grateful for the support of God, my family, friends, and GSU faculty and peers.

The scripture that I held on to, the one that pulled me through was Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (NIV). The Lord has truly been with me every step of the way.

“Although I did not begin college at Grambling State University, I couldn’t have chosen a better alma mater” says Marquesha Moore.

“It was there that I matured, gained lifelong friendships, and solidified the beginning of my career as an educator.”
If Marquesha Moore were a Roman emperor, she could have stood victoriously on the steps of Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center and announced, “Veni, vidi, vici,” a Latin phrase reportedly used in a letter from Julius Caesar to communicate the dominance of his army over the forces of Pharnaces II for control of what is modern day Turkey. Veni, vidi, vici, is commonly interpreted to mean, I came, I saw, I conquered.

Indeed Moore did. She conquered the curricula, the standardized tests (Praxis), the distractions, the extra curricular activities, the discouraging moments, the temptations to give into the seeder side of college life, the urge to settle for mediocrity, and the ladder of matriculation that challenges anyone who dares to take on its climb. And she did it all with her patented smile.

Moore graduated summa cum laude, which means she walked across the stage and received her diploma with at least a 3.9 cumulative grade point average on a maximum scale of 4.0. The College of Education has only witnessed that four times since fall 2009. That is some feat. “My academic success has been phenomenal,” Moore said. “I worked hard, asked many questions during class and in my professors’ offices, and collaborated with my peers. I’ve always taken my education serious because I knew upon graduation, I would be responsible for someone else’s education.”

During her undergraduate career, Moore balanced her academic pursuits with extra curricular activities. She served as president and intake coordinator of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education in 2011; secretary of Iota Alpha Mu Christian Sorority, Inc. in 2011; member and children’s ministry teacher of The Church of the Champions in 2011; and secretary of Association of Women in Communications in 2010. “It was difficult at times to stretch myself between classes, assignments, and extracurricular,” Moore said. “But the nonacademic activities tied into my passion for education and Christ, so I was able to balance it all with the hope that I would become a well rounded individual.”

Moore purposely worked to build good relationships and rapport with College of Education professors and others university wide. She credits many of them for her success as a student. “My most memorable professors were Dr. Katheryn Newman, because she specialized in Special Education and pushed me to do well in my courses but also as a woman; Dr. Nur and Dr. Foster because they were my advisors for Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. They gave me the freedom and guidance to develop leadership skills, and Dr. Himay and Ms. Cassandra Hendrix, in the physics department, because they provided me with a job and loved me even though I wasn’t a science major,” Moore said.

Dr. Elaine Foster describes Moore as a capable and cooperative student. “Marquesha showed great initiative in her roles with Kappa Delta Pi,” says Foster. “Once I told her what needed to be done, she would set the plan in motion to accomplish the goal.”

Ironically, all of this may have never happened. Moore initially chose and attended Bethune Cookman University, but for circumstances in Grambling State University’s favor, she was unable to pay and continue there. “I chose Grambling State University because my uncle, Darwin Demery, attended in 1994,” said Moore. “He told me how great the education program was. I also liked that I was only five hours away from home in New Orleans.”

The College of Education proved to be a right fit for Moore, because she had long settled on teaching as her vocation. She was the eldest child and assumed the role, as most eldest children, of second-in-command and teacher. “Education as a major was thoughtless,” said Moore. “I always enjoyed school and helping others. I chose Special Education, because I was told it was a high needs area and a grant was being offered.”

Moore’s matriculation through the College of Education curricula was steady, step by step. She successfully completed Seminar; she excelled at student teaching; and she passed the requisite and much ballyhooed Praxis examinations. She is an example of the popular phrase: Success happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Although she understands that no institution of higher learning can prepare students for every circumstance they may encounter in the workplace or classroom, it is that training in knowing how to approach and resolve challenges that matters most. “The education system is forever changing, but I do feel confident in teaching because of my college education,” said Moore. “I did encounter some things that I wasn’t prepared for, but I know that everything cannot be taught; some things have to be learned through experience.”

Moore has not been disappointed by the actual teaching experience; it is everything and more that she expected it to be. The transition from teaching candidate, to student teacher, to actual teacher has been an exciting and eventful transformation.

Dwindling educational funding, increasing child-teacher classroom ratios, mandates from state and federal governments, privatization pressures from parochial and other school systems, charter school initiatives, increased dependence on standardized testing, and a plethora of other issues and challenges are all a part of today’s teaching landscape.

This daughter of Grambling State University drives away from her alma mater to conquer the classroom and all its challenges with the view of her always in the rear view mirror. Having overcome and conquered the challenges of academic life, how will she fare in conquering the challenges of today’s teaching professional?

Taking her record into consideration, she will more than fare well under these conditions. She will conquer them, at least in her corner of the world—her classroom.
Washington helps students, Shemerik Brown and Tyrek Mitchell, execute a science experiment during his student teaching experience at Grambling Laboratory High School.
The first few semesters I was unsure if I had made the right decision choosing education, but the College of Education professors helped me feel more at ease with my decision. I have always been a nerd, so the class work was not an issue. The high standards set by my professors carried over into the amount of work I did while student teaching. The GSU professors are one of the biggest resources I had as a novice educator.

During their seminars and classroom management classes, I did not hesitate to ask questions; I was a sponge and did not feel ashamed to ask for help, and, luckily for me, they were almost always able to offer valuable advice.

Initially, going into student teaching, I had hoped to be placed closer to home in Minden, La., but Ms. Williams was unable to find any available schools and was eventually placed at Grambling’s lab schools. Honestly, I was not overly thrilled.

On my first day, Ms. Gaulden, my cooperating teacher, was absent, and that did not ease my nervousness at all. Each class period, students looked in my direction, and I could feel their stares asking, “who is guy?” Because there was a substitute, the students were a bit excited.

The following day was a Friday, and Ms. Gaulden, my cooperating teacher, was absent, and that did not ease my nervousness at all. Each class period, students looked in my direction, and I could feel their stares asking, “who is guy?” Because there was a substitute, the students were a bit excited.

My experience was not without any hitches; after the “honeymoon phase” some students truly began to show. About a month in, some students were beginning to take their time entering class and waiting before they would begin writing their objectives and bell ringers. To remedy this I began timing the students from bell to bell. Students were given seven minutes, five minutes between each bell and two minutes after the tardy bell to have both the subjective and bellringer written or he/she would lose their daily participation points. That simple trick worked perfectly and majority of students spent less time in the hallways, and came in ready to write.

Overall, I never had any major disruptions. For the few tiffs, I calmly diffused the situations by remaining calm, neutral, and consistent. Following my professors’ advice, I maintained a neutral tone 99% of the time. Whenever the students did well I rewarded them with praise, bonus points, five minutes of notes on a quiz, or free time after a quiz or test. It was a conscious decision not to reward the students with candy for two reasons: I was an unemployed college student commuting everyday, and I did not want their efforts or behavior to be dependent on whether or not they would receive candy. As it turned out, I really did enjoy my time at Grambling’s Lab High and Middle Magnet. I can honestly admit that student teaching was the spark I needed to ignite my passion for teaching. Like most education undergrads, I became a tad overwhelmed my last few semesters, but once I finished student teaching, the effort was really worth it.

The two biggest pieces of advice I can offer an upcoming student teaching candidates are: set your rules and expectation from day one and plan, plan, plan! Don’t waste your planning period; make the most out of it. Then too, if you are a nerd like myself, you will enjoy searching for lesson resources anyway.
Student Accomplishments

Bona Fide Excellence

RECOGNIZING FOUR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SHINING STUDENT SCHOLAR STARS

BY JANET D. BRYANT | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GLENN LEWIS

Jessica Tisdale, Karlin Gray, Kelly Hall, Jr., and Breonna Ward dressed in Grambling State University colors, black and gold, relaxing and enjoying one another’s company during their photo session at Conrad Hutchinson Performing Arts building.

