



Senior Scholars'
Tacket Award Ceremony
and
34th Induction Ceremony of
The Earl Lester Cole Honors College



Motto: "Scholarship, Leadership, and Comradeship"

"with an undergirding tenet of service"

Thursday, October 19, 2023

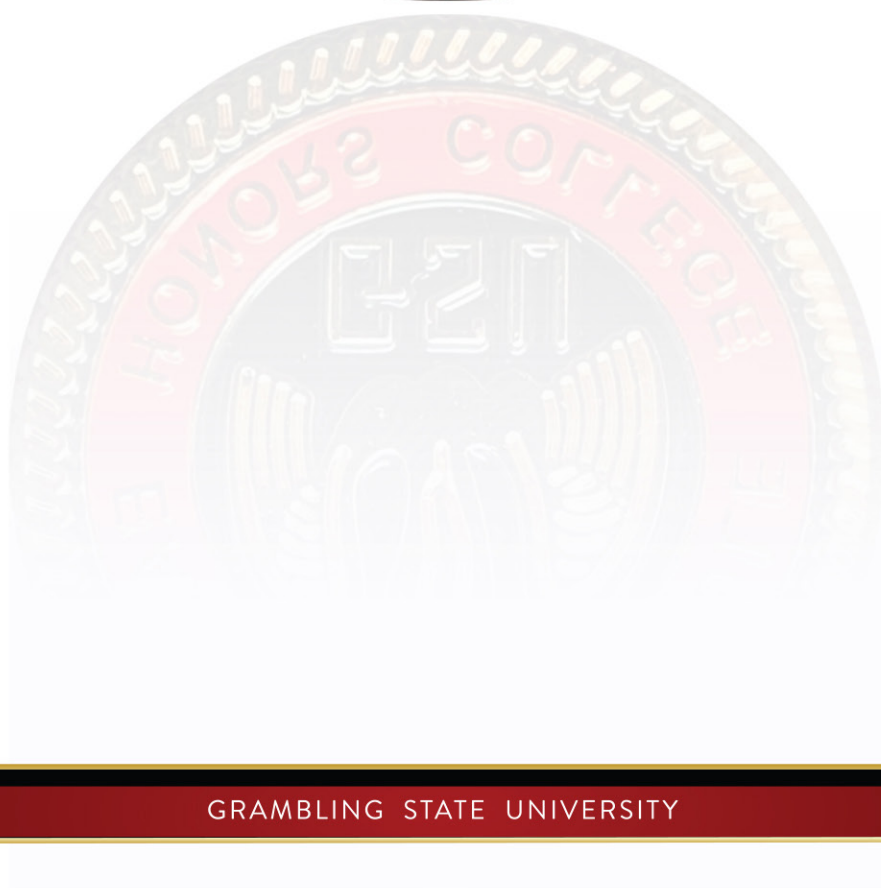
Four o'clock Post Meridiem

Grambling State University

School of Nursing Auditorium

Grambling, Louisiana





Greetings from the Dean

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Greetings:

This occasion has been set aside so that we can celebrate the Earl Lester Cole Honors College seniors' scholar jacket recipients and inductees for their commitment to academic excellence. Our growth over the years is a direct reflection of the product we produce. Our success is predicated on the accomplishments of numerous graduates, dedicated faculty, staff, and several academically driven students. In keeping with President Gallot's mindset, we are "strengthening our core". This is why we recognize the success of our members as "Nothing but a "G" Thang".



This afternoon, we are pleased to add yet another wonderful class of scholars who have distinguished themselves because of their leadership, scholarship, comradeship, and dedication to service. By applying and being accepted for induction, the students have committed to taking additional classes offered through the Honors College that will help "*regulate*" their ability to compete in an ever-changing society. Their induction signals that they are not considered a new cohort, but are considered family members in an organization that thrives on the fact that "*we are one.*" Our quest is to ensure that our students acquire the desire to make certain that when it comes to pursuing and achieving excellence, "*nobody does it better.*"

In addition, this celebration is especially significant for our seniors who will receive their scholars' jacket. These scholars have proven that throughout their tenure at the University, they have continued their quest for academic excellence and service. They have represented the University at academic conferences and through other scholarly activities. Their leadership, service, and academic achievement has positioned them for greatness and made them worthy recipients of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College Scholars' Jacket.

