

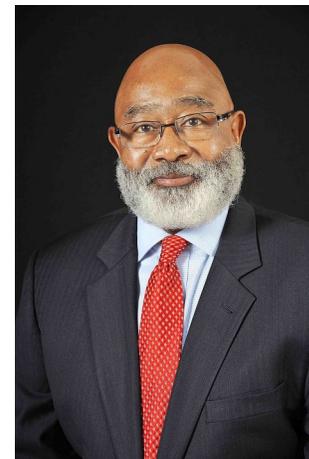
TIGER HAPPENINGS

"Where everybody is somebody."



Students Raise Awareness with Balloon Release

Volume 2, Issue 18, Oct. 15, 2015



Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President

President's Corner

Dear friends, colleagues, faculty, students, community and alumni: As I reflect, deeply, on the many opportunities and challenges our venerable institution has endured over the past 114 years, I am left to ponder a number of immutable questions that give me pause to think, critically, on our legacy, present-day operations and future.

Join me on a journey of discovery and reflection as we ask age-old questions, "What if...?" [\(read more\)](#)



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Kyla Nelson will always remember Sister Felicia Williams, her youth pastor from Mesquite, Texas, who passed away from breast cancer last year, as a source of inspiration. Nelson, along with dozens of people from Grambling State University and Grambling Laboratory High School, released pink and purple balloons on Oct. 1 in honor of loved ones affected by breast cancer and domestic violence.

"I really miss her, and I am still thinking about her," said Nelson, a freshmen Student Government Association (SGA) senator. "I think events like this really unify the community. I support everyone who is dealing with domestic violence and my friends and family who have been affected by breast cancer." [\(read more\)](#)

Over 2,200 High School Students Visit Grambling!

Grambling State University hosted more than 2,200 future Tigers from 32 schools for High School Day on Oct. 10, a significant increase over the 900 students who participated in 2014. The day's theme was "A Carnival in Tiger Land."

"The theme was chosen because we wanted to do something innovative and fun for the students," said LaTari Fleming, director of admissions. "I want to give props to the Admissions staff who worked very hard to bring the carnival theme to life." [\(read more\)](#)



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Service-Learning Project Seeks to Preserve African-American Cemeteries

Frances Staten, a professor of sociology and psychology, is leading a series of service-learning classes to preserve local African-American cemeteries. Sadly, the cemeteries that house the memories of the past are often forgotten. Without proper maintenance, grave markers are easily lost.

Staten and her students are seeking to preserve Grambling's cemetery, Grambling Memorial Gardens, through a continuing service-learning project entitled "Save Our African-American Cemeteries."

In the current project, Staten and her class have fashioned flower vases out of Powerade bottles. The class is using the makeshift vases to replace vases and flowers that have been stolen from graves at Grambling Memorial Gardens.



Professor Frances Staten (left) leads a service-learning project to replace flower vases at Grambling Memorial Gardens in honor of Grambling's founders, Charles and Martha Adams.

Staten and her students delivered the vases and flowers to Grambling Memorial Gardens during Grambling's Founder's Week on Oct. 1. The visitors also took the time to clean and pay homage at the graves ([read more](#))

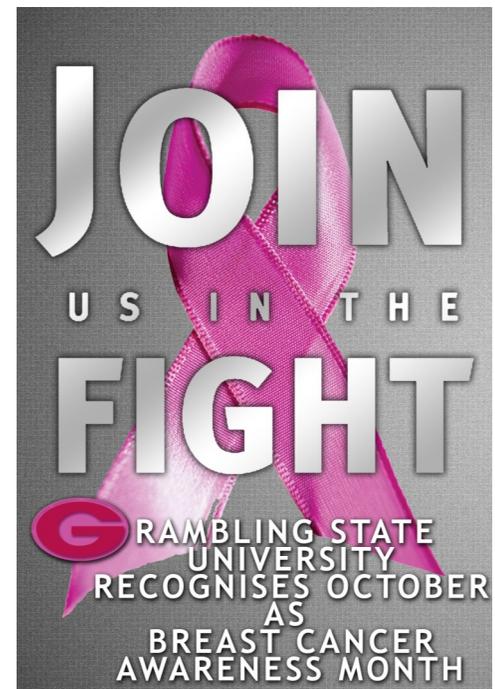
Grambling Announces Winners of 2015 Student Exhibition



Destiny Tuesno won first place for her piece, "Sight", in the 2015 GSU Student Exhibition.

The top artist in the Grambling State University 2015 Student Exhibition is Jared Monroe for his painting, "To Whom It May Concern." The exhibition, which is sponsored by the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, is comprised of works by Grambling State University students to prepare them for the experience of exhibiting work.

Monroe's winning piece is currently on display in the Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Art Showcase at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans. Meanwhile, the artwork of Destiny Tuesno, a junior art major who won first place for her piece "Sight", has been selected for the Juried Parish Press Exhibition. ([read more](#))



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Grambling Alum Tells Amazing Story Through First Book



Diseree Smith

Diseree Smith, a 2007 graduate of Grambling State University, has finally accomplished her childhood goal of becoming an author, as she published her first book entitled "Beautiful Like a Flower."

"Becoming an author was always a secret aspiration of mine," Smith said. "My teacher, Ms. Miles (now deceased), was a big inspiration to me. She brought in a poet to our class who had published her book. Her name was Vera Chitty, and she was an African American. I was so impressed! She looked like me!"

The journey began for the Chicago native when she was entering middle school. She said that reading has always made her happy, and writing has always made her feel free. Smith's seventh-grade teacher, Mrs. Jackson, knew she had a special gift and continued to challenge her.

"Mrs. Jackson would pick my books for me because she said that the ones I selected didn't challenge me," Smith said. "One of the first books that she selected for me was 'Mama Day' by Gloria Naylor. It was then that I was introduced to thick plots and multiple points of view in one book."

"Beautiful Like a Flower" is Smith's life story told through a character named Serenity. The story is a true story about a young woman living on the South Side of Chicago who was surrounded by promiscuity, drugs, peer pressure and low self-esteem.

"I decided to write the story about Serenity, because I know there are both males and females that have been born into less than ideal situations and family dynamics," Smith said. "No one chooses their families, but your future can be decided." ([read more](#))

Madden Named Reuters-National Association of Black Journalists Fellow

A 2013 graduate of Grambling State University has been chosen as one of six Reuters-National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Fellows. Justin Madden is currently the digital breaking news reporter at the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper in Kentucky. While attending Grambling, Madden served as editor-in-chief for The Gramblinite newspaper and president of Grambling's NABJ chapter. Madden will join the Chicago bureau for Reuters, where he will focus on the agriculture commodities markets.

The program honors rising reporters, recent graduates or business professionals who demonstrate a clear commitment to a career in journalism and an ability to generate story ideas relevant for a Reuters audience with a focus on multimedia, using text, video and/or graphics. The paid fellowship program offers up to nine months of hands-on, real-world experience in a Reuters bureau. ([read more](#))



Justin Madden

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Questions, additions or comments? Contact mediarelations@gram.edu or call 318-274-2866.