Jessica Tisdale
Recipient
MARTHA FONDEL-SMITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Recipient
COE OUTSTANDING TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLAR AWARD

Karlin Gray
Honoree
OUTSTANDING STUDENT DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY
Recipient
LRPA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD KNES, SPORT MANAGEMENT

Kelly Hall, Jr.
Recipient
TOM JOYNER FOUNDATION HERCULES SCHOLAR
Recipient
COE OUTSTANDING TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLAR AWARD

Breonna Ward
HCBU All-Star
WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)
Recipient
COE OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AWARD
COE OUTSTANDING UNDERGRAD SERVICE AWARD
Karlin Gray is a sport management major from Memphis, Tn. She was recommended by Dr. Willie Daniel, head, Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Leisure to be recognized as a College of Education shining scholar star. Within the department, she has distinguished herself academically and won the respect of her professors by demonstrating high academic excellence and integrity. “Karlin is task-oriented relative to completing short/long-term assignments,” said Dr. Obadiah Simmons, associate professor, Robert L. Piper endowed professor, Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Leisure. “Karlin works extremely well in group settings and has the ability to engage in fruitful dialogue with her peers. She has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities and communicates well with multiple audiences. Karlin is a very conscientious student and has displayed a sincere compassion for improving the quality of life of people”.

From the start of her academic career, she has maintained an impressive grade point average and proven to be among the highest caliber of students.

Karlin has a winning personality and attitude. She is humble and respectful, cooperative and willing, flexible and friendly—exactly the kind of student that Grambling State University (GSU) seeks. “I appreciate whatever opportunities are granted to me,” Gray said. “I’m honored that my teacher/advisor and department head thought of me to accept this award. It reminds me that the path I’m taking and the effort I’m giving is not in vain. It pushes me to maintain and to work harder.”

Gray made the President’s List both spring and fall 2013. This means her semester grade point averages were at least 3.9 out of a possible 4.0. If she maintains this pace, she should graduate summa cum laude. Additionally, she was awarded the Louisiana Recreation and Park Association Scholarship Award for sport management at the Honors Convocation, March 25, 2014, in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center.

Ironically, growing up, Gray had not heard of GSU. She was introduced to the university by her current roommate whose father attended. They brought her to Homecoming and brought her back the following April when she learned the history and legacy that is GSU. “I believe the prestigious name that Grambling has earned attracted me more than anything,” Gray said.

Gray is also a GSU cheerleader. She is a volunteer soccer coach for Ruston Parks and Recreation. She is a member of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College and Favrot Student Union Board (FSUB), 2011-14. She is a former member of the GSU Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC) program, 2013-2014.

Currently, she is focused on completing the requirements to graduate. “I could possibly graduate in December, a semester earlier than planned,” Gray said. “I am going to continue cheerleading and join FSUB again. Summer school is a possibility, and I am also looking into applying for various summer internships.”

As her undergraduate career nears its completion, Gray plans to return to Memphis, Tn., to attend graduate school at the University of Memphis. She understands the challenges and has already formulated a plan of action for her graduate studies. “I am hoping to land an internship this summer that could grant me an actual job opportunity after college, because I plan to work while in graduate school.”

Gray is also a young lady faith, substance, and service. “Lately, it’s been on my heart to invest in my ministry more than I have which is praise dance,” she said. “I want to start a young women’s dance ministry here on GSU’s campus. It’s just a thought now, but I will prayerfully follow as God leads and guides me to bring that thought into fruition.”

Whatever course of action Gray decides to take, success is sure to follow, because she demonstrates the attributes of an effective student scholar: organized, committed, focused, confident, willing to work and face challenges, willing to ask for help when necessary, eager to make connections, creative, and varied, balanced interests.
Kelly Hall Jr., a senior, music education major began his undergraduate academic career at Louisiana Tech University but later transferred to Grambling State University in 2010 to pursue a familiar dream—joining the internationally famed Tiger Marching Band. “I came to Grambling State University, because I wanted to participate in the band,” Hall said. “My hometown of Springhill is only about an hour’s drive from here, and Grambling has the best band in the nation. I also was excited about the music department.

Subsequently, Hall secured a position with the band and marched with distinction until 2013. “I was a student leader, drill sergeant, and section leader over the tuba section,” Hall said. “My hometown of Springhill is only about an hour’s drive from here, and Grambling has the best band in the nation. I also was excited about the music department.

His academic excellence was nationally recognized by The Tom Joyner Foundation when he was named a Hercules Scholar during the fall 2013 semester. Tom Joyner, a nationally syndicated talk show host, established the foundation to honor his father, Hercules Joyner, and his commitment to education and to help students at historically black colleges and universities. The Tom Joyner Hercules Scholarship considers grade point average and participation in extracurricular activities as determining factors. “I was honored to be chosen as a recipient of this award,’ Hall said. “And I used the scholarship money to help purchase some of my books for the past semester.”

Ms. Genevia Jones, who interacts daily with undergraduate students, described Hall as a likeable and dedicated student. “Sometimes he’s harder to track down than President Obama, but he’s a good kid,” Jones said.

Additionally, Hall made the Dean’s list, spring 2013 and President’s List, fall 2013. He is a member of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College; and his is the recipient of the College of Education Outstanding Teacher Education Scholars Award presented at the Honors Convocation in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center on March 25, 2014.

Hall looks forward to receiving a bachelor of science degree in instrumental music, and he has an ambitious well thought out career plan. Following his successfully executed undergraduate career, Hall plans to attend Northwestern State University to pursue a master’s degree in instrumental conducting. He then plans to teach at a local, preferably Springhill, junior/senior high school for no more than 20 years while he simultaneously works toward earning a doctoral degree in either music education or educational leadership. To conclude his most probable illustrious career, he plans to return to the place where it all started to begin with, Grambling State University. “I then plan, at that time, to come back to Grambling,” Hall says. “I want to teach music here and eventually be the director of the famed Tiger Marching Band.” If all goes according as planned, Hall will graduate in the fall 2014, and begin his most excellent journey that will lead him back to his alma mater in 2034.

As he goes, he carries with him lessons, memories, experiences, and characters that are unique to Grambling State University: his classmates, fraternity brothers, Tiger Marching Band comrades, special professors, and staff.
Jessica Tisdale is a junior from Monroe, La. She made the President’s List, fall and spring 2013, which means that her semester grade points averages were at least 3.9 out a possible 4.0; she is the vice president for Louisiana Association of Educators student program; she is a member of Kappa Delta Pi National Honors Society in Education; and she was awarded the College of Education Outstanding Teacher Education Scholars Award at the Honors Convocation, March 25, 2014, in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center.

For Tisdale, Grambling State University (GSU) was the natural choice. “I chose to attend Grambling because of its rich tradition,” Tisdale says. “Both of my parents graduated from Grambling, and I always said that I would attend, too. GSU has a great reputation for producing great educators, and I wanted the best preparation.”

From the tender age of four, Tisdale has known that she wanted to teach. “I made the definite decision to major in elementary education after assessing my strengths and weaknesses,” says Tisdale. “I realized that I would make a great teacher. My life has been touched by so many great teachers, so I wanted touch the lives of others in the same way my life has been touched.”

Martha Fondel-Smith was one of those teachers who influenced her life, albeit indirectly. Fondel-Smith was an outstanding educator and former Miss Grambling State University. A memorial scholarship was established in her honor, and Tisdale was the chosen recipient. “I was honored to apply for the scholarship, because I had heard so many great things about Martha-Fondel Smith,” said Tisdale. “I had the privilege of meeting her when she taught my brother in first grade. I didn’t know her personally, but it was something about her spirit and smile that stuck with me. You could tell that she had a genuine love for teaching.”

The scholarship committee was equally impressed with Tisdale. “From her application to the way she presented herself before the committee when we first met her, Miss Tisdale demonstrated a passion and commitment to teaching,” says Debra L. James, 2013 Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Zeta Phi Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, Inc. “She was our unanimous choice. There was no doubt. She represents the kind of young lady we wish to be in association with as we go forward in our endeavors to support teaching majors.”

The scholarship was officially presented to Tisdale by James and committee members in the fall 2013 semester at an official ceremony at the Holiday Inn, Monroe, La. In addition to the notoriety and a handsome plaque, Tisdale received a monetary award. “The monetary gift was a tremendous blessing; it helped me pay for books and so many other things necessary to complete the semester.”

