

# TIGER HAPPENINGS

*"Where everybody is somebody."*



Volume 2, Issue 2, January 30, 2015

## GSU Kicks Off Green Initiative With Recycle Mania

Grambling State University celebrated the launch of its new recycling program with a Recycle Mania event with free food, games and giveaways made from recyclable materials in Favrot Student Union on January 22. Grambling is partnering with Pratt Industries, a company with recycling and recovery facilities in eight states. The recycling initiative, which began November 15, currently has four recycling bins on campus. An additional eight will be placed on campus by the beginning of March.



Sixteen Grambling Middle School and High School students also promoted recycling awareness by participating in an art contest where the art was created entirely out of recyclable materials. In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the students focused on art commemorating important events in black history. The winner of the art contest is Braniya Moran, a ninth grader, who won first place for her piece "Black History Around the World." Second place went to Sean Morris, an eighth grader, for "Rosa Parks on the Bus," while Shun Minnifield, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, received third place for "The First Light Bulb."



Dr. Cynthia Warrick, Ph.D., RPH  
Interim President

### President's Corner

Happy Black History Month at Grambling State University! We are kicking off February with the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Leadership Awards Luncheon on Feb. 5 in the Black and Gold Room at 11 a.m. We are honoring community leaders under the following categories: Fannie Lou Hamer Community Service & Leadership Award, Alvin Ailey Arts & Letters Award, and Thurgood Marshall Justice Award. The luncheon speaker will be U.S. Attorney Stephanie Finley, who directs the Western District of Louisiana. Tickets are available at \$15 and can be purchased by calling (318)274-2217.

February is a busy month for GSU. Numerous activities are scheduled, including the Grambling State University Choir Winter Gala scheduled for the evening of Feb. 12, and a Shreveport Leadership Breakfast honoring Coach Broderick Fobbs, the SWAC Football Coach of the Year. We will close the month by participating in the Black College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta on Feb. 28, when GSU Alumnus Ernie "Big Cat" Ladd will be inducted posthumously into the Class of 2015. Ladd, who died in 2007, was a 4-time AFL All Star and played for the San Diego Chargers, Houston Oilers, and Kansas City Chiefs. [\(read more\)](#)

## GSU Unites and Gives to United Way

Grambling State University has closed out its 2014 United Way Campaign in style by donating over \$12,000. GSU was able to raise money by having over 10 departments with a 100 percent participation rate. Grambling State University has a long history of being a community leader in giving. [\(read more\)](#)



## The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Leadership Awards Luncheon

Thursday, February 5, 2015  
Favrot Student Union  
Black and Gold Room  
11:00 a.m.



### Upcoming 2014-15 SWAC Men and Women Basketball Home Games

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
- PINE BLUFF  
01.31.15  
3:00 P.M. & 5:00 P.M.



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY  
STATE  
02.02.15  
5:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.



Grambling State University  
403 Main Street  
Grambling, Louisiana 71245  
Phone: 318.247.3811 Toll Free:  
800.569.4714

# SHOW YOUR STRIPES

*Showcasing Gramblinites who shine.*



## GSU Alum "Serves" In Style



Former GSU student Dalan J. Sharpe

Owner of Sharpe Signature Service-  
Event Management

Things were not always easy for Grambling State University alumnus, Dalan Sharpe, but he didn't let that stop him from setting very high standards for himself at an early age. At 11 years old, Sharpe spent a night helping his father, James, a waiter at Carriage House restaurant in Fort Worth, Texas, wash hundreds of dirty dishes during a Westover Hills house party.

Sharpe said his father wanted something much better for him because he knew that his job was extremely demanding. Many people say that you have to be a great follower to become an outstanding leader, but Sharpe swore from that night of scrubbing in the kitchen that he would never follow in his father's footsteps.

Sharpe's father continued to lead by example by bringing Sharpe along to help serve and clean at house parties. He pushed his son to perform to the best of his abilities at whatever he was trying to accomplish.

Receiving an education was imperative in this family, and Sharpe's father made sure that he had the opportunity to receive a quality education. ([read more](#))

## Former GSU Coach Earns NFL Head Coaching Position



Former GSU Coach Todd Bowles  
answering questions after Arizona  
Cardinal's Game

A former Grambling State University football coach has been named head coach of the New York Jets. Todd Bowles worked as a defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach at Grambling State University in 1998 and 1999. The new job is somewhat of a homecoming for Bowles, who also worked as a secondary coach for the Jets in 2000 after he left Grambling.

The former NFL star has coached for six NFL teams, including the Jets, Cleveland Browns, Dallas Cowboys, Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles and Arizona Cardinals. This is also not his first stint as head coach. After working as the Miami Dolphins secondary coach and assistant head coach for four seasons, Bowles was named interim head coach after Tony Sparano was fired in December 2011. Bowles signed a four-year contract with the Jets on January 14.

## Sociology Professor Leads GSU's Recruiting Efforts

Matthew Sheptoski, an assistant professor of sociology, loves working at Grambling State University, and he wants to give high school students from his former home of Miami, Florida, the opportunity to experience Grambling for themselves. While he was a social sciences teacher at Lawrence Academy Charter School in Miami-Dade County, Sheptoski does not recall seeing college recruiters from other states visiting the school. He felt a need to fill that role by encouraging students in the Miami area to look at out-of-state options like GSU.

During his first semester at Grambling, Sheptoski organized a recruiting trip to six high schools in Miami-Dade County during December 2013. He returned to five of those schools during his second recruiting trip from December 15-17, 2014, and returned with the contact information for 87 potential Gramblinites. The entire trip was completed for only \$480, proving that Successful recruiting trips can be done on a budget. ([read more](#))

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

Questions, additions or comments? Contact [mediarelations@gram.edu](mailto:mediarelations@gram.edu) or call 318-274-2866.