



### From... Dean Connie Walton

We are excited to share with you highlights from this college and provide updates! This issue features a story about a student in our Child Development Laboratory School. Many do not realize that the Family and Consumer Sciences department manages a laboratory school that supports our degree program in Child Development. This school accommodates three and four year olds and is licensed by the state of Louisiana.



The Charles L. Brooks Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established! The faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences has committed to raising \$10,000 over the next five years. The funds will be generated from the annual Charles L. Brooks talent extravaganza, as well as from donations made by our supporters. These funds will be used to provide scholarships to deserving students who are pursuing an undergraduate major in liberal arts or to students who are participating in a study abroad program.

To make donations, mail checks to my office and make payable to the Grambling State University Black & Gold Foundation. Mailing address:

College of Arts & Sciences  
GSU Box 4260  
Grambling, LA 71245

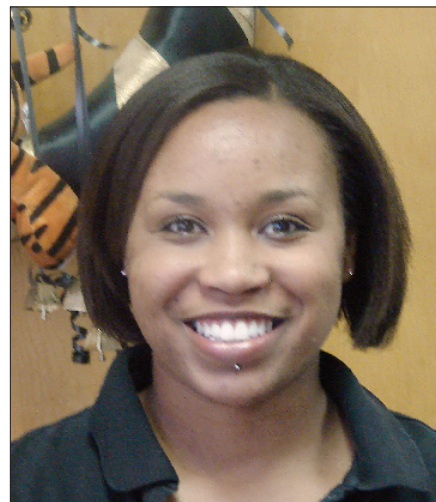
## Perfect GRE score in Mathematics: accepted to Harvard

**T**alea Mayo recently received notification that she had earned a perfect score of 800 on the mathematics portion of the Graduate Record Examination. During this same time, she received a communication from Harvard University informing her of the fact that she had been admitted to their School of Engineering and Applied Sciences' Ph.D. program.

Talea attended high school in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She was introduced to Grambling State University at a young age when her mother pointed out the Tiger Marching Band. She chose to attend GSU as a result of its strength in academic programs, its location, and her receipt of a full scholarship.

She began her studies during the fall of 2004 as a criminal justice major. Talea's love for mathematics resulted in her enrolling in a Calculus III course during her first semester, even though this course was not required in her major. Dr. Sharma, teacher for the class, quickly noticed this freshman in a class of juniors and seniors. She had a passion for mathematics and exceptional abilities. Dr. Sharma soon convinced Talea to change her major to mathematics.

As a mathematics major, Talea continues to distinguish herself. She currently has a 3.97 grade point average, which was maintained while particip-



Talea Mayo  
ating in the Tiger Marching Band, the Concert Band, and the Minority Access for Research Careers (MARC) program.

Talea has participated in three summer internships. She choose internships that would broaden her exposure to mathematics applied to different areas of science.

Talea has been admitted to applied mathematics graduate programs at Harvard University with a full fellowship, Rice University, The University of Iowa, University of Colorado at Boulder, and The University of Texas-Austin. She is scheduled to graduate May 2008 from GSU.

Talea is the daughter of Pamela and Frank Isom and Tony Mayo.

### Mayo Summer Internships

- Summer Multicultural Access to Research Training (SMART) program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, summer 2005-Genetic Networks.
- Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in Boulder, CO, summer 2006-Correlation between Precipitable Water Vapor and Hurricane Intensity.
- Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Undergraduate Program (MSRI-UP) at MSRI in Berkeley, CA, summer 2007-Computational Math, Supernova Recognition/Classification.

## Chemistry major receives UNCF Merck Research Scholarship Award

**E**ual Abraham Phillips, Jr., chemistry major, was awarded a \$25,000 United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship for the 2008/2009 academic year. This Scholarship award is competitive and open to underrepresented groups pursuing degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics. Fifteen undergraduate awards were made for the 2008/2009 academic year.

As a scholarship recipient, Eual will attend the “Fellows Day” that will be held in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania on June 21- 25, 2008. Additionally, he will work alongside a Merck Scientist at a Merck Research Laboratory during the summers of 2008 and 2009. Eual will receive additional compensation for the summer experiences.

