

ACADEMIC INSIGHTS

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



Fall 2017 is officially behind us. Hopefully, you had a wonderful semester and are looking forward to tomorrow's commencement exercises where we will confer over 500 degrees. We are honored to have educator, anthropologist, and museum director Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole deliver the commencement

address. We are also excited to reignite the tradition of streamlining our exercises into one ceremony. Tomorrow will be a memorable occasion for all, especially for our fresh group of graduates who will set out to conquer the world. We could not be prouder!

Looking back over the past four months, fall 2017 was a sensational semester for Prairie View A&M University. From the Marching Storm taking on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, to the Golden Knights dropping in on our Military Appreciation Game, to record PVAMU enrollments, including record freshman enrollment for the second year in a row, and higher retention rates across the board, we had a lot of positive achievements. In the midst, dozens of students and faculty members were also busy publishing, as well as presenting their research, and taking part in various competitions. All of these things certainly helped raise PVAMU's visibility both nationally and internationally. I am proud of all of our departments in the academic division, from Enrollment Services to Financial Aid, and everywhere in between.

Happening now on campus, we are making significant strides in increasing technology resources and services with more tech-enabled classrooms, auditoriums, and more to come. We are also enhancing our services with the procurement of new technology solutions and upgrading our existing solutions so that we are best positioned to leverage our resources while streamlining and enhancing our business operations in order to do a more efficient job in delivering instruction and services for faculty, staff, and students. We expanded our support services with a whopping ten new professional advisors housed in the colleges and schools who compliment freshman advisors who support our students in University College. With the increased advising staff, we anticipate more students will have an even better experience with the advising process. Earlier this year, we revamped our new student and transfer orientations, and we anticipate introducing an online orientation system this spring. We culminated Panther Camp with all freshmen participating in

a spectacular event in Panther Stadium. They did an on-field PV21 shuffle, which you can check out on YouTube. Building-wise, we are awaiting a spring 2018 opening of the School of Architecture's Digital Fabrication Center, and we broke ground on PVAMU's new Welcome Center, which we expect to open next fall.

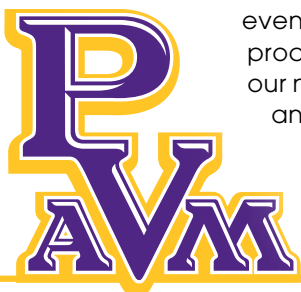
This year, we welcomed a host of staff and faculty members who hit the ground running, and many of our existing employees blossomed. A few weeks ago, The Texas A&M University System confirmed Dr. Ruth Simmons as the eighth president of PVAMU. This move makes her the first woman to lead this great university in its 141-year history. We look forward to what her years of experience and prestige will bring to "The Hill," though, I'm certain, it will all be great things!

To conclude, it was announced in a special campus announcement last month, that I would be stepping down as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, effective December 31st, to spearhead a new initiative at PVAMU called the Special Initiative for Faculty Development. The program will provide significant new funding to assist faculty across the university with additional research support, travel funding, publication costs, grantsmanship, and other measures to accelerate the strengthening of teaching and scholarship. I will also develop programs to augment student access to funding for their research and internship opportunities. Leading Academic Affairs in the interim will be Dr. James Palmer, who currently serves as associate provost for Academic Affairs, interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, director of Land-Grant Programs, and associate professor of English. He has an in-depth knowledge of academic programs at PVAMU, and he is committed to student success. I believe he is more than ready to take on this new role.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as provost for the past three-and-a-half years. Together, we have made significant strides in moving the university forward, advancing our position as an institution, and strengthening the overall infrastructure and focus on student success. I am confident PVAMU will continue to move to higher places, as it is a place of opportunity and growth. It has all of the necessary parts to lead, not only above other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but over all public institutions of higher learning. It is truly a tremendous place to learn and work! Thus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead, and thank you to Prairie View A&M University.

Felecia M. Nave

IGNITE your passion



promotions

CARMEN R. CARTER, Ph.D.

Associate Dean/Acting Dean for Graduate Studies

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Reports to: Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Carmen Carter is serving in the role of acting dean in the Office of Graduate Studies at Prairie View A&M University, effective July 1. As acting dean for Graduate Studies, she will play an active role in PVAMU's efforts to increase the academic profile of the university's master's and doctoral programs. The Office of Graduate Studies will continue its mission of providing administrative leadership and support for graduate programs and students across PVAMU's eight colleges and schools. Carter is looking forward to building upon the current infrastructure to impact graduate student success.

Carter began her career at PVAMU in November 2015 as assistant dean for Graduate Studies. Prior to her tenure on "The Hill," Carter served in several leadership positions at the University of Houston, including assistant dean for Student Affairs where she led recruitment, retention, and advising functions for undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Technology.

Carter earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and a Master of Arts in Higher Education from the University of Iowa. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Human Resource Studies from Colorado State University. The Des Moines, Iowa native currently resides in Houston, Texas with her husband and two children.