Their scholastic activities have captured the attention of business, industry, faculty, staff, alumni and their peers. Truly they are academic ambassadors, scholars who have maintained an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above and have completed the required coursework for Earl Lester Cole Honors College distinction.

To our parents and caregivers, permit me to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to have the opportunity to be a part of your child's educational journey. Your child is a direct reflection of the motivation and support you have provided for them over the course of their lives. We are building on the foundation that you and others have helped them form as we endeavor to make certain that your child is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to compete against their peers and become more productive citizens. They are stars in their respective fields.

Inductees, Senior Scholars, and other members of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College, may success come to your doorsteps as you open the door of opportunity and greet the world. I wish you well as we build on the foundation of "*Dear Ole Grambling*" together.

Sincerely,

Ellen D. Smiley, Ed.D.

Dean, Earl Lester Cole Honors College &
Professor of Education

History of the Honors College

The Honors College was established in 1990 in response to a verbal directive from the third president of Grambling State University, Dr. Joseph B. Johnson. President Johnson selected Dr. Helen L. Richards-Smith to plan and implement the Earl Lester Cole Honors College with the designated title of Associate Dean of Academic Administration and Director of the Honors College. The assignment was given, fall 1989; the Inauguration was held Fall 1990. After the Honors College was established, Dr. Helen Richards-Smith became the first Dean of the Honors College. In 1991, Dr. Ellen D. Smiley was selected to assist Dr. Richards-Smith with strengthening the Honors College. The Honors College was chiefly funded through Title III and soon became institutionalized throughout the university. When she retired, Dr. Richards-Smith was named Dean Emeritus of the Honors College. Dr. Ellen D. Smiley is currently serving as the second Dean to lead the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

Dr. Earl Lester Cole served Grambling State University for over forty-one years. Grambling State University was honored and given due deference to the distinguished scholar, educator, administrator, gentleman and humanitarian by naming the Honors College, The Earl Lester Cole Honors College. Dr. Cole's career and legacy set the standards by which others were measured.

Undergraduate students who have an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above and who have the ability to successfully complete 3 honors college seminar classes excluding HON 110 are eligible to apply for induction. At the level of induction, students are given the honors college badge (pin).



(Pictured left to right – Mrs. Garnett Cole, Dr. Earl Lester Cole, Mrs. Lula Johnson and Dr. Joseph B. Johnson)

In 2015 Prentiss Smiley, then president of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College Student Organization, led an initiative that supported senior members of the Honors College who qualified to receive the Scholars' Jacket. Thus, seniors who are members of the honors college who maintain an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above, complete 3 honors college seminar classes excluding HON 110 and are in good standing with the University receive the scholars' jacket. Smiley, who had played football in junior high and high school recognized that athletes are awarded with shirts and letterman jackets for their success and recognized throughout the campus. His concept was to bring greater recognition to students who achieved greatness in the world of academe scholastically. He referred to these students as being "academically nasty", a phrase that he coined from one of his mentors, Dr. Ronnie L. Davis. Academically nasty means that the student works hard in the classroom and is committed to learning and studying in order to move to the next level.

Finally, at graduation, members of the Honors College who have maintained an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above, completed 3 honors college seminar classes excluding HON 110 and are in good standing with the University receive the Honors College Medallion of Distinction. The levels are gold, silver, or bronze depending on the level of engagement (service) and overall grade point average.

