

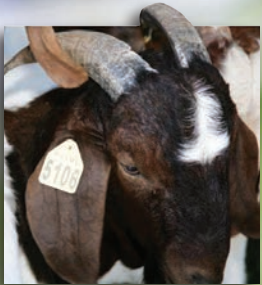
A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Spring★2012

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Bright Lights, Center Field

Female Drum Majors Shine



Agriculture Proves Relevancy

Traditional career field
still viable option



Jackson Lives PVAMU Story



A+ Performance Student-athletes' Grades Stand Out

Unretirement

Last semester, my return to the classroom after nearly 15 years was much like famed basketball star Michael Jordan's return following a brief retirement in 1995. While my experience wasn't as celebrated or talked about as his was, indeed, I think there were some lessons us "veterans" learned as we both became "rookies" all over again.

Perhaps, the most important lesson I learned was that PVAMU students aren't any different than students at other schools. During my time in education, I've taught nearly 25,000 students at a variety of schools. They all need the same motivation. They need to know how the information presented to them, whether history or calculus, is going to apply to the rest of their lives. I also realized that with this generation of students we have to be more intrusive. They need mentors, advisers and professors that will ask them why they missed class and challenge them to find new ways to solve their problems. The programs that are being developed across campus are imperative to this process, especially those that support retention efforts. Newly hired Director of Student Academic Success **Josette Bradford** will help students remove any barriers that would cause them not to continue their education. The Veteran's Center (pg. 7) is also dedicated to helping another segment of our student body meet its goals.



Much of the publicity surrounding Michael Jordan's return surrounded his athletic prowess post-retirement. **Anthony Wilson** has a similar story. His return to the football field (pg. 29) after a life threatening injury aided his teammates every game. The entire athletic department is also celebrating milestone achievements, this time in the classroom (pg. 32).

While Jordan is arguably the best player to ever play professional basketball, he could not have won those championships without his teammates.

PVAMU's public relations office has developed a new tagline and marketing campaign (pg. 5), a professor in the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering is a leader in his field (pg. 23) and our alumni are continuing to find new ways to support their alma mater (pg. 17).

Commentators questioned both of Michael Jordan's returns to the court. Many felt he would be distracted or even out of practice, however, no one ever counted him out. The same rings true for us.

PVAMU will add more buildings and raze old ones. Professors will retire and we will hire new professors. Over time, we will find new ways to approach opportunities and we may even make a few mistakes. But no matter what, no one should ever count us out. We are still working to achieve excellence in teaching, research and service. ★

George C. Wright

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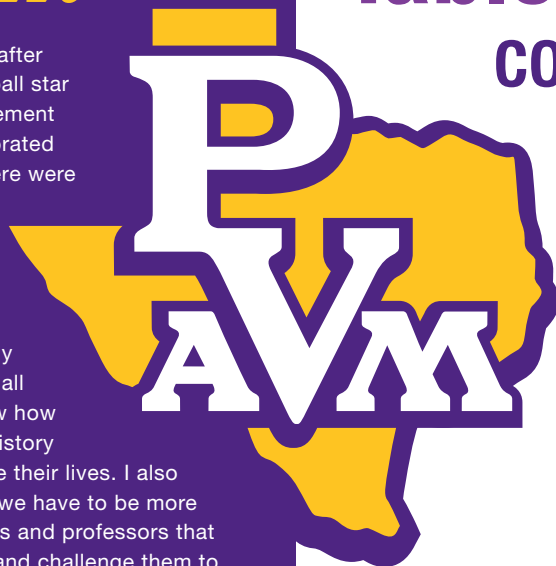


Photo by T. Freeman

Miss Africa USA 2010, Fifi Soumah, poses with **Miss PVAMU 2011-2012, Lakesha Clark**, during a recent visit. Soumah was a guest of the African Student Association and spoke on a panel about the similarities across global lines, empowerment of women and her studies in America.

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TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE ABOUT

PVAMU

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Photo courtesy of Aaron M. Spector/MLB Photos

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35 2012 Football Schedule Released





When the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the construction of a new academic building for the College of Business and the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (CAHS)

during its January meeting, one item identified in the new 10-year Campus Master Plan was checked off.

However, the \$37M academic facility is the first of many items identified in a plan that was drafted from student and administrator surveys throughout the last year.

Facilitated by Ford, Powell & Carson Architects and Planners, the master plan not only identified the need for new academic buildings but addresses student growth of up to 12,000 students through additional housing and parking, standardized exterior signage and improved outdoor spaces.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Calls for new academic buildings, student housing, recreation center

2

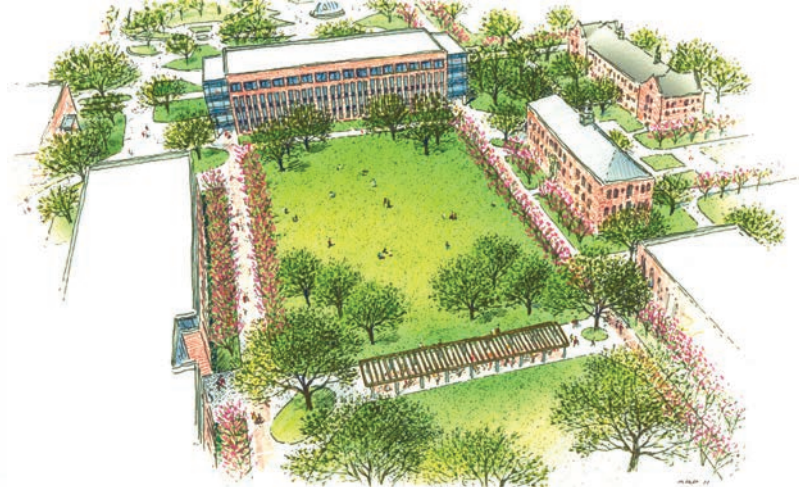
ACADEMIC CORE

"The addition of an academic facility like this will not merely change the physical landscape of the University; it will send a resounding message to all agriculture and business disciplines that have been inextricably interwoven since the founding of land-grant universities remains at the heart of the 1890 enterprise," said Provost **Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith**.

By evaluating student habits and the current campus landscape, the team identified an area where most academic instruction should take place. Considered the core of campus, the space, located just west of the popular water fountain, has been identified as the primarily building space for the next 10 years. The first building will be situated just south of Anne Preston Street and east of the existing Don K. Clark building (Juvenile Justice and Psychology building). The multi-story structure will include both small and large classrooms, labs, administrative and faculty offices and several student lounge areas.

According to Thomas-Smith, PVAMU is tasked with creating an academic environment that is conducive to student success. The presence of centralizing instruction supports that objective.

A second building is to be developed south of Hilliard Hall. Future space for a third and fourth building has been identified in the vicinity; however, no timeframe or details are outlined.



CHANGE CAUSES CHANGE

“The University will look different,” said **Dr. Corey S. Bradford**, senior vice president for business affairs. He, along with staff in the Physical Plant and Construction and Planning, worked with consultants and a variety of focus groups to gather information needed to produce an accurate reflection of the needs of the campus. “New buildings and more housing are the main things; however, there are small changes that you will immediately be able to see.”

As the Business program relocates, the Army ROTC and Navy ROTC programs will move into the Hobart Taylor Building or E.B. Evans Hall, which once housed Agriculture, and the David L. Brewer Building. The Burselon Ware building will be demolished to make way for additional housing, including some specific for graduate students.

This summer, a brand new entrance will be built to showcase both the historic aspects of PVAMU and the new modern touches. Also, a new retention pond will be added near the front entrance of campus.

Faydrian Pearson, a junior education major, has her own opinion about a new look for Prairie View.

“The campus is beautiful and very well kept; however, students need more resources and places to hang out and relax. We just don’t need new buildings. We need a new stadium, an updated recreational facility and more parking,” Pearson said.

The campus master plan addresses those concerns.

FUNDING THE PROJECT

A current fundraising initiative supports developing a new athletic complex that includes a new 15,000-seat football stadium and accompanying athletic department center to be located directly South of Blackshear Stadium (the current tailgating area). Plans include a FieldTurf playing surface, reserved seating, state-of-the-art press box, on-site ticket booths, club seating, luxury suites and an enhanced tailgating and parking area.

The plan outlines a more pedestrian campus, with the closing of some roads to vehicular traffic and the opening of new sidewalks and pathways adorned with public art and statues.

Bradford said in addition to fundraising, there are a variety of sources that can be used.

“The funding source for a particular project will vary from project to project and paid as funds are made available — some state funds, tuition and fee dollars, grants, capital reserves and debt financing will be considered for all of our projects,” Bradford said.

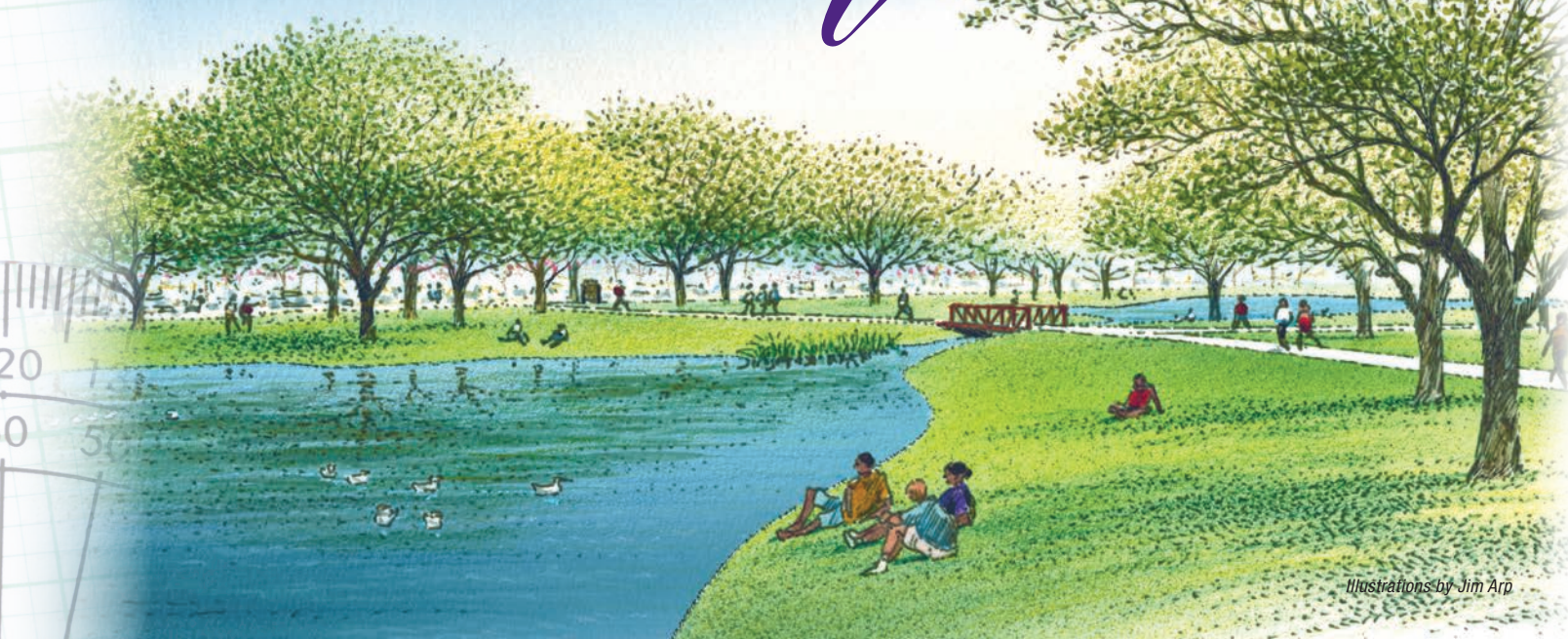
Also approved by the Board of Regents, the student recreational facility will incorporate a rock-climbing wall, multiple spaces that can be used for group fitness classes, a juice bar and several basketball courts. The \$31M project is scheduled to break ground before the end of the year.

“The new academic building will be built with debt financing to be paid back over 30 years and the new recreation center will be paid with debt financing to be paid back with student recreation fees over 30 years,” Bradford continued.

