



GSU ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING ISSUE

MARCH 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Choir Performs in Washington, D.C.
- President Judson Asks Alums to Support the Pending Opening of the Performing Arts Center
- Alum Spotlight
- 2009 Hall of Fame Nominations
- Class of 1959 to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

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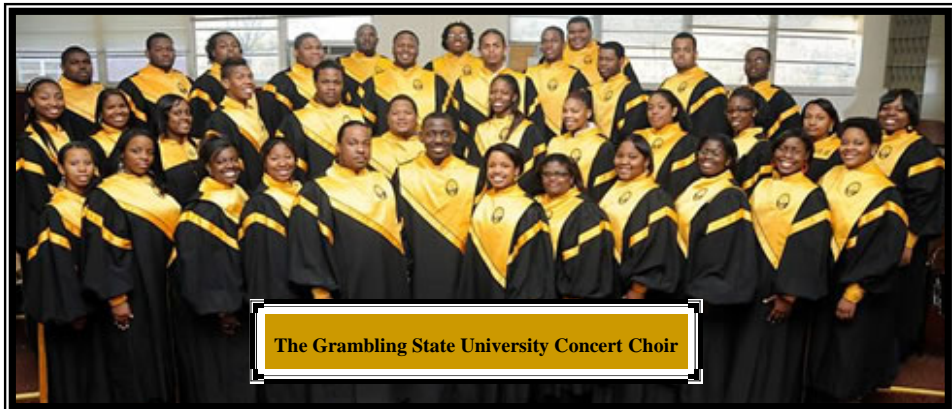
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CHOIR PERFORMS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



The Grambling State University Concert Choir

The Grambling State University Concert Choir was invited to Washington, D.C. to perform at several venues in honor of Black History Month, including at the historic Tacoma Park Baptist Church and Shiloh Baptist Church. Several members of the Grambling State University Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter attended the events.

The choir also performed for the United States Armed Forces at the Fort Myer Military Base as well as for the Army Testing and Evaluation Command -- both in Virginia. One of the most notable performances of the tour was for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which also featured a panel discussion on the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). GSU students served as panel members. The event took place at 1 p.m., Feb. 21, at Reid Temple Baptist Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland.

Mr. Edryn J. Coleman serves as director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at GSU.



Above: GSU Alums in the D.C. Metro area attend a reception for the Choir after one of their performances in the D.C. area. Below: Choir Members enjoy refreshments



Edryn Coleman, GSU Choral Director (center) Shares a laugh with alums — Alicia Williams (left of Coleman) and Martin Lemelle, Jr. (far right)



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

— MARCH 28 —
ANNUAL
BLACK & GOLD
FOOTBALL
GAME
GRAMBLING,
LOUISIANA
ROBINSON
STADIUM
2:00 P.M.

— APRIL 21 —
THE
PRESIDENT'S
CONCERT
GSU ASSEMBLY
CENTER
7:00 P.M.

— APRIL 24
AND 25 —
THE 2ND
PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARSHIP
DINNER-
THEATER
GALA
GSU ASSEMBLY
CENTER
5:30 P.M.

— MAY 14-17 —
THE CLASS
OF 1959
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

— MAY 17 —
COMMENCEMENT
GSU ASSEMBLY
CENTER
10:00 A.M.

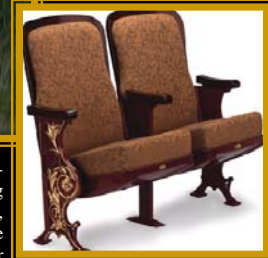
**President Judson Asks Alums
to Support the Pending Opening of
the Performing Arts Center**



In the February/March 2009 President's Update, President Judson requested alumni to support the pending opening of the Performing Arts Center.

"... This Spring we anticipate holding the official dedication ceremony of the new Performing Arts Center which will provide a new home for our World Famed Tiger Marching Band that just returned from marching in the Presidential Inauguration Parade; the Theater Arts and Dance departments which are currently preparing for the second annual President's Scholarship Dinner-Theater Production, featuring Dream Girls; and our outstanding Chorus which is currently on tour in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the White House Initiative Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other GSU supporters. All of these departments have waited patiently for their new home."