“The Office of Graduate Studies will continue to inform new policies which will guide our graduate students from matriculation to degree conferral as seamless as possible. Our office is also committed to providing additional professional development opportunities to help shape our graduate students into emerging scholars and leaders in their chosen fields. I am excited to continue the wonderful collaborations across campus to ensure our graduate programs are highly visible and competitive, and our graduate student experiences inside and outside of the classroom are intellectually challenging and fulfilling.”

promotions

TYRONE TANNER, Ed.D.

Executive Director Northwest Houston Center

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Reports to: Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Tyrone Tanner is the new executive director of Prairie View A&M University's Northwest Houston Center (NWHC), effective September 1. He is responsible for growing academic programs at the NWHC and extending the reach of community services through strategic community partnerships. Prior to becoming executive director of the NWHC, Tanner served as a professor of Educational Leadership in PVAMU's College of Education.

Tanner brings to his new position more than 20 years of experience in higher education, administration, and K-12 education, where he has worked as an urban school personnel director and a high school and middle school administrator. He has also authored more than 30 publications and is regularly featured at local, state, and national conferences to share insights and strategies on how to build institutional infrastructures that position educational entities to confront long-standing inequalities in primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. Tanner is highly sought after as an advisor and consultant to superintendents, campus leaders, and parent and community organizations for the expressed purpose of creating sustained school and community partnerships. He has shared his research with more than 250,000 school and community stakeholders. "The ultimate goal of my research and work is to ameliorate the gaps in academic outcomes that are prevalent among historically underserved student populations," said Tanner.

Tanner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Newberry College in South Carolina, a Master of Education from Southern University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Houston.



“Extending the brand and excellence of PVAMU in the Northwest Houston community through building relationships and partnerships with school districts, small businesses, corporations, civic organizations, and other external stakeholders, places us at the forefront of premier educational institutions. In many ways, this job is the culmination of all of my work, service, teaching, and research. I could not be more humble and excited.”

promotions

CHARLENE STUBBLEFIELD, M.Ed.

Executive Director of the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (formerly Distance Learning)

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Reports to: Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Charlene Stubblefield, M.Ed. is the new executive director of the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CI²TS), formerly Distance Learning, at Prairie View A&M University. She assumed this role on September 1, following the retirement of Dr. John R. Williams, whom she worked closely with for more than a decade.

Stubblefield has 15-plus years of experience in higher education as a learning resource specialist, data analyst, and senior instructional designer, before being promoted to the executive director of CI²TS. This new role will give her an opportunity to develop policies and procedures related to technological innovation in online and hybrid course design. She will manage staff, i.e., instructional designers, multimedia specialists and network engineers, ensuring they are developing partnerships with academic programs, which will allow students in specified programs to experience instructional innovation. Stubblefield will also be instrumental in leading the way as Distance Learning undergoes its rebranding to the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services.

Stubblefield currently serves as a regional group development chair for the Texas Distance Learning Association. She also serves on the Texas A&M University System Council for Academic Technology and Innovative Education as an executive committee member. She previously served as a university representative on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Learning Technology Advisory Committee from 2014 through 2017.

Stubblefield holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Education in Educational Technology from Texas A&M University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at Prairie View A&M University with plans to research the technological literacy of the millennial generation.



“ I am excited about being promoted to executive director of CI²TS because it gives me an opportunity to expand on my predecessor's accomplishments by building an online presence across all academic and non-academic programs. I am also excited about being employed at Prairie View A&M University at a time when there are changes in university leadership as well as changes in society.”

► "Distance Learning is now called the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services (CI²TS). It was rebranded to encompass all that we do. We are assisting departments with supplying courses with technology, and we are expanding and enhancing the university's online and hybrid courses. We introduced Getting Ready for Quality Matters, which is a faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online courses and online components. We also started offering Introduction to Teaching Online, which allows faculty to earn continuing education hours."

promotions

LORIE M. PROCTOR, M.Ed. **Director of Graduate Student Services**

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Reports to: Associate Dean/Acting Dean for Graduate Studies

As the newly appointed director of Graduate Student Services, Lorie M. Proctor, M.Ed. is responsible for developing programming initiatives for graduate student professional development in preparation for industry or academia. Additionally, she provides guidance in the development of graduate student organizations, graduate student awards, and on-campus programming to bring awareness to graduate studies at Prairie View A&M University. Previously, Proctor held a graduate student recruiter position at PVAMU.

Over the past ten years, Proctor has built a career in higher education. Having been affiliated with both two-year and four-year institutions, she has worked in the areas of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Graduate Studies.

The Dallas native is a proud Panther who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from PVAMU (Class of '04) and a Master of Education in Higher Education from Abilene Christian University. Proctor is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Leadership at PVAMU. Her research agenda focuses on the transition and adjustment of first-generation graduate students to graduate education.