Money will also go toward new signage, additional campus beautification and areas created specifically for student enjoyment and entertainment, similar to the current student park. ★ *S. Reed, Scheane Brown, student contributor*

the View

PVAMU 3



iREAD Instills Success



At one time or another we've all heard the saying, "Reading is fundamental." Well, that simple principle holds true for PVAMU students and a special program is in full swing to drive home its importance.

iREAD (Increasing Reading and Engagement for Academic Development) is the cornerstone of the University's Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) accepted by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The University has been fully accredited since 1959, according to Provost **E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith**, the University's resident expert on accreditation and liaison to SACSCOC.

In the University's quest for reaccreditation, which it received fully in 2011, unevenness in the maturation of undergraduate students' academic development was identified as a risk to their succeeding in college and being prepared for employment and advanced study. Research also revealed that reading is highly potent in shaping academic development.

"The idea behind iREAD is that, through reading, we can raise expectations and educate first-generation college students for meaningful societal participation and entry into professions where they can earn a living, provide for their families and contribute to their communities,"

said **Dr. Michael McFrazier**, Vice Provost and Dean of the Northwest Houston Center who chaired the 2010 SACSCOC reaffirmation process.

This past fall semester, the first cohort of 200 full-time freshmen students were placed in learning communities and enrolled in the Principles of Effective Learning 1013 course. Academic coaches and advisers supported the initiative by working with students as they read a variety of print and electronic materials centered around common themes.

Keeping a pulse on an ever-changing world, the iREAD students were also challenged to integrate technology into their studies through social media.

Additionally, the John B. Coleman Library managed the distribution of Kindle e-readers, which were pre-loaded with books written by Benjamin Franklin, Byron Pitts and President Barack Obama.

While the iREAD program is intensive and makes the most out of the latest technology, Thomas-Smith said that at its core, there is a simple goal in mind.

"We want to build a foundation that will greatly improve a student's academic success here at PVAMU and beyond. What they learn now will serve them well throughout their lives," she said. ★ *C. Landry*



There's something unique about PVAMU.

Most students and alumni know it, and few can actually explain it. But that feeling and the Prairie View experience is exactly what can be attributed to the increase in enrollment and the spike in alumni participation over the last few years.

To capitalize on that, the Office of Public Relations set out to develop a marketing tagline to be used across a variety of advertising and marketing channels. The new tagline will not replace the popular motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People," but will be used as a marketing slogan that connects the dots between the university name and its academic offerings, student experiences, research efforts and alumni achievements.

After speaking with hundreds of people and hosting a variety of focus groups and surveys, an initial group of taglines was created and tested by perspective students, alumni, high school counselors and current students. Preliminary campaign concepts were developed and previewed by a task force comprised of PVAMU faculty and staff members from across campus. The winner, **Our Tradition. Your Opportunity.**, was a fan favorite.

"We have developed a tagline that truly embraces the variety of experiences that students have while at PVAMU. The history of the

University is deeply rooted in traditions, but that's only the start of the amazing things PVAMU has produced," said **Sheleah D. Reed '01**, executive director of communications, who led the efforts.

"When speaking to students, staff, faculty, alumni and even high school counselors, several themes were clearly identified—family, home, experience, pride, legacy and opportunity—but tradition was always there and usually connected all of the themes," Reed said.

The new tagline will be woven into print ads, web marketing, direct mail pieces, television and radio commercials, social media and even outdoor advertising. While most of the focus will be to recruit both undergraduate and graduate students, it should also energize alumni and supporters.

"We want people to be excited about Prairie View A&M and what's to come," Reed said. "I hope that the radio spots people hear and the billboards they see will evoke all of those warm and fuzzy feelings they have about PVAMU." ★

NEW TAGLINE



PARK, PLAZA & PANTHERS, *Oh my!*



Historic buildings, intricate architecture and attractive landscaping all describe the campus. The beautification of Prairie View A&M University has been under way since the late 1980's with a campus master plan that sought to enhance Prairie View through new building construction, renovations and exterior landscaping.

In line with that goal, two additions to the campus were added during last year's homecoming festivities. A beautifully landscaped area outside the Willie A. Tempton Sr. Memorial Student Center is now the home of a larger than life-size panther statue. The location donned "Panther Plaza" adds character and a scenic backdrop for alumni, faculty, staff and students to take pictures and share memories of their time at the University. The statue was commissioned by the 2010-11 Student Government Association (SGA) led by **Bobby J. Smith II '11**, president.

A student park covers the corner of O. J. Thomas and L.W. Minor. Once the home to L.O. Evans, one of the last standing dormitories on the campus, the student park gives students the opportunity to host programs and activities. It is equipped with seating and a Wi-Fi connection. ★
T. Freeman

PVAMU 5



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY

Our tradition. Your opportunity.

for recruitment, engagement

Cheryl King began her career at PVAMU in 1990; however, she has worked in the physical plant since 1994. A born leader and very compassionate woman, she felt the campaign was an enjoyable experience because of the structure, manageable requirements and, of course, the opportunity to give back.



LaDonna Harris '91/'92 has worked for four years in human resources as the training specialist, although she hopes to one day author books on love, life and relations. She said the Faculty and Staff Campaign was an initiative long overdue for Prairie View. It provided a unique way for the entire body of the University to “build grounding for teamship” and provided an opportunity to come together for the purpose of one cause. In addition, it gave her team an opportunity to do something together.



Glenda Jones '89/'93, director of career services, enjoys being a part of the HBCU experience, which revolves around family. This was the catalyst for her aspiration to give back to her alma mater. Jones said, “We have to lead by example, including students and alumni, and we have to set the standard for giving.” The mother of one son, her goal in life is to help students succeed at all costs. When students return to PVAMU to visit her, she is filled with joy, knowing that she was instrumental in helping them achieve their dreams.



Shelia Cleveland '97/'00, manager of custodial services, upheld her position of campaign coordinator and led by example. Her team, the physical plant, was the largest team and participated at 100 percent. She also gave—not because she had to but because, as scholarship recipient, she wanted to afford future students similar opportunities.

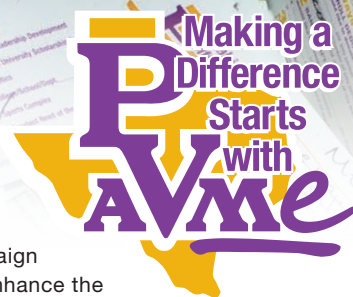


Billie Evans, the mother of two sons, is a 21-year veteran of Prairie View A&M University. Evans was reminded and motivated by the goals of the Faculty and Staff Campaign because of Professor Simon Wiltz, who was instrumental in the success of the School of Architecture. She assisted with the Scholarship Fund, established in Wiltz's name. During this campaign, she used the option of designating contributions to specific departments.



Despite a recession, 727 PVAMU employees came together to make history by contributing nearly \$115,376 to the first University-wide faculty/staff giving campaign, “**Making a Difference Starts with Me.**”

Spearheaded by the Office of Development, the campaign gave faculty and staff members an opportunity to help enhance the quality of the University's programs through their financial contribution. Each person was able to choose an area of interest they were most passionate about. Categories included everything from the sports complex, scholarships, student leadership and individual departments.



FACULTY AND STAFF GIVE ABOVE AND BEYOND IN FIRST CAMPAIGN

“People need to give to things they are passionate about and that interest doesn’t necessarily fit into categories that may have been preset by the development office,” said **Nelson Bowman III**, director of development. “During a first-time campaign such as this, it is vitally important to establish trust and buy-in with this untapped constituency.”

Many people gave to areas that they work directly in or encounter frequently. While donations to the sports complex led the tally with 44 percent of the gifts, staff members such as Belinda Lewis, program specialist in the Office of Disability Services, gave to her own department.

“We are limited to state funding, but many of the needs of our students are beyond what we can provide with those dollars. By giving myself, I am hoping that others will follow and we can issue scholarships to students. That’s what they really need.”

Lewis and her counterparts in Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement were one of 38 departments that had 100 percent participation. The physical plant, noted as the largest participating department with 100 staff members, also was in the elite group. Additionally, active faculty and staff engaged in a friendly competition to see which college or unit could achieve the highest percentage of participation and attract the most donors. Participants were eligible to win prizes, from gift certificates to PVAMU license plates and even a reserved parking space.

“The dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff, even thru tough economic times, is a testament to our internal and external stakeholders; patronage that is evident by the success of this campaign,” Bowman said.

All gifts received from faculty and staff during the 32-day campaign were counted in the official total. According to Bowman, these gifts are above and beyond the donations and pledges that staff members have made to other fundraising initiatives, including the “Extend the View” Capital Campaign, the current sports complex fundraising initiative, the Phon-a-Thon and even the KPVU membership drive.

This campaign serves as the second component of the annual fund. The first phase is the alumni giving campaign in which student call alumni across the country to solicit unrestricted gifts. The third phase will be rolled out later this year when PVAMU students are asked to give. ★ *S. Reed*

Ministers from all over the country gathered for the 54th Annual Ministers' Conference at PVAMU, celebrating the theme "God's Church."

The conference, organized by **Charles H. Lewter IV**, dean of the Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel and the executive committee of the ministers' conference, welcomed all denominations and sought to develop an ecumenical leadership community. The participants also shared ways to cultivate and prepare those interested in a life of service through ministry. Through soul-stirring sermons and powerful music, the ministers discussed increasing participation in the sociological life of the community and the enhancement of Christian leadership within the church.

Clergy gather for Ministers' Conference

This year's conference featured a number of notable speakers including:

- Bishop L.F. Thuston, Boone Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Kansas City, MO
- Rev. Kenneth L. Hollingshed, North Park Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Dallas, TX
- Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ, Detroit, MI
- Dr. A. Louis Patterson, Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, TX
- Dr. Joseph A. Hooper, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT

The second day of the conference was energized even further with a surprise performance from Grammy award-winning gospel artist Karen Clark Sheard, wife of Bishop Sheard. The conference proved a success, with more than \$50,000 raised through registration, scholarships and donations. ★ C. Landry

Photos by C. Landry

Serving the needs of our veterans is a priority for PVAMU that has been clearly outlined with the establishment of the Veterans Affairs Center. Under the umbrella of Student Affairs, the Center seeks to assist veteran students and their families through support needed to pursue their academic goals post-service.

REACHING OUT TO OUR VETERANS

The Center also assists in applying for benefits for veterans, their spouses and dependents; burial benefits; licenses, plates and parking; State of Texas benefits; property and home ownership; military records; and, health and counseling assistance.

"The office can help you get the right information that pertains to you on a case-by-case basis," said **Johanna Cannedy**, the University's new veterans services coordinator. Since the office opened in October of 2011, Cannedy said the response has been favorable and many veterans have expressed their pleasure with having the office on the campus. ★ C. Landry



Johanna Cannedy
Veterans Services
Coordinator

JACKSON *lives* the Stories he Tells

By loose calculations, **Frank D. Jackson '73** has spoken to at least 2.3 million people about Prairie View A&M University. His role as governmental relations officer gives him an audience of legislators, congressmen and even the governor. However, it's his unofficial title of campus historian that has allowed him to speak to so many more.

He has been asked to deliver keynote addresses at Black History programs, Juneteenth celebrations, conferences and meetings from Texas to Africa. He delivered a moving address to the fall 2008 graduating class and is often asked by student organizations to "just talk a little bit about PV history" at group meetings.

Entering his fifth term as the mayor of Prairie View, he talks to his constituents and potential investors about how the city's history and the school's history are intertwined. Today, the small municipality has a population of 5,576 of which 3,400 are students.

"Mr. Jackson has a million stories about the neat places on campus, but once we approach the Naval ROTC building, his eyes light up," said **Carol Campbell '79**, who oversees PVAMU's special events.

As a teenager in Luling, he didn't know what he would do after high school. He had secured a spot at Devry in Dallas, but when an additional fee and a family friend intervened, he landed at Prairie View.

"One evening, I noticed some guys going into a room. I followed them in there," Jackson said. Little did he know, they were going to take the Navy qualifying exam. He failed.

"I wanted to be part of the Navy, so I found a way to take the test again," he said.

Following graduation, Jackson was commissioned as an officer and stationed at the Surface Warfare Officers School in Rhode Island. He was immediately asked to resign. His superiors were sure he couldn't compete.

"That alone made me more determined and forced me to work harder than everyone else," he said.

You can still hear that same determination in the stories he tells about Prairie View's history, which like his own, is filled with opportunity, tradition and perseverance.

