



A Magazine for  
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Fall★2011

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

# Head of the Class

Wright teaches history course to offset budget

Bradford  
Appointed CFO



The Legacy  
Continues

Mr. PVAMU 2011-2012  
joins elite rank



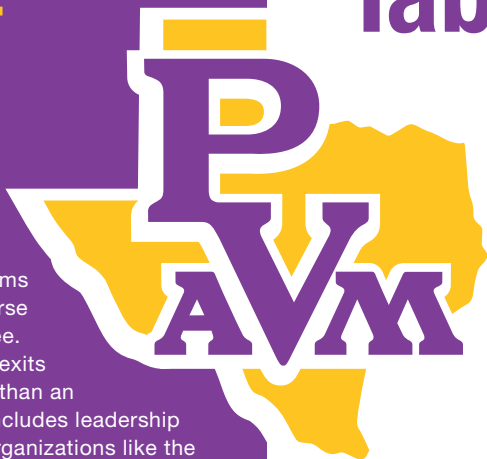
Bowles Dealt  
Hand of Aces





**re•dux**  
(ri-duhks) adj.:  
**Brought back;  
returned.**

Three times a year, students will graduate from Prairie View. After going to early morning classes, studying for countless exams and completing the prescribed course work, they will have earned a degree. My goal is that when each of them exits the stage they will leave with more than an education but an experience that includes leadership skills sharpened through student organizations like the Purple Jackets and B.L.A.C.K. featured on (pg. 22).



## MESSAGE from the President



I want students to participate in and be exposed to arts and culture like Willie Rollerson and Quodesia Johnson, who sang in the 105 Voices of History HBCU National Concert Choir or to pursue degrees at highly ranked schools like the graduates featured on page 12. Indeed, higher education is much more than simply completing degree requirements but rather an opportunity for self examination and pursuit of knowledge.

As the President of the University, I do not assign grades, but I am supposed to lead and inspire students to set and obtain their goals. Over the last few years I have done that through song. "I Believe I Can Fly" was played at major events and activities to encourage students to believe in themselves. Last year, we adopted the theme "The Best is Yet to Come" and used a 1985 song with the same title by Patti Labelle and Grover Washington. This year, we have brought the theme back because so many people, not just students, but alumni, faculty and staff, benefited from the message. Under the theme "The Best Is Yet to Come - Redux," we have tried to help students to understand that these years are only the beginning of a life of possibilities.

In this issue, you will learn just how we are truly living out the theme. You will read about an alumna, Tosha Bowles, who is giving back to her alma mater and climbing the corporate career ladder (pg. 6). We are returning to Shreveport to host the 2nd annual Shreveport classic on Sat., Oct. 29 (pg. 24) and we are highlighting the fact that 135 years ago this University was founded (pg. 2) by people who believed that a college education led to greater opportunities.

I do hope that you enjoy. ★

*George C. Wright*

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# NAME THAT PANTHER CONTEST

For many years, **Panther Pete** wowed the crowds at sporting events. He brought life and laughter to PVAMU fans with his smooth moves and crazy antics, but something was missing. He needed a friend, someone to help him motivate the Panthers to victory.

**Recently, a spunky and energetic panther hit the sidelines to help Pete rev up the crowds, but what is her name?**

*That's where  
you come in.*

**Enter your  
submissions today!**  
[facebook.com/pvamu](https://facebook.com/pvamu)



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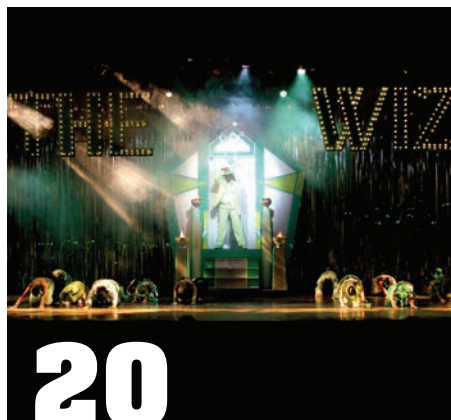
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### **25** Tea Party Becomes Annual Event





*One hundred thirty-five years ago,*

a dream of providing education to minorities was born on the land of the Alta Vista Plantation. Today, the dream is realized through a proud institution.

This year Prairie View A&M University has reached a notable milestone as it celebrates its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas.

When the Alta Vista Agricultural and Mechanical College was chartered on August 14, 1876 by the 15th Legislature of the State of Texas, it was deemed an industrial college. Soon after, the state legislature provided for the reorganization of the College and made funds available for the training of public school teachers. At the beginning of the century, the 26th Legislature authorized the creation of a four year college, allowing students to receive degrees upon completion of educational requirements.

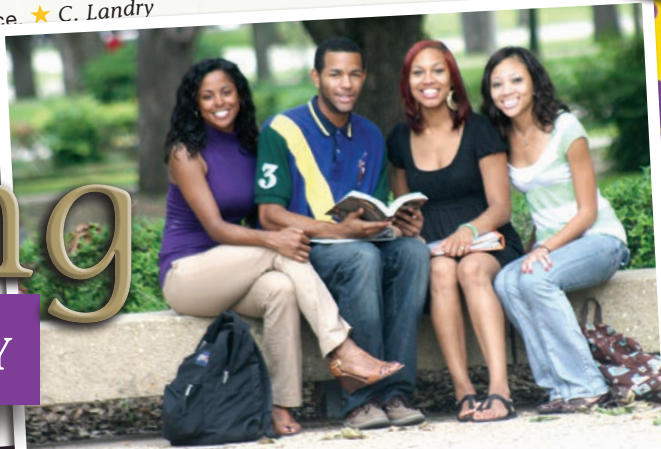
Nearly 60,000 men and women from around the world have left PVAMU with not only a degree, but a wealth of valuable lessons that will last a lifetime. With an established reputation for producing engineers, business leaders, nurses and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools.

Throughout its storied history, Prairie View has offered students a wealth of knowledge, with areas of studies from broom-making to industrial arts to engineering. Today, students work each day to fulfill the University's mission of excellence in teaching, research and service. ★ C. Landry



# 135 Years Strong

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



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## Changing the World, One Leader at a Time

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund recently hosted its HBCU Male Summer Institute on campus. Five principals, all graduates of PVAMU, from school districts across the region shared their wisdom with 50 students and offered insight into the challenges they faced on their journey to their respective professions. From staying current on national education issues to career advancement advice, the panelists shared their wisdom and success stories.

The Institute offers future male educators an intensive program designed to explore teaching essentials such as lesson plan design, education policy discussions, professional development and after-school programming. The delegation also engaged in preparation for upcoming national teacher examinations. ★

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## Football take it to the

Former football standout **Quinton Spears '11** is still going strong as a current member of the National Football League's Cleveland Browns.

Spears signed as a free agent with the Miami Dolphins prior to the start of training camp and finished his first preseason with a sack. He was slated to join the Dolphins' practice squad once he cleared waivers prior to the start of the regular season opener but was claimed by Cleveland and immediately assigned to the active roster. Currently, Spears is second on the depth chart at the SAM linebacker position and also plays on the special teams unit.





## Community Garden is the Gift That Keeps On Giving

**T**o most people, peas, tomatoes and corn are merely vegetables that take up space in your pantry, refrigerator or on a dinner plate. But for many, these simple veggies mean the difference between hunger and nourishment.

Residents in Smith County are reaping the nutritious benefits of the East Texas Food Bank Community Garden Project in Tyler. The garden is a collaboration between Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith, PVAMU Cooperative Extension Program Smith County Agricultural Agent George Green, 12<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals Judge Sam Griffith and members of the East Texas Food Bank.

Smith conceptualized the garden project in early 2010. With statistics showing one in four children, one in five adults and one in seven seniors in East Texas are at risk of experiencing hunger, Smith teamed with the East Texas Food Bank with the idea of growing fresh produce to stem the risk of hunger. He approached Green, who had previously worked with the Tyler Growers Association and the East Texas Food Bank on other agricultural projects.

"We met all throughout the year and asked what fresh produce are the highest in demand with clientele the food bank serves. We found that fresh peas are in high demand," Green said.

One year later, the garden has provided the food bank with peas, tomatoes, squash, okra, corn, green beans, potatoes and bell peppers. The first harvest yielded 23,000 pounds. Green said Smith has charged the group with growing 30,000 pounds, enough to fill a semi-trailer truck.

While the produce is a welcome addition to the food bank, it has also served as a catalyst to spur children into growing their own food and eating healthy. Students in the after-school program at a local youth center have created their own garden after receiving produce from the garden. ★ C. Landry

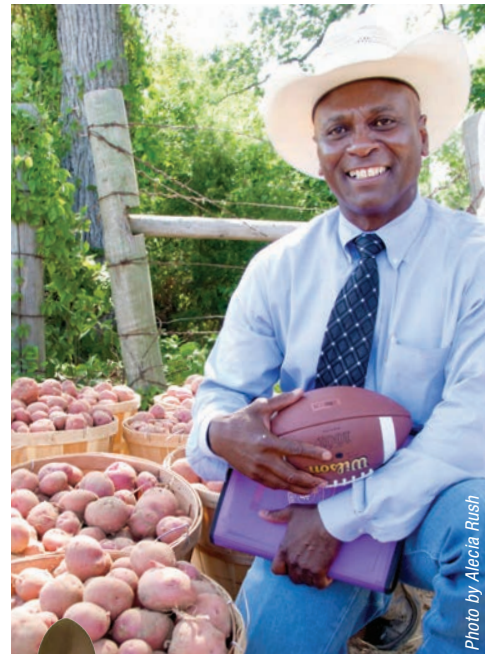


Photo by Alecia Rush

PVAMU Cooperative Extension Smith County Agriculture Agent, George Green, shows off potatoes that were harvested at the Tyler East Texas Food Bank Community Garden.



RSITY  
w.pvamu.edu

## the View

### Standouts next level

A native of Montgomery, Texas, Spears was a three-time All-SWAC performer and finished last season with a career-best 70 tackles, four sacks, nine tackles for loss and three blocked punts. The 6'6" 234-pound defensive end began his collegiate career as a wide receiver before moving to defense. A 2009 Sheridan Black College All-American and the 2009 SWAC Championship Football Game Defensive Player of the Game, Spears represented Prairie View A&M in the annual Russell Athletic HBCU Bowl Atlanta, Ga.

