



ARTS & CULTURE
Entertainment
Lineup for
Homecoming
2025
| 9



SPORTS
Grambling Hosts
Texas Southern
in Homecoming
Showdown
| 11

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

Volume 2, No. 2 Friday, October 10, 2025 • *"Keeping Our Citizens Informed on the Issues That Matter"* • Grambling, LA www.GramblingConnection.com

HOMECOMING 2025



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

vs

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



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OPINION

Grambling State University: A Legacy Worth Supporting

By Prentiss Smith

I grew up in Ruston, La, just a few miles from Grambling State University, which was really cool. It warms my heart to think about all the good times my friends and I had in Grambling. It was a great time.

When people hear the name Grambling State University, a certain pride stirs—one rooted in excellence, tradition, and a history that has echoed far beyond the piney woods of North Louisiana.

Grambling is not just a school; it is a living institution of culture, achievement, and legacy that has touched every corner of the globe.

For as long as I can remember, Grambling has been synonymous with greatness. Its world-renowned World Famed Tiger Marching Band has entertained audiences from Super Bowls to international stages, reminding us all of the power of music, rhythm, and spirit to unite communities and inspire generations.

Few universities can claim a band so celebrated that it is itself an ambassador of culture, representing the pride of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to audiences worldwide.

Equally legendary is Grambling's football tradition, built under the steady hand of the iconic

Coach Eddie Robinson. For 56 seasons, Robinson not only piled up 408 victories—making him the winningest coach in college football history—but also shaped the lives of thousands of young men.

Under his guidance, more than 200 players went on to careers in the NFL, and several became members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But Robinson's greatest gift was not just developing athletes; it was instilling discipline, character, and leadership in young men who went on to succeed on and off

the field.

Grambling State University's influence stretches far beyond its athletic fields and performance halls. It is a beacon of opportunity, a place where education and culture converge to create leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

I have had a ringside seat to all the progress, but today, this proud institution faces the same challenges that confront many HBCUs: underfunding, limited resources, and the lack of ongoing large donor support that many of the larger mainstream institu-



Prentiss Smith

tions enjoy. The volatility of this Administration toward education has made things even worse. Now, more than ever, there is pressing need for alumni and donors to step up and invest in Grambling's future.

Grambling's history is secure—but its future depends on whether those who love and admire the university are willing to give back.

Supporting Grambling means more than writing a check; it is about preserving a legacy. It is about ensuring that the next generation of students has access to the same transformative experiences, whether in the classroom, on the stage, or

on the field, that shaped so many lives before.

The story of Grambling State University is not finished—it is still being written every day. And it calls upon us, especially alumni and friends, to make sure that the chapters yet to come are as bold and inspiring as those already penned.

As Coach Eddie Robinson once said: "Leadership, like coaching, is fighting for the hearts and souls of men and getting them to believe in you." Now is the time for us to believe in Grambling—to fight for its heart and soul—by giving it the support it deserves! And that's my take. smith-pren@aol.com

POTTER MOTIVATION

The Power of Education: A Lesson from King Solomon

By Rusty Potter

When King Solomon was given the opportunity to ask God for anything, he did not request wealth, fame, or power. Instead, he humbly asked for wisdom and knowledge. This decision not only set him apart as one of the wisest leaders in history, but it also teaches us a lesson: true success begins with the pursuit of learning.

In today's world, education is one of the most powerful tools we can possess. It is more valuable than gold, more enduring than fame. A strong education opens doors that ignorance keeps locked. It prepares young people to compete in a global economy, equips adults to adapt to change, and

strengthens entire communities.

Too often, we underestimate the importance of learning because the benefits are not always immediate. But like King Solomon, who recognized the long-term value of wisdom, we must invest in education with a vision. Knowledge is not just about facts and figures - it is about developing the ability to think critically, solve problems, and make decisions that shape our future.

Consider the world around us: technology is advancing, industries are moving forward, and opportunities are changing. Those who commit themselves to learning, whether through formal schooling, vocational training, or self-study, are the ones who rise above limitations. Education gives



Rusty Potter

us the ability to adapt, innovate, and lead. Without it, we risk being left behind.

But education is not only about personal success - it is also about community progress. When one person pursues knowledge, they uplift others.

A well-educated workforce attracts businesses. An informed community makes better decisions. A literate society builds stronger families, safer neighborhoods, and brighter futures for our children. Every diploma earned, every book read, and every skill mastered contributes to the collective strength of our city.

To the young people, do not take your education for granted. Every day in school is a step toward your destiny. Every class attended is an investment in your future. The homework you complete, the test you take, the challenges you face - they are not just tasks, they are stepping stones toward a greater future.

Solomon's wisdom began with his willingness to ask for it. You, too, must be willing to

seek knowledge with determination.

To parents and leaders: let us create a community that values education as much as Solomon valued wisdom. Encourage reading at home, celebrate academic achievements, and invest in programs that provide your children with opportunities. When we uplift education, we uplift generations.

Education is not easy, but it is worth it. It requires sacrifice, discipline, and perseverance. Yet, the reward is a life enriched with possibilities and purpose.

Like King Solomon, let us pursue wisdom. For in knowledge, we find freedom. In wisdom, we find strength. And in education, we find the key to building a brighter tomorrow.

News

Ben Crump Pledges 50k to Black Press

The Conrad Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., pulsed with history and urgency as the Black Press of America gathered for its Annual National Leadership Awards and Reception.

The evening honored House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Yvette Clarke, and Communications Workers of America President Claude Cummings Jr.

Cummings, who now serves on the executive committee of the Democratic National Committee, put the night into sharp focus.

"Democrats need to spend money now with the Black Press," Cummings told "Let It Be Known," the Black Press morning news show, on the red carpet. "The Black Press has always been that vehicle in our community that we've all needed and that has always been the trusted voice. With what's happening in Washington and what they are trying to do to our community and our history, everyone should be supporting the Black Press of America."

For decades, the Black

Press has stood as the trusted voice for African Americans, telling stories ignored or distorted elsewhere. It carried the mutilated image of Emmett Till when white newspapers looked away. It published the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words when others labeled him a troublemaker. It guided families through Jim Crow's terror and chronicled the triumphs and tragedies of migration, struggle, and resilience.

Despite its contributions to the U.S. historically and today, the Black Press, two years before its 200th anniversary, is fighting for its life.

Attorney Ben Crump, known as "Black America's Attorney General," took the stage, with a plan to uplift the Black Press in a major way.

"I wanted to come and publicly demonstrate my appreciation to the Black Press because right now in America, like we've never seen before in our lifetime, they have declared war on Black literature, Black history, Black culture, Black media, Black science, Black health, Black communities, everything Black in every corner of this American society to-



Attorney Ben Crump, known as "Black America's attorney general," is pledging \$50,000 to support the Black Press of America. Credit: Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer

day," Crump said. And so, they've declared war on the First Amendment. I mean, they're attacking our narratives."

In a room filled with African American leaders, including Derrick Johnson, national president of the NAACP, and Leon Russell, chair of the board, Crump emphasized the importance of the Black Press in the fight for justice.

"So now more than ever, we have to make sure that we have institutions that are disseminating information to our people, being the clarion call for us to be able to be ready to stand up for our children and our com-

munities, to be ready to speak up for our children and communities, and to be ready to fight for our children in the community," he said. "And nobody carries the Black narrative and the Black information to Black communities more passionately than the Black Press."

Despite the Trump administration's policies affecting Black people nationwide and the federal cuts to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), Crump told the crowd that there is no need to rely on the president to support the African American communities.

