

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Professional Studies

Highlights for 2009-2010 Academic Year

Brief Description of the College

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

Mission

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

Data on Majors

The College has the largest number of majors in the University. Spring 2010 data indicate that the Department of Criminal Justice has the largest number of baccalaureate majors with 453 students followed by Mass Communication (BA) 219, and Nursing (BSN) 187 (does not include pre-majors), and Social Work (BSW) 163. Fall 2009 figures are much higher -- Criminal Justice: 486, Mass Communication: 242, Nursing: 237 and Social Work: 171. Similar is the case with graduate programs in the College. Spring 2010 enrollment in its graduate programs -- Criminal Justice (MS): 93, followed by Master of Social Work (MSW): 55, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN, all programs): 54, and Mass Communication (MA): 8. Fall 2009 enrollment in graduate programs – Criminal Justice: 88, MSN: 59, MSW: 58 and Mass Communication: 6.

(Source: Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness)

Data on degrees awarded (completers)

The enrollment figures are reflected in the number of graduates (completers) from the College. For the 2009-10 academic year, out of the total number of 885 degrees (graduate and undergraduate) awarded by the University, 351 (39.7%) were from the College of Professional Studies that included 279 undergraduate (baccalaureate and associate) and 72 graduate (master's and post-master's certificate). For Fall 2009, out of the University total of 379, the College graduated a total of 139 (36.7%) students (125 undergraduate and 14 graduate). For Spring 2010, out of the University total of 506, the College graduated 212 (41.9%) students (154 undergraduate and 58 graduate). (Source: Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness)

Accreditations

Well, the strength of the College does not depend on numbers alone; it does on the credibility and national recognition of each of the programs. The School of Nursing, the School of Social Work and the Department of Mass Communication are nationally accredited by their respective accrediting agencies. The School of Nursing is accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLN), the School of Social Work maintains its accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Department of Mass Communication maintains its accreditation with the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). The Department of Criminal Justice is one of the largest programs in the State of Louisiana in terms of the number of majors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and in the comprehensive nature of its curriculum. Criminal Justice does not have a national accrediting body.

Two programs in the College are preparing themselves for reaffirmation of their accreditations during the 2010-2011 school year. The faculty of the Department of Mass Communication have spent much of their time during the last year to write the self-study in preparation for the ACEJMC site-visit set for November 14-17, 2010. The faculty in the School of Social Work have been working hard writing their self-study in preparation for the CSWE site-visit scheduled for March-April 2011; the dates have not been set yet.

A brief listing of major accomplishments for the 2009-10 academic year for each program is given below. The listing consists of selected highlights. More details are included in each program's annual reports.

Unit Accomplishments

School of Nursing

With 24 full-time faculty members and a number of adjunct teachers, the School of Nursing is one of the most comprehensive and productive academic units on the campus graduating about 102 students at the baccalaureate level and 17 at the graduate level during the 2009-10 school year. A very strong indicator of the success of the school and its students lie in their licensure passing rate - nearly 85 percent of the BSN graduates and 95 percent of the MSN graduates pass their licensure examination at the first attempt.

Grant writing is a strength of the faculty. During the 2009-10 school year, they have acquired several grants that include Susan Comen grant (\$35,000) Sanofi-Aentis grant (10,000) and, most importantly, the \$3,000,000 six-year grant from the US Department of Education. The School, in collaboration with the

School of Nursing at Northwestern State University, is also working on developing the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, the first of its kind at a public university in the State of Louisiana.

With the state-of-the-art simulation lab and other computer laboratory facilities, the School of Nursing is one of the best equipped academic units in nursing education in the region. The School is also in the process of developing an articulation agreement with the Delta Community College in Monroe for an online RN-to-BSN degree program.

School of Social Work

In addition to being the only academic unit that offers a graduate program (MSW) in the region, the School of Social Work has gained a distinction in its outreach to the social work community. To assist social workers gain the required continuing education credits, and as part of the National Social Work Month, the School conducted its Second Annual Symposium entitled, "Social Work in Action: Educating, Serving and Empowering" in March 2010. Attended by more than 125 social workers, agency administrators, alumni and students, the day-long activities included workshops, seminars and presentations.

The faculty are not behind in grant-writing either. The School has a Title IV-E Child Welfare Grant for \$116,000 and a collaborative grant for \$10,000 on substance abuse. Several proposals written in the recent months seeking grants from the National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control and other organizations are awaiting final decision.

The School is preparing to set up a state-of-the-art computer laboratory with specialized software. The faculty are working on revisions to the MSW curriculum to keep up with the challenges of the profession and prepare students for competing jobs in the broad field of social work. The School was named the Volunteer Agency for the Year 2010 by Well Spring, a multiservice human services agency, Monroe, LA.

Department of Mass Communication

With six areas of concentration and a professionally-oriented master's program, the Department of Mass Communication has a comprehensive academic program. In fact, it is the only nationally-accredited journalism/mass communication program in the region. Initially accredited in 1993, the program gained reaccreditation in 1999 and 2005 (every six years) with full compliance on all the Standards set by the Accrediting Council.

The Department's unique strength lies in the sophisticated laboratory facilities and the three media units to provide practical hands-on training to its students. The award-winning weekly newspaper, *The Gramblinite*, the 50,000-watt KGRM radio station and cable-access Television Center are unique in not only providing the much-needed practical training, but also offering outstanding service to the University and the community at large.

