

1876

A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Fall★2015

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



Miss PV

Hopes to Impart Wisdom
& Instill Panther Pride in
New Freshmen



will be introduced to one such positive and productive Panther, the 2015-2016 Miss PV, Ivy Wells. Miss Wells came up with the extraordinary idea to bridge our alumni with our incoming freshmen. Her “Letters to My Sister” project has been successful in engaging multiple generations of alumni and supporters to offer sage advice to our new students. ★

Yes, we have amazing alumni. Yes, we have a remarkable staff and faculty. But the cornerstone of our illustrious institution remains our incredible students. PVAMU students exemplify our motto of “Productive People”. In this issue of 1876, you

will be introduced to one such positive and productive Panther, the 2015-2016 Miss PV, Ivy Wells. Miss Wells came up with the extraordinary idea to bridge our alumni with our incoming freshmen. Her “Letters to My Sister” project has been successful in engaging multiple generations of alumni and supporters to offer sage advice to our new students. ★

George C. Wright



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NOTEWORTHY

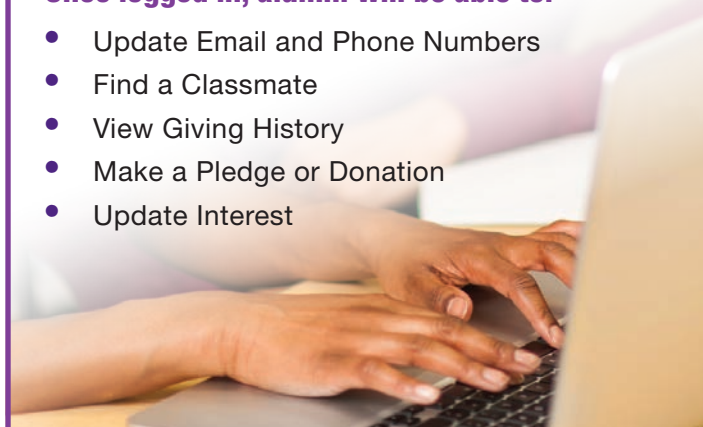
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- Find a Classmate
- View Giving History
- Make a Pledge or Donation
- Update Interest



Inside

PVAMU is a Proud Land Grant University Serving Texas Agriculture for More than 125 years

PVAMU Opens New Multi-million Dollar, State-of-the-Art Recreation Facility



Fall **2015**
Vol. 2 No. 1

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TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE ABOUT

PVAMU
www.pvamu.edu

Have you ever wondered why Prairie View A&M University is not simply called Prairie View University? Well, it is because Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University is a proud 1890 Land Grant College.



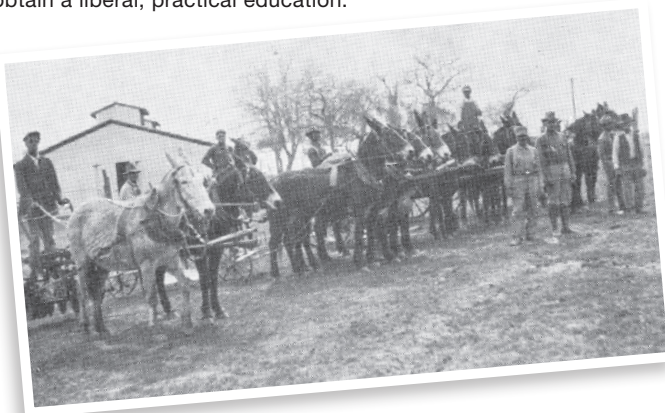
125 Years of Providing Access
and Enhancing Opportunities

Celebrating 125 YEARS as a Land Grant

What is a Land Grant College?

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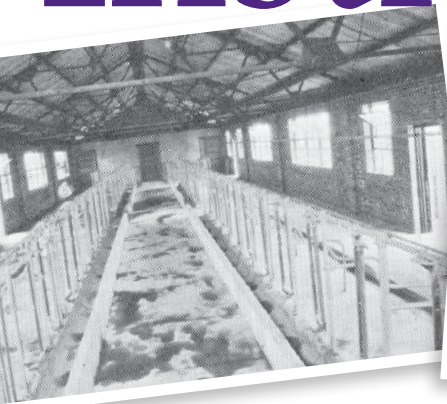
A land-grant college or university is an institution that has been designated by its state legislature or Congress to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The original mission of these institutions, as set forth in the first Morrill Act, was to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies so that members of the working classes could obtain a liberal, practical education.



Over the years, land-grant status has implied several types of federal support. The first Morrill Act provided grants in the form of federal lands to each state for the establishment of a public institution to fulfill the act's provisions. The Act of 1914 created a Cooperative Extension Service associated with each U.S. land-grant institution. This act authorized ongoing federal support for extension services, using a formula similar to the Hatch Act to determine the amount of the appropriation. This act also requires that the states provide matching funds in order to receive the federal monies.

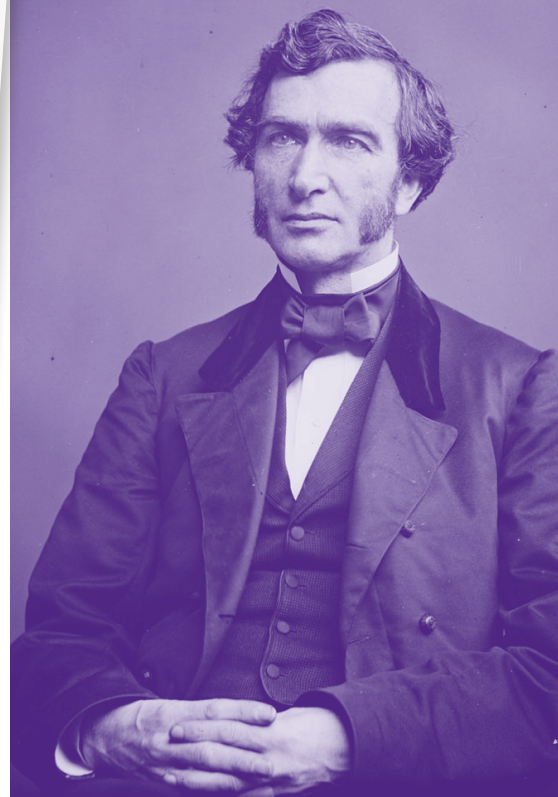


ARS Institution



Passage of the First Morrill Act (1862) reflected a growing demand for agricultural and technical education in the United States. The Morrill Act was intended to provide a broad segment of the population with a practical education that had direct relevance to their daily lives.

The Second Morrill Act (1890) sought to extend access to higher education by providing additional endowments for all land-grants, but prohibiting distribution of money to states that made distinctions of race in admissions. ★



Did you know?★

Justin Morrill, the Legislator after whom the Morrill Act was named, was a Representative (1855–1867) and a Senator (1867–1898) from Vermont, most widely remembered today for the Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act that established federal funding for establishing many of the United States' public colleges and universities.

"This bill proposes to establish at least one college in every State upon a sure and perpetual foundation, accessible to all, but especially to the sons of toil, where all of needful science for the practical avocations of life shall be taught, where neither the higher graces of classical studies nor that military drill our country now so greatly appreciates will be entirely ignored, and where agriculture, the foundation of all present and future prosperity, may look for troops of earnest friends, studying its familiar and recondite economies, and at last elevating it to that higher level where it may fearlessly invoke comparison with the most advanced standards of the world."

