Phyllis Darden-Caldwell is a proud Panther alumnus (class of 1980) with a list of well-earned titles attesting to her dedication to the growth of her community and alma mater. This year, the Fourth Floor Art Gallery and John B. Coleman Library will add the title of celebrated art collector to her list. The campus is excited about presenting a selection of artworks amassed in the new exhibition entitled Portrait of a Legacy: Artwork from the Home of Phyllis Darden-Caldwell, Class of 1980.

Ms. Darden-Caldwell’s collection is diverse and reflects her interests in portraiture as well as her affinity for vibrant imagery. Featured in the collection are several works of art that she has acquired while traveling abroad or obtained regionally. A majority of the art featured in this show has been produced by San Antonio based, pastel artist, Ronney Stevens. Caldwell’s home is a gallery to many of Steven’s limited edition, giclee reproduced, portraits of superstars and ordinary people. For this exhibition Stevens is showing his original works on paper. Mr. Stevens has shown his work in such venues as the Texas State Capitol in Austin and Dallas’ African-American Museum. Ms. Darden-Caldwell and Mr. Stevens are paternal, first cousins and both revel in narratives that explore the multifaceted nature of the African-American experience. Phyllis is quick to admit that her love of aesthetics and collecting art stems from a fascination with her cousin’s talent.

This exhibition opens on the eve of Prairie View’s 2011 homecoming season so in celebration of this elegant alum, all are invited to attend a reception on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 11:00-2:00 pm in the Fourth Floor Art Gallery. Portrait of a Legacy: Artwork from the Home of Phyllis Darden-Caldwell, Class of 1980 will be on view through January 20, 2012 and is free and open to the public. For more information about this show or the Fourth Floor Art Gallery at Prairie View A&M University please call 936-261-1523 or visit http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/3665.asp

Images featured above left to right: Triplets by Ronney Stevens, pastel on sandpaper, 2001; Photograph of Phyllis Darden-Caldwell; Listen to the Hipbones by Paul Goodnight, poster, 2000