



A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Spring★2013

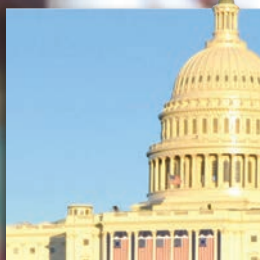
PRAIRIE VIEW

RSITY

Wilson Leads Lady Panthers to the Top



Blair's Tenure Extends Beyond his Term



Nearly 300 Students Attend 2013 Inauguration



Success Always Finds Washington

Under Construction

Our facilities and maintenance department has been pretty busy over the last few months. Workers are up to their elbows in blueprints, graphs, charts and plans for all of the new projects happening around the campus. In just a few years, the campus will look different. It's starting to take shape now.

If you have not visited recently, you haven't seen the new campus entrance, complete with a retention pond and wrought-iron gates that flank the borders of campus. That's only the start. This summer we will break ground on a new recreation and wellness center and with the help of a student referendum, (pg.3) we are well on our way to a new football stadium. In the meantime, you will begin to see changes at the William "Billy" J. Nicks, Sr. Fieldhouse, the baseball field and the track.

Even the administration is changing. As I complete my 10th year, there are some key administrative positions that will be filled soon (pg.19). As you know, we are in the middle of searching for a new athletic director after Fred Washington, who served as vice president auxiliary services as well as athletic director, stepped down from the director post to focus on auxiliary operations. Under his direction there have been many accomplishments such as 13 championships, including a football championship in 2009, three women's basketball championships, two



bowling titles and two Commissioner's Cup awards. Dr. Michael McFrazier has also been named the Vice President for Administration and Dr. Terence Hicks assumes the deanship of the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education.

Indeed, the ideas and insight of these individuals will carry Prairie View into the future.

Although we are changing, there are a few things that remain the same – the passion of our students, the impact of our staff and the success of our graduates.

Student Government President Harrison Blair made an impact this year through his works and passion for his school (pg.22). That impact will be remembered for years to come and, as a result, he has set the bar high for the next group of leaders, which include the first female student body president in nearly 14 years, Priscilla Barbour (pg.2). Women's basketball coach Toyelle Wilson (pg. 16) has also set the bar for those whom she coaches, plays against and even recruits. Her track record of winning is one for the record books. Recent graduate Alex Reid broadcast her success on national television as she competed in a weight loss competition (pg.12). Without even knowing it, she used her Prairie View experiences to carry her through the tough days. During this year's Gala, our supporters responded the way we expected. In the weeks prior to the April 13 event, we were sold out and today we are still receiving donations to support the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences.

Things like this make the job easy. Sure, I will need to wear a hard hat to work some days while the construction is occurring, but because I know we are building a better PVAMU, I do not mind at all. ★

George C. Wright



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New Reading List Under Way

It's no secret that President George C. Wright is an avid reader and has an extensive personal library to prove it. He made reading a centerpiece of his presidency, from the Increasing Reading for Academic Development (iREAD) initiative to publishing a recommended reading list that includes classics such as Richard Wright's "Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth."

In conjunction with Wright's 10th anniversary as president, a new list is being created to reflect the favorite books of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of PVAMU. Do you have a book that you feel everyone should read? Submit your entries to publicrelations@pvamu.edu.

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1876

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PVAMU

www.pvamu.edu



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F

or some, a presidential inauguration is something memorable to watch on television every four years in January. But for a number of PVAMU students, it was a reality – live.

Two hundred thirty-six PVAMU students traveled to the second inauguration of President Barack Obama in January. The group was the largest delegation that PVAMU has sent to the festivities. While in D.C. the students toured historic sites and met with Texas Sen. John Cornyn.

Although the trip was a first for the majority of the students, it was not the first time PVAMU has had a presence at a presidential inauguration. In 2001, members of the Marching Storm band participated in the inauguration of President George W. Bush and a contingency of students attended the first inauguration of President Obama in 2009.

The trip was an appropriate capstone to a semester of politically engaging activities. From a voter registration drive to a voter awareness campaign, the student body has demonstrated a passion for political awareness. Their efforts were even featured in a PBS documentary about political engagement. ★ C. Landry

Students View at Inauguration

COVER
STORY

2

Photo by D. Dangerfield



the View
**Voters elect
first female
president
in over a
decade**

Students pass referendum to support sports complex

Jerry Lovelocke took a chance and came to PVAMU. He believed in the coach and knew he could come here and win. The facilities were a factor, but they didn't stop him from moving 1,600 miles away from Maryland to play football. It's three years later and he still believes in the team, the coach and the future. But facilities do matter. So much so, that he cast his vote to approve a \$15 per credit hour fee (\$180 per semester) to help secure a sports complex.

As the quarterback of the Panther football team, he and other student athletes stood with the Student Government Association to ensure the vote passed.

According to Jarrick Brown, SGA vice president, their vote was the most important piece of the puzzle.

"Even though the athletic complex would benefit the entire student body, it directly affects and benefits the student athletes," said Brown, who served as the committee head of the project. "Their support was influential in helping get as many people out as possible."

The vote brought out the most votes ever for a student referendum, and should help fund the construction of a football stadium and renovation of several athletic facilities including the William "Billy" J. Nicks Sr. Fieldhouse, a new track and upgrades to the baseball and soccer fields.

"The students showed they were putting everything on the table to make a stadium a reality," Fred Washington, athletics director said. "They rallied together and got the support necessary to get a difficult vote passed. It showed their pride in their school and confidence in the athletics program."

The fee, which goes into effect this fall, should yield nearly \$2.8 million in the first year. The funds will accompany the money raised by the PVAMU Foundation.

The project will cost a projected \$50 million. A complete timetable for the start hasn't been determined, however, at least \$7 million of the required funds must be raised for the plan to commence. Fundraising will continue but it won't delay the process of updating facilities, chief financial officer, Corey S. Bradford said.

The University has already initiated several projects including updating the baseball field renovations to the William J. Nicks Fieldhouse and the student recreational center. The fee will help fund other projects including the football stadium. ★ S. Reed

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History



Priscilla Barbour, a political science major from Dallas, became the first woman SGA President in 14 years. Her platform, **L.E.A.D.**, encouraged students to find a way to **Love** their university. She will also focus on **Educating** the world on the excellence of PVAMU and encouraging students to **Appreciate** their collegiate experience. Her goal will also be to **Develop** the brand of PVAMU through its students.

"L.E.A.D was not just a campaign slogan, but it is a call to action," said Barbour who has been active in SGA since she entered as a freshman. "It's the request for students to take the initiative and to understand that they represent something greater than themselves. They represent Prairie View."

The position did not come without its share of complexity. Barbour was named president following a challenge of the results, an appeal and finally a ruling by the SGA appeals committee.

"This year's election was one for the record books," said Laretta F. Byars, vice president for student affairs and institutional advancement. "More than 2,000 votes were cast, which is the highest voter participation in PVAMU's history." ★ S. Reed



Gala Honors Contributions of Arts and Sciences



This year's Gala was full of reflection, fellowship and ceremony. But the event was about so much more.

While participants reflected on the work of the Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences, they got a tangible example of the College's work and capabilities of its students. Members of the famed Charles Gilpin Players took to the stage in a rousing performance of "Jelly's Last Jam." Filled with music, dance and soulful performances, the students wowed those gathered to share in the successes of the College.

Gala 2013 celebrated the rich legacy of the College with the theme of "Celebrating Our Traditions in the Arts and Sciences." The evening featured a dinner recognizing the Shell Oil Company as the Cluster Company of the Year. Dr. Edward W. Martin, dean emeritus of the College, received the President's View and Vision award.

The Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences is the largest academic unit of the University. The College is comprised of nine departments and divisions (biology, chemistry, language and communications, social work, behavioral and political sciences, mathematics, music and theatre, Army ROTC and Navy ROTC and the solar observatory). The College is home to the famed Marching Storm and the Gilpin Players.

"This year's Gala was truly an event that captured the essence of Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences," said Dean **Danny R. Kelley '69**. "We are proud of the College's tradition and the Gala proved that the work done here has touched the lives of so many and continues to do so."

The event also served as a fundraiser. Preliminary totals show the Gala raised nearly \$140,000 in funds for scholarships. ★ C. Landry





Celebrating Traditions



Photos by C. Walker

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RETAIL CENTER WILL ANCHOR ENTRANCE OF MAIN CAMPUS

New additions to the south entrance of campus are on the horizon. Soon the corner of University Drive at Owens Road will be transformed to include a new retail center that many expect will infuse the area with new life.

The proposed 36,000 square foot facility will consist of six to eight merchant shops, a bowling center, food court and a possible small grocery store.

"We truly hope that we are able to reinvigorate the area by bringing a few national retailers to town as well as support the growing student body by offering jobs and additional dining and entertainment options," said **Tressy Wilson '94/'97**, assistant vice president for auxiliary enterprises.

E.M. Norris Street will connect the site to the newest housing facility, University View, which is situated directly behind the Nathelyne Archie Kennedy Building.

Plans are under way for a spring 2014 opening. ★ J. Peevy



Illustrations courtesy of OC&A Architects

Prairie View A&M University wasn't even an option for Fred Washington as a high school senior counting down the days to graduation. Truth be told, neither was a career in the military, an accounting degree or much else. But two degrees, 23 years in the military, 18 years at PVAMU and seven different titles later, it's clear that while Prairie View may not have been an option, it was the best choice.

"In all honesty, I wasn't considering Prairie View for college," said Washington who was raised in Ohio but graduated from Killeen High School. "I was set on attending The Ohio State University but my mom shot that down."

During Washington's childhood in Columbus, Ohio, it was easy to hear about all of the good things happening on the OSU campus.

"The Ohio State Buckeyes were all anyone I knew talked about. In my opinion, they had the best colors and the best sports teams. I knew I wanted to go there," Washington remembered.

Outside of that, he never knew much else about college.

"I am the first person in my entire family to graduate or even attend college, so my family didn't talk much about what you did after high school other than work," he recalls.