Inaugural Scholars' Jacket Recipients



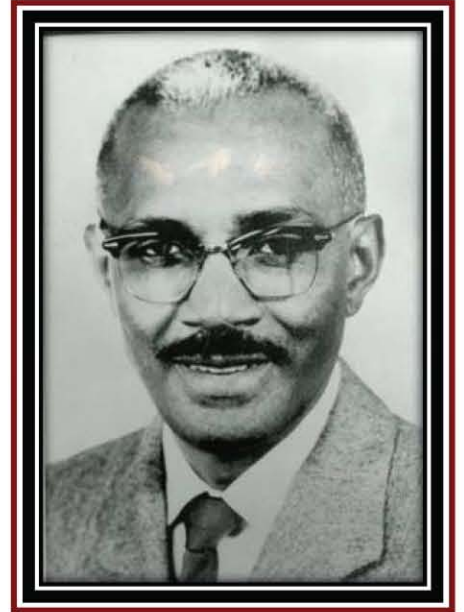
Prentiss Smiley pictured front row in the center

Dr. Earl Lester Cole

Former Vice President for Whom the Honors College is Named

Dr. Earl Lester Cole was one of the great pioneers whose exemplary years of service as an educator at Grambling State University spanned nearly half a century. Earl Lester Cole's tenure at Grambling began in 1936 as a science teacher; advancing through the ranks of the faculty, becoming dean in 1946 and was appointed vice president in 1969.

"Dean Cole" as he was affectionately called even after assuming the vice-presidency, can be remembered for his active involvement in implementing curriculum which is considered to be the cornerstone to courses now being offered at Grambling State University. Even after his retirement in 1977, Earl Lester Cole continued to advise members of the faculty and administrators.



Dean Cole was highly respected by his former colleagues and students and is described as a true professional, a good administrator, and a truly outstanding man who is credited for the positive influence in the educational advancement of his former students. Honesty and a fullness of integrity were accolades from those who knew him well. Over the years, he had been recognized for his numerous contributions to Grambling, culminating in the naming of the university's honors college, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

His influential involvement in the community brought several businesses to the university and as an active member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, "Dean Cole" was instrumental in the construction of a building for the church.

Earl Lester Cole succumbed after a prolonged illness at the age of 89. He can be remembered as a man who gave much to the field of higher education at a historically black university, always exuded a commanding presence during his lifetime.

U. S. House of Representative Julian C. Dixon California 32nd District (1993-2000) Capital Words

Julian Green

Vice President for Communication and Community Affairs Chicago Cubs



Julian Green, at 53, holds more than 25 years of experience in corporate and crisis communications, media relations, governmental affairs, corporate social responsibility and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Currently Green serves as senior vice president of communications and community affairs for the Chicago Cubs. Green is the ballclub's chief spokesperson and responsible for leading baseball and business communications and helps direct the ballclub's community outreach.

Previously, Green served as the director of media relations for MillerCoors where he was the chief spokesperson for the company's operations in the United States and Puerto Rico. Green was also responsible for directing the company's corporate communications activities including media relations, executive communications, investor communications, crisis communications, corporate social responsibility communications and managing the company's corporate website and social media platforms. Prior to that role, Green served as press secretary to then United States Senator Barack Obama handling primary spokesperson duties and facilitating a barrage of local, national and international media requests for Mr. Obama. Mr. Green first joined Obama during his historic campaign for the United States Senate in May 2004, where he served in the same capacity as the senator's primary

spokesperson.

Green served as the director of communications and marketing for the Chicago Park District overseeing media relations and the park system's marketing assets. As the director, Green was a senior advisor to the chief executive officer and led communication and marketing activities for the District's 552 parks, 33 beaches, nine museums, 16 historic lagoons and two world-class conservatories. Green was also responsible for developing and executing the media strategy for the renovation of Soldier Field, which generated countless local and national media coverage from Chicago to San Diego.

In 2003, Green was appointed deputy campaign manager and communications director for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's re-election effort. That year the Mayor received the highest percentage of votes ever in his 14-year tenure. Prior to the Mayor's 2003 re-election campaign, Green served as assistant press secretary to the Mayor, where he coordinated Mayoral press conferences, local and national media interviews, provided counsel to city heads and agencies, managed crisis and developed public awareness campaigns. Green's primary duty was speech writing for the Mayor on a variety of subjects from healthcare to advocacy programs for the homeless. Prior to the Mayor's office, Green was a senior account executive at Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, where his focus was corporate and brand communications. Before joining Ogilvy PR, Green was an account coordinator at Fleishman-Hillard International Communications in Chicago.

