

1876

A Magazine for
Alumni, Faculty and Supporters

Winter★2013

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

Life Lessons

How Loni Love and
other graduates found
true success

**Provost Returns to
Classroom After 18 Years**



Under New Leadership

NAA President plans for
transformative action



**Brown's Re-election
Affirms Love for
PVAMU**



New year,
new goals.

The end of the year always brings thoughts of reflecting on achievements, setting goals and making plans. As 2014 introduces itself, I am reminded of all the things we have done to make Prairie View A&M a better place.

You have heard us talk about updating the infrastructure, building new buildings and improving facilities. This year alone, we have broken ground and opened a number of new facilities. Next year will be no different. The baseball field is the start of a much larger project – the sports complex. At the start of the season this spring, the 2012 SWAC Champs will have access to a refurbished dugout, new grandstands, a new backstop, concession stand, a press box and other amenities. Once completed, this will be a top-of-the-line facility that will enhance the game-day experience for not only our athletes but for you, our fans, as well. To help visitors and alumni navigate our changing campus, a new signage system was put in place. Read more about it on pg. 4.

Last year kicked off with 236 students traveling to the nation's capitol to watch the second inauguration of President Barack Obama and ended with our students voting in the student center for the very first time. After a request from the student body that garnered national media attention, the Waller County Commissioners Court voted to allow the Memorial Student Center to serve as the official polling location (pg. 22). In both cases, these instances show that our students are becoming active citizens in their communities.

While we showed marked progress, there were also moments of loss. Within two months, both the third president of our University, Dr. A.I. Thomas, and the sixth president Dr. Charles Hines passed away (pg. 19). Both made a significant impact on the University that will be seen for years to come. We (each of the PVAMU presidents) are members of a special fraternity. Each of us carries the burden and blessing that PVAMU has to offer. Their presence will be missed and their legacies will live on.

Just like 2013 flew by, so did the first 10 years of my presidency. Over time, the moments, achievements, milestones and accomplishments took on a pattern and several themes appeared including, reading, civility, leadership, growth and globalization. Tradition, teaching, research, service and legacy also made the list. During the next year and those that follow, these themes will govern the activities and events that we decide to make a priority, just as they are currently woven into the fabric of the previous years.

We have a long list of accomplishments over the last decade as well as the last year and, indeed there are more to come. I can't help but to believe that people have a greater sense of pride in being affiliated with PVAMU. That sense of pride is what makes PVAMU what Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith (pg. 16) calls "the brightest star in the southwestern sky."

I'm proud of where we have been able to take PVAMU. As I say to the students, faculty and staff at the start of each year, *the best is yet to come.* ★

George C. Wright



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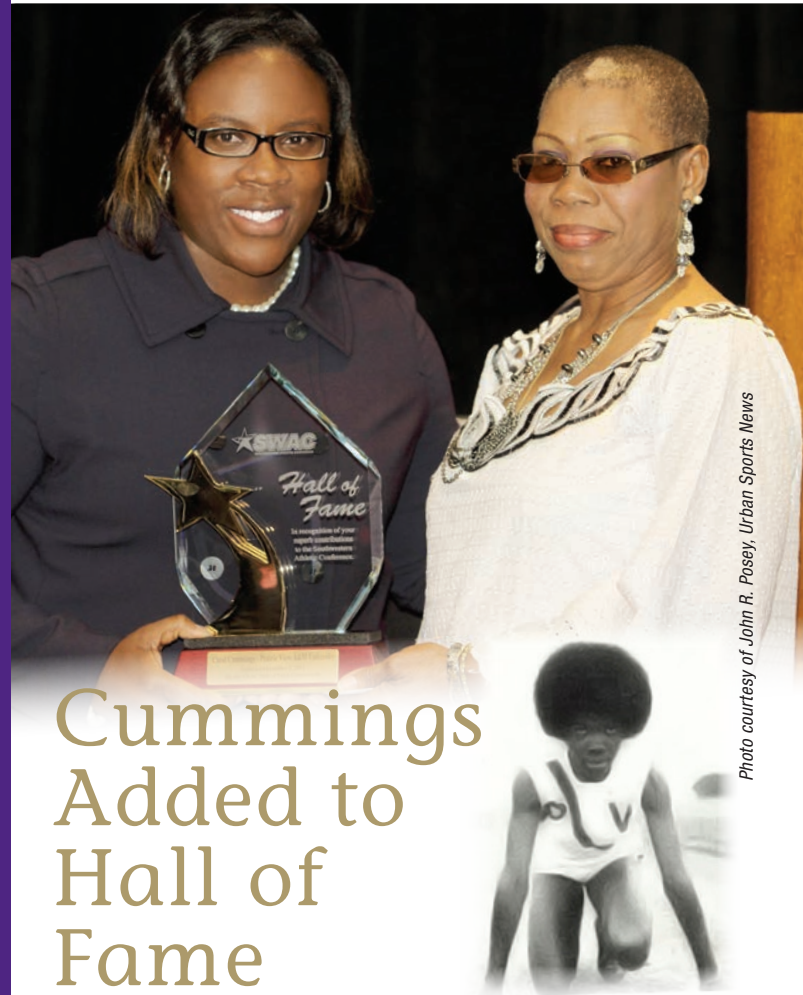
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Cummings Added to Hall of Fame

Carol Cummings '76 (right) was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame during the reception and induction ceremony for the 2013 class. Cummings, a record-setting sprinter, was a member of the first two SWAC women's indoor and outdoor championship teams under SWAC Hall of Famer Barbara Jacket.

Cummings participated in the 1972 Munich and 1976 Montréal Olympic games. She joins a host of PVAMU athletes in the conference's list of greats.

Photo courtesy of John R. Posey, Urban Sports News

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Photos by C. Landry

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he Northwest Center hosted a graduation ceremony, but it was not for your traditional PVAMU student. Instead, through a grant funded by the U.S. Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation, PVAMU Continuing Education declared 16 students as graduates of the Texas Construction Career Academy.

"I wanted students, graduates and residents to have an opportunity to get the necessary tools and techniques needed to work within the highway construction industry," said Rebecca Faison, director of Continuing Education.

the View

STEPHENS MAKES HISTORY AS TOP COP



When Zena Stephens was selected as the new police chief, it meant more than just a move to Houston from Beaumont. It meant that she made history as PVAMU's first female police chief.

Stephens, a 24-year law enforcement veteran, started as the University's top cop this summer and has made her presence known with a more visible and active police force. She's experienced her first homecoming and her first commencement ceremony, but she is still getting her feet wet. She sat down with 1876 to share a bit about what it's like to be a female cop and how things will change under her watch.

How did you start a career in law enforcement?

After graduating from Lamar University with my bachelor's in political science, my goal was to go to law school, but the Beaumont Police Department was hiring. I applied, went to the academy and spent almost seven and a half years as a basic police officer chasing down bad guys. I transferred to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and I found myself being promoted through the department.

When I look back on it, it's been fun. In 24 years, I've done a lot. I love law enforcement. I tried to leave it a short time after my daughter was born. I missed the thrill and only stayed away one year.

Did you have any struggles in your career related to your gender?

I was brought up by two great parents who made me believe that anything was possible if I got an education. They never let my two sisters and me use gender as an excuse. We knew that to be the best, we had to work hard.

Law enforcement is traditionally a male-dominated profession. It was important for me to prove to my male counterparts that I could do the job physically as well as mentally. As I promoted through the ranks, it became a

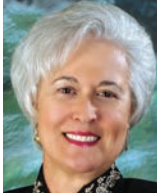


XM Radio Station to air HBCU, PVAMU Content

Two of PVAMU's own have hit the global airwaves to share our message. No stranger to the airwaves, KPVM's own **Frank Jackson '73** and **Amparo Navarete '91,'12** can now be heard on HBCU Radio SiriusXM's Channel 142, which launched in November.

Howard University developed HBCU Sirius XM, a satellite radio station dedicated to share the news and happenings of HBCUs around the country. Each participating university airs sample original programming that is carried on their airways.

PVAMU has two programs. "Latinos on the Hill," a bilingual talk show discussing the unique history and culture of PVAMU, hosted by Navarete airs at 2 p.m. each Monday and re-airs at 5 p.m. Wednesday, 4 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Sunday.



"On the Hill," hosted by Prairie View Mayor Frank Jackson, is a public affairs show that discusses a variety of topics pertaining to PVAMU, from voting rights to human interest stories. "On the Hill" airs several times during the week: 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The University has plans to increase its presence and will roll out new programs throughout the year. ★
S. Gamble, Student Contributor

She made it her mission and organized the two-week program in less than six weeks, bringing together professors from the School of Architecture, the College of Business and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service to provide OSHA and GIS training, skid-steer training, financial planning classes and interview tips. Workforce Solutions was also consulted to help students with resumes.

"It was a challenge, but we are a community-driven University that provides solutions," Faison said. PVAMU's Academy was modeled after similar programs offered at UTA and TSU but differed by providing a mentor who would be available for 60 days after the program. "The community needs people with these skills and techniques and this program benefited not just the participants but was a benefit to the communities where they live."

The program culminated in a job fair where representatives from at least 11 different companies gave on-site interviews. Plans are under way for a spring session. ★ *C. Hinkson, Student Contributor*

little more tricky and clouded with politics and silly games. Education helped me navigate through that as well.

So, no excuses? Hard work always means success?

I hate whining and excuses. There's always someone who has it tougher than you do. Remembering those few things helped me to succeed.

What made you come to PVAMU?

I had been the deputy chief for 10 years. My daughter was in college and my life was changing. PVAMU wasn't too far from home and it was less of a political environment and would allow me to get a breath of fresh air. I knew it would be a challenge but I was up for it.

You've made history as the first female police chief in the PVAMU's history. What do you feel knowing you've blazed a trail for other females who seek a similar career path?

There are people who have had a greater impact on the world than I have. The most important thing for me is to set an example for my daughter. She can do anything her heart desires if she works at it. I want her and others

to know that you can break barriers and any barrier you break helps someone else.

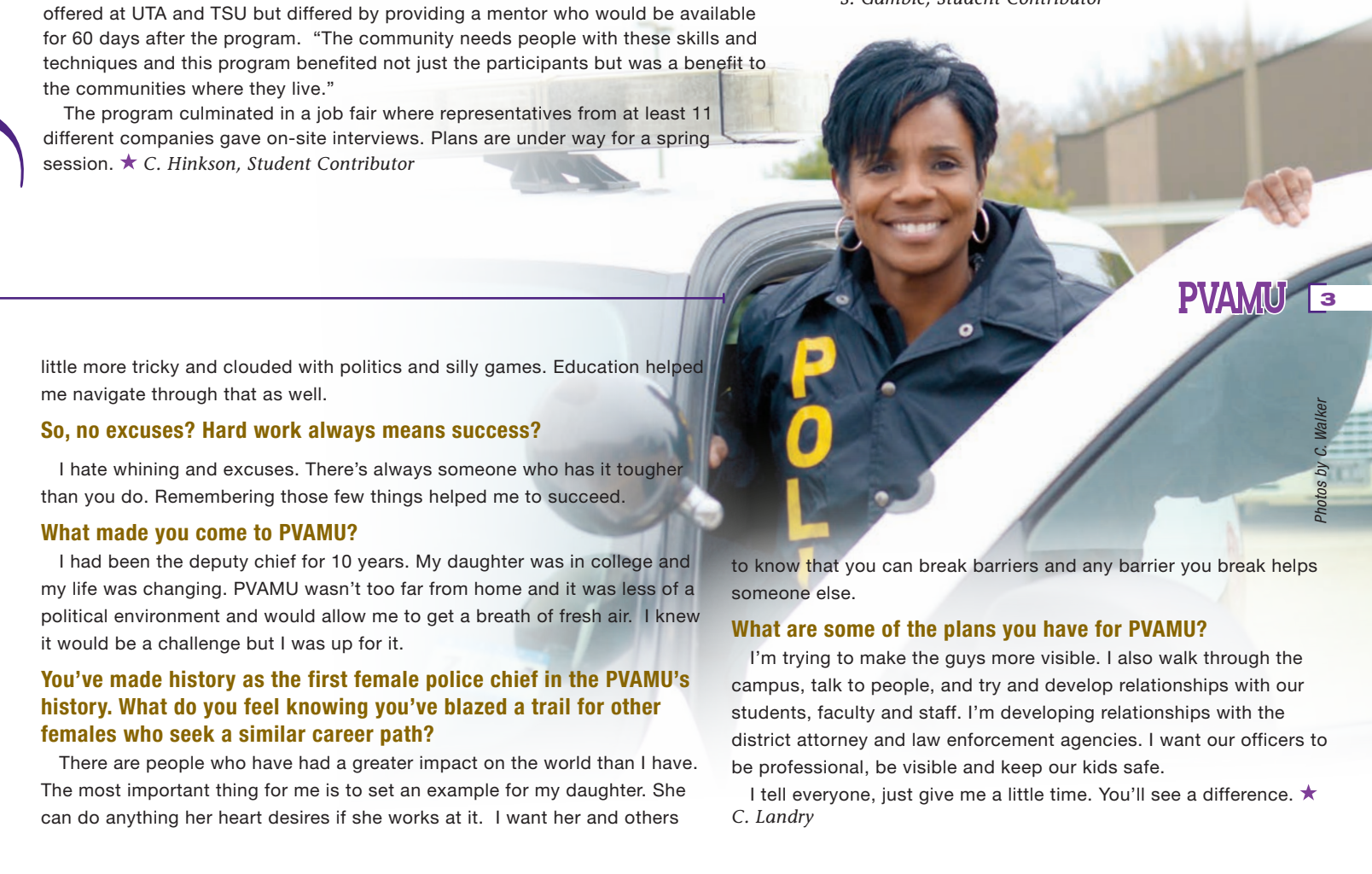
What are some of the plans you have for PVAMU?

