

# GSU ALUMNI NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2008

GSU REFLECTS ON  
POINTS OF INTEREST

- West African Art Collection Donated to GSU
- President Judson visits High Schools in Louisiana, Tennessee & Florida
- Raffle Tickets for a Ford Taurus Go on Sale
- Alumni Chapter Presidents Visit Campus and Discuss Campaign

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## Ira Wayne McConnell, '72 Donates 19th Century West African Art Collection Appraised at \$318,000 to Grambling State University



Ira Wayne McConnell, GSU alumnus, class of 1972, Member of GBGF Board of

When President Judson learned about Mr. & Mrs. McConnell's plan to donate a portion of their West African Art collection to GSU, he was elated. "What a wonderful learning opportunity this collection will bring to GSU students, faculty and the community! On behalf of GSU, I am pleased to accept this collection from Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McConnell." Ira Wayne

McConnell is Managing Partner of McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP, the largest African-American-owned accounting and consulting firm in Texas and one of the 25 largest in Houston. Mr. McConnell is a 1972 graduate of Grambling State University where he earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration-Accounting. He also received a Master's degree in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech University.

He is a Member on the Grambling Black and Gold Foundation, Inc.

18th & 19th Century  
West African Art



Aboriginal Indigenous Art

Above: **Ritual Container**, 18th Century, Benin, Nigeria, W. Africa;  
Below: **Ancestor Figure**, 19th Century, Basikassingo, Congo, Africa



Above: **Dance Mask**, 19th Century, Yaure, Ivory Coast of West Africa

## The Office of Alumni Relations Invite Alumni Chapter Presidents to Meet, Discuss Directions of GSU and The University's Fundraising Campaign

Alumni Chapter Presidents gathered on Saturday, February 9, 2008 to discuss upcoming events that will take place on the campus of GSU. Those attending the meeting were: **Kevin Walk**, *Douglas A. Williams Chapter*, Houston, TX; **Nathaniel Washington**, *Birmingham Alumni Chapter*, Birmingham, AL; **Thomas Jones, Jr.**, *Mansfield-DeSoto Parish Alumni Chapter*, Mansfield, LA; **Janice Riggs**, *Rapides Parish Alumni Chapter*, Alexandria, LA; **Edward Mason**, *Bienville Parish Alumni Chapter*, Arcadia, LA; **Charles Scott**, *Monroe/Ouachita Alumni Chapter*, Monroe, LA; **David Warren**, *Greater New Orleans*

*Alumni Chapter*, New Orleans, LA; **Raymond Green**, Secretary, *Shreveport Chapter* and **Ralph Wilson**, President of *Natchitoches Alumni Chapter* and Interim Director of GSU Alumni Relations. While on campus, the group attended a pep rally and were guests of President and Mrs. Judson for the GSU vs. Southern basketball game which was televised on ESPNU. Other items discussed at the meeting included the \$30 Million Comprehensive Capital Campaign, Homecoming 2008 and the Tom Joyner School of the Month (SOTM) Alumni Chapter challenge. Other Advancement staff on hand were Glenda

Jones, Administrative Assistant and Valencia Clemons, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations.

Valencia Clemons



2007 GALLERY  
OF  
DISTINCTION



"Rick" Gallot  
Class of 1987



Emerson  
Walls  
Class of 1980



Wilbert Ellis  
Class of 1968



Otto Myers,  
III



Virgil Robinson,  
Class of 1971



Dr. Yvonne McIntosh  
Class of 1974



Dr. Richard Rayford,  
Class of 1982



Ronald Childs  
Class of 1982



Dr. David Jefferson  
Class of 1971



Lenton Malry  
Class of 1952



Dr. Mildred Gallot  
Class of 1959



David Wright  
Class of 1957

# Dates to Remember

March 15, 2008—March 20, 2008

President's Spring Break Travels to Houston, TX and Dallas, TX

March 22 2008

Chicago, IL

March 27 2008

GradFest 10:00 am—5:00 pm  
Black & Gold Room, Favrot Student Union

April 18, 19, 2008

President's Scholarship Dinner-Theater Production, *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, debuts at 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Assembly Center, GSU  
Campus; Tickets: \$45 pp

May 16-18, 2008

Golden Grads Celebrate 50th Class Reunion

May 23—25, 2008

Class Reunion for Alumni graduating between 1985 thru 1990; Events will be held at Grambling State University; For more details go to: <http://gsureunion.com>

August 2008—Tom Joyner School of the Month

October 17—19, 2008

*Homecoming 2008—Highlights*

- 10th Year and 25th Year Class Reunions
- Alumni Hall of Fame
- Tailgating, Parade & Game

Homecoming 2008 Calendar

**October 17**

- > Registration Opens—8:30 a.m.
- > Convocation—9:00 a.m.
- > Class Meetings/Campus Tours
- > Noon—Alumni Luncheon
- > Alumni Hall of Fame—5:30 p.m. (Reception and Banquet)

**October 18**

- > 10th & 25th Reunion Breakfast
- > Parade & Game
- > President's Alumni Mixer –6:30 p
- > Ole School Dance—8:00 p.m.