Crowned Miss Prairie View A&M University in 2003, Proctor made history by being named as the inaugural student recipient of the Prairie View A&M University Humanitarian Award. In her efforts to highlight the legacy and presence of Miss Prairie View, in 2006, Proctor established and continues to help organize the biannual Miss PVAMU Alumna Reunion.

Proctor currently resides in Houston, Texas with her husband Jirmar Proctor (PVAMU Class of '99).



“Graduate education enhances the academic and social climate of any institution. By providing a welcoming and engaging environment for graduate students, we have the opportunity to expose them to a different side of education, which can be paramount to their future. I am excited to be a part of the PVAMU legacy in Producing Productive People!”

Faculty, Staff and Student STANDOUTS

A Fall Semester to Remember for the Marching Storm

By Marchita Shilo

Take cover! It's definitely "Storm Season" for the Marching Storm at Prairie View A&M University. The band performed in front of their largest audience yet at the 91st Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They were picked from nearly 200 applicants to be one of ten bands that headlined the nationally-televised event.

"I am excited for the students," Director of Bands Dr. Timmey Zachery said before the performance. "I'm excited because not only is this a great opportunity for our students to showcase their skills and represent the state of Texas, but it's also exciting in the fact that some of these kids have never left Texas before. It's a very enthralling time for me both as a band director and as a teacher."

Around 300 members of the Marching Storm spent the past two years preparing for their appearance in New York with around-the-clock rehearsals, performances, and fundraisers.

"I didn't have to yell as much during our practice runs," Zachery said with a laugh. "I could tell the students were

excited and they were ready. You could just feel the excitement in the air."

The Marching Storm flew out of Hobby Airport the Monday before Thanksgiving, and in videos posted on social media, everyone was all smiles.

"It's definitely not raining on the Storm," said Zachery. "In addition to the Macy's parade, this semester, our students have performed in the 369th Experience, the regional Bands of America competition and the Circuit of the Americas Formula 1 Grand Prix, both in Austin, Texas. We were recognized time and time again for having one of the best halftime shows by HBCU Sports, we were recently ranked second overall in the ESPN/The Undefeated Band Rankings, we had our most successful High School Band Day ever with nearly 1,000 participants, and we were invited back out to Atlanta this January to participate in the 2018 Honda Battle of the Bands. It's just been an amazing season and a great year for our program."



You can follow the Marching Storm all year long on social media using the handle **PVAMU Marching Storm**.

Female Cadet Successfully Completes Army's Rigorous "Jump School"

By Marchita Shilo

Cadet Loretta Williams, a senior biology major at Prairie View A&M University, who is also in PVAMU's Army-ROTC program, is going places. Post-graduation, she wants to be a pilot. She also wants to defend our country on the front line in the infantry.

"I have always been passionate about wanting to give back to the community and help people in any way I can," said Williams. "Serving for our nation is a grueling job, and it will challenge me in every way. But, I can't wait to do it."

To prepare, Williams volunteered to represent PVAMU at the United States Army Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia over the summer, and unlike so many people who attend the school every year, Williams passed.

"One of the main reasons I volunteered for Jump School was to show other girls they can do it, they can be paratroopers too," said Williams. "When people look at me, they don't see your average cadet. I'm friendly and I'm super girly, but I did it. Plus, it was an awesome experience and a great peek into Army life."

Airborne School is divided up into three weeks: ground week, tower week, and jump week. Each week is extremely dangerous and challenging.

"Ground week teaches you how to land properly after jumping out of a plane," said Williams. "It's basically throwing your body at the ground over and over and over for the entire week. The second week, we focus on how to properly exit a plane and control our parachutes, on top of learning how to land correctly. Jump week is basically the grand finale - we get to jump out of planes. I talked to my mom on the phone right before that week, and she told me later that she was worried the whole time."

Students completed five jumps in total. Three times "Hollywood Style," with no equipment, and two times with combat equipment.

"When the door opens, your mind and your body

can't judge the distance and how far up you are in the air," said Williams. "You just follow the person in front of you, jump out of the plane, and let physics do the rest. There's no time to think."

In the midst of practicing how to jump out of a plane and actually jumping out of a plane, students completed four long distance runs as well.

"It was in the middle of the summer, so it was hot, and it was miserable, but we had to do it as part of our training," said Williams. "Despite what you see in movies, there's nothing glamorous about being a paratrooper. It hurts. But I'd have to say, everything I experienced was worth it. It was awesome."

In the future, Williams plans to attend the U.S. Army Air Assault School and Ranger School, which, by the way, is one of the toughest training courses for which a soldier can volunteer.

"There have only been three women in the Army to get Ranger tabs, and I want to be the fourth," said Williams.

▼ Cadet Williams receives her Airborne Wings.



Faculty, Staff and Student STANDOUTS

TAMUS Chancellor Nominates Professor for CATE Award

Dr. Cleveland O. Lane, Jr., assistant professor and director of the Anatomical Visualization and Simulation Center in Prairie View A&M University's Department of Biology, is a 2017 recipient of The Texas A&M University System Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators (CATE) award. Lane is one of ten people to receive the honor this year. He will be recognized at the Chancellor's Century Council Annual Banquet on February 16, 2018.