As a component of this Research Scholarship Award, the chemistry department is eligible to apply for a research award not to exceed \$10,000. These funds will be used to support Eual’s involvement in a research project at GSU.



*Eual Abraham Phillips, Jr.*

Eual is from Bakersfield, California and is classified as a junior. He is the son of GSU Alumni, Mr. Eual Phillips, Sr. and Mrs. Lorraine Walker.

## Biological Science Club attends Student National Medical Association Conference

During the weekend of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, nine (9) Grambling State University student members of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) and two faculty attended a two-day conference at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. This conference was sponsored by the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Region III. Conference participants attended sessions on Mastering the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT); Composing the Personal Statement; The Application Process; Cultivating Mentorships; Medical Subspecialties; Clinical Skills (Suturing); and Financing a Medical Education. The conference also provided information on dual MD-Ph.D. programs and research career opportunities available in the Biomedical and Bioenvironmental sciences. During the conference, several of the GSU-MAPS students participated in a mock MCAT session. Others were involved in community service projects at the Salvation Army and the New Orleans Mission.

The Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students is an affiliate of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The SNMA is a national organization and was

established in 1964. MAPS represents undergraduate and post-baccalaureate student members of SNMA. The GSU chapter of MAPS was established in 2006. Drs. Benjamin Martin and Milford Greene serve as advisors.



*Front L-R Gencie Leonard, Sherray Williams, LaCresha Nix, Tomasina Morgan-Moore, Rosa Maria Smith, and Tia Williams; Rear L-R, Daniel Nwachokor, Gerard Hills, and Kenneth Gerald, Jr. (Not pictured: Dr. Milford Greene and Mrs. Carolyn Bradford, Biological Science faculty)*



## Physics students present at technical conferences

Johnte Bass, sophomore physics major, placed second in the poster competition during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences (LAS). This meeting was held on March 14, 2008 on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Undergraduate students at universities throughout the state of Louisiana were invited to participate in poster and oral competitions by submitting abstracts on the results of their research in science, mathematics, and engineering. LAS



Johnte Bass and Jessica Harris

reviewed the abstracts and selected students to participate in the competition. Johnte's abstract on the *Preparation and Characterization of Sol-gel Alumina Supported Bimetallic Nanocatalysts for WGS Reaction* was selected. The research that he described is being conducted on GSU's campus under the guidance of Dr. Naidu Seetala, professor of physics, and is funded by a grant received from the Department of Energy (DOE). Jessica Harris, senior physics major, was also selected to present at this meeting. Her topic was *Building Optical Spectroscopic Datacubes of Infrared-luminous Galaxies*, research that was conducted at Vanderbilt University.

Two Grambling State University students, Nenian Charles and Siele Towett, and several Louisiana Tech University students accompanied Dr. Pedro Derosa, assistant professor of physics, to the American Physical Society (APS) Meeting that was held March 11-13<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. Over 7,000 people were



Nenian Charles and Siele Towett

in attendance. Siele, a senior engineering technology major, gave a presentation on the *Stability of Point Defects in SrTiO<sub>3</sub> Substrates during Thin Film Deposition*. Nenian Charles, junior physics major, presented at the annual meeting of the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society that was held in New Orleans during the same time as the APS meeting. His presentation focused on the *Monte Carlo Simulation Model for Charge Transport in Polymers*. Both of these research projects were done under the direction of Dr. Derosa, who has a joint faculty appointment with Grambling State University and Louisiana Tech University.

## Laboratory School student participates in Art Show



Angel Simmons

Angel Simmons, a four year old student of the Grambling State University Child Development Laboratory School was honored by the Multicultural Center of the South (Shreveport, LA) as the Little Tyke Artist for the month of March. Angel's artwork was recognized as a part of the *National Read Across America Dr. Seuss Birthday Project*.

Angel's art exhibit debuted Saturday, March 8, 2008, followed by a reception that was attended by family, friends, and board members of the Multicultural Center of the South. Angel was presented awards; her favorite was the cake with her picture. Her art was on public exhibit during the months of March and April.