—1862, as quoted by William Belmont Parker, *The Life and Public Services of Justin Smith Morrill*



A Message from the Student Government Association

After the tragic events that have taken place throughout the summer, the Student Government Association is coming together as one to continue to spread a message of love and unity among this University and nationwide. As a family, the student body will continue to fight for equality and justice not only here in Waller County but across the nation. Members of the community, alums, and people across the nation: We must continue to break

4 barriers with our knowledge and educational background. We must continue to be Kings and Queens in the world and send the message that we have hope, we have dreams, we have a voice and we have a right to be heard.

Honoring the Legacy of PVAMU Founding Fathers

The Student Government Association poised to dedicate and rename "University Park" to the **William H. Holland & Matthew Gaines Memorial Student Park**

to honor PVAMU's Founding Fathers, William H. Holland and Matthew Gaines.



Born as a slave in Marshall, Texas in 1841, **William H. Holland** was a soldier, legislator and educator. Commonly referred to as the "Father of Prairie View," Holland's political career took flight with his election to the fifteenth legislature as a representative from Waller County in 1876. He introduced legislation in favor of the creation of agricultural and mechanical schools for colored youths in Texas. This legislation led to the establishment of Prairie View Normal College. In 1887, during his fight for education, he petitioned the legislature for the creation of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute for Colored Youth and was appointed to be the first superintendent.

Born as a slave in Pineville, Louisiana in 1840, **Matthew Gaines** made multiple escape attempts landing him in Arkansas and eventually Texas, where he remained until the end of the Civil War. After Emancipation, Gaines settled in Washington County where he established himself as a leader of the black community as a minister and politician. During reconstruction, he was elected as a senator to represent the sixteenth district in the Texas legislature. During his political career, he addressed many issues including education, prison reform, the protection of blacks at the polls and the election of blacks to public office. He played a strategic role in the development of legislation that championed the

creation of a tax-supported public school system for all Texans and legislation which led to the establishment of Texas A&M University in 1871 and Prairie View A&M University in 1876. ★





Dr. Wright Releases RECOMMENDED READING LIST, Second Edition

As an historian and a lifelong educator, President Wright is convinced of the value and the power of reading. As an avid reader all of his life, he knows that books help people to realize new dreams, learn about amazing people and discover new places. Dr. Wright developed the list with numerous suggestions from faculty, staff and alumni and he has said that the list is merely a “starting place – the most important outcome is to get people to READ!”

A Few of Dr. Wright's Favorites

from the First and Second Editions of the Recommended Reading List

The Diary of Anne Frank (Frank, Anne)
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (Franklin, Benjamin)
Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth (Wright, Richard)
The Mismeasure of Man (Gould, Stephen Jay)
White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812 (Winthrop D. Jordan)
The White Nile (Moorehead, Alan)
The Crucible of Race: Black-White Relations in the American South Since Emancipation (Williamson, Joel)
Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (Metaxas, Eric)
Marie Curie: A Biography (Ogilvie, Marilyn Bailey)
Six by Seuss: A Treasure of Dr. Seuss Classics (Seuss, Dr.)
Father Fox's Pennyrhymes (Watson, Clyde and Wendy)

The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monet Cristo (Reiss, Tom)
Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention (Marable, Manning)
The Last Boy: The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family (Gordon-Reed, Annette)
Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood (Leavy, Jane)
I Hear a Symphony (Woods, Paula L. and Liddell, Felix H.)
Rome 1960: The Olympics that Changed the World (Maraniss, David)
The Diligent: A Voyage through the Worlds of the Slave Trade (Harms, Robert)
Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation (Carlin, John)
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot, Rebecca)





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2015-2016
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today!

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Athletic Director's Club?**

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Destiny Velez

Crowned

Miss Puerto Rico 2015

Destiny Vélez, a sophomore Management Information Systems major and honor student in the College of Business, was crowned Miss Puerto Rico 2015 by the Miss America Organization. Vélez, who is a member of the university's bowling team, was the first ever student-athlete from the Southwestern Athletic Association (SWAC) to participate in the Miss America Competition.

Since the age of 13, Destiny has been participating in the Miss America Outstanding Teen program, where she was finalist. She is clearly the product of the Outstanding Teen program, having won a Miss title at the local preliminaries and now a state title as Miss Puerto Rico. Destiny demonstrated her talent with an instrumental acoustic drums performance of "Wipe Out" by The Surfaris. The platform of her state is to support the San Jorge Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization that medically cares for children who have few economic resources.

Destiny's personal platform is being an "Upstander". For Vélez, being an upstander means that she is aware that it is time for people to become part of the solution to end bullying. According to Vélez, "We should all work together for a goal to break the cycle of violence, stop peer cruelty and provide our children with caring, safe, and respectful environments they so deserve. Vélez urges everyone to stand up, speak out, lend a hand, and be an "upstander" rather than a bystander. "Together, we can be the generation that eradicates bullying," shared Vélez. ★

Edsmart.org Names PVAMU as **Top HBCU** for Alumni Starting Salaries

According to the Edsmart.org website, "choosing the right college" can put you on the path to a successful career. In looking at different schools, one important factor should not be overlooked—the average starting salary earned by graduates. Edsmart.org compared PVAMU to other HBCUs around the country and determined that PVAMU provided the best value and the highest starting salaries for its graduating students.



NAA IS ON THE MOVE!

Your PVAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) is on the move! Every great university needs a strong and supportive Alumni Association. Your NAA is primarily focused on this goal. We have created an aggressive and achievable agenda to move the NAA forward and achieve its full potential in support of our beloved PVAMU.

We recently held the election of our national officers for fiscal years 2015-2017. Your leaders are:

Carl L. Young.....	President	Frederick Roberts.....	Parliamentarian
Kimberley Runnels	Vice President	Pauline Bonner	Historian
Charlotte Jefferson-Huggins	Secretary	Dr. Tania White	Chaplain
Raymond Holley	Treasurer		

Your officers are collectively committed and dedicated to serving the NAA on your behalf with a laser-like focus on excellence and exceeding your expectations. The NAA has also appointed Mr. Billy Davis, Dallas Chapter President, as the NAA Representative with the PVAM Foundation (PVAMF).

6 Steps to Success

We have determined issues that need to be addressed to move the NAA in the direction of greatness and to become an organization that you will be proud of and want to be a part of. We are externally focused on your needs and desires. This effort is called SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS:

Step 1 Perpetuate the NAA Brand and Theme of WE ARE FAMILY:

We resolve as a family to:

- Connect with each other and our students
- Care for each other & our students
- Contribute our time, talents, & treasure to our university, foundation & students
- Ensure our students always enjoy a nurturing educational environment that is our history and heritage

Step 2 Increase overall NAA membership to 10,000 in the next five years

(there are over 62,000 PV Alums)

- Seek a mix of 70% Annual Renewing & 30% Life Members
- Focus membership growth to local chapters where Alums can be engaged and involved
- Focus on younger Alum membership starting with recent graduates
- Revise membership pricing for both renewing and life members with benefits at each level

Step 3 Rename the NAA Annual Convention to the NAA Annual Convention-Our Family Reunion

- Conduct the primary 3-day convention event in the Texas area, which is the core of our alumni base (We will determine by survey if this meets the approval of the majority of Alums)
- Conduct the primary 3-day convention on PV's campus every five years. The 2017 convention is being planned with an on-campus setting
- Seek corporate/group sponsors to minimize attendee fees
- Schedule specific events on Saturday for younger Alums with a specific outreach to those who have not attended before. Events will include:
 - Happenings on the Hill!
 - Workshops for personal, professional & financial development
 - Motivational Speakers & Thought Leaders
 - Membership workshops on NAA membership and giving back
 - Information exchange and networking among Legacy & Aspiring Alums (Legacy over 50 and Aspiring 50 and under)
 - Saturday Night Party!!
- Consider regional events in this same format focused on marketing outreach and membership

Step 4 Engage Alums in a continuing connection with our students in both their in- and beyond-school experiences.