"This attack on DEI and everything— they're

cutting funding to all our institutions. And it isn't right, but part of me says that's OK," he said. "We don't need them to save us. We are going to save ourselves. We are all we need."

He also offered a major call to action.

"Everybody's got to give a little more when they can. If you've been blessed, you've got to pass the blessings on. You just can't keep it to yourself," Crump told the packed ballroom. "Because, like Dr. King said, we all got a role to play. The Black lawyers got a role to play. The Black doctors got a role to play. The Black bankers got a role to play. The Black insurance agents, Black funeral homes."

The attorney emphasized that fighting for equity does not always mean taking to the streets to protest.

"I understand everybody can't be on the front line with the NAACP and Black Lives Matter, and us, but that doesn't mean you don't have a role to play when you get a seat at the table," he said. "When you are inside the room and you have got a voice, you got a role to play. And

so, you can't be afraid to speak truth to power."

Crump Pledges \$50K to Black Press

After exhorting the crowd, the attorney ended his address with a surprise announcement.

Crump pledged \$50,000 to the Black Press, structured at \$10,000 a year for five years.

"And so I want to present this donation to the Black Press for \$50,000," Crump said. "Because right now we've got to support our own."

But he was not content with his own gift. He planted a seed, encouraging others to dare to water it. With the bicentennial of the Black Press approaching, supporters are being urged to step forward through sponsorships, advertising, and partnerships to ensure that this trusted source for the Black community remains alive, with an official GoFundMe page for donations.

"That's why I'm making this donation to the Black Press," Crump declared, his words cutting with urgency. "Because right now the Black Press is needed more than ever before."

Grambling Connection Staff

Lena W. Claybon
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Joice M. Dunn
Contributing Writer

Prentiss Smith
Contributing Writer

Designed by Get Current Studio
CEO, Michael Grant
Creative Director, Kenyon Shafer

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Or by email: gramblingconnection@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY

14th Annual Grambling Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be Held Oct. 16, 2025

By Sharice Beavers

The Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce its 14th Annual Community Contributions Banquet, scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Black & Gold Room at Grambling State University.

This signature event recognizes and celebrates individuals, businesses, and organizations whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact in Grambling and the surrounding communities.

“This banquet is more than just an awards ceremony—it’s a way to honor the heart of our community,” said Chamber President, Jeffery Sims. “Each year, we gather to shine a spotlight on those who work tirelessly to make Grambling a better place.”

This year’s honorees exemplify excellence in education, business, public service, and community leadership:

The R.W.E. Jones Education Award: Aleane Barnes Hayes

Honored for her life-long dedication to education, faith, and service, Mrs. Hayes is a trailblazer who served as the first Black woman on the



Aleane Barnes Hayes



Cathy Holmes Giles



Lawrence Rogers



Karen Ludley

and Joice M. Dunn, The Grambling Connection is the city’s first community newspaper in more than 50 years. In just one year, it has become a trusted voice and vital source of information for the community.

The Young Entrepreneur Award: Deidra D. Scott

An educator, youth leader, and founder of Exodus Family Farms, Scott blends education, agriculture, and faith to empower families and youth while strengthening community ties.

The Annie Brown Social Justice Award: Veda Emerson

A trailblazer in Louisiana’s Department of Social Services and a long-time community advocate, Emerson has broken barriers and championed justice, equity, and opportunity for families across the state.

The banquet will feature dinner, live music, and tributes to each honoree, highlighting their unique contributions to Grambling and beyond.

The Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce invites the public to attend and celebrate these outstanding leaders whose vision, service, and commitment continue to shape the community’s future.



Lena W. Claybon



Joice Dunn



Deidra D. Scott



Veda Emerson

Jackson Parish School Board and taught for more than two decades at Grambling High School. Her leadership and faith-based service continues to inspire generations.

The L.D. Land Government Award: Cathy Holmes Giles

With over 45 years of service in education and

as a four-term Grambling City Councilwoman, Giles has dedicated her life to shaping young minds and enhancing community life.

The A.D. Smith Business Award: Lawrence Rogers

An entrepreneur whose ventures span restaurants, retail, and real estate, Rogers has built

businesses that provide jobs, uplift communities, and embody perseverance and vision.

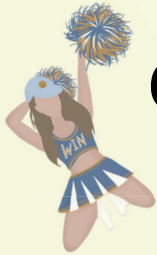
The Thelma Smith Williams Community Service Award: Karen Ludley

Ludley’s decades of service—as an educator, music minister, and civic leader—carry forward

the legacy of her parents. Today, she continues to lead through her work on the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and her ongoing community outreach.

The Dr. Rhonda R. Pruitt Special Recognition Award: The Grambling Connection

Founded in 2024 by Lena Wilson Claybon



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State University Tigers for
Homecoming 2025...

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GO TIGERS!

Mayor Alvin Bradley



COMMUNITY

6th Annual NAMIWalks Held Saturday at Lincoln Parish Park

By Lena W. Claybon

The 6th Annual NAMIWalks Mental Health Awareness and Fundraising Event was held Saturday, October 4th, at Lincoln Parish Park in Ruston where participants ‘walked’ to support Mental health awareness in Lincoln parish.

According to Executive Director, Dr. Jerrilene Washington, the event went off without a hitch. “We’re so happy that our event yesterday was a great success. We were happy to let the community know what we’re doing and tell them about mental health.”

NAMIWalks is a nationwide mental health awareness and fundraising event held in more than 84 com-



NAMI Ruston members and friends attend the 6th Annual Mental Health Awareness and Fundraising Event

munities across the country. In 2025, these walks aim to raise \$10 million nationally to support individuals and families affected by mental illness.

“We’ve almost reached our [local] fundraising goals and I want to thank every-

one for supporting us.” Dr. Washington emphasized.

NAMI Ruston is a 263-member, 39-year-old, nonprofit mental health corporation consisting of families and friends, professionals, university students, public officials,

community leaders and residents, and people living with a mental illness.

NAMI Ruston strives to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness by providing education, support, advocacy, and public awareness to



Participants walk in the name of mental health at NamiWalk event

North and Central Louisiana communities.

NAMI Ruston is also a Federal 501©(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes donations to help defray the expenses, activities, events, community development and out-

reach projects, and administrative costs.

Please make checks or money orders payable to NAMI Ruston, Post Office Box 1585, Ruston, LA 71273 or you may donate online at www.namiwalks.org/ruston.

Announcements

CCC to hold Soup for the Soul event

The Christian Community Action (CCA) is preparing to put on its major fall fundraiser, “Soup for the Soul.” This year’s Soup for the Soul event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 14, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Ruston Civic Center. Tickets are available for \$10 each.

“A ticket will get a person one type of soup, crackers or cornbread, a dessert, and tea or bottled water. The varieties to choose from are sausage/potato/kale soup, chicken tortilla soup, tomato basil soup, or taco soup. This year’s theme is “Celebrating the 50s and our goal is to raise \$20,000,” said Stephanie Matthews, Executive Director for CCA.

The fundraiser will provide resources that not only sustain CCA but enable it to invest in Lincoln Parish and those interested may purchase tickets at most local churches, as well as CCA, located at 108 South Bonner Street in Ruston.

The CCA annual “Scouting for Food,” will also soon get underway. The Boy Scouts’ will place bags in neighborhoods on Saturday, Nov. 1, with ample time to fill

them with non-perishable food items before the Scouts return to pick up the filled bags the following Saturday, Nov. 8.

For additional information, please call the CCA at (318) 251-3282.

