

1876

A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Spring★2011

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

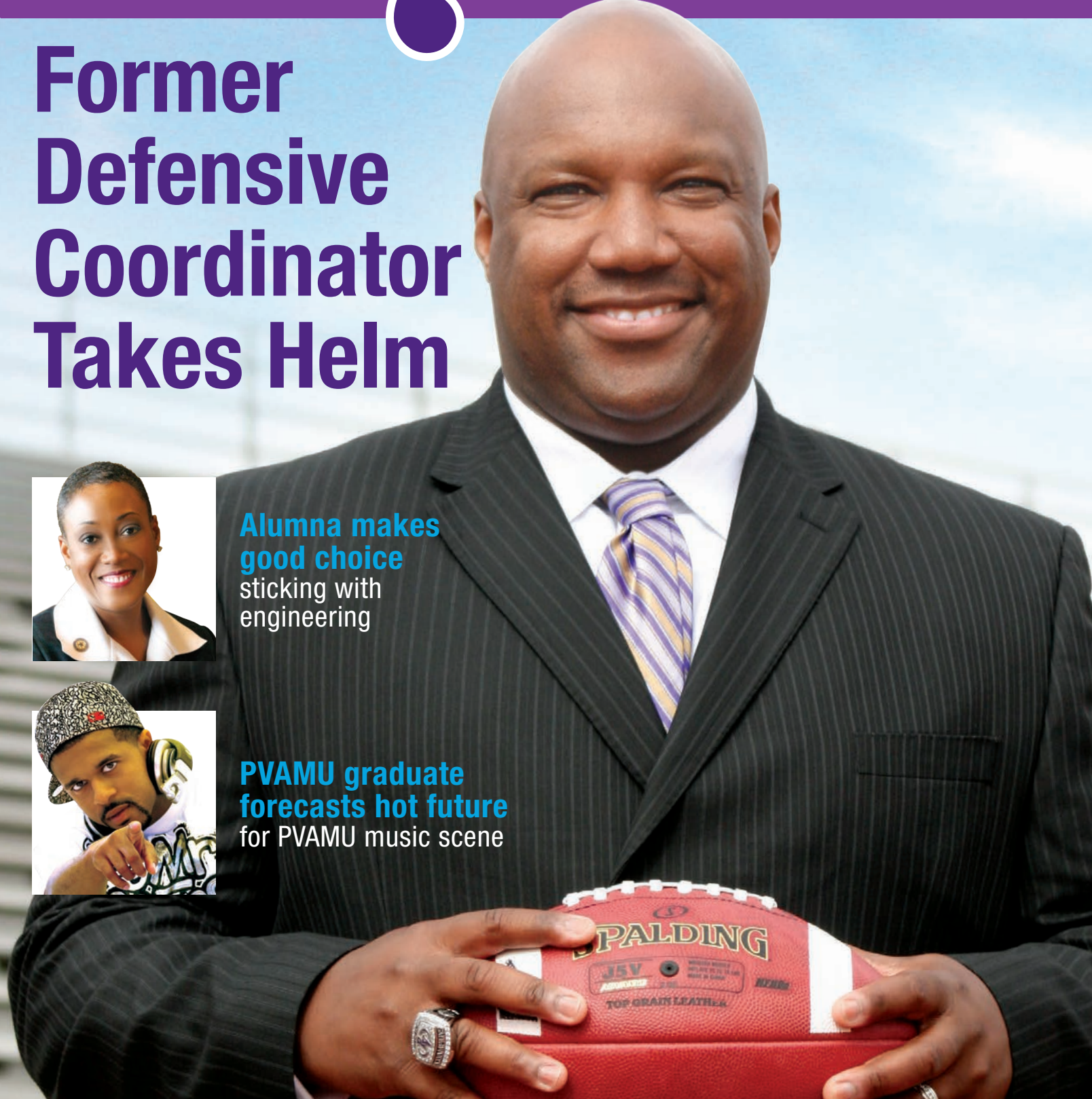
Former Defensive Coordinator Takes Helm



**Alumna makes
good choice**
sticking with
engineering



**PVAMU graduate
forecasts hot future**
for PVAMU music scene



The Best is Yet to Come

Often times I have said that the best part of my job is interacting with alumni. PVAMU graduates are some of the best in the world. They are passionate about their university and care about our current students, and all things PVAMU. Each time I have met with graduates their sentiment is the same: "My time at Prairie View was one of the best in my life." These very same graduates are leaders in their field, executives of the world's largest companies and are trailblazers in the variety of professions. Their college years, here on "the hill," were only the beginning - the best was still to come.

Just as their time at PVAMU was the start of greatness, the University is at a similar crossroad. Today, we are able to celebrate our rich history, highlight our accomplishments and bask in current successes, including our recent reaccreditation. In just the past year, we saw our largest class of incoming freshmen and graduated more than 1,200 students. We've moved into a new academic facility in Northwest Houston (pg. 2) and started an honors program (pg. 23) focused on developing global leaders. Our sports teams have competed successfully at some of the highest levels. However, these victories are only the beginning for PVAMU.

MESSAGE from the President

As we move into our 135th year, we are planning for our future success in the area of athletics. With the support of the Prairie View A&M Foundation, we are planning a campaign to raise funds specifically for new athletic facilities. As you can imagine, this important campaign comes at an ideal time as the University is poised to have significant growth, additional program offerings and continued athletic prowess.

There are so many things to be proud of right now at PVAMU. This magazine is an attempt to highlight the University's accomplishments, the greatness of our students and the achievements of our graduates. And with all these great things happening, we still know that the best is yet to come.

George C. Wright



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Record Enrollment

After welcoming its largest freshman class in history in 2009, Prairie View A&M University set another all-time enrollment record this fall. Official numbers show an enrollment of 8,781 students, with 2,640 in the freshman class. The overall enrollment increase reflects a nearly two percent increase over last year's enrollment of 8,608.

"This is great news for the University," said Don Byars, the associate provost for enrollment management. "With the majority of our students calling the state of Texas home, this record enrollment reaffirms our continued commitment to the state of Texas." ★



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Justin "DJ Mr. Rogers" Rogers '05 is arguably one of the South's most popular DJs and hottest producers. Having worked with some of the biggest names in the music industry, he credits PVAMU's diverse student body and unique student activities for much of his success.

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PVAMU Accreditation Reaffirmed by SACS-COC

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmed the accreditation of Prairie View A&M University at its annual meeting December 4-7, 2010. The reaffirmation is the culmination of a three-year self assessment process designed to evaluate the University's compliance with the Commission's Principles of Accreditation. PVAMU is classified as a Level VI Comprehensive University offering baccalaureate, master's and doctorate degrees.

PVAMU has sustained its accreditation since 1959 when it was first accredited through the self study process. ★

TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE ABOUT

PVAMU

www.pvamu.edu

NEW ACADEMIC CENTER OPENS IN NORTHWEST HOUSTON

With sights set on a strong, vibrant presence in the Northwest Houston corridor, PVAMU recently celebrated the grand opening of its new Northwest Houston Center.

The grand opening celebration, held on Saturday, Oct. 9, was the official introduction to the community. People of all ages joined in the festivities, enjoying food, storytelling, face painting, a mini health fair and free money management information. The world-renowned PVAMU Marching Storm Band was also on hand for a special performance.



The Center, located at 9449 Grant Road,

serves graduate students seeking master's degrees in educational administration, counseling, accounting, nursing administration, education and community development.

Dr. Michael L. McFrazier, vice provost, also serves as dean of the Center. The facility was purchased in 2009 from Lone Star Community College System. The new center features nearly 52,000 square feet of classroom, meeting and student service space.

The Northwest Houston Center is a fully functional extension of the PVAMU main campus. In the next four years, the Center will expand its academic programs to include degrees in juvenile justice, sociology, communications and engineering. ★ *C. Landry*



The Prairie View A&M Foundation is spearheading a major fundraising initiative to raise \$60 million to develop a 15,000-seat football stadium, accompanying athletic department center, and basketball and volleyball practice facility. Renovations will also be made to the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Fieldhouse.

The proposed facility will serve as a centerpiece of athletics, highlighting several of our most prominent programs. Complete with more than 74,000 square feet of student-athlete space—including first-class dressing rooms, a cutting-edge weight room, and coaching and administrative suites - the center will also serve as a recruiting tool to attract the best and brightest student-athletes to PVAMU.



Other proposed features:

- Academic enhancement and tutoring lab
- Field turf playing surface
- Team and position meeting rooms
- Training and equipment space
- Reserved, suite and club seating
- Enhanced tailgating area and parking
- Hall of Fame to recognize former athletes



Photos by C. Landry

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Photo by R. Versey

Frenchy's Chicken (pictured) and Brubakers Barbecue and Burgers are the first of several establishments to move into Prairie View. Its presence supports the economic growth needed to sustain the community.

As the University continues to grow, the city of Prairie View is working to bolster its offerings and support that growth. To meet the demand, the city has partnered with Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) to design economic development strategies for the community to enhance the quality of life, create jobs and stimulate the community's economic growth. TEEX serves as the facilitator for community visioning, market research, and for the development of Prairie View's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Big Plans

City and University Partner to Revitalize Community

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS UNDER WAY FOR STADIUM

While construction will come at a steep cost, PVAMU and its supporters must be committed to raising the appropriate funds to create authentic symbols of the University's pride and commitment to athletics. If you would like to give, do it today at www.helpbuild.org.

the View

PVAMU 3

Illustrations courtesy of Leo A. Daly Smith & Company Architects

"Both the City of Prairie View and Prairie View A&M have demonstrated great leadership and resolve in developing an economic strategy that is already making great things happen in Prairie View," said TEEEX Economic Development Program Director Joan Quintana. "We are excited for Prairie View and honored to have played a small role in shaping Prairie View's very bright future and their broader impact on our great state of Texas."

As the city's major employer, an ongoing evaluation of the University's economic opportunities is essential to the long-term economic growth of the city. TEEEX has conducted interviews with administrators including academic deans, department heads, faculty and researchers to thoroughly analyze the research and educational opportunities

within the University. TEEEX sought to uncover opportunities for business spin-out from research activities, expansion of laboratories and research facilities, specialized and unique combinations of talent and facility assets, and/or technology and research focuses that can offer both the university and the city opportunities for growth and development.