"Prairie View is the place where young men and women come to grow. It's our mission and our role to help students go from where they are to where they need to be. We have to find a way to make them successful and productive citizens," he said.

After accepting his first position as admissions officer in 1982, he became the student center manager from 1982 until 1987. This was followed by a stint as auxiliary services director, where he oversaw the dining hall, student center, laundry operations, the health center and all of the residence halls. He ran the complete operation, including making some key hires.

PROUD

The young talented accountant he hired is now Vice President of Administration and Auxiliary Services Fred Washington. His then executive assistant, **Juliette Hill (Spivey) '96/'07/'10** is now the accounts payable manager and **Tressey Wilson '94** is assistant vice president of auxiliary enterprises. The graduates did just as Prairie View trained them to do— become productive people.

A career change came when Jackson was asked to assist PVAMU in maintaining its relationships with governmental agencies. As the Waller County Commissioner in Precinct 3, he had enough experience to jump right in and make it happen.

Since then, he has helped secure funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, the electrical engineering building, the Nathelyne Archie Kennedy building, the Willie A. Tempton Sr. Memorial Student Center and the College of Nursing.

Just this year, he co-authored *Down that Road: The 135-year History of Prairie View A&M University*. Jackson also penned *Juneteenth—Ideas Consequences*, *History of The City of Prairie View* and *The History of the Prince Hall Masonry in Texas*.

After 29 years, Jackson's passion for Prairie View clearly isn't just because he graduated from the school. It's because, for so many, he is Prairie View. ★ S. Reed

COVER
STORY

8

Kayla Tucker Adams '97,

is the Public Relations Director of one of the world's most famous worship centers, The Potter's House. She has been in the presence of hundreds of celebrities and parishioners who are excited about the gospel.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? I'd take my family and close friends on a cruise to relax and celebrate. Then, I would set up a scholarship fund.

If you could meet one celebrity who would it be? A phenomenal woman, wife and mother—First Lady Michelle Obama!

Favorite food? Lobster, crab and ice cream

What's the one thing you can't live without? My faith; It gets me through the good times and the tough times in life.

Favorite movie? Dreamgirls

Favorite color? Pink and green, of course ☺

You are banished to a deserted island, who is the one person you are taking? My baby girl, Brooklyn

Most unforgettable PV moment? The day I received the President's Full Academic Scholarship. My high school guidance counselor, Lu Anne Bourland, recommended me for it. PVAMU created many lifelong relationships and has opened many doors for me. ★



Photo courtesy of Rance Elgin

Alumni *view*points

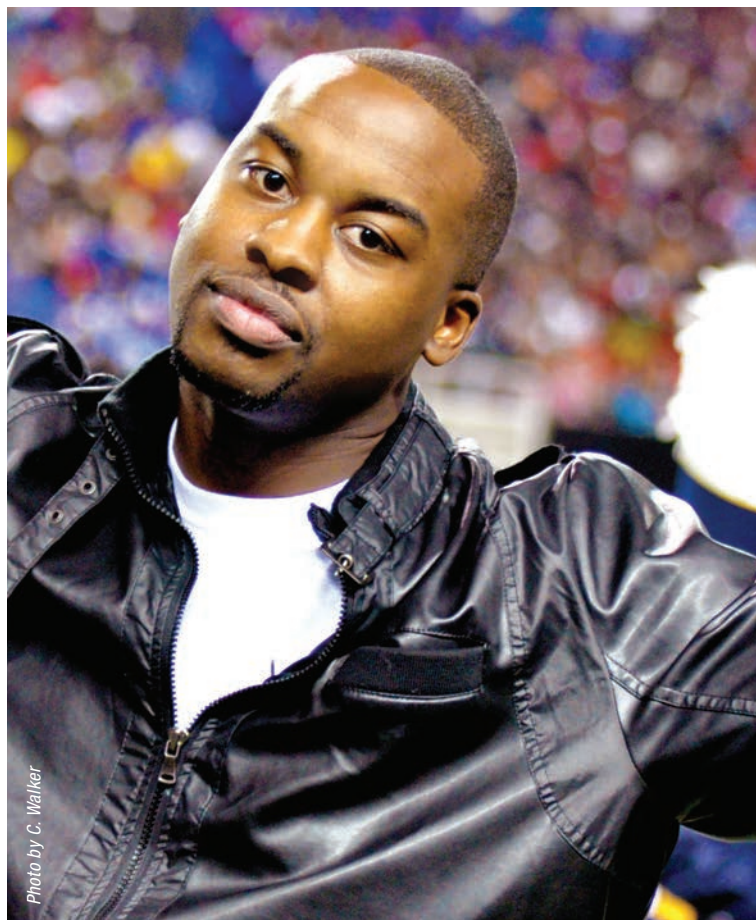


Photo by C. Walker

Bruce M. Robinson II '11,

a former drum major of The Marching Storm and no stranger to the Honda Battle of the Bands, watched as PVAMU's band took the field for the sixth time in the annual showcase earlier this year. It was after their first appearance in 2005 that Robinson looked into Prairie View to pursue a degree in Architecture. Known as DJ Guarantee to most, Robinson is a Resident Director in University Village North.

PVAMU 9

If you could meet one celebrity, who would it be?
I'd have a date with R&B singer Monica.

Favorite food?
Fried chicken wings and waffles

Kobe lover or Kobe hater?
Kobe hater; he's too arrogant.

What is playing on your iPOD right now?
Tye Tribbett, Bob Marley and The Foreign Exchange.

Three words to describe you?
Creative, successful and guaranteed.

What's the one thing you can't live without?
The Internet and my computer.

Most unforgettable PV moment?
Marching as a drum major in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade. ★

ORGANIZATIONS WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT PVAMU

While the Prairie View A&M Foundation, the National Alumni Association and the development and alumni relations arms of the University all have different missions, their goals are simple - assist Prairie View A&M University through philanthropy and support.

"The overarching responsibility of the three entities is to have a coordinated team with a central message and mission. More specifically, we each have different areas of focus, which allows alumni and potential supporters a connection point per their area of interest," said PVAMF Chairman **Roy Perry '78**.

As fundraising efforts have ramped up surrounding the athletic complex and the University has continued its annual fund efforts, many supporters are left unsure how their monies are assisting. As all areas are continuing their respective projects, all three are working in concert to ensure donors are clear where and how their money is being used. ★



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY focuses its energy on annual and endowed gifts as well as the engagement of volunteers, attempting to match their interest with institutional needs. It is also responsible for communicating with and about graduates and former students.



The Prairie View A&M Foundation is set up as the major gift fundraising arm of the triad. With a current emphasis on a sports complex and new stadium, it takes on major capital projects and courts foundations and businesses for funding.



The National Alumni Association spearheads the overall efforts surrounding the connection graduates have with their alma mater. Their efforts include membership drives, networking events, collection of alumni data and scholarship generation.

HOME COMING



PROUD

10

Sports Hall of Fame

NEW MEMBERS

The Prairie View A&M Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee welcomed nine new members into its 18th class.

Inducted into the PV Sports Hall of Fame were **Sam Adams Sr.** (football, 1966-69), **Sebastian Barrie** (football, 1988), **Donald Bennett** (men's tennis, 1962-66), **Gregory Burks** (men's basketball, 1998-2003), **Carlos Hayward** (men's track 1990-94), **Kenneth Martindale** (football, 1964-69),

Kevin McKinley (men's track, 1984-87), **Alicia Pete** (volleyball, basketball 1986-90) and **Dennis Wayne** (men's basketball, 1973-78). In addition, former PV football standout and recently retired Houston Madison High School head football coach, **Ray Seals**, received the William "Billy" J. Nicks Sr. Legend Award, while former head men's track, cross country and football coach, **Clifton Gilliard**, accepted the Purple Panther Memorial Award in honor of the four members, (**Houston Watson**, 21, of Greenville, Texas, **Samuel Sturns**, 20, of Jasper, Texas, **Vernon James II**, 18, of Vallejo, Calif., and **Jerome Jackson**, 21, of Dallas) of the men's track team who tragically lost their lives on the way to a track meet in 2000. Emceeding the event was

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Gloomy weather was no match for the PV Nation. Panther fans did not let the drizzle dampen their spirits. Morale was high, the stands were full and the tailgate area was packed, as students, alumni and friends came back to "The Hill" to Celebrate Homecoming 2011.

Alumni Reunion

PLANNING UNDER WAY

If you graduated in 2002, 2007, 1987 or 1962, the Office of Alumni Relations invites you to celebrate your class reunion during the 2012 Homecoming weekend. Traditionally, Prairie View A&M University only celebrates the 50th Golden Anniversary; however, this year, for the first time, we will also celebrate alumni reunions for 5, 10, and 25 years.

With only months away, the time is now to join the planning committee to pull off an event your entire class will be excited to attend. Reunions are milestone events and our goal is to stand beside you as you and your classmates plan for this awesome celebration.

If you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity for your class or want additional information about the reunion handbook we have designed, please contact Alumni and Special Event Officer Carol Campbell at cdcampbell@pvamu.edu. We hope that you join us and encourage your classmates to take part as well. ★

Contact these leaders to find out what your class is doing to celebrate!

Class of 2007 **Ms. Ty Johnson**, 5-year Planning Committee Chair, recently earned her Master of Business Administration. She now works in communications in the oil and gas industry. ty_johnson85@yahoo.com

Class of 2002 **Ms. Jena Peevy** is leading efforts for the Class of 2002. She currently serves as the Senior Communication Specialist of Enrollment Management at PVAMU. jlpeevey@pvamu.edu

Class of 1987 **Mr. Stephen Hubbard**, an attorney in Tyler, is working with a group of graduates to plan a 25-year reunion to remember. shubbard@hubbardlawfirm.com

Class of 1962 **Mr. Bill Heath** is leading efforts for the Golden Class Anniversary Celebrations. Plans are already under way for a great event. billycheath@sbcglobal.net

Olympic Track and Field Gold Medalist, PV Foundation board member **Fred Newhouse '70**.

Laura Collins '74 served as chairwoman of the event and worked tirelessly with a loyal group of committee members to ensure the event's success. Due to a conflict with the football schedule, the 2011 banquet was moved to February 2012 but the committee anticipates returning to its normal time for the 19th Hall of Fame Class. Nominations for PV's 2012 class will begin in June and registration forms will be available via PVPanthers.com. ★ **R. McGinty**

Photos by C. Walker

Graduate **PVAMU** ^[1]
shines
 as a DJ

Marketing graduate **Zelma Lee '99**, was a contestant on season two of BET's Master of the Mix. Although she was eliminated from the competition after episode three, DJ Supastar hasn't stopped shining. She has been featured in numerous articles and interviews about her experience on the national show and even entertained the PVAMU home crowd during the 2011 homecoming concert. ★

STATE OF THE
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

National Alumni Association

As President of your National Alumni Association (NAA) I would like to thank all those alumni who have become financial—either as an annual or life member. These new members will add to the current base of our organization to help ensure that the NAA continues to meet its mission of perpetuating our University by giving back of our time, talents and treasures. I would like to challenge each of you to become more involved by mentoring future Prairie View students.

As your national president, I am committed to showing my support of local chapter events. My tours began in December 2011 when I attended the Prairie View Nurses Chapter Prayer Breakfast in Houston. The following weekend, I attended "Conversation with the Prairie View A&M Foundation," which was sponsored by the Houston, Johnson Space Center and PV Nurses Chapters. The Foundation's president,

Roy Perry, and several trustees provided information regarding the athletic complex project.

January 2012 began with several events in Houston and Atlanta. The National Alumni Association hosted our first joint Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University National Alumni Associations Membership social event at the House of Blues' Foundation Room. Later in the month, Dr. Wright and I visited the Atlanta Metro Chapter during the Honda Battle of The Bands Weekend. We had the opportunity to meet with the Atlanta Chapter as well as tour the city. The Atlanta Chapter provided a full itinerary, which included me visiting several hotels in advance of the 2013 Convention. These visits proved that our membership efforts are working.

Our increased NAA membership will also increase our support of scholarships. We have traditionally placed more emphasis on our Teacher Education Association Scholarship, which supports future educators; however, I'd like to offer full scholarships to students in programs that may be at risk

due to low student matriculation. During the remainder of my term, I will work to increase fundraising efforts for our scholarships open to students in any academic discipline.

To make the vision a reality, I need your support.