I'm trying to make the guys more visible. I also walk through the campus, talk to people, and try and develop relationships with our students, faculty and staff. I'm developing relationships with the district attorney and law enforcement agencies. I want our officers to be professional, be visible and keep our kids safe.

I tell everyone, just give me a little time. You'll see a difference. ★
C. Landry

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Photos by C. Walker



A Changing Landscape

You don't have to look closely to see that there are changes happening. It's in the new buildings and even in the signs directing you where to go.

Since this summer, the campus is undergoing a major transformation near the William "Billy" J. Nicks Building. The new student recreation center has a projected



completion date of spring 2015.

While the construction of the recreation center is the largest project under way, there are several new additions. Throughout the campus, new directional signage has been installed. Each of the signs points visitors to buildings and other key areas. Additionally, each building is currently being outfitted with uniform signage that includes its official name and use.

The new additions to the campus include the completion of University View, the new residential complex adjacent to the Carden-Waller Cooperative Extension Program building. The facility took in residents for the

first time in August. Additionally, the Zone dining facility has opened in Farrell Hall near the rear of campus. The cafeteria offers healthier food options for students, faculty and staff. Upgrades to the baseball field and grand stand are the first projects in the grand scheme of transforming PVAMU athletics. The facility, which will be ready in time for the 2014 baseball season, will include covered seating, an updated press box and concession stand. Additionally, work has begun on the new retail and bowling center near the front entrance.

"With all of the changes happening on campus, it goes a long way toward making prospective students take a serious look at PVAMU. The changes make the campus an even more appealing place to live and learn," said Mark Pearson, director of enrollment management. ★ C. Landry

Nearly 300 guests, colleagues, family and friends of President George C.

Wright filled the ballroom of the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center to poke fun at him. The guests laughed and teared up at jokes during a roast and toast celebration in honor of his decade as president.



Wright



The roast, whose proceeds will support a scholarship fund created to honor his deceased daughter, capped off a string of various events held throughout the semester. From a movie night featuring his favorite movie, *The Godfather*, a meet-and-greet reception and honor as the grand marshal of the Homecoming Parade, to a conversation with female students where he shared the wisdom he has gained in 40 years of marriage and a successful career, Wright's semester-long celebration allowed him to interact with small groups of students, talk about some of his favorite things and share his perspective on current events and life issues. ★ C. Landry





Photos by C. Landry and D. Dangerfield



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QUEEN EXHIBIT SHOWCASES WOMEN

Last fall, visitors to the library witnessed a celebration of womanhood in a unique way – through visual art. The women featured lent their countenance to internationally acclaimed photographer – Jerry Taliaferro. The group ranged from student leaders, to former campus queens, families and even an entire campus department.

“There are a number of women who have dedicated their time and resources to the University,” said **Lorie Freeman '04**. She served as Miss PVAMU 2003-2004. “To see their faces and know their names—speaks volumes. I wanted to be a part of that.”

The exhibition served as the Art Gallery's first fundraiser and was the brainchild of art curator, Lauren Kelley-Oliver. Participants were treated to a glamour session and received a copy of the photo of their choice. The exhibition made its debut during homecoming and was titled, “Our Queens.” ★ J. Peevy



Houston's Own World Wonder

He may be considered the 9th wonder of the world, but **Emanuelee "Outspoken Bean" Bean '08** can also be described as an artist, rapper, teacher, poet, writer, actor, playwright, producer and a few other things. The 9th wonder, well, the ninth best spoken-word poet in the world started at PVAMU.

While majoring in drama, he balanced his time in the Black Box in Hobart Taylor Sr. Building with serving as the campus' resident "poet." It was his sophomore year when he began hosting open mic sessions at the library's café. That led to him creating a team of students to represent the University at slam poetry competitions.

"Poetry and rapping are pretty much the same. Poetry is simply the words or a story without a beat," said **Wille "Willie P." Sowell '10** who was invited to try out for the newly organized poetry team after he performed in a campus pageant. "Bean showed me the actual art to it and gave me the time limits and rhythm of spoken word."

Little did Willie P know he was joining something big. Within a year, Willie P, Outspoken Bean, **Bre'Anna "BreDiva" Cooper '10**, **Jeremyah "Fluent1" Payne '09**, **Thasia "Trademark" Madison '10**, and Ahmad "Nyne" Hygh were practicing late into the night and performing at open mic events on campus and performing at schools and events around Texas.

Within months, the Prairie View Productive Poets were gearing up for a regional competition.

"We didn't have any money for travel or hotel stays. People were donating their personal money to our cause," said Bean, a graduate of NESA Performing and Visual Arts School in San Antonio. "The student body was behind us. People loved us. We even put the president on blast about supporting us, but it paid off." According to Bean, a meeting with the president helped secure the money needed for nationals.

Their run not only landed them a first prize in the region, but the team finished eighth in the nation's College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational competition.

Bean was fine tuning what he thought was a hobby and ultimately a stage name. His older brother was murdered only days before the regional competition. Rodgers Lee Bean, Jr. gave him a lot of confidence, even pushing him to work harder and be a better performer. In honor of him, he now officially goes by "Outspoken Bean" to carry on his memory and honor his family.

That win or any other win for that matter, didn't go to his head. He's ranked second in group piece by National Poetry Slam and he's on Houston's VIP team. He is the coach for Meta-Four Houston, a program of Writers in the Schools (WITS), which encourages self-expression through creative writing and performance. This year the team won first-

PROUD

place in the Texas Youth Poetry Slam.

"Bean sets high standards for students, both in terms of writing and performance. His emphasis on teamwork led Meta-Four Houston to the win," said Robin Reaglar, executive director of acting.

Emanuelee also is well known on the art scene in Houston serving as a writer for WITS' classroom projects, teaching acting master classes and working with the Houston Grand Opera, Main Street Theatre and Young Audiences. He also volunteers at churches and schools throughout the area.

"Houston has an emerging art scene that is blossoming. These art and performance organizations are a small community that is really shaping the city, somewhere in that space there are still plenty of opportunities where I can bud and grow while giving back," said Bean.

This fall, Outspoken is performing his one-man show, "Converse: Live, Introspect, Word" at various festivals including United Solo, the world's largest solo theatre festival. He also made an appearance in New Orleans for the National Performance Network.

"There's no major goal," said Bean. "I don't want to limit what I can do, where I can go, who I can meet or who I can be." ★ S. Reed



Photos courtesy of WITS

Community is what **Kandyace Mayberry '01** does. Her entire career has been sprinkled with roles that allowed her to promote community service and support those with high-profile roles by planning and organizing events, which dates back to her position as advertising manager of the Panther. Her job as the Community Development and Marketing Coordinator for the Houston Texans, has allowed her to sharpen her talent.

Mayberry works within community relations, the marketing department and the foundation of the Houston Texans to coordinate community programming and fundraising, often times pairing up players with projects that they are passionate about. She has watched the organization grow and impact the Houston community in ways most people could never imagine.

Kobe lover or Kobe hater? Umm... does he play football?

Favorite sport? People watching (that's a sport, right?)

Three words that describe you? Full. Of. Personality.

What channel did you leave your television on?

ABC-13 (I love the news!!)

Best concert you ever attended? Tie between George Strait's last concert in the Astrodome and Janet Jackson's Houston concert in 2009

Favorite holiday of the year? Good Friday

Most unforgettable PVAMU moment? Selecting just one moment is like asking a parent to select their favorite child. ★



Alumni *view*points



Photo by C. Landry

Carl Young '59, motivational speaker, business coach, consultant and author, now sits at the helm of the PVAMU National Alumni Association. In 2004, he wasn't even involved. Just five years shy of his 50th class reunion he watched the airing of the PVAMU story, a documentary celebrating the 125-year history of the University, when he remembered all of the things that people sacrificed for him as a student. That prompted him to join the NAA last year. He felt that the organization was ripe for transformative action. Upon the recommendation of a few classmates he ran for the position and was elected to serve through 2015.



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Favorite book? The Autobiography of Malcolm X and The Autobiography of Miles Davis.

Favorite tv show? I love old Westerns. I watch a lot of Gunsmoke and Matlock.

Favorite city? San Francisco

Favorite PVAMU moment?

Becoming President of NAA - I am living my dream, and I know that this is the place I was meant to be at this point in my life. I have a plan, great people in place and this is going to be a great organization. We are going to make it happen! ★ *C. Johnson*

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

As Texans we might want to say, "There's a new sheriff in town" but, more aptly, what we have is a newly elected president for the Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association (NAA)—**Carl L. Young '59**. His vision and agenda for the Association follow:

It starts with: Our Vision - Our Agenda

On all levels, it's all about the STUDENT! The three pillars of progress—Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View A&M Foundation and the National Alumni Association—must be aimed primarily at advancing the causes and concerns of our students.

As an alumni association, we must be a viable advocate for the University, the Foundation and all alumni. We must be an organization that supports 54,000-plus graduates. This will require us to be in the customer service business. We must reach out and engage younger alums by meeting them on their level and providing programs and services to help them succeed. We must be an organization that "gives" and not just "takes." We must transform the Association and capture its full potential, which is unlimited, given the broad base of talent and resources we have within our constituency.

We will make it happen with the strategy of:

3 Tens +

1ST Ten We must attract 10 percent of ALL alumni as members of the NAA. This will require various levels of membership and affordable pricing coupled with programs and services to benefit all alumni.

2ND Ten Our focus must be to encourage 10 percent of our membership to donate small amounts to the PVAM Foundation for the stadium complex project to increase the number of people who are contributing. This may be thought of as an "ALL IN" strategy. Alumni are encouraged to make a recurring donation of at least \$10 per month; or to meet the Students' Challenge of \$360 annually through \$30 monthly with a 24-month commitment. Alumni can seek other giving opportunities starting at \$5,000 over the next two years. Either option will show potential corporate sponsors we have alumni supporting the effort.