As a result of the findings, the city will uncover a plan that focuses on a housing and retail development to capture the considerable tax base the city is losing to students and employees of Prairie View who currently live and shop outside of town. A Community Economic Development Committee complete with key University contacts, regional resources, city administrators and others meet regularly to discuss plans and findings. ★
Courtesy of TEEEX

Prairie View's EMERGING KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

- Heritage tourism
- STEM education for underserved populations
- Entrepreneurship
- Commercialization of agriculture related products

Dr. James A. Wilson, Jr. didn't graduate from Prairie View A&M University. In fact, he only visited the campus a few times before he was appointed director of the honors program and later associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs. Although he is not a graduate of the University, Wilson's relationship with PVAMU is woven throughout his family including his grandfather, mother, uncles, aunts and close family friends.

His connection to the historic institution allows his work to mean more than what is included in his job description. Each day he works collaboratively with various academic units to create a comprehensive academic environment and to organize opportunities for PVAMU students to become more global through travel abroad and exchange programs.



Just as Dr. Wilson was added to the University's hub for academic matters, additional changes were made to better serve the student body. To support the growth of the student population, more than 20 additional instructors are added each semester to teach classes and oversee laboratories.

With more than a decade of teaching experience as a historian, professor and researcher, Wilson received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in professional studies from Cornell University and both a master's and doctoral degree in history from Princeton University.

Dr. Felecia Nave, associate professor of chemical engineering, was promoted to associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs in June 2010. She is intimately involved with curriculum reviews, on-going effectiveness initiatives, enrollment management and overall general student success.



Dr. Michael L. McFrazier currently leads the University's expansion in Northwest Houston as vice provost and dean of the Northwest Houston Center. In this capacity, he continues his outstanding work with PVAMU deans, vice presidents, directors and other academic support officers. Prior to his appointment, McFrazier served as the associate provost and associate vice president for academic affairs.

Director's Plans Ease Processes for Students

With more than 80 percent of PVAMU students receiving some form of financial aid, it is imperative that the Office of Student Financial Services is run as efficiently as possible.

According to new director, **K. Michael Francois**, that's just what he plans to do.

Hired in late 2010, Francois will lead a team of 8 financial aid counselors including 3 loan processors and a person dedicated to scholarships to award more than \$100 million in loan, scholarship, work-study and grant money to 8,600 students each school year.

Before coming to Prairie View A&M, he served as the director of financial aid and scholarships at Southern University—Shreveport. Using skills he acquired at Southern, he plans to reorganize procedures to ease the financial aid process for PVAMU students.



COVER STORY

Southern Gentleman

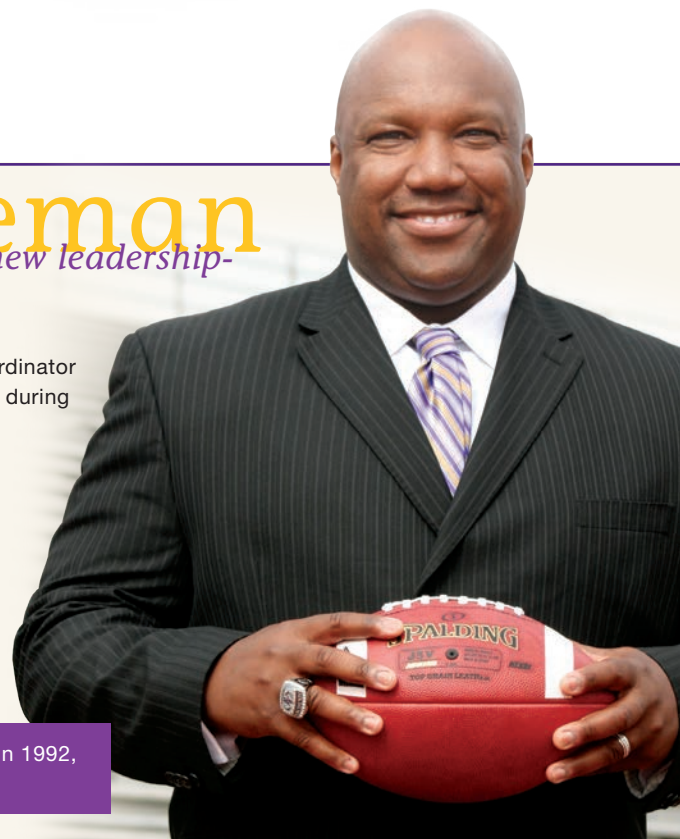
This 2011 football season, the Panthers will be under new leadership-

Coach Heishma Northern

Named head coach in December, Northern was previously the team's defensive coordinator and fielded a nationally ranked defensive unit that has produced several All-Americans during his tenure as coordinator.

A native of Baton Rouge, Heishma Northern, or "Heish" as his friends call him, is a 1996 graduate of Southern University. He began his coaching career right down the road from where he grew up at Glen Oaks High School before moving to the collegiate level at Morehouse College under former NFL standout Doug Williams. After a stint at Morehouse, Northern served as defensive coordinator, defensive backs coach, running backs coach and special teams coordinator for the Grambling State University Tigers.

He holds a mathematics degree from SU, a master's in sports administration from GSU and is the oldest of three children. He and his wife Paula Duell have one son, Adam, and a child on the way.



Northern has a collection of six SWAC Championships; one as a baseball player in 1992, another as a football player in 1993, and five as a coach (2000-2003, 2009).

Changes Prompt Renaming of Office

In October, additional changes were made to expand the University's reach and strengthen both its graduate programs and fundraising initiatives.



+Dr. Willie F. Trotty was appointed dean of the Graduate School and vice president for research.

As dean, Trotty will return to a position where he has spent much of his career. Before taking the helm as vice president for research and development in 1998, he served as the dean of the graduate school and director of research and sponsored programs. Trotty will also work with PVAMU graduate students, especially those enrolled in the University doctoral programs, to ensure that the results of their research are impacting the state of Texas.

"This is an exciting transition for the University," said Trotty. "I hope to continue growing the University's research portfolio including expanding agriculture research and continue the work being done in health disparities, radiation science, communications, surface science and historic preservation."

As part of the realignment, **+Dr. Lauretta F. Byars** accepted additional responsibility for cultivating relationships with those interested in supporting the institution. In line with her role overseeing the University's governmental affairs, public relations, affirmative action and equal opportunity, multicultural affairs, service-learning and continuing education units, she will also add all fundraising efforts and alumni relations to her umbrella.



With these additions, the office was appropriately renamed the Office of Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement.

"The change in the office name is appropriate. It is our role to promote the very best of PVAMU," said Byars, who has been with PVAMU since 2005. "Our goal will be to increase the promotion of the community's accomplishments, especially those of alumni. So many of our graduates are doing well in their career path. Their stories need to be told."

While focusing on alumni achievements, the Office of Development will also work closely with the Prairie View A&M Foundation to raise funds for the new athletic facility.

New Additions Carry Over to Intramurals

+Chondra Johnson was named director of intramural and recreational sports. The Jackson State University graduate will be tasked with bolstering recreational sports programs and activities for students.



Additions Bolster Athletic Programs

Several hires were made to strengthen the University's commitment to academic excellence, especially in athletics.



+Ashley Robinson, director of athletic compliance, is responsible for the governing of Southwestern Athletic Conference and NCAA rules and regulations related to intercollegiate athletics. He supervises ongoing rules and compliance education programs.

Robinson, a former student-athlete, previously served as the academic coordinator at Delaware State University; the assistant compliance director at Jackson State University; and the athletic department's compliance director at his alma mater, Mississippi Valley State; and the Southwestern Athletic Conference's assistant commissioner for compliance.

As the athletic academic advisor, **+Greg C. Martin** works to enthuse, educate, and empower PVAMU athletes to excel both in and out of the classroom, so that they are prepared to compete in the professional ranks upon attaining their chosen degree.

A former student athlete at Southern University and A&M College, Martin worked as an academic mentor and teaching assistant at Purdue University where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Administration. He has also worked as an eighth grade mathematics teacher and facilitated youth service learning.★



1876 sat down with Coach Northern to find out more about the Panthers new head coach.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

That I love to hunt and fish.

That's not that surprising to me, so what else?

Well maybe that I can cook.

What can you cook? Let's say you were cooking for President Barack Obama?

I would cook him a Southern Louisiana dish. Probably crawfish étouffée or shrimp étouffée. But a regular meal, that's spaghetti, salad and garlic bread.

Speaking of food, if a sandwich was named after you, what would be on it?

A lot of shrimp. Fried shrimp on Texas toast, cheese and lettuce. Like a po'boy but with Texas toast.

Texas toast. I'm not lost on that.

Your résumé shows you've been to a couple of schools in the South before coming to Texas. Any similarities?

They are all different. As HBCUs they have a similar mission but the experiences were a little different. I guess Prairie View has a little of all the places – the focus is on academic success and recently a commitment to success in athletics. It's a good combination.

Have you picked up any traditions along your journey?

I shower before every game. Shower and shave. I have done that since I played in college.

I've heard of players who have a song that must be played before every game. What's yours?

Probably Mel Waiters, Got my Whiskey.

Now that is funny. What else do you listen to?

I'm all over the place with music – rap, blues, r&b.

We've seen your son, Adam with the team and with the band. You think he's leaning toward music or football?

Adam thinks he can do both.

Maybe he can.

Is there anything you regret?

Probably being a workaholic. I cancelled a fishing trip with my mom before she died because of a work commitment. I should have gone on that trip.

What did you want to be growing up? A coach?

A veterinarian. I love animals and pets, but I did an internship at LSU and learned that the program was only 2 1/2 years. That wasn't enough time for me to play football.

So you have lots of pets?

Only 1 dog, a rottweiler pit bull mix named Mia.

Next question, biggest life lesson?