Following a successful academic year, Tisdale looks forward to tackling the challenges of her second semester junior year. She will be taking the Praxis II examination: Content knowledge this semester and applying for seminar, a course mandated for all teacher candidates. Passing the Praxis examinations and the seminar course are prerequisites for graduation.

Post graduation, Tisdale plans to teach in the Monroe or Ruston area and continue her education. “After I graduate, I plan to pursue a master’s degree during the summer months at the University of Louisiana Monroe in educational counseling or at Louisiana Tech in speech pathology,” she said. “I hope to someday become a school counselor or speech therapist after I do my time in the classroom.”

Tisdale is determined, accomplished, mature; she is excellent example of what it means to be a College of Education shining student scholar star.
Breonna Ward is a freshman elementary education major from Grand Prairie, Texas, and a granddaughter of Grambling State University. Her parents, Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Sandra Ward, are both Grambling State University graduates, in addition to several cousins and other relatives. However, it was not the family connection alone that persuaded her to choose her parents' alma mater. “I chose Grambling State University, because the school has a sustained tradition of excellence in academics and is full of rich history,” Ward said. “Because my parents attended GSU, I was able to walk on parts of the campus several times while I was still in high school. When I took the official tour, everyone I met was very friendly and made me feel welcome. I also love the size of the campus. It is large enough so I don’t feel trapped, but small enough where I don’t just feel like a number. My largest class has only 80 students, and I love that. So overall Grambling was the perfect school for me.”

Ward began her undergraduate academic career in the fall 2013 and promptly landed on the President’s List and elected freshman class secretary in the same semester; she is also a university flag runner. Again, in the same semester, she was nationally recognized for academic excellence by President Barack Obama when she was named an HBCU All-Star, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

To apply, Ward was required to submit an instructor’s recommendation/nomination, an essay entitled “What Makes Me an HBCU All-Star”, her official transcript, and resume. This capable and confident first-semester freshman more than made the grade and won. “I was chosen as an HBCU All-Star because of my strong leadership role on campus, my strong work ethic, and my strong academic performance by earning a spot on the president’s list for my 3.81 grade point average,” Ward said. “Since being recognized as a HBCU All-Star, I have had the pleasure of meeting with several leaders in Grambling’s Department of Education. I have also had the opportunity to speak with Vice President Biden during a teleconference with other HBCU All-Stars. Finally, I have been invited to Washington D.C. in September to be honored and receive my award.”

Ward decided to make education her academic home, because she believes that teachers create opportunities by educating students. She was awarded the Outstanding Academic Performance Award in recognition of her excellence in academic performance, intellectual creativity, and quality of work at the Honors Convocation in Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center on March 25, 2014.

Ward’s career plans include certification in elementary education (endorsements in special education and early childhood education). After which she will pursue a master’s degree in elementary education. “Teachers pave career paths for students,” Ward said. “I take great pride in knowing that in the near future I will be a teacher.”
How one of the college’s hardest working colleagues impacts and influences lives on campus and beyond

BY JANET D. BRYANT

Offically, Ms. Genevia Nicholas Jones is the director of the CARE Center, Centralized Advisement, Referral, and Evaluation, an auxiliary in the department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education. However, in reality, to the thousands and thousands of students that have crossed her path since 1989, she is so much more than that. She is an instructor, advisor, admissions counselor, record keeper, computer operator, registration specialist, second mom, mom-away-from-home, negotiator, liaison, recruiter, cheerleader, friend, and mentor.

Jones, an army of one, interacts with students each day—on the phone, by email, and in face-to-face sessions. From the point of admission to graduation, it is her responsibility to assist teacher candidates by navigating them through the multifaceted matrix of standards, prerequisites, and certifications that govern College of Education and university curricula.

Additionally, Jones is charged with maintaining accurate and up-to-date records for: (1) College of Education degree programs, (2) Praxis examinations, (3) curriculum contracts, (4) transcripts, (5) guidelines from Board of Regents, Louisiana Department of Education, Bureau of Higher Education and Teacher Education, NCATE, and SACS, and (6) all pertinent data on teacher candidates housed in two extensive databases. In short, Jones and the CARE Center act an essential recordkeeping apparatus for the College of Education that synthesizes the methodology to keep students on-task and the college in compliance with the specified guidelines of teacher education organizations and associations as well as the state of Louisiana department of education.

It is a mammoth undertaking, not meant for the faint of heart; it is a tough job that requires a soft touch. It requires consistency, patience, commitment, and diplomacy. To be successful, it requires skillful bridge-building rapport between students, faculty, staff, and administrators. It requires walking a tightrope made of three separate professions: instructor, administrator, and advisor. “I have found Ms. Genevia Jones to be very detail-minded and to always work efficiently,” said Jones’ immediate supervisor, Dr. Patricia Johnson, interim head, Curriculum and Instruction. “She is professional, has leadership qualities as she chairs and serves on a number of departmental committees. She uses creative thinking and sets personal goals and meets them. She constantly tries to improve in her area of expertise.

Jones has the right stuff for the job, and she is making the right kind of difference. Somehow, someway, she manages to pull it off. And she does it all with her patented smile and southern charm. She can disarm even the most strident person with her even temperament and the consoling way that she says baby, honey, or sugar. “I come to work each day and do my best to make the College of Education work successfully,” said Jones. “Even during those times when I feel overwhelmed, I keep the students and our responsibilities to them in the forefront of my mind, and that helps me move forward.”

The relationships Jones has consistently established with students over the years are a testament to and reward for her dedication and loyalty; she has made a lasting difference in the lives of many students. She has impacted and influenced their lives to the point that many of these students continuously stay in contact with her, becoming a friend, mentor, and mom for life.

Jared Oubre, alumnus and Teacher of the Year, 2012-2013, described Jones as his second mother. Lawrence Rocque, alumnus featured in this edition, includes Jones in his “Women of Grambling State University” list, his coined phrase to describe faculty and staff who had the biggest impact on his life and taught him important lessons regarding academics and life during his undergraduate career. “Ms. Jones taught me to never give up,” Rocque said.

This kind of communication with College of Education alumni is crucial for the flow of information, and Jones voluntary serves as an unofficial liaison for Insight Today by forwarding emails with news and updates and providing background information such as graduation dates, majors, and on-campus activities and associations.

(Continued on page 39)
Floyd-Talbert, seated wearing the Dr. Seuss hat, can best be described as an instructional drum majorette. With cadence, energy, and creativity she leads her very ready band of students through an educational wonderland of teaching techniques, tools, and technology; it’s learning on steroids. Standing are Rose Lloyd and Linda Willis, classroom helpers.

**MRS. ASHLEY FLOYD-TALBERT**

Teacher of the Year 2013–2014

Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center | Ruston, La.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANET D. BRYANT
Walk through the door of Mrs. Ashley Floyd-Talbert’s pre-k classroom, and it becomes readily obvious why she was selected Teacher of the Year in only her fourth year of teaching. Her classroom is a virtual cornucopia of learning utensils, from the themed Dr. Seuss Week to the exceeding abundance of learning centers everywhere the eyes fall. Dr. Seuss Week is celebrated annually to commemorate his birthday. It is a thematic unit used to teach counting, colors, and literacy exercises.

Throughout her classroom, there are a plethora of stacked plastic bins filled with blocks, shapes, crayons, glue, scissors, kiddie journals, puzzles, farm animals, dinosaurs, seashells, spiders, construction paper, felt paper, numbers, and alphabets. There are all kinds of colorful shapes and banners hanging from the ceiling. There are shapes, numbers, crayons, and the children’s completed projects posted on the walls. Look to the left, and you’ll find a giant tree with all kinds of information on it. Look to the right, and you’ll see an extravagant, very creatively constructed cabana. And if that were not enough, there are learning stations all over the place. There is a station for reading giant books, a station for writing, a station for word scramble, a science discovery center, a calendar station, and a station with a television for video viewing. There is a station with a bird and birdcage and one that includes a fish.

Floyd-Talbert’s approach to teaching is to make it fun. “I teach on their level but not to the point that I dumb things down,” she says. “I treat them like little people, and we respect each other. As long as we are having fun and respecting each other, I think that creates a great learning environment.”