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Alumni Voice

Chapter Chatter

Dallas Alumni Chapter Demonstrates Support of Athletics

Each fall since 1996, the Dallas PV Chapter has hosted a scholarship gala in support of the PVAMU athletic program. **Opal Johnson Smith '54** and **Hensley Sapenter '64** organized this special event to serve Dallas-area alumni. Since 2001, **Kimberley Runnels '93** has served as the general chair of the event. The chapter, led by newly elected president, **Billy Davis, Jr. '91**, celebrated its 18th Annual Athletic Scholarship and Stadium Gala this fall.

Proceeds have exceeded \$600,000 with the last three years bringing in the bulk of the proceeds—approximately \$100,000—which were contributed to the PVAM Foundation for the Stadium Complex effort.

To increase revenue, the chapter initiated its K Club program in which alumni and friends are asked to give "over and above" with contributions of 2K, 1K, 1/2K, and 1/4K. ★



Introducing the 2013-2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM



President
Carl L. Young '59
B.A., Business
Administration/Economics



Vice President
Kimberly Runnels '93
B.A., Spanish



Secretary
Charlotte Jefferson Huggins '90
B.S., Biology



Treasurer
Roosevelt R. F. Huggins '92
B.S., Mechanical
Engineering



Financial Secretary
Robert L. Evans III '94
B.B.A., Accounting



Parliamentarian
Frederick V. Roberts, Esq. '77/'82
B.B.A., Accounting; MBA

Historian
Pauline Pollitt Bonner '64
B.A., Business Administration/
Economics

2Ts 2Win!

3RD Ten 10 percent of our membership must attend the annual NAA Convention. This event must become an affair that everyone wants to attend because it will be affordable, be relevant, be attractive with programming and services for all participants, be the forum to develop new ideas and programs to keep the NAA moving forward, and be a "mini reunion" for all ages.

1ST T We must use **technology** in our processes and procedures to develop a technology-based infrastructure. Among the ideas we will explore are: electronic polling and balloting; a revised and interactive NAA website; an alumni resource bank featuring programs and services for personal and professional development; and an app that will be available for all electronic devices.

2ND T Our objectives of **transformation** can be achieved through innovation, communication, motivation, caring, listening, learning and sharing.

Win!

Make it happen! If we can do these things together, we will WIN! We will be defined as being an organization all alumni will be proud of and want to be a part of. ★



Supporting Intercollegiate Athletics
in Panther Land Since 1982

ATHLETIC CLUB ENSURING LEGACIES

Chapter president, **George Higgs '56**, select members, University Archivist **Phyllis Earles**, Intramural Sports Coordinator **Lee Gilliam '88/'02** and descendants of the late **Dr. Leroy Moore**, head basketball coach for many years, met to reaffirm Coach Moore's place in the history of PVAMU. The chapter refurbished several basketball trophies won during the Moore era and purchased a display case to house them. The case, a portrait of Coach Moore and a plaque detailing his many accomplishments are on public display in the lobby of the Leroy Moore, Jr. Intramural Gymnasium. Additional photographs and news clippings are in the John B. Coleman Library Archives to comprise the Dr. Leroy Moore, Jr. Memorial Collection.



PVAMU [9]

Based on the success of the Moore project, the Club is now focused on the accomplishments of **Coach Barbara Jacket '68**, who served as the women's track and field coach for numerous years. During this year's homecoming festivities, chapter members **Harold Bonner '62** and **Pauline Bonner '64** met with Jacket and 23 former members of the women's track and field teams to launch the Barbara Jacket Collection. The chapter plans to catalog all the records and trophies of the team and with the support of Toniesha Taylor, assistant professor of communications, interview Jacket and her former athletes to capture and preserve their stories. The completed collection will be housed in the archives. ★



Photo by C. Walker

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or join and pay online at www.pvalumni.org

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

40th Annual NAA Convention Planned for Houston July 23-27, 2014

The Houston Alumni Chapter, host of the convention, has selected the very modern Westin Houston-Memorial City Hotel for the annual convention. Conveniently located off Interstate 10 West, the facility offers numerous amenities and easy access to Houston-area cultural offerings and shopping.

Room rates are \$109 per night and reservations are being accepted now. Conventioneers are encouraged to make early reservations. While full programming has not been completed at this date, participants are assured an interesting, informative and enjoyable conference. Additional details are available at www.pvalumni.org and www.pvamuhoouston.com.

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La Shonda R. Williams '97 is the new manager of the African-American Studies program in the University of Houston's College of Liberal Arts and Social Studies. She brings a wealth of experience to the position, having been an education consultant for 13 public schools with Project GRAD Atlanta and lead coordinator for more than seven years with the Consistency Management and Cooperative Discipline (CMCD) program in the UH College of Education. Her earlier three years of teaching public speaking, journalism and English at Jefferson Davis High School in Houston and experience as a recruiter at PVAMU, coupled with her MPA degree from Troy State University, prepared Williams for the new position. Williams is president of the Houston Alumni Chapter as well as coordinator of the NAA's 2014 Convention scheduled for Houston in July 2014.

Class of 1953 Challenges All Classes

Formally organized in 1978 as it prepared to celebrate its 25th class reunion, the Class of 1953 chapter has continued to show its support to the University. The class presented PVAMU with the landmark "Eternal Flame" monument which, originally located on the right side of the University Drive entrance to the campus, now graces the north end of the lake on the left side of University Drive.

In addition to the Eternal Flame project, the class participated in the Alumni Wall project, purchasing 36 individual bricks and a granite class brick. As part of its 50th reunion in 2003, it established and presented an endowed scholarship fund of more than \$115,000. Since their golden anniversary celebration, the endowment fund has grown to more than \$208,000 and funded scholarship awards exceeding \$71,000 to 34 deserving students. Additionally, another seven students have received \$7,000 from another scholarship fund provided by the class. They also contribute \$1,000 annually to the PVAMU Undergraduate Medical Academy. Recently, in support of the new stadium complex project, the class pledged to purchase 100 individual bricks, a class brick and a stadium seat. As of Homecoming 2013, the stadium pledge was 43 percent complete.

In 1989, the Class of '53, with 19 charter members, became the first PV alumni class to apply for and be accepted as an affiliate member of the NAA.

Chapter president, **Dr. Robert Stinnett**, reported that at Homecoming 2013 it celebrated its 60-year class reunion with more than 76 members and guests present. ★

Productive Panthers

Bruce L. Gray '77 has been awarded the designation as one of the top financial advisors in the Houston region in 2012 and 2013. He is a member of the prestigious Million-Dollar Round Table, recognized internationally as the standard of excellence in the financial services industry. Gray currently is a Registered Financial Services Representative with MetLife in Houston. Prior to joining MetLife, he was a representative with First Investors Corporation for 10 years where he qualified for numerous awards and consistently ranked with the firm's top tier of representatives. He and his wife, Shirley, have been residents of Stafford, Texas, for more than 15 years and are very involved with their community.





Prairie View A&M Foundation

GROWING GREATNESS THROUGH GIVING

PVAMU Graduate Named to Foundation Board



Attorney **Ricky Anderson '83**, managing partner of the law firm of Anderson & Smith PC, was approved early last year.

Attorney 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 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 of the Houston Bar Association's Entertainment & Sports Law Section.

He and his wife, Toi, have two children, Ricky II and Alysia. ★

**In the Spring 2013 issue of 1876, information about Trustee Ricky Anderson was incorrect. This is the corrected article.*

Prairie View A&M Foundation "Calling all Panthers"

HELP NEEDED!

You are needed!

The students voted to increase their fees and each student is paying to support the construction of our Stadium and Fieldhouse. The students have challenged each alumnus to meet or beat their financial commitment by giving at least \$1500 over two years. **To learn more about the students' challenge visit www.pvamf.org** and click on "Students Challenge Alumni" in the lower left corner. With this action by the students, we only need \$10M more to start construction on our new stadium and field house. Will you give? Go to www.helppvbuild.org or mail a check to PVAMF, 6436 Fannin Street, Room 112, and Houston, Texas 77030.

To keep you informed of our progress we need to know where you are and how we can contact you. Please mail your name, address, phone and email to PVAMF, 6436 Fannin Street, Room 112, Houston, Texas 77030 or send via email to info@pvamf.org.

Want to talk?? The Foundation can host video and teleconference meetings for your groups, co-workers or Church members. Send a note to info@pvamf.org and request a "Conversation with the Foundation," or call us at (800) 707-8138 x104 – Speak with Ms. Rita Houston and sign up for a conversation!

WWW.HELPPVBUILD.ORG

Wanted – Employer Matching Gifts – Does your employer have a program that will match your gifts to the Foundation? This can double, in some cases triple your gifting to the Foundation. All you need to do is ask your employer if PVAMF is registered for matching gifts. If not, please register us. The data you need is: Prairie View A&M Foundation, 6436 Fannin St., Rm. 112, Houston, Texas 77030. Federal Tax ID - 38-3798900; website - www.pvamf.org; contact email; info@pvamf.org; phone - (800) 707-8138 X-104

**Let's Continue –
Growing Greatness
through Giving!!**

**If we can do it, you can do it.
Will you match our commitment?**

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

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

PVAMU [1]

Incorporation State of
Texas, June 2009

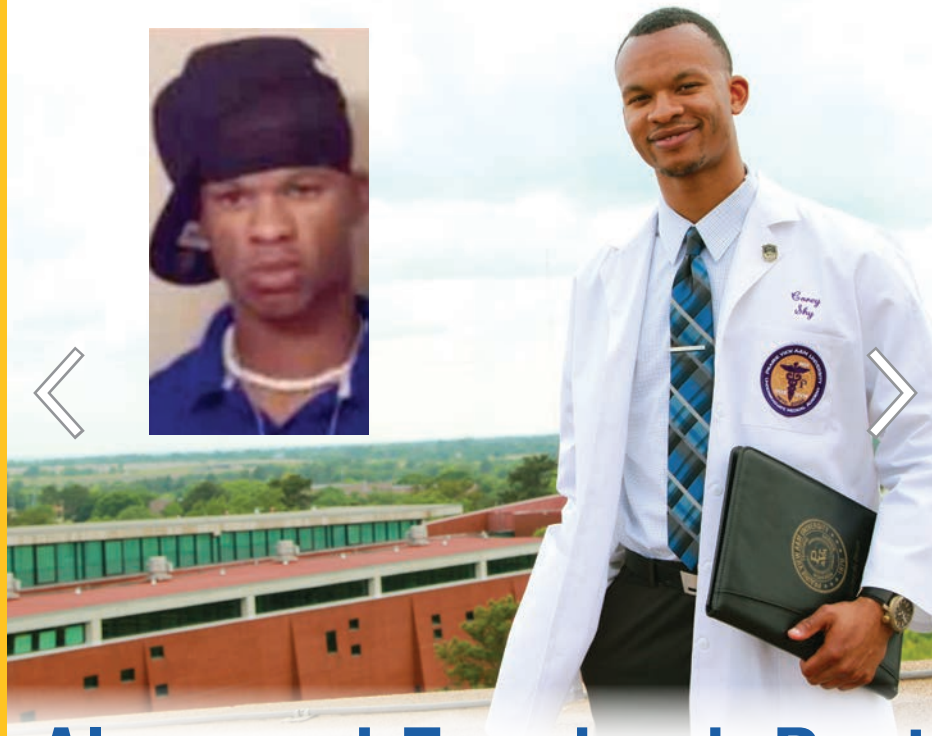
Tax Exemption 501(c)3,
Public Foundation, Charity,
June 2009

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-Passed
*Can be found online at
www.pvamf.org





Corey Shy

July 17 via mobile
near San Antonio, TX

I am Trayvon Martin..

The picture on the left was taken when I was 17 years old, had just graduated from high school, and really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. Based on my appearance in this picture, you probably would have labeled me a thug or a trouble maker. I only graduated in the top 50% of my class and I took my ACT 4 times. A promising future in college doesn't look too well... See More

Like · Comment · Share · Sponsored

TiVon Phillips, Corey Shy, Heather Mingo and 274 others like this.