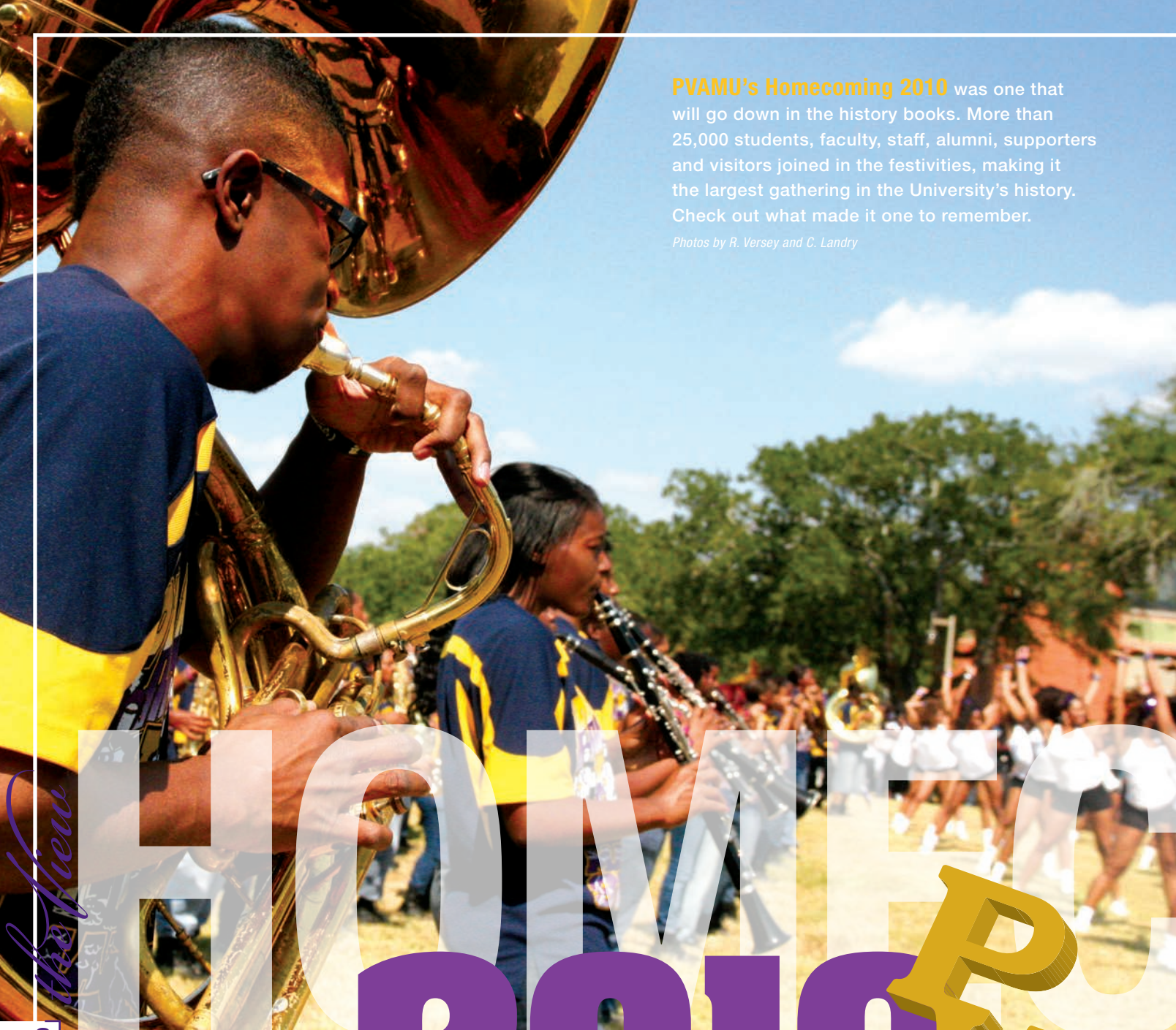
The importance of manners. Yes ma'am and no ma'am go along way. If people realized it, life would be a lot easier.

Good point.

You're a southern gentleman.

Is that how you want to be remembered?

Yes, a great husband, dad and coach.★ S.D. Reed

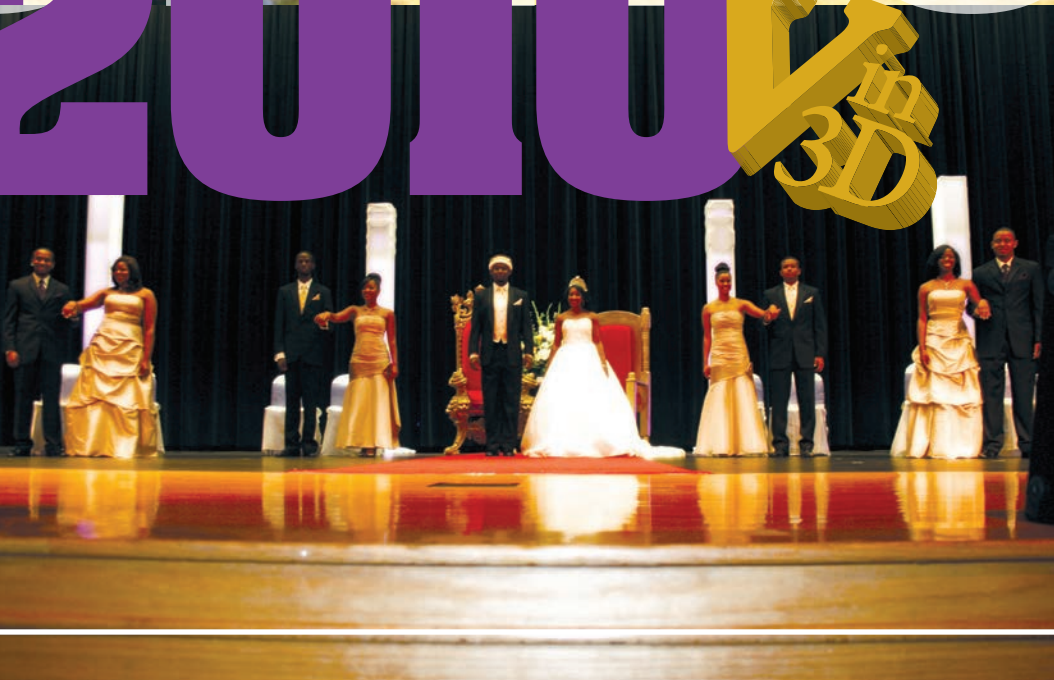


PVAMU's Homecoming 2010 was one that will go down in the history books. More than 25,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters and visitors joined in the festivities, making it the largest gathering in the University's history. Check out what made it one to remember.

Photos by R. Versey and C. Landry

the View
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HOMEcoming 2010





GOAL MAKING



False Start

leads to Bright Future

COVER
STORY

Early in her freshman year at Prairie View A&M University,

Donna Williams

decided to major in engineering. But after only a few weeks into her classes, she began to question her decision. The rigorous class work, long nights of study and difficult assignments were challenging—more challenging than expected. Before changing her major, she met with one of her professors, Mr. Joseph Phillips, who expressed his confidence in her abilities and encouraged her to stay the course. It was at that moment that she was able to develop sound study habits and form strong peer relationships that propelled her to greater learning heights. In 1982, she earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and has never looked back on her decision to tackle engineering.

“Prairie View was the pacesetter for a college education,” Williams said. “If you apply yourself at Prairie View, you can master the workplace, a variety of other professional settings and life in general.” According to Williams, the professors at PVAMU cared about students. They encouraged her to be the best she could be. The challenges of her college years have helped Williams to succeed in her professional career.

PROUD



Photo courtesy of
Texas State University System

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“Prairie View was the pacesetter for a college education,” Williams said.

“If you apply yourself at Prairie View, you can master the workplace, a variety of other professional settings and life in general.”

“Through mentoring and coaching, you are able to help people define their gifts and encourage them to use those gifts in their everyday lives.” Williams said. She encourages people to share their gifts with persons, places and entities that made a difference in their lives, like Prairie View A&M University.

Appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2008, Williams became the first African-American woman to serve on the Texas State University System Board of Regents. The board governs the Texas State University System that includes Sam Houston State University, Texas State University-San Marcos, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Lamar University, Sul Ross State University and Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College. At its November 2010 meeting, the Board of Regents unanimously elected Williams as vice chairwoman. She is also actively involved in numerous civic and charitable organizations.

Williams is the vice president and program manager for the Parsons Corporation, a global engineering and construction company. She is directly responsible for the Southwest region (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico) of the company’s multi-year contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which will generate in excess of \$1 billion in revenue. Williams oversees the design, installation, and construction of navigational aids for the country’s national airspace. ★ *H. Kilpatrick*

Alumni *viewpoints*

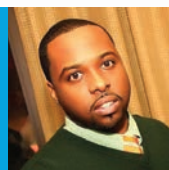


Photo courtesy of PVAMU College of Business



Photo courtesy of Drumline Live

As the treasurer for the National Alumni Association, **Christopher Sanderson '95** is proud of his connection to his alma mater. He works diligently to ensure that the organization is financially sovereign and able to provide scholarships for current and future students. Over the past year, he has created several policies and procedures to formalize the operations of the growing organization. Sanderson, an entrepreneur, was awarded the 2010 PVAMU Small Business Development Center Partner of the Year.



Larry J. Allen '02/'08

has successfully joined his passion for marching bands with the life on the big stage as a cast member in *Drumline LIVE*. The stage performance is based on the 2002 movie *Drumline*, depicting the life of band members at historically black colleges and universities. As a former member of The Marching Storm, Larry was a quick learner and knew exactly what to do.

Team iPhone or Team BlackBerry? Team BlackBerry

Who was the first person you said 'hello' to this morning? My Wife

What's your dream car? 1960 Corvette Convertible

What's the one thing you can't live without? Faith

What book are you reading now? *The Generosity Factor: Discover the Joy of Giving Your Time, Talent, and Treasure*, by Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy

What is playing on your iPod right now? Jazz – Duke Ellington, Old School Rap – Run DMC, New School Rap – Jay Z, Country – Randy Travis, Pop – Duran Duran

Most unforgettable PVAMU moment? 1990's President Becton's Inaugural Ceremony week ★

Kobe lover or Kobe hater? Lover

Who was the last person you sent a text to? My mom

What's the best concert you ever attended? Jay-Z

Where do you plan to go on your next vacation? London

What's your favorite sport? Basketball

If you were an animal, which would you be? Lion

Most unforgettable PVAMU moment? Graduating with my bachelor's and master's ★



Piper's Project Picked Publicly

Trevor G. Piper's '02/'05 design prowess recently earned him major recognition after his logo design was selected as the mark of music industry heavyweight Jermaine "JD" Dupri's new website application. Piper designed the logo for Dupri's Global14.com, a social entertainment site. Dupri announced Piper as the winning designer via Ustream in early December. Piper's design will be featured on all smartphones.