Currently, Green serves as president and board member of the Pullman Community Center in Chicago. He also serves on the advisory board of the Support Group and previously served as chairman, founded by NBA great Tim Hardaway and Bennie Henry. Previously, he served as interim board member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which oversees Navy Pier and McCormick Place. Green received his bachelor's degree from Alabama A&M University's School of Mass Communication with a specialization in Radio Film and Television Broadcast.

Program

Presiding Officer **Dr. Ellen D. Smiley**, Dean
Earl Lester Cole Honors College &
Professor of Education

Greetings **President Richard Gallot, Jr.**
Grambling State University

Ms. Jess'lyn Sanders
Miss Earl Lester Cole Honors College
Austin, TX

Entrance of Honorees **Soft Music**

Induction Ritual Ceremony

Charge to the Inductees & Scholars' Jacket Recipients **Mr. Julian Green**
Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs at Chicago Cubs

Administering of the Honors College Oath **Dr. Connie Walton**, Provost &
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Scholars' Jacket Ritual **Student Introductions and Scholars' Jacket Ceremony**

Presentation of the Scholars' Jacket **Dr. Rory L. Bedford**, Director
Office of Continuing Education and Service-Learning

Mr. DeVante Martin, News Reporter
KNOE TV 8 (CBS)
Earl Lester Cole Honors College Alumnus

Remarks, Recognition, and Announcements **Presiding Officer**

Host and Hostesses

Mr. Cyrus Battle
Miss Xavieranique Bienemy
Miss Jariah Bolton, Miss Earl Lester Cole Honors College Thrive Partnership
Mr. Korde Cortez, Mr. Earl Lester Cole Honors College
Miss Alesia Jackson
Miss Jackie Newsome
Mrs. Miloni Perera
Miss Jess'lyn Sanders, Miss Earl Lester Cole Honors College

The Earl Lester Cole Honors College is partially supported with Title III Funds

Earl Lester Cole Honors College Oath

Having been selected as a member of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College, I am keenly aware of my personal and academic obligations to be an exemplary scholar and role model in college, regional, state and national settings. Therefore, I solemnly pledge that I will take advantage of and pursue every opportunity to grow, develop and excel.

I further pledge to make a conscientious effort to excel academically, personally, socially and enhance the quality of life around me. I will endeavor to be a creative and worthwhile citizen; to always try to be an inspiration to others and to promote those qualities of scholarship, citizenship and leadership upon which the honors college is founded.

I take this obligation without any coercion or reservation. I will faithfully and enthusiastically accept the challenge inherent in becoming a member of this capital organization, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

I will put my trust in God and with his help I will ultimately distinguish myself and Grambling State University with honor.

Written by: Dr. Joe L. Copes and Dr. Phillip L. Young



Inductees

Name of Inductee-Major

Anthony C. Alexander Jr. – *Criminal Justice*

Elicia C. Allen – *Marketing*

Jordan A. Allen – *Engineering Technology*

Sha'Cyla D. Allen – *Criminal Justice*

Shabach C. Amuwah – *Computer Science*

Z'Nyah N. Armant – *Kinesiology*

Jamariya R. Bass – *Criminal Justice*

Kadynce A. Betancourt – *History*

Kyla S. Blockett – *Leisure Studies*

Jalaieh D. Brim – *Sociology*

Jeralyn D. Brown – *Biology/Business Management*

Arington L. Browning – *Pre-Nursing*

DaiJah A. Burham – *Criminal Justice*

LynDajah L. Burton – *Biology*

Kayliana S. Cash – *Mass Communications*

Myranda O. Coleman – *Nursing*

Owen L. Coley Jr. – *Business Management*

Xavier A. Cousar – *Psychology*

Kesyne K. Daniel – *Kinesiology*

Virtue S. Davenport – *Psychology/Military Science*

Iyanuoluwa A. Fagbamila – *Nursing/Computer Science*

Bennie D. Ferguson III – *Computer Science/Cybersecurity*

Hometown (Class)