Also representing Prairie View A&M



camp and saw action in several preseason contests. Although, Adingupu didn't make Minnesota's final roster, he's expected to sign on with another NFL team in the near future. ★ R. McGinty

this summer in an NFL training camp was former defensive back **Chris Adingupu '11**.

The Miami, Fla. native participated with the Minnesota Vikings during their training

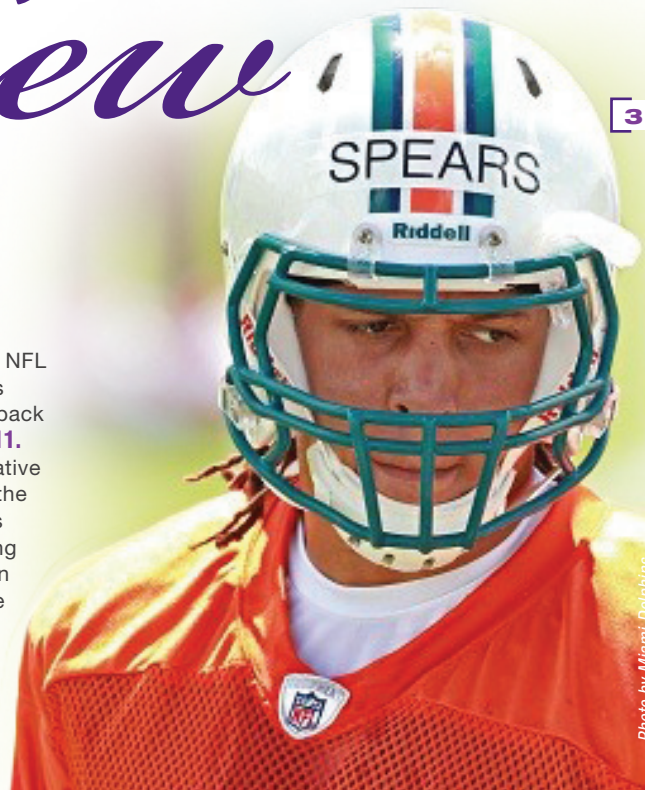
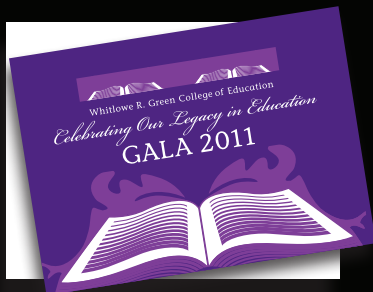


Photo by Miami Dolphins





With the theme of "Celebrating Our Legacy in Education," nearly 500 faculty, staff, alumni, students and supporters came together to celebrate the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education's rich and lasting legacy. The fundraising event honored the College and its quality of education.

The night was an opportunity to showcase the College, known for producing the nation's top educators, counselors, principals and diagnosticians. Dr. Roderick Raynor "Rod" Paige, seventh United States Secretary of Education and the Honorable Wilhelmina Fitzgerald Delco were honored as "Trailblazers" thanks to their tireless commitment to education.

Prairie View A&M University

Honors

# Legacy of Education with Annual Gala

The President's View & Vision Award was presented to **Kevin H. Hoffman '89**, alumnus and former member of the Houston Independent School District Board of Education. Accenture was chosen as the Cluster Company of the Year, thanks to its continued commitment to the University and its students.

The program honored several College alumni selected as "Living Legends," including, **Dr. Stanton Lawrence '78**, superintendent of schools, Normandy, Missouri; **Dr. Shirley J. Neely '75**, Texas Commissioner of Education and **Yushica Walker '03**, 2010 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Jay Harris of ESPN served as the evening's emcee. Harris serves as anchor of the 6 p.m. edition of "SportsCenter," the network's flagship sports news and information program. ★ C. Landry



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## Coleman Library Set to Celebrate

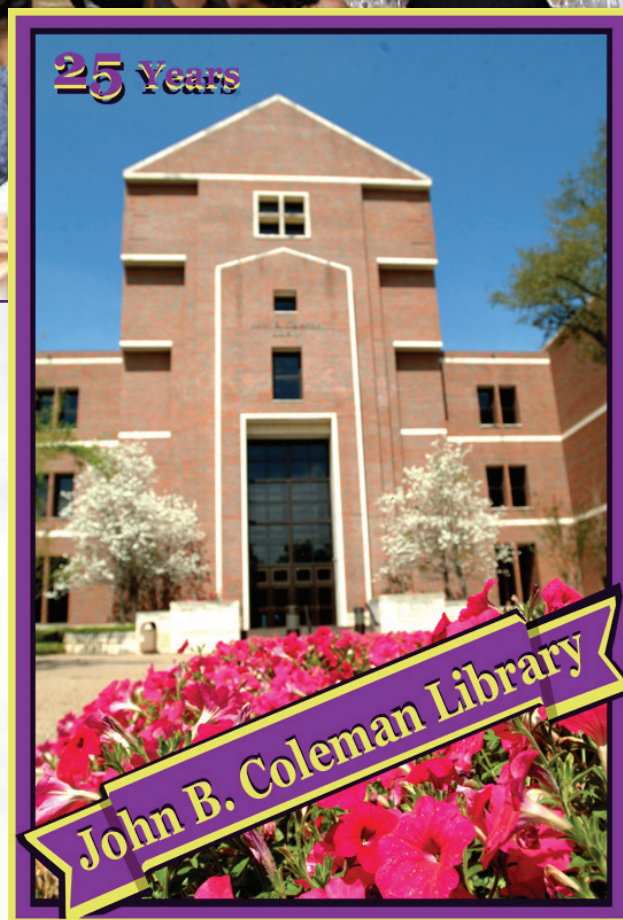
**25 Years** ago, the Prairie View A&M University campus celebrated the first step toward the building of a "new grand library" at the ground breaking ceremony. Now plans are being made to celebrate the library's silver anniversary.

The John B. Coleman Library administration and staff is currently planning a two-year series of special events leading to Nov. 2013, the 25-year anniversary of the dedication of the present library.

Named after Dr. John B. Coleman, the first African American appointed to Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in appreciation for his long service to the board and support of higher education at traditionally black universities in Texas, the library is a staple in the campus landscape.

Originally known as the W.R Banks Library, the building was funded by the Fifteenth Texas State Legislature. With its slow beginning in April 1879, the library was issued a total of nineteen dollars budgeted for books. Today its holdings are approaching 400,000 and it boasts a total capacity of more than half a million volumes. ★ L. Owens, Public Relations Student Intern

For complete details about the event, visit [www.pvamu.edu/library](http://www.pvamu.edu/library).





## Bradford to lead PVAMU's financial resources and business operations

**N**amed as Senior Vice President for Business Affairs in late May, Dr. Corey Bradford Sr. not only joins the Prairie View A&M University family, but has taken a seat at the executive officer's table. As the newest member of the administrative team he will oversee a variety of key offices including, human resources, compliance, web services, institutional research, accounting, information services, payroll, procurement and the physical plant operations.

A St. Louis native, Bradford has an established track record in higher education. He built his career as a statistician and budget analyst at his alma mater, Southern Illinois University. Later he moved to the SIU system where he served as the Assistant to the Vice President for Planning and worked as a budget coordinator. During his time with the SIU System, he played a major role in securing \$3 billion in state appropriations.

Bradford earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics Studies and a master's in Applied Math and Statistics. He received an educational certificate from the Harvard Institute for Management Development and earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Southern Illinois University. He and his wife Josette have a set of 13-year old twins; daughter, Carrie and son, CJ.

# 1876

sat down with Dr. Bradford to find out more about his plans for Prairie View.

**Your resume shows that you are all about the money. Have you always worked with numbers, budgets and the like?**

I am a number cruncher. I am a mathematician by education. I also minored in business. I even went to a high school specifically for math and science.

**That's impressive to me because I am not a math person, so anyone who can do more than add is alright with me. It looks as though most of your career has been focused on dollars and cents. How do you combine that with higher education?**

The opportunity to work in higher education is a valuable opportunity. This is the best industry to work in. You help to produce successful citizens. That human factor makes higher education worthwhile. No matter what job we have at the institution, we're in the business of changing lives for the better.

**That's so true. Every graduate I come in contact with says their lives were changed at PVAMU.**

I like the traditions of Prairie View. It has a history of uplifting students with economic needs to improve their livelihoods. The recent progress is appealing. With an increase in enrollment, the addition of new academic programs and new facilities, it's a clear indication that this university is on the move.

**Did you know anything else about us before you came?**

I knew about the losing streak. But I later learned that the football program didn't have scholarships, which is important and that fact was left out of most news stories. I also know that the school earned its first football championship in more than 40 years in 2009.

**Seems like you know your sports. What is your favorite team?**

I'm a diehard sports fan. As you may know, St. Louis is known for its sports teams. The Houston Texans are my new favorite team; I traded the Dallas Cowboys in.

**Overseeing the fiscal affairs of such a historic place has to be a tough job. As the "keeper of the money" you can sometimes catch a bad rap. Anything you want people to know about you?**

I am an approachable and caring person. I will always do what's in the best interest of the University.

**That's a good thing. Tell me one more thing: what's your motto?**

I live by the motto, "To whom much is given, much is required." ★ S. Reed

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# The Dollars and ¢ents of it All

**COVER  
STORY**



# Three of-A-Kind

## COVER STORY

If you were playing poker and had three of a kind, the probability of you winning is pretty high. **Tosha Bowles '00**, a psychology graduate, knows all about three of a kind. Her time at Prairie View A&M University resulted in three aces – a career, a husband and some of the best friends a girl could ask for.

As a regional manager for American Campus Community, one of the nation's largest developers, owners and managers of student housing, she knows that while luck has been on her side, it's not the only thing needed to succeed in life.

"When I didn't get the position as the general manager of the Village, I was pretty disappointed," she said. She thought she had gained the right amount of experience that prepared her to be the perfect candidate.