Piper is the owner of T. Piper Media Creative Agency, which specializes in graphic design, creative marketing and artist advocacy. ★

PROUD

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Photo courtesy of T. Piper



Pho Links Past and Present



For graduate **Stephanie Rawls '10**, the PVAMU phon-a-thon was about much more than making calls to alumni to solicit funds. It was about strengthening the link between the University's past and future.



phon-a-thon

While making calls to prospective donors, Rawls happened upon Herbert Carmon, a member of the class of 1965. During their discussion, Carmon noted that he didn't have a copy of the commencement program from his graduation. After their conversation, Rawls made a few calls and tracked down a copy of the program in the University archives.

"I just wanted to help in any way I could," Rawls said. "It was a small thing that I could do to brighten his day." She sent a copy to Carmon along with her contact information and a request to call her should Carmon need anything else.

Maria Delgado of the Office of Development, who supervises the event, said the initiative has brought out the best in students and even brought comfort to alums. In one instance, a student used her own money to send an elderly alumna a PVAMU shirt that she so wanted. In another instance, the mother of a deceased graduate felt such

a connection to the University because of her son, she asked that she continued to be contacted during the phon-a-thon.

"I love the phon-a-thon because of these connections," Delgado, a 1991 and 2004 PVAMU alumna, said. "It's not just about the fundraising. It's about bringing together all the people who love and support this institution."

With nearly \$160,000 raised in two phon-a-thons, Director of Development Nelson Bowman said the bonds between students and alumni are strong. "This shows the alumni that we are committed to do everything to ensure Prairie View A&M University's success."★
C. Landry



Rapper **Slim Thug** performs at Prairie View's popular Hump Day.

COVER STORY

The Perfect All the Right

PROUD

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Originally, Prairie View A&M University wasn't in the cards for sophomore **Asharie Gueary**. "I was supposed to be at Stephen F. Austin University. But I changed my mind after my brother (Michael Motte) passed in 2009. My brother told me to come to PV."

Such a simple switch wasn't just happenstance. Gueary, better known as rap artist Young Genocide, saw PVAMU as a breeding ground for hip-hop.

Upon first inspection, PVAMU is a typical college campus, replete with a bustling student population, picturesque scenery and school pride. But you have to look past the obvious classrooms, laboratories and dorm rooms to find the artistic talents and passions of the students.

For years, the University has been known for its uncanny ability to produce highly successful alumni in the science disciplines, namely engineering and nursing. Throughout the past decade, a number of hip-hop artists have hit the national scene and their careers started on "The Hill."

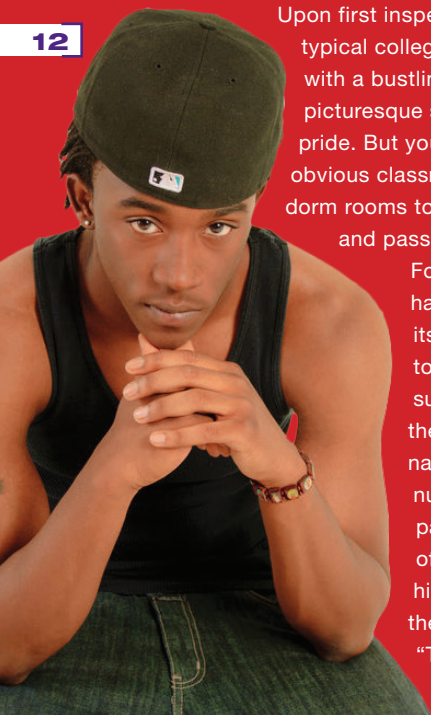
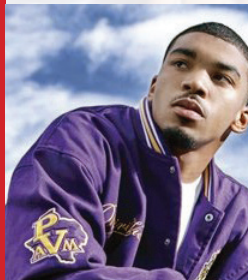


Photo Courtesy of Def Jam Records

PVAMU is no stranger to the urban music scene. Christopher Edward Martin, who is known as DJ Premier and a member of the critically acclaimed 90s rap duo Gang Starr along with the late MC Guru, is considered one of the greatest producers of this generation.

A new generation of performers is making strides hoping to make that list. Artists like Dorrrough, the Party Boyz, Kirko Bangz and Bone broke onto the national scene with hits "Ice Cream Paint Job," "Flex," "What Yo Name Iz," and "Homegirl" respectively. Getting signed with record labels and debuting impressive standings on the rap and R&B charts were the capstone of careers that began at PVAMU.



"People call it "Mini Motown. People support you," said **DeMarcus Hamilton**, who performs under the moniker Bone. "They love the music and they take it back to where they're from. That's grassroots. You can't buy that. Most artists don't get that."

For Justin "DJ Mr. Rogers" Rogers '05, arguably one of the South's most popular DJs and hottest producers, there's magic in the mix of students who attend the University. Blending the right group of people has solidified PVAMU's reputation of elevating hit makers to the next level, creating the perfect storm for success.

"A lot of schools have that talent. But PV harnesses it better. The population has something to do with it—it's the right population. People are able to step out and chase that dream a lot easier than if you were somewhere like the University of Texas," he said.

With a student body mix hailing from Texas rap meccas Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, the music performed, and sometimes created, on PVAMU's campus spreads like wildfire. "With PV, I was able to put a CD out and once the kids go home during the breaks and they can take it with them...They go to the club and tell their friends about it," said Rogers, who hails from Arlington, Texas.

Perhaps the single most crucial element to the PVAMU music scene phenomena is the ability to perform each week. How is that done? It's done through a longstanding tradition known as Hump Day.



Story Elements

Midweek Respite and Career Launcher

"Hump Day" started long before **Orok Orok** '04/'07, arrived on PVAMU's campus as a freshman in the fall of 1999. He remembers a student would pull up his car or play his music on a boom box in front of Alumni Hall.

Over the years, the event became "the" place for up and coming and established artists to perform. "We've had Lloyd Banks, Slim Thug and Lil Keke. Rap-A-Lot Records brought a team of people out a couple of times," Orok said. "KBXX 97.9 found out about it and would bring up and coming artists. They thought of Hump Day as a place to host a mini-concert and you could promote your artists."

Now headed up by the University-sanctioned student programming group, Campus Activities Board (Orok, a PVAMU staff member, serves as CAB advisor), the event is held every Wednesday near Alumni Field. Hundreds of students stop in for an hour to see and be seen, snap pictures and listen to the latest music.

Hump Day has a reputation that spans across the country. Orok, who is also a blossoming DJ (DJ No Tables), has even received a call from students at Howard University inquiring about starting their own event. "They may change the name a few times as it goes through the phone tree, but I know what they mean," he said.

While PVAMU students see the event simply as a chance to slow down and enjoy life during the week, artists see it as a priceless chance to distribute their music to the campus for no cost at all. The Party Boyz requested to shoot their first video during the midweek party and Dorrough was filmed performing to a crowd for BET's *The Deal* in 2009. An extended version of Hump Day during Homecoming 2010 festivities allowed Houston's Slim Thug to perform with The Marching Storm.

"It's all about having the platform to display talent and promote yourself. With labels, promotion means more money," said Rogers. "At Hump Day, you don't need a dollar to access however many students are out there. You have thousands of kids that are at your fingertips. You can't beat that as far as trying to get out there. It's the best place to do it."



SPB2 Video Production and Photos



Living the Dream

Although Hamilton is still a PVAMU student majoring in history, his reality is aligning with his dreams. In 2010, he was signed to the legendary Def Jam Recordings, home to top-notch artists like LL Cool J, Ne-Yo and Rihanna.

"PV is the reason I'm successful. It's all the support from the students and faculty. Everything just happened at the right time." Hamilton said.

Henry Williams, IV '06 is not just content with moving his own career forward. Williams, known as King Henry, is a producer for several independent artists, including fellow PVAMU graduate and web phenom **Phill Wade** '09.



SPB2 Video Production and Photos

Wade, whose soulful blend of R&B peppered with hip-hop is generating impressive buzz, recently released his **Phill Wade and Friends Mixtape**. The compilation has already received more than 5,900 downloads. Williams credits the PVAMU network of support with its success.

"When you have these talents together, every once in a while, things come together and you will get recognition outside of PV," he said.

That same support from PVAMU kept Rogers on top of his music game and academics. When his focus shifted to music and caused him to lose his academic scholarship, the money he made from music endeavors paid for school. Rogers has worked with rap artists Slim Thug, Trae tha Truth, Paul Wall, LeToya Luckett, Snoop Dogg, Pharrell Williams, T.I. and Mary J. Blige.

Staying on the Grind

If you let Gueary tell

it, he and partner Roland Champine are destined for the big time. The two met when Gueary was moving his things into freshman dorm, University College, and he heard Champine singing across the hall. He introduced himself and the rest was history.

That's a sentiment that Rogers knows all too well. He believes he could not have attained the success he has were it not for attending PVAMU.

"If I was somewhere else, if I didn't see it was beneficial to pursue this career, then I would have never pursued it. Music would have just been a hobby. I don't think it could have happened anywhere else," he said.

Even though things fell into place seamlessly for DJ Mr. Rogers, Dorrough, Bone, DJ Premier, or Kirko Bangz, Gueary knows that reaching the same heights of success is not as easy as it seems. "It's a process," he said. "You really have to grind. I have to juggle school and music. But this is what I want to do so bad that I'll do whatever it takes." ★ *C. Landry*

In the Numbers:

- **Dorrough's** first single, "**Walk That Walk,**" reached **#28** on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and **#12** on the Hot Rap Tracks chart.
- **Flex** by **The Party Boyz** peaked at **#43** on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs on March 6, 2010.
- More than **2 million** people have checked out **Phill Wade's "Best Trey Songz Impersonation Ever"** video on Youtube.
- **@djMrRogers** has **14,560** followers on Twitter.

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

I would like to start by thanking President Wright and the University for including an Alumni Voice section in this initial University magazine. The future goal is to continue to work toward a unified message to you, the alumni base. The mission of the Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association (NAA) is to work for the perpetuation of our University. The goals of the current NAA administration are: to grow the NAA by 1901 new members (Membership), mentor 1901 new students (Mentorship), and be good stewards over the assets of the NAA (Management).