His mom, a Panamanian immigrant with limited access to education, had a different plan for her son's life. Without his knowledge she completed the required admissions paperwork for Prairie View A&M and mailed it in herself.

It's a decision that changed not only his life but his entire family's life.

As the only boy with six sisters, he served as a leader and role model without even knowing it.

"College should become for us the expectation not the exception," he said.

That philosophy is what has guided him throughout his career and lifetime.

He's held more than a few roles at PVAMU - business manager of auxiliary services, director of auxiliary services, assistant vice president for finance and administration, vice president for administration and auxiliary services and athletic director. Now, he is vice president of auxiliary enterprises.

That's just at Prairie View. As a dual career employee, he also worked through the ranks of the military, earning additional responsibility and management skills. This February, he retired as a major after 23 years in the Army Reserves.

This is a somewhat interesting turn of events for someone who never considered the military. Even as the son of a military man and a resident of Killeen, one of the largest military bases in North America, it wasn't on this list of things to do.

6 "The military helped me do things I never would have had the chance to do or even consider doing," Washington said. "I have seen



things, been places and had access to resources that I wouldn't have had if not for the military."

Like so many things in his life, it happened by chance.

After enrolling in school he found that he didn't have a dorm assignment.

After a walk through the Memorial Student Center and a conversation with a recruiter, he not only had a room, but he was signed up for ROTC. Years later the friends he made during training are still some of his closest friends today.

The same may be the case for his most recent role as athletic director. What he has gained will affect him for years to come.

"As director, I have come to understand how many areas touch our athletic program and our student-athletes," Washington said. "In the end they are students first. Many of them will not go on to compete professionally in their respective sport, and as a result, it is critical that

we ensure they are prepared for their future beyond their college years and eligibility."

In 2009, Washington was named athletic director after serving in the role as interim. During his tenure, the department garnered 13 championships including the first football championship in 45 years, three consecutive women's basketball SWAC Conference Championships that ushered in bids to the NCAA Tournament and conference wins in baseball, bowling and track. The Panthers also earned their first Commissioner's Cup and several academic excellence awards.

Washington stepped down from the role to focus on expanding the University's auxiliary operations, which include a new retail center and the expansion of student housing, but as before, that's just what the assignment is today. Who knows what it will evolve into. ★ S. Reed



Unplanned Success PROUD

For **Adrian Hamilton**, stepping onto the field in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome for Super Bowl XLVII was a sure sign that his hard work and dedication had paid off. But his road to the big game was not easy. After an impressive record-breaking collegiate career as a defensive end, Hamilton found himself faced with several challenges during his rookie year as a professional football player. After overcoming injuries and being released from his hometown team, the Dallas Cowboys, Hamilton found a spot with the Baltimore Ravens.

Favorite food? Fried catfish

One thing you can't live without? My mom

Favorite movie? Friday Night Lights

What is the first thing you did after your team won the Superbowl? "Oh, Thank you Lord!"

Best Super Bowl Half-time performance of all-time? Janet Jackson.

Most unforgettable PVAMU moment? Breaking the SWAC record for the number of sacks ★



Photo by C. Landry

Alumni *view*points



Photo by Dani Rogers

Melynda Price '95, associate professor of law at the University of Kentucky, brought her passion for African-American history to life during a recent visit to campus as part of the President's Lecture Series. Price spoke from her own scholarly interests taking a cue from official themes of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History presenting "Trayvon and the Lynching Tree: Why we are not yet emancipated."

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What did you eat for breakfast?

My mother's homemade bread pudding. It is rare these days, so when it is in the house, I eat it immediately.

Favorite legal drama on TV? The Wire, because it shows the system from all sides and demonstrates the way the law affects communities.

Best advice you have been given? Put your mask on first. I travel a lot and most of the time my 3-year old son James is with me. This has now become a metaphor to remind me that self-care and self-awareness are critical to being successful.

What is your favorite time of day? As Frankie Beverly and Maze would say, the golden time of day. I love dusk.

Most unforgettable PV Moment? There are so many. Graduation, professors, parties, friends. I can not pick just one. ★
C. Johnson

STATE OF THE PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY National Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of our great University,

I would like to thank each of you for the support I have received during my two terms as NAA President. This includes JSC chapter members, fellow PVAMU Class of 1978, the past presidents of the NAA, chapter presidents, the PVAMU Foundation trustees, President George Wright, other university officials and most importantly, my wife and fellow alumna, Gladys Marie Pikes-Morris.

I have been blessed by having such a great support system and having the privilege to work for my Alma Mater for the past three years.

In 2009, the platform for my candidacy was based on the following goals:

1. Institute a professionally managed Annual Membership Drive.
Achieving at least a 100% increase in paid annual members during the first year.
2. Increase usage of the Internet to help improve communication between the NAA and members worldwide.
3. Increase the number of affiliated chapters.
4. Develop a consolidated NAA chapter calendar annually.
5. Increase on-campus involvement, including involvement with students and administration personnel.
6. Be accessible to NAA membership.

active members to become active. Dues support student scholarships, university support and NAA office operations. The membership dues are \$60 a year for annual members and a life membership is \$500 also payable in installments. There is a great need for voting alumni to get more engaged financially and physically with the University.

Chapters represent community involvement and the future PVAMU alumni of the NAA and University. True mentorship occurs by individuals at the chapter level.

The 3M's (Membership, Mentorship and Management) have served as the cornerstone of my administration and I have continuously reported our progress on each. At this year's convention, during my final state of the association address, an update will be provided. In order to achieve the growth desired we must possess unity, respect and love.

Please join us in Atlanta, Ga., June 26-30, 2013 where we will be electing the new leadership of the NAA.

Although I have completed my time as the National Alumni Association President, I will forever be a proud Panther and member of the greatest alumni family.

Always Panther Proud,

Lynn Morris

Lynn Morris '78
President, PVAMU NAA



Alumni Voice

Goals two, three, five and six are accomplished. Goals one and four are in process and will be complete with the involvement of the Prairie View family.

The PVAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) is the only affiliated membership-run organization that supports Prairie View A&M University and does not receive state funding because it is a separate entity. I encourage all alumni who are not

P.S. If you are not a member, become one. If you are a member, get involved.

2013 Convention Approaching

The Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter is preparing to host this year's PVAMU NAA National Convention. The convention will take place June 26-30 at the Embassy Suites Centennial Park. Information and registration can be accessed through the NAA website at www.pvualumni.org.



Join Today.

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

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



Three M's

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

1 Membership

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

2 Mentorship

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

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

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New Chapter Welcomed

A new NAA chapter was approved this fall adding another way for those in New Mexico to engage and promote Prairie View A&M University. Under the leadership of President **Mark Martin '89**, Vice President **Tyler Garrett '10**, Secretary **Vanessa Miles '89** and Treasurer **Peggy Martin '95** the chapter has plans to give students in the area more information about PVAMU as a choice for higher education.

Charter members include: **Elizabeth Schexnayder '90**, **Josiephe Alkins**, **Corey Betz '11**, **Marnae Lydia Coleman '11**, **Theodore Freeman '53/'62**, **Antionette Gant '94**, **Leonard Gant '92**, **Charity Jones '11**, **Cynthia McDonald '83**, and **LaTonya Walker '11**.

— PVAMU [9]

Alumni Focused Career Day Dubbed a Success

More than 20 PVAMU graduates clocked in to do some important work one Monday in February. Rather than doing their normal 8-5, members of the NAA spent a full day hosting mock interviews and critiquing résumés of current students.

In partnership with the Office of Career Services, Alumni Career Day on the Hill, gave students a chance to preview what recruiters are looking for in future employees and interns. Graduates from a variety of backgrounds including law, engineering, business and education used their work experience to conduct mock interviews and review résumés.

Career counselor **Herbert Thomas '90** believes that preparation like this is the key to making the most of a career fair.

"One of mistakes a student can make is not truly listing out their skills and work experience," Thomas said. "Having another set of eyes look over a résumé and ask questions about the jobs they have had and the classes they have taken gives students an opportunity to learn how to sell themselves."

The inaugural event saw nearly 100 students. Plans are being made for another event before the fall career fair scheduled for September. ★ *C. Johnson*





Prairie View A&M Foundation GROWING GREATNESS THROUGH GIVING

PVAMU Graduates Named to Foundation Board

Two new trustees were added to the PVAM Foundation, bringing the total to 17. Attorney **Ricky Anderson '83**, managing partner of the law firm of Anderson & Smith PC and **John Osby '78** who is a regional engineering manager for DuPont Engineering were approved early this year.

Making the move from volunteer to trustee, Osby graduated with a bachelor's in architecture. In his role at DuPont, he is responsible for the Gulf Coast and Western Regions for DuPont Engineering. He has more than 34 years of project management and capital portfolio management experience. In addition to his experiences with capital expansions, he has served as the Global Sourcing Manager for Engineering contracts and major equipment suppliers. He works closely with leaders of the top E&C firms to meet the needs of the DuPont Company.

Becoming involved in the community in which he lives is part of Osby's character. Sharing his talent away from work, he currently serves as an

advisory board member for the University of Houston civil and environmental engineering department. Additionally, he has led three different Christian congregation capital campaigns, leaving each congregation a new worship facility, before transferring to the next location.

John and his wife Jacqueline have been married for 30 years. They have two daughters, Ashton and Kayla.

Attorney Ricky Anderson received a bachelor's in business administration from PVAMU before earning a juris doctorate from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1992.

As the managing partner of Houston-based law firm Anderson & Smith PC since 1994 as well as a professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law since 1998, he has a variety of experience in entertainment law, music industry contracts and trial preparation.

The law firm of Anderson & Smith PC represents a host of celebrities, including comedian-actor Steve Harvey, Academy Award winner Mo'Nique, actor Isaiah Washington, four-time Grammy Award winner Yolanda Adams, gospel duo Mary Mary and a host of others.

Attorney Ricky Anderson has held positions as The National Bar Association's Entertainment Attorney of the Year and he is a recipient of the National Bar Association's Presidential Award in 2008 and 2012. He is currently the chairman of the National Bar Association's Entertainment, Sports & Arts Law Section and is president-elect of the Houston Bar Association's Entertainment & Sports Law Section.