Sincerely,

Lynn Morris '78
President, PVAMU NAA

P.S.

I look forward to seeing everyone during the
38th NATIONAL CONVENTION
in Fort Worth, July 25-28th!



Alumni Voice

NATIONAL CONVENTION SET FOR JULY

THE PVAMU NAA FORT WORTH CHAPTER

will host the 38th National Alumni Association Convention July 25-28, 2012. Members **Betty Senegal '66** and **Joe Page '67** have accepted the roles of convention chairs and are working diligently to help plan a memorable week of productivity and camaraderie for alumni to enjoy.

The Fort Worth Chapter will showcase the best their city has to offer beginning with the host hotel, the Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel and Spa that is located downtown.

- **Convention Registration is \$300** and payment options include check, credit card and paypal.
- **Room Rates are \$109 per/night** but the rate does not include parking.
- **Reserve your hotel accommodations early** as rooms are limited when booking online. Use promotion code PVG118A or call the hotel directly at (817) 335-7000 and ask for the Prairie View National Alumni Association Convention rate.

For the most current information about the 2012 Convention keynote speakers, activity schedule and registration visit www.pvualumni.org. ★



METRO HOUSTON NAA CHAPTERS ALUMMS & FRIENDS SUPPORT THE SPORTS COMPLEX

The Johnson Space Center and Houston Nurses Chapters of the National Alumni Association hosted "Conversation with the Foundation" as a forum to discuss in detail the fundraising goals surrounding the proposed sports complex.

The president of the Foundation, Roy Perry, believes "the event was a success and a direct indicator of the future success of our mission." More than 40 people spent their Saturday morning discussing the details of the project and understanding how they could make the project a reality. Records show that 55 percent of the attendees committed to the cause with an immediate donation.

Similar events are being developed for alumni groups across the county. The first was held in the DFW Metroplex this year. ★



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ATLANTA CHAPTER HOSTS PRESIDENTS

The Atlanta Alumni Chapter hosted the National Alumni President **Lynn Morris '78** and University **President George Wright** late January. Both presidents attended the Honda Battle of the Bands Showcase, the SWAC HBCU Gala. The weekend concluded with a brunch at the home of **Mr. & Mrs. Roland Austin '02**. University administrators discussed the most effective ways to work with the University and Morris addressed ways to become more effective as alumni. ★





LOS ANGELES CHAPTER REPRESENTS IN BLACK COLLEGE EXPO

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Prairie View National Alumni Association participated in the 13th Annual Black College Expo this January. They recruited perspective PVAMU students by providing them with information about the application process as well as scholarship opportunities.

Thousands of high school students and their parents from Northern and Southern California entered eager to speak to hundreds of college, university and corporate representatives with applications, transcripts, and for some, musical instruments in hand. Many HBCU's were present granting on-the-spot admissions to students, as well as auditioning students for their music departments or marching bands.

Pictured: Los Angeles Chapter Members: **John Terry '64**, Treasurer, **Dr. Renee Dorn '92/'95**, 1st Vice President and **Herb Sims '93**, President



RIVALS HOST JOINT MEMBERSHIP EVENT

Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern National Alumni Associations partnered with the Foundation Room at the House of Blues for The Ultimate Alumni Happy Hour. Guests were treated to appetizers, specially priced menu items and tickets to the Bun B concert.

This event was the first for the rivals, but isn't the last of PV/TSU Alumni Happy Hour Series. More than 200 PVAMU and TSU alumni attended. For pictures from the event and more details about the Alumni Happy Hour Series visit www.pvualumni.org.

The Houston Foundation Room is offering special incentives to Prairie View and Texas Southern alumni who would like to purchase a Young Professional Membership to the exclusive, member-only Foundation Room at the House of Blues. For more details contact Krystan Lachance at (832) 667-7794 or email krystanlachance@livenation.com.



GRADUATE NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

PVAMU graduate **Chantell Hines '98/'99** was recently named associate vice president of two satellite Lone Star College-North Harris centers. She will oversee LSC-Greenspoint Center and LSC-Victory Center. Hines, who once worked in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, has bachelor's and master's degrees from Prairie View A&M University and a doctoral degree in psychology from Capella University.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY CHAMPIONS FAMS

The NAA Executive Board has been working diligently to enhance Membership, Mentorship and Management. Our efforts have been rewarding and recognized as we are gaining momentum. One of the most essential elements of sustaining our organization is our Financial Administrative Management System (FAMS). The NAA Financial Secretary, **Carl Young '59**, a Business Administration/Economics honors graduate, has been charged with the task of developing the FAMS document.

The FAMS provides an efficient, technology-based finance and administrative environment, which makes the NAA a process and technology-based organization. FAMS also provides assurance that the NAA finances are being handled in accordance with standard accounting and auditing principles of the Internal Revenue Service.

Young, a life member of the NAA, has more than 30 years of business administration experience. His career began as a Commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Army Finance Corps. He retired Lieutenant Colonel with Comptroller Specialty Rating. He has held several senior-level positions in a variety of businesses and is currently the president of CYoung Consulting, which specializes in business and motivational presentations.



CONGRESSMEN ADDRESSES HOUSTON CHAPTER

The Houston Alumni Chapter hosted its 26th Annual Mardi Gras Luncheon at the Power Center Houston the first weekend in February. Keynote speaker, Congressman **Emanuel Cleaver II '72** delivered a message that inspired a spirit of service, camaraderie and giving. He is now serving his fourth term representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in the United States Congress and also serves as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

During the event, eight scholarships were awarded to Houston area students based on their academic achievements.



Three M's

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

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

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

3 Management supports improved management of the financial assets and resources of the NAA. ★

Mail **\$60 Annual Membership** to P.O. Box 2875,
Prairie View, Texas 77446
or join and pay online at
www.pvualumni.org

Join Today.
The Prairie View A&M University
National Alumni
Association *needs you!*

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN
Danielle Simon, dmsimon@yahoo.com

AUSTIN
David Davis, did14315@juno.com

BEAUMONT
Clifford Guillory, cguillo@beaumont.k12.tx.us

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Prairie View A&M Foundation

GROWING GREATNESS THROUGH GIVING

Janis McDowell Hadnott APPOINTED TRUSTEE



The Prairie View A&M Foundation recently appointed **Janis McDowell Hadnott** as a trustee of its organization. Hadnott, a 1957 music education graduate of Prairie View, did post-graduate work in

Opera Study at Texas Southern University. She was a teacher at Livingston High School and Sweeny High School from 1957 until 1968.

Dedicated to her alma mater, she spent four years as president of the San Antonio chapter of the PVAMU Alumni Association, increasing endowments while expanding the chapter's membership and national involvement. Hadnott is active in her community as she has served as president of both the C.A. Whittier Medical Auxiliary and the National Medical Association Auxiliary and Board Chair for the National Medical Association Auxiliary Annual Conference. In addition, she was a Board Member of the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio; San Antonio Carver Cultural Center; San Antonio Martin Luther King Jr. Committee; Arts! San Antonio-City Arts Council; St. Luke's Episcopal School Board; the Community Council for Christians and Jews, and was the J.C. Penney Woman of the Year. In her free time, Hadnott enjoys tennis, Spurs basketball, choral and theater arts and is active in the Asbury United Methodist Church, where she is the organist/choral director. ★

Incorporation State of Texas, June 2009

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

State Tax Exemption February 2009

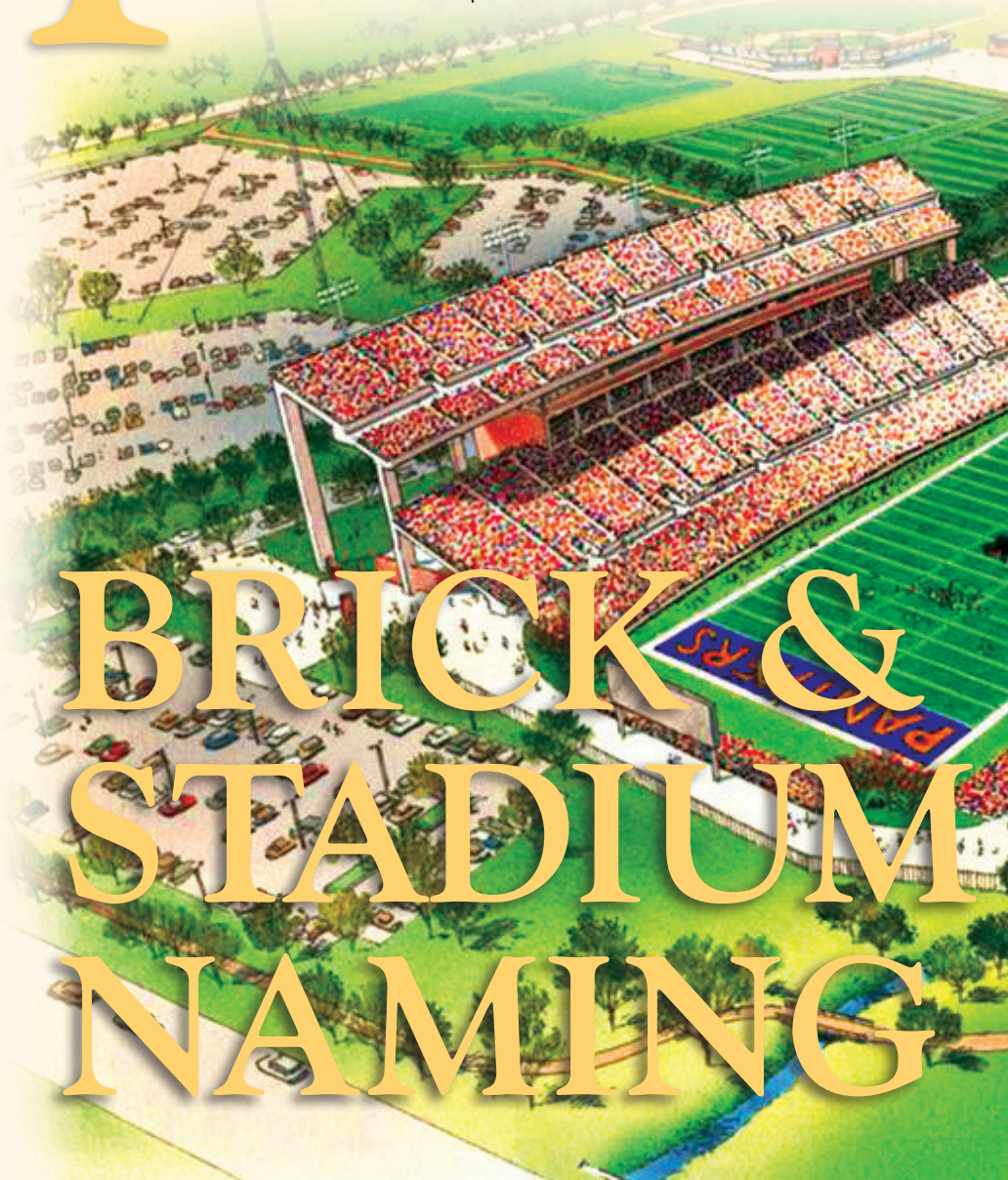
*Any gift to the PVAM Foundation is tax deductible

Recent Financial Audit McConnell Jones, November 2010 – Passed

*Can be found online at www.pvamf.org

I t's been said that bricks and stadium-seat namings make great gifts for new graduates, but there are other opportunities for gifting as well. Recently, the Los Angeles Chapter of the NAA ordered bricks as awards for their members. As a tax-deductible donation, bricks and stadium-seat namings also make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials or any major event in your life or the life of a friend or loved one.

Purchase a "brick" or name a stadium "seat" and help build the future! Your friend's name and a personal message chosen by you, can be etched on a brick or placed on the back of a seat. ★



BRICK & STADIUM NAMING

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

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

Order today!

Learn more about the **"Bricks and Stadium-Seat Naming Program"** at www.pvamf.org.
Order online or download a Brick/Seat Order Form to send by mail.