Lane recently spoke at the Innovation Education Conference on Digital Image Technology Applied to Basic and Clinical Medical Curriculum at the China Medical University in Taichung, Taiwan on November 18. He discussed the "Application of Anatomy Teaching with Innovative Technology."



PVAMU Shares in 2017 National Water & Energy Conservation Award

On November 9, Dr. Ali Fares, associate director of Research and professor of Water Security in Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, and his colleagues, received the 2017 National Water and Energy Conservation Award at the annual meeting of the Irrigation Association in Orlando, Florida. Fares is representing PVAMU on the USDA-NIFA multi-state five-year research project W-3128, "Scaling Microirrigation Technologies to Address the Global Water Challenge," which involves scientists from 20 major land-grant universities and two federal agencies.

"The Irrigation Association, through this national award, honors projects that show significant achievement in the conservation of water and energy relating to irrigation procedures, equipment, methods, and techniques," said Fares. "My plan is to help more CARC (Cooperative Agriculture Research Center) scientists serve on other multi-state projects so they will interact and collaborate with their top peers in other land-grant institutions and present their findings to Texans with primarily limited resources, diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds."



To read more, visit twri.tamu.edu/18342

Librarian Receives Certified Organization Advisor Credentials

Kimberly M. Gay, PVAMU Librarian and Head of Reference and Information Services, recently completed the course of instruction of Mortar Board's Leadership Excellence and Advisor Development program, known as LEAD. The completion of LEAD entitles Gay to use the credentials of a Certified Organization Advisor (COA). Moreover, advisors who attend LEAD increase their skills in creating and maintaining a strong advisor team, effectively advising student organization officers, cultivating relationships among a diverse group of students, enhancing students' cocurricular education through opportunities for teaching and interacting outside of the classroom, and helping student organization leaders apply their existing skills to the one-of-a-kind leadership situations they face.

LEAD has been offered eleven times since it was first piloted by Mortar Board in 2011. There have been 170 advisors from 20 honor societies and institutions who have earned the COA.





Fall Outreach Events Bring Thousands of Students to Campus

By Marchita Shilo

"It's Showtime at PVAMU." That was the theme for this semester's Elementary Partnering School Day. It could have been the theme for HISD Day a few weeks earlier. That's because, for both programs, close to 2,000 students came to visit "The Hill."

"This was our first-ever HISD Day for the Houston Independent School District," said Dr. Talitha Lewis, director of Strategic Partnerships and K-12 Outreach. "Approximately 600 students, parents, faculty, and staff signed up to come visit Prairie View A&M University on November 4 to learn about the campus and our eight colleges and schools. For Elementary School Day on November 17, it was our third time putting on this event, and a little over 1,500 students from 35 schools in our 19 partnering school districts participated."

Some may ask, what is the benefit of events like these? According to Lewis, they get young minds thinking about college life, so by the time they get to high school, they know what college is and what to expect.

"Some of my student volunteers from the Student Partnerships & Outreach Team (SPOT), National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the National Society of Black Engineers graduated from a partnering school district. They were excited to help and lead these kids into coming to PVAMU, like they did," said Lewis.

The Office for Strategic Partnerships and K-12 Outreach plans to hold another Elementary School Day in the spring, as well as a Middle School Day and a Leadership Conference.

"We, as a department, are looking forward to our continued growth at PVAMU and our growth with our partnering school districts. We will continue to work hard and do what we set out to do almost two years ago."

► *PVAMU has a total of 19 partnering school districts, but it is in the process of finalizing agreements with the Houston and Cy-Fair Independent School Districts.*





Two Alum Volunteer at Madison Area College Fair to Help Recruit Future Panthers

By Marchita Shilo

Prairie View A&M University alumni are making a difference from Texas all the way to Madison, Wisconsin. That's where TJ McCray, director of Instructional Technology and Media Services for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), and Victoria Crosby, who is pursuing a law degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, recently volunteered to help recruit future Panthers at a local college fair.

"Last year was the first year for the fair, which was hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Black Graduate and Professional Student Association. This year, they were expecting more than 400 students from the Madison area to show up, so I really wanted to be there to express to the students all of the great things that PV has to offer," said McCray. "I truly believe if we're able to get at least one student from this area to attend PV, it will definitely cause a ripple effect."

The focus of the fair entitled, "Issa Experience: An HBCU College Fair" was to expose underrepresented minorities to Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country, while also promoting the quality of

education that HBCUs offer.

"I find my HBCU experience invaluable," said Crosby. "At Prairie View, I was a member of the Honors Program, I traveled the world and studied Mandarin. I met some of my closest friends and had some of the most invested mentors in my life. PVAMU prepared me for law school and for entrance into the real world. I love my HBCU, and I want to showcase the education and experience I received to anyone that will listen."

Crosby and McCray don't plan to stop recruiting. They have another college fair penciled into their calendars for this coming February in the Madison area.