Call the Office of Alumni Relations for more information: 318-274-6265

## GSU President Speaks With Junior High & High School Students

The month of January was filled with opportunities for President Judson to speak with junior high and high school students both near and far. As guest of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a program at Ouachita Junior High for students committed to entering post-secondary education and willing to do the work to get there, President Judson told students to "work hard, make a commitment and persevere." (Source: Barbara Leader, Monroe News Star) He traveled to Chattanooga, TN January 19 along with Admissions staff to share information about GSU

to an audience of 168 high school juniors, seniors and their parents from the surrounding area. GSU brought home 25 applications for Fall 2008. During early February, Dr. Judson was key-note speaker at Rocky Road Restoration Society in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. A string orchestra composed of middle and high School students started the program and these students and parents remained for his speech. The next day he spoke with another 200+ juniors and seniors from Blanche Ely High School also located in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.



## 2008 Alumni Hall of Fame



The Alumni Hall of Fame Committee will meet soon to start planning for 2008 Hall of Fame Banquet scheduled for October 17, 2008. Check back often on Alumni or Grambling websites to find out when nominations open for the next class. Your prompt response will be appreciated.

The 2008 AHOF Committee



# GSU's International Students Celebrate Cultural Differences and Similarities



Almost 400 international students chose GSU for their new home. But unlike USA students, cultural differences with food may be challenging for a few. However, Aramark is beginning to narrow those differences by offering an assortment of foods more pleasing to their taste buds. For the annual International Extravaganza, students provided special recipes for Aramark along with seasonings and coaching instructions, if needed, to prepare the menu. Students and guests enjoyed an evening of international food, fashion, music, dance and language to teach and learn about other cultures. But like most GSU students, everyone had a great evening!



President Judson enjoys a great time with GSU's International Students. Mahmoud Lamadanie is Executive Director of the Center for International Affairs and Programs



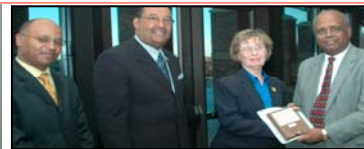
*The Presidents of Grambling State University and the Grambling Black & Gold Foundation will recognize donors of gift societies annually at the Presidents' Donor Reception for their financial support of GSU.*

## Presidents Honor Donors of FY '06-'07 at Reception



GSU President Dr. Judson and GBGF Board Members, Willie Washington & Dr. Rayford congratulate donors. The Shreveport Alumni Chapter are members of RWE Jones Society.

Above: New Member of Conrad Hutchinson Society  
Below: Attendees Socialize.



Forty-one New Members of the Grambling Black & Gold Foundation received special recognition, plaques or certificates for joining Gift Societies named in honor of GSU's historical icons. Dr. Giorlando & Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark are Members of the President's Club.



## GBGF Board Set Strategic Direction to Involve Alumni in Campaign



**Be a University partner and leader with colleges and academic departments in mobilizing the alumni nationwide, key national and local business leaders as supporters, volunteers, and the University community to help strengthen the University's fiscal foundation.**

**Strategic goal**  
 > Foundation Board Members will expand their reach to accomplished alumni nationwide in an effort to strengthen alumni support and involvement in life of the university.  
 > As University partners, board members will lead by example.

<http://www.gbgsfoundation.org/docs/GBGFStrategies2007.pdf>

**UPDATE:** The University and Foundation continue to make progress toward achieving our shared goals. We launched our first comprehensive capital campaign and can boast 100% participation by all Foundation Board members. Donations ranged from invaluable artwork, leadership pledges and payments to establishing endowments and leveraging personal relationships with Corporate and other nonprofit friends to garner significant financial and program support for Grambling State University. GSU students led the campaign with a \$1 million gift; To date, the average Alumni and Faculty/Staff gift increased over FY2007 by 180% and 128%, respectively. I know we can count on YOU to help create a 21st century University and secure GSU's future for years to come. Thanks for your continued support!

Dr. David Jefferson



Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, President of Grambling Black & Gold Board of Directors



**OFFICE OF  
ALUMNI RELATIONS**

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Fax: 318-274-3330  
E-mail: [alumnirelations@gram.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@gram.edu)

**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, Ms. Valencia Clemons or Mr. Ralph Wilson in the Office of Alumni Relations, Grambling State University or by visiting the new Alumni Relations website at the following (temporary) web address:



NEW!!!

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

# Buy Your Raffle Tickets Today—\$40 Each

**Drawing  
will be  
held  
April,  
2007  
6:00 p.m.**

**YOU COULD BE A WINNER!  
ALL-NEW 2008 FORD TAURUS**



**ONLY 600  
TICKETS  
PRINTED!**

*Grambling Black & Gold Foundation, Inc.*  
**RAFFLE**

DRAWING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2008  
**\$40 EACH**  
(ONLY 600 OPPORTUNITIES)  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
GRAMBLING BLACK & GOLD FOUNDATION, INC.  
Go to: [www.GBGFoundation.org](http://www.GBGFoundation.org) for more information  
For questions: Call: (318) 274-2233

Drawing for the 2008 All-New Ford Taurus will be held on April 4, 2008, during the GSU Theater Department's production of "Bubbling Brown Sugar" in the GSU Assembly Center.

To purchase ticket(s) please complete the form below and mail to Car Raffle, Black & Gold Foundation, P. O. Box 587, Grambling, LA 71245. Tickets can also be purchased in person during normal business hours from the Grambling State University Ticket Office.

**ORDER FORM**

GRAMBLING BLACK & GOLD FOUNDATION, INC. RAFFLE FOR AN ALL-NEW FORD TAURUS  
MAIL TO: GRAMBLING BLACK & GOLD FOUNDATION, INC., P. O. BOX 587, GRAMBLING, LA 71245 BY THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY AFFILIATION (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ NO. OF TICKETS @ \$40 EACH \_\_\_\_\_  
PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK MONEY ORDER CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
MC/VISA/AMEX/DISCOVER CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ AVS CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