In spite of the current recession, the NAA has shown continued progress in achieving its three goals. While the progress is a little slower than planned, it is encouraging. A few examples of our progress include the following:

An enhanced NAA Website was released last year to support our alumni base communication and provide easier dues payment options. An increase in the number of members paying Annual Membership dues via the website was

noticed. This administration remains committed to continual enhancement of our website and views it as a vital cost-saving communication venue. (Membership)

The NAA Board approved an increase in the number of NAA scholarships for this fiscal year with the annual amount per scholarship also being increased significantly. (Mentorship)

Initiated last year, the 1901 President Club will assist operations funding since only the interest will be used from funds received. (Management)

For the first time in history, the NAA hosted its national convention in a city (New Orleans) without a host chapter. This allowed for the exploration of new convention sites that are attractive to the membership. (Management)

I want to personally thank the members of the 1901 President's Club for contributing \$1901 to aid in ensuring that the NAA remains financially stable. I am proud to serve as your NAA President and I encourage each alumnus to get active at the national and local chapter levels. If there is not a local chapter in your area,

organize one. It only takes 10 committed alumni. It was less than 24 years ago when I became a charter member of the JSC Alumni Chapter and today we have an endowed account at our University, award several scholarships per year, and hosted the highest profit convention in NAA history.

If JSC can do it, then you can as well, remember:

Prairie View Produces Productive People.

Sincerely,

Lynn Morris '77
President, PVAMU NAA

PROUD



Alumni Voice



Lynn Morris '77, far right, stands with NAA executive cabinet members Freddie Roberts '77, Parliamentarian; Dr. Kenneth Hinson '70, Vice President; LaShonda Williams '97, Historian; Christopher Sanderson '95, Treasurer and Joyce Johnson '80, Secretary.

Photo courtesy of PVAMU National Alumni Association

President Morris introduced the Three M's: Management, Membership, and Mentorship as the goals for the **National Alumni Association 2009-2011 Administration**. 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 during the 2009-2011 term.

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. ★

President's 1901 Club Life Members

of the National Alumni Association pledge to donate \$1901 over a bi-annual term.

The President's 1901 Club was originally established to encourage Lifetime Members to continue to make financial contributions to the National Alumni Association. As you know, 1901 is symbolic of the year in which the National Alumni Association was established. Our goal is to have 1,901 paid members by the end of the 2011 term. Numerous alumni have signed up via pledges allowing us to make significant progress since the introduction. Special thanks to the fully paid members.

1901 Club Members

Harold Bonner	Doris Connor Lowe
Pauline Bonner	Aquila Jr. McGrew
Milbrew Davis	Sarah McGrew
Shirley Davis	Samuel Metters
Lee G. Espirit	Lynn Morris
George E. Higgs	Roy G. Perry
Raymond L. Holt	Rayford Shaw
Lucelia Butler Jones	Myrtle Shaw
Clever Lewis	Franklin D. Wesley, Jr.
Sammie Lewis	

Is your name missing from our paid members list?
Payment plans are available

Contact the NAA Office for more details.
(936) 857-5817

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Committed to P-V-U

Participate-Volunteer-Unite

The Houston Alumni Chapter hosted a mixer at the Magnolia Hotel in Houston this fall as a fundraiser and membership drive. Attendees were able to mix and mingle with the athletics staff, including coaches and players.

Save the Date 37th NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 20-23, 2010

Westin Hotel
1301 Domain Drive
Austin, Texas
(512) 832-4197

Caesar Roy, Class of 1954
Chairperson

Charolette Jefferson-Huggins, Class of 1990
Co-Chair

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, July 20th
Registration Begins
Opening Reception

Thursday, July 21st
Opening Session
State Of The Association
President's Luncheon

Friday, July 22nd
University Updates
Panthers Luncheon
Awards Banquet

Saturday July 23rd
Plenary Session
Alumni Dance

For more details visit
www.pvualumni.org

PVAMU WAS AWARDED \$3,900 BY THE MYRA DAVIS HEMMINGS RESOURCE CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND, named for one of the 22 founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The proceeds will be used to support student scholarships.★



ANGEL WILSON '95 WAS NAMED HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2010 ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Whitlowe R. Green graduate was selected from more than 12,000 teachers in the state's largest district.★

PROUD Alumni Voice Briefs



The Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association

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PVAMU SPURS LIFE OF LEADERSHIP



Born in Waxahachie, Texas, **Emanuel Cleaver II** '70 grew up in public housing of Wichita Falls, Texas, before attending Prairie View A&M University, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and a host of other student organizations. Cleaver then moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he founded a branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and received a Master of Divinity degree from St. Paul School of Theology.

Cleaver served as a Kansas City Councilman for 12 years and as Mayor of Kansas City for eight years before being elected in 2005 to the U.S. House of Representatives for Missouri's 5th Congressional District. After a unanimous vote by the Congressional Black Caucus, Cleaver was chosen to serve as chairman.

According to Congressman Cleaver the University should bear his family's name because of number of family members who have attended. "Prairie View has been Cleaver University for a major part of the 20th Century. My entry to Prairie View A&M University followed a family tradition," he said. He is quick to point out that his father, two sisters, his younger brother, uncle, cousin and nephew are all graduates of the University. ★ *H. Kilpatrick*

THE FORT WORTH PV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECEIVED THE "2010 MEMBERSHIP AWARD" during the summer of 2010 at the NAA Convention in New Orleans, LA. The chapter was honored based on its membership numbers as well as their constant affiliation with the NAA. ★

FOUNDATION BEGINS TO MAKE MARK

As an independent, public non-profit organization, the PVAM Foundation will have a greater opportunity to raise funds for projects and programs that ensure PVAMU excellence in teaching, research, service and athletics. This group of supporters serves as an inspiration to philanthropists and others who choose to support our great institution. Members of the Board of Trustees include, Roy G. Perry, Chairman/President; Nathelyne Archie Kennedy, Vice Chairman/Vice President; Marvin D. Brailsford, Treasurer; Phyllis C. Tidwell, Secretary; Fred Newhouse, Assistant Treasurer; Don Clark, Assistant Secretary; Terrence Gee, Trustee; Ernest Collins, Trustee; Kenneth Houston, Trustee; Jerry LeVias, Trustee and Lawrence Sampleton, Trustee. ★



THE DALLAS ALUMNI CHAPTER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Dallas area students who plan to attend PVAMU in the fall will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships for the approaching school year from the money earned at the annual event.

Over the past 10 years, more than \$150,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded in honor of Clever Dean Lewis, the past president of the chapter. ★



Y. needs you!

Annual Membership only \$60

Pay on-line at www.pvualumni.org or mail to P.O. Box 2875, Prairie View, Texas 77446

PVAMU 17

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Prairie View A&M University Continues to Partner with Foundation

The **Prairie View A&M Foundation**, a 501C3 charitable foundation, in conjunction with the University's Office of Development, continues to provide financial support for PVAMU's fundraising priorities. These projects could include professorships, faculty support, student scholarships, facility improvements, new equipment, athletic support, program enhancements and new university buildings.

To aid in fundraising, a one-time 6 percent development fee will be deducted from the first available income from endowed gifts and from the principal of non-endowed gifts to offset fundraising cost. This one-time charge does not apply to non-endowed scholarships.

The financial assistance of our alumni, friends and supporters continues to afford our students an education that is truly valued. It is this support and dedication, that points Prairie View A&M University toward a new level of excellence while upholding its rich legacy and focusing on its mission of excellence in teaching, research and service.

The Prairie View A&M Foundation is a public non-profit organization dedicated to securing and stewarding gifts and grants that benefit Prairie View A&M University.

Biggest Loser Contestant Shares Story During kNOw Dia-Besity Conference

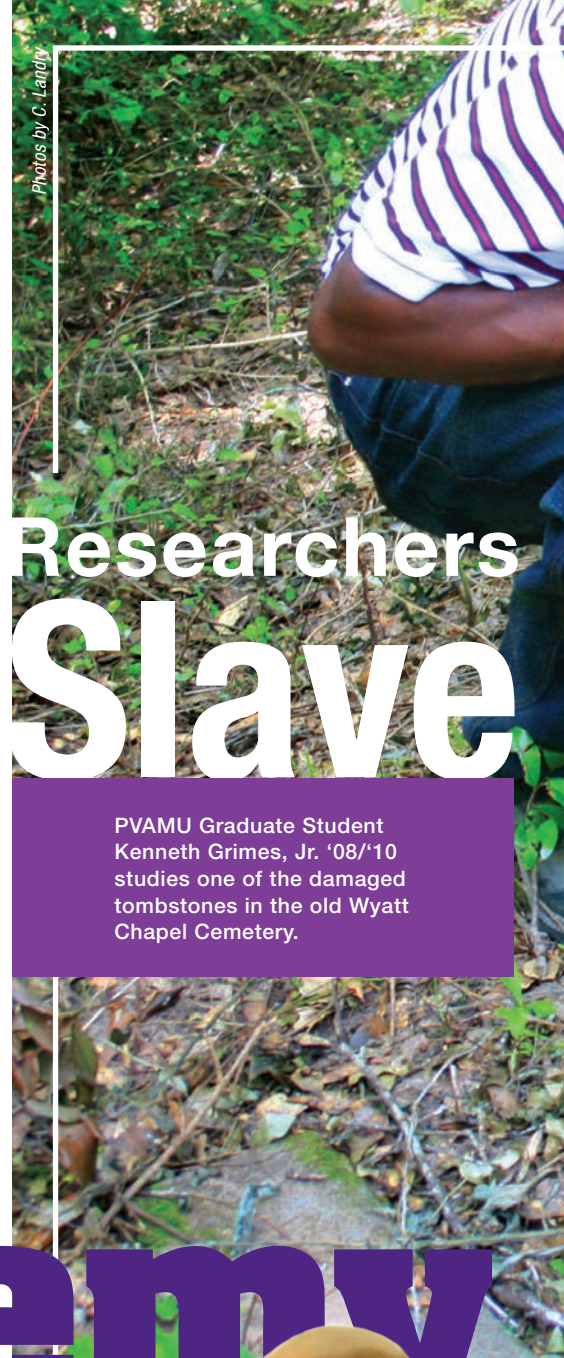


After losing nearly 100 pounds, **Cherita Andrews**, a contestant on NBC's hit show, *The Biggest Loser* is committed to helping women of all ages tear down the excuses and seize the opportunity to be fit, fabulous and free.