1. Download and complete the Brick/Seat Order Form
 - a. Maximum number of lines per brick or seat naming is three
 - b. Maximum number of spaces per line is 15 – including spaces and special characters (use of & must be preceded and followed by a space)
2. Attach a check for the total amount payable to PVAMF, note Brick/Seat Fund on the memo line and mail completed form(s) and check to:
PVAMF Brick/Seat Campaign
PVAMF
P.O. Box 40278
Austin, TX 78704



METHODS OF GIVING

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

ONLINE by credit card, debit card or
E-check: www.pvamf.org

GIVING FREQUENCY

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

TYPES OF GIFTS

Class Gift – By Year
Unrestricted Gifts – Foundation
Unrestricted Gifts – University
Capital Projects:
Sports Complex
Student Scholarships
Endowments
Endowed Scholarships
Endowed Professor Appointments
Facilities Enhancements and Improvements
Training Equipment and Supplies
Program and Curriculum Development

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GIFT BENEFICIARIES

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford
College of Arts and Science
School of Architecture
College of Business
Whitlowe R. Green College of Education
Roy G. Perry College of Engineering
College of Nursing
College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology
Graduate School
Undergraduate Medical Academy
Athletics
Student Life Enrichment Programs

-SEAT AS GIFTS

Useless ~~ful~~ Major

Agriculture Makes Case as Viable Career Option

The field of Agriculture has been looked upon as outdated, evoking images of cotton fields, smelly animals and miles of farm land. It's not very often that it calls to mind cutting-edge research or information crucial to enhancing the quality of life.

Yahoo! Education recently published an article, "College Majors That Are Useless." Agriculture didn't bode well, with three of the five majors – Agriculture, Animal Science and Horticulture – belonging to the time-honored field. Such a dismal designation hit particularly close to home in the PVAMU College of Agriculture and Human Sciences.

"Agriculture is life," said **Dr. Carolyn Nobles '77**, associate administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program. "How can studying Agriculture be irrelevant? We cannot avoid it."

Agriculture has played a major role in the development of the University. Originally started as a teacher's college, the curriculum of what was the Prairie View State Normal School expanded to include agriculture, which coincided with its establishment as a branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station. It was later established as a Land Grant College by the Morrill Act in 1890.

Photo by Alecea Rush '08

Academy

Today, the college offers academic degrees in Agriculture and Human Sciences. There is also a degree program in Dietetics. The College boasts a number of successful alumni including graduates, **Johnie L. Jones III '09**, special assistant to USDA deputy secretary, **Aziza Glass '11**, a graduate student at Cornell University and **Benita Hodge '06**, the first African-American female to receive a FFA degree, now employed with the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Dr. Alton Johnson, associate dean of the College, said the perception of pursuing a career in Agriculture is one that is skewed. "Majoring in Agriculture does not mean you go out into the fields. There's more to it. Agriculture has a lot of branches," he said.

The CAHS operating system includes the academic side, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center (CARC) (focusing on animal, food and plant and environmental systems) and the Cooperative Extension Program (community outreach). The work that is being done in each area is supported by the other areas. The faculty and staff within the College insist that Agriculture is far from useless at all three levels.

Scientists are working to develop bioreactive coatings for fruit and vegetables, water quality and wetland monitoring studies and animal reproductive physiology.

Research such as this is crucial to the masses, but according to Acting Dean and Research Director **Dr. Richard W. Griffin**, the details are lost in an idealistic view of what it takes to keep things going. "Agriculture is

looked upon as irrelevant by individuals who assume that technological advances have propelled the agricultural supply chain into perfect status, therefore the system should continue to run on autopilot," Griffin said.

In the Cooperative Extension Program, state extension agents in 30 counties take the information gathered through research and study, and pass it on to local communities. PVAMU CEP focuses on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development and Community and Economic Development.

"We work with people who need us the most. Many of them have limited personal or family assets, limited opportunities or they come from communities that have limited resources. We provide them credible





While most think tools of the Agriculture trade are shovels and spades, the field is dispelling long-held beliefs through the use of technology. Here, Cooperative Extension Program agent Shannon Lackey helps young students create small robots, which is part of the 4-H STEM disciplines.



research-based information that can change behaviors," Nobles said.

Through the assistance of CEP, health fairs held by the agents have led to some community members learning they are diabetic. Small-business owners have received assistance in securing loans for their operations. Students in 4-H have been exposed to technology through robotics, introducing them to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines.

According to Johnson, students considering majoring in Agriculture should bear serious consideration. "It's a science and an art. Agriculture can be a fruitful career. Don't be mistaken by what others say," he said. ★ C. Landry

Photos courtesy of CAHS

1953

The year May Hall, the oldest occupied building at Prairie View A&M University, was built. It houses the Family and Community Services, Human Nutrition and Food, and Human Science programs.



300

The number of Bill Daniel Red Brangus cows donated to the University by Bill and Vera Daniel, namesakes of the University farm. Bill Daniel was appointed Governor of the Nation of Guam by U.S. President John F. Kennedy. The offspring of his original cows are still on the farm.

1000+

Trifoliate Orange Trees are on campus, located in the middle of the campus farm. A project between the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center and the Prairie View A&M Undergraduate Medical Academy began in March to study the benefits and use of these oranges for nutritional purposes. The trees were originally brought to the Texas Coast by Spanish explorers.

59

years of service was given to the University by Dr. Alfred N. Poindexter, veterinarian and professor emeritus of Animal Science in the CAHS. He passed away in 2006. He was one of the first two African-American members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and retired in 2004. The Poindexter Clinic was named in his honor.



6

breeds of goats are found at International Goat Research Center. The Center is home to Boer, Spanish, LaMancha, Tennessee Stiff Leg, Nubian and Alpine goats.



PVAMU 19

868

The number of acres on the Bill and Vera Daniel farm. The farm is home to the International Goat Research Center.



158

employees work in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, including faculty and staff, scientists, agents, farm hands, etc.

50

graduates per graduation ceremony, on average, in the past five years were from the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences.

THE SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM DEBUTED LAST FALL under the direction of **Professor Joseph Carver**. In its rebirth, the team of 15 has participated in eight tournaments that resulted in three students, **Cedric Land**, **Issa Joseph** and **Donnie Moreland**, going to national competition. This is the first time a PVAMU student has done so in the last 50 years.

STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF MEMBERS WERE HONORED AS YMCA OF GREATER HOUSTON MINORITY ACHIEVERS. A nationwide program, the recognition given to **Isis McCraw '02/'06** and **JaWana Green '05/'07** based on their commitment to being role models and mentors for others.



THE ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS WAS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY this summer. **Dr. James A. Wilson Jr.**, who is also the director of the Honors Program, will examine the future successes and challenges of the University to learn how to close the gap between best intentions and what can be actually implemented to accomplish positive change. He joins the ranks of several other PVAMU administrators who have studied at the institution.

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE DIGITAL MEDIA AND FABRICATION SHOP UPGRADE was completed with the assistance of Title III funding. The changes will improve the safety and education of architecture and construction students. The laboratory provides students with the critical hands-on experiences needed to understand major architectural concepts. Students learn various aspects of architecture and construction by using traditional hand tools and cutting-edge digital technology to construct large scale objects.



THE PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING CLINIC IN THE COLLEGE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND PSYCHOLOGY HAS OPENED thanks to a redevelopment of the College that addressed the need for a state-of-the-art building to conduct training, using updated teaching methods coupled with technology.



THE COLLEGE OF NURSING EARNED THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE WIN AT THE METI NURSING CUP CHALLENGE in Tampa, Florida this year. PVAMU nursing students competed in a live-simulated patient care scenario and outperformed nursing students from Seattle University, Chipola College, Faulkner State Community College and Valdosta State University. The PVAMU delegation included professors **Isaac Smith '77**, **Ejim Sule**, **Shirley Hutchins**; and students **Kimberly Eagleton**, **Janette Sanchez**, **Julane Crooks**, **Eltrick Primus** and **Efrain Castillo**.

A COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HAS BEEN NAMED A BUSINESS JOURNALISM PROFESSORS SEMINAR FELLOW. **Lewis Smith**, the communications program coordinator, was one of 15 journalism educators and journalists selected from the United States, Canada, and Ecuador for four days of intensive study at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication in Phoenix. He walked away with the tools to teach a university-level course in business journalism.



PVAMU PROFESSOR IS ATTENDING THE TRANSATLANTIC ROUNDTABLE ON RACE AND RELIGION at Birkbeck, University of London. **Dr. Toniesha L. Taylor** will present her work on womanism, religion, sexuality and social justice as part of a discussion of *Black Butterfly: Voices of Oppression and Resistance in Response to the Murder of Sakia Gunn*.



A TOP UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR WAS HONORED FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Black Heritage Committee during its Annual Western Gala. The event, which has highlighted many PVAMU graduates and employees in the past, serves as a fundraiser to support the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarships. This year nearly \$15,000 was raised and **Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith** was highlighted.

THE FIRST PVAMU STUDENT TO PLACE IN THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PATHWAYS STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, **James Booker**, is a second-year doctoral student in the Educational Leadership program. Booker represented PVAMU at the 9th annual symposium, placing in the top one percent among 400 graduate and undergraduate students with his research about the "Effectiveness of the Texas Adult Protective Services Interventions to Reduce Elder Self-Neglect."



Celebration of Past, Present & Future

Celebrating 10 years of achievement on the campus of PVAMU is Lockheed Martin's Storefront, a hidden treasure, tucked away in Farrell Hall. This fall, past and present students of the program came together to commemorate the success of the project.

The innovative program is a way of providing technical learning experience to students while under the mentorship of knowledgeable professionals.

Through the years, Lockheed has seen more than 100 students come through its door. With a 99 percent graduation rate, the program affords students the opportunity to gain experience that cannot be obtained from a textbook. "We provide technical help that enhances the learning experience," said Juan Moreno-Gongora, Storefront manger.

A student participating in the program is afforded the opportunity to work on NASA-related projects, Integrated Mission Planning Systems in Support of Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs. This real-world work experience gives students an advantage when seeking employment.

According to **LeAndre Sanders '10**, a graduate student and current Lockheed employee, he was given his first crack at the corporate world while working at the Storefront. ★ *T. Freeman*



During the 10-year celebration, students, alumni and Lockheed Martin employees discuss the growth of the storefront program.

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GORDON NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN

Kimberly Gordon '92 in the College of Business has a new job, but it hasn't slowed her down a bit.

Gordon has been promoted to assistant dean. She will play a critical role in the retention of College of Business students as well as help shape some of the College's policies for student development. The College of Business has a "two-step admissions process." Gordon will help with both. She will assist and advise Pre-Business students and monitor their progress once fully admitted to the Business program. ★





Maasai, 2006

THE *Art* OF WORSHIP

ACADEMY

22



Photo by T. Freeman

H

is work has been displayed worldwide, from the walls of buildings on the campus of Prairie View A&M University to an exhibit at the University of West Indies in Trinidad. Crossing languages, cultures and even continents, they are all driven by the faith of a minister who moonlights as an artist and a professor.

"Spirituality is at the root of my artwork," said the **Rev. Clarence Talley**. Using African and Biblical references, Talley combines an easy-flowing painting style with realistic images to portray the essence of his people. Many of his works have names associated with faith and spirituality. Among his favorites are "Spiritual Roots" and "Perceptions of Life."

It was at Aaron Street Elementary in Alexandria, La. where his fervor for art flourished. In his third-grade class he saw Donald Culbert drawing sticks and it was then he knew the path that he would take in life.

"I remember being fascinated by what I saw. He could make his figures come alive and look real. I asked him to show me how it was done...it was a lesson I never forgot," Talley said.

A budding artist, Talley won numerous awards in district and state competitions, but he also had a gift beyond the canvas.

When offered a scholarship to study art in Rome, Talley passed and opted for a full four-year track and field scholarship to Southern University in Baton Rouge, La.

While at Southern, Talley honed his talent under the watchful eye of mentor and friend, Frank Hayden, who he said was something like the "Black Michelangelo." Hayden taught Talley the passion to create and constantly produce, and Talley began to throw himself into his work.

Upon graduating from Southern in 1973 with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Art in 1973, Talley headed to Louisiana State University, where he obtained a Master's of Fine Arts in 1975. Shortly after, Talley's life road map landed him at PVAMU, where he taught his first art class on Sept. 16, 1975.

Throughout his 30-plus years at the University, Talley's works have been displayed throughout the campus. With the most notable being the sculpture of Abner Davis located in front of the G.R Woolfolk building.