Dr. Glenda Island (Acting Department

Head of Family and Consumer Sciences) and Ms. Priscilla Metoyer of the Multicultural Center of the South coordinated the art project.

Angel's mother, Johnetta Davis, and her grandmother, Bennie Thompson, are alumni of Grambling State University. Angel says, "I want to go to Grambling like my mom and grandmother and learn to be an artist."



Angel displays art

## Alumnus shares experience during CMAST Seminar

On February 18, 2008, Dr. Melvina Martin was a featured scientist as a part of the Center for Mathematical Achievement in Science & Technology (CMAST) Seminar Series. Dr. Martin is a 1997 graduate of the Biological Science program at Grambling State University. The seminar audience consisted of students, faculty, and retirees.

Dr. Martin's presentation focused on the journey she has taken since graduating from Grambling. She encouraged students to be open to different experiences, suggesting that this could open the door for many other opportunities. Dr. Martin indicated that as a result of the encouragement of Dr. Allen Miles, the then coordinator of GSU's Louisi-

ana Alliance for Minority Participation (LAMP) program, she participated in a summer research experience at Tulane University. She credited this experience as a pivotal part of being accepted into the graduate program at Tulane. Dr. Martin recounted how her commitment to complete the Ph.D. program was tested when she had to relocate due to Hurricane Katrina. She ended her presentation by advising students to believe in themselves and encouraged each to obtain a mentor.

Upon graduating from Grambling State University, Dr. Martin entered a graduate program in the Cellular and Molecular Biology department at Tulane University. In 2000, she completed the requirements for the Master of



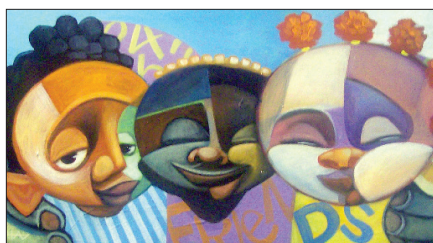
*Dr. Melvina Martin, center, and students*

Science degree in Toxicology, and in 2006 she was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Molecular & Cellular Biology. Currently, she is serving as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Health's National Cancer Institute.

## Alumnus returns to GSU for exhibition

As the opening event for the Celebration of the Arts, Grambling State University's Dunbar Gallery featured an exhibition of art work by Cbabi Bayoc, a 1995 graduate of the Art program. In 1997, he changed his name from Clifford Miskell to Cbabi (pronounced Kuh-bob-bi), Creative Black Artist Battling Ignorance, because he wanted a name that always reminded him of his purpose in life. After meeting his wife, he added a last name Bayoc, which stands for Blessed African Youth of Creativity.

Now residing in St. Louis, Missouri,



*Artwork by Cbabi, Best Friends*

Cbabi has established a reputation as an important young African American Artist. After a summer stint as a caricature artist at Six Flags, Cbabi began to publish monthly illustrations in Rap Pages Magazine. Various musicians, including Prince, have used Cbabi's caricature work on album covers and in music videos. His illustrative work and his caricatures have been commissioned by Coca-Cola, Anheuser-Busch, and SIDS Resource. Cbabi's work is included in the permanent collections of Rhode Island College, Southwestern Illinois College, and numerous other private organizations. He has illustrated two children's books, one that promotes early childhood learning and one that addresses issues of a young child growing up in the inner city.

According to Donna McGee, Head of the Art department, "Cbabi's work is very popular with our current art majors. Part of the reason for his popula-



*Cbabi Bayoc*

arity is that the original style of his work has achieved a measure of success in the world of illustration. Students see him as a role model." On March 4<sup>th</sup>, Cbabi presented a lecture on his work followed by a book signing in the Black and Gold Room. Cbabi's website is [www.bayocstudios.com](http://www.bayocstudios.com).



## Music professor selected as a chairperson with the Louisiana Music Educators Association



Mr. Ye Tao, Orchestra Director and music assistant professor

Mr. Ye Tao, an assistant professor and Orchestra Director in the department of Music, was recently selected to serve as the Orchestra Division Chairperson of the Louisiana Music Educators Association. The mission of this association is to promote music programs in nine (9) music districts in the state of Louisiana. Additionally, music festivals for large and small ensembles at the district and state level are promoted. These programs include All-State Choir, All-State Concert Band, All-State Orchestra, and All-State Jazz Band. The Louisiana Music Educators Association also publishes the Louisiana Musician Journal.