In a series of maneuvers that could easily lead one to believe that Floyd-Talbert missed her calling as a Grambling State University drum majorette, she leads her eager students through high-energy participatory learning exercises; they dance, they jump, they swing their partners, they sing, they clap, and they kiss their brains in response to answering questions correctly, an Floyd-Talbert original. “Kiss your brain is a reward,” she says. “Because I am not big on giving candy, stickers, and material rewards, I encourage my students to give credit to the thing that is helping them be smart. Kiss your brain, treat your brain well.”

Floyd-Talbert has designated one main area for corporate learning which includes a giant rug for the children to sit on, a special chair for story time, and a Smart Board. Technology is one of Floyd-Talbert’s favorite strategies to teach. “I am very enthusiastic about using it any and every where that I can, but I don’t over use it, she says. “That’s the major thing I try to steer away from. I try to use it as a tool to teach rather than a major means of teaching.”

Floyd-Talbert has an open door policy for parents. They work cooperatively together knowing the other’s expectations. “In order for their children to have the best learning environment and grow as students, they must be involved,” she says. “My parents are amazing and are constantly in and out of my classroom volunteering, and they make good use of the observation window.” The observation window is a two-way window that can be viewed in but not out; it was instituted by Lincoln Parish School Board to promote an open exploratory environment.

Floyd-Talbert credits her alma mater for much of her success in the classroom. “Grambling has been a major source of strength going back to my freshman year,” she says. “Initially, I did not fully understand what it meant to be a teacher, but as I matriculated through the schedule and established relationships with professors, I gained an in-depth understanding as to how education touches not only the students in your classroom but the surrounding community and the world overall.”

Grambling State University professors, particularly those in the College of Education, have been invaluable assets, and she remains in close contact with the majority of them. She writes/emails them, invites them to visit her classroom, and refers other students to them for advice and counsel. She is especially grateful to Dr. Kathryn Newman, professor, Curriculum and Instruction, who she describes as her mentor. “She has been an inspirational figure throughout my academic career,” she says. “She encouraged me through the down times when the Praxis test was a challenge and has always been in my corner.”

Mrs. Kathy Pesnell, director, LPECC, describes Floyd-Talbert as an energetic competent teacher who is more than aptly prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century student and classroom.
Lawrence Rocque IV's teaching strategies net impressive results in helping students master the pink elephant in the curriculum while maximizing their potential, confidence, and ability to succeed in the world of mathematics and science

BY JANET D. BRYANT

In the five years since Lawrence Rocque IV graduated from Grambling State University, he has established himself as an exceedingly distinguished educator with an unusually effective, yet gracious ability to communicate with students and faculty alike to affect and promote an optimum learning environment. This grandson of Grambling State University (GSU) has parlayed his communicative skills and natural ability to lead into an impressive streak of promotions—four in the past five years.

In his most recent promotion, Rocque was recruited and hired to serve as a math content specialist for the Pasadena Independent School District, Pasadena, Texas, on January 20, 2014. He was hired in response to the school district receiving a “needs improvement” rating from the State of Texas. “Lawrence was hired into the district as a specialist based on his track record of success in the previous district and ability to verbalize his beliefs, which are in line with the district’s philosophy and objectives,” said Richard Yoes, director, curriculum and instruction, Pasadena Independent School District, Pasadena, Texas. “Lawrence uses data to help teachers individualize instruction and spend class time where it matters most. The team goes so far as to regroup students based on the data, and this approach has paid off, as exhibited by student success on the Algebra I EOC.”

In this capacity, Rocque is an administrative and faculty member. As an instructor, which comprises about 70% responsibilities, he is in charge of nearly 3,000 students and 24 math instructors. He is the liaison between his campus and the school board. “I observe, coach, and help teachers interpret curricula,” Rocque says. “I also write assessments for all levels of math, and analyze data to determine how we’re doing, what we need, and what type of resources will help us.” The other 30% of his job is on the district level. He writes curricula, analyzes data, and cultivates avenues and methods for professional development. “Lawrence presents information based on evidence and keeps conversations centered around students,” says Yoes. “This approach helps prevent adult issues from becoming an obstacle and make him a successful liaison between the district and campus.”

Rocque was recruited from Westfield High School, Spring Independent School District, Houston, Texas. At Westfield, Rocque blossomed as an instructor and administrator. From classroom instructor, he was promoted to team
leader, then department chair, and lastly instructional math coach, departmentally responsible for 3,300 students and 19 teachers. Under his leadership, the math department went from last to first and was recognized in the top 25% for growth by the state of Texas. And the percentage of students passing the STAAR exam increased from 68% to 87%; STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) is a standardized state examination administered at the end of course.

To his credit, the valedictorian was one of his students and she is on her way to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a full scholarship; another one of his students is a Nordstrom’s Scholar and on his way to University of Texas at Austin with a full scholarship; and yet another is on her way Baylor University with a full scholarship.

Rocque began his teaching career with the Midland Independent School District, Midland (MISD), Texas. Although he only taught in the district for a year, MISD representatives avoided the subsequent and inevitable competition for his teaching services; they had him under contract before he even started student teaching.

Rocque credits his alma mater for outstanding teaching success. GSU, he says, taught him to be over prepared. “It was difficult getting into Seminar, but by the time I did I had already passed the Praxis exams, so it all worked out for me,” Rocque says. In particular, he credits a special group of faculty and staff members that he has dubbed, “The Women of Grambling”, for much of his personal development as an education. “I established very intense relationships with them; they refused to let me quit” he said. “Dr. Nanthalia McJamerson is my cognitive mom; Dr. Jaggers taught me the value of being on time and being flexible; Dr. Vicki Brown was gracious to let me tutor and serve as a volunteer basketball coach at Grambling Middle Magnet School; Dr. Kathryn Newman helped me over the special education hump; Ms. Melanie Monroe, licensed records certification (LRC) specialist, was especially helpful, and Ms. Genevia Jones, director, CARE Center, is my lifetime advisor.”

Other professors who influenced Rocque are Dr. Parashu Sharma, Dr. Leummirim Yao, Dr. Arvine Strong, Dr. Benny Miles, and Mr. Eugene Taylor, professor of mathematics. “I use many of the teaching methods employed by Mr. Taylor in my own classroom,” says Rocque. “It impossible to over emphasize how important a role Mr. Taylor has played in my teaching career.”

The sentiments are mutual. “I am very proud to have taught Mr. Rocque,” says Taylor. “He was an excellent student and is now an excellent teacher. He was very studious and sincere about learning. He was always willing to share his knowledge with others, and I could see the teacher in him as he helped fellow students understand math concepts and explain where their errors were.” Ms. Genevia Jones adds: “I was amazed at his ability to help others learn and how much he enjoyed it. Lawrence is successful, because he is a lifelong learner.”

In a previous career life, Rocque worked as deputy sheriff for Orleans Parish Prison and a deputy for Bienville Parish.

Rocque hails from a distinguished family with deep Grambling roots. “I tell people all the time that I am from a mixed family,” Rocque says. “My mother’s side of the family graduated from Grambling, and my father’s side of the family graduated from Southern.” Seven close relatives graduated from GSU: his mother, Mrs. Louise Wright Rocque, four maternal aunts, two maternal uncles; and Mrs. Mary Breaux Wright, GSU graduate and current Zeta Phi Beta president, is married to one of his uncles. He is also a distant relative of Dr. Mildred Gallot, former GSU professor and head of the history department; his stepfather, Mr. Curtis Willis, is a former professor, director of the GSU Symphonic Band, and assistant director of the Tiger Marching Band; and his childhood pastor, Reverend E. W. McCall has close association with GSU and urged him to attend.

Rocque graduated from Grambling State University in 2008 with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics, minor in computer science; in 2012, he earned a master of arts degree, University of Phoenix, Houston, Texas. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree.