"It is important for PV alumni to remain active in these types of events because students can't make the right choice if they are not aware of their choices," said McCray.

Crosby said, "As PVAMU graduates, we are always representing our university. So, why not use our education to inspire the next generation of Panthers?"





Retention Rates Rise to 71 percent, Highest Level in Nearly a Decade

By Marchita Shilo

Retention rates at Prairie View A&M University reached their highest level in seven years. According to recent data, the percentage of incoming students who returned for their second year sat at 71 percent. In prior years, that number hovered between 64 and 69 percent, with 2009 being the last cohort to reach 71 percent. Similarly, PVAMU saw an increase in second- and third-year retention rates.

"We will not pinpoint just one reason for PVAMU's increased retention rates over the last two years," said John P. Gardner, assistant vice president for Academic Engagement and Student Success. "We also can't credit one person, one department, or one unit. It is the students and employees of this university working together with a common goal to intentionally improve student success, both inside and outside of the classroom."

Records have shown most universities in Texas tend to document their highest student dropout rates after the

first year. Various reasons involve students who aren't performing well academically, financially, or socially.

"Research indicates that students who are academically and socially engaged on campus show a much higher persistence rate than their counterparts," said Gardner. "We are in the process of bringing to scale proven high-impact practices and best practices to support our students achieve their academic and career aspirations."

In addition to improved retention rates, PVAMU saw its largest freshman class in the university's 141-year history this fall.

"We have to keep this momentum going," said Gardner. "As an institution, we must continually assess our student success initiatives and programs in order to improve the quality of the service we provide to our students. We should also continue to utilize high-impact practices and best practices that are proven to work across socioeconomic lines."





Updates from Academic Technology

Since the beginning of 2016, Academic Technology (AT) has been busy making a better experience for students, faculty, and staff at Prairie View A&M University.

- AT incorporated ServiceNow, or SNOW, into PVAMU operations for Academic Affairs. Anyone can report technology or audio visual (AV) issues online from any university computer or call x2525. SNOW allows PVAMU IT services to monitor and respond accordingly. Initial response times are as follows, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.:

Priority 1: system outage, VP and Administrators; within 15-30 minutes

Priority 2: system is responding, but at less than optimal requirements for needed service; within 30 minutes – 8 hours

Priority 3: general technical problem that does not impact immediate service; within 12-24 hours

- PVAMU's Information Technology Services (ITS) is working on upgrades throughout campus including updates to the wireless and network infrastructure.
- Classroom upgrades are complete in the Don Clark Building as well as at the College of Nursing in Downtown Houston. The next classroom upgrades are scheduled to be completed in Hilliard Hall, Hobart Taylor, Delco, New Science, W.R. Banks, and includes an auditorium upgrade in Nathelyne Archie Kennedy Building.
- The University introduced Duo Security to protect faculty and staff from infiltration of passwords. It is being utilized for Faculty/Staff Webmail as well as VPN access.
- Spirion was introduced in October. It's designed to scan hard drives for personal information as a data loss prevention tool.
- Avecto is in the works. Users will be able to upgrade and install approved applications without having administrative rights or initiating a ticket with ITS. This will improve overall security posture by removing unnecessary privileges and admin rights.
- Banner 9 and Luminis 5 are also on the way.

in case you missed it...

Hundreds of Students Rock “The Hill” on High School Band Day

More than 800 students from nearly a dozen high schools from around Texas played their hearts out at Prairie View A&M University’s Panther Stadium for High School Band Day.

“Each year around June, we solicit participation from various schools for High School Band Day,” said Dr. Timmey Zachery, PVAMU’s Director of Bands. “For this year’s performance, nearly 12-hundred students and parents showed up for the final event on November 11. It was great.”

Before the big event, chosen bands rehearsed with Marching Storm captains and section leaders. Then, two schools were picked to perform at a game solo.

“For this year’s event, we picked Alto High School and Reagan Early College High School to perform at our halftime show,” said Zachery. “Then, when they finished, we brought everyone out to the field to perform with the Marching Storm.”

In addition to Alto and Reagan, the final lineup included Royal, Yates, Booker T. Washington, Kimball, Ozen, Marlin, West Orange, MLK Academy, Heights, and Northside High Schools.

“Every year, I look forward to High School Band Day, because it’s a phenomenal opportunity for us to recruit future Panthers and future Marching Storm Members,” said Zachery.



in case you missed it...

US Army Parachute Team Headlines Military Appreciation Game

The United States Army Parachute Team, also known as the Golden Knights, made a surprise helicopter-to-field appearance before Prairie View A&M University's final home game of the 2017 football season on Veterans' Day. Six jumpers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina descended upon Panther Stadium, for the first time in PVAMU history, with a Military Appreciation Day game ball and a baton for newly-selected President-Elect Ruth J. Simmons.