Talley continues to create and teach art, under the philosophy "Art is everything and everything is art." ★ *T. Freeman*



The Cry, 1987



Vaman named TAMUS Regents Professor

PVAMU [23

Dr. Dhadesugoor R. Vaman, Texas Instruments Endowed Chair Professor in the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering, was recently named as a 2011 Texas A&M University System Regents Professor. Vaman was one of 19 professors and administrators throughout the TAMU System designated by the Board of Regents as Regents Professor or Regents Fellow.

Vaman is also the TI Endowed Chair Professor and Director of ARO Center of Excellence in Battlefield Communications (CeBCoM), which contributes to the development of novel battlefield wireless communications architecture for robust secure multi-service applications. Vaman has published many papers in refereed journals and has lectured both nationally and internationally. He holds more than 30 patents, some of which have been commercialized.

Other Regent Professors from PVAMU include **Dr. Ikhlas Sabouni**, dean of the School of Architecture (1997), **Dr. Diljit K. Chatha**, professor of English (2005), **Dr. Ronald D. Boyd Sr.**, distinguished professor of mechanical engineering (2006) and **Dr. Judy A. Perkins**, professor of civil and environmental engineering (2009). ★

P **Priscilla Barbour** is quite busy these days. Not only is she pursuing a new major—political science—but she is also what many call an overly active student. She's the sophomore class president, a member of Alpha Alpha Sorority, Inc., in PALS, a leader of the Purple Jackets and a student assistant in the governmental affairs office. She volunteers to give campus tours and is already visiting graduate schools.

If that isn't enough, she is also a member of NAACP and Young Democrats. It is within these two organizations that she, along with a few other student leaders, is helping PVAMU students understand the power of voting, including the impact of the controversial Voter ID act.

Critics have suggested that students nationwide will be affected as the proposed photo ID requirement does not include the use of government-issued student identification at polls. This is especially the case at PVAMU as there is history of challenges associated with student voting.

NEW PATH, SAME PASSION

What exactly are you doing to help students understand the importance of voting?

Along with a few other students, I have worked with the Texas League of Voters to get as much information as possible about the Voter ID act. We shared the facts with students and encouraged them to sign petitions that were presented to the Texas Department of Justice in hopes that they would repeal the Voter ID act.

Right now, we are gearing up for the upcoming election by getting students registered to vote. I am sure we will host debates, pass out campaign materials and encourage students to understand the issues the candidate are discussing.

In the 2012 election this November, right?

It's important that students not only vote in the national election, but they need to understand the politics of the local government. So, we have to start there.

Heard you changed your major? What was it before?

I came to PVAMU to become a nurse, but I decided to change my major right after the biennial state budget was released. I noticed what I thought was a lack of regard for educational resources – \$4B in cuts were made to Texas public schools. That move alone motivated me to want to learn more about policy reform and the legislative process. I needed to know why.

That's a pretty far swing from nursing.

24 True. It's a totally different field, but my intent is still to care for people, giving them the best I can.

Do you plan to pursue a political office?

Eventually, yes. However, I haven't decided between a state office or something at the federal level.

What about here on campus?

I am doing what I can to represent my class – I was Miss University College last year, I am sophomore class president now and I am always looking at other ways I can make a difference. Maybe that is serving on the SGA E-board or something else. We will just have to see.

Sounds like you want to live up to the motto, "Prairie View Produces Productive People."

Did anyone else in your family attend here?

No, my family didn't attend PVAMU; but, the ACCESS program (a summer bridge program) definitely prepared me for what was to come. The rigorous schedule required so much discipline. That coupled with the staff that encouraged and influenced me. They still support me now.

Will you encourage your kids to go here?

Of course, they don't have a choice. ★ S. Reed

SCHOLARS



Panther Baseball Participates in

HISTORIC MLB EVENT

The Prairie View A&M baseball program made history the weekend of Feb. 18 as it was one of five Southwestern Athletic Conference baseball programs to play at Minute Maid Park in the annual Major League Baseball Urban Invitational.

The Urban Invitational is the annual round-robin collegiate baseball tournament designed to give HBCUs and their baseball programs national exposure. The 2012 tournament featured five HBCUs: Prairie View A&M, Alabama State, Grambling State, Southern and Texas Southern. NCAA Division-I school University of California, Irvine, also participated in the Urban Invitational.

The Invitational was originally scheduled to be played at the Houston Astros MLB Urban Youth Academy at Sylvester Turner Park in the Acres Home community and Minute Maid Park. However, the Houston area received a downpour of rain before and during the event, which forced every game to be played at Minute Maid Park in Downtown Houston under the retractable roof. The sun finally made an appearance as the Panthers closed out the invitational against Grambling State

with the roof open.

In addition to the action-packed baseball games, the middle day of the tourney featured a college fair, a battle of the bands between PV's Marching Storm and TSU's Ocean of Soul, and performances by Grammy and Tony Award-winning artist Jennifer Holliday and American Idol finalist Paris Bennett. Fourth-year head coach **Waskyla Cullivan '00** and his Prairie View A&M baseball student-athletes also received an opportunity to mingle with current MLB stars and past MLB greats.

Based on the positive response from teams, media and fans, there's a strong possibility the 2013 MLB Urban Invitational will return to Houston! ★ *R. McGinty*

Student Models PV Talent

Senior communications major **Sanerica Davis** took her talents to Black Entertainment Television for a special contest for aspiring models. She entered the network's amateur model search for a chance to earn a spot on its annual "Rip the Runway" fashion show.

Davis is no stranger to the runway or the camera. She's walked in fashion shows all over the country, including Houston and Los Angeles. Plus, her portfolio includes major shots by up and coming photographers. She showed off her talents on a special episode of 106 & Park and solicited viewer votes to secure her spot on the fashion show.

Although Davis wasn't selected, her fellow students turned out in full force to support her through social media. ★



Photo courtesy of Rita G.

COVER
STORY

Female

Bright Lights, Center Field

With distinctive performance styles, marching bands are sometimes known as the heart beat of the HBCU college experience. Inside this close-knit band community, there's yet another level, a secret society. It's a sisterhood that unless you look past the shiny mace, exaggerated hat, cape, fancy whistle and high-energy synchronized movements, you will miss them.

"It's not until my hat comes off that people realize that I'm female," said **Crystal Fitzgerald**, a current PVAMU drum major. That is what puts Fitzgerald into this PVAMU sisterhood of five.



Fitzgerald has always been musically inclined, first playing the piano and later switching to clarinet as a freshman at James Madison High School in Dallas, Texas. Like most unsure but excited high school freshmen, she joined the band hoping to play under Texas' famed "Friday Night Lights."

But the girly-girl was more than a typical participant. She excelled quickly and was named drum major both her junior and senior year. While balancing her academic responsibilities, she provided marching commands, developed routines and composed music.

"Because she was a lover of music and an exceptional leader, there was no doubt that Crystal had the talents to excel on a collegiate level," said Herbert Sanders, who has served as band director at James Madison since 1988. "But she had to see the light within herself before she could really shine."

Even further, not only did her skills stand out, according to Sanders, her caring nature and ability to make others better made her a great person to spearhead his band.

This experience led her to the Prairie View A&M University Marching Storm because of its reputation as one of the nation's most skilled bands, known for its outstanding performances and showmanship of its famed percussion section. She joined the band and majored in music-education but it was not until this year, her senior year, that she stepped into the limelight and accepted additional responsibilities as a drum major.



Photo courtesy of Mark Gordon

We Were First

A role traditionally held by men, there is a stigma in the HBCU community that women cannot handle the strenuous task of leading a 150-, 200-, sometimes 300-member collegiate marching band. But, PVAMU not only challenged this stigma but attacked it head on and made clarinet player, **Adrienne Rowe '94** a drum major in 1991.

"It was an honor to be named one of the first female drum majors of the SWAC back then," said Rowe, who came to PVAMU from the Houston area's Willowridge, a high school band program that enjoys a prized reputation as one of the premier bands in the nation. "What we (female drum majors) went through at Prairie View, opened the door for more females to take center field," Rowe said.

Her statement was underlined even further during the 1993 season; two of the three drum majors were female. **Monica Harris '94**, and Rowe served as the visual icons of the band.

While Rowe was the first to be acknowledged by the competitive conference, she wasn't truly first. **Monica Williams '90** is rumored to be the inaugural leader.

Drum Majors Shine

The Big Switch

The idea of female band members, especially drum majors, is a hot topic. Even now, there are a few well-known programs with few women on their roster. Famous traditional bands, The Marching 100 of Florida A&M University and Southern University's Human Jukebox, recently opened their ranks and now encourage female participation.

According to **William McQueen**, PVAMU band director, nearly 50 percent of PVAMU's band is female. "Of our 260 members at least 120 are ladies. They are very strong musicians and strong marchers," McQueen said.

If you survey Marching Storm members across the years, **Shaunetta Heiskell '96**, who marched from 1994 to 1998, stands out for her leadership and showmanship—just the things that make a great drum major.

The story goes that while the band was shooting a commercial for the Texas Lottery, the assistant band director noticed the freshman's charisma and poise. He leaned over to then director, Professor George Edwards, and said "she's your next drum major."

During the recent Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase, only two of the eight bands had a woman at their helm. In front of a record-breaking 60,000 crowd, PVAMU and Winston-Salem State University's female leaders displayed precision and musicality from one end to the other.

"There's a position and need for female leadership in the world of music," said **Lamon Lawhorn '06**, who is studying for his doctorate of musical arts in percussion performance at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Under his direction as an assistant band director at North Carolina Central University, he has six females in the percussion section.

His reasoning is simple. There has been a shift in society where more women are participating in half-time, not just as majorettes, but playing instruments, leading sections and even serving as program directors.



Staying Connected

There is a close connection among this sisterhood. Fitzgerald stays in contact with her predecessors, speaking with Rowe to gain encouragement and bounce around ideas. While she doesn't speak to the others often, they all share the same love of music and were trained in the clarinet section. Although a young lady, she is supported by all of the band, including her male counterparts.

"I'm not intimidated. It's a privilege to be a part of something that is male dominated," said Fitzgerald.

As half-time commences, all eyes are on the drum majors who are stationed centerfield. Their short but high-impact performance warms up the crowd as the band enters the field. Just like her fellow drum majors, Crystal gives it her all. She makes sure that once her feet hit the turf, she shines for her sisters. ★ *S. Reed and T. Freeman*

PVAMU [27]



Drum major Crystal Fitzgerald prepares to take the field at the annual State Fair Classic football game. She is one of five female drum majors who has led the University's marching band, the Marching Storm.

STUDENTS+ FACULTY+ FREE= INCOME • TAX PREPARATION

Families in Waller County had one less thing to worry about during tax time thanks to a service offered by PVAMU.

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, coordinated annually by Associate Professor **William Vetter**, PVAMU's College of Business provides free tax preparation for individuals and families, students, senior citizens and others in Waller County and northwest Harris County from January to mid-April. The program is in its ninth year.

After the Internal Revenue Service noted individuals in the county were not taking advantage of the earned income tax credit (EITC), they collaborated with the University to increase awareness and education.

According to Janet Bradford with the IRS in Houston, the refundable credits provided by the EITC can provide thousands of dollars to families to improve their standard of living and provide an asset-building opportunity.

Volunteer preparers for the PVAMU VITA sites included business students, staff members from Prairie View A&M University's Cooperative Extension Program, the Houston Korean-American Association, the Waller ISD English as a Second Language (ESL) program and the City of Houston Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.

This unique alliance of partners combined with specialized training and certification from the IRS allowed the PVAMU VITA preparers to assist families in English, Spanish, Korean and via American Sign Language. ★

Oluwatobi O. Olabiya was recently honored by the National Society of Black Engineers. The engineering graduate student, who is pursuing an electrical engineering doctoral degree, was honored as the 2012 Graduate Student of the Year during the organization's 15th Annual Golden Torch Awards.

Engineering Student Receives National Honor

Each year, a student is honored for their community service and for acting as a role model for African-Americans within the engineering industry.

No stranger to awards, Olabiya was the recipient of the prestigious Roy G. Perry College of Engineering's outstanding graduate student award based on his scholastic and research achievements. Throughout his academic career, his research efforts have resulted in more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, which have been presented at prestigious conferences and published in international refereed journals. He also serves as a mentor to younger students, encouraging them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering or math.