Cherita Andrews, a season 9 contestant on NBC's hit show, *The Biggest Loser*, lost nearly 100 pounds. While Andrews didn't last beyond the first round of the show's competitive activities, she was able to rely on her personal will to lose weight, making her the only contestant in *Biggest Loser* history to reach her goal weight without the aid of the show's nutritionist and exercise consultants.

Andrews shared her dramatic weight lost story during Cooperative Extension's 2010 kNOw Dia-Besity conference. This conference, which had more than 300 people in attendance, was the culminating event for Project DEAP (Diabetes Education Awareness Prevention), Extension's flagship health education project that takes a holistic approach to reducing diabetes in children and adults in minority communities.

"Our goal was to educate persons who may suffer with diabetes and obesity, know someone with these conditions or help themselves and others to prevent getting diabetes and becoming obese," said Dr. Carolyn Nobles, program leader – Family and Consumer Sciences and interim associate administrator. "We wanted people to say NO to getting diabetes or becoming obese and to KNOW the facts to help control and prevent these serious afflictions."★



Researchers Slave

PVAMU Graduate Student Kenneth Grimes, Jr. '08/'10 studies one of the damaged tombstones in the old Wyatt Chapel Cemetery.

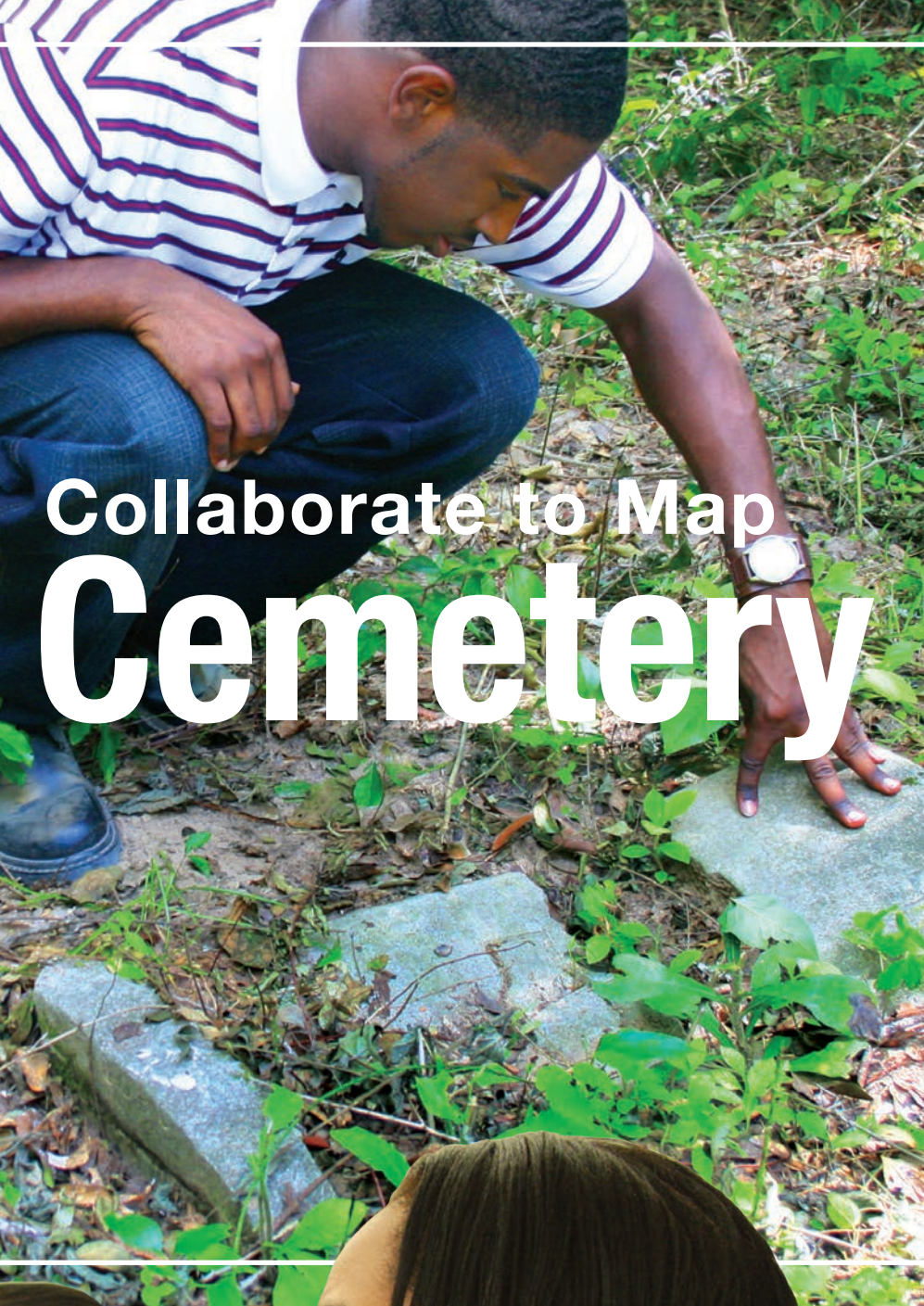
Academy

18

Doctoral Program Addresses Nursing Shortage

As the population growth and demographic shift in Texas continues to escalate, there is an established need for diverse nurses of various socio-economic backgrounds. The Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing was awarded a \$3 million grant by the Houston Endowment to address the state's nursing shortage. The funds will be used to establish a Nursing Ph.D. program and a research center to address the shortages.





Collaborate to Map Cemetery

FOR OVER A CENTURY, a patch of land on the northern end of the Prairie View A&M University campus has held the remains of members of the surrounding community and, as researchers have found, likely that of slaves of the plantations that once stood in Waller County.

Since 2007, a team of students and faculty from Rice University have mapped the site as part of a two-year grant from Texas Education Quality. This year, the team researching the site includes K-12 in-service teachers from the Houston Metro area enrolled in an Earth Science course at Rice.

In July 2010, the research team surveyed the site with ground penetrating radar (GPR) that used radar waves to determine soil anomalies up to eight feet under the surface. Anomalies signal that the soil has been disturbed at some point in time. The anomalies are marked with flags down to the centimeter. Trenches were also dug to reveal the rock strata, offering insight into the flooding of the nearby Pond Creek.



Dr. Davin Wallace of Rice University, far right, works with teachers to study the readings captured by the ground penetrating radar.

The findings will also serve as a hands-on research project for PVAMU Honors Program students. Dr. James Wilson, director the Honors Program and associate provost for academic affairs, said honors students will research the identities of those buried in the cemetery in an effort to identify them and learn about their lives. ★



With more than 100 students enrolled in the College's Master of Science program, projections outline that a third of those students are interested in pursuing studies at the Ph.D. level.

"This endowment will no doubt prove beneficial in the education and training of outstanding nurses within Texas," said Dr. George C. Wright, president of Prairie View A&M University. "We are honored to receive this endowment and look forward to continuing with the university's commitment to excellence in nursing."

The Research Center for Virtual Interface for Teaching and Learning will study the effects of the virtual simulation technology pedagogy on nursing education. Similar to the use of simulation software used in aviation, the interface will enable students to practice critical thinking skills vital to nursing.

The doctoral program's first cohort of students will begin in the fall of 2012. ★



Dr. Max Fontus, assistant professor of theoretical physical chemistry, completed a 10-week research appointment at Princeton University in a program spearheaded by the Princeton Center for Complex Materials, the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials and the Quality Education for Minorities Network.

SCIENTISTS FROM HBCUs ARE PAIRED WITH A FACULTY MEMBER FROM PRINCETON TO CONDUCT RESEARCH, bringing together their separate research interests. Fontus and collaborator Mikko Haataja plan to continue their research beyond the program with visits and student exchange programs.

THREE BUSINESS FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVED COLLEGE OF BUSINESS SUMMER 2010 RESEARCH GRANTS. The winning proposals submitted by Drs. Dewayna Cates, Yi Zhang and Brian Lee were selected from a pool of 12 proposals. Summer research grants have contributed to the increase in the number of peer-reviewed journal publications in the College of Business.

Dr. Clarence Talley Sr., director of art, and **Ann Johnson**, visiting assistant professor, have been elected as national officers of the National Alliance of Artists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Talley will serve as parliamentarian/chaplain and Johnson will serve as public relations officer. They were sworn in July 2010 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Dr. Robert Kirschten, Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences faculty member, was awarded top screenwriting honors at the Red Wasp Film Festival in Bryan, Texas. This is the second consecutive year Kirschten has won the award. He is the director of creative writing in the Department of Languages and Communications.



Dr. Freddie L. Richards Sr., dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, received the 2010 George Washington Carver Agricultural Excellence Award for his international contributions in the area of agriculture for more than 40 years. Under his leadership, both Prairie View A&M University and Langston University are implementing the Ethiopia Sheep and Goat Productivity Improvement Program project that focuses on nutrition, health, genetic improvement, training, and infrastructure improvement for local breeders. The multi-million dollar project has served as a showcase for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

In 2010, **PVAMU RECEIVED FOUR CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT AWARDS** from the United States Department of Agriculture totaling \$857,931. According to the USDA, the 1890 Research, Extension and Teaching Capacity Building Grants Program strengthens linkages among other 1890 universities, other colleges and universities, USDA and private industry.

PVAMU AWARDED \$1,152,844 BY THE USDA

through the 1890 Facilities Grants Program, which provides funding for acquiring and improving food sciences facilities and equipment.



Assistant professor of economics, **Lawrence McNeil, Ph.D.** has taken on a leadership role in his appointment as interim assistant dean in the PVAMU College of Business. Dr. McNeil will be addressing issues directly related to student recruitment and retention as well as professional development and other initiatives beginning January 2010. Dr. McNeil joined the college in fall 2009 and holds a Ph.D. in economics from Howard University and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University.

Two Department of Music and Drama classrooms were updated to **"SMART CLASSROOMS,"** outfitted with technology hardware and software that links the classroom to the outside world. Each is outfitted with a MacPro computer, symposium touch sensitive monitor and three plasma television screens. Other updates in the department include a Music Technology lab complete with Macintosh computers and software to support the academic pursuits of our students.