"I was shocked, but now I understand I still had some things to learn before I could do the job the right way.

Bowles learned quickly. She handled day-to-day operations before moving to San Marcos to lead a 680-bed property. Later, she was made Houston area manager overseeing two properties at the University of Houston and housing sites at UH-Victoria. When the company acquired University of Texas at Dallas', her territory expanded even more.

In 2009, life came full circle when she was asked to serve as a resource for Prairie View's housing as the regional manager. Her increased level of responsibility includes overseeing University College, where she began her career in student housing as a community assistant and met her husband who is also a student housing professional. Under her umbrella are both phases of University Village where she lived as a sophomore and met her best friend.



# PROUD

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Since 2009, she has worked to not only improve customer service, but to continue building on the relationship that American Campus CEO Bill Bayless and University administrators created in 1996 when PVAMU became ACC's very first project.

"In some ways we sort of cut our teeth at Prairie View. The practices and procedures we have invested in had their genesis right here," said Steve Crawford, Senior Vice President of Management Services. The collection of properties at PVAMU makes it one of the largest in ACC's portfolio.

Available on-campus housing has expanded to nearly 3600 beds, the newest addition being University Village Northwest. Each unit has four bedrooms and four bathrooms, giving each resident a private restroom.



As the company's mission expands Bowles appointed general manager, **Ronnie Davis** an '02, '04 and '08 PVAMU graduate, to work diligently to improve buildings that are at least 15 years old.

"The changes that students see are only the beginning. Phases II and III are slated for renovations," said Davis, who has a variety of experiences dealing with students. His career has taken him from student housing to teaching and administration in the Katy Independent School District.

New counters, larger beds, updated

paint and fixtures were added to units in Phase I this summer. Major changes to landscaping and lounge areas are currently underway. Over the last few years changes to the renewal and leasing process were rolled out and this semester residents were introduced to CONNECT, a portal that allows them to quickly file maintenance requests, check their account balances and even pay their rent.

"We aren't done," said Bowles. "When I came on board, I was committed to doing what was best for both ACC and my school, Prairie View. With the team we have today, I am confident that we will get it done."

Based on her luck, the odds are in her favor. ★ S. Reed



## David Edgerson '89/'93,

newly appointed principal of Phyllis Wheatley High School, asked President George C. Wright to close out graduation season, June 5, 2011. Edgerson currently enrolled in the doctoral program in the College of Education, wanted to show the pride and spirit of his alma mater by inviting Dr. Wright to address the school. With a standing ovation, his message of the "The Best is Yet to Come" motivated them as they turned their tassels and entered a new stage of life.

**Favorite food?** Spaghetti

**Who was the first person you said 'hello' to this morning?** My two children (I rarely say hello)

**What's the best concert you ever attended?**  
Stephanie Mills on the campus of PVAMU

**What's the one thing you can't live without?**  
Love and love comes from God.

**Most unforgettable PVAMU moment?**  
Unforgettable PVAMU moments are still happening for me. I'll tell all in my memoirs. ★



Photo by T. Freeman

# Alumni *view*points



**Ty Johnson '07** attributes her success to the foundation that was laid for her at PVAMU. While on campus she was active in the business school, leading the American Marketing Association and starting a mentoring program during her freshman year. Now, as a recent graduate of Rice University's MBA program she is looking forward to putting her passions to work in a Communications and Public Affairs career.

**PVAMU** 7

**What do you do for fun?** I absolutely love event planning and just launched my own company - SimplyPLUSevents

**Three words to describe yourself?**  
Genuine, loyal and ambitious.

**What's the best concert you ever attended?** Jill Scott

**Favorite color?** Brown

**One thing you can't live without?** My family and friends. They have always been there for me.

**Favorite Movie?** Love and Basketball

**Most unforgettable PV moment?**  
Two things: Going to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Conference in New York City during my senior year and graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA ★



# State of the Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association

## Membership: Next Generation of Leaders

**T**he Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association was established in 1901. Since then we have made significant contributions to scholarship students and "Our Dear Prairie View."

The Three M's platform was established during the 2009-2011 term and has proven to be effective as we have documented significant increases in Membership, Mentorship and Management of our organization. Membership is paramount to maintain any organization. The 37th National Alumni Association Convention gave tribute to our most senior female and male members, Mrs. Evelyn Carter, Class of 1939 and Mr. James Walker, Class of 1941 for their dedicated membership to our organization.

There are over 56,000 graduates – thousands more that we need to recruit and activate as members in the National Alumni Association. To address this, we have developed a marketing plan which

includes our website, [www.pvualumni.org](http://www.pvualumni.org), our Facebook page and our e-newsletters.

During my second term as your National President I plan to address the existing participation gap in our membership. Our primary target will be graduates from the 1980s, 1990s and those who graduated within the last 10 years. We have a core group of the class members who have proven be a true asset to their chapters and they serve as ambassadors for the 2011-2013 Membership Campaign.

The NAA is looking forward to incorporating innovations to take our organization to the next level of excellence.

Sincerely,

**Lynn Morris '77**  
President, PVAMU NAA

**PS.** The new fiscal year has begun. Don't forget to renew your membership commitment to **P**articipate, **V**olunteer and **U**nite.

Annual membership is \$60

**Join Today!**

[www.pvualumni.org](http://www.pvualumni.org)



PROUD  
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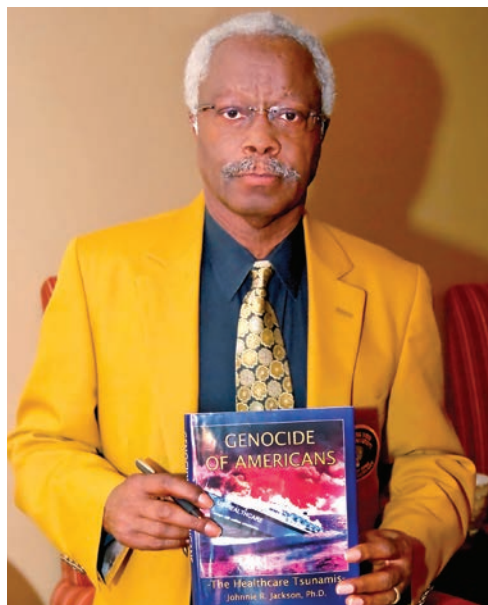
# Alumni Voice



Membership Campaign Ambassadors: Robert Evans '94, Fort Worth Chapter President; Herbert Sims '93, Los Angeles Chapter President; LaShonda Williams '97, Houston Chapter Vice-President and NAA Historian; President Lynn Morris and wife, Gladys Morris, Kimberly Runnels '93, Dallas Chapter President; Renee Dorn '92/'95, Vice-President Los Angeles Chapter President; and Christopher Sanderson '95, former NAA Treasurer (2009-2011).

Photo Courtesy of PVAMU National Alumni Association





*Dr. Johnny Jackson, Promethus Award*

The awards ceremony was the highlight of the week, recognizing the financial contributions and volunteer efforts of our dedicated members.



*The Chapter of the Year was awarded to the Prairie View Nurses Chapter.*

The 37th national convention was held in Austin, Texas, at the Westin Domain Hotel on July 20-24, 2011. The week provided balance between business and camaraderie, beginning with the opening reception and greetings from local city leaders. Speakers **State Representative James White '86**, and **Lieutenant Colonel Antoinette R. Gant '94**, provided insight on leadership and the significance of alumni becoming more involved.

## NAA 37th National Convention 110 YEARS OF STRENGTH AND UNITY

Dr. George Erwin Brown, Sr. '61 was awarded Faculty Member of the Year for his devotion to PVAMU and students over the past 34 years. Brown is a tenured Distinguished Professor of Biology, and his philanthropic efforts have led to more than \$4 million in grants and contributions to support the Biology Department. He was elected Speaker of Faculty Senate (2009) and has published 13 research articles on the control of mitochondrial and eukaryotic gene expression. Brown is a prominent member of the city of Prairie View where he contributes to the community's growth and development by serving on numerous committees and boards.

The most prestigious award, the Promethus Award, recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their profession and garnered recognition to Prairie View. **Dr. Johnny Jackson '61** has received recognition throughout his career with the United States Medical Corps including earning the rank Captain and Commanding Officer at



*President Luncheon: President Lynn Morris, State Representative White, Vice President Dr. Kenneth Hinson.*

the age 25, receiving the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation medals among many other accolades. ★

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The Three M's support our mission statement and provide measurable outcomes to assess our organization's growth.

# Three M's

## 1 Membership

is paramount for the sustainability of the association. Currently, the NAA consists of more than 30 chapters, each of which has been challenged to recruit and reactivate national members. Our goal is to increase membership by a minimum of 1,901 new annual members.

## 2 Mentorship

of students and serving the community where alumni chapters are established is important to maintain a visible presence in the community throughout the year. We have been consistent with awarding scholarships, however, we need to develop long term relationships with our students.

## 3 Management

supports improved managing of the financial assets and resources of the NAA. ★



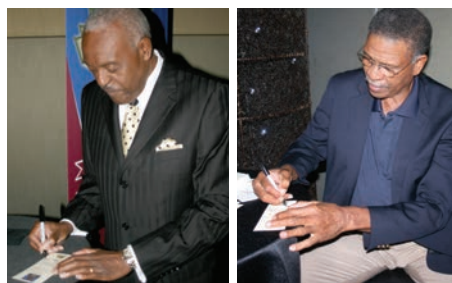
# Save the Dates

## HOMECOMING GALA 2011

The Prairie View A&M National Alumni Association Annual Homecoming Gala will be held, Friday, **November 18, 2011** at 7:00 p.m. on campus in the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center Ballroom. Tickets are available at the National Alumni Association Office and at [www.pvualumni.org](http://www.pvualumni.org). For additional information call 936-857-5817. ★

## PVAMU ALUMNI HONORED AT ANNUAL MEAC/SWAC CHALLENGE LEGENDS RECEPTION

Vice Admiral David Brewer III '76 and NFL Hall of Famer Kenneth Houston '67 were honored for their impact in their respective careers and community. The two were joined by



long-time Detroit Lion Robert Porcher III, NFL Hall of Famer Larry Little and famed poet Nikki Giovanni. The Legends Reception proceeded the seventh annual MEAC/SWAC Challenge presented by Disney – featuring Bethune-Cookman of the MEAC against PVAMU of the SWAC. ★



## FORT WORTH



## CONVENTION 2012: FORT WORTH, TEXAS

The Fort Worth Chapter will host the 38th National Alumni Convention will be held **July 25-29, 2012** at the Sheraton Convention. Registration will be \$300. Anticipate the activity schedule in the forthcoming months and visit [www.pvualumni.org](http://www.pvualumni.org) for the latest developments. ★

## CLASS OF 1959

During the 50th anniversary, the class established an endowment fund of \$315,000. In addition, **Nathelyne Archie Kennedy**, **Marvin Brailsford '59** and **Lee Winslett** established scholarship funds. The class has excess of \$400,000 in endowments with over \$100,000 in scholarships awarded to deserving students.