This is the essence of the ANIX Program and will be done in conjunction with our Student Pre-Alumni Association and Student Government. This step also includes the NAA establishing a Satellite Office on campus as the center of our alumni/student efforts

Step 5 Solicit programs and services in the form of discounts & preferred pricing from retail & service providers for our membership.

Specifically focus on products and services provided by PV Alums that can be offered at preferred pricing with benefits to the NAA.

Step 6 Solicit and select Alumni resources to serve as Major Activity Coordinators in these areas:

- Marketing & Membership
- Events
- Programs & Services
- Chapter Creation and Incubation
- ANIX (Alumni Networking & Information Exchange)
- Internal Audit

Chapter Presidents are requested to establish these three points of focus:

1. Membership Specifically focused on younger Alums and recent graduates

2. Scholarships We must support our Students!

3. Mentorship Sharing of experience & expertise between our Legacy and Aspiring Alums

Hopefully, you are saying "WOW!" The NAA is really on the move and asking, "What can I do?" Come join us in this major movement. We need your ideas and input! Consider joining a local chapter and concurrently the NAA. Our agenda is aggressive and achievable. We can accomplish everything outlined if we work together as a family!

We had a great time at the recent convention in Los Angeles. Check out our website, www.pvualumni.org, for highlights. Plan to join us in San Antonio, on the river, the third week of July 2016. We are planning exciting events and activities specifically for you!

Please Remember:

We are Family! All the PV Panthers & Me!

We are Family! We Will Succeed for All Our Students to See!

With Much Panther Pride!

Carl



PVAMU [9]

We can't spell Alumni without **U**.

Join Today.

The Prairie View A&M University
National Alumni Association *needs U!*

Mail **\$60 Annual Membership** to P.O. Box 2875, Prairie View, Texas 77446
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Northwest Houston Celebrates 5 Years

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2015 marks a major milestone year for the Prairie View A&M University Northwest Houston Center (NWHC). Five years ago, Prairie View Administrators sought to tap into the phenomenal growth and expansion being felt in the Northwest area of Houston. As demand for graduate level classes and certification courses reached a fever pitch, PVAMU saw and seized an opportunity to purchase the former Lonestar College building at Grant Road in Houston near Willowbrook Mall. The revamped building was christened the new Northwest Houston Center. The Center primarily offers graduate level and certification courses for those persons wanting to receive a quality education a short distance from home. Later this year, Prairie View will celebrate NWHC's 5-year operational milestone with administrators, students, staff, and community residents! ★



Since its opening 5 years ago, The Northwest Houston Center has expanded to offer students several options for pursuing a PVAMU graduate or undergraduate degree: Master of Education in Educational Administration; Master of Arts in Counseling; Master of Science in Accounting; Master of Science Nursing Administration and the Master of Community Development. Other options include: BBA- Management, BBA- Accounting, MBA, EMBA, RN-BSN-Nursing, MSN-Nurse Educator, BS-Construction Science, BA-Sociology and BA-Mass Communication.

In addition to the academic programs the NWHC campus has now added a fitness center, bookstore, and library.

Center

The vision for the NWHC is to be a campus where students are provided a quality education with the essential needs and the comforts and convenience comparable to the main campus.



Dr. Felecia McInnis Nave, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs has been recognized for her extraordinary achievements in the eighth edition of Who's Who in Black Houston. The in-depth biographical article featured in the book traces Dr. Nave's humble beginnings in Prentiss, Mississippi and follows Nave as she reflects upon her family, her journey from the University of Toledo to PVAMU as well as her love for her new role as the third Provost in PVAMU's history.



Dr. Felecia Nave among 2015 Who's Who in Black Houston Honorees

Article excerpt:

"I believe that I'm where I'm supposed to be" explained Nave. "All of the hard work, education and encouragement led me to this role on this campus doing exactly this work. I now have an opportunity to help shape the direction of a university—to solve problems and critically think through how we can provide our students with a high quality education, all while giving our faculty opportunities to grow in their respective fields."

As her professional life thrives, Nave is also enjoying her family life as the loving wife to Tracie Nave, an assistant principal in the Houston Independent School District, and as the proud mother to her three sons and a daughter.

"Having my husband and raising my four wonderful children is what I consider to be my most important job – as well as my biggest accomplishment. Balancing home and work is a task for me; the key is to remain cognizant and aware of both. Mentoring and taking care of the husband-wife relationship as well as tending to my children are equally important," explained Nave.

When Nave looks back on her journey thus far, she is reminded of the importance of family and how her mother, grandmother, grandfather and aunts shared their faith, wisdom, strength and knowledge with her throughout her life.

These days, Nave wakes up every morning with the idea that each moment brings new possibilities. "I have a great life. Both my personal and professional lives allow me to do what I enjoy most! I have the challenge of making a lasting, positive difference for students, faculty and staff at Prairie View A&M University and I constantly strive to find ways to be the best wife and mother that I can be. I've honestly got the best of both worlds," exclaimed Nave. ★

PVAMU [11]

For more information about Who's Who in Black Houston, visit www.whoswhopublishing.com/index.php/houston



MARCHING STORM WINS Battle of the Bands

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PVAMU's own Marching Storm won the first-time Battle of El Dorado, sponsored by El Paso-based Sports X. The competition was held at the University of Texas at El Paso's Sun Bowl Stadium. Well-known and competitive marching bands from Alcorn State University and Mississippi Valley State University participated in the competition.

Not only did the Marching Storm win the overall "Outstanding Marching Band" competition, the Storm also took home top prizes for: Outstanding Brass Section; Outstanding Woodwind Section; Outstanding Percussion Section; Outstanding Color Guard Section; Outstanding Dancers and Outstanding Announcer. ★



PVAMU Mourns Passing of Long-time Professor and Friend

Dr. Clement Glenn received his undergraduate degree in Management and a graduate degree in Finance from Prairie View A&M University and received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University. Dr. Glenn was a highly respected member of the faculty and a social activist having founded The Brotherhood of Grimes County in an effort to help at-risk youth. Dr. Glenn was not only dedicated to expanding opportunities for future generations of Prairie View A&M University students, he was also a strong and vocal advocate for university faculty, having served in several leadership roles on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Glenn was a committed member of the PVAMU family who served his alma mater with pride and distinction. He will be sorely missed. ★

Legendary Track Coach Barbara Jacket Honored with Parade



The City of Port Arthur recently honored legendary Track Coach Barbara Jacket with a hometown parade! Jacket is a 1954 graduate of Port Arthur Lincoln High School and a 1958 graduate of Tuskegee Institute where she earned her degree in physical fitness. Jacket came to Prairie View A&M University of Texas in 1964 as the swimming coach before starting the women's track team two years later. At Prairie View A&M University, Barbara Jacket claimed eight National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) outdoor titles and 2 indoor titles; several national titles in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and the U.S. Track and Field Federation; won 8 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) cross country titles, nine indoor titles and five outdoor SWAC titles in track and field. Jacket was named SWAC Coach of the Year on 23 occasions and NAIA Coach of the Year five times. Her teams won 23 SWAC championships and Jacket tutored 57 All-Americans. In 1990, she became the only female athletic director in the SWAC when she was named to the position at Prairie View.