Baldwin, LA (Junior)

Little Rock, AR (Sophomore)

Jeanerette, LA (Sophomore)

Forrest City, AR (Sophomore)

Delta State, Nigeria (Freshman)

Saint James, LA (Sophomore)

Newellton, LA (Sophomore)

Las Vegas, NV (Junior)

Compton, CA (Junior)

Grambling, LA (Junior)

Woodworth, LA (Junior)

Warren, AR (Sophomore)

Vacherie, LA (Sophomore)

Grambling, LA (Junior)

Sahuarita, AZ (Sophomore)

Clarksdale, MS (Sophomore)

Grand Prairie, TX (Senior)

Long Beach, CA (Senior)

Bernice, LA (Freshman)

Maurice, LA (Freshman)

Shreveport, LA (Sophomore)

Homer, LA (Sophomore)

Inductees Continued

Kamryn N. Few – <i>Leisure Studies</i>	Chicago, IL (Senior)
Colleen M. Francis – <i>Nursing</i>	New Iberia, LA (Sophomore)
Jayden V. Gilliam – <i>Cybersecurity</i>	Ruston, LA (Senior)
Isaiah A. Gray – <i>General Studies</i>	Jonesboro, LA (Junior)
Caley E. Hamilton – <i>Pre-Nursing</i>	Shreveport, LA (Sophomore)
Cortez R. Harris Jr. – <i>Accounting</i>	Chicago, IL (Senior)
Lea E. Hebert – <i>Biology/Physics and Mathematics</i>	Limon, Costa Rica (Junior)
Derrick Hill – <i>Biology</i>	New Iberia, LA (Sophomore)
Ari'elle E. Holston – <i>Biology</i>	Monroe, LA (Sophomore)
Kennedi N. Hunter – <i>Business Management/Marketing</i>	Monroe, LA (Junior)
Devin D. Hymes – <i>Business Management</i>	Alexandria, LA (Sophomore)
Quintin M. Jackson – <i>Management</i>	Lafayette, LA (Sophomore)
Jade A. Jones – <i>Kinesiology</i>	Mansfield, TX (Sophomore)
Lajyrian'a S. Jones – <i>Mass Communications/Marketing</i>	Jonesboro, LA (Junior)
Mallorie E. Keaton – <i>Business Management</i>	Lonoke, AR (Sophomore)
Jovana Latinovic – <i>Computer Science/Mathematics and Physics</i>	Belgrade, Serbia (Freshman)
Ernesia K. Leonard – <i>Elementary Education</i>	Saint Joseph, LA (Freshman)
Ailana R. Lewis – <i>Biology</i>	Celina, TX (Sophomore)
Danylle J. Locks – <i>Computer Science</i>	Ruston, LA (Sophomore)
Alexandra A. Martin – <i>Chemistry</i>	Donaldsonville, LA (Junior)
Cierra A. Matthews – <i>Sociology/Psychology</i>	New Iberia, LA (Sophomore)
Brittany L. McCray – <i>Kinesiology</i>	Pompano Beach, FL (Sophomore)
Amaya S. Moore – <i>Criminal Justice</i>	McKinney, TX (Sophomore)