He is married to Mrs. Angela Rocque, and the couple have one child, Lawrence John Rocque V, who is seven years old.
FORMER COE STANDOUT NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR THE SECOND TIME IN FIVE YEARS

BY NINFA SAAVEDRA
COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS, GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

Valentine's Day was extra special for Kiana Carr Johnson this year. She received an extra special valentine as she was named teacher of the year at Betty & Jean Schmalz Elementary School in Katy, Texas. “Teachers felt like I was the best teacher and had done the best work,” said Carr Johnson, 27, a Grambling State University alumna who attributes her classroom success to what she learned at her alma mater.

One of 53 teachers at her school, and one of eight finalists for the special recognition, Carr Johnson was surprised by the school’s principal and assistant principal when they showed up in her classroom with a bouquet of flowers. “In the middle of teaching I found out I had won the award for teacher of the year,” she recalled. “I was extremely surprised…"

Carr Johnson was born in Germany. Her father, Marvin Carr, served in the military for most of her childhood, and the family moved constantly. She received her bachelor’s in elementary education at GSU then stayed in Grambling to earn a master’s in curriculum and instruction.

Carr Johnson has been teaching at Schmalz Elementary School for only two years and she has made a tremendous impact on the children and community according to her school’s principal, faculty and staff. “Kiana was an outstanding teacher candidate while completing her undergraduate program at Grambling State University in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction,” said Loretta Walton Jaggers, professor of education at GSU. “Specifically, she was a very conscientious student who always demonstrated outstanding knowledge, skills and dispositions.”

In Carr Johnson’s diverse classroom of 21 students, she tailors instruction for individual student needs in all subject areas, usually focusing lessons for seven to 10 minutes at a time. “My goals for my students are for them to be highly motivated and confident, to improve their reading skills, because reading is the foundation in all subjects …,” said Carr Johnson.

She said she uses what she learned at GSU about child development, reading practices, children’s literature and technology. During a telephone interview, Carr Johnson said many of her college professors taught beyond the book, making it easier to understand the complex world of education.

“My professors were very knowledgeable and encouraged me to learn as much as I could,” she said. “My professors supported my growth and gave me positive feedback throughout my journey.”

Carr Johnson said having the opportunity to work closely with future college students in the LA Gear Up program, as a counselor was invaluable. The LA Gear Up Program is a grant-funded program focused on giving middle school and high school students hands-on experiences much like those experienced by college students.

Students stay on the GSU campus during the summer, take college classes, and visit the financial aid office, among other things.

“She demonstrated very excellent skills and abilities as she worked with all staff members during the planning and implementation of the GSU LA GEAR UP Summer Learning Camps,” recalled Jaggers. “She was always admired by her students and colleagues that she worked with at the on-site partnership school where she was completing her field-based experiences”

Carr Johnson has been teaching for more than five years, and she plans to become a college reading professor.

Carr Johnson, who is married to Jonathan Johnson, a Grambling State University alumnus working on a master’s in psychology at Prairie View A&M in Texas, has won many awards, including another teacher of the year award in 2010 at Carver Elementary in Arcadia, La.

“I reached a goal and I have set more goals for myself,” said Carr Johnson, noting that she is not satisfied because her work has been recognized. “All of my goals are geared toward my students and how I impact them. Receiving this award has made me feel more confident about my teaching.”

Jaggers is as proud as a mother: “This accomplishment truly reflects her exemplary skills, talents, hard work, professional attitude and the commitment that she consistently demonstrates toward promoting academic excellence.”
**MCJAMERSON RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE**

Dr. Nanthalia McJamerson is pleasantly surprised as she realizes invite is actually her surprise retirement party sponsored by curriculum and instruction. Ms. Melanie Monroe, the college "cake boss," made a specialized cake in her honor. Attendees included longtime colleagues and friends: Dr. A. K. Nur-Hassen, Dr. Elaine Foster, Dr. Loretta Jaggers, Ms. Genevia Jones, Ms. Gloria Rabon, and Dr. Kathryn Newman.

**EDUCATION MAJOR HELPS GSU QUIZ BOWL TEAM PLACE AND WIN $6,000**

Alexandrea Fenceroy, senior, special education major, helped the Grambling State University Quiz Bowl Team finish an all-time best 12th place and win $6,000 in prize money at the recent 25th Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge in Torrance, Calif.

Fenceroy and the team faced tough competition from Southern University, Jackson State University, Howard University, Spelman, Hampton University, Clark Atlanta University, and others. Earlier this year, the team finished fourth out of 15 teams at the Qualifying College Bowl Tournament held at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. Fenceroy is an honor student from Forney, Texas. She made the President's List for fall 2013. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society, and works as a counselor for the LA Gear Up summer program.

**OPENING DOORS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH PROMOTION MAJORS**

Kinesiology, Sport, and Leisure Studies hosts informational session to inform students of paid internships for minority students for health promotion majors. The session was coordinated by Dr. Martin Ayim, endowed professor and academic advisor for health promotion.

"There is a need for minorities to join and provide leadership in health promotion in their communities and nation," advised Dr. Owens, the featured presenter. "Thanks for taking time to meet with me and providing a forum to speak with your health promotion students. I truly enjoyed my trip to Grambling State University and speaking with the faculty and students. I am excited to see the enthusiasm and interests from your students for the internship program and hope the students apply for the internship program."

Owens' presentation was met with enthusiasm. "We are happy for this presentation and thankful to our academic advisor for taking interest in our careers," said Kadaren Walker.

Students presented Owens with Grambling State University memorabilia to show their gratitude.

**WILLIAMS-SMITH EMPLOYS MONETARY MOTIVATION FOR STUDENTS**

Dr. Doris Williams-Smith uses every motivational tool at her disposal, including money, to energize students at key testing times. The student with the highest test score is handsomely rewarded with $40.00, and classroom recognition.

According to Williams-Smith, the objective is not to pay students to do well, but to reward them for doing well. "As an instructor, I enjoy doing that little extra something that rewards my best-performing students while motivating others to do better," Williams-Smith said. "After all motivation is a key component to learning."
Farmer Building Scholarly Legacy, Eyes Even Greater Heights
BY JANET D. BRYANT

In nearly 25 years of service to Grambling State University, Dr. Vernon Farmer has distinguished himself as a true teaching professional by being an effective conduit for student matriculation, a capable administrator, an active participant in governance, and a studious creator of scholarly publication.

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Arts
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Master of Arts
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Doctor of Philosophy
Center for the Study of Higher Education
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Mich.

PUBLICATION AND RESEARCH
Farmer, in the past two decades, has served as follows:

Member, Editorial Board

Guest Editor

Member, Editorial Review Board
Educational Research Quarterly, (formerly at University of Southern California, now housed at Grambling State University), 1997-1998

Member, Advisory Board

Member, Advisory Board
Journal of Educational Reform (formerly at University of Western Kentucky, now housed at Grambling State University), 2002-2005

Member, Editorial Board

Farmer has published numerous reference books, book chapters, monographs, and journal articles. Collaboration has been the cornerstone of Farmer’s publications. He believes that as a senior professor, one of his roles is to help faculty enhance their research agenda. He has published with colleagues at Grambling State University and across the nation. In particular, he included Dr. Wilton Barham (1949-2010), professor, department of educational leadership, Grambling State University; Dr. Evelyn Wynn, assistant professor, department of English and foreign languages, Grambling State University; and Dr. Lisa-Pertillar-Brevard, professor of English, Walden University. Farmer has also developed a scholarly network with his former students to help them develop their research and publishing agenda.

The following excepts are from the publishers of Farmer’s selected books:

SERVICE AND ASSOCIATION
Moderator, Undergraduate and graduate research symposia
Member, National Board of Directors
Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists, 2014-
Selected Models of Developmental Education Programs in Higher Education (2001) is a book of developmental models that are based on defendable theories about how students grow and develop at all levels of the learning continuum. These models emphasize the theories and concepts that underlie developmental education as a field of practice and research with a theoretical foundation in developmental psychology and learning theory. The theory-based models consist of methods and techniques for implementing developmental education activities and ways of creating environments intended to improve developmental students’ learning outcomes. These models include a rationale, a theory that justifies the models and an explanation of how the models are designed. The rationale is supported by empirical evidence that the models work. These models were selected because they represent varied frames of reference toward educational goals and objectives. Therefore, this book is a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, educators, and practitioners seeking to improve developmental students’ learning outcomes in developmental education programs, in institutions of higher education.