No Kings for America, join us to make it clear

Join us to make it clear: America has NO KINGS, the power belongs to the people. A Peaceful Rally - All are Welcome! will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, UNITY in the Community for Democracy! At 10-11 a.m. at the Ruston Civic Center, 401 N. Trenton St.

The rally is hosted by Indivisible North Louisiana, a volunteer-led, grassroots non-partisan group, bring your signs, chairs and make your voice heard.

Natchez Balloon Festival coming soon

The Natchez Balloon Festival will be held October 17-19. The Festival is back with breathtaking hot air balloons, live music, carnival rides, and all the delicious food you could want. A weekend full of

color, fun, and memories you won’t forget!

Line Dance class available for the Grambling area

A Line Dance Class with Yatta at Board & Bottle is now available for the Grambling area each Monday at 130 W. Park Ave. in Ruston and doors open at 5:30 p.m. The free class is being instructed by Kenyatta Collins.

The next session is set for Monday, Oct. 13. For additional information please contact Collins at 832- 891-7488 or WWW. REALLYGREATSITE.COM.

NAACP will hold monthly meetings on third Thursday

The Grambling Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) #6094B will host its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct.16, at 6 p.m. Via teleconference. For additional information, please call or text 318-680-7679, Grace Tatem.

NAMI Family support group holds meeting

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold a support group meeting Thursday, Oct.16, at 2 p.m. in the Lincoln Parish Library, George Byrnside Conference Room, 910 North Trenton St., Ruston. The meetings will continue each third Thursday of each month until December.

Anyone at least 18 years old may RSVP to jjones79aka@yahoo.com or call 93180 (318) 614-1961 or SJBurch57@gmail.com or call (318) 350- 1612. The meetings are free to the public and all are invited to attend.

GSU Football Nutritional Program seeks help

Looking for donations from committed and supportive friends of the Grambling State University (GSU) Football Coach Mickey Joseph and the GSU Football Nutritional Program. At This Time, All Donations are being made to: HBCU Boosters, Earmarked for the GSU Nutritional Program. Checks or Money Orders should be mailed to: P. O. Box 82, Grambling, La. 71245.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

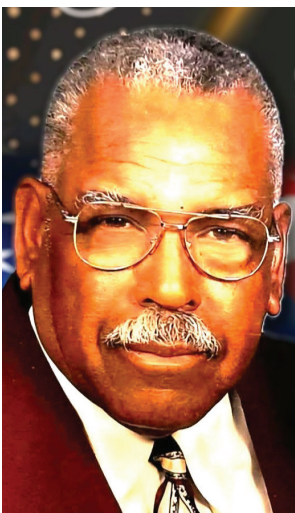
Deacon William Culbertson: A Life Well Done

On September 10, 2025, the heavens opened wide to receive a faithful servant of the Lord, Deacon William Culbertson, who transitioned from labor to reward at the age of 86. Born on August 11, 1939, to Laura Culbertson, and was reared in the nurturing embrace of his beloved grandparents, Simpson and Hattie Culbertson, in the humble town of Choudrant, Louisiana—a place he would forever call home and serve with unwavering devotion.

From the fertile soil of North Louisiana to the sacred halls of Gumspring Missionary Baptist Church, William sowed seeds of righteousness, stewardship,

and love. A pillar of the church for over six decades, he served as deacon, financial secretary, choir member, Sunday school teacher, and building and grounds engineer. His hands were never idle, and his heart was always full of praise. Whether tending to the land as a farmer or tending to the flock as a spiritual leader, William embodied the scripture: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)

His commitment extended beyond the local church to the Gumspring Association, where he led the Laymen Movement, oversaw finances, and cared for the grounds with the same reverence he gave to God’s house. He was honored by the



William Culbertson

Laymen’s Movement for over 50 years of service in the Association. He was also Workshop Coordinator for Layman’s Movement Louisiana Baptist State Conventions. William was a proud graduate of Lincoln High

School and Grambling State University, where he served on numerous committees including Founders Day, Honors Day, and Commencement. His dedication to education and excellence was evident in his 33-year career at Grambling State University as the bookstore manager and his 26 years of honorable service in the Army Reserve.

He retired from both in the same year, closing one chapter of service only to continue another in the Kingdom of God. He was also Vice President of the Union-Jackson Singing Convention. He was also a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for over 50 years.

He was the devoted husband (62 years)

of Dorothy Culbertson, the love of his life, with whom he shared a beautiful union that bore five children: Darion (Donna), Karen (Greg), William Bernard (Veronica), Katrina, and Laura. His legacy lives on through eight grandchildren—Kaleb (Auree), Christian, Paris, Christal (Xavier), Endiah, Gregory Jr., Keenan, and Courtnei—and five great-grandchildren: Aomi, Karter, Karson, Parker, and Hendrix. William was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and sister Audrey Burnes. He leaves behind his cherished wife, Dorothy; his children and grandchildren; his bonus mother, Lula Turner; sister, Debra Turner; brother-in-love, Walter (Joyce) Glass; sisters-in-

law, Dessie Lewis, Ruthie Lewis, Shirley Lewis, and Virginia Lewis; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, and friends who will forever carry the torch of his legacy.

Deacon Culbertson’s life was a living sermon—his faith, his work, his love for God and community were the verses. He walked humbly, served mightily, and loved deeply. Though he has laid down his earthly tools, his spirit rises in glory, clothed in righteousness, and welcomed into the eternal embrace of the Father. “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” — Revelation 14:13 AMEN and AMEN.

Church Announcements

Pilgrim Rest Church sponsors 125th anniversary program

The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th Church Anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 3 p.m. at the church. Rev. James Leonard and the St. Rest Baptist Church Family of Quitman, Louisiana will serve as guest.

The church is located at 622 West Line Avenue, Ruston and Rev. Bradon J. Crews is the pastor.

Mt. Olive Mission to hold monthly meeting

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church Mission Department will hold its meeting Saturday, Oct. 18, at 10 a.m. at the church.

The church is located at 571 Mt. Olive Rd. Grambling and Rev. Donald Young is the pastor. For more information contact Sharon Ford Dunn at (318) 614-4726.

Love Chapel to hold Cancer Awareness Day

The Love Chapel Baptist Church of Ruston will hold Cancer Awareness Day on Sunday, Oct. 19, during 11 a.m. service at the church.

The church is located at 1525 Sikes Street, Ruston and Rev. Elliott Abney is the pastor.

Men’s Fellowship group to celebrate Jesus

The area Men’s Fellowship group will meet every second Monday of each month at the Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Arcadia, Louisiana, located on 128680 LA-9 71001 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The men only group gathers for strength, courage and knowledge.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 10. The meeting is spearheaded by Pat-

rick Jefferson, former state representative, along with invited speakers. Every man is invited to come and worship.

Church of Christ in Grambling Extends invitation

The Church of Christ in Grambling invites all to worship. Bible Study is held Sunday at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m. Listeners may join online services by tuning into the YouTube channel, 146 King St. Church of Christ. Wednesday night Bible study begins at 7 p.m. The Zoom ID is 9744743562 and

the church may be contact at ChurchofChristatGrambling@gmail.com or 318- 596-1038. The Church is located at 146 King St., Grambling.

New Hope Church to hold community-wide Bible Study

The New Hope Baptist Church of Ruston will hold a noon community-wide Bible Study each Wednesday. The church is located at 301 W. Vaughn Ave., Ruston.

