

# TIGER HAPPENINGS

*"Where everybody is somebody."*



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## Grambling Begins 2015 United Way Campaign



**Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.**  
President

### President's Corner

College success? It will not happen without purpose, intentionality and sacrifice. Today, I feel like "fussing" while standing on my soapbox. I feel compelled to remind everyone that Grambling State University is a serious place, where learning and scholarship is and **always should be everyone's** top priority. Yet, we have a number of students who directly and indirectly impact other students by not taking the enterprise of scholarship seriously. In this treatise, I want to appeal to our students to think with honor and integrity. ([read more](#))



**Grambling State University**  
403 Main Street  
Grambling, Louisiana 71245

**Grambling State University administrators and faculty members toured United Way's partner agencies to open Grambling's United Way Campaign on Oct. 19.**

Grambling State University kicked off its annual United Way Campaign to raise money for the many non-profit organizations that help improve lives and communities in Northeast Louisiana. Since 2007, Grambling State University has participated in the giving campaign for United Way. With your help, we can assist the youth and elderly in our community! Donations are being accepted until Nov. 6, so make your pledge today!

"Grambling State University is a giving community, which makes our involvement in the annual United Way Giving Campaign even more important. Each dollar goes a long way, and I encourage every member of the GramFam to stand tall and make this year's campaign the most successful ever!" President Willie Larkin said. ([read more](#))

## Get Ready for the Red River State Fair Classic!

The Grambling State University Tigers, the only remaining undefeated team in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (6-2,6-0 SWAC), will face the Tigers of Texas Southern University in the Red River State Fair Classic at Shreveport's Independence Stadium at 2 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Game-day activities include tailgating, a parade at noon from the Fairground Baseball Field to Independence Stadium, kickoff at 2 p.m. and the Battle of the Bands halftime performance. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or at Grambling Ticket Office, Independence Stadium, Shreveport Federal Credit Union or the State Fair of Louisiana. For more information, visit <http://redriverstatefairclassic.com>.



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## GSU Men's Cross Country Team Named 2015 SWAC Champions



Grambling State University Men's Cross Country Team won the 2015 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship on Oct. 24. With 61 points, it is the team's first SWAC title since 2011.

"It was a really tough competition," said Head Cross Country Coach Bertram Lovell. "It was much closer than I thought, but the guys kept saying all semester that we were going to win this. They worked very hard all semester. I am really proud of those guys."

Grambling was led by freshman Hassan Chepkwony, who finished first with a time of 25:56.81. Chepkwony was also honored as the 2015 Men's

Cross Country Athlete of the Year and was named to the 2015 All-SWAC Men's Cross Country First Team. Chepkwony was also named the SWAC Cross Country Runner of the Week six times this season.

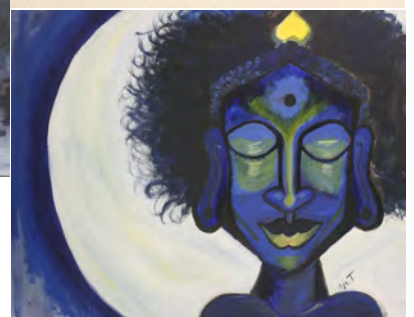
Along with Chepkwony, sophomore Montieco Harris finished fourth to also earn first-team All-SWAC honors. Student athletes were not the only ones to take home honors as Coach Lovell was named SWAC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year, who stated that all the honor should go to the student athletes for their hard work this season. ([read more](#))

## Student Artwork Accepted into the Juried Parish Press Exhibition

Three pieces of artwork by Grambling State University students have been accepted into the Juried Parish Press Exhibition. Aja Taylor, a junior art major, had two acrylic paintings accepted into the exhibition, while senior Destiny Tuesno's graphite drawing, "Daddy," was also accepted. Tuesno's drawing is a tribute to her late father who passed earlier this year.

