



Grambling Black & Gold Foundation Update

Volume 1, Issue 4

Grambling State University
Grambling Black & Gold Foundation

Grambling UPDATE

May 1, 2008

Dr. King David Godwin, Chair of Theater & Speech and Director of *Bubbling Brown Sugar*



Dr. King David Godwin

“To teach is to touch a life forever”, is a guiding barometer for Dr. King David Godwin, Chair of the Department of Speech and Theatre.

Godwin arrived on the campus of GSU in January of 2007 and “hit the ground running.” He very quickly set out to develop a strategic plan for his de-

partment and began focusing on achieving the department’s reaffirmation of accreditation.

Godwin has served in varied capacities in the field of higher education. His past positions include: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Theatre and Mass Communications, Chair of Humanities, Education and Fine Arts and Coordinator of Theatre and Mass Communications.

Godwin maintains an ambitious and yet what he considers obtainable goals related to his vision for the Department of Speech and Theatre. That vision encompasses the following: expansion of programs within the department,

raising the bar of academic excellence and accountability in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the disciplines within; and a richer, deeper connection with the local community and the state.

Godwin is ever mindful of the department’s rich legacy, one which certainly must be kept alive. Grambling has survived as one of the premier training grounds for aspiring actors, technicians and teachers of theatre. In the words of the late Dr. Floyd L. Sandle, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, [The task before the department] is to develop and create artists, not merely entertainers.” Godwin says “I am honored to take the baton and continue the

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Special points of interest:

- **Chair of Theater & Speech Department Featured**
- **Individual Donations to GSU Are on the Rise**
- **Alumni Chapters Accept Tom Joyner Foundation Chapter Challenge of Raising \$5000 in August 2008**

CAST of Bubbling Brown Sugar, cont’d page 4

creative run that he started almost 70 years ago.” Dr. Sandle laid the foundation for theatre at GSU when he opened with his first play in the fall of 1938. The department began to offer a degree in the art form in 1951.

In preparation for the accreditation of the department Godwin led the faculty in developing an

academic conceptual framework which will serve as a guideline for establishing the academic integrity of the department’s curriculum and its capstone courses. In addition, he also has helped to develop a marketing plan to increase ticket revenue for productions and a strategic plan to guide the overall governance of the program. The Strategic

Plan outlines specific goals for the department over the next five years.

(See Department Website for details)



Three GSU Faculty Receive Special Recognition at Year-end Banquet



Recipients: Faculty Award

Dr. Gaylon E. Murray, Teaching
Dr. Frances A. Staten—Service
Dr. Yenumula B. Reddy, Research

“When one of my students nominated me for the faculty award in

Teaching, I realized teaching is my greatest talent.” **Dr. Gaylon E. Murray** earned B.S. in English, MS. And ABD in Mass Communication from Ohio University and Ph.D. from Texas A & M University. He has taught at GSU since 1992.

“This nomination provides an opportunity for me to acknowledge those individuals who have played a significant role in the numerous service projects that I have designed and

implemented.” **Dr. Frances A. Staten** received a B.A. and M.A. from Southern University and Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Kentucky.

“Student involvement in project work leads to presentations in Regional and International conferences and brings current technology to the classroom.” **Dr. Yenumula B. Reddy** has B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Computer Science.



Dr. Favours presents Appreciation Award to Guest Speaker, Rep. Rosalind D. Jones, LA House of Representatives,



Faculty enjoy delicious meal at banquet



Dr. Steven Favours presents Appreciation Award to Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Dixon.

Tom Joyner Foundation Selects GSU as School of the Month—Fundraising Benefits

Seven Grambling State University **Alumni Chapters** accepted the challenge presented by Tom Joyner Foundation, School of the Month of raising \$5000 during the month of August. Other chapters and alumni groups are invited to participate in the campaign to raise funds for

GSU. The goal established for one month is \$300,000. The University has extended an invitation to Tom Joyner to visit the campus during Homecoming. We are awaiting a response from his staff.

In the meantime, we encourage all alumni to dig

deep and help improve our BRAND not only as a university leader in sports and music but also in “Alumni Giving”. Let’s make GSU #1 in Giving!

For more information, go to web address:

www.blackamericaweb.com/site.aspx/foundation/donation



Drake Mills, CEO of Community Trust Bank presents Leadership Gift to President Judson in support of *Our Legacy Campaign*. Kevin Kilpatrick (left) is GSU’s representative from the Bank. The presentation represents the first of a three-year commitment of support.

The Charles P. Adams Historical Society Opens Charter Membership Category

Grambling State University has been blessed over the years with many dedicated community volunteers who work to honor the legacy of Grambling State University and the Town of Grambling.

Annually, the University celebrates **Founder’s Day**, to honor the Founder and first President of Grambling State

University, **Charles Phillip Adams**. A week of planned activities and programs in September provides a reminder to most and orientation for GSU freshmen about this historical university and its founding fathers. In the spirit of Founder’s Day, the *Grambling Black & Gold Foundation* along with the *Charles P. Adams Historical Society* invite you to become **Charter**

Members of the Historical Society by completing your application and paying membership dues before June 30, 2008.