76,552 shares

View 35 more comments



Ridge Fields-Cooper Your focus and spirit is second to none, God bless you brother Shy, keep letting the light shine for his purpose.

July 18 at 10:22pm via mobile · Like · 5



Aerial Mahryah Guest This is amazing! I am so proud of you! And I know my nene talks highly of you when you and your mom run into her. Keep up the good work Corey. You are an inspiration to all people and not just in the African American Race but to all Races and to everyone. You are a true hero to all who know you and love you.

Alumnus' Facebook Post Enlightens, Goes Viral

Imagine opening up your Facebook account to post a photo and share a heartfelt story that the picture illustrates. You write the words with the intention of sharing it with your Facebook friends. Soon, a friend hits the share button. Then another friend shares the status. Pretty soon, your notifications are filled with thousands of share alerts.

While it's a thought for some, the scenario played out on the Facebook page of **Corey Shy '13** last year. As

George Zimmerman stood trial for the murder of Florida teen Trayvon Martin, it was often debated whether the hoodie Martin wore gave the impression that he was a criminal. In response to this thought shared by some pundits, Shy decided to share his own story.

According to Shy, at 17 years old he dressed in a manner in which he could be perceived as a troublemaker or even a criminal. After entering PVAMU, Shy said he quickly realized he needed to devote himself to his studies. Today, he is enrolled in medical school at Texas A&M University.

"No one would have imagined that I would be doing so well and on my way to medical school. Who is to say that could not have happened to Trayvon Martin if he was still alive? He could have been the next doctor, lawyer, engineer, teacher, etc.," said Shy.

Shy's message resonated with not only his Facebook friends, but with thousands across the country. Within a matter of days, Shy's message was shared by nearly 80,000 people and quickly went viral. The post led to news interviews and mentions in various media outlets across the country. ★ C. Landry

PROUD

12

Photos courtesy of Google Images



PVAMU LOSES A LEGEND

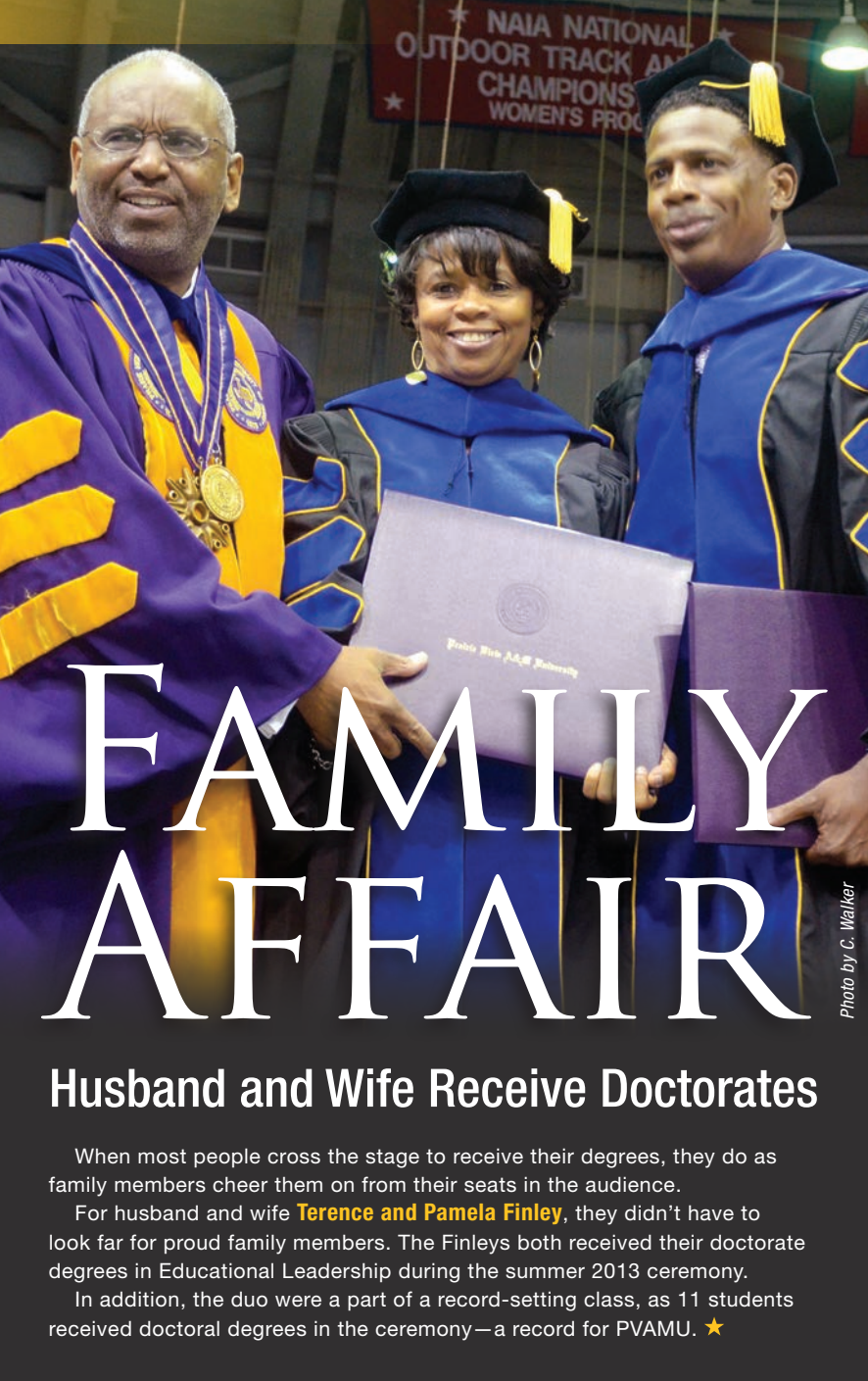
Zelmo Beaty is considered the greatest basketball player in PVAMU history. He holds a total of 11 school records and helped the Panthers capture the 1962 NAIA Championship. He passed away on Aug. 27 at the age of 73.

Scholarship

The death of 2010 engineering graduate **Terrell Cowherd** made headlines this year. According to news accounts, he attempted to break up a fight outside of a Dallas nightclub and was stabbed to death. Cowherd was 26 years old.

While his death was unforeseen and devastating, the tragedy brought his family and his employer together. From their meeting emerged the opportunity to provide financial assistance to a current PVAMU student majoring in engineering.

"I want his legacy to live on at PVAMU



FAMILY AFFAIR

Photo by C. Walker

Husband and Wife Receive Doctorates

When most people cross the stage to receive their degrees, they do as family members cheer them on from their seats in the audience.

For husband and wife **Terence and Pamela Finley**, they didn't have to look far for proud family members. The Finleys both received their doctorate degrees in Educational Leadership during the summer 2013 ceremony.

In addition, the duo were a part of a record-setting class, as 11 students received doctoral degrees in the ceremony—a record for PVAMU. ★

Lecture Series Combines Graduates Loves

Captain Paul Matthews '68, founder of Houston's Buffalo Soldier Museum, will admit there are at least two things he loves—his alma mater Prairie View A&M University and history. Consider his joy when the Office of Development approached him about featuring an annual lecture series that would bring together both?



The first of the semi-annual series was held in late September and featured guest lecturer Dr. Quintard Taylor, Jr. who discussed the impact of the Buffalo Soldiers to an auditorium full of history and political science students. The well-known researcher and historian discussed major events that dated back to the 1800s and introduced information that isn't typically found in textbooks. It was the perfect description of what the Office of Development painted when they approached Matthews last year.

"I wanted him to understand that his donation (if used as a scholarship) would only affect just a few students each semester," said Nelson Bowman, executive director of development. To help make his point, he partnered with Lauren Kelly-Oliver, PVAMU art curator and planned an event that celebrated history while educating hundreds of students.

Matthews was sold and the rest was history.

Plans are under way for a possible week-long series and partnerships with local museums and organizations. The 2013 lecture was recorded by C-SPAN and is available on the network's website. ★ *C. Hinkson, student contributor*

Honors Fallen Graduate

to help students pursuing their respective dreams and goals," said his mother Michelle Cowherd. "He exhibited personal motivation, high performance and tenacity to succeed in his chosen profession. The scholarship was created to honor that memory and reward that same passion in our future leaders."

While at Prairie View, Cowherd was an active student. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., served as a student mentor in G-Force, was a mentor in the ACCESS program and was a member of National Society of Black Engineers.

Luminant Corporation, where he was employed at the time of his death, provided the initial funding of \$5,000 to create an endowment and scholarship.

Engineering students interested in the Terrell Evan Cowherd Engineering Scholarship must possess a current GPA of 2.8 and cumulative GPA of 3.0. Students must submit a 1,000-word essay articulating why they should be selected for the scholarship. Additional information about the scholarship can be found at www.pvamu.edu/scholarships. ★

D. Daniels, contributor

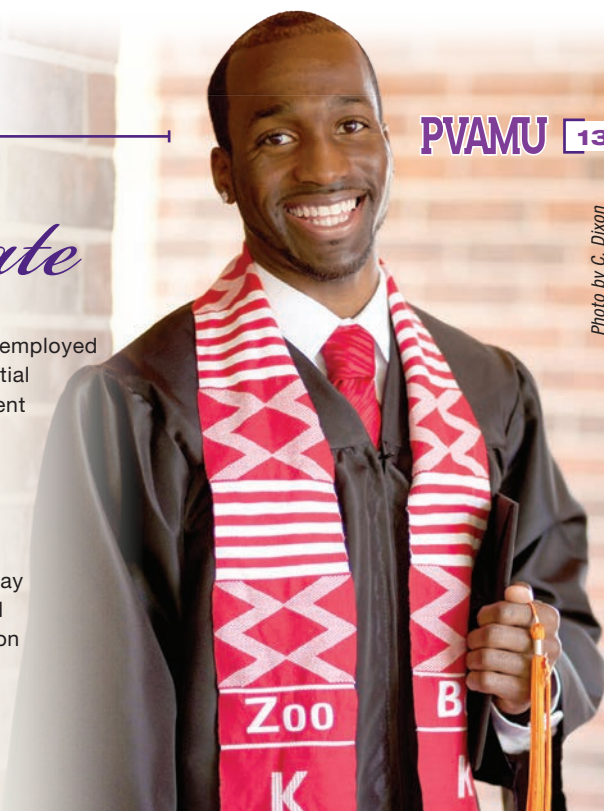


Photo by C. Dixon

Life Lessons

How Loni Love and Other Graduates Found True Success

Every kindergarten class has a day where students must declare “What I want to be when I grow up.” Many dress up as someone they looked up to—a firefighter, teacher, police officer. While these roles are excellent choices for a career, what they probably didn’t take into consideration as 5-year-olds was the journey that life would take them on and how their hidden talents and passions would appear through their successes and failures.

Loni Love '91 doesn’t remember what she wanted to be when she was in kindergarten, but when she came to Prairie View A&M University she had plans to be an electrical engineer. After a chance meeting with an engineer at General Motors while working a summer job on the assembly line, she was convinced that she could make a lot of money as an engineer. She saved up enough to pay for one semester of college and made her way to Texas.

“I was so scared because I knew I wouldn’t have anywhere else to go,” said Love who is a Detroit native. “I studied extremely hard and got all A’s and one B.” The long nights, hard work and studying didn’t go unnoticed. She received a scholarship from General Motors that would pay for the remainder of her college career.

Once an Engineer, Always an Engineer

“After graduation, I received seven job offers from all around the United States,” said Love. “I chose Xerox in El Segundo, California simply because Fred Sanford, the comedian, would always talk about El Segundo.” She took it as a sign and for eight years worked her way up the career ladder.

At night and on weekends she continued to nurture a hobby—stand-up comedy. While she succeeded in the workplace, she also started booking television work and appearing at top comedy clubs throughout Los Angeles.

At some point she knew that she would have to make a choice. Xerox made it for her. As they were experiencing cutbacks she asked to be on the chopping block.