They plan to continue their legacy of giving back through an initial commitment of \$59,000 to the PV Foundation specifically, for the football stadium. ★



## CALDWELL REMEMBERED FOR COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

PVAMU alumnus **Booker T. Caldwell '47**, a respected businessman passed away at the age of 88. Known for being a celebrated tailor in Houston's Fifth and Third Wards, was well known throughout the community.

His son, Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church, served as the PVAMU convocation speaker in spring 2011. ★

*Photo courtesy of The Houston Chronicle*



# The Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association

## 2010-2013 National Alumni Association Elected Officers

**President** Mr. Lynn Morris '78

**Vice President** Dr. Kenneth Hinson '74

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### CLASS OF 1957

Samuel Metters  
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### ALUMNAE ADDED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fort Bend Independent School District Board of Trustees appointed **Cynthia L. Gary '82** to fill the unexpired term of the vacancy for the East Side At-Large Position. She began her service at her first official board meeting on Aug. 22. Gary worked as a visiting professor of sociology, and left her corporate career in Chemistry to pursue a public service profession in an effort to better serve her community. ★



### GRADUATE BRINGING SOMETHING NEW TO SCHOOL

**Herbert O'Neil '02/'03** is bringing something new to his school due to a grant from the Corsicana Education Foundation. The funding will allow Collins Middle School students to participate in a unique learning experience. The grant will allow him to develop a "school within a school" concept he's calling Collins University. The program is due to open in the fall of the 2012-2013 school year. O'Neil joined Corsicana ISD in 2008 and he has been credited with increasing test scores and rallying community support. ★

### ACE IN THE HOLE!

**Trent Hamilton '92, Rufus Bardwell '92, Steven Cooks, and Dr. Earl Clement '92** celebrate during The Fort Worth Chapter's spring golf tournament. The event raised nearly \$6000 which will benefit the chapter's scholarship fund. ★



### HOUSTON ALUMNI CHAPTER HOSTS PV-TSU CLASSIC WEEKEND EVENTS

The Houston Alumni Chapter hosted a weekend of activities surrounding the Prairie View vs. Texas Southern game. The weekend began with an Inaugural Gala at the Sheraton Brookhollow. An After Game Party was held for PV alumni, family and friends in the "Panther Lounge" on Saturday. ★

### D.C. CHAPTER DONATES FUNDS

The Washington DC Chapter established a \$50,000 scholarship endowment in honor of **Alfred J. Banks-Alvin E. Jeffery**. ★

## The President's 1901 CLUB

was originally established to encourage Lifetime Members to make financial contributions to the NAA. 1901 is symbolic of the year in which the National Alumni Association was established.

## 2010-2011 MEMBERS

National Alumni Association Life Members who have contribution \$1901 during the 2010-2011 Fiscal year include:

<b>Rhuzell J. Beamon '53</b>	<b>Benny Lockett '61</b>
<b>Calvin C. Bluiett '60</b>	<b>Mattie S. Londow '48</b>
<b>Redessa Coleman '65</b>	<b>Ernest V. Martin '49</b>
<b>Diane M. Davis '76</b>	<b>R. Pat Martin '66</b>
<b>Ferías E. Ferguson '73</b>	<b>Joannie G. Wade '75</b>
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**PVAMU 11**

#### CLASS OF 1958

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#### CLASS OF 1964

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#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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#### NORTH DALLAS DENTON COUNTIES

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#### WASHINGTON, DC

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# EXCELLING AFTER PRAIRIE VIEW

## PVAMU graduates fare well at top-rated universities

In its 135-year history, Prairie View A&M University has served as the foundation for many an academic career.

For most students, crossing the stage and receiving a leather-bound degree in hand means the culmination of years of studying a chosen discipline. But for a number of PVAMU graduates, the moment is just the beginning of a journey that will lead them to some of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the country.

Throughout the years, PVAMU alumni have taken their penchant for learning to a bigger stage. These alumni boast degrees from many of *U.S. News and World Report's* top 20 universities. Their progression to these institutions is bolstered by the strong academic training received in PVAMU's varied curricula. The return of the Honors Program and new courses like Mandarin Chinese and Arabic ensure current and future students will be well prepared to continue their studies at top-rated schools.

According to Dr. Marybeth Gasman, professor of Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, these schools offer an intensive, yet less formal educational approach that compliments the undergraduate experience at HBCUs.

"Almost all faculty are called by their first names and this creates a more relaxed atmosphere for learning. Most professors don't lecture but instead engage graduate students in dialogue and critical thinking. Education is very hands on," she said. "Also, many times you are being taught by the very best person in the field.

Ivies like to hire those they think are the best in terms of research. I'm not saying they always are, but they are certainly going to offer students some interesting perspectives."

Dr. James Wilson, PVAMU associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the Honors Program, has studied at the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University and Princeton University. While many perceive these matriculating at these schools as lofty and unattainable dreams, Wilson said the opportunities to do so are not solely reserved for a special few. "Anyone working hard, with strategic goal to be placed in a challenging program will succeed."

The PVAMU alumni who count these schools among their alma maters credit PVAMU with the creation of a strong base that has served them well in their academics and respective careers. ★ C. Landry

## HOW DID PVAMU PREPARE YOU

“One thing I learned attending Prairie View A&M University is that anything worth having is worth working hard for. Success is not something that comes easy and one must work hard to attain it. PVAMU further enhanced the principles that were instilled in me by my parents and my former high school teachers to do what is necessary to meet and exceed my goals. These principles set a foundation that has led to great things, from performing at Carnegie Hall to returning to “the Hill” to lead the next generation of leaders as an academic dean. Hard work is a small price to pay for the opportunities it affords.”



### DANNY R. KELLEY '69

Bachelor of Arts in Music;  
Johns Hopkins University Class of  
1971/1975, Master of Musicology/  
Doctor of Musical Arts



“The biggest thing I've utilized since being here is the importance of getting to know people and relationship building in order to be a team player and succeed.

At PVAMU, I was taught how to critically think and that it is important to get out and forge relationships. Getting into Cornell was about reaching out and getting to know people. Of course, I wouldn't have gotten in without my academic record, but it was more about making those connections and getting to know the people at Cornell to let them know I wanted to attend their top-level institution.”

### BOBBY J. SMITH, II '11

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture;  
Cornell University,  
Agricultural Economics student



## TOP 20 UNIVERSITIES

1. Harvard University
2. Princeton University
3. Yale University
4. Stanford University
5. University of California, Berkeley
6. MIT
7. University of Texas at Austin
8. University of Chicago
9. University of Pennsylvania
10. Northwestern University
11. Duke University
12. Johns Hopkins University
13. University of Wisconsin-Madison
14. University of Michigan
15. Brown University
16. Cornell University
17. Rice University



# TO CONTINUE YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER AT A TOP RATED UNIVERSITY?



“ Attending Prairie View A&M University equipped me to continue my academic career at a top-level university in a variety of ways, the primary one, being groomed for leadership. As a student leader, I was able to form relationships with administration that were essential in my development. Having direct access to administrators such as,

Dr. James Wilson and even President Wright himself, provided me opportunities to gain knowledge, network and further develop not only as a scholar but also as a future professional. Taking the time to get to know administration and seeking out mentors is something that I advise all students to do. Prairie View is lead by very intelligent, caring and generous authorities that truly have the better interest of the students in mind.”

## WAYNE WILSON '09

Bachelor of Business Administration;  
University of Pennsylvania Class of 2011,  
Master of Science in Education, Higher Education Administration



“ I thank PVAMU and the Electrical Engineering Department for preparing me for academic success at the Yale Divinity School. There are a number of examples I could site, but the one that comes to mind immediately is the discipline of problem solving. Engineering teaches you to systematically evaluate and solve problems using a methodological approach. These strategies were extremely useful in Systematic Theology. This was an intellectually rigorous course that involved mentally managing concepts, doctrines and esoteric language that must all fit together into a system where each of the doctrines must explain and complete the other. My electrical engineering background helped me process the material at a faster rate and assist my classmates because of the methodological approach I learned at PVAMU and applied at Yale! To God be the Glory!”



## REGINALD BACHUS '06

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering;  
Yale University, Class of 2009, Master of Divinity



“ Beyond obtaining the basic skills of an electrical engineer, my experiences at Prairie View A&M University prepared me to excel as a leader. Prairie View instilled in me the knowledge and gave me the opportunities to lead. I left Prairie View understanding how to manage groups, how to lead and set strategy for organizations. I left Prairie View with confidence because I observed so many leadership role models – Dr. A.I. Thomas, Dean A. E. Greaux, Mr. Robert Ford, Dr. “Pop” Fry, Professor J. R. Phillips, Dr. Sam Duravalla, Dr. John Fuller, Professor Thetis Edmond, Dr. Freddie Frazier and Professor Horace St. Julian.”



## ROY G. PERRY '78

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering;  
Iowa State University Class of 1980,  
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering;  
Stanford University Class of 1992,  
Master of Science in Management



“ As a recent graduate of Prairie View, I did not just walk across the stage with just my degree in Biology, minor in Chemistry, but I walked across the stage as Prairie View Woman and aspiring young professional. Having a close relationship with my professors meant that I was constantly being challenged to perform well academically. This allowed me to gain vital study skills and accountability that has helped me continue my academic career. The networking skills I gained at PV have been used on numerous occasions while here at Duke. I am sincerely grateful for my mentor, Sheleah Reed for empowering me to “think big” at all times and for seeing the ‘star’ in me. Prairie View A&M University produces productive people through genuine support and guidance.”