Editor’s Note: If you have a church announcement, please email the information to the grambling-connection@gmail.com.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Cathedral of Praise Worship Center - 2877 Highway 33, Ruston
First Assembly of God - 1400 Woodward Ave., Ruston

BAPTIST

Alabama, 16061 Hwy. 151, Arcadia
Barnett Springs, 1601 S. Barnett Springs Rd., Ruston
China Grove Missionary, 406 Vernon St., Ruston
Christ Temple, 7349 Hwy 80. Ruston
Church of Restoration, 285 Main St., Grambling
Cook, 2000 Cooktown Rd, Ruston
Corinth, 4327 Hw 545, Dubach
Countyline, 7426 Hwy. 146, Ruston
Dayspring Baptist Ministries, 3191 South Vienna St, Ruston
Emmanuel, 1200 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston
Fellowship, 6476 Hwy 151, Dubach
Fellowship, 1572 Highway 507 South, Simsboro
First, 117 Oak St., - One block south of Hwy. 80 in Choudrant
First, Hico St., Dubach
First, 200 S. Trenton St., Ruston
First, Simsboro
Friendship, 143 West Sixth Street, Bernice
Grace, 2808 Trenton Ave. , Ruston
Grace Bible, 216 Rough Edge Rd., Ruston
Greater Pleasant Grove, 1270 Golf Course Rd., Unionville
Greater St. Luke, 163 St. Luke Church Rd, Arcadia
Gumspring, 3117 Hwy 151, Farmerville
Hebron, Love Chapel, 1525 Sikes St, Ruston
Hico, 653 Hwy. 152, Dubach
Hopewell, 7657 Fellowship Rd., Hwy 151, Dubach
Lane Chapel, 1016 McAllister, Ruston
Lanes Chapel, Hwy. 151 Downs ville
Liberty Hill, Simsboro
Longstraw, 1799 Styles, Ranch Rd.,
Love Chapel, 1525 Sikes St, Ruston
Macedonia, No.1, Rt. 2, Dubach
Macedonia, No. 2, 489 E. Sibley Rd., Choudrant
Mineral Springs, 4599 Hwy 822, Dubach
Mount Harmony, 210 Mt. Harmony Church Rd, Ruston
Mount Calm, 566 Mount Calm Rd., Simsboro
Mount Olive, 571 Mt. Olive Rd. Grambling, Louisiana.
Mount Olive Outreach, 2817 S. Service Road W., Ruston

Mount Pisgah, Hwy. 3061, Ruston
Mount Sinai, 2269 Hwy. 145, Choudrant
Mount Vernon, 1356 Hwy. 167 N., Dubach
Mount Zion, 2586 Hwy 150., Grambling
Mount Zion No. 2, 113 California Plant Road, Dubach
New Hope, Choudrant
New Hope, 302 W. Vaughn, Ruston
New Liberty Hill, Hwy. 544, Simsboro
New Living Word Ministries, 1900 W. Barnett Springs, Ruston
New Pilgrim Rest, Inc., 2697 Elm St., Arcadia
New Prospect, 3438 Hwy. 167 N., Dubach
New Prosperity, 1378 Prosperity Church, Clay
New Rocky Valley, 2155 Martin Luther King Ave., Grambling
Northview Missionary, Highway 33, Ruston
Olive Grove, 3138 Olive Grove Rd, Choudrant
Pilgrim Rest, 622 W. Line Ave., Ruston
Pine Grove, 470 Chandler Rd., Ruston
Pleasant Grove, 1366 Pleasant Grove Road, Choudrant
Pleasant Grove, “The Oasis in the Woods”, 446 Bowden Rd., Ruston
Pleasant Hill, 1127 Mondy Rd, Simsboro
Rock Corner & Garden of Prayer, 824 Rock Corner Rd, Dubach, off Hwy.33, 14 miles north of Ruston
Rocky Valley, Simsboro
Solid Rock, 1511 West California Hwy 80, Ruston
Southside, 3191 South Vienna St., Ruston
Springhill, 727 Dicks Store Rd., Ruston
St. David, Vienna.
St. John, Old Grambling Rd., Ruston.
St. Mary, 1114 Larson St., Ruston.
St. Peter, 404 Longstraw Rd., Ruston
St. Rest, 09 Walker Rd., Choudrant
St. Rest, Hwy. 146 West, Dubach
Temple, 1515 S. Service Rd. W. Ruston
True Believers, 184 CCC Road, Ruston
The Springs, (A ministry of Temple Baptist Church) 1601 S. Barnett Springs Ave., Ruston
The Springs.life The Word, 504 S. Main St., Grambling University - 2856 W. California, Ruston
Vernon, 190 Vernon-Eros Road, Ruston
Woods Chapel, 326 Hwy 454, Ruston
Zion Hill, 505 Lee St., Ruston
Zion Traveler, 1201 Martin Luther King Dr, Ruston

CATHOLIC

St. Benedict, 471 Main St., Grambling
St. Thomas Aquinas, 810 Carey Avenue, Ruston

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, 2902 Hwy. 80 West, Ruston
Church of Christ, 146 King St., Grambling
Northside, 1804 N. Trenton St., Ruston
Orleans Cir. Church of Christ, 2103 Orleans Cir., Ruston
Ruston, 2300 W. Woodward Ave., Ruston, www.rustonchurchofchrist.org

EPISCOPAL

Church of the Redeemer, 504 Tech Dr., Ruston
St. Luke’s, 538 Main St., Grambling

METHODIST

Ansley Union, 328 Ansley Rd, Ruston, located 10 miles south of Ruston off Hwy 167
Antioch UMC, Simsboro
Arcadia First UMC, Arcadia
Choudrant UMC, 125 Pecan St., Choudrant
Dubach UMC, Dubach
First UMC, Arcadia
Grace, 3401 N. Trenton St., Ruston
Lewis Temple, Main St., Grambling
Mays Chapel CME, 615 W. Line Ave., Ruston
Memorial UMC, 9325 Hwy 80, Simsboro.
Mt. Mariah UMC - Salem UMC - 11793 Hwy. 151, Dubach
St. Peter AME, 1104 Arlington St., Ruston.
Trinity Methodist, 1000 Woodward Ave., Ruston
Wesley Chapel, 4330 Hwy. 818, Ruston

PENTECOSTAL

Anchor Tabernacle, Exit 93 from I-20 then South 1/2 mile, Choudrant
First Pentecostal, Corner of Kentucky and Goodwin Ruston
King’s Court UPC, 2401 S. Service Rd. West, Ruston
LifePoint Church, 1018 S. Vienna St., Ruston. lifepointtruston.com
The Pentecostals, 2851 Hwy 33 North, Ruston
Powerhouse Temple of Christ Apostolic, 101 Main St., Grambling
United Pentecostal, Dubach
Zion Temple Apostolic Faith Deliverance – Eastern Hills, off Beacon Light Rd., Ruston
Voice of Revival Ministry - 304 W. California St., Ruston

PRESBYTERIAN

Alabama (USA), 2091 Hwy 145, Choudrant
Covenant Reformed, 2106 Cooktown Rd., Ruston
Greenwood, Lincoln Parish Rd. 181, between Mitcham’s & Hwy. 146, Ruston
Ruston (USA), 212 N. Bonner St.

