

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



TRACK | 2018 INDUCTEE

Janice Bernard-Forde

presented by Alice Jackson (Atlanta)

Janice grew up in the small town of Tunapuna Trinidad with her parents Inez and Elias. At an early age, Janice expressed a passion for track and field. She often attended track meets to see other athletes compete. Sister Ruth Palmer, a principal at St. Charles Girls Catholic High School, observed her enthusiasm and encouraged her to join the team. Shortly after doing so, she became one of the top sprinters and received the Athlete of the Year Award from St. Charles.

Receiving a track scholarship to attend Grambling State University, she settled in at Grambling and quickly adapted to the culture. While at GSU, she learned the importance of time management and being a team player to achieve her academic and athletic goals. While at Grambling, Janice ran the 60, 100, 200 meters and was on the sprint relay teams. She worked hard to remain focused to complete Coach Ed Stevens' challenging workouts. She became one of GSU's top sprinters. Janice was a member of the phenomenal team which competed in collegiate-division track meets, as well as the SWAC Championships.

Janice's dedication to excel landed her a position on the relay team during the Pan American, Caribbean, Commonwealth, and Central American Games. Furthermore, she competed internationally in Ghana, Australia, Cuba, Colombia and Germany. She won medals for her country, broke national records while improving her personal best times. Janice's career in track and field culminated with representing Trinidad in 1984 at the Los Angeles Olympic Games where she ran the 400 Meter Relay. Her relay team held this record for Trinidad until the Olympic Games in 2012.

Janice Bernard received a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education and a Master of Science in Sport Administration. In 1982, Janice returned to Trinidad where she shared how her education, experiences, and accomplishments as a student-athlete played a large part of her many successes. She uses this platform to motivate youth to strive to be their best and that focus, and hard work, will assist them to achieve their goals. Janice coached track, netball, and soccer. She has planned and implemented cultural enrichment programs for her high school.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



FOOTBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Ezil Bibbs, Jr.

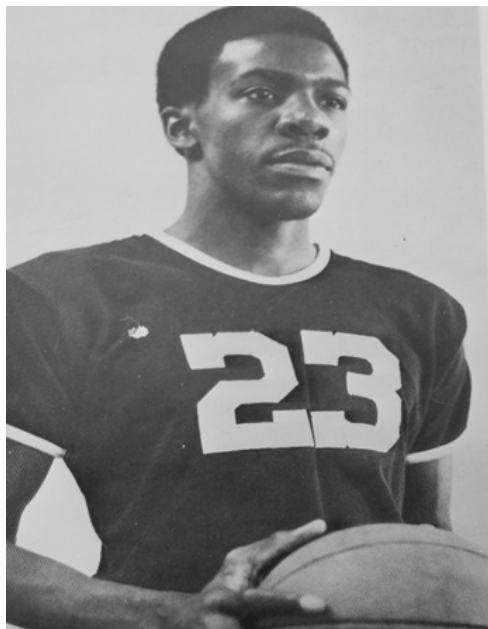
**presented by Doug Williams
(Washington, DC)**

From Marrero and West Jefferson High School, Ezil Bibbs, Jr. came to Grambling to continue his academic and athletic interests. Ezil, as a defensive lineman, was named All-SWAC in 1973-74. Because of his athletic abilities, he was twice named All-American by the Pittsburg Courier. Ezil was the captain of the 1972-73 Tiger football team. Being a dedicated player, he was a member of the 1971-73

Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championship teams.

Bibbs was drafted in the fifth round by the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL). He was later the number one pick by the Edmonton Eskimos and then traded to the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the CFL. Ezil served on the Board of Directors for the Grambling University Athletic Foundation and the Board of Directors of the Grambling Legends, Inc. Ezil is a Life Member of the Grambling University National Alumni Association, a member of the Grambling State University Athletics Alumni Hall of Fame, as well as a member of the Canadian Football League Players Association. Bibbs also served as line coach at Grambling State University.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



BASKETBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Emanuel Cannon, Jr.

presented by Fred Hilton (Baton Rouge)

Baton Rouge and Scotlandville High School produced this efficient round baller. Cannon was a member of the All-Star Team of 1966-1967. Playing both the position of forward and center, he chose to attend Grambling State University.

As an outstanding forward, Emanuel was named Freshman of the Year. His acute skills in the sport propelled him to be selected as Most Valuable Player 1969-1970. Emanuel was the leading scorer in 1969-70. Additionally, he was named to the NAIA third team All-American Basketball Team during 1970. After his collegiate career, Emanuel played for the Dallas Chaparrals in the ABA League.

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FOOTBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Eric Gant, Sr.

presented by Billy Manning (Shreveport)

From Kathleen High School in Lakeland Florida came Eric Gant. Forged by the blood, sweat, and the determination to succeed, this young man carried inside himself the will to win. Kathleen gave him the beginning, as he was invited to the Florida East West Shrine All-Star Game. He was named team MVP and was awarded the Coach's Award and the Spirit Award.

Grambling molded him to become a machine of a cunning, decisive, and skilled competitor. It was said, "If you give him an inch, he would take a foot." That reality occurred many times, and Gant never shied from seeing an opportunity to break through a log jam to make the needed play.