## COURTNEY NEVILLE '11

Bachelor of Science in Biology;  
Duke University, Nursing student







# Prairie View A&M Foundation

## GROWING GREATNESS THROUGH GIVING

## Trustees Leading Fundraising Efforts

14 PROUD

In April 2009, the Prairie View A&M Foundation was developed to raise funds for projects and programs that ensure PVAMU continued excellence in teaching, research, service and athletics. As an independent, public non-profit organization it has the ability to deliver assistance to the University in areas where its state supported budget cannot.

A focused Board of Trustees was organized to partner with administration to develop a full fundraising plan.

**Incorporation** State of Texas, June 2009

**Tax Exemption** 501 (c)3, Public Foundation, Charity, June 2009

**State Tax Exemption** February 2009

\*Any gift to the PVAM Foundation is tax deductible

**Recent Financial Audit** McConnell Jones, November 2010 – Passed

\*Can be found online at [www.pvamf.org](http://www.pvamf.org)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Roy G. Perry '78**, Chairman and President, has served in executive managerial roles at IBM, Allied Signal, Dell, StorageTek and ThinIdentity Corporation. As a community leader and a Sloan Fellow, Perry has provided strategic counsel to numerous corporate boards. The Roy G. Perry College of Engineering is named in his honor.



**Nathelyne Archie Kennedy '59**, Vice Chairman/Vice President, is the first female engineering graduate from PVAMU and the first African-American female professional engineer registered by the State of Texas. She is the founder and president of Nathelyne A. Kennedy & Associates, a professional civil and structural consulting engineering firm in Houston. In 2006, the Architecture and Art facility was named in her honor.



**Lieutenant General (Ret) Marvin D. Brailsford '59**, Treasurer, has held key command and managerial positions in the Army and in the private sector. He is founder and chief executive officer of the Brailsford Group Inc. and is a director of Illinois Tool Works and Conn's, Inc. The Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences is named for he and his wife.



**Phyllis Darden-Caldwell '80/'81**, Secretary, a paralegal at Vinson & Elkins serves on the firm's Pro Bono Advisory Board and Electronic Discovery Task Force among other duties. Over the years, she coordinated the firm's Innocence Project, assisted with research on the Texas Appleseed "Texas School-to-Prison Pipeline" report and was lead paralegal on several high-profile cases.



**Fred Newhouse '70**, Assistant Treasurer, was a three time All-American and National Champion in track and field. He won gold and silver medals in the 1976 Olympic Games and in 2000 was appointed team leader for the United States men's track and field squad. Also, he served in the United States Army and held a variety of engineering, human resources and public affairs positions within Valero and Exxon Mobil.



**Don K. Clark '76**, Assistant Secretary, supervised many high profile FBI investigations before retiring after 25 years of service as an FBI agent and executive. He is currently employed at the O'Quinn Law Firm and is an on air analyst and consultant on law enforcement related issues. The Juvenile Justice and Psychology building was named in his honor.



**Ernest Collins '67** after completing several years of military service he joined ExxonMobil and worked in various marketing and management positions, retiring in 2003 after 34 years of service. He and his wife, Floretta, are strong supporters of youth education and have established endowed scholarships at Prairie View A&M University and Morehouse College.



**Terrence Gee** spent 22 years with Accenture before retiring in 2008. There he led consulting engagements with many of the world's leading companies as well as conducted pro bono activities with organizations such as Child Advocates, the United Way and the National Black MBA Association. He was admitted to the firm's partnership in 2000 and is currently the Managing Partner of Trilogee Venture Partners.



**THE MISSION** of the Prairie View A&M Foundation is to maximize the effectiveness of contributions to support continued excellence in education, research, service and athletics at Prairie View A&M University.

**THE VISION** of the Prairie View A&M Foundation is to develop a culture of philanthropy to meet resource needs of Prairie View A&M University in its pursuit of excellence in education, research, athletics and outreach.



**Kenneth Houston '67**, Pro Football Hall of Famer, has had a long career in sports. After retirement from the NFL he served in various coaching positions for Wheatley and Westbury High Schools, the Houston Oilers and the University of Houston.



**Jerry LeVias** was the first African-American scholarship athlete in the Southwest Conference while he competed for his alma mater SMU. From there he played several seasons of professional football with the Houston Oilers and the San Diego Chargers. A Texas Sports Hall of Famer and National College Football Hall of Fame inductee he serves as president of LeVias Enterprises, Inc.



**Lawrence Sampleton** played tight end for the University of Texas at Austin before being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1982. He finished his NFL career with the Miami Dolphins in 1987. A passion for children has led him to various positions and coaching opportunities at St. Michael's Academy and Stephen's Episcopal School.



**Rathel Whittaker '73** has held many senior level engineering, consulting and advisory positions with ExxonMobil, Mobile Oil E&P, Home Petroleum Oil and Sun Oil prior to joining Rosetta Resources, Inc in 2007. He is also the president of Whitcom Telecommunications, LLC based in Houston.



**Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Benny L. Lockett '61**, held several positions with Texas Instruments and PVAMU after serving 28 years in the Army. The author has served on the board of a number of youth oriented and adult community based organizations, the Board of Directors for the National Alumni Association of the Prairie View A&M University and the Chancellors' Century Council of the Texas A&M University System. \*NAA Representative



**Joseph E. Herbert** Legal Counsel, held a variety of accounting and audit positions with Star Enterprise and Ernst & Young before beginning a legal career. The University of Texas and University of Houston graduate is currently a partner with Phillips & Reiter, PLLC. He is also the co-founder of Give Something Back, a company designed to instill business skills in youth.

**Dr. George C. Wright**, Ex-Officio Trustee

**Dr. Willie F. Trotty**, Vice President for Research and Dean, Graduate School

For additional information on our Trustees visit [www.pvamf.org](http://www.pvamf.org) or add us on Facebook.

## STAFF

**Joyce (Karimah) Johnson**, Webmaster/ Database Administrator

**Erin Patterson '98**, Accounting Manager

**Jean Urynowicz**, Administration Support



## METHODS OF GIVING

**MAIL** check payable to:  
Prairie View A&M Foundation  
P.O. Box 40278, Austin, Texas 78704

**ONLINE** by credit card, debit card or  
E-check: [www.pvamf.org](http://www.pvamf.org)

## GIVING FREQUENCY

One-time, annually, monthly or 12 times per year

## TYPES OF GIFTS

Unrestricted Gifts – Foundation

Unrestricted Gifts – University

Capital Projects:

Sports Complex

Student Scholarships

Endowments

Endowed Scholarships

Professor Chairs

Facilities Enhancements and Improvements

Training Equipment and Supplies

Program and Curriculum Development

Class Gift – By Year

**PVAMU** 15

## GIFT BENEFICIARIES

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford

College of Arts and Science

School of Architecture

College of Business

Whitlowe R. Green College of Education

Roy G. Perry College of Engineering

College of Nursing

College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

Graduate School

Undergraduate Medical Academy

Athletics

Student Life Enrichment Programs



# BOOKMARK

## PVAMU is a major chapter in Henry's book of life

Before Dr. Marion Henry joined the staff of Prairie View in 1956 as head of the department of audio visual education and photography, he had been to the campus more than 30 times. But 55 years later, those visits are small memories that make up a library of references to "The Hill."

A native of Dallas, Texas, Henry's first visit campus was with the Cub Scouts. Later, Henry would visit Prairie View as a member of Lincoln High School's championship track team. He competed in the Prairie View Interscholastic League (PVIL), which hosted state championship games in football, basketball, baseball and track for African-Americans from the 1920s through 1967.

While a scholarship student-athlete at Southern University, he competed across the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) including at Prairie View. It was the relationships that he built in these competitions that led him to work for PVAMU.

After graduating, Henry completed his master's at Bradley University and earned a Ph.D from Syracuse University.

Throughout his tenure, Henry has served as director of the Learning Resource Center; head of the department of curriculum and foundation; head of the department of educational media and technology and director of athletics. He currently serves as director of teacher certification and is a professor of Educational Research in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling. He also served as public announcer for track and field events, chief clerk of the course, chief finish judge and a member of the Prairie View Sports Official Association.

However, it is Henry's additional duties that make him an important character in the University's story. He has served as chairman of the commencement committee for more than 50 years, is the commencement marshal and according to him, had one of the greatest honors: assisting with the development of the University Mace, Medallion and Podium in 1983.

"There are two constants at every commencement ceremony. One is excited students; the other is Dr. Henry. He is truly involved in the commencement process, from beginning to end," said University President, Dr. George Wright.

*Dr. Marion Henry has served as Commencement Marshall for more than 30 years.*

*Marion Henry St., named in 1995, runs alongside the famed William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Fieldhouse and leads to the University's stadium, Blackshear Field.*

# Academy

Henry's dedication to student achievement and protocol span beyond the commencement ceremonies. He has served as chairman of the athletic council, been a member of the faculty senate and a member of the Graduate School Council. He leads a group to name buildings, facilities and other campus entities, assists with awarding the Humanitarian Award and has served on several search committees.

Many of these assignments were given to him by his mentor and good friend, Dr. Alvin I. Thomas.

"What I admired most about Dr. Thomas was his ability to assist in the leadership development of many people on campus, said Henry of the University's former President. "It was he who made it possible for me to attend conferences across the United States, serve on these various committees and engage with companies from all over the world."

There are several others who have helped shape Henry. From high school coaches and instructors to college professors, colleagues, and his ultimate predecessor – God, Henry has taken something from these individuals and used it to help shape his own life.

"There are so many people that I emulate in my actions. E. C. Harrison, law professor, A.W. Asbury, S.W. Austin, and math teacher Roy Lee all stand out. Then there is J. W. Townsend who always talked about 'what is right' and Dr. Felton G. Clark, former president of Southern, said Henry. "I try not to go down the list because I don't want to leave someone out. I truly hope that they see some of them in me."