OTHERS

Abundant Grace Tabernacle, 3092 Hwy 556, Choudrant
Campus Community Worship Center, 1000 Saratoga St., Ruston
Christian L.I.F.E. Church, 107 Love Ave., Ruston
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 205 Woodhaven Rd., Ruston
Church of the Living God, 1438 Hwy. 167 W., Dubach
Church of the Nazarene, 1101 Center St., Ruston
Douglas Church, 1642 Hwy 821, Ruston
Church of God in Christ, 256 Voss Street, Dubach
Faith Church, 1507 Goodwin Road, Ruston
Focus Christian Ministries, Martin Luther King Community Center, 901 Martin Luther King Dr., Ruston
Fountain of Praise United Worship Center, 1394 Hazel St., Arcadia
The Gospel, 108 Sanctuary Rd, Ruston
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 2508 Kavanaugh Road, Ruston
Impact Worship Center, Greenwood Recreation Center, 1306 Cornell Ave, Ruston
Ruston Housing Authority Building 901 Martin Luther King Dr. Ruston.
Lifechurch.LA, 3000 S. Vienna St., Ruston
LifePoint Church of Ruston, 1018 S. Vienna St., Ruston
Living Water Full Gospel Church, 149 Fairgrounds Rd., Ruston
Miracle Temple COGIC, 1405 S. Farmerville, Ruston
New Living Word Ministry, 1900 Barnett Springs Rd. Ruston
New Testament Church at Grambling Inc., 508 Main St., Grambling
Praise Temple, Ramada Inn, 107 Love Ave., Ruston
St. Paul Lutheran, 504 Tech Drive, Ruston
The Bridge Community Church, North Campus, 2301 N. Trenton, Ruston
Triumph The Church and Kingdom of God in Christ, Hwy. 3061 E. Tenn. Rd., Ruston
United Faith Tabernacle Ministries & Prayer Center, 303 Cherry St., Bernice,
Upon the Rock Outreach Center, 513 E. Texas Ave., Ruston



HEALTH & WELLNESS

CHARMING'S CORNER

Flow Freely, Live Fully: Healing the Sacral Chakra

By Charming Davis

For those of you who have been following me for the past few weeks, we've talked about removing energy blocks, healing your throat chakra, your root chakra, your solar plexus chakra and your heart chakra. After your foundation is steady, the next step in your healing is learning how to flow.

Your sacral chakra, located in the lower abdomen just below your navel, is your center of creativity, emotions, pleasure, and relationships. It governs how freely you express yourself, how open you are to joy, and how balanced you feel in your desires and connections.

When your sacral chakra is strong and open, you feel vibrant, creative, connected, and alive. But when it's blocked—often by shame, repression, unhealthy relationships, or generational silencing of emotions—it can leave you numb, insecure, and dis-

connected from joy.

What It Feels Like When Your Sacral Chakra Is Blocked

You might feel:

- Numb or out of touch with your feelings
- Stuck in unhealthy cycles of relationships or intimacy
- Guilty or ashamed about pleasure or desire
- Uninspired or creatively blocked
- Overly dependent on others for validation
- Emotionally unstable, swinging between extremes

These are signs that the energy at your sacral is asking for attention. You don't have to live closed off from your joy, your voice, or your creative fire.

Why the Sacral Chakra Matters

In the African-American community, many of us were raised not to "feel too much," "want too much," or "express too much." Our emotions were often pushed down, our



Charming Davis

desires labeled as selfish, or our creativity dismissed. But silencing emotions and pleasure only creates more pain. True healing means giving yourself permission to feel, to create, and to flow.

- A balanced sacral chakra helps you:
- Express emotions without fear or shame
- Enjoy healthy intimacy and connections
- Unlock creativity and inspiration
- Experience joy and plea-

sure without guilt

- Flow with life instead of resisting it

How to Heal and Strengthen Your Sacral Chakra:

- Move your body through dance, yoga, or water-based movement
- Eat sweet, juicy fruits like oranges, mangos, and berries
- Use herbs like damiana, hibiscus, cinnamon, and clove
- Meditate with orange crystals like carnelian or sunstone
- Journal your emotions—let them flow freely without judgment
- Practice affirmations like: "I deserve joy. I allow myself to feel. I am creative and free."
- Drink plenty of water—hydration keeps the sacral energy flowing

At Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center, I offer sacral chakra teas, herbal blends, body

oils, and healing sessions designed to release blockages and restore your creative and emotional flow. You can also schedule a phone consultation with me today to begin your healing journey. I'll help you open your sacral chakra so you can step into more joy, creativity, and balance.

It's Time to Release Generational Silence

You don't have to carry the weight of suppressed emotions. You don't have to stay disconnected from your joy or your voice. You are allowed to flow, to feel, and to create a life filled with passion and connection.

Let's work together to free your spirit, open your heart to joy, and restore your flow—one sacral healing at a time.

Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center

Address: 311 Main Street, Grambling, Louisiana 71245

Phone: (318) 789-5393

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Breast Cancer Awareness Could Save Your Life



Dr. Rixie Thompson

By Dr. Rixie Thompson

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I am the President and Founder of "More Than Conquerors Breast Cancer Support Group" (MTCBCSG). We are ready and excited about spreading awareness and educating the public about breast health, early detection, and the importance of screenings like mammograms for both women and men. October is also known for a time to remember those who lost their lives to breast cancer and to honor those who have survived this disease.

More Than Conquerors Breast Cancer Support Group was established in 2007 and located in Grambling, LA. Our main mission is to spread awareness year around by conducting seminars, participating in local health fairs, and supporting all survivors. Some of the events MTCBCSG is known for are: Serving as an Activist and Cheerleader for LSU Breast Mobile, "Give Breast Cancer The Boot" Parade, Paint The Town Pink,

The Beauty And The Breast Pageant, "We Got Your Back" Backpack Project, Think Pink Reception, Pink Warriors Care Boxes, and The Pink Motorcycle Excursion. Every year MTCBCSG assists Grambling State University Athletic Department in coordinating the GSU Pink Out Game that honors Breast Cancer Survivors. This October, we will be spreading breast cancer awareness in Grambling, Ruston, Dubach, Arcadia, and Tallulah. Our main event for the month is "We Got Your Back" Backpack Project. We will be preparing and distributing forty backpacks for patients (especially breast cancer patients) who are currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment at Green Clinic.

In October of 2024, MTCBCSG opened Jonetta's Locs of Love Wig Parlor, free wigs for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments. This Wig Parlor is located in Grambling, LA. You must make an appointment at 318-278-0346 to receive free wigs.

I am a two-time breast cancer survivor better known as

the Survivorship Coach and the Founder/CEO of Coaching in Pink Shoes Ministry. I coach breast cancer survivors on how to live a victorious life beyond breast cancer by using the Word of God. My mission to help survivors led me to start my own podcast and radio show entitled, "Survivors of The Storm" which aired for three years. This October, I will be serving as the Keynote Speaker for two great events, Pink the Pews Pageant on October 12 at 2:30 at Hopewell Baptist Church in Dubach, LA and the 1K/5K Walk-Run for Wellness & Awareness in Tallulah, LA at Madison High School on October 4 at 8:00 AM.

This October, we will also be sounding the alarm about the importance of practicing preventive measures for breast cancer such as getting your annual mammograms (age 40 & up), performing self-breast exams, and healthy lifestyle. It is important to know the symptoms and risk factors of breast cancer. Watch for dates and times for our awareness seminars. Awareness could save your life.

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CAMPUS CORNER

Homecoming: Still Exciting After All These Years

By Joice M. Dunn

The week of Homecoming is upon us and you can feel the excitement in the air as current and former students fill the campus eager to attend all the fun festivities. Homecoming has always been one of the main attractions at the school since football began at Grambling around 1926.

Even with its many name changes, from Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute to Grambling College to Grambling State University, the spirit of Homecoming week has never changed. As in the past, there are plenty of activities planned for this year's Homecoming and students as well as alumni can't wait for what's in store.

"I am beyond excited to cel-

brate this year's Homecoming. While the entire week is filled with spirit and tradition, I am especially looking forward to the tailgate and the big Homecoming game," according to Sarah Sarfowaah, freshman student-parent from Ghana, Africa. She is a nursing student.