Coach Jacket coached the U.S. Women's Track and Field Team of the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. She was only the second African American woman to ever become head coach of an Olympic Team. Jacket led the team consisting of long jumper Jackie Joyner-Kersey and sprinters Evelyn Ashford, Gail Devers, and Gwen Torrance as they brought home four gold, four silver, and two bronze medals, more than any Olympic Women's Track Team since 1956. ★



MEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Re-launched and Poised for Powerful Impact

PVAMU is pleased to announce the reestablishment of the PVAMU Men's Leadership Council. The Council, first established in 2005 as the companion to the PVAMU Women's Leadership Council, has a core mission to:

Serve as an advocacy and action body dedicated to developing men committed to serving and positively impacting both the Prairie View A&M University and larger global community. Toward accomplishing such goals, the Men's Leadership Council seeks to provide opportunities for male students, faculty, staff, and alumni to develop leadership skills; advance career goals; network with positive role models; and build cultural, social, moral and economic capital.

"From the first unknown 8 young African American male students that enrolled March

PVAMU 13

11, 1878 to the present, Prairie View A&M University has a documented, historic past of supporting the overall success and academic achievement of male students of color," explained Dr. Micheal McFrazier, Prairie View A&M University's Vice President of Administration and Chief of Staff. "The reestablishment of the PVAMU Men's Leadership Council will galvanize and bring cohesion to the individual efforts occurring campus wide through the many registered student organization, research initiatives and summer programs geared toward promoting the success of men of color."



Ivy Walls

MISS PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY 2015-2016

Ivy Walls, the reigning Miss PVAMU for the 2015-2016 academic year, says that she LOVES Prairie View A & M University and these are not empty words. This multi-talented 20 year-old biology and chemistry major from Pearland, Texas has demonstrated her love through acts of kindness and generosity throughout her years as a student at PVAMU. She refers to herself as a “simple person who believes in others”. Her platform as Miss PVAMU, L.E.G.A.C.Y. (Leaving Everlasting Gifts of Art and Culture for the Years), exemplifies her aspiration to inspire and encourage through creative initiatives. “I spend a lot of time in the archives and appreciate the ones who have come before”, she says. “I have probably seen photographs of many of the 1876 readers from when they were PV students”.


One of her most popular offerings is the “Letters to My Sisters Campaign”, which began when Ivy asked her sister, a 2009 PV graduate, how she might help young ladies, entering PV for the first time, navigate college life. As a community counselor in the dorms for the past three years, Ivy has had the opportunity to hear the challenges and heartbreaks of three classes of incoming students. “I’m really in touch with the student body”, she says. “Everyone doesn’t have a sister who went to college, especially the one they are attending, themselves...” Therefore, she began by soliciting one-page letters from PV faculty, students, staff and alumni, on the PVAMU website, asking them to respond to the question: What do you think a freshman needs to know?”

Loving the **PVAMU**

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“As a community counselor, I tried to give advice, but I am only one person and I only have my own story to share... so, I thought this might be a way for them to help their sisters have a successful college experience”. Within one hour of the posting, the letters began to pour in. Ivy has been elated at the continuing response and says that “PV Women are always ready to help their sisters”. The letters speak to balancing the demands of college, self-confidence, how to deal with relationships, and more. “There are many ways to ‘give back’ and its not always money... When words of wisdom, knowledge, and encouragement are shared, they have value, too.”

The letters were compiled and released at a book signing “on the 12th class day” of the fall 2015 semester, which is the occasion where students are introduced to the various campus organizations. She hopes that the book will be produced again in the future by the university or a campus organization. However, she notes, this one book could sustain young women for years to come...”it speaks to how PV is alive and well, the legacy is alive and well, and they still believe in the PV woman”.



Ivy, a member of the Undergraduate Medical Academy, the Sigma Chi Chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri Beta) Honor Society, and a student athlete, says she likes to create and find new talent. Ivy has also co-created the online arts collaborative, “Undisputed Excellence” with several of her PV colleagues. The website highlights the creative endeavors of other campus artists, whether fashion, photography, music, spoken word, or graphic arts (undisputedexcellence.com) and provides a way for them to network and promote their work. She has also created a personal forum for communicating with other students during her reign as Miss PVAMU, by making and posting videos on her site, ThelvyFiles.com. Ivy also hosted the campus radio program, “What’s New Today with the UMA?” (Undergraduate Medical Association) during which she encouraged health awareness and translated relevant health information.

Ivy loves her family and enjoys the rivalry between the two camps- her father and brother are Texas Southern University graduates- and she joins her sister - a PV graduate. Her mother, a graduate of Fisk University, doesn’t understand “our beef”, however, Ivy insists that her mother wears a PVAMU shirt. “We all attended HBCU’s and that is really important to me”.

“When I leave PVAMU, I know I’ll be productive in many different ways”, she says. Her message to the alumni is, “We’re alright and we’re doing okay. Thank you for setting the path...your legacy lasts. Know that PV is alright.

We are taking care of it”. ★

Legacy

In March 2015, Dr. Walter Jackson emerged as the lone finalist in a bid for superintendent of Brenham Independent School District in Brenham, Texas. A proud graduate of Prairie View A&M University, Dr. Jackson is no stranger to leadership. His most recent position was as an area superintendent within the Alief Independent School District in Houston, Texas, where he supervised academic and business operations for 15 campuses and over 47,000 students. In his 21 years in Alief ISD as an educator, he also served as a classroom teacher, middle school principal, assistant principal, associate principal, and high school principal.

Alief ISD's Albright Middle School, under Jackson's leadership, was recognized as one of the "Best Public Schools in Texas" by the National Center for Educational Accountability. Its Taylor High School, where Dr. Jackson later served as principal, was listed in the Houston Chronicle as one of the "Best Urban High Schools in the Greater Texas area by the Children at Risk Foundation.

Dr. Jackson received the Master of Education degree from Prairie View A&M University in 1998, Bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University in 1994, and the Doctor of Education from Baylor University in 2006. He also received post-doctoral training at Harvard University as a Harvard Principal Scholar, and earned a certificate in Management from Rice University.

Dr. Jackson is a proud husband to his wife, Tanya and father to his son, Braelin and daughter, Bailey. He credits his faith and family as sources for his inspiration and aspiration.

Graduate appointed superintendent of



Brenham
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EST. 1875



Dr. Jackson, how and why did you choose education as a career path?

The people who were most successful in my small, rural community were the educators. Back then, we didn't look to athletes and entertainers as role models... so the people that I did see around me who were successful were educators. I had a knack for "running my mouth", so I decided to teach.

16 How have your experiences as a student and alumnus of Prairie View A&M University contributed to your success?

My sister had attended Prairie View and it had always had a wonderful reputation. As a high school teacher, I had the demand of many responsibilities during the week, so the PV weekend program was very affordable and convenient. I carpooled with several colleagues and friends, and it was a tremendously valuable experience for me.

During my studies at Prairie View, I was inspired by professors such as Dr. William Parker, who was acting dean, the late Dr. Marion Henry, and Dr. Michael McFrazier, who at the time was a very young, passionate professor and is currently the Vice President for Administration & Chief of Staff at Prairie View. These strong African-American scholars taught me to always strive for excellence.

Prairie View convenes one of the best Leadership Conferences in the region for their students enrolled in the Masters of Education

program. The University annually brought in outstanding speakers who were notable in their fields, and the impact has been lasting. I would put PV's graduate program up against any other--it rivals any other program in the country, and I have seen quite a few.

So often our children are presented a limited view of what success looks like, and we don't often see success reflected in the media's portrayal of black people. We see entertainers and athletes as examples of success, and that's ok. However, growing up as a boy in Devers, Texas my exposure to numerous African American achievements was limited.

My career, in my opinion, is the epitome of why the HBCU exists and why they matter, in 2015. Yes, I am unequivocally saying that there is a place in American Education for the HBCU! I am from a small rural community and there are so many experiences I had not experienced. Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M University opened so many doors for me and changed my life. My professors often shared their stories with me about how they made it through segregation, Jim Crow, etc... they told me things, life stories, in a way that I could "get it"... they inspired me to be the change that I wanted to see in the world. My life is a testament and evidence that you can make it if you try! I learned that there is great power in your life's story.