Mr. Tao received his Bachelor's De-

gree in Violin Performance from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and his Master's degree in Violin Performance and Conducting from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He has served as the concertmaster for the Liaoning Symphony Orchestra, Opera House, and Ballet Company in China and has made recital appearances in Europe.

Mr. Tao routinely plays with regional symphony orchestras, including Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, Longview, South Arkansas, Monroe, Rapides, and Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Tao will assume the duties of the Orchestra Division Chairperson on June 1, 2008.

## National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funds project

Dr. Geoffrey Rugege received notice that his proposal which focuses on the development of a *Kinyarwanda-Swahili-English* Dictionary has been funded by the NEH for \$332,112 over a two year period.

Kinyarwanda is one of the official languages of Rwanda. The development of this dictionary will address the need for core reference materials in harmonized scientific and technical terminology. The Kinyarwanda language will be translated into Swahili which will provide a direct link to the English language. The dictionary will be beneficial to scholars, travelers, and diplomatic officials all over the world, as well as to Rwandans. The fact that Rwanda is in proximity to the Middle East and North East Africa has resulted in this area being important to the United States due to possible national

security implications.

This project utilizes the Kamusi Model and combines traditional lexicography with online community-supported dictionary resources. Dr. Rugege has assembled a team of multi-disciplinary researchers to assist with the completion of the dictionary. These researchers represent organizations that include the *Kamusi Project and World Language Documentation Center* in Switzerland, the *University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign*, and the *Institute of Scientific and Technical Research in Rwanda*.

Dr. Geoffrey Rugege, a professor in the English department since March 1, 1990, has served as a consultant for the United Nations Development Program. He received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign.



Dr. Geoffrey Rugege, English professor

## Earl Lester Cole Endowed Professorship filled

**D**r. Frances Staten has been named the Earl Lester Cole Endowed Professor. Dr. Staten, a professor in the Sociology/Psychology department since 1986, will research and address issues in gerontology.

Dr. Staten has conducted research in the area of gerontology for many years; her projects include “Ingredients to Longevity from the Voices of the Rural Black Elderly.” During 2006 and 2007, she was the recipient of travel awards from the Association of Gerontology and Human Development.

Dr. Staten serves as the advisor for two service learning projects: the Adopt-A-Cemetery project and an environmental project that distributes energy efficient

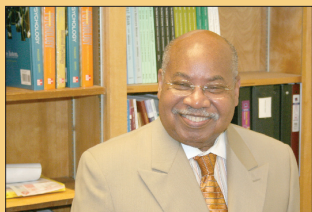
light bulbs to low income households. She received funding from the Power Shift Energy Action Coalition for this green project.

The Earl Lester Cole Professorship was established from donations made by Mr. James Davison and Mr. Johnny Maxwell. Dr. Helen Richards-Smith raised the additional funds that were needed from contributions made by faculty/staff and members of the community. Their desire was to establish a tribute to Vice-President Cole that would preserve the legacy of academic excellence that was established during his forty-one years of service to Grambling State University.



*Dr. Frances Staten, professor of Sociology*

### Sociology/Psychology department receives funding from Morehouse School of Medicine



*Humphrey*

Dr. Charles Humphrey, Head of the department of Sociology/Psychology, was recently awarded a \$5,000 mini grant by the Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center. The grant focuses on the establishment of a Suicide Prevention Program on the campus of Grambling State University. The program is designed to increase the level of awareness that students have on the various indicators of suicide. Ten (10) students will be recruited and trained to assist with the Suicide Prevention Workshops.

Dr. Humphrey is the project director, and Dr. LaWanna Gunn-Williams is the project counselor.