“I went to my boss and asked him to save someone else’s job and just lay me off,” said Love. Since then, Love has been featured as a regular panelist on the Chelsea Handler Show, appeared as a guest DJ on Ellen and appeared in the hit comedy Soul Plane.

Inspired by Whoopi Goldberg, Richard Pryor, Ellen Degeneres and countless other comedic personalities, Love is still aiming higher. She currently co-hosts Café Mocha radio on XM Satellite Radio and will be a co-host for the Fox daytime talk show “The Real” which will also air on BET. In addition,

Love’s first book, “Love Him Or Leave Him, But Don’t Get Stuck With the Tab: Hilarious Advice for Real Women” is garnering rave reviews.

“Once an engineer, always an engineer. I have applied those basic principles I learned to my comedy career. That is why you see the success I am having today.”



Hail Mary

After two years of chasing the NFL dream, **Aaron Spivey-Sorrells '01** decided to join corporate America and work for Dell computers.

"It was one of the worst times in my life," the Austin native explains. "I was 25 years old with a degree in communications and I was moving boxes." As disappointment and uncertainty began to settle, 20 seconds of insane courage changed his life forever.

In 2006, the hit TV show Friday Night Lights began filming down the road from his house. Their casting call was looking for men with athletic builds to fill the roles of extras. Spivey responded and was chosen out of more than 500 people, landing a role as a featured extra playing a football coach.

As filming began, extras were issued two simple rules: Don't talk to the main cast and don't talk to the director. Within minutes he had broken both rules. This typically resulted in being removed from the set but for Spivey-Sorrells it resulted in being asked to serve as a consultant to the show and, ultimately, a speaking part.



"I was angry with God because I tried my best and gave my all in an effort to make it as a professional football player. I was sure that I was being blocked from success," Spivey-Sorrells said. "I would always get so close that I could see it but I could never touch it and I was angry." He said once the director gave him a speaking role in an episode that was the day God told him that he was being prepared for a much larger role.

The Science Behind it

A similar moment happened for **Byron Lundy '01**, who came to PVAMU's summer Pre-Medical Concepts Institute with a mission to become the next great ophthalmologist. He did everything right: double majoring in Biology and Chemistry, taking the MCAT and applying to medical school, but he never received an acceptance letter. "I wanted to be a doctor because my uncle inspired me," he explains. His uncle, also a HBCU grad, had the life that Byron always desired—the big house, nice car and good job.

"But what I soon realized was that what inspired me about my uncle's success was more about being him being an entrepreneur, creator and leaving a path rather than his science background and position as a doctor," Lundy said.

That realization sent him on a new path. Equipped with a new passion and sense of purpose, Lundy pursued several ventures while holding down a full-time job. Forensic Detectives, a genetic testing clinic; 4TION Entertainment, an event planning and lifestyle marketing company; and Undiscovered Time winery/wine bar fueled his entrepreneurial flame for more than eight years. It wasn't until 2009, after being laid off that his "ah ha" moment occurred.



"I made the decision that this is my time, this is my opportunity to be the entrepreneur I always wanted to be and to give that 100 percent focus," said Lundy.

Loni Love is currently on a book tour and performing stand up comedy throughout the country. She is gearing up to film new episodes of "The Real" which will air in January 2014.



Aaron Spivey-Sorrells has a recurring role on NBC's Revolution and TNT's Dallas. When he is not filming, he performs stand-up comedy in his local market.



Byron Lundy is part owner of **IAM Brands Interactive** and **iammobileapps**, a rising digital marketing agency specializing in apps, digital engagement and event planning.



Angelique Moulton serves as special education resource teacher in the Spring Branch Independent School District with future goals of mastering educational technology.



PVAMU 15

The Reward



During the spring of 1990, **Angelique Moulton '92** was certain she would follow in her parents' footsteps and be a successful business woman. She had a simple plan: graduate and work in the family business and take over when everyone retired.

Armed with a business management degree, Moulton eagerly accepted the challenge to grow her family's business, which developed and distributed Advantage 20X Multipurpose cleaner on Chicago's famed Southside. Within three years the eagerness faded into unhappiness.

"I had innovative ideas that I was certain would change the way business was being done. I found that those notions were quite threatening to many people," Moulton said. Discouraged and defeated, Angelique moved to Houston and became a stay-at-home mom. As her children reached school-age, she joined the education

field, first starting as a volunteer then a substitute.

"I was also faced with the challenge of raising and advocating for my own special-needs child," Moulton said. "I enjoyed what I was doing with little to no pay, and figured I might as well get paid." She joined the professional ranks as a certified teacher.

For the last 12 years, Moulton has shaped the minds of thousands of young people as part of the public education system. "My greatest reward is the moments when they know you care, that you are listening to them, and they can trust you," she said. "Knowing a learner has given themselves permission to learn and grow is the ultimate joy."

Love, Spivey-Sorrells, Lundy, and Moulton gave themselves that permission to learn and grow. Life gave them a crossroads and they had the courage to pursue something that forever changed their lives. ★ *C. Johnson*



E.

Joahanne Thomas-Smith initially believed she'd made a wrong turn from the main highway one Sunday afternoon in 1968. She drove her new VIP Plymouth down a bumpy stretch in what seemed to be the forgotten middle of a not-much place, where she had signed on to be an instructor of English. At the road's end was an array of structures consisting of some wood-framed houses, weathered brick buildings, and former military barracks that made up the fledgling Prairie View Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas.

Dr. Anne Campbell, department head of English, reached out to a colleague at the then Tuskegee Institute searching for people who could join Prairie View. She was introduced to a Tuskegee graduate who was teaching English at a high school in Spokane, Wash. Thomas-Smith was also the coach of the school's highly successful debate team.

The discomfort of the unfamiliar surroundings left a young Thomas with thoughts of a very short tenure at the small Texas college. Upon reflection after four decades, Thomas-Smith says with pride that she "wouldn't take nothin' for her journey now," to paraphrase the old Negro spiritual. Meeting the people, especially the faculty and the students, was an epiphany. Their hopes and dreams made them look beyond the present day and what they did not have.

"I found in Prairie View what Dr. George Ruble Woolfolk described as 'a spirit'" she said, referring to renowned Texas state historian and former head of the department of history.

42 Years Later

'BRIGHTEST

**COVER
STORY**

Still Captures Thomas-

Academy

Communication Week Set for February

More than 25 speakers from California, Washington, D.C. and New York, to Michigan and Texas will convene on campus for the Department of Languages and Communication's inaugural Communication Week. The event is scheduled for February 3-6, 2014, and will include classroom lectures, roundtables, and workshops.

Students will meet with communication professionals and practitioners to examine and discuss career opportunities and interests in public relations, journalism, media production, documentary film making, and academic careers, among others.

"We'll have hands-on workshops in media production, resume and portfolio development, and landing jobs in Hollywood and beyond," emphasizes Dr. James Palmer, department head. "PVAMU alumni will be instrumental in the week's success." Program Coordinator Lewis Smith and Assistant Professor Toniesha Taylor have been instrumental in arranging the program with Palmer.



KPVU

Thomas-Smith speaks fondly and reverently of the legends who had a direct hand in her professional and personal development. Reverend Lee C. Phillip was awe inspiring. Drs. E.E. O'Banion, George Ruble Woolfolk, and Anne L. Campbell as well as Mrs. Anne Preston and Mrs. Rita Bland Evans were academic and professional class acts. "Their contributions are like intricately woven tapestry—they feed off each other and on this the University has been built," Thomas-Smith said.

Her first few years spent working alongside these masters at their craft confirmed her once unsure decision to come to "The Hill," which she has coined as "The brightest star in the southwestern sky."

"I came to really appreciate the people I found here," said Thomas-Smith. "People here had degrees from top schools around the world and could have worked anywhere. I found a cadre of dedicated educators who believed in this institution's mission."

Upon returning to Prairie View after receiving her doctorate in higher education at Washington State University, the same dedication within Thomas-Smith led to her first promotion from instructor, debate coach and director of the honors program to head of the Department of English. Soon, the late Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, third President of the College, requested her to lead Prairie View through its Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation of accreditation in 1979 as acting Vice President of Academic Affairs.

"Every dean that I supervised were my senior in administration," she said. But that didn't stop her. She gained new titles that led to her

current position as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. After 18 years in the role, she will move to the classroom full time while continuing to oversee accreditation efforts as the Institutional Accreditation Officer. The move is effective Aug. 31, 2014.

"Dr. Thomas-Smith embodies our academic mission of teaching, research and service," said President George C. Wright. "Not only has she helped the University maintain its accreditation over the years, but she has ushered in new academic programs, mentored faculty, secured research dollars and has been a true ambassador for this institution. Indeed, she has laid the foundation for PVAMU's future growth and success."

Thomas-Smith's higher education career is proof positive that she is driven by a passion for educating youth. That same drive is what motivates her husband of 26 years, Sam Smith, who is the laboratory specialist for the University's School of Architecture.

While her 40 years at Prairie View has seen many highs - such as the oversight of the University's accreditation processes, the NCAA self-study, long-range planning, development of a campus master plan, assistance for school districts and other academic programs - Thomas-Smith takes pride in the success stories she has encountered at every turn. She also celebrates the success of alumni such as **Flora Thomas '86 '88 '92**, who is the program coordinator for the College of Nursing.

"I owe my 30-year career here to her vote of confidence in me," says Thomas. "Her word meant something. She told me who to speak with about the position and it happened," explained Thomas. The two still communicate often about career goals and opportunities.

"Beginning with the first day of class, Dr. Thomas-Smith set the standards for scholarship and achievement and provided excellent instruction, support, personal motivation, words of encouragement and leadership for students to achieve competitive grades and maintain academic excellence and scholarship," said **Dr. Quintin Bullock '80/'84**, president of Schenectady County Community College.

Throughout her 43 years at PVAMU, she has added significant beauty to the PVAMU tapestry, leading many to consider her "the brightest star in the Southwestern sky." ★ J. Peevy

STAR' Smith's Heart



PVAMU 17



Alumni participants include: **Charles E. Williams, Jr. '84**, producer, director and editor for CBS-TV in New York, **Shedrick Cortez Stokes '84**, CEO SCS Films and **Kayla Tucker Adams '97**, senior director of public relations for The Potter House and T.D. Jakes Ministries have committed to the event. **Sheleah Hughes Reed '01**, PVAMU executive director of communications, **Richard White '09** who is a production assistant and assignment editor for Houston ABC affiliate KTRK and **Amen Oyiboke-Osifo '11** a graduate student at the University of Southern California are also slated to speak.

Many of the week's speakers will also participate in the 2014 National HBCU Student News Media Conference hosted by the department as part of Communication Week, which will have more than 150 participants from around the country. ESPN's Stephen A. Smith will round out the event.



"Clearly, the range of activities on campus that week will be amazing and fully student-focused," said Palmer. The department is also hosting its third annual American Forensics Association District 3 National Qualifier that very same weekend.

Senior communication major **Tarynn Adams** has cleared her schedule to take full advantage of the activities. "As graduation gets closer and closer, I am trying to be exposed to everything the field has to offer me. There aren't a lot of chances to talk to professionals about how to break into television or public relations. I don't want to miss a single chance to get a job or meet someone important."

While Adams will be busy making sure she is known, Palmer hopes that these events will help promote the department and university, too. "Prairie View is one of the best kept secrets and that's not a good thing. We need to let people know why PV is a gem, and Communication Week is a great way to show them." ★ C. Moore, Student Contributor



The School of Architecture, Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture named **Dr. Lason Hines** director in March.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH XI'AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

will aid PVAMU in the formation of a Confucius Institute. The Institute will be one of 300 in the nation. Plans are under way for a 2014 opening.



Dr. Felecia M. Nave was selected as an Emerging Scholar by Diverse: Issues In Higher Education magazine. Nave was highlighted for her work in the academy through teaching, research and service, specifically her efforts on assisting women faculty in STEM navigate professorial ranks.