"My piece 'Daddy' is a portrait of my father who passed away this February. This also was my inspiration for creating it as well. Although I was sad, I didn't cry much. It was my way of working through what I drew," she said. "I was thrilled when I was accepted into the show, because it was the very first non-school art show I've ever attempted to be a part of."

Taylor's pieces, "Rose From Darkness" and "State of Meditation," were inspired by two African American women struggling to find peace. "Meditation and peace play a huge role in my life, ([read more](#))



**Above: Rose From Darkness by Aja Taylor. Top Right: Daddy by Destiny Tuesno. Bottom Right: State of Meditation by Aja Taylor.**

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## Students Win Employment Opportunities in First Cisco Invitational Sales Competition



**Pictured from left to right are Scott McGregor, Otto Meyers, III, Erick Valentine, Kenneth Tanner, Zana Hall, Greta Carter, Vel Malone and Donald White.**

Two Grambling State University students have won exclusive employment opportunities by coming out on top of the first Cisco Invitational Sales Competition at Grambling State University.

Zana Hall, a junior engineering technology major, won a summer internship with Cisco Systems.

"The Cisco Sales Competition was an invaluable experience for showing what to expect when dealing with real-life situations as a sales representative for a company," Hall said. "The competition was very intense as you had to sell the customer into going to the next step in purchasing a solution to meet their needs. Participating in the role-play scenario and receiving positive feedback from the Cisco representative and GSU faculty members on how to improve your selling skills was immeasurable. I'm thankful to Dr. Olusegun Adeyemi for nominating me!"

Meanwhile, Kenneth Tanner, a senior marketing and computer information systems major, has earned advanced placement in the hiring process for full-time employment at CISCO Systems and consideration for the CISCO Sales Associate Program.

"I am very excited, and I am ready to see what is next. By me winning, I get to skip three rounds of interviews, and I get to go to the last round of interviews to compete for a full-time position," he said.

The Cisco Invitational Sales Competition is a dynamic, one-day sales competition that challenges top university students to engage in a sales conversation with a potential customer. The discovery round tested each student's ability to ask effective questions, build rapport and identify the customers' business issues. ([read more](#))

# SHOW YOUR STRIPES

*Showcasing Gramblinites who shine.*



## Bedford Named Project Leader for North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has appointed Maury Bedford, a graduate of Grambling State University, as the new leader for the five National Wildlife Refuges in North Louisiana. He will be in charge of D'Arbonne, Upper Ouachita, Handy Brake, Black Bayou Lake, and Red River National Wildlife Refuges.

Bedford started in September and says he wants to follow in the footsteps of managers before him to promote the National Wildlife Refuge System, and keep the community and residents of North Louisiana well informed of the benefits of wildlife conservation. He wants to expand and develop new ideas to work alongside other partners for conservation and wildlife-related recreational opportunities like hunting, fishing, and birdwatching.

**"In my youth, I worked on the family farm, hunted and fished the hills of Lincoln Parish, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to get a job doing something I loved to do," said Bedford. "Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on National Wildlife Refuges has proven to be the best thing I can do to combine my passion for wildlife and conservation with my education and training."**



**Maury Bedford**

For the last three years, Bedford has served in the Regional Office in Atlanta, first as assistant deputy chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, then as the deputy refuge supervisor and acting refuge supervisor for Florida and the Caribbean.

"Maury Bedford's wide array of experiences across Southeast field stations and then leadership roles at a regional level in Atlanta make him very well qualified for the job," said David Viker, regional chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. ([read more](#))

## Three 2015 Grambling Grads Serve in Teach for America

Three 2015 graduates of Grambling State University are making the world a better place by joining the Teach for America program. Christina Ubaka, who is teaching in southern Louisiana, Selvan Ambrose, who is teaching in Arkansas, and Kevin Rhodes, who is teaching in Cincinnati, Ohio, are among 4,100 teachers who were selected from more than 44,000 applicants to join the ranks of Teach for America in 2015.



The program works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunities for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity. This year's corps is among the most diverse in the organization's history. ([read more](#))

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

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