"The jumpers had purple-smoke-producing machines tied to their shoes, and the crowd was chanting, 'USA! USA! USA!' during their six-minute performance. So, it really made for a spectacular event," said Lieutenant Colonel Reginald Williams, department head of PVAMU's Army ROTC program.

The Golden Knights presented Simmons, along with Provost Felecia M. Nave, and Danny Kelley, dean of PVAMU's Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences with lithographs, or autographed photographs from the team.

"This university-sponsored event was pretty significant," said Williams. "It showed an appreciation and a tremendous honor to our nation's veterans, and it also showed PVAMU's commitment to its Military Army ROTC program. Not to mention, PVAMU is the only HBCU in the nation the Golden Knights has performed at in 2017 - they performed at eight other college football games this year. Needless to say, that says a lot about our great university."

According to Williams, there are only about 35 HBCUs across the country, including PVAMU, that host Army ROTC programs.

COLLEGE NEWS



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Students Win 2nd Place in National Design Competition

A group of students from Prairie View A&M University's School of Architecture took home second place in the American Institute of Architects, Custom Residential Architects Network (AIA CRAN) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)'s 2017 HERE+NOW: A House for the 21st Century Residential Student Design Competition. The competition had more than 560 student and faculty participants from a host of major universities across the U.S. PVAMU's team included Sean Benson, Jabbar Cobbs, Shannen Martin, Kimberly Montgomery, Emanuel Soito, Hobed Villanueva, and Shelly Pottorf (faculty). They designed an affordable, net-zero energy solution called "The Dogtrot Duo" for the Independence Heights community in Houston, Texas. You can read more about the design at acsa-arch.org/programs-events/competitions.

ROY G. PERRY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Lockheed Martin Awards College of Engineering \$100,000

The Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at Prairie View A&M University received a \$100,000 donation from global security and aerospace company Lockheed Martin.

"The donation will give us the ability to recruit more incoming freshmen to the College of Engineering Institute Summer Bridge program. In addition, we will be able to attract more students by offering scholarships, developing funded senior design projects, and training students with the needed soft skills to effectively function in the professional world," said Dr. Shield Lin, associate dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering. "Our college offers a broad range of programs and activities that serve to assist in the building of a highly skilled and diverse STEM workforce, and a good number of very qualified engineering and computer science graduates from PVAMU are employed by Lockheed Martin. We will appreciate Lockheed Martin's partnership with us for years to come."



COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE OF NURSING

37 Students Receive White Coats

The College of Nursing held its White Coat Ceremony on November 4 in the Opal Johnson-Smith Auditorium. There were 37 prospective clinical admits for the class of spring 2018. In addition to the College of Nursing, the Prairie View Student Nurses Association (PVSNA) and the Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored the event. The next White Coat Ceremony is April 7, 2018.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

From the Classroom to the Trading Floor



During the week of Thanksgiving, College of Business Instructor Danny J. Harvey took seven students to New York City. They visited the New York Federal Reserve, Williams Capital Group, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, New York Stock Exchange, Bank of New York Mellon, Goldman Sachs, CastleOak Securities, and the Museum of American Finance.

"Our trip was designed to expose students to opportunities that exist in the financial industry within investment banks," said Harvey. "Also, it was to establish relationships with these investment firms and the College of Business at Prairie View A&M University."

COB Dean Munir Quddus, who also joined the group for some of the visits, said, "The opportunity to expose business and finance students to some of the major companies in the New York financial industry is invaluable. This will impact their career decisions and improve the brand of the PVAMU College of Business. I am glad Mr. Harvey took the initiative and is planning to make this an annual event."

The group topped off their trip by supporting and cheering on the Marching Storm in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. You can read more about their NYC visit at pvamu.edu/blog/from-the-classroom-to-the-trading-floor.

COLLEGE NEWS

BRAILSFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

A Look Inside the Tuesday Afternoon Concert Series

By Marchita Shilo

Nearly two years ago, Prairie View A&M University purchased 28 Steinway pianos, making it one of a dozen schools in Texas to hold the distinction of being "An All-Steinway School."

"The previous pianos were here before the building (Hobart Taylor)," said Dr. Mark Phillips, professor, and head of PVAMU's Department of Music & Theatre. "They served their time well, but it was time for a change."

Around the same time of PVAMU receiving the pianos, the university celebrated 100 years of Music being an official major on "The Hill," and Dr. Danny R. Kelley, a pianist, and dean of the Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, hosted a concert to commemorate the occasion.

"After the concert, Dean Kelley and I really wanted to expand on PV being 'An All-Steinway School,'" said Phillips. "So, we came up with the Tuesday Afternoon Concert Series at 2 p.m., which is open to anyone who wants to come and see what we do in the arts."

According to Phillips, each guest is invited to PVAMU, with an accompanist or as a soloist, to play on a Steinway piano.

"The more you play these pianos, the better they become," said Phillips. "They are like a fine wine. They get better with time."