He and his wife, Doris, have two children, Carl Jr. and Cheryl, and two grandchildren, Cara and Aaron Jackson. ★



PROUD



10

The Prairie View A&M Foundation is excited to announce the raffle of a **2009 Championship Football**, autographed by our 2009 SWAC Football Championship coaches and team including current NFL player, Quinton Spears (Colts). The winning name will be drawn at halftime during this year's Homecoming Game.

For a minimum donation of \$50 you will receive one entry in the raffle. To enter go to "HelpPVBuild.org" and click on "Click here to Donate". Determine the amount of your gift, the gift designations are prefilled so all you need to do is write "Football Raffle" in the box that says "Count Donation Towards" and complete the rest of the form. That's all there is to it!!

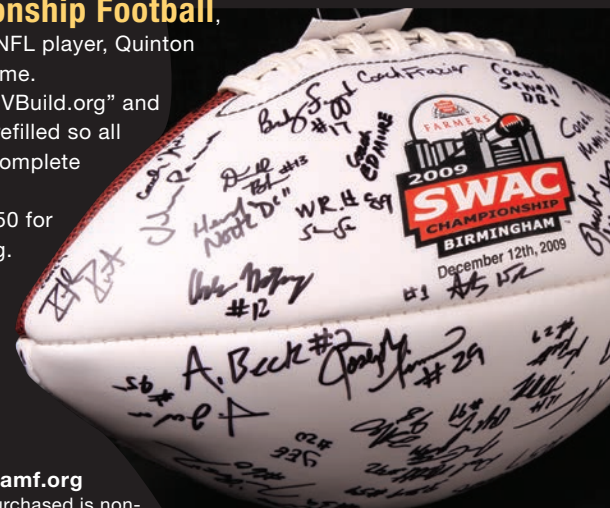
Interested in purchasing multiple entries? Simply increase the dollar amount of your gift, (\$50 for each entry) and write the number of entries you want in front of the words "Football Raffle" e.g. "6 entries for Football Raffle". (Gift amount \$300)

If mailing a check, make it payable to Prairie View A&M Foundation and write the number of entries you wish to purchase and "Football Raffle" on the memo line of your check.

**Enter TODAY, for your chance to own your personal piece of PV Football History.
You need not be present to win!**

PVAMF | 6436 Fannin Street, Room 112 | Houston, TX 77030 | 800.707.8138 | www.pvamf.org

To comply with IRS requirements for a drawing of this nature – the \$50 minimum donation for each entry purchased is non-deductible. Any amount in excess of the \$50 minimum for each entry is tax deductible. All donations made directly to the Foundation that are not entries into the drawing are fully tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law. The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Foundation, which receives contributions solely to support Prairie View A&M University, is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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.

T

he Prairie View A&M Foundation (PVAMF) volunteers are on a serious mission to raise awareness among alumni and friends about the Sports Complex project. Since 2012 the group of alumni and friends of the University have assisted with a number of initiatives.

In 2012, PVAMF volunteers supported "Conversations with the Foundation" sessions that were held across the state of Texas. These "Conversations" held in conjunction with the local alumni association chapters, were designed to inform attendees of the project and the steps required to bring the sports complex to fruition. Their aid continued in 2013 with a concentrated focus on two goals: increasing the number of new supporters and new volunteers.

Carolyn Williams '78 took the helm as team leader and has arranged bi-weekly calls to communicate, brainstorm, report on progress and support each other's efforts. She and other leaders initiated a campaign during the basketball season to gather additional donations. Additionally, an email campaign with an invitation to acknowledge their support by donating and asking their friends and supporters to do the same was also developed.

PVAMF VOLUNTEERS PURSUE SUPPORTERS FOR SPORTS COMPLEX

According to Foundation Chair Roy Perry, volunteers are making plans for the rest of the year.

A "Win an iPad" campaign was initiated at the opening home basketball game this season. With the help of the women's soccer team, PVAMF volunteers were able to inform guests of fundraising projects and take their donations.

"We are partnering with local alumni associations to re-engage and strengthen alumni support and participation in activities. We are also increasing communications with alumni across the country," said Perry.

Plans are also under way for a major fundraising event during the weekend of homecoming.

"We challenge every graduate to not allow the next football season to pass without joining the team of supporters or volunteers working for a new sports complex project," Perry added.

Wanda Williams (center) won the PVAM Foundation raffle of an iPad. The competition was held during home basketball games. She is featured with PVAMF Volunteers Christina Bailey'08 and Carolyn Williams.



METHODS OF GIVING

MAIL check payable to:
Prairie View A&M Foundation
6436 Fannin Street, Room 112
Houston, TX 77030

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

GIVING FREQUENCY

One-time, annually, quarterly, monthly or weekly

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

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

PVAMU [1]

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
2010-Passed, 2011-Passed and 2012-In process

*Can be found online at www.pvamf.org

Imagine yourself feeling accomplished as you complete a five-mile run. You're out of breath, sweat is rolling down your face and it's time to hydrate. What if you had to look no further than your arm for refreshment? Thanks to a PVAMU alumnus, you don't have to go far to get the drink you need.



Kendall Thompson '06

has invented the Kenmark Sports Armband Water Bottle, the first of its kind. The lightweight armband holds a bottle of water, preventing the dreaded search for water after a

workout. As another convenience, the band can hold keys, an iPhone and credit cards.

**BIG
IDEA
LEADS TO
INVENTION**



An avid runner, Thompson set out to create a product that brought convenience to exercise loyalists. Since its launch, the product

has been featured on talk show Great Day Houston, and in several publications including *Popular Science*, *Men's Fitness*, *Outdoor Retailer Daily*, *Austin Lifestyle*, *Men's Book Atlanta* and *Nvate*. ★ C. Landry

The Kenmark Sports Armband Bottle is sold in Sears, on Amazon.com and KenmarkSports.com.



Camera-Ready

Illness caused PVAMU graduate Chris Jones to see the bigger picture

A life threatening illness changed **Chris Jones' '96** path.

As a result of a rare condition, he awoke from a coma with a new perspective and a desire to capture every single moment life presented. Now as a freelance photographer, he has more than 40 clients, including Concord Church in Dallas, the PVAMU Women's Basketball team and the SWAC Athletic Conference.

"I was put into a medically induced coma for 27 days after being diagnosed with acute pancreatitis," said Jones. A severe stomach ache sent him to the hospital in the spring of 2010. "I'd never been ill (outside of the common cold) a day in my life and there I was on a respirator and dialysis machines for the first week I was in intensive care."

Jones was released from the hospital after 37 days. He had to learn to walk and write all over again. During this time, he decided to learn photography and the nuances of professional cameras.

"I started studying photography toward the end of 2010 and decided to take on small projects at the turn of the following year. Since then, it's snowballed to where I am today," he said. Recently, the senior business analyst for Stream Energy landed a contract to shoot exclusively for the Conference during this year's basketball tournament.

Although photography isn't his full-time job, it's become his passion. According to Jones, he tries to capture genuine emotion.

"I'd like for my portfolio to include images that I've captured on all seven continents. In the two years that I've been in business, I've had the privilege of shooting in Alaska, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

With an impressive start and a roster of loyal clients, he is on his way to fulfilling that goal. ★ S. Reed

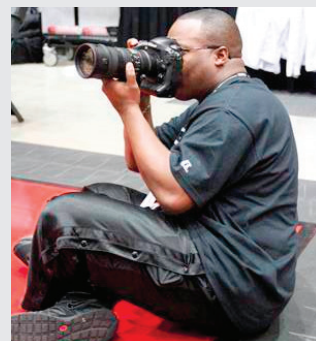


Photo by A. Harvey

PROUD

12

Reality TV leads to life change for Reid

For **Alexandra Reid '11**, appearing as a contestant on The Biggest Loser was quite an experience. Sure, there were intense workouts, extreme challenges and dreaded weigh-ins. But the most powerful thing she experienced was finding her sense of self.

"I used to pretend that everything was perfect, like nothing was wrong. In reality, I wasn't happy but I didn't want anyone to know. But now I know there's nothing wrong with opening up and letting people know how you feel," she said. "To be happy is my biggest accomplishment of all."

While at PVAMU, Reid was a pretty active student. She was a member of the Model United Nations Club and served as the student researcher for "Down that Road: A Pictorial History of Prairie View A&M University," the University's 135th anniversary commemorative publication.

"At Prairie View, I worked hard to succeed. Time taught me that no matter how hard anything seems, hard work will get you through. Your success is based on what you put into your work," she said.

Reid definitely took that work ethic into her time on The Biggest Loser. She was one of the final six contestants before being sent home, falling one pound shy of the nine pounds she needed to remain on the show. Although she was eliminated, her run on the show was impressive considering she tried out with her mother's urging.

"We saw an advertisement for the casting call and joked that I was going to see what it was about," Reid recounts. "The next day she woke me up and told me that God told her I needed to be at that casting call."

Now that she's lost more than 80 pounds, Reid has no doubt her mother was right. "I've gained so much more confidence and energy. I can honestly say that I'm truly happy. I have a platform right now. I want to use it to encourage other women, especially women of color." ★ C. Landry





Alum Leads Tour for Students Pursuing Medicine

Dr. Alden Landry '02 set out to do one thing when he stopped by his alma mater in January. He, along with 14 ambitious minority doctors, dentists and medical students came to give hope and insight to Prairie View students who are navigating the long and sometimes confusing process of practicing medicine.

"We needed a way to reach students that weren't necessarily getting the true path to medical school from their institution," said Landry who is the co-founder and organizer of the Tour for Diversity. "This is simply a way to talk to kids about the next step toward getting into medical or dental school," he said. "We want the students to walk away with an understanding that there are individuals like them that succeed in their prospective careers."

Landry attended medical school at the University of Alabama, and then completed his

residency in Emergency Medicine at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where he is now employed as an emergency medicine physician. In 2010, he earned a MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health.

According to Landry, it was not easy getting to where he is today. He hopes that by making these visits, others will be inspired to stay the course.