Q4 MOBILE'S QRAZOR was secured to support library patrons by offering access to information on their mobile phone. Patrons can scan codes throughout John B. Coleman to instantly obtain relevant information.

Dr. Munir Quddus was appointed Associate Provost of the Northwest Houston Center. While continuing to serve as dean of the PVAMU College of Business, Quddus will be leading the efforts to increase enrollment and sustainable program offerings at the Northwest Houston Center. Dr. Daniel Perez serves as the associate director.



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST HOUSTON
CENTER**

Dr. Frank Asby was awarded a three-year \$900,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention for the study of Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention: KAPOW! Project.



Matthew Sadiku, professor of electrical engineering, received the Regents Professor Award for 2012-13. He joins Dr. Iklas Sabouni, Dr. Ronald Boyd, Dr. Judy Perkins, and Dr. Dhadesugoor R. Vaman as professors from PVAMU who were awarded.

Dean Terence Hicks received the 2013 Robert B. Howsam Award from the Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. The award was presented at the annual Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education (CSOTTE) Conference to respected individuals devoted to education.



THE ONLINE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) PROGRAM WAS RECOGNIZED A SECOND TIME AS A "BEST BUY"

among AACSB-accredited business programs by GetEducated.com's national editorial review team. It ranks seventh overall in the survey for affordability.



THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW AND MANTA, CUNDINAMARCA, COLOMBIA SIGNED A SISTER CITY AGREEMENT with the intent to strengthen relations in academic, cultural exchanges and business opportunities.

DAWN BROWN WAS NAMED HEAD COACH OF LADY PANTHER BASKETBALL TEAM

late this summer. Brown, who served under former coach Toyelle Wilson for three years, played a salient role in winning three-consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament Championships. Before coaching at Prairie View, Brown was an assistant coach at Tougaloo College. She is a graduate of Jackson State University. The Lady Panthers are picked to finish second in the Southwestern Athletic Conference this season.

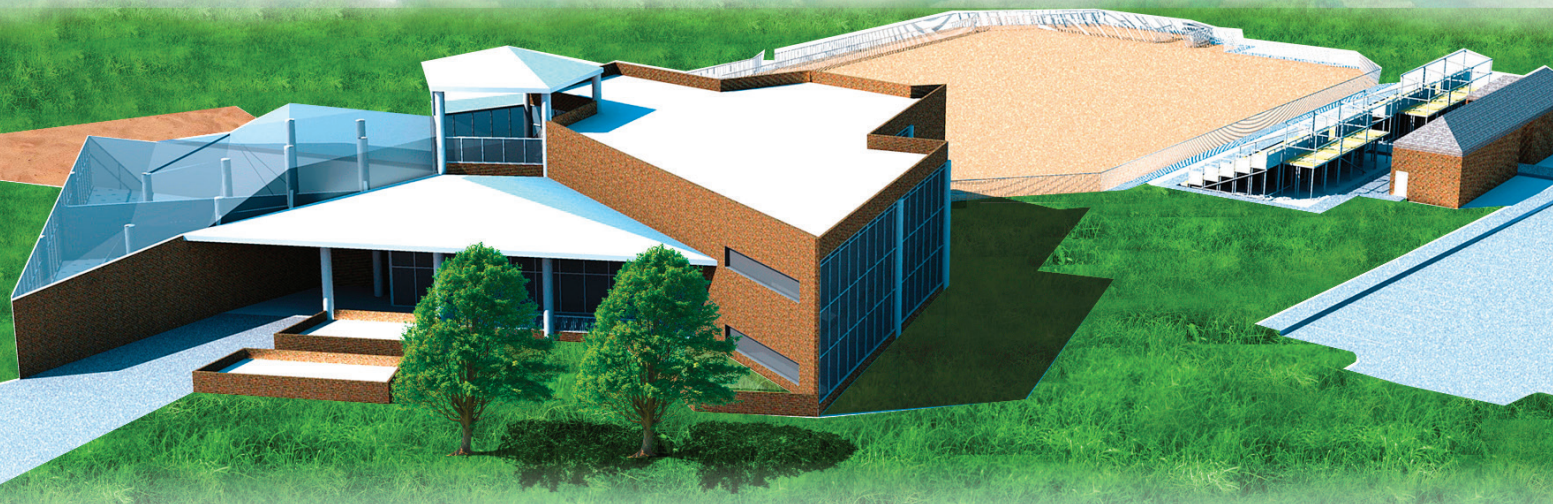


PLANS ARE UNDER WAY FOR THE GEORGE C. WRIGHT READING ROOM in the John B. Coleman Library. With the aid of donations from several foundations, including The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the room will display books from the president's first reading list and his favorite authors. The room is designed to offer students a place to relax and experience the joy of reading.

A new ranking released by HBCULIFESTYLE.com listed Prairie View A&M among the **TOP 10 HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES BY STARTING AVERAGE SALARY**. The listing highlighted the average starting salary of recent graduates as \$49,300. This notation adds to PVAMU's growing number of high rankings from various sources.

PayScale payscale.com	Highest listed HBCU in its 2012-2013 PayScale College Salary Report
Online Colleges Database onlinecollegesdatabase.org	Ranked #1 in its database of "34 Historically Black Colleges That Pay"
Diverse Issues in Higher Education diverseeducation.com	#1 Producer of African American Architectures
Online College Database onlinecollegesdatabase.org	Ranked #30 in listing of Top Colleges in Texas Shaping the Next Generation

College's Updates Set to Expand Capabilities, Reach



Changes are on the horizon for one of the University's oldest academic programs. Beginning with a new academic facility, the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences will expand its footprint and resources with upgrades to the 778-acre farm as well as the development of a comprehensive full-service facility on the edge of campus.

Due in large part to funding received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the academic unit has plans to develop a creamery, meats laboratory and a multi-use facility near the corner of Owens Road and James Muse Parkway.

"We intend to catch the eye of every traveler on Highway 290 and want this facility to be an enhancement to the community while making our alumni swell with pride," said Dr. Alton Johnson, dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences.

As the University continues its plans to expand the southern portion of campus, this block of buildings will house an equestrian and livestock center that can host local events and rodeos, a greenhouse designed for plant production and will be home to several agribusiness incubators.

The College also plans to remodel facilities at the International Goat Research Center to support additional research and teaching. ★ *L. Smith*

→ PVAMU [19

COMMUNITY MOURNS FORMER PRESIDENTS

The University's third and sixth presidents both passed away this year, rocking the entire community. **Dr. Charles A. Hines** passed away, July 4 and **Dr. Alvin I. Thomas** passed away Sept. 25.



Hines, a native of Washington, D.C., served through 2002 and was known for his military background. He helped usher in new facilities and academic programs. Among his achievements as president were the privatization of student housing, the development of several new buildings including the E. E. O'Banion Science Building, the Willie A. Tempton Sr. Memorial Student Center and the establishment of University College.

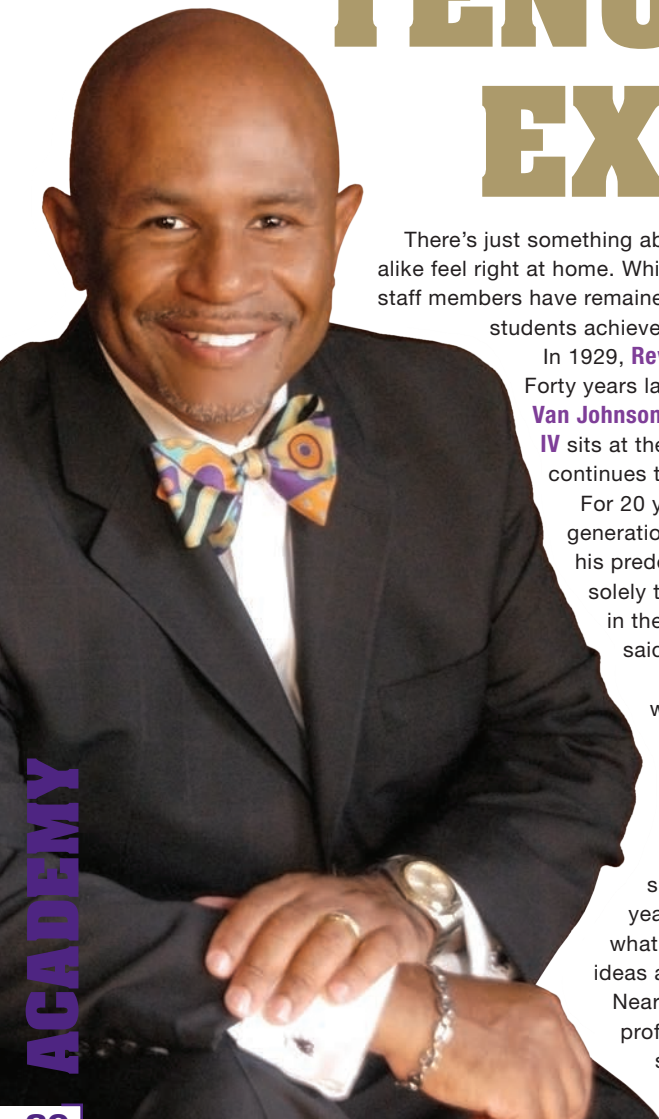
Hines also oversaw the University's role in the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) settlement that resulted in the Texas Commitment funding for four new buildings, additional master's and doctoral degree programs and dollars for development initiatives, student scholarships and endowed chairs.

Elected as the third president of the then-named Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1966, Thomas was a dynamic force in changing the face of the institution. He coined the ever-popular phrase, "Prairie View Produces Productive People."



Thomas' tenure as president included new residence halls and dining facility Alumni Hall. Other major construction included, Farrell Hall Laundry, Burleson-Ware ROTC Building, Hobart Taylor, Sr. Hall, and the Owens-Franklin Health Center. Under his watch, the state of Texas purchased and renovated a building in the Texas Medical Center complex to be used as clinical nursing center for the College of Nursing. He also established the first NROTC Unit at an HBCU. ★ *S. Reed*

FACULTY AND STAFF TENURE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



There's just something about "The Hill." It gives an indescribable feeling that makes employees and students alike feel right at home. While students take shelter in its halls of higher learning for a few years, some faculty and staff members have remained, thanks to love. Whether from the love of what PVAMU stands for to the love of seeing students achieve academic goals, the love has helped to make "The Hill" their home for years.

In 1929, **Reverend Lee Cato Phillip** began inspiring a generation of Panthers in the campus gym. Forty years later, Lee would retire leaving the task of spiritual motivation and healing to **Reverend W. Van Johnson**, who would oversee campus ministries for 35 years. Now, **Reverend Charles H. Lewter, IV** sits at the helm of the Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel, and as his 20th year approaches, he continues the tradition of a lengthy tenure.

For 20 years Lewter has set at the helm inspiring, encouraging and empowering a new generation of Panthers throughout the years. He recalls the best piece of advice given to him by his predecessor Reverend Johnson who told him his success and love for the job would come solely through working for the students and not the administration. "If you work for the students in the field that I am in, and we touch lives then you will want to continue to do that," Lewter said.

The chapel, named after the former deans, was built and dedicated in February 1986 with the sole purpose of encouraging students, faculty and staff to become one with their Creator. But what has developed is an affinity for fellowship, faith and a sense of family by those who have dedicated time and talents to the progression of campus ministry.

Lewter's tenure has allowed him to see several changes on campus. He has served under three presidential administrations, seen buildings erected and demolished, and watched undergraduate students return as professors to campus. With all the time he spends engaging students, he is most impressed by the new congregation he gains each year. "I look forward to seeing what they are going to bring in terms of the new challenges; what environment they are coming from," said Lewter. "Those challenges usually lead to fresh ideas and new ministries."

Nearly 100 of Lewter's fellow staff and faculty that have shared 20-plus years of their professional expertise with the State of Texas know of those challenges as well. Theirs are stories of perseverance, commitment and an undeniable love for PVAMU.