This fall, pianist Gustavo Romero and tenor Leo Day kicked off the series. This coming spring, pianist Nicole Narboni, violinist Tami Lee Hughes, jazz pianist Arlington Jones, pianist Timothy Hester, and pianists Michelle and Kimberly Cann, will "wow" the crowds in the Dr. H. Edison Anderson Recital Hall.

"The overall lineup is a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the Prairie View community to get exposed to what musicians from all over the country are doing, and it doesn't cost you a thing," said Phillips. "If anyone reads this article and they have just an inkling of a desire to venture further into what these concerts will be about, then pick a concert, and come be a part of the audience. I guarantee we'll make them concert-goers."

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE
THE TUESDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES

 GUSTAVO ROMERO , piano September 12, 2017 (2PM)	 LEO DAY , tenor October 3, 2017 (2PM)
 NICOLE NARBONI , pianist February 6, 2018 (2PM)	 TAMI LEE HUGHES , violinist February 20, 2018 (2PM)
 ARLINGTON JONES , jazz pianist & quartet March 27, 2018 (2PM)	 TIMOTHY HESTER , pianist April 10, 2018 (2PM)
 CANN DUO , pianists Michelle Cann & Kimberly Cann April 24, 2018 (2PM)	*ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE

COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND PSYCHOLOGY

The Future of Research and Innovation: Undergraduate Research Information Session

By Marchita Shilo

Students and faculty of Prairie View A&M University packed the auditorium in the Don K. Clark Building on November 13 for the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology-Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center's, in partnership with the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Undergraduate Research Information Session. Attendees were able to learn about the benefits of participating in undergraduate research.

"Steven Thomas from Michigan State University talked to our students about the Summer Research Opportunities Program, Nma Ohiaeri from the CDC talked about their Undergraduate Public Health Scholars program, and Kristi Rodriguez from the University of Texas Health Science discussed career and internship opportunities for their Summer Health Professions Education Program," said Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi, director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. "For our faculty who attended,

they learned about the benefits of institutional faculty-student mentored research and strategies for effective and successful undergraduate research. It was great because everyone got to ask plenty of questions and map out their next steps in the wide world of research."

Students were encouraged to apply for summer programs and check out fellow student research experience presentations at the Scientific Research Symposium in the New Science Building.

"Students who are graduating with a bachelor's degree, who want to engage in graduate studies in the future, need to realize it's a competitive pool," said Frazier-Kouassi. "Undergraduate research makes them competitive, and it gives them a hands-on learning experience. For our faculty, research gives them more opportunities to develop their ideas and advance in their fields of study. Knowledge isn't stagnant, it's dynamic. So, engaging in research is really a win-win for everyone."



COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Want Them to Follow, Give Them the Map

Meshia Greer, Finance major ('17), and LaRachelle Smith, Director of CAHS Marketing, Communications, and IT



LaRachelle Smith (PVAMU Class of '94), who is now director of Marketing, Communications, and IT within the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS), began her career as a project engineer with the Boeing Company's International Space Station Program at NASA. Dr. Danielle Hairston-Green received her doctoral degree from PVAMU. But, before attending PVAMU, Danielle served as an elected official in her home state of Pennsylvania and transferred her skills to developing leadership programs for teens that groomed them for the political arena. Throughout both of their careers, these ladies recognized the importance of leadership skills for professional growth and advancement. As a result, they started the Student Leadership Apprentice Program (SLAP) within CAHS.

The idea emerged as a project, focused primarily on students affiliated with CAHS. The project would help students realize their career potential after graduation and chart their path as influencers around the globe. The program also embodied the vision of the college's five-year strategic plan and aided in carrying out the imperative to becoming a "Gateway to Opportunity." With support from other CAHS administrators, LaRachelle and Danielle co-founded the SLAP program to emphasize the importance of the C5E—a concept developed by Danielle at the completion of her dissertation entitled, "Perceptions of Agriculture Leaders on the Value of Non-Cognitive Skills Related

to Early Success in the Agriculture Industry." The C5E skills include Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Conflict Management, Critical Thinking, and Ethics. The mission of SLAP is to impart the knowledge of seasoned leaders and experts to students at 1890 land-grant universities while preparing them with self-awareness and real-world experiences before graduation to become the game changers of tomorrow.

Many former apprentices started great careers and now attribute a part of their success to the skills they acquired from the SLAP program. Miranda Clark participated in 2015, and she is now a lead veterinary technician at Thrive Affordable Vet Care. The same year, Tajah Revoir completed the program, and after graduation, she secured a position at Accenture, a management consultant company. Johnathan Williams, class of 2016, started his career working with policymakers on Capitol Hill in Austin, Texas. Ayesha Rodgers was accepted into AmeriCorps' Teach for America organization and started her teaching career in the Dallas Independent School District. Just this year, Meshia Greer landed a job with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) where she will prepare for licensing as a commissioned financial institution specialist. These are only a few of the success stories, with many yet to come.

The program also gained national attention. Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the USDA, said, "I tip my hat to Prairie View in developing this program. You are going to be one of the pioneers in our nation, particularly, in developing the skills that make students that much more successful."