The idea was sparked in 2005 when Landry and co-founder, Dr. Kameron Matthews, a family doctor in Chicago, figured out that the best way to reach pre-med minority students to offer advice and mentorship about getting into medical and dental school was by going to them directly. They came up with the idea of getting on a decked-out bus, traveling to a variety of schools and presenting as much information as possible to classes, student organizations and clubs. With sponsorship from the Aetna Foundation and the U.S. Army Medical Recruiting Brigade, the first of three tours targeting HBCUs and Hispanic Serving Institutions was launched in February of 2012.

The day-long conference includes workshop sessions on the medical school application process, admissions tests, the art of interviewing, financial aid tips and focuses on health disparities. Additionally, presenters and local medical professionals network with students between sessions.

Prairie View A&M University was a stop this year as the tour traveled through Texas to Texas Southern University, the University of Texas El Paso, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas A&M International University in Laredo and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



For Heather Mingo, a biology student headed to Baylor Dental School this fall, the tour brought everything she learned in the classroom and from her professors to life.

"While on medical school visits, I did not see many people in the classrooms that looked like me. A program like this gives you someone to aspire to be like, someone to look up to," she said.

That's exactly what Landry hoped for. ★
Tarynn Adams, Student Intern



Photos courtesy of NBC



STAY CONNECTED

Free lifetime alumni email addresses available

PVAMU has partnered with Google to offer lifetime alumni email addresses for graduates. The email account holds up to 25 gigabytes of storage and is free.

It's also a way for graduates to easily show their affinity for their alma mater.

"Hopefully, our alums will take advantage of a PVAMU address to stay connected while promoting the University name," said Executive Director of Communication **Sheleah D. Reed '01**.

Like many universities around the country, Prairie View A&M University is using email to reach alumni and friends more often. It is the fastest and most inexpensive way to communicate information.

Using the popular Google platform, users are able to increase their web-based storage, utilize easy file attachment for outgoing messages and customize their email address before the @ alumni.pvamu.edu exchange.

Those who graduated after 2012 will automatically become enrolled in the email program, while graduates prior to that year must sign up for the service via www.pvamu.edu/alumni or by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 936-261-1566. Once the account is set up users have the option of customizing the domain, forwarding their e-mails to another account and using the calendar and task list features to organize their schedules. ★ *C. Johnson*

Love

PVAMU Sweethearts

Share *notes* about Finding Love on Campus

There is something about Prairie View A&M University! Aside from the historical influence and scholastic excellence, PVAMU also has a way of bringing people together. As students enter the “greatest years” of their lives, they are excited to experience good friends, earn a great education and in some cases, find a possible love connection.

Just ask graduates to reminisce about their days at PV and you will likely hear tall tales of cars parked along “lover’s lane,” or stories about the groups who took romantic walks around the water fountain and those who stayed up past curfew “holding up trees” in the park. Students have memories of indulging in romantic banter on benches scattered around campus or sneaking off to an isolated corner of the library to study, and well, flirt.

These tales are the stories that are shared during wedding toasts and are told for generations.

“I can remember watching a movie in the Nicks Arena and my wife (girlfriend at the time) and I fell asleep,” recalls **Dr. Ira Bell III '70**, who was smitten by his wife **Sandra (Emanuel) Bell '71** before an official meeting even took place. Sandra’s mom was Bell’s teacher and he knew that her daughter would make the perfect bride. Prairie View brought them together.

“We didn’t wake up until after curfew, so we had to figure out a way to sneak her back into her dorm room in Suarez Hall without a lot of attention,” he said. The two ended up throwing pebbles at the dorm room window to wake up her roommate who eventually opened the door. “Many of my friends met their spouse during their college years at Prairie View,” said Bell.

Maybe it is something in the water or simple chemistry but for many, the time at Prairie View resulted in more than just an education, it developed beautiful friendships, courtships and relationships that have stood the test of time. For some it began as introduction by a mutual friend, the need to work on a class project or just a simple hello in passing—either way the power of love produced by Prairie View sweethearts joins the ranks of some of the greatest stories ever told. ★ *C. Johnson*

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Kerron Hubbard '10 & LaTravia Davis Hubbard '10

smitten: The two fell in love in the spring of 2009 during Dr. McNeil’s business statistics class.

Married: Newlyweds
(less than one year)

Romantic Rendezvous: The couple spent most of their time in Hobart Taylor, Sr. Hall studying.

According to LaTravia, the College of Business isn’t the most romantic place but it’s where they met so it will always be special. “We laugh when saying this, but the most romantic place for us was in the building where we met and spent our time.”

“Had I not majored in management information systems and Kerron in finance, we’re not sure our paths would have crossed,” Hubbard said. While the two had several courses together, they never shared or exchanged a word until the spring of 2009. As LaTravia sat in class talking to a friend, Kerron walked in. Three classes later, her friend Morgan helped the two connect.





Brandon Stout '04 & Tiffany Alexander Stout '05



smitten: While the two were enrolled in a summer engineering program, they hit it off.

Married: 6 years

Romantic Rendezvous: The two would meet at the fountain to indulge in intimate conversations.

"One day in class, I heard someone in my ear whispering to get my attention. I turned around to find out it was Brandon," said Tiffany.

The love story starts there. The two had yet to be introduced, but Brandon was persistent. He asked her time and time again to spend time with him. Tiffany came around and their first date was in the kitchen of his dorm room in University Village Phase III. His roommates were nice enough to stay in their rooms and they dined on his specialty - fettuccine pasta with alfredo sauce, corn and toast. She was impressed by his cooking skills that evening and he has been "chef" of the family since then.



Lamar Johnson '92 & Tipfenie Deeds Johnson '93

smitten: He saw the attractive young lady from class in the bookstore and seized the opportunity.

Married: 18 years

Romantic Rendezvous: The two would meet at the water fountain at the center of campus.

In the first semester of his junior year, Lamar recalls having a class with a freshman that he considered skinny, but beautiful. She had a boyfriend and wasn't interested.



"I noticed him because he wore a shirt and tie to class every day. He paid attention and seemed to be focused on classwork and just not the social aspect of college life," said Tipfenie. Little did she know, Lamar's fraternity required him to wear a shirt and tie to class and that he was trying to impress her by being engaged with the instructor when questions were asked.

"During the start of the next semester, I spotted her at the bookstore while I was looking for books for one of my engineering classes. I looked up and there she was, more beautiful than I had remembered," said Lamar. The two began talking like old friends. Before long they were dating and the rest is history.



Benjamin Durant '71 & Rose Whittington Durant '71



smitten: On the way to a football game, the two found love in front of the student union.

Married: 42 years

Romantic Rendezvous: The two would spend their free time in the W.R. Banks Library studying political science.

Rose Whittington and her roommate Linda stood in front of the student union waiting on Linda's cousin and his friend Benjamin Durant. The four had plans to see Prairie View A&M take on Grambling. It wasn't a date or even a



setup, just a chance for a group of students to cheer on their team. When the game ended, Benjamin asked Rose if she would like to go to the next dance together. "I was a shy and rather than telling him flat out no, I told him I didn't know how to dance," said Rose. Benjamin seized the opportunity and told her that he would teach her. They went to that dance and are still dancing today.



Donnie Howard '02 & Demetria Johnson Howard '04

smitten: The classmates were introduced by a mutual friend outside the Wilhelmina Delco Building in between classes.

Married: 11 years

Romantic Rendezvous: The two would spend their free time getting to know each other in phase I of the University Village.

Demetria Howard can't get the place where she and her husband Donnie met right, but according to him she plays a mean hand of spades and that is all that matters.

"She's never gotten the first meeting correct. She claims the game room of the student center, but I know it was in front of Delco," said Donnie, who was riding his bike around campus when he saw her. The two were in the same math class, but she never noticed him. It wasn't until a chance encounter after class that the two actually exchanged words. Their mutual friends were seeing each other and introduced the two. Months later the relationship blossomed while the two competed in spades games. She won the game and he won her heart. ★



Wilson Leads Lady Panthers to the Top

Third year coach Toyelle Wilson had the attention of every player in the cramped locker room of the Special Events Center in Garland. It was about eight minutes before the Prairie View A&M women's basketball team took the court to play Mississippi Valley State in what would turn out to be the most exciting game in team history, and there was an eerie quiet in the room. It wasn't the kind of silence accompanied by tension though. It was a product of concentration, focus or more than likely familiarity. It was the calm before the storm.

Wilson walked to the dry erase board on the locker room wall and went through the usual pre-game routine. She pointed to the board, named the starters and listed the team goals required to be successful in the 2013 SWAC Tournament Championship game. Then she paused.



SWAC Academy

16

"This is when we are at our best," Wilson said. "We are undefeated in this arena. In three years, we haven't lost a game in the SWAC Tournament. I have not lost a game as a head coach."

She turned to Latia "Puff" Williams, who was sitting to her left drinking a cup of Powerade and said, "You haven't lost a game in the SWAC Tournament. We're not the underdogs. This is our home court."

Wilson turned from Puff and to address the team again. "Let's go claim what's ours," she said.

They fought harder than they had all season and expended every ounce of energy in a four-overtime thriller. The team dug deep, made the gritty plays and defensive stands to defeat Mississippi Valley 100-87 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship to earn their third consecutive championship and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. With that victory, Prairie View A&M capped off an eight-game – the second longest streak in the program's history – and improved to 9-0 SWAC Tournament.

The win capped Wilson's third season at Prairie View A&M as the most successful coach in Prairie View A&M women's basketball history, leading the most efficient program with three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances in as many seasons. The team finished its season with a 17-15 record following an opening round NCAA Tournament loss to No. 1 seeded Baylor.



Lucky Streak

The Prairie View A&M women's basketball team had been to the NCAA Tournament just twice in the 29 seasons of playing Division I basketball before Wilson took over and both of those appearances happened while Wilson served as an assistant coach. She also claims stake to being the only coach in Prairie View A&M basketball history (Men's or Women's) to have a winning record in each season.