Meeting the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Higher Education in the New Millennium (2002) is an important and significant contribution to cultural diversity in the field of higher education. This book is included in Wyndham Press’ Rhodes-Fulbright International Library Series. The Insightfulness of the authors takes us into the new millennium. The challenge of higher education in the new millennium to meeting the needs of culturally diverse students may be difficult for some to understand and even more difficult for others to accept. The works of these authors provide us with a means to analyze, discuss, reflect, and generate a new vision for the 21st century.

Teaching Culturally Diverse College Students in a Pluralistic Society (2002) is a book tailored designed to help teachers meet the challenges of cultural diversity in higher education. Teaching culturally diverse students in a pluralistic classroom is perhaps a more formidable challenge for faculty than at any time in our history. This book is included in Wyndham Press’ Rhodes-Fulbright International Library Series. The book offers answers to the complex issues of access, admission, retention and graduation of culturally diverse students. With the rapidly growing body of research of what works with culturally diverse students on college campuses, the works of these authors offer valuable teaching and learning approaches to meet the needs of this new student population.

The Black Student’s Guide to Graduate and Professional School Success (2003) is designed to help black students be successful in graduate and professional school. What are the models of success for black students in graduate and professional school careers? What should be expected and prepared for? What struggles lie ahead, and how have others overcome the obstacles? This guide is designed to help black students prepare for standardized tests, negotiate admissions, find a faculty mentor, choose a field of study, select the best curriculum, adjust to the campus, master technology, engage in research and publishing, secure graduate assistantships, develop a global identity, maintain black pride and self-esteem, and interact with other cultural groups.

Voices of Historical and Contemporary Black American Pioneers (2012) is an extraordinary four-volume work which is the first of its kind - a comprehensive exploration of the obstacles black men and women, both historic and contemporary, have faced and overcome to succeed in professional positions. Voices of Historical and Contemporary Black American Pioneer includes the life and career histories of black American pioneers, past and present, who have achieved extraordinary success in fields as varied as aviation and astronautics, education, social sciences, the humanities, the fine and performing arts, law and government, and medicine and science. The set four volumes cover well-known figures, but is also an invaluable source of information on lesser-known individuals whose accomplishments are no less admirable. Arranged by career category, each section of the work begins with a biographical narrative of early black pioneers in the field, followed by original interviews conducted by the editors or autobiographical narratives written by the subjects. In all, more than 150 scholars and professionals share inspiring insights into how they persevered to overcome racism and succeed in an often-hostile world.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS AND GOALS
Farmer’s forthcoming books are Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Diversity in Higher Education; Critical Race Theory in Higher Education; A Prelude to Developing Logical Thinking Skills; History and Philosophy of Developmental Education; Intellectual Ability and Academic Skills of High Achieving Black Americans; Fundamentals of Developmental Education: New Imperatives for Teaching and Research; and The Black Student’s Guide to Graduate and Professional School Success (2nd edition). In addition to Farmer’s book collection, is housed in the A. C. Lewis Memorial Library, Mary Watson Hymon Afro-American Resource Center, he also hopes to house his book collection in the proposed Center of Excellence in African American Studies if it is approved.
Lunes Gassant
Ruston, LA
B.A.: UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES, 2000
M.B.A.: UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES, 2002
Dissertation Title:
“Assessing Cultural Validity in Standardized Tests in STEM Education”
VERNON FARMER, PH.D.
Major Professor

Nara Martirosyan
Ruston, LA
B.S.: TATEV UNIVERSITY, 1999
M.S.: GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY, 2007
Dissertation Title:
“The Relationship Between Selected Satisfaction Measurement Dimensions And Student Satisfaction in Armenian Higher Education”
REUBENSON WANJOHI, ED.D.
Major Professor

Lawanda L. Sykes
Collinston, LA
B.S.: GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY, 2001
Dissertation Title:
“The Predictability of Demographic, Academic, and Institutional Factors on the Persistence and Academic Achievement Among Developmental Education Students”
ELLEN D. SMILEY, ED.D.
Major Professor
Commencement Services, Spring 2013

Cum Laude: 3.5-3.69  Magna Cum Laude: 3.7-3.89  Summa Cum Laude: 3.9-4.0

Jubilance in the Fredrick K. Hobdy Assembly Center: Graduates enthusiastically celebrate with confetti and joyful screams following the pronouncement that their class is officially graduated. The graduates’ celebration was greeted with thunderous applause from the audience filled with their family members and friends.

Master of Education
CAREY, BRANDY LILLIAN; Shreveport, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2010

Bachelor of Music Education
GOINS, QUATTIARA A.; Ruston, LA
SIMS, DILLIARD SR.; Tallulah, LA

Bachelor of Science
BORDERS, KATRINA SIMONE; Desoto, Texas
BROWN, VERONICA SHERRI; Monroe, LA
CONNER, ERMIA LOUISE; New Orleans, LA
GARNER, ADRIENNE LYNETTE; Ruston, LA
GARRISON, JAMECA REBECCA; Ferriday, LA
GOINS, CEDRIC D'SHAWN; Monroe, LA (cum laude)
GOODIN, CAMILLE NADIRCEH; San Diego, Calif.
GRAY, COURTNEY NICOLE; Grambling, LA
HAYES, SALEA PATRIE; Santa Monica, Calif.
HUNLEY, MARCUS LOUIS; Lee’s Summit, Mo.
MCMURRAY, PARIS RA’CHELL; Simsboro, LA
MOORE, MARQUESHA J. D.; New Orleans, LA (summa cum laude)
MURRAY, DONALD DEWAYNE; Tallulah, LA (cum laude)
OSBORNE, ANNESHA SHE’RAE; Quitman, LA
PETTIGREW, SHELETHIA V.; Arcadia, LA
SMITH, IAN SHANE; Ruston, LA
SMITH, NAQUAN QUENTIN; Atlanta, Ga.
STEWARD, ANGELICA LATRICE; Jonesboro, LA
TAYLOR, BRITTNY TAYONE; Minden, LA
THOMAS, CEDRIC DEON; Logansport, LA
WESTBROOK, CANDACE TANIEKA; Little Rock, AR
WHITE, CHARLES ONEAL; Ruston, LA
IN HER OWN WORDS

This journey to earn my doctorate degree has been eventful to say the least. It is defiantly not for the faint of heart. It has taken much self-determination and inner strength to remain focused on this purposeful accomplishment.

While pursuing my doctorate degree, I have gotten married, moved across the country, and had two beautiful active little girls. Time stops for no one and life happens. This degree was of the utmost importance to me, and I had to always keep that in the front of my mind, even when I had to attend to other responsibilities.

Along with the academic achievement, this has also taught me life lessons. Sometimes people and situations are put in your life to throw you off track, however when the going gets tough those same people and situations become hurdles that you must conquer. This has made me a stronger person and academic professional with clearer discernment. The result was my graduation in fall 2013 with my doctorate in Developmental Education with a concentration in Student Development and Personnel Services.

I am so grateful to my family, friends and colleagues for all of their assistance and encouragement.