Historically black colleges and universities helped to open my eyes, so that my life could mean something. I was exposed to highly successful leaders through my studies at Prairie View. For example, I became more aware of the contributions of Booker T. Washington,

Carter G. Woodson, Mary McCloud Bethune, and many other Civil Rights Leaders of our great and historic past. I also had the opportunity to rub elbows with African American lawyers, physicians, professors, presidents of universities, business leaders and other African-American leaders striving to make America better for us all.

There is a black, educated elite out there, people who attended Fisk, Hampton, Prairie View, Xavier, Texas Southern, Florida A&M, Grambling, who are doing well. I was privileged to get to know former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan on a personal level before her passing. I am a proud member Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc., and through the HBCU experience via sororities and fraternities, our children, too, can gain the power of access to people who can lend a helping hand to young and aspiring leaders.

You have traveled to many different countries as a scholar. How have your travels informed your work as an educator?

In my opinion, every American educator needs to leave the United States to see how other countries educate their children in order to truly appreciate our public education system. Our system is free and public, which is not the case, anywhere else in the world; and I believe we take public education for granted. I have been blessed to have traveled throughout Europe, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Beijing, China.

When I was in China, I observed 55 children in a classroom- all doing what they needed to do- learning and behaving well. In Saudi Arabia, women did not have access to education as they do in the U.S. public schools. I believe US teachers need to travel to see, and share with their students and colleagues the wonderful things we are doing in our public education system. Through our public education system, everyone gets a chance at the American dream.

What do you consider as your greatest personal and professional successes?

My greatest personal success is that I am called “dad” “son”, and “husband”. I have been happily married for 19 years and have two wonderful children. My road to success has been full of sacrifices along the way. I haven’t made it to every basketball game or choir concert, and I have missed some birthday parties, but my wife (a strong sister!) has stood by my side on the road to making an impact on others... pouring myself out to others... and hopefully, affecting eternity.

What can you share as your most valuable life lessons?

I am a down-to-earth guy, a son of a small east Texas town, and I was raised by my paternal grandmother in Devers, Texas. My grandmother “Mae-Mae”, who passed away in 2013, would say to me, “It doesn’t matter how many trophies, degrees, or letters you get behind your name, you must always remember where you came from”. She was always very proud of me... Only a grandmother who is truly proud of you can say that and the words pierce your soul. It was her way of reminding me of the scripture, “pride goes before a fall”, and wanted me to understand that I am no better than anyone else. She wanted me to stay “rooted and grounded” in the midst of my successes. Growing up we were taught to work hard for what we wanted, and I believe I am a better person and wouldn’t be who I am without that humble experience.

What do you foresee as your greatest opportunities as the newly appointed superintendent of Brenham ISD?

I want to make certain that our system provides a quality education that is accessible to all. I also want to continue to foster and promote the idea that the American Dream is available to all who are willing to work for it. I want our children to know that they can be whatever they want to be. President Obama and so many other notable African Americans have proven that America works for those who are willing to work it! I want to bring hope and courage to the hopeless. I sincerely thank God for the global vision of the HBCU, and I encourage everyone to make giving back to the HBCU our obligation. It is our duty, our responsibility, our future! ★



We want to hear from you!



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PVAMU

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Class Notes

A NEW SECTION will be added to the 1876 Alumni Magazine. If you know of PVAMU alums that have received work promotion, gotten married, had a child, performed well-regarded community service projects or received any type of accolade that deserves recognition, we want to share the good news!

Please send *Class Notes*
to alumni@pvamu.edu

and include the name, a brief description of the accomplishment and the alum's' year of graduation.



Prairie View A&M Foundation GROWING GREATNESS THROUGH GIVING



We welcome to our team Trustee Samuel J. Coleman. Mr. Coleman joined the Board in May of 2015.

Samuel J. Coleman (Sam) is the Deputy Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency,

South Central Region. He is a 1977 graduate of Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas. Sam began his career in 1977 as a civilian employee of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth, TX. Over the next 12 years managed complex military construction and civil works projects in Texas and South Korea. His career in environmental protection began in 1989 when he joined the EPA in Dallas.

During his tenure he has worked at both the regional and headquarter levels. He has been with EPA over 26 years and has worked on several high profile projects. Mr. Coleman was appointed to the Senior Executive Service by Administrator Carol Browner in 1995. He was awarded the Presidential Rank Award by President Barrack Obama in 2009 for his meritorious service.

Sam is a native of Shreveport LA., and currently lives in Cedar Hill, Texas. He is married to the former Esther M. Foster (PV BSCE 1977) of Houston, TX. They have two children Meredith and Zachary, and one granddaughter, Vivian. Sam is very active in his church where he works to prepare high school students for college and life's challenges. ★

Prairie View A&M University honors Kristen Wells-Lewis, a Beaumont, Texas native, as the 2015 Student Humanitarian Award recipient. Wells-Lewis received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry with a Biomedical concentration from Prairie View A&M University in August 2015. Throughout her tenure at Prairie View A&M University, she obtained valuable leadership and administrative skills by working as an intern for the Vice President of Administration and by serving as a senator in the Student Government Association for the College of Arts and Sciences. Wells-Lewis also served as Vice President of the Undergraduate Pharmacy Club.

Her leadership skills catapulted when she was initiated into the Eta Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As a result of her tenacity and zeal in creating many community service programs for the chapter, Wells-Lewis was awarded Soror of the Semester in Fall 2012 and was later elected President of the Eta Beta Chapter in 2013. Her commitment to service was recognized at a national level where she was appointed to the National Membership Services Committee for the 2013 – 2015 biennium by Dr. Paulette C. Walker, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In addition, her leadership skills and passion for public service were noted throughout the Southwest Region of Delta Sigma Theta when she was elected to the position of Regional Representative. This was the first time that a member of the Eta Beta Chapter has ever attained this title.

Student Humanitarian Award Winner SHINES as a True Service Leader

As the Southwest Regional Representative of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Wells-Lewis manages 57 collegiate chapters throughout Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Jamaica. She was also the Regional Team Captain for the Futures Without Violence Organization and a mentor for 3D Math Academy where she tutored children in mathematical concepts and principles. She is a member of the Pilot Club International, Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, and the American Cancer Society-Colleges Against Cancer.

Wells-Lewis plans to further her education and serve the community by advocating for changes in healthcare, education, and economics that would benefit the whole of society. She plans to bring her goals to fruition by one day working for the Centers for Disease Control as part of their effort to better this world for our children. ★



Are Today's Students *Addicted* to the Internet?



Noted scholar,
faculty coordinator
for the Center
for Business
Communication
and professor,
Dr. Reginald L.
Bell, recently
conducted a study

on students and the time they spend online. Dr. Bell co-authored an article examining the results of the study and it appeared in the journal, *Online*, entitled, "Time and Gender Perceptions of Internet Addiction". The study was based on a sample of community college students and focused on gender and the amount of time spent online. In this study, Bell and his cohorts identified three attributes as their primary dimensions to measure: (a) Social recluse, (b) Internet addict, and (3) Procrastinator. These dimensions were then compared to the genders of the survey respondents and the amount of time they reported they spent online.

The researchers were very much interested in measuring whether male or female community college students differed in time they spent online. In order to do this, Bell and his cohorts determined the various dimensions they would utilize: 1. Social recluse 2. Internet addict and 3. Procrastinator.