Entering the 2011-12 season with two returning letter winners from the team, Wilson rallied her team together just in time to make a post-season run. The Panthers secured their final six games against SWAC conference opponents, including three in the conference tournament en route to their second consecutive title, finishing the season with a 17-16 record.

"We had veterans on the team that have been in those situations before," Wilson said. "We expect them to perform and succeed - nothing less. When they buy into our system and execute the game plan, winning takes care of itself," she said.

At the age of 30, Wilson was the youngest coach in the 2012 NCAA tournament as her team faced legendary coach Geno Aurema in the first round of the regional against first seed UConn.

In her first season as head coach, Wilson made history as she led the Lady Panthers to their third NCAA Tournament appearance in program history and the 2011 Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament Championship. Prairie View A&M finished with an overall mark of 21-12 in Wilson's inaugural season, which included a 14-4 record in SWAC play.

Statistically, Wilson also made her presence felt defensively as Prairie View A&M finished 7th nationally among 333 NCAA Division I institutions in field goal percentage defense, three-point field goal percentage defense and 10th in scoring defense.

Photos by C. Jones

**COVER
STORY**

3-PEAT

ADDING IT UP

PVAMU [17]

You Have to Start Somewhere

Prior to accepting the position of head coach in 2010, Wilson spent four seasons at Prairie View A&M as the top assistant under former head coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke. Wilson played a large role in Prairie View A&M's success with four consecutive postseason appearances, three straight Southwestern Athletic Conference regular season titles, two NCAA Tournament and two Women's NIT berths.

No stranger to turnarounds, Wilson coached three seasons at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and played an integral role in the program's ascension during her tenure. In only her second season on staff, RMU finished 20-10 and performed the third-biggest turnaround in NCAA history.

A native of Camden, N.J., Wilson holds a bachelor's in business management from Manhattan College and was a four-year letter winner on the court. As a freshman, Wilson started 18 of 29 games for the Lady Jaspers and capped off her career in 2002-03 by leading Manhattan to an NCAA Tournament berth and a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship with a 20-10 overall and 15-3 MAAC record. She also served as team captain during her stint and earned Defensive Player of the Year honors. ★ C. Elliott

Toyelle Wilson's success on the court hasn't gone unnoticed. As a member of the PVAMU Women's basketball team program she collected plenty of hardware, a set of championship rings, a new set of fans and a record that will be hard to beat.

HEIGHT 5'7

BENCH PRESS 105 **MILE TIME 6:45** sec

JERSEY 5

SIBLINGS 2

twin sister, Tejuanna and older brother, Jim

TWITTER FOLLOWERS 742

YEARS COACHING 10

CHAMPIONSHIPS 6

1 as a player, **2** as assistant coach, **3** as a head coach

OVERALL HEAD COACH RECORD 55-43



Dr. Miron P. Billingsley, associate vice president for student affairs, was recently **AWARDED A STELLAR COMMUNICATOR HONOR** by Texas Southern University for his work in educating the next generation of communications professionals. Billingsley, a graduate of TSU, served as adjunct professor of communications.

Dr. Orion Ciftja was recently invited by SDI's Physical Science flagship journal to become a **CHIEF EDITOR OF THE PHYSICAL REVIEW AND RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL** (PRRI). He holds this role through September 2014.

THE PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC) tapped **Bridget Ross** to lead its effort in assisting small business owners with obtaining working capital, developing



strategies to increase sales and improve productivity and profitability.



In March, **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY SERVED AS THE HOST SITE FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE DEANS, REGISTRARS AND ADMISSIONS OFFICERS**. With the purpose of providing a forum for admissions officers and student services professionals of HBCU's, this year's gathering allowed for effective networking, the exchange of ideas and discussion of best practices.

In April, **THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT HELD ITS SEMI-ANNUAL PHON-A-THON IN A NEW CAMPUS CALL CENTER**.

Located in Banks Hall, this permanent facility will assist Prairie View A&M University in increasing the level of engagement of its alumni population through increased communication efforts.



Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice **Dr. O. Oko Elech** **SERVED AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER DURING THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIOURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AT NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY RESTORATIVE**

JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM in February. He spoke on how restorative justice allows both offender and victim to be a part of the same assessment and healing process. This differs from the widely practiced retributive justice that involves the punishment of the offender.

KPVU 91.3 FM'S MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TALLIED OVER 300 SUPPORTERS AND ACHIEVED \$30,000 IN PHASE I PLEDGES,



breaking KPVU's previous pledge records. Contributions received help enhance programming, delivery of services and student development. Tax-deductible donations are still being accepted online at pvamu.edu/KPVU.



Professor **Barry Norwood** and **12 SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS SPENT SPRING BREAK VOLUNTEERING** in Chicago assisting at three different sites in the city including a community service project in collaboration with the University of Illinois – Chicago School of Urban Planning that allowed them to develop design ideas and marketing for the Maxwell Street Market project. The team also worked with ACE Technical Charter High School and completed a service project at the Garfield Park Conservatory, one of the 10 recipients of the 2012 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

THIS SPRING, TWO STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THEIR ENTIRE COURSE WORK AT THE NORTHWEST HOUSTON CENTER GRADUATED.

Jacqueline Brown '13 and **Shadawn McCants '13** both received an academic scholarship. The center opened in 2011 as a fully functional extension of the PVAMU main campus and offers programs in counseling, community development, communications, business and nursing.



Pending final approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), **PVAMU PLANS TO OFFER THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM** to students via a combination of online and in-person classes at both the Texas Medical Center and the Northwest Houston Center locations. The program will prepare the graduate in transformational leadership to effect and generate health policy development, evidence-based practice careers and evaluation in collaboration with interprofessional teams and partnerships.

Thanks to a grant from Lowe's, students are offering a chance to help Prairie View residents live safely in their homes. **THE STUDENT MEMBERS OF ENACTUS HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWE'S COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP**, giving students the opportunity to create and execute projects to enhance and develop communities. The Enactus team (formerly Students in Free Enterprise) partnered with their advisor Rick Baldwin from the College of Business to conduct safety testing to detect the presence of excessive radiation emissions and the presence of poor insulation and ventilation in homes. The evaluations will assist residents in determining what can be done to abate any issues.

Roy G. Perry College of Engineering Professor **Dr. Matthew Sadiku** was **NAMED A 2013 IEEE FELLOW** for his important contributions to the advancement and application of engineering, science and technology that "brings the realization of significant value to society." He is only one of 297 senior members from around the world selected for the prestigious title.



This fall, President George C. Wright's executive cabinet will have a new look after the creation of a new position and the naming of several new academic officers.

"PVAMU is experiencing some tremendous growth and these changes allow us to use the skill set of these leaders to enhance our University in key areas," said Wright.

The appointment of Dr. Michael McFrazier to the newly created role of vice president for administration supports this notion. He will serve as chief of staff, reporting directly to the president, and is responsible for providing leadership for a broad range of academic and non-academic matters related to operations and overseeing administrative functions, strategic planning, student services, compliance and customer service.

McFrazier, who is currently vice provost and dean of the Northwest Houston Center, will assume the role this fall.



Small Changes to Senior Leadership Make **BIG IMPACT**



Dr. Terence Hicks who has been serving as interim dean of the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education was formally named its leader in May. Hicks' background in college retention and the psychological well-being of college students will align with the University's tradition of excellence in the preparation of teachers and administrators. He has held a variety of leadership positions including department chairperson and director of the School of Education Research Center at Fayetteville State University. Additionally, he served as a Research Fellow for the National Institutes of Health, National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities. He

earned his bachelor and master's degrees from Virginia State University, a doctorate in educational leadership from Wilmington University and a Ph.D. in counseling and counselor education from North Carolina State University. Both posts will be presented to the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents for formal approval.

A 16-member committee is also interviewing applicants for the University's next athletic director, a position that was vacated after Fred Washington stepped down from the role in May. The final candidate should be announced by mid-June. Additionally, the University is undergoing a nationwide search for a chief of police and a vice president for research who also serves as dean of the graduate school.

"These hires will infuse the campus with a fresh perspective from individuals who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in their particular fields. Indeed, their presence will have a positive impact on the delivery of academic programs and student services," said Wright. ★ S. Reed

JUMP START + MATH --- GREAT DIVIDENDS

For John Gardner, math is a breeze. He can do some complex algebra problems in his head almost without thinking about it. It's a good thing he serves as the coordinator of developmental studies during the school year and it's a bonus that he will serve as the coordinator of MathUp, a math summer bridge program, which will be rolled out this summer.

Under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Sneed-Greene who serves as the associate director of University College, MathUP is designed to assist incoming students to meet the state required college readiness standards in math even before they begin their freshmen year.

According to reports, many college students spend an extra semester in college trying to complete their required math classes. This depends on a student's major, and for those pursuing a career in science, nursing, math or engineering this time frame can be extended up to one year. At PVAMU, up to 40 percent of students aren't eligible to take college algebra when they enter as first-year students.

"When considering all of the opportunities students have available to them throughout their academic tenure, completing a degree in four years, even for the most prepared student, can be a challenge," said Sneed-Greene. "A program such as MathUP helps students complete pre-requisites so that they are ready to start on their degree plan, Day 1."

This program, a partnership between academic affairs and freshman learning community, University College, hopes to eliminate that problem.

During the four-week program, students receive personalized mathematics instruction from highly trained professionals, and upon successful completion they receive developmental education credit while also moving closer toward eligibility to enroll in college algebra.

Classes are offered at the Northwest Houston Center and the College of Nursing campus in the Texas Medical Center to help local students with scheduling.

"We know students want to spend the summer before college resting, spending time with their family and friends, and even taking vacations or working, so a commuter program like this gives them the flexibility to do the things they need to do," said Sneed-Greene.