Spanish professor **Dr. Gerardo Garcia** recently published several publications focused on issues related to Hispanics. His novel *La Luz y la Guerra* is based on a film about the Mexican revolution, while *El enigma y la conspiración: del cuarto cerrado al laberinto neopoliciaco* is an exploration of the development of Latin American detective fiction with an emphasis in the Mexican production. His works extend to collaborations with scholars from Mexico, Canada and the United States. The group analyzed the cinematic representation of Mexican Revolution from 1910 through the most recent production in *La Luz y la Guerra: el cine de la Revolución Mexicana*.

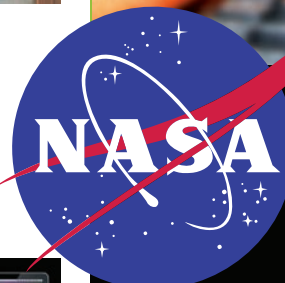
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY's Online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program has been ranked a "Best Buy" among AACSB-accredited business programs by GetEducated.com's national editorial review team. This affordability ranking is based on a comprehensive review of 133 competing AACSB-accredited online MBA programs nationwide. Prairie View A&M University ranks seventh overall in the 2010 survey for affordability. The average cost of a distance learning MBA, according to the national survey, is \$32,926.

Online classes for the MBA program increased in summer 2008 with an official Online MBA program launch in fall 2009. Online classes are offered each semester and students are admitted in fall, spring and summer.★

Online MBA Program Ranked

Best Buy

Among Accredited Programs



PVAMU faculty, students move into year three of NASA Project

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) picked a small, highly-specialized team of PVAMU researchers for a five-year, \$5 million dual objective mission to find ways to keep astronauts and their delicate flight instruments safe from the harmful radiation that silently threatens flight crews and spacecraft once they leave the protection of the earth's atmosphere. Dr. Richard Wilkins leads the center's research into the space radiation effects on electronics. His objective is to maximize the Technical Readiness Level (TRL) of CRESSE research instruments.★

The Office of Continuing Education

offers courses to help you stay competitive in industry. Created in early 2010, the department features a wide variety of programs that enhance your personal knowledge and skills. The following courses will be offered throughout the spring of 2011.

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

Mar 14-23 6:00PM-10:00PM M/W
16 hrs/2 classes per week/4 hrs sessions

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

Mar 15-24 6:00PM-10:00PM T/Th
16 hrs/2 classes per week/4 hrs sessions

HUMAN SERVICES WORKSHOP SERIES

Human Services – Building Your Team

Mar 14 6:00PM-10:00PM Sat

Human Services – Ethics in Helping Relations

Mar 22-24 6:00PM-10:00PM T/Th
8 hrs/2 classes per week/4 hrs sessions

Human Services – Advocacy

Mar 15-17 6:00PM-10:00PM T/Th
8 hrs/2 classes per week/4 hrs sessions

LEGAL CERTIFICATE COURSES

Spring Online Sessions

Session I: Mar 7 – Apr 22

Session II: May 2 – June 17

Paralegal Certificate Course

Legal Nurse Consultant Training Course

Victim Advocacy Certificate Course

Legal Secretary Certificate Course

Legal Investigation Certificate Course

TEST PREPARATION COURSES

GRE

Mar 16-Apr 9 10:00AM-1:00PM 3 hrs W/Sat

GRE Essentials

Mar 16-Apr 9 10:00AM-1:00PM 3 hrs W/Sat

GMAT

Mar 19-Apr 30 1:00-4:00PM 3 hrs Sat

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

Spring Online Sessions

Enroll anytime. One year completion requirement upon enrollment.

Inpatient and Outpatient Medical Coding and Billing

Medical Transcription Editor

For more information or to register:
www.pvamu.edu/continuingeducation
(932) 261-2120



Wright

Honored for Educational Contributions

Education has been the focal point of the life of **Dr. George C. Wright**. As a noted scholar, historian and president of PVAMU, Wright is celebrated as an accomplished individual. Recently, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund recognized his contributions by honoring him with the Educational Leadership Award during the 23rd Anniversary Awards Dinner in New York City.

Wright was honored for his contributions to the education arena. Serving as president of PVAMU since 2003, Wright has enjoyed a career full of accomplishments, including receiving the Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence and the Lillian and Tom B. Rhodes Centennial Teaching Fellow. He has also authored three books on race relations and numerous scholarly publications and has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, grants and awards.

The TMCFA Awards Dinner celebrates the achievements of the country's foremost visionaries, activists and organizations which have used their status to impart a positive impact on the lives of these students and public Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Proceeds from the event enable TMCFA to continue its work as a critical link between students having greater access to higher education and the opportunity to become a part of a new generation of global leaders. ★



Dr. E.L. Walter-Sullivan, assistant professor in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, was elected as the 2010-2011 President of the Texas Chapter of the **National Association of Multicultural Education**. ★

PVAMU 21

PVAMU Research Center Awarded Grant to Explore Biofuels, Wind Energy

In the not so far away future, everyone will fill their automobiles with an agent made of corn. That's right maize, corn, or whatever you call it. There's another possibility that neighborhood streets will be lined with turbines creating wind energy to run their home air conditioning units. With a \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the development of these projects comes from right here.

Under the direction of **Dr. Suresh Aghara**, CEES brings researchers together to explore biofuels, wind energy and how energy and the environment work to understand the advancement of bio-renewable and wind substitutes from greenhouse gases. Awarded over five years, the research will address technological problems associated with the optimal conversion of biomass into biofuels and wind into wind energy. It will also explore technological issues in biofuel production yields, wind turbine designs and advanced nuclear reactors. ★ **C. Landry**



Yearbook Returns After Hiatus

After a 10 year departure, the Pantherland Yearbook returns packed full of memories, history and photos recapping the 2010-2011 academic year. According to **Cynthia Dees**, yearbook editor-in-chief, it is important to capture the essence of activities on campus. "We've experienced so much over this last year; I am just excited that we can print it and share it with the PVAMU family."★

\$65 plus tax / **\$55** plus tax for students

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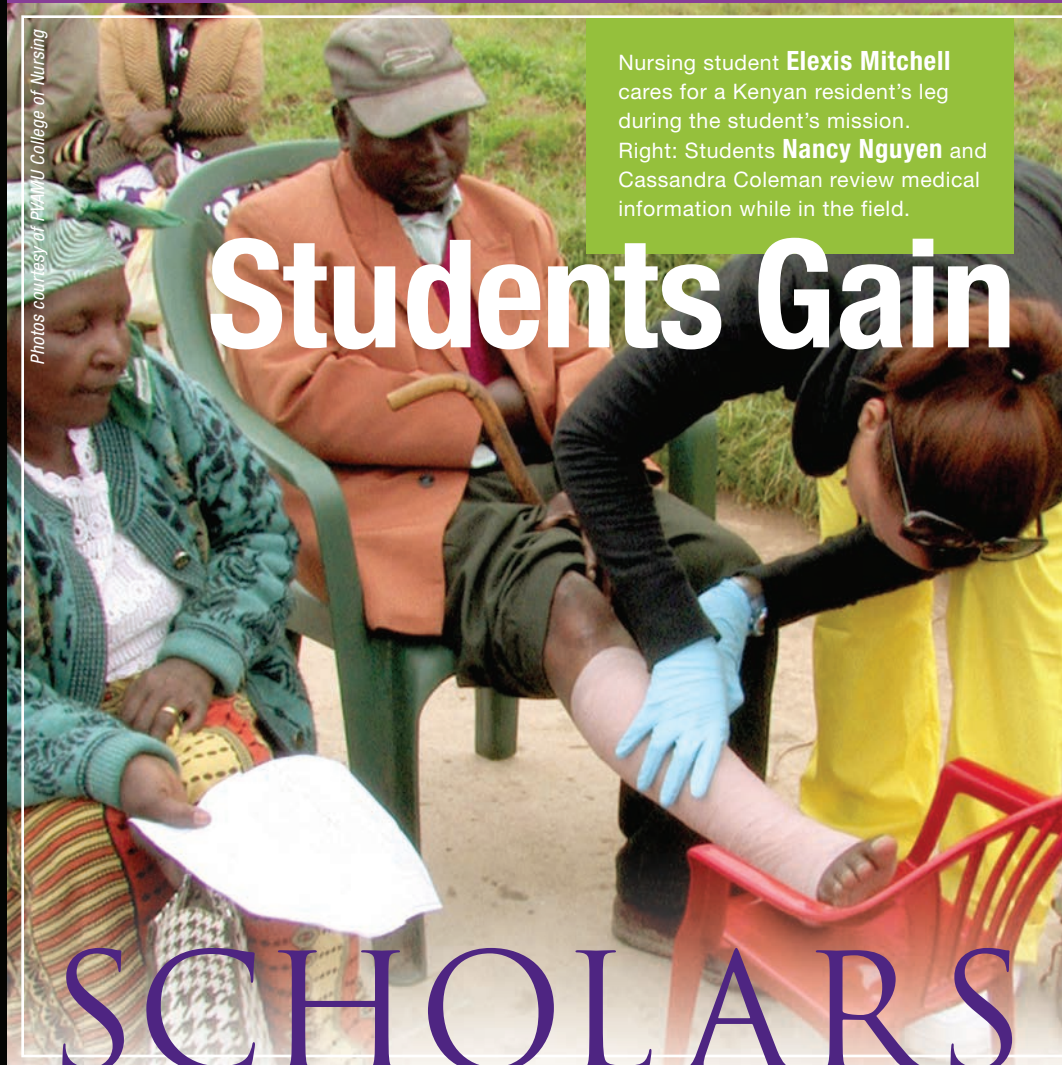
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The academic endeavors of Prairie View A&M students extend beyond the walls of traditional classrooms. The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge gives particularly sharp students a chance to showcase their knowledge, not only in academics but also in areas of pop culture, current events and general knowledge.

Prairie View A&M's 2010 team gained the University's first-ever championship title in the annual academic competition among the best and brightest students who attend the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Along with bragging rights, the team was awarded a \$50,000 prize.