## The Writing Enhancement Lab presents *How to Develop a Research Paper*

Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Writing Enhancement Lab (Woodson Hall, room 232) presented the first of a series of informal student workshops targeting how to develop a research paper. The workshop was open and available to all GSU students. Ms. Linda Ward, Director of the Lab, and Mrs. Bernie Evans, assistant professor of English, presented the workshop to an enthusiastic group of students from varying majors. Topics presented in the workshop included: avoiding plagiarism; selecting a research topic; developing a thesis statement; evaluating sources; introducing sources in a paper; developing a formal outline; tutoring on line.

After topics were presented, students were encouraged to ask questions. They were also asked to share any problems that they encountered when first asked to write a specific paper. Several students responded that they

were fearful of having too many incomplete sentences, too many verb problems, and too many overall errors. The students were advised to write their paper initially without judgment, without editing, allowing the paper to develop, saving the editing as a last step in the overall development of the paper. Other students were concerned with the development of a thesis statement and selecting a topic. These issues were discussed and examples were given to show the evolution of a thesis statement and the narrowing of a topic.

Ms. Marci Haynes, instructor of English, observed the workshop and was able to provide additional advice for the students. Ms. Haynes will join Ms. Ward and Mrs. Evans in presenting a second workshop on how to develop a research paper. Monthly research paper workshops for students are planned for fall 2008 and spring 2009.



# Engineering Technology hosts Clayton A. Wiley Engineering Week

The department of Engineering Technology hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Clayton A. Wiley Engineering Week Celebration, February 18-21, 2008. This event usually coincides with the nationally recognized engineering week. The GSU event was named in honor of the late Mr. Clayton Wiley, a tribute to the 40 years of devoted service that he gave to the Engineering Technology department at Grambling State University, as well as in recognition of the financial donation the Wiley family made to the Engineering Technology program.

One of the highlights of the week was *High School Day*. Sixty (60) students participated in this all day event. These students represented five schools: Farmerville High School, Grambling High School, Jonesboro-Hodge Jr. High School, Jonesboro-Hodge High School, and Ruston High School. The day began with an opening program that included greetings from the President's Office,

Academic Affairs, and the College of Arts & Sciences. Mr. Winfrey Jones, Associate Vice President of Information Technology at Grambling State University, gave a short motivational speech. The Office of Admissions, the Center for Mathematical Achievement in Science & Technology, the Army ROTC, and the Physics department had information booths set up.

Students competed in events that included Bridge Building and Mouse Trap Car Building. The students built their mouse trap cars at their schools following specific guidelines that had been provided by the engineering technology faculty. The cars were judged based on speed and distance traveled. The bridges were constructed out of popsicle sticks and judged on design and strength. The winners of the competitions received trophies and digital cameras.

## Winners

### Bridge Building

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** Farmerville High Team  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Jonesboro-Hodge Jr. High Team  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Jonesboro-Hodge High Team

### Mouse Trap Car

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** Justin Jones  
Lee Essmeier,  
Lakeidrick Wimberly  
Jonesboro-Hodge High  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Auelrianna Gunn  
Ruston High  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Dominik Anderson  
Robert James  
Jonesboro-Hodge High



Mr. Abdol Saleh, Engineering Technology faculty, and LaDarius Paggett, Jonesboro-Hodge Jr. High

## High School Teachers' Academy



### 2007 Participants

Left to right on the front row: Ruby Musgrow (Minden High School), Tammy Hanson (Cotton Valley High School) Next row: Bewanichi Sheppard (Minden High School), Wendy Dobbins (Minden High School), Shavonne Garner-Price (Gibbsland-Coleman Complex) Back row: Bobby Guin (Minden High School), Randall Martin (Doyline High School)

The 2008 Summer Science Teachers' Academy will be held May 27-June 10<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Grambling State University. This is the third year for the academy and the first year that it will target only one area of science.

This year's academy is designed for chemistry high school teachers and will focus on computerized experiments that minimize the quantity of chemicals needed, enhancing laboratory safety. Each activity will involve an inquiry-based learning environment that facilitates questioning, planning, performing, recording, interpreting and communicating, which supports the Louisiana Science Framework. Dr.

Allen Miles, GSU chemistry professor, will serve as the academy's instructor.