MathUp joins a collection of previously established summer enrichment programs offered annually through various departments and programs. ACCESS and Panther Pride, along with discipline specific ACI for youngsters interested in architecture, E2CI and the Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp for engineering hopefuls, and the G.R.I.N.D. (Getting Ready to Initiate a Nursing Degree) are under way with a record number of participants. ★ J. Peevy

PVAMU 19



Inaugural EMBA Class

Provides Real-World Experience

EMBA Director Dr. Daniel
Perez with EMBA Student
Amisha Dalwadi

The fall semester of 2012 started a new chapter in the College of Business' book. The Executive MBA (EMBA) program, designed for experienced professionals interested in advancing their careers, began with seven students and is still experiencing growth.

Dr. Munir Quddus, dean of the college, believes that now is the right time for this program. "We see a steady increase in demand for executive programs," said Quddus. "Our unique hybrid program uses blended teaching methods both online and in the classroom. The information they learn in class can be immediately applied to what they are doing in their 9-5 jobs."



Reginald Thomas, a clinical cell therapy specialist at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, joined in January. "It was time for me to grow professionally. I am employed full-time with a wife and four children. This EMBA program fits my busy lifestyle perfectly," Thomas said.

The program, which emphasizes the importance of building leadership and global management skills, includes an immersive study excursion to China. Sheetal Dalwadi-Oza, who began the program with her sister, fellow entrepreneur Amisha Sheetal Dalwadi, appreciates the international focus.



"An EMBA will groom me into the general manager of not just one hotel, but the director of hospitality operations on a system-wide basis. I also get the opportunity to see how another country conducts business during our trip," Dalwadi said. Program information for the fall 2013 cohort is available at www.pvamu.edu/emba. ★ K. Gordon



Mosby Retires after 32 years

After 32 years with the PVAMU Cooperative Extension Program, Gloria Mosby bid a fond farewell to her colleagues and entered retirement in January.

Mosby served as the program director for communications in CEP. Throughout her career, Mosby developed and edited communications components highlighting the work done by the staff of the agency while ensuring the CEP and the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences were publicized and marketed to the citizens of Texas, clientele, funders and appropriate legislative entities. Under her leadership, the Cooperative Extension Program developed its brand slogan, "Meeting Needs, Changing Lives."

She also held key positions in the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) Marketing and Communications team, the Southern Region Program Leadership Network Executive Committee and the Journal of Extension board of directors. ★ C. Landry

NASA Cameras Capture CRESSE Center Success Stories for Exploration Design Challenge Project



Undergrad student researcher Brandon Norman provides a CRESSE student viewpoint to Scott Bednar's questions during a video for his Exploration Design Challenge (EDC) interview at the CRESSE Center.

Four researchers from the Center for Radiation Engineering and Science for Space Exploration (CRESSE) traded their lab coats for dress shirts recently when the NASA Education Department came calling with video cameras to capture interviews intended to inspire the next generation of space scientists.



Dr. Kelvin Kirby '76 is featured in two video clips on the new EDC website.

Three CRESSE scientists including, Dr. Richard T. Wilkins, center director; Dr. Kelvin Kirby, deputy director; and Dr. Brad Gersey, lead scientist, appear as featured speakers in the Exploration Design Challenge (EDC) project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Dr. Premkumar Saganti, graduate student Janet Ruedes and undergraduate researcher Brandon Norman were also videoed.

The Exploration Design Challenge is a joint venture by NASA and Lockheed Martin to engage students in finding reliable and innovative ways to protect astronauts from space radiation and space debris while traveling through space. The radiation shielding experiments are structured specifically for the Orion crew module and its payload. NASA has geared its challenge for K-8th grade and high school students. The PVAMU participants were selected by NASA as "subject matter experts" for the kickoff event.

Half a dozen questions were posed to Wilkins and Kirby, mostly about their decisions to become researchers and educators. Questions aimed at Wilkins focused on space radiation's dangers and past research to

protect astronauts and their equipment in outer space. Kirby responded to questions about student motivation at Prairie View, the importance of student outreach and participation, and the necessity of multi-disciplinary teams to study space-related problems. Gersey, a CRESSE co-principal investigator, was grilled on his inspiration to enter a radiation research career field and the challenges of a real-world Ph.D. program. Saganti was questioned on the differences between Martian and Earth radiation environments and the impact of solar activity on the overall space radiation picture. Ruedes and Norman answered similar questions but from the student viewpoint.

The site can be accessed at www.nasa.gov/education/edc with a video link at the top right side of the page. A spokesman at NASA Johnson Space Center said the EDC website had almost 20,000 page views during the first seven days of the roll-out. ★
Pat Craddock, contributor

THE GAVEL SERIES

Addresses Community Legal Issues



PVAMU [21]

What if you bought a used car that turned out to be a lemon? What if a member of your family faced immigration issues?

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center in the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology has formed a community partnership with the Waller County District Attorney's office and Justice Court Precinct 3 of Waller County to provide "The Gavel Series: Community Based Legal Education" to the public. Attending these free law classes could mean the difference between prevailing over legal issues like these or succumbing to them.

The series features free legal education classes taught by volunteer

lawyers and judges. The classes focus on sharing information with the public about legal rights and the role these rights play in everyday life. Classes highlight a number of areas, including bankruptcy, credit and debt collection, avoiding disaster rip-offs, immigration, family and juvenile law, small claims court, landlord/tenant law, wills, debt collection, lemon laws, social security, consumer scams, credit problems and more.

Classes will continue Saturday, Aug. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 2 at 9 a.m. to noon in the Don K. Clark building. Registration is available online at www.pvamu.edu/cojip/thegavel. ★ C. Landry

Leaving a Legacy

SGA President Blair's tenure filled with initiatives that will last

In the foyer of the A.I. Thomas Administration Building there's a small plaque that bears the names of those who the University has awarded the Humanitarian Award. The University's highest honor is bestowed on individuals whose life and service exemplify a true spirit of love and helpfulness to others. 2012-13 SGA President Harrison L. Blair joined the ranks of those who have been acknowledged for their volunteerism and their dedication to taking care of others.

While those who see the plaque won't know exactly why Blair received the honor, the service he provided during his tenure as president will be seen for years to come.

Blair's administration worked to get a record number of students involved in three major issues – increasing student engagement in the political process, rallying to stop a proposed landfill and approving a sports complex fee.

"Harrison has a unique ability to mobilize those around him and focus them toward the desired goals," said Steven A. Ransom, the director of student engagement and the advisor for the Student Government Association. "Harrison has a special knack for breaking down the walls of uncertainty and making everyone feel connected. His efforts have and will continue to speak volumes for the power of students to affect positive change on campus and in the surrounding communities."

The No Vote No Voice campaign seemed to be effective. Why do you think so many people were interested in participating?

Our students were excited about the historical impact of the first black president elected in 2008. I am sure they wanted to make sure their votes counted this election. That campaign illustrated that if they didn't vote, they had no room to complain. By using organizations and student groups, we showed that everyone understood the importance of their vote.

Not only did their votes count, but your team registered more than 3,000 PVAMU students to vote in just a few days. How did that happen?

We had a very coordinated effort for students that included partnering with the Texas League of Young Voters and featured a comedy show that required students to show proof of voter registration to enter. We also went door to door canvassing and manned registration tables in the student center.

Did you know that you wanted to be SGA President when you came to PVAMU?

As a transfer student (Blair transferred from Dallas Community College) I didn't know everything about PVAMU's campus, but once I came to visit my brother and sister, I knew that I had to be here and that I could make a real difference.

They convinced you to run?

No, not really. I joined SGA after watching Bobby Smith, the president in 2010-11, interact between the students and the faculty. I also worked as the campaign manager for Jarren Small and served as the Vice President for Business Affairs during his term in 2011. By then, I knew what I could do as a president.

What are those impacts?

I'd like to think that I changed the skyline of Prairie View. Because of the help of the student referendum, PVAMU will receive upgraded facilities and a new athletic complex. Additionally, we aided in the fight against the landfill. In both cases, we educated students and brought them out of their rooms, away from their organizations and friends to stand side by side and become engaged.

Is the fight for the landfill over?

No, the fight will continue through the courts, but the record will always show that PVAMU students were at the table and had something to say. The community was reminded of the power of 8,000 students and that we do not just take what is given to us. We rally together and make our voices heard. ★ S. Reed



Photo by C. Landry

SCHOLARS

22

Photo by D. Dangerfield



STUDENT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION TEACHES THROUGH INVOLVEMENT

What started off as just a gift for those who participated in the Panther Advisory Leaders (PALs) program has become a trademark for the organization. Created in 1996 as a small pilot program, to shape leadership, organization and time management skills in student leaders who would use what they learned to help others, has developed into a full fledged program.

"The purpose of the yellow hat was for people to be able to identify us anywhere," said **Orok Orok '04/'07**, assistant director of student engagement. "When we have our final ceremony at the end of our Student Leadership Institute and they receive their PAL's uniform, the first thing they do is pop the hat on."

Over the years, it has evolved from a small program only familiar to a select few student leaders into a much larger entity that garners the interest of many upperclassmen with an expanded curriculum and peer-bonding component.

"It makes you more confident", said junior business major Richard Amagwula. "You tend to be well versed on just about everything because freshmen look to you for guidance and consider you as the expert."

Historically, being mentored by a PAL has led many to seek an opportunity to join their ranks.

The coveted fitted, yellow baseball cap they're known to don is reserved for upperclassmen of particular academic standing who complete the required week-long Student Leadership Institute. It's filled with a well-rounded spectrum of sessions including the late Steven Covey's famous "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and everything related to school spirit and pride.

The 200 strong group of students effectively mentor over 1,600 freshmen each year. ★ J. Peevy



Photos courtesy of the Office of Student Engagement

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Career Closet Outfits Students

For some students, putting their best foot forward in interviews is harder than expected due to a lack of funds to purchase professional clothing. The Office of Career and Outreach Services is working to change that through the Career Closet, a service that solicits business professional clothing donations from faculty, staff and administrators. The gently worn items are distributed for free to students who are in need of the clothing for internships, job interviews or other professional engagements.

The Career Closet is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday. For more information or to donate, contact Career Services at (936) 261-3570. ★ C. Landry



UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL ACADEMY

Providing Students Entry to Health Professions

When interest and applications to medical schools nationwide were noticeably on a consistent decline, many university administrators and government legislators began to seek a solution. Prairie View A&M University's solution was the Undergraduate Medical Academy (UMA).