ACADEMY

20

New leadership for graduate school, research

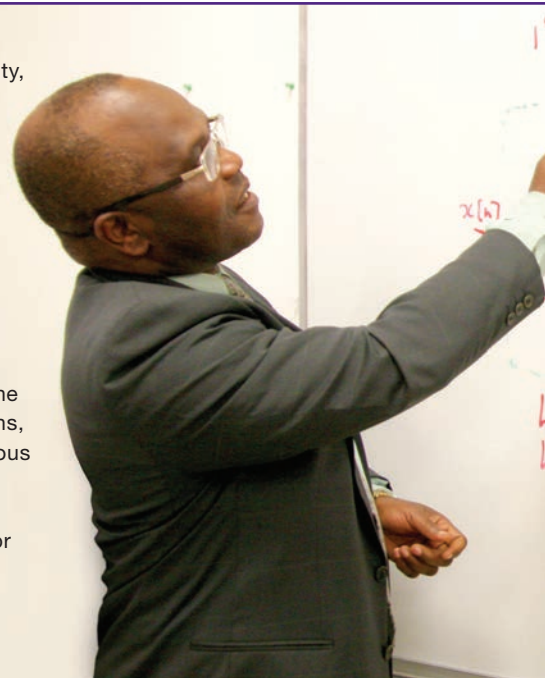


The executive team announced Dr. Cajetan Akujuobi as the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. Akujuobi will take the place of Dr. Willie F. Trotty who stepped down from the position earlier this year to serve as special assistant to the president and focus on key research initiatives.

Akujuobi comes from Alabama State University, where he served as the dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology. He previously held several positions in the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering and created the Center of Excellence for Communication Systems Technology Research (CECSTR).

Akujuobi brings to the position more than 40 years of experience serving as a researcher, member of the faculty and administrator in various university and industry positions. He is an accomplished scholar who has published nine book chapters, more than 40 journal publications, more than 80 peer-reviewed papers and numerous national and international presentations.

Throughout his career, he has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on research related projects totalling more than \$20 million. ★ S. Reed





Sue Sampleton

Years of service: 40

Favorite place on campus: MSC Ballroom Foyer

After four decades no one knows their job better than Sue Sampleton who currently works as the gift processing coordinator for the Office of Development. "Prairie View has been good to me. It's small, like a family and people get along," said Sampleton. After working in the president's office for 10 years, Sampleton took her talents to development and helped set up the gift processing system. She's been there ever since.



Lewis Smith

Years of service: 23

Favorite place on campus: Hilliard Hall

One visit was all it took for Lewis Smith, lecturer and professor in the Department of Languages and Communication, to make PVAMU his professional home. "When I came for my interview, I immediately felt the Prairie View spirit through the people I met and beauty of the campus," said Smith. The students' appreciation and support from staff and fellow faculty are what make it all worthwhile for Smith.



Ernestine Charlot

Years of service: 21

Favorite place on campus: The goat farm

It's not likely that many could claim that they received the gift of employment on their birthday, yet that's exactly the case for Ernestine "Edie" Charlot, alumni relations specialist. She began her tenure on "The Hill" in December 1992 for the department of Developmental Studies as its database specialist. With fond memories of her first day, Edie remembers that she was in awe of how friendly everyone was. That's what she says is the biggest factor in her longevity here. "This place has such a relaxing, family approach to work. I don't want to work anywhere else," she said.

For some employees, it's the thrill of a new day with new challenges that keeps them returning year after year. For others, it's the comfort of working with old friends and getting to know new ones. But no matter the motivation, the love for PVAMU has proven worthy of years of dedication for many faithful employees.

★ J. Peevy and C. Johnson

Photo by C. Walker



President Recognizes Waller County Representatives

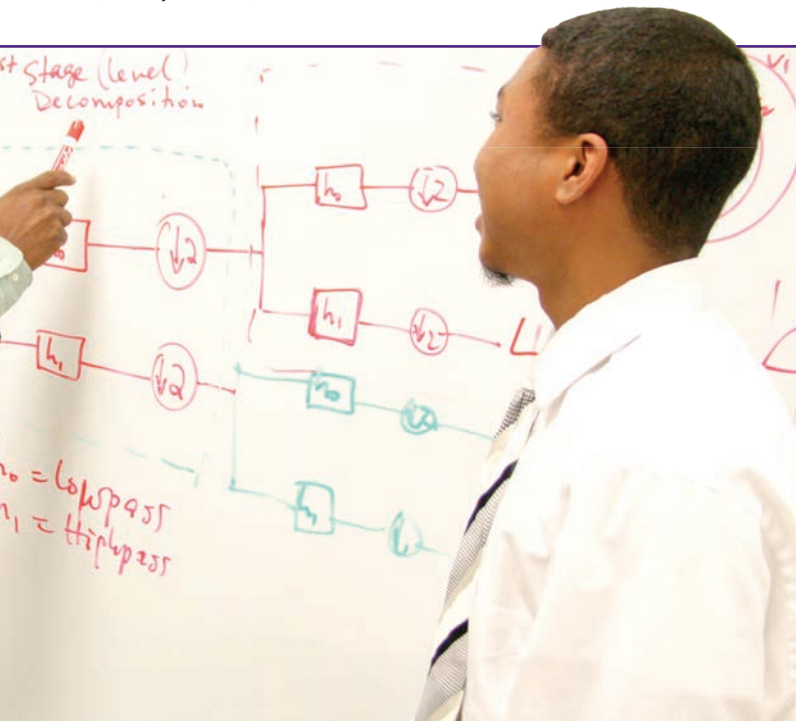
Commencement not only celebrated the achievements of students, but also honored the support of State Representative Cecil Bell, Jr. Bell who served Texas' district 3 as a noted champion of PVAMU during the 83rd legislative session.

During his first term in the Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Bell successfully carried 16 pieces of legislation, including ensuring the continuation of ADI funding for PVAMU and clarifying the General Appropriations Act to allow PVAMU access to its appropriated amount. He also secured Prairie View A&M University's eligibility to participate in the state's research development fund and ensured the continuation of the student athletic fee, which was student-supported last year and helps pay for student scholarships. Bell also fought to improve dual-credit access to career and technology courses and provided liability protection to volunteers during times of man-made or natural disaster.

"It is clear that Representative Bell has an appreciation for the role that Prairie View and higher education plays in the future of our state," said President George C. Wright. "Indeed, we are fortunate to have someone like him supporting us in the Texas Legislature."

Bell sits on the House Committee on Appropriations, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles VI, VII and VIII, which oversees natural resources, business and economic development, and regulatory agencies and he is a part of the Committee on Economic and Small Business Development. He is a sixth generation Texan whose family has been in the State of Texas since 1852. ★ S. Reed

PVAMU 21



The student lounge of the Memorial Student Center was filled with voting stations. It was not a student election, but instead students were helping determine some state and local races during the mid-term elections this year. This breakthrough was the result of the Waller County Commissioners Court voting to allow the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center (located on campus) to serve as the official polling location in Precinct 3 for all elections.

"This decision is a major victory for our students. For decades, we've been involved in the political process, from voting, to campaigning, to running for office," said Priscilla Barbour, 2013-14 Student Government Association president. "It guarantees that our students can exercise their right to vote in a place that is convenient and accessible."

The vote came after Barbour wrote a letter to county and state officials requesting a polling place be designated on the campus. According to Barbour, the lack of a voting precinct on the campus violated the federal Voting Rights Act. Prior to the decision, the nearest polling place was more than a mile away from campus

housing. Students have marched and protested for voting rights since the 1970s, when questionnaires were used to prevent students from voting. In the early 1990s, 19 students were indicted on the basis of improper voting, which influenced a Supreme Court ruling allowing students to vote while residing on campus. The following decade, a federal suit was filed on behalf of students after the county district attorney attempted to prevent students from voting on the grounds of residency requirements. Five years ago, students marched to protest the lack of an early voting precinct on the campus. ★ S. Reed

Polling Place Request APPROVED



Students Lead Clean-up Effort

It seems like it rains almost every year, but that doesn't stop the service.

"Without fail, the weather forecast always includes some threat of rain," said **Alisha Lowe '11**, community service coordinator. "It's kind of like a tradition."

So on those rainy Saturday mornings each fall semester when most college students are asleep, hundreds of eager students, faculty, staff and dozens of community members are participating in the annual Panthers-At-Work (PAW) community wide clean-up.

Created in 2006, the event is supported by the Office of Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement. PAW was designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in service-learning; engage in community service and build team-work skills. On average, 300 students participate in the event that is held each fall, usually on the first Saturday in September without a home football game. Plans are under way to grow the event and hold it more than once a year.

"Our students already have the humanitarian desire within them but PAW provides the opportunity for the students to act upon that desire," said Dr. Laurretta F. Byars, vice president of student affairs and institutional advancement. According to Byars, PAW was designed to bridge the disconnect between students and the local community and to encourage students to be socially responsible scholars.

The event is geared for first year students and kicks off with a pep rally and breakfast sponsored by Sodexo, the campus food service provider. PAW volunteers are later disbursed throughout the campus and the community to diligently work in areas including the Wyatt Chapel Slave Cemetery, the university greenhouse, yards and service sites along the main corridor. These groups of students pull weeds, paint houses, clean garages, plant flowers and nearly anything else they can do in honor of service.

"While painting fire hydrants in the city, I



SCHOLARS



PVAMU 23



realized that what I was doing was much bigger than community service. I was able to meet new people, learn about my surrounding," said **Travis West '13** about his participation in PAW his freshman year. "I even learned that there is a science to painting. It's not as easy as you think."

As the event closes students are encouraged to have lunch in the student cafeteria and are asked to complete a survey about their experience.

"Throughout the year students stop by my office asking to volunteer on projects or opportunities," said Lowe. "I can't help but to believe it's because they enjoyed their experience at PAW. Even if it was in the rain."

★ D. Young, student contributor

Senior Project to Help Track Campus Shuttles

The campus shuttles are getting an upgrade. They have already been painted and cleaned. Now, their GPS systems will allow students to track the location of the shuttle in real time.

With their adviser Dr. Yonggao Yang, computer science students Darien Nelson, Anthony Smith and Charmaine Tomlinson developed the system as part of their senior project. The app, PV Real-Time Bus Tracking System, allows students to locate on-duty Panther shuttles through a mobile device.

The system will help PVAMU shuttle riders check bus locations in real time and help them better utilize the free shuttle service. Data is transmitted through cellphone

networks or Wi-Fi and tracks the shuttles on a map of campus.

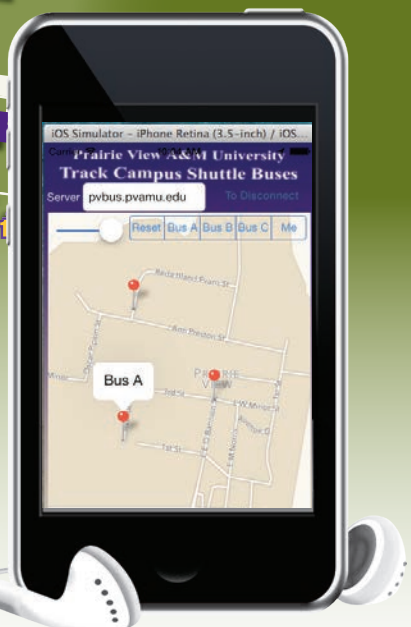
"This is exactly what community is about—when there is an identified need, the activities, especially research happening in the classroom, can offer a solution," said Fred Washington, vice president of auxiliary enterprises. His area manages the transportation center and the service that more than 1,100 students use daily. "These students didn't just present a project for a grade – instead they created something that will forever change the way the shuttle system works."