Member Categories:
 Annual Dues—\$50;
 Non-profit Organization Dues—\$75
 Corporate Dues—\$200;
 Life Member Dues—\$300



GSU Founder, Charles P. Adams
 Born 07/21/1872 —Died 06/27/1961
 GSU President 1901—1936

Individuals Donate to GSU: Increase Seen Among Alumni and Faculty/Staff

Over the past decade or longer, Institutional Advancement's role has been to collect and track donations to Grambling State University by the gift level and frequency of giving. In recent months, articles have been written by *U.S. News & World Report* as well as *Diversity Issues in Higher Education* comparing alumni giving among Universities nationwide as well as among HBCUs. Unfortunately, GSU does not register in any of these reports for obvious reasons: the number of gifts

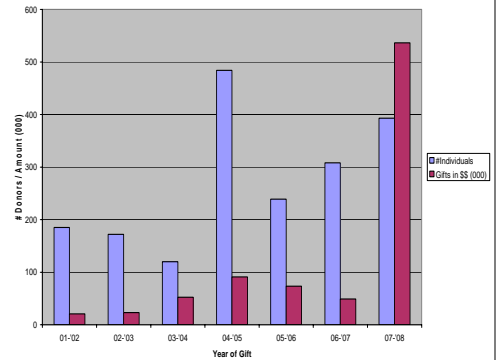
received from alumni are disproportionate to the number of addressable alumni in our database of approximately 20,000; the average gift donated does not reflect accurately the gift capacity nor the frequency in which alumni could donate to their alma mater.

In Advancement language, infrequent donors are referred to as LYBUNTS or SYBUNTS: Last Year But Not This Year; or Some Years But Not This Year. From the

chart to the right, one might say confidence in GSU among individuals is improving as reflected by the steady increase in the number of donors, average gift size in FY '08 and the increase in the number of alumni and faculty/staff giving. We are hopeful this is not a SYBUNT year.

It may take a few more years to draw any conclusions about the data, but from this chart, we simply say **THANK YOU!**
Institutional Advancement

Comparison: No. of INDIVIDUAL Donors vs. Gift Amount for Fiscal Years 2001-2008 - As of April 30, 2008



GSU's Top Graduate Recognized at 2008 Spring Commencement

Grambling - The Office of the Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs has formally announced the highest ranking graduate for the 2008 Spring commencement exercises.

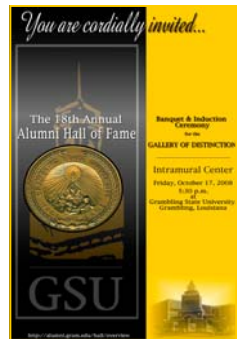
Talea Lashea Mayo, earned a 3.97 GPA, Mathematics major; she is a member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society, American Meteorological Soci-



Talea Lashea Mayo plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics at University of Texas, Austin.

ety, Society for the advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, (Collegiate/Service) Grambling State University Tiger Marching Band, Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority & Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She resides in Highlands Ranch, CO and her parents are: Pamela and Frank Isom, and Tony Mayo.



Nominations are open for the 2008 Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held October 17, 2008. See <http://alumni.gram.edu/hall/invitation>.

OUR LEGACY CAMPAIGN Continues...

Message from Dr. David Jefferson, President GBG Foundation

On November 24, 2008, **Our Legacy Campaign** moved into the public phase by announcing our campaign goal of \$30 million having already raised 20% of the goal in pledges and receipts. As of May 1, 2008, over 600 Alumni nationwide pledged

\$83,000 in specified gifts and 1500 pledged unspecified gift amounts. Alumni pledges along with faculty/staff and "friends" of GSU are being fulfilled daily. GSU Administration anticipates reaching our campaign goal within five years or sooner. We invite

everyone and encourage others who share OUR vision of pursuing excellence, guaranteeing GSU will be a competitive, 21st century University for future generations, to join our efforts of "Reclaiming Our Legacy and Claiming Our Place."





**Grambling State University
Grambling Black & Gold Foundation**

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***“Reclaiming Our Legacy and
Claiming Our Place”***



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.gbFOUNDATION.org

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____



<http://www.gbFOUNDATION.org/legacy.php>

GBG Foundation Board Presents First Annual President’s Scholarship Dinner-Theater Gala



**Cast, Theater Director,
ULS & Foundation Board
Members and Dinner-
Theater Co-chairs (Left)**



Dr. King Godwin notes that while the program is a challenge, he really enjoys his work and he is truly happy to be a part of the GSU family. Since his arrival last January, Dr. Godwin directed the self-study for accreditation and successfully led the department to achievement of re-accreditation, directed seven theatre productions and toured with one production, and directed the first “Presidential Scholarship Dinner Theatre Production” (*Bubbling Brown Sugar*), raised the attendance at productions, taught classes and served as chair of the department. Godwin, a two time Salzburg Fellow to Austria, a Kennedy Center fellow, a C-Span Fellow, a Fulbright Fellow and a former Associate Dean of Academic Affairs brings a wealth of experiences in higher education. He truly is looking forward to making the Theatre program a stellar, premier program for years to come.