With Dr. Dennis Daniels at the helm since its inception in 2004, the academy's focus starts with MCAT preparation from the first day that a student is accepted into the program until the day they enroll in medical school, along with lessons in time management, test-taking strategies, and soon to be added etiquette seminars.

"If a student is looking toward a successful career in medicine, it's important that they know the difference between the dessert fork and the dinner fork as well as they know anatomy and the periodic table," said Daniels.

His goal is to ensure that these scholars are well-rounded individuals. Through the course of four years students are mentored by professionals in the medical field, and given tours of various medical, dental and allied health schools. They also develop research skills through collaboration with campus faculty, private

practices, and various universities such as Texas A&M, MIT, Johns Hopkins, University of Texas School of Dentistry and Tuskegee Veterinary School.

The experience isn't just limited to the states. Many UMA scholars have had the opportunity to expand their global view through participation in research in Indonesia, the United Kingdom, China, West Gambia, Ghana and India.

The UMA's effectiveness is proven through its rate of student acceptance into medical school, which has been consistently greater than 64 percent since its inaugural class. The state average is between 45 to 48 percent and the national average rests between 47 to 50 percent.

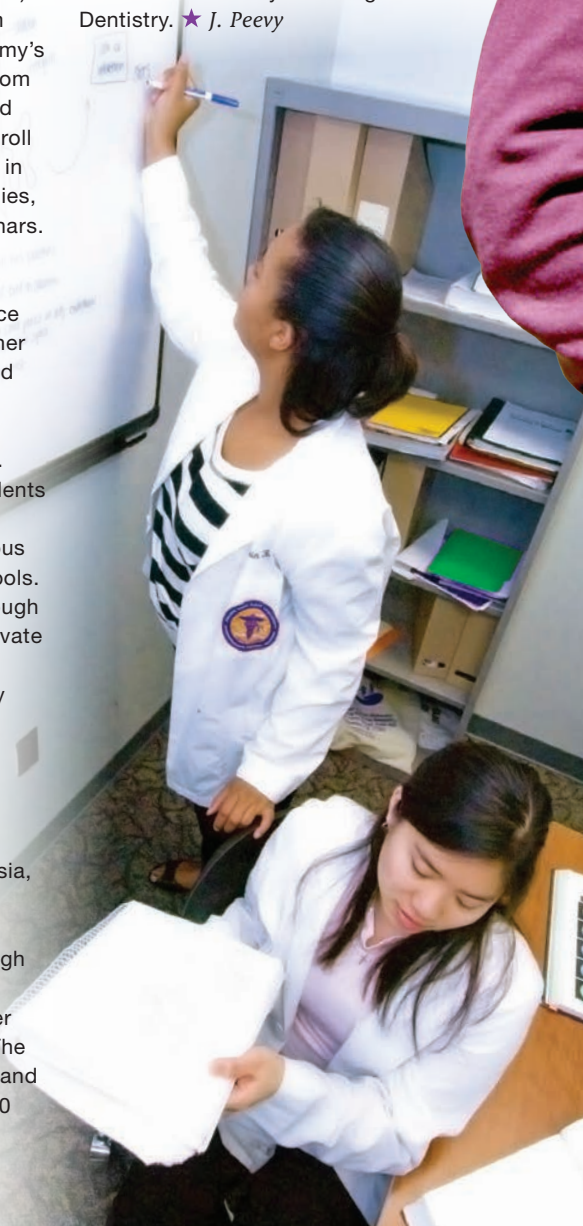
Graduates of the program have gone on to attend Texas A&M University Health and Science Center, University of Louisville School of Medicine, University of Texas School of Medicine, Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston and Baylor College of Dentistry. ★ J. Peevy

Photo by C. landry



SCHOLARS

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BOWLING CAPTURES SECOND STRAIGHT SWAC TITLE

The Prairie View A&M Lady Panthers did it to Alabama A&M again. Not only did the defending champions battle their way back through the elimination bracket to earn

How Sweet the Sound

Implant Creates New World for Crockett

Blades of grass rustling in the wind. The sound of windshield wipers on a car during rain. The low hum of an air conditioner. These are all sounds we take for granted, but they mean the world to Tiivon Crockett.

"It was like waking up to a world of new sounds," said Crockett.

Crockett, a senior management information systems major, had a cochlear implant installed just behind his ear in December, enabling him to hear things he had never heard before. As an infant, Crockett became sick and was stricken with a high fever. After rebounding from the illness, his mother noticed that there was a negative change in his behavior.

An audiologist confirmed that Crockett was nearly completely deaf. He began wearing a hearing aid that enabled him to hear electronic voices that interpreted speech. "I remember kids calling me a robot," Crockett said. "They used to put their hands to their heads like phone and say, 'Can you hear me now?' I used

to ask God why He made me this way. I used to ask God if He would make me hear."

After meeting Mikel Willis in high school, Crockett found a friend who changed his life. Willis urged him to develop a stronger relationship with God, which led him to the decision to get a cochlear implant.

"Mikel asked me why I wanted to hear. I realized I wanted it for my own benefit and not for God. To get something from God, you have to allow your desires and His desires to conform. My junior year, I decided I wanted to hear for Him, to do His work. The glory was going to go to Him," Crockett said.

Now that he has the implant, Crockett's hearing is steadily increasing. He is adjusting to discovering new sounds and learning as a student with hearing. Most of all, Crockett, vice president of the PV Mimes Ministry, a dance ministry on campus, is able to mime while hearing the music, not just counting out beats.

"The blessed part about all of this is before he could hear with this implant, he could hear from God. Now he's really hearing both," said Willis, a PVAMU senior.

With an entire new world opening up thanks to the implant, Crockett will have a second cochlear implant installed at the end of the year. ★ C. Landry



New Tradition Honors Student Veterans

Students who have served in the Armed Forces can now proudly acknowledge their service during commencement ceremonies.

As a new tradition, PVAMU students who are veterans wear navy blue stoles that highlight their service during the ceremony. The stoles are provided by the University at no cost to the students. ★


the right to defend their title, they came from behind twice to beat Alabama A&M to claim their second consecutive SWAC Bowling title.

The Lady Panthers came into the day in the same spot as they were in 2012, having to beat top-seeded A&M twice, after the Lady Bulldogs rolled through the rounds on Saturday. In the first match, PVAMU started well, blowing past A&M 231-175. But, after the red-hot start, PVAMU struggled in the next three games. The Lady Bulldogs capitalized, posting 154-150, 179-173 and 171-147 wins.

It looked like A&M was on its way to a title, however, PVAMU wasn't done. The Lady Panthers exploded for another 200+ game and took a 222-144 win. PVAMU also outshot A&M in the sixth game 168-158 to force a deciding game. ★ C. Elliott



Healthy Life

NEXT EXIT 



Operating under the direction of Health Services, the 20-member student peer education group, the Panther PhD's, have taken the reins on providing the campus and community with the information they need to generate healthy lifestyle choices.

Starting as early as freshman orientation, the PhD's provide education on STDs, drug and alcohol abuse and dispelling campus myths helping students fully understand the effects of various issues. The team also offers various programs weekly often taking cues from The Bacchus Network, a national university and community-based network comprised of 32,000 student leaders and advisors.

"We decided to join BACCHUS Network so that we could learn how other peer education groups reach their targeted audience,"



Gregory Rose '07/'09, Panther PhD's advisor stated. "We are part of a larger organization that ultimately cares about changing the unhealthy habits of college students," Rose added.

On campus, the Panther PhD's are known for their annual "Sex with the Greeks" program, Health and Wellness week and the celebration of National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In addition to education, free STD and HIV/AIDS testing is also made available.

"Although the HIV testing is currently free to the student body, it gives friends, partners and individuals the opportunity to come together and stand up against the virus and say we care about our community and we care about our status. When students see one another getting tested this actually encourages others to get tested," said Rose.

Since its inception in 2010, more than 2,000 students have participated in STD testing. Each year the numbers have grown, with 2012 showing the largest growth in participation with 948 students. "We hope to be the premier health education group on campus and it starts with our peer educators wanting to spread the word about making healthy decisions," Rose said. ★ *C. Johnson*

What Doll

Enthusiastic smiles and electrifying moves infuse PVAMU basketball and volleyball game breaks with a contagious energy that many fans have come to look forward to, courtesy of the award-winning Panther Dolls.

Founded in 1999, the Dolls have established a name for themselves with high-energy performances to keep audiences engaged and entertained.

"It's been quite rewarding to see the ladies' growth, specifically in the area of technical execution," said Shante Moore, program coordinator in the Office of Student Engagement and advisor/coach of the group. She has continued to develop and hone the ladies' skill set, which has led to increased exposure through invitations to perform on large stages, including Houston Rockets basketball games, and most recently, the 2013 NBA All-star Weekend in front of an audience of more than 16,000 people.

"I am proud to be a member of the Panther Dolls and this has been the best year this team has had," said team member JaLacia Powell. "Not only did we go to camp in Myrtle Beach, S.C. for the first time, but we also brought back several awards while being the only HBCU represented." The honors bestowed include: hip-hop award for a Division 1 school, the spirit stick for having the most ecstatic dance team, and even five members of the team earned top honors individually by being named All-Americans.

Their varied repertoire of jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, lyrical and ballet also garnered them a national bid to participate in the National Dance Alliance's national competition in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The vibrant dance troupe is showing no signs of slowing down and is looking toward additional opportunities to increase its notoriety. ★ *Jarrick Brown, student intern*



Photo courtesy of the Office of Student Engagement

Students Run University

Photo by C. Johnson

Jarrick Brown shadowed Josette Bradford, director of COMPASS.

In 2010, 'Can You Run This Institution' was started to bridge the gap between what students saw administrators do and what they actually cross off their to-do list at the end of eight hours.

"Having waited hours in line in the financial aid office, it starts to feel like somebody is not doing something right," Amiya Williams said. The first-year student witnessed long lines in financial aid and wondered was the department understaffed or just not being managed by the right person.