Watch out world, here comes Dr. Raunda Williams, and I am so excited to see what happens next! Thank you, Lord.
Master of Education
FLOYD-TALBERT, ASHLEY NICOLE; Ruston, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2010
HILL, SHAKEYDRA EVYETTE; Homer, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2009
HUANG, YU FENG; Fu Zhou, China
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2011
JONES, ERNIE TERRELL; Ruston, LA
B.S.: Louisiana Tech University, 1998
LIVINGSTONE-MATHIS, DAPHNE; Ruston, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2011
MCCONNELL, NICHOLAS VASHUN; Monroe, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2007
MOODY, ROBERT M., III; Keithville, LA
B.S.: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 1995
ROBINSON, LATISHA EVETTE; Simsboro, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2003
STEVENS, MARTEZ DEJUAN; Monroe, LA
B.S.: Grambling State University, 2006

Bachelor of Arts
MURRAY, MIA SYMONE; Carson, CA* (cum laude)

Bachelor of Music Education
SCOTT, DANIZA RAECHELLE; El Dorado, AR
STONER, DERRICK GERARD; Houston, TX

Bachelor of Science
AKHIGBE, ESEOSA BLESSING; Dallas, TX
ALVAREZ, RAMIRO; Grambling, LA
BAUTISTA, RICHARD; Houston, TX
BEARD, DESHON L.; Euless, TX
BELTON, ZAHIRA; Jonesboro, LA* (cum laude)
BOATNER, JA'CARA JONNA; Monroe, LA
BONNER, CHARMAINE CHRISTINA; Detroit, MI
BROWN, JARREAU EVANS; Fayetteville, GA
BROWNLEE, KYERRA LA SHUN; Memphis, TN
BUTLER, JANEIKQUA ROLAYNE; Violet, LA
CALLOWAY, AVINUS D.; Bernice, LA
COLEMAN, KIMBERNIQUE SHANEESE; Springhill, LA
COLEMAN, KNAKITA SHANTTEL; Minden, LA** (magna cum laude)
COPELAND, DANIELLE AMANDA; Plano, TX* (cum laude)
DIXON, LATROCHILLIA ANQUINN; Alexandria, LA
EDAH-DIKE, ISI ASUA; New Orleans, LA
ELLIS, SHANEICE JASMINE; Shreveport, LA
EPTING, MASHI PEREZ; Monroe, LA
FANIEL-JONES, CAMERON D.; Los Angeles, CA
GARRISON, JAMECA REBECCA; Ferriday, LA
GRAHAM, AQUILLA MICHELLE; Ruston, LA
GRAHAM, CARITA LATRICE; Minden, LA
GREENE, RAINAH LYNNAI; Hercules, CA
HEWITT, DONOVAN CHARLES; Paradis, LA
HICKS, DESHONTE LEJUAN; Chatham, LA
IGLEHART, RAYFORD THOMAS II; Baton Rouge, LA
JACKSON, BETHANI LEANN; Las Vegas, NV
JOHNSON, SHANTEL D.; Raceland, LA
JOHNSON, TRACI LATRICE; Baton Rouge, LA
JONES, MARQUITTA M.; Vidalia, LA
MATTHEWS, LAKETHA RESHEAY; New Orleans, LA
MAYWEATHER, DORKEITRA RACHELE; Mansfield, LA
MCCARTY, JUSTIN A.; Grambling, LA
MOSELY, COURTNEY DANIELLE; Shreveport, LA
PEOPLES, BENNIE LEE JR.; Vicksburg, MS
PHILLIPS, VICTOR G.; Birmingham, Al.
QUARLES, JAS'RAYEAL KATESSA; Harvey, LA
RIMMEE, ERICA P.; Ruston, LA
SANDERS, ANGELICA DOMINIQUE; West Monroe, LA
SHEPHERD, ERIC DEVELL; Leesville, LA
SMITH, NATHANIEL NEE JR.; Live Oak, Fl.
SMITH, TYLER B.; San Antonio, TX
STEVENS, LA'TOYA MONIQUE; Lawrenceville, GA
THIBODEAUX, TRAVIS K.; Opelousas, LA
THOMAS, BRENTON B.; Logansport, LA
THOMAS, CHUNTELL K.; Ruston, LA
TURNER, CABRAYANA NICOLE; Austell, GA
TURNER, DAMARION MARTEZ; Monroe, LA
WASHINGTON, JONATHAN WILLIAM; Minden, LA
WASHINGTON, LUCAS ALCANTARA; Clayton, LA
WHITCOMB, SHELBI REANN; Omaha, NE** (magna cum laude)
WHITE, JUSTIN LOUIS; Merrillville, IN
WICKS, COURTNEY DE'JUAN; Ruston, LA
WOODS, ALYXANDREA L.; Ruston, LA
WRIGHT, JEREMY B.; Fort Lauderdale, FL
The Grambling State University 2013 Summer Transition Program academic component was designed to provide a one-week College Readiness and ACT prep program for students entering 11th and 12th grades. The program was designed to focus on the theme, “College Success Scholars: Pathways to ACT Mastery.” Program activities included interactive sessions on the College Readiness Standards for English, math, reading, and science. These activities and resources were directly related to the Common Core Standards and ACT’s College and Career Readiness System.

The instructional specialists provided diverse activities and resources that related to the Common Core Standards and ACT’s College and Career Readiness System. The four ACT Prep instructors are specialists in their specific focus area, and they designed and used ACT Prep Instructional Modules to guide the implementation of activities for their specific focus area according to the description outlined in the reference, “Alignment of Common Core and ACT’s College and Career Readiness System, June 2010”. (http://www.act.org/commoncore/pdf/common).

The project director and the ACT instructional specialists met continuously in April, May, and June to plan and prepare activities and resources for the ACT Prep Instructional Modules. The four ACT Prep sessions follow:

1) ACT: Pathways to English Mastery;
2) ACT: Pathways to Science Mastery;
3) ACT: Pathways to Reading Mastery;
4) ACT: Pathways to Math Mastery.

The instructional specialists provided content-based instruction and related test-taking strategies to help promote mastery on the ACT and enhance self-confidence. The ACT prep sessions also included multimedia interactive activities that provided opportunities for the students to apply and transfer the knowledge and skills presented in the content-based standards for each focus area. Each student was given an ACT prep study Packet to use during the ACT prep sessions and for review after the program ends.

The ACT prep experiences started for the LA GEAR UP participants on the day they arrived at Grambling State University. On arrival day (July 14, 2013), they completed the ACT Pre-test. The following day, (July 15, 2013), they completed the ACT On-Line Prep Diagnostic Test. After completing that test, each student printed out their ACT Study Path. The ACT Prep experiences continued as they actively participated in the Pathways to ACT Mastery Workshops throughout the week. On July 20, 2013, they completed the ACT Post-test prior to leaving GSU to return home.

The tutoring component in the afternoon served to reinforce the basic concepts presented during the morning session and provide opportunities for participants to apply test-taking strategies to the actual style of the test. To address diverse learning needs and provide accommodations, differentiated instructional strategies and materials were incorporated into the tutorial sessions led by Dr. Elaine Foster, tutoring coordinator.

Other components of the program included Pathfinder/Financial Assistance Workshop activities presented by State LA GEAR staff and representatives from the GSU Admissions and Financial Aid Offices. The leadership component provided participants opportunities to identify and discuss specific skills and characteristics important to build successful leaders.

Students had a variety of opportunities to experience college life as they lived in the dormitories, ate in the dining hall, and participated in multi-media Pathways to ACT Mastery workshops. These workshops were taught in University labs and university classroom settings by university professors and/or public school teachers. They also had an opportunity to experience various career opportunities as they participated in diverse multi-media activities during the Explorer’s Club component. The Pathfinder activities also served to provide additional information about successfully preparing to attend college. These activities focused on admission requirements for GSU and ways to secure financial aid to assist in attending college. The program activities were also designed to promote effective leadership skills through participation in interactive role-play activities that were designed to emphasize strong leadership characteristics. There were various recreational activities culminating with a tour of the Eddie Robinson Museum on Friday morning followed by a field-trip to Sciport, Shreveport, La. The transition program ended with a graduation dinner/dance later that evening.
DEAN FLANNAGAN SELECTS BRYANT TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

BY DR. NANTHALIA MCJAMERSON

Bryant with GSU president, Dr. Frank Pogue.

For years Ms. Janet Bryant has used the art of journalism to celebrate, pay homage to, and acknowledge the work of members of the College of Education faculty and staff. It is her turn. Often great powerhouses are fueled and sustained by quiet, unsung currents, and Ms. Bryant is one of those. First, we can acknowledge her varied professional tasks. As Coordinator of the Educational Resource Center, she is responsible for the care and maintenance of the computers and office equipment. She is sometimes labeled a “stickler” because of her efficiency with those responsibilities. She makes the connection between handling business detail and providing excellent service to faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students.

In addition to the supervisory, organizational, and maintenance responsibilities, she seems to take great care in her publication roles. As publisher for the College of Education magazine, Insight Today, in particular, Ms. Bryant has displayed a mastery of the English language, professional and poetic, in reporting the important work of the College.