Gant was a two-time All-SWAC first team selection. He is one of only 17 Grambling players invited to the Senior Bowl, and he held the school record for yards in a season (1,417) and yards in a career (3,795), as well as those for rushing yards by a sophomore and junior. He was the Heritage Bowl and Bayou Classic MVP; All-Louisiana and Sheridan All-American; named GSU Man of the Year four times and SWAC Player of the Week twice. He was named the Edd Hayes Black College All-American in 1991, Louisiana Newcomer of the Year in 1991, GSU Outstanding Offensive Back in 1992, and GSU Most Outstanding Player in 1992.

Eric is a community-involved individual and works with youth and children.

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CONTRIBUTER | 2018 INDUCTEE

Dr. C. D. Henry*

presented by Douglas Porter (Grambling)

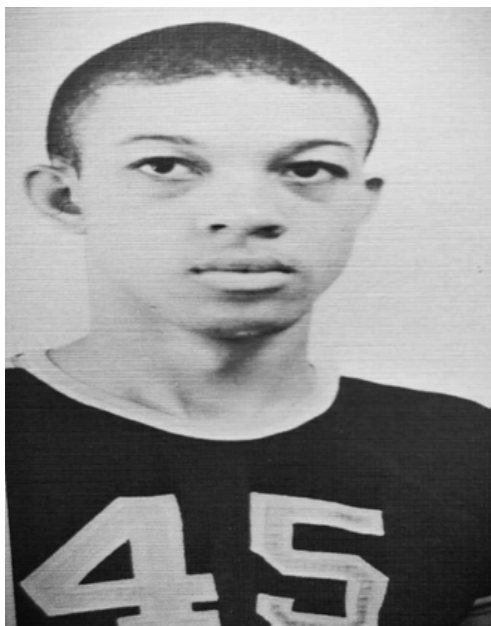
A native of Conway, Arkansas, Charles David Henry, II, graduated from Philander Smith College in Little Rock. He went on to receive his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Iowa. Henry began his career in athletic administration when he returned to his alma mater as the director of athletics and assistant football coach at Philander Smith for six years. He then moved on to Grambling College where he served as the Chairman of the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department from 1958-74. In addition, he was the executive officer and secretary-statistician for the Southwestern Athletic Conference from 1968-73. Henry had such a profound influence on Grambling College and its educational and academic programs that the original Natatorium was named for him.

He joined the Big Ten Conference on June 1, 1974, becoming the first African-American assistant commissioner of any major conference office. He was instrumental in preparing the Big Ten for officially instituting women's competition in 1981-82.

His leadership in athletics was evidenced by his work with NCAA, NAIA, SWAC and the Olympic Basketball Committees. Dr. Henry was very active in national affairs, serving as the executive secretary for the National Athletic Steering Committee, which was an athletic policy-making board for all Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He was also named Physical Educator of the Year.

In 1984, the Charles D. Henry Honors Award was established by AAHPERD for distinguished service and excellence. In 1985, he was inducted into the National Association of College Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame. During that same year, he was inducted into the Grambling State University Hall of Fame. C. D. Henry was named Man of the Year by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1954, 1960 and 1968. In 1992, the C. D. Henry Internship was established by the Big Ten Conference for a minority interested in athletic administration.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



BASKETBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Richard Johnson, Jr.*

presented by Howard Davis (Baton Rouge)

An Alexandria, Louisiana native, Richard's athletic prowess was noted early on in his playing days. This 6'9" center came to Grambling College to be guided by his coaches to be prepared for life and the next level of success. While at Grambling College, Richard was a part of the teams that benefitted from his abilities. In his junior year, he was chosen to play in the Pan-American Games, but he was forced to quit as a result of a fractured ankle. He capped off his final game with a 40 point, 20 rebound performance. He was chosen to

the SWAC All-Conference team in his junior and senior years. He was a third team All-NAIA selection in his senior year.

Richard was chosen to try out for the US Olympic Team, but he passed up the chance for an opportunity at the professional ranks. In the 1968 draft, Richard was selected in the fourth round by the Boston Celtics. He was the only rookie at training camp to survive pre-season cuts which was an indication of the high regard in which Coach Bill Russell held Johnson. Russell called him the fastest big man he had ever seen, and it was that quality along with his accurate outside shot that made him a part of the Celtics' future. In 1969, Richard was a member of the Boston Celtics' NBA Championship team.

His playing career lasted from 1968 –1973. In addition to the Celtics, he played for The Floridians, Carolina Cougars, Pittsburgh Condors and the Wilkes-Barre Barons. During that period, Richard amassed very good statistics of 677 points (5.0 ppg), 417 rebounds (3.1 rpg) and 58 assists (0.4 apg).

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



FOOTBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Richard H. Lee, Jr.*

presented by Virgil Robinson (New Orleans)

Richard, from Mossville, LA, was known for his athleticism through the sports of track and football. While in high school, Richard was State Champion in Shot Put from both a Class A and a Class AA school. Having been pursued by a number of institutions, he, prompted by another Grambling Legend, Johnny Comeaux, decided that Grambling was the place for him; and receiving a scholarship helped to sweeten the process.