Inductees Continued

Mikaili D. Morris – <i>Leisure Studies</i>	Cedar Hill, TX (Senior)
Kierre S. Moseby – <i>Pre-Nursing</i>	Jacksonville, AR (Sophomore)
D’Zyria B. Myles – <i>Accounting</i>	Monroe, LA (Junior)
Trevor T. Ng’oma – <i>Marketing</i>	Blantyre, Malawi (Sophomore)
Tiah J. Nix – <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Cleveland, OH (Sophomore)
Dionne N. Parker – <i>Pre-Nursing</i>	Cincinnati, OH (Sophomore)
Dorian G. Parrish – <i>Leisure Studies</i>	Houston, TX (Sophomore)
Alaysha V. Porter – <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Redford, MI (Sophomore)
Phillippe J. Price Jr. – <i>Biology</i>	Monroe, LA (Junior)
Terrence L. Robinson – <i>Elementary Education/History</i>	Rayville, LA (Sophomore)
Aaliyah N. Scott – <i>Social Work</i>	Lake Providence, LA (Junior)
Jazmin A. Scott – <i>General Biology</i>	Denver, CO (Sophomore)
Annia B. Shelton – <i>Elementary Education</i>	New Orleans, LA (Sophomore)
Brianna A. Singleton – <i>Business Management/Marketing</i>	Monroe, LA (Junior)
Ayanna M. Smith – <i>Engineering Technology</i>	Lake Worth, FL (Sophomore)
Kayla M. Smith – <i>Elementary Education</i>	Shreveport, LA (Junior)
Gregory K. Taylor – <i>Kinesiology</i>	Vicksburg, MS (Freshman)
Larriel S. Turner – <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Braithwaite, LA (Sophomore)
Deldecarleo M. Walker – <i>History</i>	Shreveport, LA (Sophomore)
Kalaya S. Washington – <i>Biology</i>	Napoleonville, LA (Sophomore)
Alania M. West – <i>Biology</i>	Maringouin, LA (Sophomore)
A’Ladrian S. Williams – <i>Pre-Nursing</i>	Logansport, LA (Sophomore)
Wymeko M. Williams Jr. – <i>Sophomore</i>	Mansfield, TX (Sophomore)

Inductees Continued

Fran-Lisa C. Willis – *Social Work/Psychology*

Hayley L. Wilson – *Cloud Computing*

Kerry R. Woodard – *History*

Imille S. Woodard – *Sociology*

Eunice, LA (Sophomore)

Bastrop, LA (Junior)

Grambling, LA (Sophomore)

Grambling, LA (Sophomore)

Scholars' Jacket Recipients

Taye Abraham – *Sociology*

Asia Knight – *Kinesiology*

Makayla Mallery – *Marketing*

Khahli Malone – *Biology*

Providence Marshall – *Business Marketing & CIS*

Dalton Hogue, Jr. – *Criminal Justice*

Baldwin, LA

Opelousas, LA

Shreveport, LA

Opelousas, LA

Dallas, TX

Farmerville, LA

Earl Lester Cole Honors College

Our Mission

The Earl Lester Cole Honors College was established in 1990 to increase challenges for academically talented students, who desire additional intellectual and unique educational experiences, and who show readiness to take greater individual responsibility for extending their academic, personal, and social development while completing requirements in their chosen degree.

Our Method

The Honors College enhances self-development by offering challenging Interdisciplinary Seminars that promote leadership, cultural diversity, career and graduate school preparation. Through a variety of related experiences that are implemented through non-traditional modes of teaching and learning students become trailblazers who promote scholarship, leadership and comradeship. In addition, the Honors College paves the way for students to become productive citizens by engaging them in service-learning and research opportunities.

Our Pledge

Members of the Honors College are keenly aware of their personal and academic obligation to be exemplary scholars, leaders, and role models. They pledge to take advantage of and pursue every opportunity to grow, develop, and excel. Members of the Honors College always try to be an inspiration to others. They take this pledge without coercion or reservation and faithfully and enthusiastically accept the challenge inherent in becoming a member of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College. The ultimate goal for a member of the Honors College is to distinguish himself/herself and Grambling State University with honor.

The students, faculty, and staff of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College would like to express our sincerest appreciation to individuals and businesses that have supported the college over the years. We encourage others to join this effort. Please continue to support the Honors Collège by sending your financial donations to:

**Earl Lester Cole Honors College
Grambling State University
GSU Box 4208
Grambling, Louisiana 71245**