To determine if differences existed, the dimensions were then compared to the genders of the survey respondents and the time they reported they spent online. Researchers used a simple factorial analysis

of variance (ANOVA) with social recluse, internet addict and procrastinator as their measures of internet addiction. Thus, they were able to deduce if male and female college students differed from one another based on the time they spent online when compared on the social recluse measure, the internet addict measure and on the procrastinator measure. The results were interesting.

According to Dr. Bell, "Our study found out that internet addiction can be based on gender, but it depends on whether or not the student is more prone to be socially reclusive. When students were acting more like social recluses than internet addicts, they differed in the time they spent online, neither exceeded more than 10 hours, which seemed to be the breaking point for all students. However, male and female students seemed to be very similar in their time online, regardless as to whether they were socially reclusive, internet addicts, or procrastinators."

Ultimately, the study established three new categories of internet addiction [college students can be either social recluses, internet addicts, or procrastinators] not known until

now. "Socially, we can now argue that men and women college students, if addicted, are addicted in similar ways regarding the time they spend online. Although our study was very limited and should not be generalized to other populations, we can say that the three dimensions of internet addiction are good indications of internet addiction. We can also argue that time spent online for college students is

not likely to be different between males and females. We can argue that even for internet addicts, 10 or more hours online is too much time. As the internet is evermore encroaching on the lives of young people, the global implication of our study is that we could possibly lose the face-to-face communication channels. These face-to-face channels are where most of our moral values are learned and our human skills are perfected by our continual interpretations and adjustments based on others' cues. The internet is a wonderful tool, but it can have its drawbacks as a primary communication tool." ★

PVAMU Wins 2nd Championship Title

Dominates Honda All-Star Challenge

The 26th Annual National Honda Campus All-Star Championship Tournament has concluded and The Proud Panthers of Prairie View A&M University have earned their second national title!

This year's winning team consisted of Team Captain Joseph Dowell, a senior from Killeen, TX; Brannon Billings, a senior from Austin, TX; Eric Johnston, a sophomore from Boerne, TX; and Chayse Lavallais, a freshman. Career Services Placement Counselor, Herbert Thomas, coached the team to victory.

The year-round HCASC season begins when students arrive in the fall. Power Search quizzes, given across campus where students learn, gather, study and live, help identify the superstars. Next, HBCUs hold campus tournaments and form their HCASC Club. Practice sessions commence, with an emphasis on knowledge acquisition and team building. In December, the coach selects the varsity team. The PVAMU Team practiced around the clock to ensure placement in the official National Qualifying Tournaments.

"We are certainly proud of our dedicated Challenge Team and it is an honor to bring home the first prize. The team exemplifies the talent, intelligence and spirit of our PVAMU students," explained Dr. Lauretta F. Byars, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Student Affairs.★



CALLING ALL PANTHERS!

COME BACK TO "THE HILL"

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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING 2015

The New View | Expanding Our Traditions

Check www.pvamu.edu for homecoming a list of the week's activities, event updates and information.

Lacy & Carolyn Fryer Scholarship Fund

When Prairie View A&M University alumnus Lacy and his wife Carolyn Fryer died tragically in 2003, their family sought to honor his memory and celebrate his love for his alma mater. The Lacy and Carolyn Fryer Scholarship Fund, a permanent, endowed academic scholarship was created to commemorate the lives of the Fryers and to reward students majoring in Agriculture or Education.

"Our father was a farmer who had little education and our mother was a high school graduate who instilled in us that education was the key to success. We believed in education. We believed in Prairie View A&M University. My siblings graduated from PVAMU and their kids have gone on to attend and graduate from PVAMU, explained Bobbie Courett, sister of the late Lacy Fryer and 1968 PVAMU graduate. "This is the 12th anniversary of my brother's passing and our family wanted to do something that would commemorate Lacy and Carolyn and ensure a bright future for the next generation of leaders and young people at our alma mater. I want to extend a heartfelt, "thank you" to everyone who contributed to this scholarship to keep my brother's memory alive." Continued Courett.

Thus far, two Agriculture students have been recognized for their hard work and commitment to the study of Agriculture and have been the recipients of the Lacy and Carolyn Fryer Scholarship—D'Janai Butler and Kaylor G.P. Lewis.

Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Lacy Fryer was a man of integrity, faith and courage. A native of Gonzales, Texas, he earned his bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education from Prairie View A&M University in 1965. He was the first African-American to be employed by the Texas Department of Agriculture, where he excelled for 36 years and held numerous noteworthy positions, including Regional Director of the Gulf Coast Texas Region and Chairperson of the agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. In addition to serving on various agricultural and association committees and winning many noteworthy awards, Fryer was one of the first of two African-Americans to join the National Guard. He married Carolyn in 1966.

Carolyn Fryer was nothing short of an inspiration. She was cherished for her kindness, devotion and genuine care for others. A native of Huntsville, Texas, she earned her bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education from Texas Southern University. Carolyn Fryer worked a professional educator for more than 20 years in North Forest and Humble School Districts. ★



Competing Teams

FUN FACTS

- 2015 is Prairie View A&M's **26th** consecutive year competing in HCASC. PVAMU teams have competed in every year of the competition.
- 2015 marks the **20th** time Prairie View A&M has qualified for the National Championship Tournament (NCT).
- Prairie View A&M has won a total of **\$136,000** in grants to date.
- Prairie View A&M teams made the Final Four at the very first NCT in 1990, winning **\$11,000**. They advanced to the Sweet Sixteen playoffs in 1993, 1999 and 2011.
- Prairie View A&M won the National Championship in 2010, winning **\$51,000**.
- Malcolm Sykes and Dr. Marvin Young are members of the HCASC Alumni Hall of Fame

Rec Sports QUICK FACTS

- **93,000 square feet** to accommodate more than 8,000 students
- **3** separate activity courts that can be combined into an NCAA sized court
- Bleachers that can seat **1250** fans
- Cardio and Weight Rooms
- **4** studios dedicated to dance, aerobics and spinning
- Indoor pool and running track
- Healthy Living Kitchen
- Administrative offices
- Climbing wall



Anthony Daniels beams with pride every time he talks about the university's new state-of-the art recreational facility. As the director of recreational sports, Mr. Daniels loves discussing the growth and progress he's sees at Prairie View A&M University.

**Q. What does the director of rec sports do?
What would a typical day look like for you?**

A. To be honest a little bit of everything. I oversee the recreation sports staff and make sure that our new building is being properly cared for. I help coordinate programming and I work closely with the Student Affairs team to ensure that our students get the very best recreational experience as a student here at PVAMU. Administratively, I also want to make sure that we are following national best practices for our operations. I work with the national boards and governing bodies to ensure that all of our staff are providing the best services and are in compliance with all of the state and federal regulations.

You better RECog



Q. Why did you choose to pursue a career in Rec Sports?

A. I wanted to use sports as an avenue to reach students. When I was younger, I had aspirations of being an educator. I wanted to be a teacher, but I've always had a passion for sports. I ran cross-country in high school and track and field throughout college. Once I graduated with my degree in campus recreation, I realized that I could marry my passions for education and sports to engage students. After spending 25 years in this business, I still enjoy reaching young people by teaching, instructing and infusing sports.



nize

Q. What is the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

A. The opportunities for providing excellent customer service, being able to service the community, hosting various campus events, conducting tours for groups as large as 300, serving the Jr. ROTC, and most importantly, getting our students involved in recreational sports and fitness.

Q. So what kinds of events and activities can we look forward to in the new Rec Center as the new academic year gets underway?