★ S. Reed



Photo by C. Landry



Photo by C. Walker

The United State Marine Corps used Homecoming 2011 as an opportunity to acknowledge the work of both current and former student leaders.

Holding plaques presented by the U.S. Marine Corps are **Nicholas Hallman** (left), 2011-12 SGA executive vice president; **Bobby J. Smith**, 2010-11 SGA president; and **Jarren J. Small**, 2011-12 SGA president. Each of the men received the Marines' Honor, Courage and Commitment Award.



DOWN, NOT OUT

Student-athlete bounces back after life-changing injury

I

t's September 2010 and the Prairie View A&M Panther football team is preparing to play a storied rival in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, the Grambling State Tigers.

On the second drive of the third quarter **K.J. Black** dropped back for a pass, while **Anthony Wilson**, the center of the offensive line, blocked opponents to protect him. Within a few seconds, Wilson is laying down, barely moving. A player from Grambling fell on the back of his ankle.

Wilson said, "When the player fell on me, I heard my ankle snap and I knew it was not a good thing."

The injury was severe. His fibula and tibia were broken and his ankle was dislocated. While riding in the ambulance to the hospital, Wilson knew that he wouldn't play football again. But the fear of dropping out of school was weighing on him even more. As a student-athlete on scholarship, he feared PVAMU would drop his scholarship.

While out, he did not have much contact with Prairie View or the football coaches. Newly named Head Football Coach **Heishma Northern** called Wilson asking him to come back and help the team off the field. Wilson thought about it and agreed to be an equipment manger.

Nearly 18 months, two surgeries, and hundreds of hours of rehabilitation later, Wilson stepped back onto the field.

"I chose to accept the position so I could help my teammates get their equipment and prevent them from getting injuries themselves. Looking back, I believe it was a blessing and I thank Prairie View for not looking past me even though I could not play football any more," Wilson said.

Now, the junior human performance major from Flower Mound, Texas, wants to graduate, teach health or political science and coach football.

Wilson said, "Don't let things stop you from being what you want to be. Keep pushing forward even though it seems like you cannot. Eventually things will work out for you."

In everything that has transpired over the last three years, Wilson has kept an optimistic attitude and leans on his offensive coach's teachings to make it through life.

"Coach Prince Pearson always told me to not give up on things. You always have to fight for what you want, and things are not handed to you," Wilson said. ★ *Christopher King II, student intern*

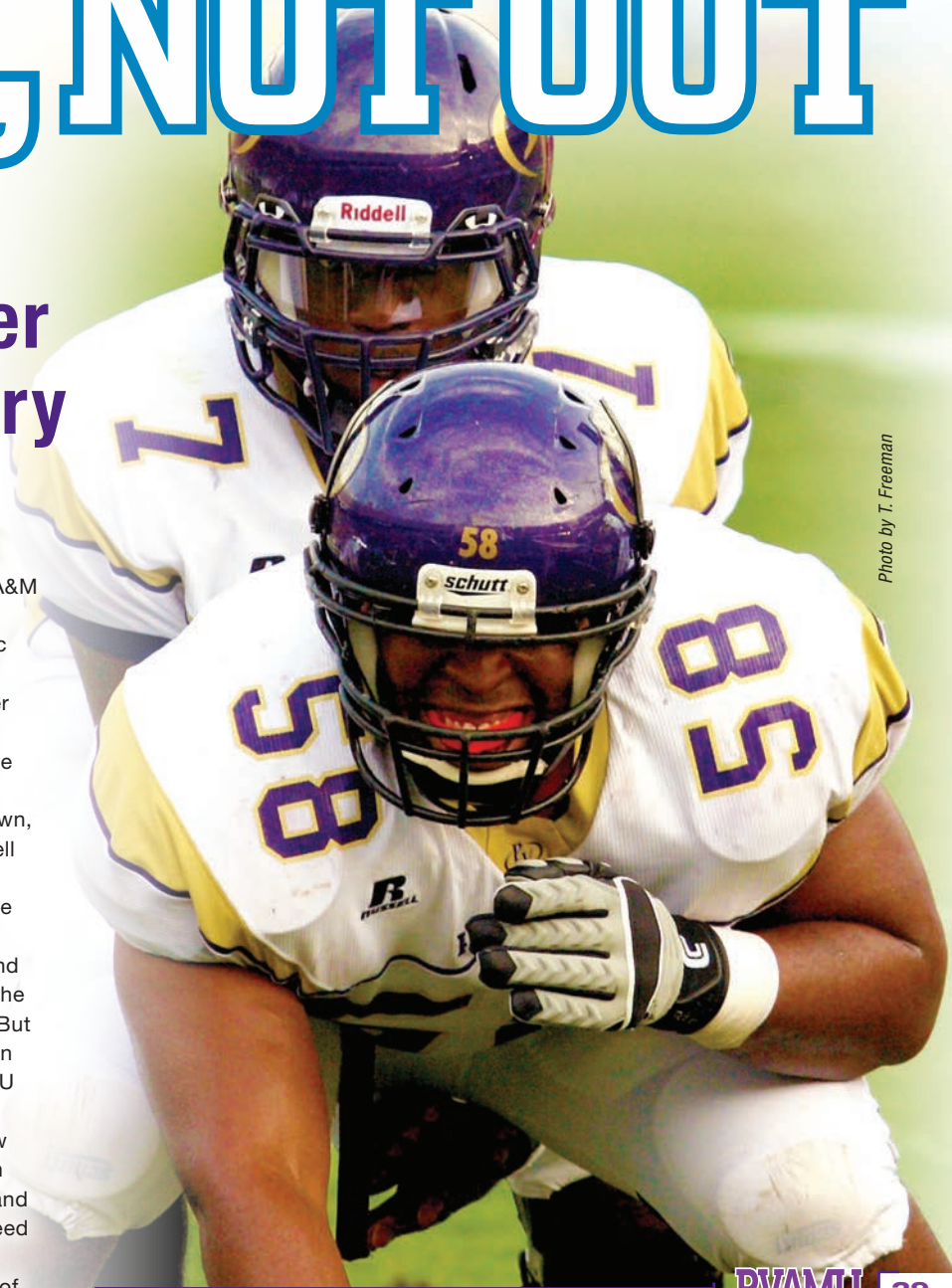


Photo by T. Freeman

PVAMU 29

Students in Free Enterprise received a \$1,500 grant from Wal-Mart for WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

This project is designed to empower women by providing entrepreneurial and workforce skills to women via SIFE, enabling them to contribute to their families' financial success. Led by President **Alexus Hall** with assistance from adviser **Dr. Rick Baldwin**, SIFE kicked off the semester by attending a leadership and development conference in Dallas. ★

SIFE®
Changing
the World.

Students Participating in



Transcendent Knowledge

SPIT Knowledge Expands the Classroom



Photo by R. Versey

Students receive first-hand knowledge from presenters who have an enormous ability to communicate with the younger “hip-hop” generation. They challenge the opinions and ideas of students, opposing viewpoints and alternate views.

“We recognize that true learning isn’t confined to a room with four walls, desks and a chalkboard,” said **Isis McCraw '02/'06**, special programs coordinator and SPIT Knowledge organizer.

“By bringing in these guest lecturers, we expose students to different views and ideas. Many of our guests are well-known and very vocal about a number of issues,” McCraw said. “As a result, our students’ views are challenged and they see things in a new light.”

According to McCraw, students have been receptive to the idea of the lectures complementing their traditional classroom learning. Each lecture averages about 300 students. The program has brought such high-profile figures as Black Panther founder Bobby Seale, Essence Editor Emeritus Susan L. Taylor (top), and hip-hop pioneer Chuck D.

The program reached new heights in November 2011 when Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan was the featured lecturer (right). The address, which focused on the importance of agriculture and self-sufficiency, marked the largest lecture in the program’s history thanks to an audience that was 3,000-strong.

“With guests like Gen. Honoré, Susan Taylor and Bobby Seale, our students get the opportunity to learn history first hand from the history makers,” McCraw said. “SPIT offers invaluable experiences.”

The spring 2012 semester recently brought Gen. Russel Honoré to “The Hill.” Honoré catapulted into the national spotlight in the days following Hurricane Katrina. His leadership is credited with organizing relief efforts in New Orleans. The program completed the semester in March with a lecture from Judge Glenda Hatchett, famous for her courtroom television show, “Judge Hatchett.” ★ *T. Freeman and C. Landry*

N

ot all learning is done in the classroom. Ask any student and they’ll tell you that some of the most powerful lessons are learned in other places.

The same line of thinking has given birth to Students Participating in Transcendent Knowledge.

SPIT Knowledge is a modern-day twist to traditional college lecture series programs. It offers a diverse genre of speakers to our students and surrounding community to inform and stimulate interests that otherwise may not have been aroused in a traditional classroom setting.

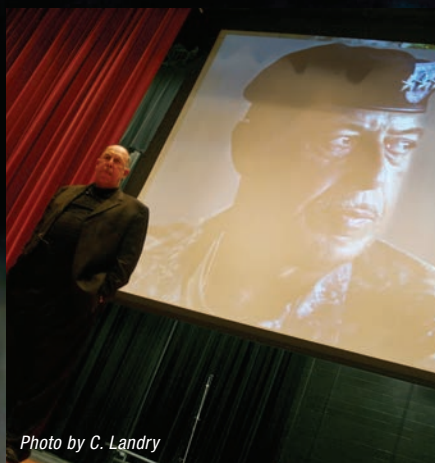


Photo by C. Landry

During a 2012 SPIT Knowledge lecture series, Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, who is retired from the U.S. Army, spoke with students about his experiences when he led Task Force Katrina in the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast in the summer of 2005.



Photo by R. Versey



Student Organizations Improve the Community

"The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never say 'I'. And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say 'I'. They don't think 'I'. They think 'we'; they think 'team.' They understand their job to be to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but 'we' gets the credit.... This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done." A quote from Peter Drucker dots the end of **Travis Reed's** email.

A quote of such strong sentiment may not belong in the signature line of many 20-year-olds, but as the president of the PVAMU chapter of The Collegiate 100, it's something the young man who is studying architecture and construction science lives.

"You find a way to pull together and get the work done," says Reed, who was one of the organization's first members when it was brought back to campus in late 2011. "It's not about me or any of the Collegiate 100 members. It's about doing the work needed to support the community."

As a youth auxiliary of the international community service organization, 100 Black Men of America, the group of college-age men works to develop other young men through mentoring. Connected to the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston, Inc., Prairie View's chapter is living up to its purpose. Twice a month, members work with 30 8th-12th graders, providing information on college life and tutoring math and science. They teamed up with Highland Heights Elementary in Acres Home for the HISD Real Men Read Program and distributed literature on campus about Breast Cancer Awareness.

The chapter is participating in the in-school mentoring programs at Cy-Fair Elementary, where they provide pep talks on college and life, in general, and they have established the Boys2Men mentoring program for freshmen on campus.

The 75-member organization made up of students majoring in everything **PVAMU** [31] from business to education and participating in other groups, including football and the student government association, work alongside a group of young ladies with a similar focus—100 Collegiate Women of America.

The first of its kind nationally, the young ladies have several key programs during the spring 2012 semester to live out their motto of engaging, educating, empowering and inspiring others to greatness.

Like their male counterparts, the 41 members are addressing things plaguing the African-American community. Plans are underway for a childhood literacy program, which includes collecting donated books to share with middle-school students in Waller and Harris County. Under the direction of their president, **Elexia Robinson-White**, the group is also attacking childhood obesity through a program that will show kids ways to have fun in a healthy way. They will also develop care packages from troops still stationed overseas. ★ **Christopher King II**, student intern



The PVAMU chapter of Collegiate 100 hosted a male youth summit in February, when some 800 young men were charged to become responsible men of their community.

Photo by R. Versey



Student-Athletes

Fare Well in Academic Arena

**COVER
STORY**

PVAMU student-athletes don't take either portion of their titles lightly. As athletes, they perform on the field, track and court at the highest level and in the classroom, they rival some of the best scholastic efforts on campus.

This fall, the Panther soccer team was recognized for its outstanding academic performance by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). The ladies, who narrowly missed the championship round of the 2010-11 Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament, received the Team Academic Award, which recognizes collegiate teams that reached a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The 22-member team maintained a combined GPA of 3.01 for the 2010-11 academic year.