Participants in the academy will receive a \$700 stipend and a laboratory kit to utilize at their schools. Partial support for tuition is available if teachers choose to earn graduate credit by enrolling in *CHEM 515-New Technologies in Teaching Science for Middle & High School Teachers*. For additional information, please contact the coordinator for the program, Dr. Dagne Hill, at (318) 274-3739 or hilld@gram.edu.

This Academy is sponsored by the Center for Mathematical Achievement in Science and Technology.

**Editors**

Dr. Connie Walton  
Dean

Dr. Stacey Duhon  
Acting Associate Dean

Mrs. Linda Ward  
Writing Lab Director/English Instructor

Graphic Designer  
Mrs. Sandra Andrews Lee

**Department Heads****Art**

Ms. Donna McGee

**Biology**

Dr. Felix Ifeanyi

**Chemistry**

Dr. Danny Hubbard

**English**

Dr. Hugh Wilson

**Engineering Technology  
Coordinators:**

Dr. Edwin Thomas and Dr. Shueh-Ji Lee

**Family and Consumer Sciences**  
Acting Head: Dr. Glenda Island

Foreign Languages  
Dr. Ruben Gonzales

**History**

Dr. Nikki Brown

**Honors College**

Dr. Ellen Smiley

**Math/Computer Science**

Dr. Brett Sims

**Music**

Dr. Larry Pannell

**Physics**

Dr. Avaine Strong

**Political Science/PA**

Dr. Rose Harris

**Sociology/Psychology**

Dr. Charles Humphrey

**Speech and Theatre**

Dr. King Godwin

Please address inquiries to:  
Office of the Dean, COAS  
GSU Box 4260  
Grambling, LA 71245

## Chemistry Faculty presents at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society

Dr. Pia Albuquerque, assistant professor of chemistry, had two abstracts accepted by the American Chemical Society (ACS) for presentation at the 235<sup>th</sup> national meeting that was held April 6-10<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans. The meeting was divided into thirty divisions and had more than 15,000 people in attendance.

Dr. Albuquerque's first presentation was a part of the division of Chemical Education, and it focused on her use of inquiry-based instruction in Organic Chemistry Laboratories. She discussed the use of *projects* to teach laboratory techniques and skills. The second presentation, *Calculations of the Acidities of n-butylbenzene Protons in Aqueous Media under Normal and Supercritical Conditions*, was a part of the division of Computers in Chemistry. This talk focused on the use of quantum mech-



Dr. Pia Albuquerque, assistant professor of chemistry

anical calculations to determine free energies of deprotonation. This research is part of a collaborative effort between Louisiana Tech University, the University of Louisiana-Monroe, and Grambling State University.

Also in attendance at the ACS Meeting were Dr. Danny Hubbard, Head of Chemistry, and six GSU students. Each student gave a poster presentation in the Chemical Education Division.

## 2008 Summer Programs

**Robotics Workshop**

**When:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Eligible Participants:** High School students at Grambling and Carroll High Schools  
**Contact:** Dr. Y. B. Reddy at (318) 274-2421 or ybreddy@gram.edu  
*Participants receive stipends*

**Study Abroad to Costa Rica**

**When:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Eligible Participants:** Open to all interested  
**Contact:** Dr. Ruben Gonzales at (318)-274-2368 or Gonzalesr@gram.edu

**Modeling Membrane: Dynamics In Excitable Tissue**

**When:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> - July 11<sup>th</sup>  
**Eligible Participants:** Mathematics and Computer Science Majors  
**Contact:** Dr. Brett A. Sims at (318) 274-6177 or simsb@gram.edu  
*Participants receive stipends*

**Pre-freshman Academy**

**When:** June 8<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Eligible Participants:** High school graduates who will be attending GSU the Fall 2008 semester and majoring in science or math  
**Contact:** Ms. RaShon Carruthers at (318) 274-2340 or carruthers@gram.edu  
*Participants receive stipends*

**Band Camp**

**When:** July 13<sup>th</sup> - July 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Eligible Participants:** Elementary, junior, and senior high school students  
**Contact:** Dr. Larry Pannell, Director of the Marching Band, at (318)-274-6157 or pannell@gram.edu