"...As part of the opening ceremony, the Office of



Institutional Advancement will sponsor "A Seat of Honor," a seat-naming campaign for faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, students and friends. The campaign will allow individuals or organizations to name a seat in the recital or theater halls in memory of a loved one, a favorite teacher, mentor, themselves or anyone else."

For more information access: www.gram.edu

**GSU Music Alums Play Key Roles in
National Task Force**

Grambling State University Band Director Dr. Larry Pannell recently joined six other music educators from historically black colleges or universities to explore issues of music education at HBCUs. The task force was sponsored by the National Association of Music Merchants, or NAMM, a non-profit trade association that unifies leads and strengthens the \$17 billion global musical instruments and products industry.

The task force's purpose was to engage in dialogue and develop recommendations about the role of HBCU's in music education and expand access and opportunity for all students to receive music as a part of quality education, expanding the expertise among music majors. NAMM asked Dr. Willie Hill, 1968 graduate of GSU, and chairman of the task force, to choose seven influential individuals who were prominent music contributors from around the HBCU community to address music education needs at HBCUs.

Pannell believes the group made progress during the discussions. "It was an honor to be included among these great music educators and to be a part of NAMM's tremendous program," Pannell said. "We just scratched the surface on a number of important issues, and I'm sure the conversations will continue."

"NAMM felt it was important to engage HBCUs in a conversation to address music education and what the needs might be for HBCUs to actively get the message across," Hill said. "I identified Dr. Larry Pannell as one of the movers and shakers in the field of music to be a part of this."



GSU Alum — Dr. Larry J. Pannell (1973)



GSU Alum — Dr. Willie Hill (1968)

2009 Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations are Being Accepted

You are cordially invited...



The 19th Annual
Alumni Hall of Fame
 Banquet & Induction
 Ceremony
 for the
GALLERY OF DISTINCTION



Assembly Center

Friday, October 30, 2009
 5:30 p.m.
 at
 Grambling State University,
 Grambling, Louisiana

<http://alumni.gram.edu/hall/overview>

The Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Hall of Fame, Gallery of Distinction. Nominations Forms and other information may be obtained from the following web address: <http://alumni.gram.edu/hall/overview>.

Tickets are available in the Office of Institutional Advancement, 100 Robinson Street or call (318) 274-2217 to reserve tickets.

Ticket Prices:

Individual	— \$85
Couple	— \$165
Table (Non Profit)	— \$655
Table (Corporate Table)	— \$1200

CLASS OF 1959 to CELEBRATE 50th ANNIVERSARY



On May 14-16, 2009, the Class of 1959 will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The Office of Alumni Relations has planned several activities for the group: Registration, a campus tour, a class meeting with refreshments, and a campus update/slide presentation will be held on May 15; A Get Acquainted Reception/Presentation of the Class Gift — May 15; and on May 16 — a continental Breakfast, a Photo Session, and the Golden Grads Commencement Ceremony.

Graduates of the Class of 1959 wishing to participate in the activities should contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (318) 274-6265/2233. More information is listed on the following website: <http://alumni.gram.edu/events/featured>

Alum Spotlight

*"GSU: A Century of Success
at Transforming Lives by Degrees"*

Miechelle O. Willis has parlayed her excellent collegiate and athletic career at Grambling State University into tremendous success as an athletic administrator since she left GSU in 1978 with a master's degree in Sports Administration.

Now in 13th year at The Ohio State University, she serves as Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Student Services & Sports Administration. In this role she oversees the sport administration of 35 of the 36 varsity sports, the compliance and camp office, strength and conditioning, medical services and is the liaison with the academic services office. She also serves as Ohio State's senior woman administrator to the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference.

Prior to joining the staff at Ohio State, Willis spent seven years at Temple University in Philadelphia. At Temple, she was the primary administrator for 11 women's varsity sports and was responsible for compliance, drug and alcohol education and student-athlete services.

Her professional experience also includes stints at Montclair State College (1978-87) as the women's track and cross country coach and she also served as a member of the 69AES United States Air Force Reserves as an aeromedical evacuation technician (1983-89).