The athletic department has been recognized for its academic prowess over the past few years. PVAMU recently earned the Southwestern Athletic Conference's Institutional Academic Excellence Award as a total of 116 student-athletes achieved GPA's of 3.0 or higher during the 2010-11 academic year. ★ *Sylvia Vasquez, student intern*

SCHOLARS

32

Greek Life Returns to PVAMU



Photo by John Posey



Although, Forward/Mid-Fielder **Maria Sanchez** didn't finish the season because of an injury, her academic performance in the classroom helped the Panther soccer team be recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Average GPAs 2010-2011 School Year

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Men's Baseball | 2.759 |
| Men's Basketball | 2.294 |
| Men's Cross Country | 2.802 |
| Men's Football | 2.400 |
| Men's Golf | 2.906 |
| Men's Tennis | 3.307 |
| Men's Track & Field (Indoor) | 2.675 |
| Men's Track & Field (Outdoor) | 2.675 |
| Women's Basketball | 2.944 |
| Women's Bowling | 3.041 |
| Women's Cross Country | 2.827 |
| Women's Golf | 3.032 |
| Women's Soccer | 3.031 |
| Women's Softball | 2.911 |
| Women's Tennis | 3.326 |
| Women's Track & Field (Indoor) | 2.824 |
| Women's Track & Field (Outdoor) | 2.824 |
| Women's Volleyball | 3.159 |

More than 300 students now proudly wear their organization's letters and represent their cardinal principles after participating in the University's newly revised membership intake process.

Following a moratorium, procedures were evaluated and revised in the wake an investigation surrounding the death of student Donnie Wade in 2009. Students interested in joining an organization are required to possess a 2.8 GPA or higher, conduct community service, have no student-conduct violations and must complete a Greek Life Perspectives workshop. PVAMU chapters* of Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta (featured left), Sigma Gamma Rho, Gamma Sigma Sigma, Kappa Delta Chi, Alpha Psi Lambda, Sigma Lambda Gamma, Sigma Lambda Beta and Phi Mu Alpha accepted new members this spring. ★ *at press time

Mail

Inbox (1)
Unread Mail (1)
For Follow Up
Sent Items

Inbox

Today



Prairie View A&M University

FW: Student Email System Enhanced !

To: allstudents@pvamu.edu

Cc: allfaculty/staff@pvamu.edu

Attachments:

The University has partnered with Google to expand the life line of student email addresses and enhance the use of technology. With the partnership, the familiar @pvamu.edu has been changed to @student.pvamu.edu, giving a distinction between faculty/staff and student email addresses.

Also, providing a home portal, PVPlace provides students access to Panthertracks, financial aid, announcements and news. After logging into PVPlace, students are able to access all of their information much like popular news portals such as Yahoo, MSN or Google. A similar extension is being developed for graduates. ★

PVAMU

33



TAMUS Chancellor

John Sharp visits Prairie View A&M University

Veteran public servant **John Sharp** was formally named chancellor of The Texas A&M University System in September 2010. Within weeks of his appointment, Sharp visited several TAMUS campuses including PVAMU. After spending the day meeting with various administrators an open forum was held for him to hear more about campus needs, share his philosophy and to interact with alumni, faculty, students and community members.

Sharp comes to the A&M System from Ryan & Co., the largest state and local tax consulting firm in Texas. He has served in the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, as the Texas Railroad Commission and as Texas Comptroller. ★



Students Attend Leadership Conference

Four Prairie View A&M student leaders attended the annual Hatton W. Sumners Student Ethical Leadership Conference at the University of Texas to network and learn about becoming an ethical leader in an unethical world. **Priscilla Barbour** (left), **DeMario Lowe**, **Jasmine Price** and **Alan Campos** will use the information they learned to update policies and procedures in the Student Government Association. Each year, PVAMU sends a contingency of students to the program that is geared toward developing leaders for tomorrow. ★

SUPPORT THE ALUMNI GIVING CAMPAIGN

Prairie View A&M University's alumni giving campaign is the central component of the PVAMU Annual Fund. Designed to raise unrestricted gifts which can be used for academic programs, student initiatives and other campus projects, these gifts are often the only source of discretionary funds available to respond to unforeseen opportunities and needs. All donations are tax deductible.

Enclose your check or money order for \$50, \$100, \$200 or the gift amount of your choice in the envelope provided. Indicate one of the following giving opportunities in the memo line:



- Greatest Need of the University
- Student Leadership Development
- General University Scholarship Fund
- College/School/Department of your choice
- Sports Complex
- Athletics

Give online at www.pvamu.edu/giving

Noteworthy

Student newspaper brings home top prize

The Panther newspaper staff attended the Black College Communication Association's 14th Annual Historically Black College and University New Media Conference in Norfolk, Va., this spring. The student newspaper secured first place in the category of Best Newspaper produced weekly or less.

Prairie View students have attended this conference all 14 years it has been in existence and received several honorable mentions, second and third-place awards, including awards for best sports story, best layout, best news story, best headline and best spot news story. Last year, the staff received its first, first-place award for a news story written by then Editor-in-Chief **Whitney Harris '10**. The article covered a stabbing that occurred on campus.

Howard University's The Hilltop won best newspaper in the category of papers that published more than once a week. ★ *Scheane Brown, Student Contributor*





Nicks gets a new floor

Through collaborative efforts of several student-athletes, athletic team coaches and administration, Panther athletes played on a newly renovated floor in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Sr. Building this season. As part of ongoing upkeep and maintenance, the floor was refinished and sealed. New graphics were incorporated into the design, which features black baselines and the Prairie View A&M Panther logo embedded in the state of Texas prominently at center court.

The gym will see additional enhancements in the coming months, including weight room renovations, upgraded locker rooms, a renovated corridor, and enhanced restrooms and concessions. The field house will also be fitted with purple chairback seats for all fans. ★



Pulitzer-prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks will visit campus this spring. As a guest of The Writing Center, Title III, the Department of Languages & Communication, the Department of Music and Theatre, the J.B. Coleman Library, and the iRead program, she will discuss her projects such as *The Great Debaters*, *In the Blood*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Porgy and Bess*. ★



2012 Football Schedule

- Sept. 1 **LABOR DAY CLASSIC**
vs. Texas Southern
- Sept. 8 at Lamar University
- Sept. 15 at Alabama A&M University
- Sept. 22 at North Dakota State
- Sept. 29 at Jackson State
- Oct. 6 **STATE FAIR CLASSIC**
vs. Grambling University
- Oct. 13 Open
- Oct. 20 **HOMECOMING**
vs. Alcorn State
- Oct. 27 **SHREVEPORT CLASSIC**
vs. Southern University
- Nov. 3 vs. Alabama State
- Nov. 10 at Mississippi Valley
State University
- Nov. 17 at University of Arkansas
at Pine Bluff
- Dec. 8 **SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP**

Votes are in from the NAME THAT PANTHER! CONTEST

After an influx of submissions on
[facebook.com/pvamu](https://www.facebook.com/pvamu),
the name of the
upbeat feline is...

Sasha

Be on the lookout for her at all PVAMU events!





Thompson Selected as Commencement Speaker

Texas State Representative **Senfronia Thompson** (D-Houston) will serve as the spring 2012 commencement speaker.

Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 12 in the William "Billy" J. Nicks Sr. Health and Physical Education Building at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Thompson represents the Northeast Houston and Humble areas and has earned the distinction of serving longer in the legislature than any other woman or African-American in Texas history. She is currently serving her 20th term. ★

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A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS OF EACH PLATE SOLD GOES TO SUPPORT PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.



Since 2004, **THE HUMANITARIAN AWARD** has recognized a PVAMU student and PVAMU community member whose life and humanitarian service clearly embody a true spirit of love and helpfulness to others. The award inspires students, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the community to live a productive life dedicated to responding to the unmet needs of others. Nominations are accepted year-round and information can be found at www.pvamu.edu/humanitarian.

The 2012 recipients will be honored during spring commencement ceremonies on May 12, 2012, and will receive a custom medallion. ★

Student Humanitarian Award Recipients

2004-2005 Lorie Michelle Freeman
2005-2006 Cory Brett Neblett
2006-2007 Erika Lauren Green
2007-2008 Carlton E. Singleton
2008-2009 Johnnie L. Jones III
2009-2010 LaToya Wolfe
2010-2011 Shonari Mondesir

Community Humanitarian Award Recipients

2004-2005 Joseph Alexander Scott Jr.
2005-2006 Wesley D. Ratcliff
2006-2007 Willie and Mell Pruitt
2007-2008 Louise T. Becton
2008-2009 Lee Winslett
2009-2010 James Tatum
2010-2011 Lettie Raab



SCAVENGER HUNT

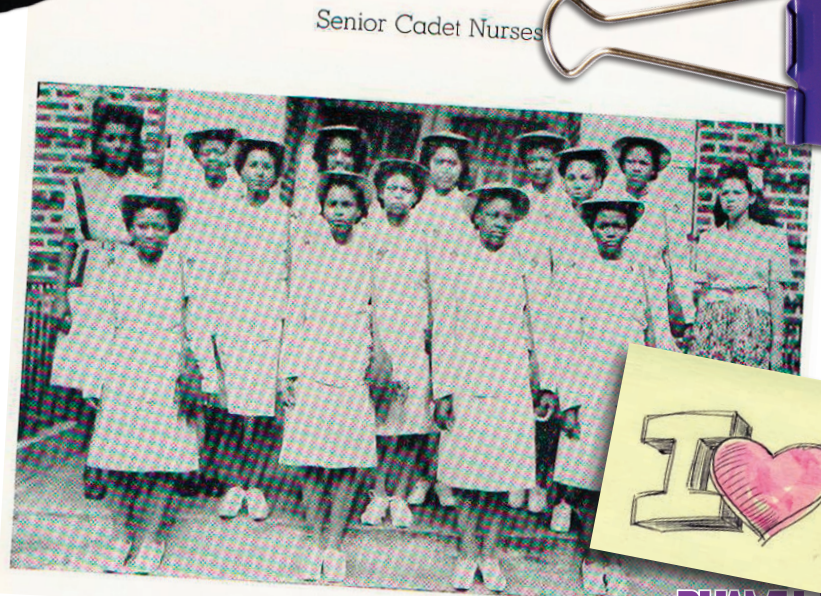
I'm located at the peak of the tallest structure in Waller County. Five flights or a push of a button will have you at my front door. Filled with rich knowledge and breathtaking artifacts, I house the vast history of this prestigious University.

WHO AM I YOU ASK?

I am the Special Collections/Archives Department.

The Special Collections/Archives Department is located on the fifth floor, room 505 of the John B. Coleman Library. Patrons may visit to gain information for personal, collegiate or University use. The archivists will assist with requests. Although materials obtained may not be removed from the building, they may be copied, with restrictions.

For more information: www.pvamu.edu/library



PVAMU 37



[Wendel Bushman Falla Eckford](#)

Great Homecoming this year. The Panther sculpture is beautiful! Everyone who is an alumni needs to have their photo taken in front of the Panther!

[Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Share](#)

[Prince Jones](#)

Can't wait to start fall 2012! Yay

PVAMU

Stay informed of the happenings on "The Hill." Interactive social media allows friends and followers to engage in discussions, make note of events, and view and share photos.★



JudgeGHatchett

Speaking at Prairie ViewA&M in Texas....I DARE YOU...to live your life on purpose with passion!

Toyelle Wilson@CoachToyelleW

"Success is often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable."
-Coco Chanel

facebook.com/pvamu

twitter@PVAMU

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.

FIRST STRIKE

Bowling Captures Championship

The third time was the charm for the Prairie View A&M bowling team as it captured its first SWAC Bowling Championship in University history with two dramatic victories over nationally ranked Alabama A&M. Each year, the team took a gradual step toward learning how to win the big one as it fell 4-0 to Alabama A&M in 2010, followed by a heart-breaking loss to Southern in a memorable tiebreaker format in 2011. ★



SWAC

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE®



SECOND STRAIGHT

Lady Panthers Win Championship

Under the direction of second-year head coach **Toyelle Wilson**, the Lady Panthers captured their fourth NCAA berth after an exciting SWAC Tournament run which culminated with a win over Alcorn State University. Junior guard **Latia Williams** carried her team in the second half of game, scoring 20 of her 24 points in the final 20 minutes as the Lady Panthers beat Alcorn State 63-50. ★



Photos by John Posey