"Dr. Henry taught us you could do anything you put your mind to and you could do it right. If it wasn't correct, he would not accept it," said former student, Robert L. Destin, assistant principal at Crosby Middle School and author of "I Think Myself Happy." "Even while he was reprimanding you, he was encouraging you to put your best foot forward. He didn't raise his voice or use foul language which made him seem sophisticated, and articulate. ★ S. Reed

Photo by R. Versey

Photo by C. Walker







**B**efore most people hit the snooze button, Dr. George C. Wright has already started his day, well into emails, reading thought-provoking articles and prepping for another day as University president.

But on the morning of September 1, preparation proved to be a bit more intense thanks to decision made months prior.

While you might expect to see Wright milling about the A.I. Thomas Administration Building or addressing honored guests at high-profile University events, his newest stage is Room 155 in the Don K. Clark Building.

The start of the fall semester marked the first time in 11 years that Wright instructed a college course. So, while Wright leads and molds the future of PVAMU, he carves out an hour and a half of his Tuesdays and Thursdays to lead a class of 296 eager students.

Wright boasts a robust teaching pedigree, sharing his knowledge as a historian with thousands of students throughout the country. He began his career teaching History at the University of Kentucky from 1977 to 1980. Wright went on to become a History professor at the University of Texas at Austin from 1980 to 1993, where he taught American History. He rounded out his teaching career with an impressive stint at Duke University in the early 1990s where he held the William R. Kenan Chair in American History.

**“This is an opportunity to know the president on a different level. In this course, we get to know him in a classroom setting.”**

*- Latrapius Junious, Junior*

# Head of the Class

## Wright, Other Administrators Return to Classroom

**COVER STORY**

Although Wright is not new to the teaching arena, he admits that juggling his presidential duties with creating coursework and grading papers has taken some work.

“Serving as president is a full-time job, requiring me to work every day, even weekends,” he said.

The decision to return to the classroom is partially rooted in necessity. With the state of Texas facing somber budget shortfalls, Wright and the PVAMU administrative team have been tasked with finding innovative ways to do more with less. In fact, by teaching the course, Wright will save the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Science nearly \$18,000 during the course of the semester.

“I had been asking everyone to ‘do more,’ and I realized that the same applied to me as well. Further, I love teaching and I viewed

this as an excellent opportunity to be with our students.”

Wright isn’t the only key administrator venturing back onto the front lines.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith is teaching Principles of Effective Learning, a freshman course that serves as one of the centerpieces of a new program, Increasing Reading and Engagement for Academic Development (iREAD).

In the University’s eight colleges and schools, all academic deans have stepped back into the classroom. Dr. Michael McFrazier is vice provost and dean of the Northwest Houston Center. This semester, he is teaching a master’s level course in Education. In addition, Dr. Felicia Nave, associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs is teaching an Engineering course

in the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering. Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Miron Billingsley has taken on a course in the Department of Languages and Communication.

“I believe this is a great opportunity to interact with our students on a greater level,” Dr. Kendall Harris, dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering, said. “As administrators we lead them through their matriculation. But as instructors, we get to play a greater role in developing capable professionals.”

Thomas-Smith viewed the opportunity as a prime way to further institutional success. “Our University is a good University, enroute to becoming a greater one. It can and will have better academic performance, better retention rates and better graduation rates. To share in promoting this success means so much to me.”

★ C. Landry

**PVAMU**

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**Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni**, Dean of the School of Architecture and an Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Distinguished Professor, was elected as a board member of the College of Distinguished Professors in March 2011. The College of Distinguished Professors is composed of members of the Association who are awarded the ACSA/AIA Topaz Medal Laureate and/or the ACSA Distinguished Professor Award. College membership is one of the highest honors the ACSA can bestow upon an educator.



Two months after the massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake in Japan that triggered a tsunami and devastated much of the country's northeast Tohoku region, **THE JOHN B. COLEMAN LIBRARY MADE A DONATION TO THE JAPAN LIBRARY RELIEF FUND** to aid Japan's affected libraries. The donation of \$265 from a recent book sale at the Northwest Houston Center Library was one of the first in what has now become an international campaign.

**Dr. Sutirtha Chatterjee** of the College of Business will serve as one of the Associate Editors for the *Information Systems Journal*. The *Information Systems Journal* is one of the premier journals recognized by the Association for Information Systems.



**THE HARRIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY HONORED COLLEGE OF NURSING DEAN Betty N. Adams** at their annual Spring Fever Medicine Ball. This April, Adams was honored by the philanthropic organization for her outstanding work in nursing education.

Political Science Associate Professor **Michael Nojeim** has authored his second book along with David P. Kilroy, examining events in American history that shifted the country's foreign policy. Covering events like the Spanish-American War in 1898 to the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001, "Days of Decision: Turning Points in U.S. Foreign Policy" uses each chapter to discuss exactly how the country's foreign policy shifted as a result.

A \$25,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant was awarded to **Dr. M. Clay Hooper** for research on Post-Reconstruction African American Literature. He will use the funding to support research and write articles for a larger book project on the same subject.



**Dr. Nelson Daniels**, program specialist – Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Cooperative Extension Program presented a paper at the National Extension Risk Management Education Conference this April. The paper, *Helping Minority Agriculture Producers to FARM-IT* (Financial Analysis Risk Management and Information Technology), was the only abstract accepted from the entire 1890 Land-Grant System for presentation at the annual conference.

**Dr. Charles Grear** completed the 3rd edition of *The House Divided: America in the Era of Civil War and Reconstruction*. Published by Abigail Press the book discusses the political struggles and military conflict and illustrates the lives of ordinary people, men and women, black and white, through the antebellum era, the war and Reconstruction.

**Robert Benson**, a professor in the Department of Languages and Communication published his edited collection *Speaking with the Stars*, a collection of 950 memorable quotes.



College of Nursing Associate Professor **Dr. Pamela Wilson** secured a \$125,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to aid in her work related to Gerontology.



**Ms. Danyale Taylor** and the Classic Dance Ensemble will host more than 400 dancers from across the country at the 31st annual Black College Dance Exchange Workshop event next April. It is the feature event of PVAMU Dance Week.

# After



By day Jimmy L. Adams serves as the Assistant Vice President for Continuing Education, by night he is a poet who shares his life experiences through spoken word.

Photo by C. Landry

## Northwest Houston Center

**A collaboration** with the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce and the Northwest Houston Center stoked the minds of more than 400 middle school students during the chamber's "Passport to Your Future" career exploration event for students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Representatives from the PVAMU College of Nursing, the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering and the Chemistry and Physics Departments were available to interact with students from Aldine, Klein and Spring Independent School districts while sharing career information and demonstrations. ★

# Five

A smooth rhythmic voice fills the room with passages of self-expression sending soulful vibrations throughout the audience. This poetic being is far from the everyday poet that most would envision. It is Assistant Vice President for Continuing Education, **Dr. Jimmy L. Adams, Jr.**

Of the thousands of people that pound the pavement, you could be walking alongside a poet like Adams, a culinary expert, master barber, extraordinary jeweler or award winning barrel rider.

"It may seem like a double life; during the day I'm in a suit and tie conducting the business of the University and in the evening I am performing, I am almost another person – creative and in tune with my audience," said Adams.

Adams' gift of poetry started at a young age and has grown with every life lesson. His latest work, *The Journey: Reflections* is a compilation of things he has seen, experienced and witnessed throughout his life journey. He has combined both of his "lives" and presented during PVAMU's Black History Month Celebration. Adams has also delivered his poems at local festivals in the Northwest Houston community.

Across campus, Assistant Director of

Residential Life for University College **Jermaine V. Jackson** has seen many aspects of PVAMU. Like Adams, he is usually focused on the business of his area – planning programming for the residents of University College, working with community assistants to learn the latest trends in housing or preparing for the summer bridge program, ACCESS. With such an important and time consuming position, you would never think to stop and ask for a shave, edge up or a haircut.

Jackson's journey as a licensed barber started long before his position in UC, even before he enrolled as a student in 2000. After obtaining his license in 1997, he used his time in the workforce to grow professionally and personally, often using the barber shop as his "foundation to college."

In his dorm, Jackson started what would be a journey as a well-known campus barber, eventually becoming the first stylist to be permanently situated in University Village's barbershop.

Jackson attributes much of his success to the principles he learned at the barber shop: leadership, self-control and the ability to relate with various people.

"The barbershop is a unique place. You can learn about anything from women to politics to money," said Jackson.

Another staff member has a more physically



*Experience as a barber has helped Jermaine Jackson polish many of his professional skills.*

demanding talent. Barrel racer and ladies steer undecorator competitor, **Stephanie Haynes**, was introduced to the world of black cowboys early in life. Now, the office manager of the campus mail center spends her free time competing in rodeo competitions all over the world.

She has been referred to as one of the most decorated female rodeo champions and was recently featured on the *Today Show* for her role in the all-black Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo.

Winning several titles throughout the nation, Haynes has a home full of awards, a practice ring in her backyard and 10 horses. When not competing, she and her family spend about two hours a day just riding and tending to the animals.