"This year the event feels even more special for me, as it is my first Homecoming serving as Miss FCS. Holding this position makes the experience more rewarding and meaningful, and I am proud to represent our school during such an important tradition. I can't wait to celebrate alongside everyone and make this Homecoming one to remember. Said Kayla Martin, Miss FCS.

"Last year, as a transfer student, Homecoming felt pretty new and unfamiliar to me. I was still adjusting to the cam-



S. Sarfowaah



K. Martin



S. Jackson

pus environment and didn't really know many people, so I mainly just observed and tried to take everything in," said Stefon Jackson, graduate student.

This year, although he's still not super involved in the events, Jackson does feel a lot more comfortable on campus than before. He believes he has a better sense of how things work and feel more settled overall, although he's not

participating as much. It's definitely a different experience just being more familiar with everything.

"When I'm at homecoming, I feel a warmth in being surrounded by people who matter. The experiences I have there turn into memories that stay close to my heart," explained Jackson.

"We are happy each year at Homecoming because we get

to interact with alumni from around the country, especially those in our majors," said a pair of graduate students.

"We would like to welcome home all alumni! Please plan to stop by the national office located on R.W.E. Jones Drive. We welcome all to become part of the alumni association (\$70/yr). www.gunaa.org and we would love to see you this weekend," said Dr. Tammy Richardson, National Alumni President (gunaaapresident@gmail.com). Richardson is a Dec. 1991 College of Business graduate.

Among other planned alumni activities, the University Advancement and Innovation will present "Beyond Breakfast: The Final Quarter," an event designed for alumni following the game at 9 p.m. in the McCall Dining Hall.

\$720K in Scholarships Awarded to GSU Students for Fall 2025

By GSU's Office of Strategic Communications

GRAMBLING, La. - September 12, 2025 - Grambling State University awarded \$720,081.84 in donor-funded and GAP scholarships to 594 students during the Fall 2025 semester, marking a record-setting milestone in student support. The total reflects a 169% increase in funding compared to Spring 2025, when \$267,968 in donor-funded scholarships were awarded. In all, 656 awards were made this semester, including \$516,654.74 in endowed donor scholarships and \$203,427.10 from the GAP Scholarship Fund.

The GAP Fund alone accounted for nearly one-third of the total awarded this semester, underscoring the program's critical role in helping students overcome financial barriers and persist toward graduation.

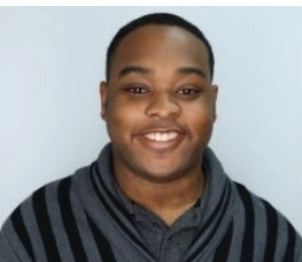
"The generosity of our investors continues to change lives and strengthen our institution," said Grambling State President Martin Lemelle, Jr. "By expanding access to higher education, we are not only helping individual students succeed — we are shaping the future workforce, enriching communities, and sustaining

Grambling State's legacy of excellence. These scholarships ensure that talented students can walk boldly into their purpose without being limited by financial barriers."

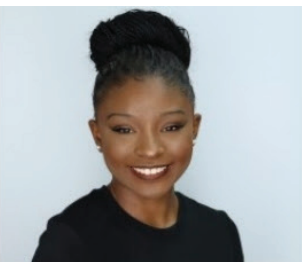
"Every endowed scholarship represents more than a financial award — it's an investment in the promise of our students," said Brandon A. Logan, Vice President for University Advancement and Innovation. "With over 95 percent of our students relying on aid and nearly half being first-generation, these resources fuel not just academic progress but economic mobility. Our goal remains clear: to be the #1 HBCU for social and economic mobility, and these results show the power of collective investment in making that vision a reality."

For many recipients, the awards represent more than financial assistance — they symbolize encouragement, recognition, and opportunity.

"I am truly honored and deeply grateful to have been selected as one of the recipients of the SGA Centennial Campaign Endowed Scholarship," said DeAngelo Williams, a sophomore Biology major and first-generation student. "This recognition means so much to me ... Knowing that



DeAngelo Williams



Jelia Williams



Paityn Neely



Kosisochi Edokwe

you believe in my potential gives me even greater drive to keep striving for excellence, to lead with purpose, and to represent the true spirit of GSU in every step I take."

"When I first saw that I was awarded the Miechelle O. Willis Endowed Student Athletic Scholarship for women athletes, I was honestly shocked and overjoyed," said Paityn Neely, a sophomore Pre-Nursing major. "It felt like all my hard work was being recognized ... This scholarship inspires me to keep pushing myself on the track and in the classroom even when no one is watching."

"Receiving the Georgia Harris Endowed Memorial Student Scholarship has been such a blessing, and I

am truly honored to be a recipient," said Jelia Williams, a senior Cybersecurity major. "This scholarship has motivated me to continue striving for excellence ... I

am deeply grateful for this investment in my future and committed to making the most of this opportunity."

"Receiving the Edwards-Gayfield iNeed Scholarship helped me relieve financial stress because I didn't have to carry the burden of paying fees on my own and allows me, as an international Pre-Nursing major, to focus fully on getting into nursing school and maintaining my 4.0 GPA," said Kosisochi Edokwe, a sophomore international student and Cybersecurity major. "The iPad I received has also helped me stay organized and take notes more efficiently, further supporting my academic journey. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, and

I thank the scholarship donors and the Grambling State University Foundation for their support."

Join the Legacy — Invest in Grambling State Students

As Grambling State continues to break barriers and expand access to education, the support of investors remains crucial. Every gift — whether establishing a new endowment, contributing to an existing scholarship, or making an annual commitment — fuels student potential and strengthens Grambling State University's institutional excellence.

To learn more about how donor-funded scholarships and endowments are transforming lives, visit gram.edu/endowments.

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY Homecoming 2025

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY OCT. 5, 2025 VOLLEYBALL GAME VS ALBORN STATE Hobby Assembly Center 2PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP McCall Dining Center 5PM - 7PM PRAISE ON THE YARD The Yard 7PM - 9PM MONDAY OCT. 6, 2025 PEP RALLY The Yard 5PM VOLLEYBALL GAME VS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Hobby Assembly Center 6PM STUDENT LATE NIGHT MARKET Digital Library Lawn 8PM - 10PM TUESDAY OCT. 7, 2025 DAY TIME STUDENT ACTIVITY Student Union 11AM - 1PM SILENT HEADPHONE PARTY Intramural Center 8PM - 10PM	WEDNESDAY OCT. 8, 2025 COMEDY SHOW Hobby Assembly Center 8PM - 10PM ***DOORS OPEN AT 7PM THURSDAY OCT. 9, 2025 FALL 2025 LONNIE B. SMITH JR. CAREER FAIR Hobby Assembly Center 11AM - 3PM HOMEcoming STEP SHOW Hobby Assembly Center 7PM - 9PM ***DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FRIDAY OCT. 10, 2025 FRED D. HEARN MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC Trails End Golf Course 8AM GRAMBLING GATHERS: PRESIDENT'S UPDATE Digital Library 10AM - 11AM DISTINGUISHED 10 AWARDS CEREMONY Black & Gold Room 11:30AM - 1:30PM	SATURDAY OCT. 11, 2025 HOMEcoming PARADE Main Street 10AM ***PARADE LINEUP AT 9AM THE ULTIMATE GRAMBLING EXPERIENCE Digital Library Lawn 12PM - 4PM HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BANDS Hobby Assembly Center 1:30PM - 4PM HOMEcoming GAME: GRAMBLING STATE VS TEXAS SOUTHERN Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium 6PM BEYOND BREAKFAST: THE FINAL QUARTER McCall Dining Center 9PM - 1AM SUNDAY OCT. 12, 2025 CAMPUS CLEAN UP Start At The Yard 10AM SOCCER GAME VS JACKSON ST. GSU Soccer Complex 12PM ALL WHITE GOSPEL BRUNCH Hobby Assembly Center 1PM - 4PM
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT GRAM.EDU/HOMECOMING #GRAMHOCO25

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CAMPUS CORNER

Grambling Gears Up for 2025 Distinguished 10: A Night of Legacy, Leadership & Inspiration

Grambling, La. — Grambling State University is proud to host its 2025 **Distinguished 10** awards — an evening dedicated to elevating alumni who embody excellence in their professions, make meaningful community impact, and carry forward the Tiger legacy. This year’s class includes leaders across education, STEM, public service, entrepreneurship, and advocacy — each story a powerful testimony that success and service go hand in hand.