A. We will definitely offer more intramural programming. We are now planning new programs on healthy meal preparation utilizing our demonstration kitchen. We will offer a number of fitness classes and I'm looking at sponsoring several activities on campus that will boost wellness and promote healthy lifestyles. ★

PVAMU Hosts 2015 Health Disparities Conference

Prairie View A&M University recently hosted the annual Health Disparities Symposium where prominent health care professionals discussed the high incidence and prevalence of certain health issues among underserved populations. Below, Lovell A. Jones, Ph.D., F.H.D.R., discusses the high incidence rate of breast cancer among African-American women and how researchers at Prairie View A&M University are engaged in finding solutions that will close the quality health care gap. Dr. Jones is the the Associate Dean for Research, Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing and Executive Director of the Health Disparities, Education, Awareness, Research and Training (HDEART) Consortium.

"African American women under the age of 40 have a disproportionately high incidence of pre-menopausal breast cancer compared with other women across the nation. Additionally, African American women with breast cancer are less likely to survive five years after diagnosis than Caucasian women. This difference may be attributed to later stage detection, co-morbidities, lower socioeconomic status, unequal access to medical care, and disparities in treatment.

There are specific modifiable factors that contribute to the risk of breast cancer. For instance, factors found to increase breast cancer risk in African American women include: a high-fat, low-fiber diet; excessive body fat; a sedentary lifestyle; and an increased level of non-protein-bound estradiol. In sum, breast cancer risk appears to be a function of environmental exposures, lifestyle and genetic factors and their interactions.

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Prairie A&M University researchers are ready to form a team with other top researchers to study these types of health disparities and to disseminate critical information within the health care provider community that could assist in lowering the mortality rate for African-American women diagnosed with breast cancer." ★

13th Annual Summer Workshop/Course

DISPARITIES IN
HEALTH IN AMERICA

Working Towards Social Justice



Health Disparities,
Education, Awareness,
Research & Training
(HDEART) Consortium



PANTHER PLAZA OPEN HOUSE

Brings Out Students, Faculty, Staff and Community!

The Panther Plaza University Retail Center opened its doors for the first time so that everyone could get a glimpse of what's to come! The new retail center features dining outlets, a state-of-the-art bowling facility, a coffee shop and plenty of green space.



EAT.

PLAY.

SHOP.

FACULTY



School of Architecture

TRACEY MOORE, Assistant Professor and Digital Media Program Coordinator

PVAMU Digital Media Arts (DGMA) students and their advisor Tracey Moore, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, attended "Creative Summit 28 presents CHGO DSGN GONE TX Conference and Student Competition" at Texas State University. During the conference, the DGMA students were able to interact with six of Chicago's hottest designers. A part of the experience was learning about each designer's creative process and the nature of their work, which ranged from graphic design, interactive media, environmental graphics to industrial design. The DGMA students and Assistant Professor Moore were invited to an exclusive after- conference dinner to further connect with and develop future partnerships with the designers.

PVAMU participating students were Micah Earls, Jalon Jackson-Bowman, Rae'Ana Molette, Samiria Percival, Nicholas Sloan, Jawon Thomas, and Kyana Yates.

ANN JOHNSON, Visiting Assistant Professor

Ann Johnson, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Art Program, exhibited her work at Smack Mellon Gallery in Brooklyn, NY which resulted in the work titled: "Peace Be Still" being featured in the NY Times. She curated and authored a catalog for the exhibition ReDefining Print: Contemporary Printmaking From Women of the African Diaspora.

She also was featured in the Spring 2016 issue of The International Review of African American Art and was selected by a jury to exhibit in the Prints In Peculiar Places public art exhibition at the Southern Graphics Council Conference, "Sphere", in Knoxville, TN.

DR. ARSENIO RODRIGUES, Associate Professor

Dr. Arsenio Rodrigues, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture, successfully completed the last part of the Architecture Registration Exam (ARE) this last spring and became a Registered Architect in the State of Texas. He also published a chapter in the "Sacred Place-making: The Presence and Quality of Archetypal Design Principles in Sacred Place." The Changing World Religion Map. (Stanley Brunn, ed.). New York, NY: Springer Press.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



College of Nursing

WILLIAM PRICE,

Brown Foundation Endowed Chair

William Price, the Brown Foundation Endowed Chair, was successful in preparing a grant application for the National Disaster and Resiliency Competition.

The National Disaster Resilience Competition makes \$1 billion available to communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The competition promotes risk assessment and planning and will fund the implementation of innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for future fires, droughts, storms and other extreme events.

DR. LKHLAS SABOUNI,

Dean of the School of Architecture

Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni, Dean of the School of Architecture, has been serving as an Officer of the College of Distinguished Professors with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture since 2011. She has served in the roles of the College Secretary, Vice Chancellor, and Chancellor. Currently she is completing her term as the College Past Chancellor.

Dr. Sabouni received the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Distinguished Professor Award in 2000 and the Texas A&M University System Regents' Professor in 1996.

The College of Distinguished Professors, founded in 2010, is composed of members of the Associations 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. All College members may use the title "ACSA Distinguished Professor, DPACSA" in perpetuity.

The following faculty members in the College of Nursing have secured grant projects during the Spring 2015 semester:

CHLOE GAINES, PH.D., F.N.P., Principal Investigator

Graduate Nursing Demonstration Project: Center for Medicare and Medicaid
Funding Source: Center for Medicare and Medicaid

EJIM SULE, PH.D., Principal Investigator

ISAAC SMITH, PH.D., Co-Principal Investor

Reducing Patient Care Clinical Situations by Building Simulation Capacity
Funding Source: PVAMU Office of Research and Development

GEORGE CRIPPEN, MSN, Principal Investigator

SHEILA HARVIN, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator

The Plate Method: Learning and Teaching Strategies Impacting Students Learning Outcomes
Funding Source: PVAMU Office of Research and Development

All of the aforementioned projects support faculty development in research and program evaluation, and the College of Nursing Research Center. In addition, the Graduate Nursing Demonstration Project supports the strong linkage with community partners and builds data.



Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences

DR. JAMES VALLES (Mathematics) co-authored the paper "Can We Use Polya's Method to Improve Students' Performance in the Statistics Classes?" published in the online journal, *Numeracy*, Indika Wickramasinghe of Eastern New Mexico University, as lead author. **PVAMU 25**

DR. GLORIA C. REGISFORD (Biology) co-authored a paper with several investigators, including PVAMU undergraduate students, entitled, "Drosophila Muller F elements maintain a distinct set of genomic properties over 40 million years of evolution."

DR. SHAYIB (Mathematics) published a book: Statistics for Six Sigma Quality.

DR. HAGHIGHI (Mathematics), published the June issue of Applications and Applied Mathematics: An International Journal (AAM): AAM Vol. 10, Issue 1 (June 2015) with 37 peer-reviewed article and over 620 pages. This year is the 10th anniversary of the journal with 92 top mathematicians, engineers and scientists in its board of editors.

DR. ORION CIFTJA (Physics), co-authored three papers , L. Escamilla, and R. Mills, on shape-dependent energy of an elliptical jellium background.



If Only I Have

My freshman year, I witnessed the last game to be won by the Panther football team for the next 20 years. While it's true that there were no athletic scholarships to attract players to the program, among other reasons for our 20-year losing streak, not many beyond our campus really knew anything about the struggles of our students. Our reputation preceded us after graduation as we left the protective walls of Prairie View A&M University and entered the world armed with our brand new shiny degrees stamped with the Panther Pride that only a proud Prairie View alum understands.