The balance of work and play in the lives of employees like Adams, Jackson and Haynes allow for the expressions of a creative side that is often not seen in the classroom or in meetings on campus. ★ *T. Freeman*



*Office manager Stephanie Haynes is "one of the most decorated female rodeo champions in the country."*

## Bringing Academics to Life

PVAMU 19





Mr.  
PVAMUThe Legacy  
Continues

1983-84 Thomas Carroll  
 1987-88 Ricky LaFontaine  
 1988-89 Homer Smith  
 1989-90 Eric Anderson  
 1990-91 Frankie Hallum  
 1991-92 Deosick Burney  
 1992-93 Torrance Hawkins  
 1993-94 Cleveland Lane  
 1994-95 Demeric Mass  
 1995 (Fall) Nakia Thomas  
 1996 (Spring) Donald Jennings  
 1996-97 Lawrence Warren  
 1997-98 Alzo Slade  
 1998-99 Wayne D. Johnson II  
 1999 Ceaser F. Barajas  
 2000 Rashaan Smith  
 2000-01 Deonta Daniels  
 2001-02 Michael D. Davis  
 2002-03 LaDarrell A. Hopkins  
 2003-04 Reginald Bachus  
 2004-05 David Harris  
 2005-06 Corey D. Dargan  
 2006-07 Asad Abdul-Salaam  
 2007-08 Mark A. Williams, II  
 2008-09 Oba Tsare Woodyard  
 2009 (Fall) Michael Love  
 2010 (Spring) Kyle Maronie  
 2010-11 Malcolm Copeland  
 2011-12 Joshua Hickey\*  
 2011-12 Osadeba Omokaro

\*crowned

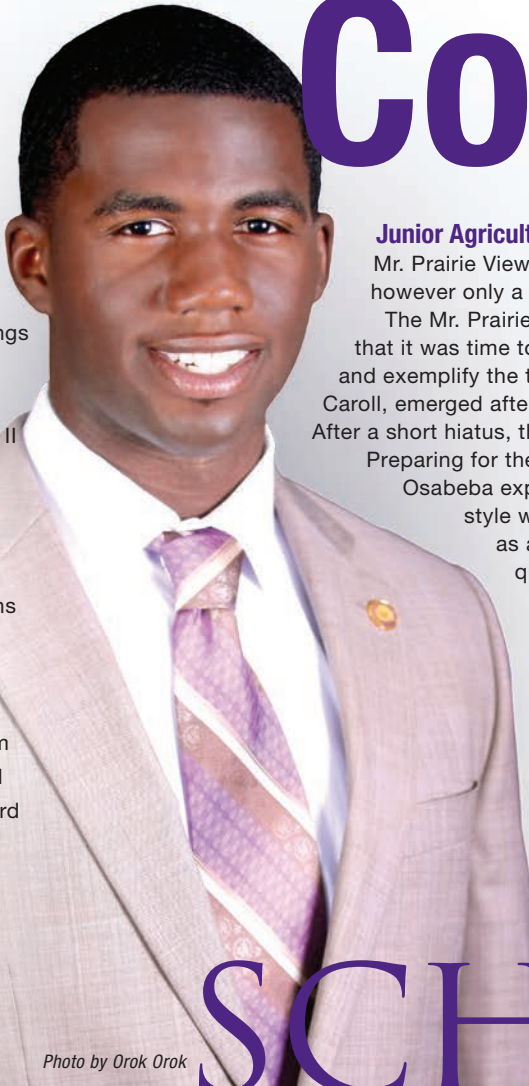


Photo by Orok Orok

**Junior Agriculture major, Osadeba Omokaro**, joined an elite rank of gentlemen as Mr. Prairie View A&M University 2011-2012. Over the last 25 years, many competed, however only a few gained the actual title.

The Mr. Prairie View Scholarship Pageant started when the yearbook staff decided that it was time to reveal men who were striving to learn the lessons of true success and exemplify the true definition of a "Prairie View Man." The first Mr. PV, Thomas Carroll, emerged after a performance in a campus Talent and Fashion Show. After a short hiatus, the Mr. Prairie View Scholarship pageant returned three years later.

Preparing for the impromptu question and answer period during the pageant

Osadeba experienced something the first Mr. PV did not. The traditional pageant style was not adopted until 1987, adding popular components such as active wear, talent, formal wear and the very popular impromptu question. Contestants are also rated by a panel of judges.

By 1988, the pageant received formal recognition by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership and Mr. Prairie View A&M University was elevated to the same level of Miss Prairie View A&M University. Today, both students serve as University ambassadors.

★ T.O. Freeman



With a 25 year legacy behind him, Osadeba Omokaro looks forward to an outstanding year as Mr. Prairie View A&M University 2011-2012.

SCHOLARS



All the World is a Stage  
for Usher



# Life Away From Home



**G**oing away from home is always hard for some. For others, it's an adventure that leads to great things.

"Going on exchange is a once in a lifetime chance to explore a new place, meet new people and rediscover who you are as an individual," said University of South Florida student Mikayla Mitchell who is studying at Prairie View A&M University.

The National Student Exchange Program is a consortium of colleges and universities which have joined together for the purpose of exchanging students among the member institutions. PVAMU began its participation in the program in 2007 at the urging of Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement Loretta Byars.

"The program gives students the opportunity to meet other people, experience other states and take more courses that will enhance their degree," said Elma Gonzalez, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and NSE Coordinator.

According to Gonzalez, the first year of participation brought five students to the University. The second year saw the



*Senior Troyla Washington interned with KTLA Channel 5 in Hollywood.*

first PVAMU student leaving the campus to participate.

"It is an experience unlike any other," said Tiara Fulton '11. Fulton was a part of the first five students.

From Kankakee, Ill. right outside of Chicago, Fulton was both nervous and ecstatic about the experience. Coming from Eastern Illinois University, a predominately white institution, to PVAMU was no easy task. Culture shock was definitely present within the experience while she tried to learn more and adapt to Prairie View's Culture. "I had to mature fast. There was

no room at all for immaturity," Fulton said. She eventually fell in love with Prairie View, and after completing her bachelor's degree in Communications, she returned to Prairie View to complete her master's degree in Community Development and work as a professional advisor in University College.

NSE offers over 200 different locations and campuses, internships and jobs.

Senior Troyla Washington participated in the program last fall and attended Cal State University Northridge. She also secured an internship with KTLA Channel 5 in Hollywood. "The experience taught me how to better use my resources and connections," Washington said.

This fall, eight students are participating in the program, the largest number of participants ever, with eight students visiting. Gonzalez credits the program's growth to spreading the word about its benefits.

To participate in the program, students are required to have an interview with their advisor. The student must have a GPA of a 2.5 or higher, have no outstanding holds, financial obligations or disciplinary actions and be in good academic standing with their university. ★ C. Landry

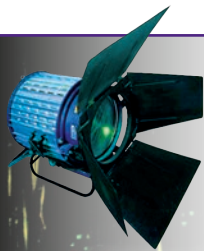
## Extending Bodies, Broadening Minds

Students stepped out of their comfort zone to try yoga during this summer. This ancient form of exercise was offered by Rec Sports and Athletics to strengthen students' core and sharpen their ability to focus, ultimately assisting with self-control. Research has shown that by incorporating yoga principles in everyday life students become well-rounded individuals with better concentration and a greater sense of self. ★



*Photo by T. Freeman*

**PVAMU** [21]



**Christopher Usher's** role in "The Wiz" was one he inadvertently prepared for rather early in life. "I saw the movie as a kid," said the senior student. "I used to watch it all the time."

Usher was the title character in the Center Stage Theater's summer production of "The Wiz" in Houston. He wowed audiences with his portrayal of the mysterious leader of the Emerald City. The opportunity was one that he happened upon strictly by chance thanks to Vice Provost and Northwest Houston Center Dean Michael L. McFrazier.

"Dr. McFrazier had the part but he couldn't do it. He referred me and I went to the audition and got the part," Usher said. "Word of mouth goes along way!"

Most people would be nervous about performing in such an iconic show. But Usher felt nothing but happiness.

He even prepped by watching Meryl Streep's icy character in "The Devil Wears Prada."

"You have to have fun and stay true to what you studied, what you discovered about character and the other people on stage. It's a well oiled machine. You have to make it work."

Usher began performing when he was a high school student looking for something constructive to do. He soon discovered his penchant for acting. After high school, he found his way to PVAMU where the reputation of the famed Gilpin Players performance troupe intrigued him.

"I heard about the Gilpin Players' past and legacy from the instructors. I wanted the experience of working with them and sharing my talents." He has performed in several of their productions including leads in "A Lesson Before Dying" and "Once on This Island." Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Usher plans to take his talents to either New York or California. ★ C. Landry



## PVAMU Named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Prairie View A&M University was noted for its commitment to community service and service-learning by The Corporation for National and Community Service. Admitted institutions were included for their impact on the surrounding areas through community service projects and initiatives that engage students.

"This honor is one that we should be very proud of," said Alisha Lowe, student volunteer coordinator. "Our entire University community works hard to foster the spirit of service in all that we do.

More than 500 institutions of higher learning have been added to the Honor Roll since 2006. ★



Students from PVAMU and SMU work to spruce up the Belay House, a community meeting center that conducts an after-school program for neighborhood children in Dallas. The project was held in Dallas during the 2010 State Fair Classic.

## New Student Organizations Embrace Leadership

By all accounts, Chelsea Bianca Hill, '10 was an outstanding student. Once she decided to compete for Miss Prairie View A&M University, she found herself in the company of more exceptional students who were confident and focused. Instead of just making a new bond with friends, she was adamant about finding a way to harness their skills.

She looked to the University of Texas for inspiration.

When I looked into what the Orange Jackets did and what they stood for I thought it would be a perfect addition to our campus."

Her initial thought was worked into the platform of Miss PVAMU 2010-2011 Tiffany C. Ward '11 and developed into a women's organization, **the Purple Jackets**. Fast forward to today and the organization has a roster of 25 collegiate women with at least a 3.0 GPA who are charged with upholding the tenants of mentoring, scholarship, leadership and sisterhood. They are led by mentors from across the campus and graduates of PVAMU.

This year, the group is developing weekly sessions where young ladies can address issues that are unique to them. The open forum will be informal and led by student facilitators.



### Brothers Leading And Cultivating Knowledge, or B.L.A.C.K.,

is built around that premise. The organization was developed in the fall of 2010 by Mr. Prairie View Malcolm Copeland and Associate Vice President James A. Wilson, Jr.

"There's always a need to develop young men and women into well rounded and productive citizens. By creating organizations like these, students have another option to engage in campus life," said Denise Simmons, assistant director of student activities and leadership.

The 100 men that make up B.L.A.C.K. are a cross section of student leaders. The roster includes the SGA president, members of the marching band, community assistants and presidents of other campus organizations. Members are vetted through a process that includes nomination from current members. Once selected, they must uphold the values of the organization's moral code - honesty, integrity, evoking change, spirituality, leadership and service. ★ S. Reed

**A day at the beach** in Galveston netted a huge honor for students in the School of Architecture earlier this year.

The team, led by faculty members Barry Norwood and Yunsik Song, took top honors in the American Institute of Architects College Challenge at the AIA Sandcastle Competition with their creation of "Architecture of the Mind INSOMNIA."

