



## **Stephenie Usher, Grambling State University- c/o 2005, Criminal Justice**



**Name :** Stephenie Usher

**Your HBCU :** Grambling State University

**Graduation Year :** 2005

**Major :** Criminal Justice

### **1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?\***

I am from Rochester, NY but I currently live in Atlanta, GA. I was introduced to HBCUs by my high school history teacher, Mr. Terrence James. He encouraged all his Jrs/Seniors to apply to an HBCU. At the time I had never heard of any other HBCU, besides the ones located in the AUC. Mr. James really wanted me to attend Spelman College.



True Grambling Tiger! GramFam c/o 2K05

### **2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?\***

I really don't have any reason why I chose an HBCU over a PWI. I didn't apply to any PWIs so those particular schools weren't an option for me. But I guess now that I think about it, when thinking about the type of school I wanted to attend, I knew I wanted a place that felt like home and to me a PWI wouldn't have felt like home.

### **3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?\***

Thee Grambling State University has molded me into the person I am today. Leaving NY and going to LA with no one except my BFF forced me to grow up fast. Even though I was 1000+ miles away from home I didn't feel like it because everyone was so welcoming and I immediately felt like I gained a second family. I am still really close to most of my college friends. I don't know - words really can't express my experience. It is one that you have to truly live and one that I'd be happy to live again.

### **4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?\***

My first experience at my HBCU was freshman orientation, which was about two months before school actually started. I got to stay on campus all weekend without my parents. That's when i met one of my good friends and knew that GSU was the right fit. the weekend was informational, but still fun.

### **5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?\***

HA! Dr. Thompson in the CJ department. The first day in his class he told me that I would be one of the students to fail out because I was talking during lecture. I laughed at him and told him not to bet on it. Of course I proved him wrong, not only did I receive an A from the class I was also exempted from the final exam. He still tells this story to his students and has labeled me as one of his most successful students because of my current profession.