Here’s a look at the 2025 honorees who capture the spirit of what the Distinguished 10 seeks to celebrate.

Meet the Honorees



Dr. Joseph Carter

A trailblazer in alumni engagement and athletics, Dr. Carter served as the first president of the Grambling University Athletic Foundation, leading efforts to strengthen institutional support for sports and student development. His service extended into education leadership in the region, and throughout his career he has remained connected to the university’s growth and mission.



Dr. Melissa Walker

Dr. Walker is a respected life member of the Grambling alumni community recognized for her leadership, professional excellence,



Dr. Constance Meadors

and civic commitment. Her inclusion among the Distinguished 10 reflects her long-standing dedication to lifting others and advancing the values instilled by her alma mater.

With a reputation for bridging science, entrepreneurship, and community outreach, Dr. Meadors has carved out a role as a STEM advocate. She uses her expertise not just to advance her field, but to open doors for underrepresented groups, mentoring and connecting individuals to opportunities they might not otherwise see.



Dr. Lestavia Duplantier

Dr. Duplantier’s career is emblematic of quiet power and sustained influence. While her public-facing narrative may be concise, her selection among the Distinguished 10 signals a lifetime of achievement, service, and leadership grounded in integrity and excellence.



Dr. Roderick Henderson

Dr. Henderson has built a record of distinguished performance and service that resonates with his community and



Mr. David Aubrey

his peers. His path is a reminder that excellence is often a steady climb forward — one founded on consistent contribution and leadership.

A name synonymous with entrepreneurial leadership and innovation, Mr. Aubrey has spearheaded ventures that uplift communities and create opportunity. His journey reflects a commitment to economic development, job creation, and mentorship — showing that business acumen and service can go hand in hand.



Ms. Anika Perkins

Ms. Perkins is a dynamic force in social advocacy, community engagement, and leadership development. Her work centers on empowering underrepresented voices, organizing platforms for youth, and building coalitions across sectors. She is widely regarded as a mover — someone who brings people together for impact.



Ms. Ayanna Muhammad

With a background rooted in service, faith, and public engagement, Ms. Muhammad’s influence spans civic



Portia Singh

leadership, advocacy, and community upliftment. Her career reflects a passion for justice, educational access, and pathways for future leaders — always grounded in compassion and conviction.

Singh has scored in reaching every goal set for herself, including earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from GSU and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. She currently serves as Chief Technology Officer at Vest Inc., an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and Technology Commercialization Lead in the Healthy Home Lab.



Mr. Pierre Perry

Mr. Perry rounds out the roster with a reputation for disciplined leadership, financial acumen, and community stewardship. Whether through board service, professional excellence, or philanthropic engagement, he exemplifies how steady influence and dedication can create lasting change.

Not only are these leaders inspirational but their legacies remind us: the roar of Grambling isn’t confined to stadiums. It lives in impact, purpose, and the horizons beyond these walls.



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- Breakfast Platter \$7.99

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- 1 Piece Fish - \$2.59
- 2 Pieces Fish W/1 Side - \$7.99
- Fish Sandwich - \$5.99
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- Pork Chop Sandwich \$5.49
- Pork Chop Basket \$7.49
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BURGERS

- Hamburger, Single Patty \$5.99
- Hamburger Basket, Single Patty & French Fries \$8.99
- Cheeseburger, Single Patty \$6.99
- Cheeseburger Basket, Single Patty & French Fries \$9.49
- Hamburger, Double Meat \$7.99
- Cheeseburger, Double Meat \$8.99

CHICKEN MENU

- 3 Wings \$8.69
- 2 Piece Dark Meat \$7.69
- 1 Leg & 1 Thigh
- 3 Piece Dark Meat \$9.49
- 1 Thigh & 2 Legs
- 2 Piece White Meat \$7.69
- 1 Breast & 1 Wing
- 3 Piece White Meat \$10.59
- 1 Breast & 2 Wings
- (*All Combos Include French Fries And A Small Drink)

SANDWICHES

- Chicken Sandwich, Grilled Or Fried \$5.99
- Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato Sandwich \$4.49
- Tuna Salad Sandwich \$3.49
- Chicken Salad Sandwich \$3.49
- Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich \$6.99

SNACK MENU

- Frito Pie \$3.59
- Corn Dog \$1.59
- Boudin Link \$3.79
- Boudin Ball \$4.49
- Meat Pie \$2.79
- Nachos W/Cheese \$4.59
- Rotel \$5.59
- Egg Roll \$2.49
- Crispitos \$2.49
- Hot Dog \$1.89
- Chili Dog \$2.49
- Potato Log \$.35
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- Taco Salad \$6.49

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ARTS & CULTURE

Entertainment Lineup for Homecoming 2025

By Lena W. Claybon

GSU always brings in top talent for homecoming and this year did not disappoint. Kicking off the entertainment festivities is Wednesday's Comedy Night featuring DC Young Fly. DC Young Fly, whose real name is John Richard Whitfield, is a comedian, host, singer, and actor, who gained prominence when he became a recurring cast member on the improv comedy series, Wild 'n Out, in 2015. Since then, he has gone on to star in several films and television series such as Almost Christmas, My Cousin's Ghetto Wedding, The New Edition Story, How High 2 and I Got The Hook Up 2 with Master P.

He has also hosted shows like the 2019 BET Social Awards with Jess Hilarious and Celebrity Squares also on BET. DC Young Fly continues to perform comedy all over the country and has a podcast with fellow Wild 'n Out co-stars, Karius Miller and Chico Bean, entitled 85 South Show.

Joining DC Young Fly on stage Wednesday night will be Grambling State's own up and coming comic, Jordan Harris, as his opening act. The event will be held at the Hobby Assembly Center. Show starts at 8pm.

Another hot ticket will be Saturday night's Homecoming Concert starring Coco Jones, Lloyd and Webbie.

Coco Jones has captivated the world with her



DC Young Fly



JJ Hairston

timeless artistry, sensual voice and emotive songs to become R&B's breakout artist. She signed with High Standardz/Def Jam in 2022 and released the EP What I Didn't Tell You with the lead single "ICU," which has been certified platinum. In 2024, she was nominated for an impressive five Grammy Awards—including the coveted Best New Artist accolade—and won for Best R&B Performance "ICU." The song was lauded by fans and critics alike and peaked at #1 on the Billboard R&B Airplay chart, leading to Best New Artist wins at the BET Awards, The Soul Train Awards and NAACP Image Awards.