To bring its alumni into the fold, the Department conducted its Second Annual Alumni Reunion in March 2010 which attracted about 35 alumni from all over the country and from a variety of media units, including newspapers, broadcasting organizations and public relations organizations. Thanks to the aggressive recruitment efforts by faculty, the enrollment in its graduate program for this fall is expected to be more than 20.

Department of Criminal Justice

In addition to enrollment, the number of majors and completers, the strength of the Department of Criminal Justice lies in its alumni. Some of the top police officers in the region are graduates of this program. Its alumni occupy positions of higher responsibilities in federal organizations, including the Marshall Service, ATF, FBI, the Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Homeland Security.

Also, the Criminal Justice faculty play important roles in national professional and academic organizations like the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. The Department has entered into a partnership with the consortium led by the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a Fortune 500 Company, for Anti-Terrorism Training Assistance Worldwide Program (GATA) grant seeking renewal of funding from the US Department of State. It is a unique program with wide-ranging reach to curb global terrorism.

To reach out to the community colleges in the State, the Department is in the process of developing an articulation agreement with the Southern University in Shreveport (SUSLA) for easy transfer of their students with the Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Administration to our BS program in Criminal Justice.

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

Listed below are some recent publications by faculty in the College. Scholarly presentations by faculty at national and regional conferences are listed in the annual reports of each program.

Arhin, A. (2009) Nursing Students' Perception of Academic Dishonesty: A Generation Y Perspective. *ABNF Journal*, 20, (1), 17-21.

Arhin, A. & Jones, K. (2009). A Multidiscipline Exploration of College Students' Perceptions of Academic Dishonesty: Are Nursing Students Different from other College Students? *Nurse Education Today*, 29, 710-714.

Arhin, A. (2010). Determinants of academic success in pregnant African American nursing students. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*.

Fisher-Giorlando, Marianne (2009). "Angela Davis." In *The Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*, edited by Helen Taylor Greene and Shaun Gabbidon. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. She was the guest editor for the special issue of *The Prison Journal* on the history of prisons and punishment.

Hensley, R. & Williams, A. (2010). *Clinical Coach for Nurse Practitioners*. Philadelphia: F.A.Davis Company.

Hollier, A. & Hensley, R. (in press). *Clinical Guidelines for Primary Care*. Lafayette, LA: APEA Publications, Inc.

Kyun Soo Kim (2009). Advanced learning and online news: A test of cognitive flexibility theory. *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*.

Murray, Gaylon (2009). *Essential Editing: A guide for students and professionals*. Marquette Books.

Williams, S. E. and Kirk, A. (2010). Workplace diversity as a strategy for recruitment, retention and promotion of faculty of color in institutions of higher learning, *Journal of Multiculturalism in Education*, 5 (1), 1-21.

Other Accomplishments

Dr. Marianne Fisher Giorlando was awarded the 2010 Minorities & Women Section's "Evelyn Gilbert Unsung Hero Award" of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) in recognition of her contribution to the advancement of racial justice.

Dr. Mahendra P. Singh was nominated to the Committee on Student Affairs of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) at its annual meeting at San Diego in February, 2010.

Dr. Herbert Simmons won the Teacher of the Year Service Award at Grambling State University for the 2009-2010 academic year in recognition of his service to the community and the profession.

Dr. Lurie Thomason has earned a distinct honor by his appointment to serve on the Board of the National Association of Black in Criminal Justice for 2010-2011. .

Student Accomplishments & Activities

Staja Booker and Njozeka Ngong, who participated in the Minority Access to Advanced Careers in Nursing (MACAN) research internship program at Penn State last summer, have been admitted to the MS/ Ph.D. program. Staja was accepted as a Hartford Fellow. Marilyn Latin has been invited to participate this summer. Staja was also nominated by the Golden Key Society to be a part of the nursing scholarship laureate program held in Sydney, Australia, in May 2010.

Three members of GSU's Student Nurses' Association were nominated as officers for the State of Louisiana's Student Nurses' Association (LASN). Solange Sayers currently serves as the LASN Vice-President, Ivory Lacour as LASN secretary, and Melanie Horton as LASN Breakthrough-to-Nursing Chair.

The GSU Student Nurses' Association organized a memorial scholarship 5k run/walk in honor of Tequita Bryant. Bryant, a December 2007 graduate from the School of Nursing, died in a tragic car accident in February of 2008 on her way to the very first staff meeting. The event raised \$1,500 for student scholarships.

A first year MSW student, Christopher Seamon, was selected as the Student Social Worker of the Year (2010) by the Louisiana chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Social Work student, Mia Williams' paper was selected by competition, and she presented it at the NASW student paper session.

The Gramblinite won 32 awards in four contests (one statewide, two regional, and one national) for student newspapers during the 2009-10 school year. These included the contests sponsored by the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC), the Black College Communication Association (BCCA), the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), and the Louisiana Press Association (LPA).

The Gramblinite editor-in-chief Imani Jackson was the recipient of a \$6,000 AT&T scholarship, an award presented by the Dallas Ad League in December. She was also chosen, in a nation-wide competition, to participate in the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute Multimedia Training Program in Nashville, TN.

Student-sponsored KGRM radio station, among its many public service activities, continued its annual Season of Giving campaign last Christmas time, and distributed toys and bicycles to more than 100 children in the community. Several broadcasting students, specializing in television, contributed their skills to nearly 45 ESPN regional and national telecasts during the 2009-10 school year.

Criminal Justice students, in addition to being active with professional and academic organizations in the discipline, undertook a number of public service activities. They include collection of clothes and other items for Haiti relief, assist the needy at the North Louisiana Development Center, conducting a domestic violence workshop and 'penny drive' for the homeless.