This marks the seventh time in the last nine years that the team has competed against teams from Rice University, Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, University of Texas at San Antonio and Texas Tech. ★

## Architecture Students Take AIA Challenge



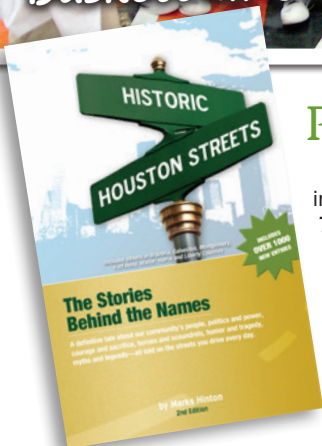
Photo courtesy of the PVAMU School of Architecture



DON'T MISS  
Rick Ross and  
Chrisette Michele  
**LIVE IN  
CONCERT**  
Friday, Nov. 18



2011 SWAC Women's  
Basketball Champions



## PVAMU IN PRINT

More than 10 streets were included in a new publication by Marks Hinton. *The Stories Behind the Names*, 2nd Edition, tells the story and history of streets located throughout Southeastern Texas including, Brazoria, Waller, Harris, Fort Bend and Liberty Counties. ★

# Let's CELEBRATE

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY  
*Homecoming 2011*

**SUNDAY**  
Gospel Fest  
**MONDAY**  
Poetry and Jazz  
**TUESDAY**  
Casino Night  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Kings and Queens Coronation  
**THURSDAY**  
Fireworks and Tent Party  
**FRIDAY**  
Homecoming Concert  
**SATURDAY**  
Parade of Champions  
Football Game  
Alabama A&M vs. Prairie View  
Step Show and After-Party

*November 13 - 19, 2011*

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
PLEASE VISIT [WWW.PVAMU.EDU/HOMECOMING2011](http://WWW.PVAMU.EDU/HOMECOMING2011)  
FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# SAVE THE DATE

# Noteworthy

## KPVU 91.3 FM Celebrates 30 Years

*Celebrating*  
**30**  
*Years*  
1981-2011

Celebration season is underway for KPVU 91.3 FM. After humble beginnings on Nov. 24, 1981, the station is still the original sound in public radio.

"We didn't get here overnight. When you look at stations that are closing all around us everyday, celebrating 30 years is a huge accomplishment," said Cheryl Granger-Brooks, general manager.

To highlight the achievements of the public radio station, a celebration party will be held during the homecoming festivities. ★

## WILD FIRE

More than 20,000 acres of land burned in Grimes, Montgomery and Waller counties, forcing evacuations throughout the area.

While the campus was not affected by fire, more than 20 volunteers including students and employees of the campus stepped up to battle the blaze. ★

PVAMU [23



Photo by Colby Walker





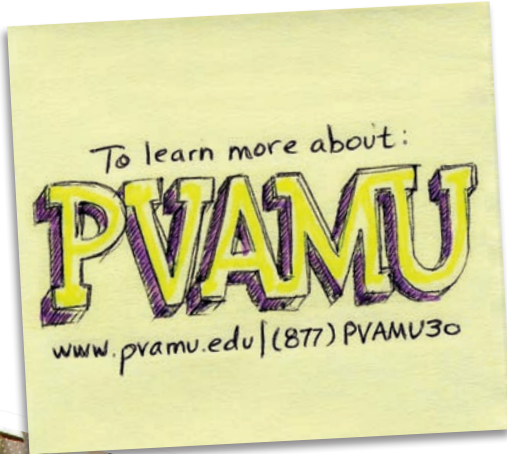
## PVAMU Faculty Members Honored for Teaching Excellence



Thirteen faculty members were honored by the Texas A&M University System in the spring 2011 presentation of the Teaching Excellence Awards. Awards are based on the average score of the TAMUS Faculty Evaluation, developed by the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, System Faculty Senates, System Presidents and Provosts and System Administrative Office, administered to students.

Faculty members honored include Ananda Amarasekara, Orion Cijta, Harriette Howard-Lee Block, Dejun Liu, Quincy Moore, Kevin Storr, all of the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences; Immaculata Igbo, Annette McClinton, Eloria Simon-Campbell and Evelyn Whitley, all of the College of Nursing; Doris Morgan-Bloom of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences and Beverly Roberts and Lisa Thompson of the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education.

The Teaching Excellence Awards were initiated in 2008 to honor and financially reward the System's top teachers as selected by students. All faculty members who teach at least a 3-hour course are eligible. ★



Noteworthy

24



Photo Courtesy of Jay West

First comes the degree,  
*then comes marriage*



## The Shreveport Classic Returns

**Louisiana's other side awaits you** as the Prairie View A&M Panthers return to the city of Shreveport for the second annual Shreveport Classic to battle Jackson State on Saturday, Oct. 29 at Independence Stadium.

Held in conjunction with the State Fair of Louisiana, this year's edition offers something for everyone as it features the midway, exciting gridiron action, alumni events, a golf tournament, the halftime Battle of the Bands and a free postgame concert featuring renowned R&B group Lakeside.

Nearly 20,000 fans saw the Panthers defeat Southern University in last year's inaugural classic. With new head coach Heishma Northern leading the Panthers and a long-awaited Battle of the Bands matchup, excitement is at an all-time high for this year's game.

Log on to [www.shreveportclassic.com](http://www.shreveportclassic.com) for more information or purchase game tickets on-line at [www.pvpanthers.com](http://www.pvpanthers.com). ★



On June 2, 2012 in their hometown of Longview, Texas, recent PVAMU graduate Whitley Dobbins and Grambling State University student John Preston, Jr. will unite in marriage.

Whitley Dobbins, a health and human performance student, was concentrating on the most important day of her life – graduation. Little did she know that her walk across the stage would not be the only life changing moment that she would encounter. With her degree in her hand, her tassel turned, and a smile on her face, she heard, "Will you marry me?" "I was totally shocked and didn't have a clue that this would happen," Dobbins '11 said. "It really felt like a dream come true. All I could do once he got down on one knee was to burst out in tears and cover my face."

Dobbins met her fiancé in high school and over the years they kept in touch, eventually reconnecting. "We got together one weekend when I was home last summer," Dobbins said. "We both were bored and the rest is history." Her fiancé is a Grambling State University student who is scheduled to graduate this December.

"My future from this point on no longer revolves around just me. With him being spontaneous and so outgoing, I don't believe life will have another dull moment again." ★ A. Moore, Public Relations Intern



# Tea Party Becomes Annual Event



For the last few years, a buzz has traveled through campus. Whisperings about the approaching tea party and hat making workshop have taken over conversations in classrooms and dorm rooms. Developed in 2008, by The Women's Leadership Council, the Hattitude and Tea Party began as another way to celebrate Women's History Month but has evolved into a must attend event.

"I love dressing up, wearing a hat and socializing with other campus leaders," said senior LaShaun Neal. "It gives us a chance to network with the distinguished women who work here or graduated from PVAMU."

Held in early March, the function allows women to wear their most glamorous hats and gentlemen to don their sharpest bowties and debonair brims.

"The event this year was amazing. It was the most well attended tea party so far," said Renee Williams, EEO Compliance Officer and the event's coordinator. "This isn't just a chance for students to look nice, but we hope to enhance both the professional and social development of students in a fun and exciting way."

With nearly 400 in attendance, the event offered the opportunity to engage in insightful conversation and networking. Sheretta West, first lady of the Church Without Walls, served as guest speaker. Armed with her own hat collection, she spoke of the importance of confidence in a variety of "hats" or roles.

To provide women with hats for the event a hat making workshop was hosted prior to the event. At the workshop ladies are encouraged to decorate hats with ribbons bows and flowers symbolizing their personalities. ★ L. Owens, Public Relations Student Intern



PVAMU 25

Can't get enough

# PVAMU

This year the University launched an aggressive social media campaign to keep students, faculty and staff, alumni and supporters informed of the happenings on "The Hill." This interactive medium allows friends and followers to engage in discussions, make note of events and view and share photos.

www. **facebook** .com/pvamu

**twitter**@PVAMU

## Tour de Pink

is the first bike ride in Texas solely benefiting breast cancer. This year marked the 7th year the event was held on the campus. More than 1000 bike riders were welcomed by a host of student volunteers on Sunday, Sept. 18. ★





# KNOW A PROSPECTIVE PVAMU STUDENT?

If you know students who are interested in attending

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY**

simply e-mail their names and contact information to [recruitment@pvamu.edu](mailto:recruitment@pvamu.edu). We will do the rest.

## Panther on the Prowl

Soon, the main campus will have a new addition that will pay homage to its mascot. A sculpture of the PVAMU Panther will sit outside of the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center. The work was commissioned by the 2010-2011 Student Government Association. Artist Bridgette Mongeon is creating the piece, which is expected to be completed in time for the upcoming Homecoming festivities.

Visit [www.prairieviewpanther.blogspot.com](http://www.prairieviewpanther.blogspot.com) to see updates on the artwork. ★



# RIDE WITH PRIDE

Lay your panther tracks over the road and ride with pride with a PVAMU license plate.

Myplates.com and PVAMU have designed a license plate that offers drivers flexible customization with specialty plate. The plate is a great way for faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters to show their pride.

The redesigned PVAMU-themed specialty license will benefit the PVAMU general scholarship fund and student athlete scholarships. The plates start at \$55 a year; personalization is extra. The

number of letters chosen determines the plate price and how much of a contribution is passed along to PVAMU.

Customers may purchase for a 1-, 5- or 10-year commitment. Longer term deals yield better prices. Plates will arrive at designated county tax office about three weeks after ordering.

Panther fans who own the old plate design can switch to the new look and carry over the existing personalization by calling 888-7MY-Plat. All other orders can be made online at [www.myplates.com/go/PVAMU](http://www.myplates.com/go/PVAMU). Customers can view what their plate will look like before purchase and check availability of personalized messages. ★ T. Freeman

**MY PLATES**.com