He played his four years as an offensive tackle and was named Captain his last three years as a Tiger. Richard was a committed and dedicated player, as well as a student of the science of football who studied continuously in order to play a better game. As a result, he was a contributing member of the SWAC Championship teams of 1966-68. He was named to the Kodak Honorable Mention All-American Football Team in 1968. He received a Certificate of Merit from the Pecan Bowl. Lee was a member of the Orange Blossom Classic Championship team in 1968; participated in the Sugar Cup Classic 1967; and played in the Junior Rose Bowl. There was an interesting event that took place during one of the football games. When Richard observed that the defensive line was being decimated, he and co-captain Ernest Sterling did not hesitate to substitute themselves into the game to provide relief. This was the first time that this type of gritty action had been taken by any of Coach Robinson's leaders.

Lee was drafted by the Boston Patriots, but he was released after the last pre-season game. In coming home, Richard was provided an opportunity to work and identify unique activities he believed would work in his community, as well as to mentor young people in a sport he loved. He loved dogs and participated with his beagles in certified field trials. He helped young people with small animals for 4-H competition.

Richard and four others founded "The G-Men Gathering." The organization grew, and the name was changed to "The Richard H. Lee, Jr. G-Men Gathering" in honor of the contributions this "Gentle Giant" had made to the organization.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



FOOTBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Larry Metevia, Sr.

presented by Clarence Harris (Pine Bluff)

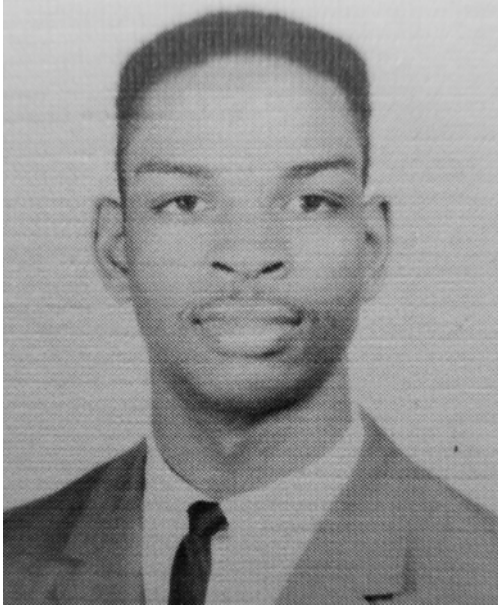
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, via McKinley High School, provided impetus for Larry Metevia to make decisions in moving to be successful. As a student-athlete at McKinley he was an achiever. In 1961, Metevia was selected as an All-State athlete in football. Securing a scholarship to play football at Grambling College, he began his path to his life's work.

Larry was a physically strong student-athlete. His performance on the gridiron brought him recognition in 1966 as an All-SWAC Conference center. In addition, he was named second team All-American Center during the same year. In the professional realm of football, in 1968, Metevia was a part of the New Orleans Saints taxi squad as a center.

Metevia coached at McKinley Junior High School and Capitol Senior High School in the sports of football and basketball as well as track and field. He is a proud educator who has taught and coached for thirty-six (36) years. Being an innovative individual, Larry has forty (40) years of entrepreneurial interests as a home repair contractor.

Larry is a member of the Knights of Saint Peter Clavier Council #12 (Grand Knight); a St. Francis Xavier Usher, a McKinley Alumni Member, a member of the YMCA , and a Grambling University Alumni Association Adolph Byrd Chapter Member.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



BASEBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Frank Patterson

presented by Ben Williams (Grambling)

Eva Gordon High School in McComb, Mississippi nurtured Frank Lee Patterson to seek his shot at a better life with the assistance of Grambling College. He was a product of the Jones' coaching thrust as during his baseball career, Number 18, he held the record for the Most Grand Slams in Grambling history.

In 1971, he was a Vietnam soldier as a part of the US Army.

Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame



FOOTBALL | 2018 INDUCTEE

Charles Smith, Sr.

presented by Charles Smith, Jr. (Dallas)

Monroe and Richwood High School were the cauldron locations for the development of Charles “Tank” Smith. Grambling State University was the beneficiary of this development when Smith came to Grambling to play football as a wide receiver. Number 85 became a solid contributor to the Tiger line-up, and he was rewarded with being named All-SWAC.

Leaving Grambling, Charles became a member of the Philadelphia Eagles as a wide receiver. Smith caught 218 passes for 3,349 yards and 24 touchdowns in the eight seasons of his career. Additionally, he played in the USFL. His skills and commitment compelled him to work with young people. He coached young people at West Monroe and Wossman High Schools in the sports of track and basketball. His teams have won state championships in girls’ basketball. Additionally, he has guided his students from Wossman High School to four championships (boys and girls) in track.

Charles is a steward of his community where he volunteers for the Leukemia Foundation, the United Way, the March of Dimes, and the Senior Citizens of Ouachita Parish. Some of you may remember this young man as one of the subjects of the made for TV movie, ‘Grambling’s White Tiger.’”