Her questions are exactly why the program was started. "Outside of a few student leaders or volunteers, many students do not know exactly what a president, director of student engagement or provost does to keep PVAMU running," said **Isis McCraw '02/'06**, special

programs coordinator.

The annual event is held each February as part of the University's Black History Month celebrations and according to McCraw, it is a way to help students and administrators really understand each other.

Junior Lea McKinnon knows firsthand that the life of an administrator is not as easy as many of them make it look. "His day was filled with a lot of meetings and a lot of busy work," said McKinnon who chose to shadow the financial aid director because she was curious as to why financial aid wasn't an instantaneous process.

After shadowing Director of Student Financial Aid K. Michael Francois, she was able to gain insight on the inner workings of one of the University's most important areas.

The program allows students to sign up to

follow top administrators throughout the course of one day. Selected students spend the entire day with administrators, attending all meetings, events, activities and later provide an overview of the experience during a wrap-up program open to other students and staff.

Since its inception, students have shadowed President George C. Wright, Provost E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, Mark Pearson, the director of enrollment management and Dr. Lauretta Byars, the University's vice president of Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement.

Plans are being made for students to shadow administrators at all levels. Discussions are also being made for faculty and staff to shadow students as they go to class, attend meetings and interact with their friends. ★ **Koiana Madison**, student contributor

Williams Joins Elite Ranks

It's been an impressive four years for PVAMU Lady Panthers guard/forward Latia Williams. Her latest honors, along with her four championship rings, prove it.

Williams has proven to be one of the most prolific scorers in program history after making the 1,000-point club in a 72-60 loss to Kansas. Williams joined **Gaati Werema '13** (1,529), **Candice Thomas '11** (1,671), Dominique Smith (1,381) and **Tanisha Lee '04** (1,088) as the last players to do so in the 21st century.

She also reached 600 rebounds in a 49-42 win over Hampton in December. Williams and team defeated Mississippi Valley State, 100-87, in four overtime periods during the championship game of the 2013 Toyota SWAC Basketball Tournament to make a third straight tournament appearance in the NCAA tournament. Although the team was defeated by Baylor in that appearance, 82 to 40, Williams added 10 points and a team-high nine rebounds.

In addition, Williams was named Southwestern Athletic Conference Player of the Year. She finished her career with a total of 1,297 points and 803 rebounds. ★ **C. Landry**

Photo by A. Harvey


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and view videos of events
and activities.
youtube.com/pvamu

Two Miss Texas Pageant Contestants have Ties to PVAMU

Each year hundreds of young women from various Texas regions compete in local pageants with hopes of being heralded the finalist who will vie for the title of Miss Texas.



Alumnae, beauty queen and Miss PVAMU 2011 **LaKeshia Clark '12** will compete alongside fellow Panther **Elizabeth Gardner '10** for the distinct honor and privilege of being crowned the next Miss Texas.

The pageant, which was



created in 1936, serves as an official preliminary to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant. The winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship and a formal platform to address community service and contemporary issues that are significant to young women. Clark and Gardner

follow in the footsteps of Miss PVAMU 1984 **Dellenor R. Miles** who earned the title of 4th runner-up to Miss Texas. ★ *C. Johnson*

System used to alert community in case of emergency

To keep the PVAMU campus communities informed in the event of an emergency, the University uses the Panther Alert System (PAS). This system, notifies the campus community of emergency situations (severe weather, serious threats to safety, etc.) via phone, text messages and emails.

This service is also available to those in the surrounding communities. If community members want to sign up for alerts, they can do so by visiting www.pvamu/pas. You can also send a "Subscribe PVAMU" text to 23177, and your number will be saved in the system and the next time we do have an Emergency Broadcast, you'll be included.

Want to be sure your information is correct?

- **STUDENTS** go to PVPLACE and then to Panthertracks to view/update your contact information.
- **FACULTY AND STAFF** visit <https://sso.tamus.edu> and update your information in HRConnect.
- **COMMUNITY** login or sign up at <https://pvamu.bbcportal.com>. ★

CORRECTION: Brad Traywick '12 was credited with the photo of the campus entrance incorrectly. While he has submitted several great photos for our projects, that photo belonged to **Michael Wiggins '12**. ★



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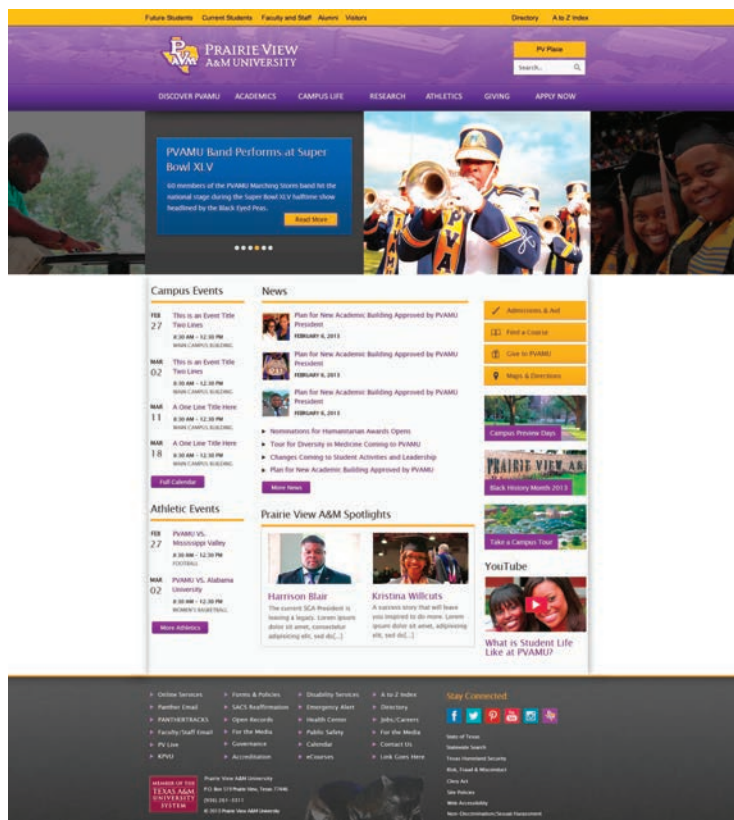
Noteworthy

Fauci Twins Embark on Destiny Together

The spring semester was filled with excitement, right down to the addition of a third commencement ceremony. But it was a doubly special time for identical twins Richard and Ryan Fauci. The political science graduates from McKinney graduated together and were commissioned into the United States Navy, both destined for the USS Bataan in Norfolk, VA.

The Fauci twins' graduation and commissioning make them the second and third members of the Fauci family to walk the hallowed halls of PVAMU. Older cousin Lt. Robert Fauci graduated from the University and was commissioned in the Navy in 2007. ★





New Website Offers Better Navigation, Look

After nearly three years, a complete website revamp is under way. The project led by Web Services is a collaborative effort between students, staff and faculty representing various colleges and departments across campus. Charged with improving the overall look and feel of the website, the team is using recent technology and research to develop a website that meets the needs of users. "Our current content management system Site Builder Toolkit has served its purpose of being scalable and reliable, however, there are better tools out there that can be utilized to enhance our users' experience," said Hassan Abbasi, information resource supervisor.

As a result of gaining valuable feedback from the taskforce and PVAMU community, the new site features a polished look, eased navigation and richer online content that addresses all audiences.

The new WordPress platform will allow for an increase in user engagement and content variety. In addition, the improved site will be compatible with current Web browsers and mobile devices.

The site is expected to make its debut this summer. ★ C. Johnson



The Panther football team is looking ahead to the 2013 season

AUGUST

31 **Labor Day Classic**
Texas Southern University
at BBVA Compass Stadium

SEPTEMBER

7 at Texas State
14 at Southern University
21 vs. Alabama A&M University
28 at Stephen F. Austin

OCTOBER

5 **State Fair Classic**
Grambling State University
at the Cotton Bowl
12 at Alabama State
19 **Homecoming**
vs. Mississippi Valley State
26 **Shreveport Classic**
Jackson State at Independence Stadium

NOVEMBER

9 at Alcorn State
16 vs. Abilene Christian
23 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Did you know? ★ PVAMU [29]

In 1920, the Prairie View Interscholastic League, originally called the Texas Interscholastic League of Colored Schools, was organized by the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas and the Negro School Division of the State Department of Education to serve as the governing body for extra curricular activities for Texas' African-American high schools. Similar in structure to the University Interscholastic League (UIL), PVIL competitions cultivated student achievement in athletics, arts and literature through the 1967-68 school year before merging with the UIL. ★

Please consider Charitable Giving Through Estate Planning

Have you considered supporting PVAMU, but do not have the cash or assets to do so right now? You are not alone. Thousands of alumni feel the same way. However, as an alternative, many are deciding to include Prairie View A&M in their estate plans, which in some cases can provide considerable tax benefits and income while not costing anything during their lifetime. For more information, go to www.pvamulegacy.org. ★

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.



PVAMU Exhibit Seeking Models

This October, the internationally acclaimed exhibition, **WOMEN OF A NEW TRIBE: A Photographic Celebration of the Black American Woman**, will debut at Prairie View A&M University. This homage to the physical and spiritual beauty of the African-American Woman has been called powerful, uplifting and long overdue. Since its premier in June 2002 in Charlotte, the exhibition has traveled continuously around the country and twice to Europe.

The creator of the exhibition, photographer Jerry Taliaferro, will travel to Prairie View's campus this summer to photograph women as "queens." All are welcome to be photographed: female students, faculty, staff, alumnae and supporters are encouraged to participate. For a small donation patrons will be treated to a glamorous photo session, receive a copy of their photo, as well as have their picture displayed in the University Art Gallery during the Homecoming 2013 exhibit: **Our Queens**.



To be a part of this incredible exhibition and to support the PVAMU Art Gallery
contact Art Curator, Lauren K. Oliver at (936) 261-1523 or email Ldkelley@pvamu.edu.
To learn more about the Art Gallery visit www.pvamu.edu/library/artgallery.

**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**