As a student-athlete, Willis was a standout pent athlete at Grambling State University, where she graduated cum laude in 1976 with a degree in health and physical education before pursuing her master's degree.



Miechelle Willis, Senior Associate Athletic Director at The Ohio State University, credits much of her success today to a challenging but nurturing environment she experienced as a student-athlete at Grambling State University. Ms. Willis stated, "We've got to give back if we want our university to flourish and be successful, because you can't rely on state funding to do the job — it doesn't always have to be at a high level, if everyone just gave something, then Grambling would be better off."

Alumni Relations salutes Miechelle Willis

CITY of SHREVEPORT & GSU's SHREVEPORT ALUMNI CHAPTER WELCOME GRAMBLING ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The City of Shreveport, Shreveport Multicultural Tourism Commission, and the GSU Shreveport Alumni Chapter hosted a "Meet & Greet" for Mr. J. Lin Dawson, Grambling State University's Director of Athletics. The event has held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at Independence Stadium-Club Level.

Mr. Patrick Wesley, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Shreveport and GSU Grad, welcomed everyone. He informed those in attendance that the City of Shreveport was very interested in establishing a relationship with Grambling State University for a future football game.

Other members of the GSU Athletics Department in attendance were: Davin Pierre, Wanda Currie, Ryan McGinty, Bertha Roberts, Sharon Perkins, Valencia Clemons, and Steve Favors.



GSU Alums—Katherine Payne (left) and Mr. Raymond Lynch, (right) — Mrs. Payne serves as President of the GSU Shreveport Alumni Chapter



GSU Director of Athletics, J. Lin Dawson is interviewed by a reporter.

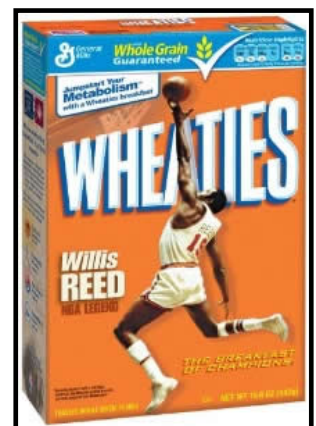


GSU Alums — Mr. Patrick Wesley (left) also serves as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the city — pictured with Mr. Robert Burton (right).

GSU ALUM HONORED BY "THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS"

National Basketball Great and Grambling State University Alum (1964), Willis Reed, was honored by Wheaties Cereal — "The Breakfast of Champions," with a new limited-edition package. The package continued the tradition of honoring renowned African-American athletes during Black History Month. It also celebrated Reed's Championship with the New York Knicks in 1970.

The Office of Alumni Relations and the Grambling State University Family congratulate Mr. Reed.



OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

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GRAMBLING, LA 71245**

Reclaiming Our Legacy and Claiming Our Place



Mission

THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE ASSISTS GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY (GSU) IN PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALUMNI, STUDENTS, PARENTS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF GSU, WHILE STRENGTHENING THE TIES OF LOYALTY AND DEVOTION TO GSU IN FURTHERING THE INTEREST OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Contact Us

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALUMNI, CONTACT MRS. GLENDA JONES, MRS. VALENCIA CLEMONS, MR. RALPH WILSON, OR MR. BYRON MCCAULEY IN THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY.



2ND ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER-THEATER GALA

**THE BLACK & GOLD
FOUNDATION, INC.
PRESENTS
THE 2ND ANNUAL
PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARSHIP
DINNER-THEATER GALA**

**PRESIDENT HORACE A. JUDSON'S
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
DINNER-THEATER
FEATURING STUDENTS FROM
GSU THEATER, CHORUS, BAND AND
ORCHESTRAS DEPARTMENTS**

**5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009
AND SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY-
ASSEMBLY CENTER
(\$45-ADULT/\$25 STUDENTS)**

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**THE SILENT ART AUCTION WILL BE HELD
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GALA
4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

Dream Girls



**WRITTEN BY: TOM EYEN AND HENRY KRIEGER
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