► *Currently, PVAMU is one of only two 1890 land grant systems to implement a project of this scope for agriculturalists, setting PVAMU apart from other HBCU's. Go Panthers!*

save the date

January 9	Spring 2018 Orientation
January 11 - 13	Regular Registration Period
January 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (University Closed)
January 16	First Day of Class
January 16 - 20	Late Registration and Drop/Add Period
January 23	Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (1st 8-week session)
January 25	General Student Assembly
January 31	Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (Spring 2018)
February 14	Deadline for Spring 2018 Graduating Undergraduate Students to Submit Application for Tuition Rebate; Deadline to Apply for Spring 2018 Graduation Ceremony
March 8-10	Mid-Semester Examination Period
March 9	Last Day of Class (1st 8-week session)
March 12 - 17	Spring Break
March 16	Spring Break (University Closed)
March 19	First Day of Class (2nd 8-week session)
March 20	Mid-Semester Grades Due (Spring 2018); Final Grades Due (1st 8-week session)
March 26	Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (2nd 8-week session)
March 28	Founders' Day/Honor's Convocation
March 30	Good Friday (Student Holiday)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



What are you doing next summer?

The Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University is proud to announce the 2018 RISE (Research Internship Summer Experience) program.

RISE is open to undergraduate students as well as master's students who are interested in doctoral studies. The RISE program will be hosted at the NC State campus in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 2 - August 2, 2018.

More information and directions for applying to the 2018 RISE Program are available at go.ncsu.edu/rise.

The application deadline is February 1, 2018.



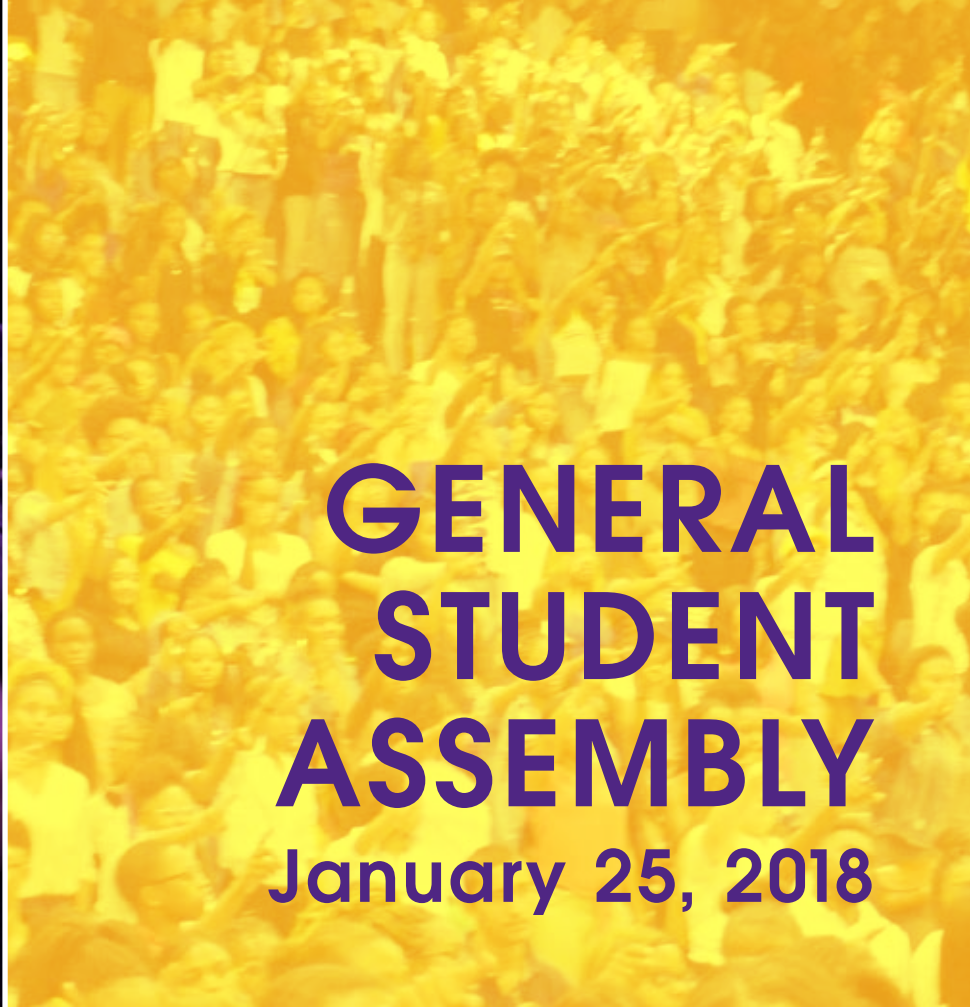
Commencement Convocation

DECEMBER 16, 2017



GENERAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

January 25, 2018



Launching December 2017



ACADEMIC INSIGHTS

Submit story ideas, send feedback, or contact us!

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