Wearing many “hats” such as photographer, typist, writer, and editor, she has produced excellent work that makes all of us “look good”. For the LaGEAR UP Magazine, Bryant has brought acclaim for Grambling State University at the state level for years. In addition to quality production and a strong work ethic that keep her at work for many hours beyond the call of duty, the manner in which she does the work is impressive. When she publishes the various newsletters and magazines, the recognitions are all-inclusive. No one is left out. Her words elevate us and validate our achievements. Finally, Bryant is deserving of this recognition because her visual skills, strategies, and gifts make her work not only speak but also inspire!

JONES CONTINUED

Jones’ service reaches beyond the confines of the campus and its institutions. She was recently a guest at a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) meeting in Monroe, La. “There is a thrust to get more personnel from Louisiana colleges and universities involved, so that more students can be aided,” Jones said. “There were testimonies of how legislators have been proactive in procuring medications for patients in Louisiana that were formerly not available. There was extensive discussion concerning the legislation that was passed to combine mental illness and substance abuse under the same umbrella. I agreed to notify Grambling State University’s Counseling Center, School of Social Work, College of Education, and Department of Psychology of upcoming events.”

Jones earned a bachelor of arts degree in social welfare from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1973; a master of education in guidance and counseling from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1986; and worked toward a doctor of education degree in developmental education with a specialization in student development and personnel services, 1987-1991, completing all required work except dissertation and doctoral comprehensive.

Before becoming a full-time employee in 1989, Jones worked as a graduate assistant in 1987 and was a participant in the Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship Program, 1988-1989.

In 1991, Jones also served as a summer intern for the GRE Program Direction sponsored by Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, N.J. She assisted in the development of a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test preparation workshop slide presentation, reviewed and reacted to pertinent GRE published research documents, attended seminars regarding all facets of operations of ETS.

Jones is the mother of three: two daughters and one son; she has one grandson. The late Janell LaShea Jones, daughter, graduated from Grambling State University in 1987. Her son, Lovell Jones, Jr, Ed.D., attended Grambling State University briefly in 1995 before joining the United States Navy. Lovell Jones earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Maryland University College in 2005; a master’s degree from American InterContinental University in 2008; and doctor of education degree from Argosy University in 2014—“Blue to Grey: An Exploratory Study of Military vs. Civilian Leadership” was his dissertation title. Most of his education was pursued simultaneously with his military service.

Today, Lovell Jones serves the Battle Watch Analyst for Command, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, Region Operations Center, in Naples, Italy. He is a senior Battle Watch Supervisor providing oversight for the Battle Watch Team that supports seven Navy installations in five countries. He is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in the field of Education.

Ms. Genevia Jones, it appears, has the right stuff in the home as well as on the job.
Feedback about 2010-2012 follow-up edition
Kudos to the College of Education! Wonderful magazine, very interesting with many well deserved accolades for your faculty, students, stuff, and alumni! Sorry to see many of your excellent faculty have retired, such as Dr. Nanthali McJamerson and of course the loss of Dr. Jimmy McJamerson. The M and M duo will certainly be missed. Please keep us informed on the good works of the COE and its students. You make GSU proud.

Carolyn Collier
Interim Director, Alumni Affairs
Grambling State University

The COE Magazine is indeed a scholarly masterpiece! It is an excellent body of work that shows a great deal of time and effort went into the publication. Keep up the good work. Ms. Bryant, congratulations on a job well done!

Evelyn Wynn, Professor of English
Grambling State University

Insight Today is one of the most intuitive and inspirational magazines that I have read in a long time. I’ve even shared it with my co-workers. Thank you very much for sharing it with me.

Edith Robinet
Modesto, Calif.

After reading the College of Education’s beautiful scholarly magazine, I congratulate you on your Magnum Opus!

Vernon Farmer, Professor of Education
Grambling State University

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB FIELD DAY, Ruston, La.: Students participated in races, relays, obstacle courses, sack races, three-legged races, and egg-in-spoon races. Sonic provided water for the students.

ALMA J. BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD DAY: (1) Field Day was dedicated to the memory of our late great coach, Eddie “Coach Rob” Robinson, who is the second winningest football coach in NCAA, division one history, with a 408-165-15 record, spanning 57 years (1941-1997). (2) Coach Rob’s grandson, Eddie Robinson, III, was the special invited guest. The younger Robinson stayed for the entire event, talked to the students, and answered questions. (2) Subsequently, students toured the Eddie Robinson Museum on the campus of Grambling State University, and learned the history of the celebrated coach. Field Day activities were officially co-hosted by Mrs. Wilson and sponsored by Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La., and Community Trust Bank; Mr. Joshua Jason, Heavenly Hands Barbershop; provided meals for teachers, staff, and volunteers. (8) Students majoring in Kinesiology and others served as volunteers and assisted with activities.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: (4) Mrs. Sheila Moore was selected as Alma J. Brown’s volunteer of the year. Malone served in various of voluntary positions, and as an educator continues to be a great resource, such as tutor, teacher program assistant, after-school program assistant, and bulletin board developer.

SATURDAY MATH ACADEMY: (5) Sessions were held on Saturdays from 9AM to 12PM and targeted to help students who had deficient math scores on standardized tests. The academy proved to be quite successful, because parents sacrificially ensured their children’s attendance, and the children were very eager to learn. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., members volunteered their service. Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La., provided pizza, juice, and dessert on the final Saturday.

SCHOOL GARDEN: Students planted a garden on campus.

GO GREEN AWARD: Sponsored by Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Adopt-a-School program, the award was given in recognition of the school garden; students planted and have harvested collard greens, carrots, and kale. In addition to the recognition, the school was given a plaque and gift card. Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La., provided inspiration by visiting the school garden.

DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education): (6) Fifth grade students participated in Dare graduation exercises, sponsored by Lincoln Parish Deputy Hoenke, and Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La.

DONATIONS: (7) Dr. Evelyn, professor of English, Grambling State University, donated books, works of art, and videos. Wynn’s daughter, Jordan, is a graduate of Grambling State University Laboratory schools.

FIELD TRIP: At the invitation of Grambling State University art department, students viewed exhibits featuring high school student artists. Alma J. Brown students were extremely excited to see work from artists that actually know.

OUR LAB SCHOOLS: GRAMBLING HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER ROBOTICS PROGRAM
Four Grambling State University Laboratory School (GSULS) juniors participated in the on-campus Minority Research Project. The program, made possible by a grant awarded to Dr. Y. B. Reddy, provided teachers and students with an opportunity to build, program, and present information about Vex Robots.

Jalen Ferguson, Jonathan Antee, Trace Payne, and Psnefra Wills (above) represented GSULS; Melanie Colvin and Candace Westbrook, teachers at GSULS, also participated.

SOAR 1 PROGRAM
Demarious Combs, junior, Grambling Laboratory High School, was accepted to Xavier University’s SOAR1 program. The Stress On Analytical Reasoning (SOAR1) program prepares students in analytical reasoning and provides early exposure to science/health careers. Demarious will be staying on Xavier University’s campus in New Orleans, La., in July 2014, to participate in the program.

Special Thanks to
Ms. Greta Carter
Daughter of Dr. Lamore Carter
Ms. Sarah Hassen
Acquisitions Librarian/Assistant Professor
A.C. Lewis Library
Mrs. Patricia Jenkins-Hutcherson
University Registrar
Mr. Glenn Lewis
University Photography/Yearbook
Mrs. Li Wang
University Information Technology

OUR LAB SCHOOLS: ALMA J. BROWN ELEMENTARY

Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La., provided pizza, juice, and dessert on the final Saturday.

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OUR LAB SCHOOLS: ALMA J. BROWN ELEMENTARY

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DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education): (6) Fifth grade students participated in Dare graduation exercises, sponsored by Lincoln Parish Deputy Hoenke, and Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, True Care Dental, Grambling, La.

DONATIONS: (7) Dr. Evelyn, professor of English, Grambling State University, donated books, works of art, and videos. Wynn’s daughter, Jordan, is a graduate of Grambling State University Laboratory schools.

FIELD TRIP: At the invitation of Grambling State University art department, students viewed exhibits featuring high school student artists. Alma J. Brown students were extremely excited to see work from artists that actually know.