"This is a significant achievement for the entire PVAMU community, especially for our

Photos courtesy of PVAMU College of Nursing



Nursing student **Elaxis Mitchell** cares for a Kenyan resident's leg during the student's mission.
Right: Students **Nancy Nguyen** and **Cassandra Coleman** review medical information while in the field.

Students Gain

SCHOLARS

Panther Fanatics

Crazy about PVAMU



If you've recently attended a Prairie View A&M sporting event, you probably noticed a large group of exuberant fans. While their energetic spirit is not unfamiliar, the Gold Members Club is the newest student group for Panther enthusiasts.

Organized in late 2009 by students **Jarren Small, Ryan Rudd, Brittany Dixon, Trenton Johnson, Jeremy Malone, Sean Mackey, Robert Jordan** and **Gabrian King**, the club aims to build school spirit and develop new traditions while celebrating past traditions. Everything goes, from purple and gold body paint, costumes, ecstatic celebrations and singing along with the Marching Storm, to having "choice words" for the referee and opposing team.★ **R. Versey**

"The Gold Members Club is just a group of people who love Prairie View," said Johnson.

students who competed,” said PVAMU President Dr. George C. Wright. “To prepare for such a rigorous and challenging competition takes time and dedication”

PVAMU has competed in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge for the last 20 years, reaching its highest ranking (final four) in 1990. The team will return to Orlando, FL April 9-12, 2011 to defend its title. ★ *B. Wright*

We are the Champions



As the world changes, there is an increasing awareness that students must possess the ability to compete on a global scale. To that end, several PVAMU students have taken full advantage of international opportunities to enhance their education.

A GLOBAL VISION



Students are offered opportunities to study well beyond the borders of the country. Each year, a delegation of students and faculty visit Ghana as a part of a cultural immersion initiative. Students learn about the history, people and culture of the country for two weeks. “Almost every higher education institution in this country has international programs, so Prairie View cannot be left behind,” said Dr. Walle Engedayehu, associate professor of political science and head of the division of social work, behavioral and political sciences.

Other trips put the students’ knowledge into action. In 2010, seven students from the College of Nursing used their summer break

to travel to Kenya with a delegation of fellow future nurses to conduct a medical mission in a small rural village. The team spent about 10 days creating a clinic at a local orphanage. Many of the skills the students learned in the classroom and during their clinical rotations

in Houston area hospitals were used as they provided care to the community in Kenya.

“This was a great chance to put in practice what we learned in class from patient education, cultural sensitivity to bedside care,” said Valencia Wallace-Moore, senior nursing student. “We are truly fortunate to have such modern facilities here in the United States and we take for granted the ability to have those resources.”

Senior **Gabrielle Deculus** studied at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea. During her stay, she was selected to participate in the Korean-American Student Conference to bridge the cultures in a bi-national assembly. Deculus was the only HBCU student participating and earned the honor of chairing the conference in 2011.

“We are a global village. Whether we like it or not, globalization has a positive influence on our life,” Engedayehu said. “It broadens their horizons about the ways of life outside of their own.” ★ *C. Landry*

Honors Program Returns

After an extended hiatus, the Honors Program has returned to the campus of Prairie View A&M University. Nearly two decades ago, the Benjamin Banneker Honors College existed to serve students who excelled academically.

Under the direction of Dr. James A. Wilson, Jr., the program was expanded into the current Honors Program. The inaugural class of 25 students exceeds traditional academic performance. The enhanced Honors curriculum includes subject areas, such as Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and a research colloquium, which are designed to produce highly trained graduates qualified for competitive graduate programs and for roles in academia, law, medicine and business. ★



Ward's Reign Filled with Memories

Tiffany Ward, Miss PVAMU 2010-2011, could have spent her summer working, vacationing and hanging out with old friends. Instead, she lived in Los Angeles, worked for a highly competitive fashion showroom, and made friends who will last a lifetime.

Ward, a Family and Community Service major, secured an internship at Joey Showroom, home of wildly popular lines such as Black Halo and Camilla. She was able to work with top professionals and make beneficial connections. During the internship, Ward connected with a network of successful individuals and gained a great deal of credible experience within her chosen career field.

Back on campus, the PVAMU cheerleader and student leader spent her reign preparing for her dreams of running a non-profit event planning company along with coaching at her own cheer, dance and gymnastics gym. This April she will relinquish her title after serving as one of the University’s most visible ambassadors.

What channel did you leave your television on? HGTV

What's your dream car? Mercedes Benz SL Convertible

What's your favorite sport? Cheerleading...yes I do consider it a sport! ☺

If you were an animal, which would you be? Liger: Hybrid of a Tiger and Lion

What's the one thing you can't live without? My Macbook

What book are you reading now? I'm actually in the process of reading the entire Bible

Most unforgettable PVAMU moment? Definitely being crowned Miss PVAMU 2010-2011 ★



PVAMU 23

Photo courtesy of Orok Orok



2011 Football Schedule

- Sept 4 MEAC/SWAC Challenge
- Sept 10 Texas Southern
- Sept 17 vs. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
- Sept 24 vs. Mississippi Valley State University
- Oct 1 STATE FAIR CLASSIC Grambling State University
- Oct 8 at Southern University
- Oct 15 at Alabama St.
- Oct 29 SHREVEPORT CLASSIC vs. Jackson State University
- Nov 5 at Texas State University
- Nov 12 at Alcorn State University
- Nov 19 ★ HOMECOMING vs. Alabama A&M University



Panther Nation Heads to Orlando

It's not too early to start planning for the 2011 football campaign as the Prairie View A&M Panthers have been invited to participate in the 2011 edition of the MEAC/SWAC Challenge in Orlando, Fla., at the Citrus Bowl.

Prairie View A&M will battle Bethune-Cookman University for the first time ever on the gridiron on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011 in the seventh edition of the classic. Presented by Disney, the challenge features a high school career fair, halftime Battle of the Bands, numerous social events and receptions on or around the grounds of Walt Disney World.

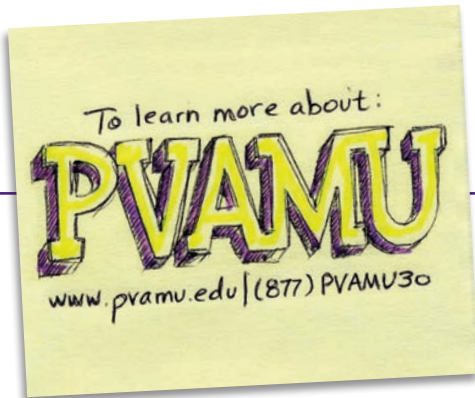
For more information about the MEAC/SWAC Challenge, or to join the event's following on Facebook and Twitter, please visit the event's official Web site at www.meacswacchallenge.com.

Travel options including discounted hotel accommodations, game tickets and specially-priced Theme Park Tickets are available through Anthony Travel, the official travel provider of the MEAC/SWAC Challenge. Please visit AnthonyTravel.com or call (888) 632-6951.



Looking to get away?

Head to Daytona Beach, FL April 6-10 as the Panther Cheerleaders cheer their way to a NCA National Championship.



On Dec. 18, 2010, more than 800 graduates proudly walked across a stage in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Sr. Fieldhouse during the University's 99th fall commencement exercises.

Chasity Long '10, an interdisciplinary studies graduate, completed her student teaching at Nitsch Elementary School to meet her degree requirements.

2010 Fall Commencement

University Celebrates Milestone Anniversary with Pictorial Publication

The Office of Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement is pleased to announce that work has begun on a pictorial history commemorating the University's 135th anniversary. The book titled, *Down that Road: A Pictorial History of Prairie View A&M University*, will be available in August. The limited edition coffee table book will feature 230 photographs along with concise history of PVAMU. Focused on student life, the book captures the Prairie View spirit by sharing stories of major activities and events, student programs, alumni achievements, and important traditions.

This piece of history is a must for every graduate, friend, supporter and lover of Prairie View A&M University. *Reserve your copy today!*



Nelson Bowman, director of Development, recently co-authored *Unearning Promise and Potential: Our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities* with Marybeth Gasman, Valerie Lundy-Wagner and Tafaya Ransom. Centered on development and alumni relations, the book highlights their research on issues facing HBCUs while highlighting their many contributions.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Whitlow R. Green College of Education

GALA 2011

Celebrating our Legacy in Education.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 16

Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center

Table and Underwriting Opportunities Available.

Proceeds to benefit Prairie View A&M University Whitlow R. Green College of Education.

Contact (936) 261-2130 for more information or visit www.pvamu.edu/GALA2011

Noteworthy



PVAMU 25

PVAMU Hosts Black History Month Activities

PVAMU's Black History Month celebration kicked off Jan. 27 with keynote speaker Kirbyjohn Caldwell, pastor of Houston's Windsor Village United Methodist Church. Caldwell spoke about the roles of image and ambition in the formula of success. He also delivered words of wisdom that gave attendees principles on how to live their life focusing on esteem, education, economics and ethics.

Held in the Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium of the Willie A. Tempton Sr. Memorial Student Center, the event also highlighted student achievements in academics and athletics.

The month-long celebration also featured a presentation from **Dr. Tiffany Gill** of University of Texas at Austin about the Politics of Beauty Shops (Feb. 28), the Royce West Lecture Series and Forum (Feb. 8), College of Business Executive-in-Residence Program featuring **Thomas Joyner Jr.** (Feb. 24), and an art exhibit featuring The Art Collection of Harmon and Harriet Kelley.

Other PVAMU Black History Month events included a gospel extravaganza, the spring career fair and Super Bowl party.



Photo courtesy of University of Texas Public Affairs



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. We will do the rest.



Inset Photos Courtesy of Barbetta Freeman, The Marching Storm Media



Smith's Passion Leads to the Big Game

Jimmy R.O. Smith '03 knows all about how a family's passion can impact your path. The grandson of the first black owner of a charm and modeling school in Fort Worth and the son of a dancer, couldn't help but to be drawn to his creative side.

After serving as drum major in the Marching Storm, he ventured to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of a career in entertainment. Fast forward and Smith has choreographed, danced and produced alongside some of the biggest names in the industry. In February, he assisted with choreography for the Super Bowl XLV halftime show and even secured a spot for members of the PVAMU band to participate.

Photo courtesy of Don Lee, Donlestudio.com

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.

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