R&B singer, Lloyd, began his solo career by climbing the Billboard 200 in 2004 with "Southside," his steamy duet with Ashanti. A more romantic album, Street

Love, arrived in 2007; it peaked at number two on the Billboard 200 chart, with "Get It Shawty" easily its most successful spin-off. Lessons in Love followed a year later, featuring the Lil Wayne collaboration "Girls Around the World." The singer would not release new music until 2016. Preceded by the release of the title track, the Tru EP arrived in late 2016, and was followed in 2018 by the Tru LP, a full-length version that included the single "Caramel." Lloyd has also ventured into acting, with appearances in "The Bobby DeBarge Story" and other TV roles.

Rounding out the lineup for the evening will be Rapper, Webbie, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, known for his raw, authentic style and his collaborations with Boosie Badazz. He signed with Trill Entertainment and

rose to prominence in the mid-2000s with his album Savage Life and the hit single "Give Me That". His music often focuses on street narratives and reflects Southern hip-hop culture, solidifying his legacy in the genre.

It's all going down Friday, Oct. 10. Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 8pm at the Hobby Assembly Center.

Last but not least, it wouldn't be an HBCU Homecoming weekend without a little gospel thrown in the mix so on Sunday, October 12, Grambling State pres-

ents an All White Brunch featuring gospel artist, JJ Hairston. J.J. Hairston is a Grammy-nominated gospel artist, songwriter, and director of the popular choir Youthful Praise, known for their energetic urban-tinged gospel music and songs like "You Deserve It" and "Resting on His Promise". A prolific songwriter and producer, Hairston is also the founder and CEO of the James-Town Music record label and a governor for the National Recording Academy.

The Brunch starts at 1pm and is also at the Hobby Assembly Center.

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SPORTS

Grambling Hosts Texas Southern in Homecoming Showdown

Staff Report

Grambling, La. — October 11 isn't just another date on the calendar for the Grambling State Tigers — it's Homecoming. This year's celebration features a heavyweight SWAC clash: Texas Southern University rolls into Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium, bringing not just a team, but a chance to upend a rivalry and steal some thunder in Grambling's most festive weekend of the fall.

Season So Far: Momentum and Misses

Grambling State comes into Homecoming sitting at 3-2 overall, 0-1 in SWAC play.

– The Tigers started strong, trouncing Langston 55-7 in the season opener. But the schedule tested them early: a brutal 70-0 loss at Ohio State exposed areas that need fixing.

– Since then, they've bounced back with tight wins: a 37-31 OT victory over Kentucky State, and a 31-28 nail-biter against East Texas A&M (they scored the final 17 points to pull it off).

– Their conference opener at Prairie View was a setback: a 28-13 loss that reminded everyone that the SWAC gauntlet is long and unforgiving.

Grambling's strength has often come down to depth, resilience, and adjustments — especially late in games. When their backs are against the wall, they've shown flashes of fight.

Texas Southern, meanwhile, arrives with something of a chip on its shoulder. Their 2025 campaign currently stands at 1-3 over-



Texas Southern football in Action

all, 1-1 in conference play.

– Under second-year head coach Cris Dishman, the program has staked much on culture, discipline, and closing the gap.

– TSU's season schedule is rugged, and their road trips have tested their consistency.

– To make a move in the SWAC West, Texas Southern can't afford to lose road games — this one in Grambling has extra weight.

A Rivalry Revisited: History, Trends & Turning Points

These two Tigers have had a long history of rivalry. In fact, Grambling holds the edge historically: 10 wins to TSU's 5 in recent history. At home, Grambling has been especially tough — they are 6-1 in home games vs. TSU.

However, perhaps the most recent contest is a fresh wound: on October 26, 2024, TSU edged Grambling 24-17, capitalizing on a late Quintell Quinn touchdown. That loss ended a streak and

served as a reminder — no rivalry game is a picnic, no matter the venue.

If Grambling wins this matchup, it reaffirms their dominance in this SWAC rivalry. If Texas Southern wins, it sends a ripple across SWAC West — with implications not only for standings, but recruiting pride, fan morale, and program momentum.

Keys to Victory: What Each Team Must Do

For Grambling:

Dominance of the Line of Scrimmage — TSU will try to punch inside. If Grambling can control both trenches — run defense and push up front — they force TSU to beat them through the air.

Take Care of the Ball — Turnovers in rivalry games tend to magnify mistakes. Ball security, especially in front of a fired-up crowd, will matter.

Exploit Familiarity — As the home team, Grambling can lean on crowd noise, on cues,



GSU Football in Action

on subtle edges in comfort. Use the crowd to break momentum swings.

Close Strong — They've shown ability to rally late. But Texas Southern may try to play spoiler — Grambling must finish quarters and the game with composure.

For Texas Southern:

Disrupt Rhythm — Force Grambling into uncomfortable down-and-distance situations, get pressure on the QB, take advantage of early mistakes.

Be Bold on Offense — They don't need to be conservative. Taking shots, especially if it forces Grambling to adjust, could unbalance the home team.

Win the Special Teams Battle — In tight games, field position and returns often decide. A punt block, big return, or coverage breakdown could swing momentum.

Stay Calm Under Duress — Homecoming energy will be electric. TSU's players must not let the crowd, the ambience, or early mistakes unravel

their game plan.

Prediction & Narrative

This game is as much about story as it is about stats. Grambling wants to reclaim narrative control — showing that on Homecoming, their tradition and support still carry weight. Texas Southern, meanwhile, seeks validation: a win here would serve notice that the program is rising under Dishman and ready to stake serious claim in the SWAC.

If Grambling executes fundamentals — line play, turnover avoidance, closing toughness — they should win, perhaps by a touchdown or less. But if TSU can flip one turnover, hit a big play, or shake Grambling's confidence, it's very much game on.

Final guess: Grambling 28, Texas Southern 21 — a hard-fought contest, with the hosts finding ways to hold on. But in rivalry games, margin is thin — and it's the one who handles pressure better who walks out smiling.

Lady Tigers Sweep UAPB for First SWAC Victory of the Season

GSU Athletics

GRAMBLING, La. | Grambling State volleyball delivered a dominant performance last Thursday night, sweeping Arkansas-Pine Bluff 3-0 inside the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center.

The win moves the Lady Tigers to 2-11 overall and 1-2 in SWAC play, while the Golden Lions remain winless at 0-16 and 0-3 in the conference.

GSU controlled the match from start to finish, taking sets by scores of 25-17, 25-17, and 25-16. The Lady Tigers hit .173 as a team while holding UAPB to a -.052 attack percentage.

Grambling's offense was balanced, led by Ra'Niya Brown, Kenya Lucas, and Amaris Marks, who each tallied seven kills.

Brown also paced the defensive effort at the net with four blocks.

Setter Reece Cook dished out 15 assists, with Alayna Howard close behind at 13.

Leisey Keli'i anchored the back row with 13 digs and a match-high four service aces.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Set 1: After a back-and-forth opening stretch,



Lady Tigers VS UAPB

Grambling began to pull away behind strong serving from Alayna Howard and Leisey Keli'i. Key kills from Kenya Lucas and Ra'Niya Brown fueled a late surge as the Lady Tigers closed out the set 25-17.

Set 2: Amaris Marks sparked the offense early with back-to-back kills, and the Lady Tigers jumped out to a 5-0 lead. UAPB fought back to close within two, but GSU responded with timely aces from Keli'i

and Brown, stretching the advantage. Lucas and Marks sealed the frame as Grambling took another 25-17 win.

Set 3: Reece Cook opened the set with an ace, setting the tone for GSU's final push. The Lady Tigers' front line, led by Brown and Lucas, frustrated UAPB with multiple blocks and efficient swings. Keli'i added another ace late before Brown put down the match-clinching kill for a 25-16 victory.

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