After graduation and at the start of my career, I remember every time someone asked me, "What college did you go to?" I proudly replied, "Prairie View A&M University!" The immediate response was, "Oh yeah, that school that hasn't won a football game in years." Part of me began

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to feel slightly ashamed but still obligated to redeem my beloved school. And so, with every inquiry, I found myself having to explain that we were so much more than an HBCU with a struggling football team. "We have an excellent engineering program!" was what I'd say (happy to be one of its proud productive graduates). "Texas A&M is our sister school. We are a part of the Texas A&M System," not really knowing what that meant. But that's all I really knew to say. It was the only "branding" that had been instilled in me over the years I attended the university; even as I exited as one of its proud productive people from The Hill or "the yard" as we used to call it.

If only I would have known that we are the second oldest public university in the state of Texas by only minutes created shortly after the establishment of Texas A&M University. We were established in 1876 under the premise of the federal Justin Morrill Land Grant Act adopted in 1862; making our school the only college black people could attend in Texas at the time. We educated common people so they could improve their livelihood while making meaningful contributions to

society. In earlier years, a university education was meant only for the elite who pursued studies in classical arts. After 28 years of unjust management due to deep seeded racism, Justin Morrill adapted the original 1862 act to delineate the rights of the HBCUs across the south establishing their own act in 1890.

So here we are today, still carrying out the mission of the 1890 Justin Morrill Act providing for the inclusion of all races and ethnicities to be educated at institutions of higher learning 125 years later. A mission that dictates we will take care of our common folks, everyday people and their families who fight against the odds to make a better life for themselves. Back in 1876, when PVAMU was established, the focus was agriculture and teaching. Since that time, because of the 1890 act, PVAMU has evolved into not only teaching and agriculture but mechanical arts, ROTC, programs for business, juvenile justice, psychology, arts and sciences, architecture and nursing. Not only do we educate students on campus in the rural city of Prairie View, Texas, but we also wear our purple and gold pride in cities and small towns across the state, educating community members through the outreach arm of the Cooperative Extension Program. Our cutting edge research in agriculture is adapted into curriculum that reaches across our great state in 36 of Texas' 254 counties and constantly growing.

These Cooperative Extension agents teach people in the community to care for themselves and their families by preventing and managing chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension. They engage young people in leadership development through 4-H clubs and volunteerism to keep them off of the streets. County agents also teach people how to start businesses and expose them to entrepreneurial success strengthening the economy of our urban and rural communities.

Our students have an advantage because they can get involved in research making our food safer and more nutritious. Our researchers find ways to improve the quality of our water and identify the medicinal

Would Known

value of common plants and vegetation that we buy every day in the local grocery store. They work in the labs with students wanting to be veterinarians and future landowners who want to go back to the simple ways of life being good stewards over one of the greatest God given gifts, the land. Our students can get a practical education by connecting to our Extension agents in the counties using their creative minds to find solutions the very same problems that possibly affect their own friends and families.

When I finally returned to Prairie View from corporate America, we

had not only ended our 20-year losing streak in football, we won the SWAC championship! It was a proud moment of redemption for every story I had to tell people to convince them that my alma mater was just as good as theirs. If I only knew then what I know now, maybe I could have stuck my chest out a little bit farther and explained that my school is matched with the likes of Penn State, Kansas State, Purdue, The Ohio State University, Auburn and other schools established under the 1862 act with the same mission of the land grant institution, which is teaching, research and extension.

The 19 universities that refer to themselves as 1890s have a long way to go to tell their story and instill that additional sense of pride in their graduates. There's something to be said for maintaining a 125-year legacy of teaching, research and extension. It is applaudable. I believe there would be no 140-year celebration in 2016 without the bold inclusionary vision of a man named Justin Morrill.

This is the time for a new beginning to reshape our brand and tell our story. We are so much more than an HBCU. We are an 1890 HBCU land grant university. ★

*By LaRachelle Smith, Class of '94 and current Director, Marketing, Communications Development & Information Technology
College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
Prairie View A&M University*



Our future is in site!
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PVAMU 27

College of Nursing Partners with Houston ISD's Jones Futures Academy for INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

Prairie View A&M University and The Houston Independent School District along with Houston Community College, formed a historic partnership that will allow Jones Futures Academy students to achieve the status of "registered nurse" through an accelerated pathway.

Currently, students in Jones' Allied Health program have the opportunity to graduate high school with an associate's degree and certification as a licensed vocational nurse. Starting this fall, all 90 students in the program will spend half of their day taking courses that are directly aligned with Prairie View's registered nursing program. The courses will be offered through an existing partnership with Houston Community College and taught at HCC Coleman College for Health Sciences in the Texas Medical Center. Students will also



participate in clinical rotations and receive mentoring, college advising, and work-based learning opportunities from Prairie View's College of Nursing.

By taking these classes now, students at Jones will be able to earn free college credit and more quickly complete their bachelor's degree in nursing after graduation — in just two to three years as opposed to the standard

four-and-a-half.

"We truly believe that this partnership is a shining example of the power and significance of what the entire educational community can do when it invests in our children's future and opportunities," said Prairie View A&M University President, George C. Wright.

Jones' Allied Health program expects to graduate its first class of certified licensed vocational nurses in 2018.

"This is a forward thinking and innovative program in terms of how we go about offering educational access to students. It eliminates the usual barriers to higher education that some students face and it allows students to easily access PVAMU's entire suite of educational offerings including bachelors, masters and ultimately doctorate degrees," explained Felicia M. Nave, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prairie View A&M University.

"Houston expects to see tremendous job growth in nursing over the next 10 years. We want to ensure our students are skilled and prepared to work in such a high-demand and well-paying job field," said HISD Futures Academy Assistant Superintendent Michael Love. "The opportunities students will receive from this partnership will strengthen their academic knowledge of health sciences, expose them to nursing field experiences, and prepare them for a career in nursing, as well as other jobs in the health sector." ★





“Congratulations” to all Spring and Summer Graduates
**When One Door Closes,
Another One Opens!**
“Welcome” to The Hill New Panthers!



KNOW A PROSPECTIVE PVAMU STUDENT?

If you know students who are interested in attending

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

simply email their names and contact information to recruitment@pvamu.edu. We will do the rest.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 4, 2015

10am Chapel Service

10am - 4pm Panther Prep Day

7pm Gospel Fest Featuring Kathy Taylor (Houston Gospel Performer)

Monday, October 5, 2015

6:30pm Book Review: Author Cynthia Bond highlighting the book, "Ruby"

8pm - 11pm Talent Show and Poetry Feature

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

5pm TIME2PLAY Pep Rally and Concert

6pm - 8pm Philanthropy of Soul

6:30pm Volleyball Game vs Texas Southern University

8:30pm TIME2PLAY Game Night

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

11am Founder's Naming Ceremony - Student Park

12noon Campus Activities Board - Super Hump Day

6:30pm Mr. and Miss PVAMU Coronation and Ball (Fall Formal)

Thursday, October 8, 2015

11am Lunch with President Wright & PVAMU Administration

5:30pm CLUB 1876 Staff and Alumni Mixer

6:30pm Volleyball Game vs Grambling State University - PINK OUT

8:30pm Homecoming Night of REC (TBD)

Friday, October 9, 2015

10am Fallen Panther Memorial Display

11am Campus Decorating Contest - Judging Begins (Register Online)

11am LEGENDARY Alumni Chat 'n Chew (Tentative)

1pm - 5pm ASPIRE Hoops - N - Hip Hop

7pm Homecoming Carnival

Saturday, October 10, 2015

6am Lindsey Weatherspoon Agricultural Breakfast

9:15am Homecoming Parade

2pm Football Game PVAMU vs Mississippi Valley State

7pm Stage Breakers Step Show & After Party



HOMECOMING 2015

The New View:
Expanding the Tradition
October 4-10



For more information

about tailgating, parking, event locations & more:

www.pvamu.edu/homecoming2015