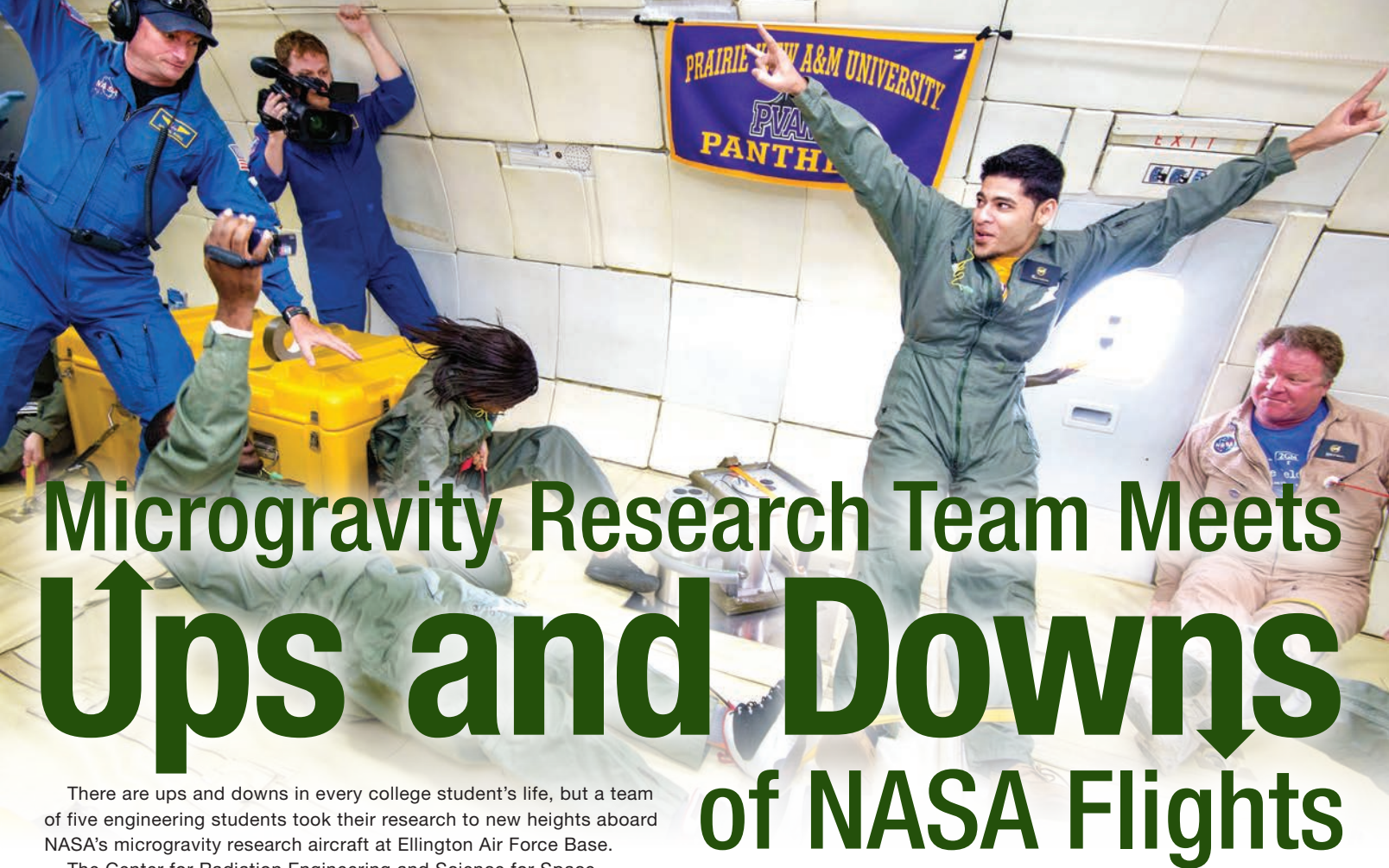
In the past, there was no true way for students to determine when the shuttles

would arrive at each bus stop due to traffic, bus capacity, irregular stops or bad weather. According to Yang, this app eliminates those issues.

"Students can stay inside their dorm room and wait for the shuttle to get closer to their stop before walking out," said Nelson. "I have seen people miss the campus bus and wait an extra 15 minutes for it to come back around—sometimes in the rain, cold or heat—without knowing how far it was from coming back around."

The app is available in the Apple app store and the Google Play store. ★ S. Reed, Joshua Bennett's reporting for the Panther contributed to this story





Microgravity Research Team Meets Ups and Downs of NASA Flights

There are ups and downs in every college student's life, but a team of five engineering students took their research to new heights aboard NASA's microgravity research aircraft at Ellington Air Force Base.

The Center for Radiation Engineering and Science for Space Exploration (CRESSE) has been conducting space radiation research for more than five years and recently flew a team of student researchers aboard the space agency's high-altitude flying laboratory known as the "Weightless Wonder."

A rollercoasterlike flight over the Gulf of Mexico in the flying laboratory produces periods of simulated zero gravity, 1/6-G lunar gravity and 1/3-G Martian gravity. It also provides a unique opportunity for student researchers and their mentors to take critical measurements useful not only to earth-bound aircraft, but to future earth orbit and deep space flights.

Dr. Brad Gersey, who serves as a technical adviser, flight leader Brandon Norman and the other student team members designed

and fabricated a payload intended to help NASA and other researchers develop reliable instruments that can eventually predict radiation dose aboard passenger, commercial and cargo airline flights around the world. The data was developed in two days of parabolic flights aboard the ZERO-G Boeing 727.

"Our measurements are designed to help build better models that will help provide information and predictions about what dose rates would be encountered at any given time and on any given flight anywhere – at least in the northern hemisphere," said CRESSE Director Dr. Richard T. Wilkins.

The PVAMU team included T'Ron Gooch, Jessica Gray, Asad Hussain and Stephen Bacon. NASA-Dryden's aerospace meteorologist, Scott Wiley, accompanied the students. ★ *F. Craddock, contributor*



TURNER SECURES KEY INTERNSHIP

Networking and taking advantage of opportunities is the key to a successful future and junior political science major Khanay Turner is doing both.

Turner was awarded the 2013 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (The Delta Foundation) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST). The annual internship program is conducted in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Her summer was spent in the office of Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) and she

was able to gain hands-on experience and learn the ins and outs of politics. But she's no stranger to politics. The future attorney is active in student government and young democrats.

She is also the vice president of the campus' DST chapter.

In addition to the internship, Turner was nominated to serve as the Collegiate Member on the sorority's National Nominating Committee and has served on the Rules Committee. ★ *C. Landry*



Since their return to "The Hill" in 2011, members of the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) have dedicated themselves to restoring the reputation of fraternities and sororities. Although the groups have different principles, they all have one common bond and that is their commitment to serving the community.

GREEKS COMMIT TO SERVICE

During the fall semester, NPHC and CSO hosted several service projects to benefit the surrounding community, collectively contributing nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer service. Some of the premier projects included Tour De Pink, which is the first bike ride in Texas solely benefiting Breast Cancer; the Walk for Literacy; Panthers-At-Work; Toys for Tots; and various food drives.

"The best part of being part of an organization is being able to be a part of a community and encouraging students to become positive contributors," said **Skarlar Egans '13**. Egans is a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority and racked up nearly 35 community service hours since she joined the sorority in the spring of 2013.

According to Steve Ransom, executive director of student engagement, the impact that the students in greek organizations are having on the community is immeasurable. "Service comes natural to these students. They find ways to give back – not just in the organized projects, but by working with the seniors in the community, the local food banks, elementary schools and in offices and programs on campus."

Along with the different community service activities, PVAMU's greek letter organizations hosted several seminars and events for the student body—several pageants, discussions on chivalry and a study skills seminar to prepare students for midterms. They also hosted a program to honor campus veterans and a workshop to learn more about fraternities and sororities.

Despite their many contributions to the campus, the Greek community does not intend on slowing down anytime soon. In fact, NPHC and CSO have plans to continue to meet the needs of the campus, promote unity and school spirit while achieving and maintaining record-high grade point averages.

"There's so much more work to be done and I can't wait to see how each of the organizations find a way to solve some of the issues that the students have," said Demario Lowe, senior and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. "We as student leaders have to find a way to adapt to the cultural influences of our society and continue to fulfill the aims and principles that were set so many years ago." ★ *C. Leach, contributor*

Music Series

Expands Engagement Thru Summer



Blankets. Sunsets. Music. Lakes. These are a few words that describe the newest addition to the Office of Student Engagement's offerings of activities and events planned to engage students as they spend their time on campus. This offering, Summer Lake Nights, just happened to be in the summer, a time that traditionally didn't have many activities or events. But according to students, community members and staff, it was delivered right on time.

"I can't believe we went this many years without doing something like this in the summer," said **Olatunde Idowu, junior**. "The sunset and live music was a great ending to the day and a start to the weekend."

According to **Orok Orok '04/'07**, assistant director for student engagement, the pond at the campus' front entrance provided a great programming space and support from several departments on campus gave a small idea legs.

"We have considered adding something for students to our calendar during the summer but we weren't quite sure what," he said. The summer has typically been reserved for planning for the upcoming year and funding is always limited. "After some brainstorming, we developed what we thought could be a Thursday night staple that we hoped would reach all age groups, appeal to various audiences and kick the weekend off."

Featured artists included YouTube sensation **Phil Wade '08**, Tony Henry, local acts Mambo Jazz Kings, 6 minutes til sunrise, zydeco superstar Marcus Ardoin and The Zydeco dancers and the line dance queen Cheryl Williams. ★ *S. Reed*





Unfinished Business

Brown's Re-election Confirms Love for PVAMU



As a senior in high school, Jarrick Brown, a Beaumont native, understood that Prairie View A&M University would be the place to make an impact on him. What he didn't realize was the impact he would make. Since his freshman year in 2010, he has been a very active student, with participation in the Student Government Association, PALs, NABJ, Pre-Alumni Association, B.L.A.C.K, CAB and the GoldMembers Club. So when he ran for executive vice president as a sophomore, there was little surprise that he was elected. His decision to run again in 2013-14 was a little more difficult. Sure he was involved and popular, even had a solid track record having aided in securing a new bowling center and retail space, but he knew there were others who could secure a student leadership spot and he was entering his senior year. His passion for developing a better PVAMU helped him fight through senioritis and he ran to complete the unfinished business from his first term.

Why run again?

I was in the middle of reconstructing the Student Senate to make it more effective. I couldn't just abandon that work.

Why did you first become involved with SGA?

PVAMU means the world to me and I believed the only way you can continue all of the traditions we have established and give people the opportunity to enjoy them was to get into an organization that helped with just that.

People don't really know what the SGA Executive Vice President does? What does your day look like?

The SGA Vice President manages the senate, which oversees student policy and distributes money to different student organizations. This is where the work happens. We develop the policies that govern the entire SGA. I serve on several campus committees, represent the University as an ambassador, hear student complaints and issues, and find ways to solve their problems. Lots of long nights, early mornings and days filled with meetings.

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What else are you involved in?

I currently sit on the Sodexo National Student Board of Directors from our region. I am in charge of creating a regional committee made up of students from each of the universities in the area to give input and assist the board in setting business strategies for Sodexo that will improve the company's operations.

I also am the president of the Pre-Alumni Association and helped create a new organization, ASAP, which is where students who know they want to work in the student affairs arena can learn more about careers and internship opportunities.

Now that you have been elected by the student body for two terms, what is the legacy that you want to leave on this campus?

"To make Prairie View the very best it can be. It made me the best I could be, so why not return the favor?" ★ *Briana C. Catley, Student Contributor*

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Character, Courage and Commitment: Celebrating Women in Leadership and Uniform



The Women's Leadership Council will honor Provost E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith during its Women's History Month kickoff program on March 3. The month-

long celebration will include documentaries each Friday that will focus on women issues, panel discussions, book reviews and the annual Hattitude Tea Party.

Band Returns to Baton Rouge After 25 Years

During the grid-iron match up between Prairie View A&M and Southern University, many HBCU football fans witnessed what is considered another vital component that had been missing from the annual rivalry for a little over two decades: PVAMU's marching band, The Marching Storm.

According to the rumor mill, unsportsmanlike conduct among the local fans kept the Marching Storm band out of Baton Rouge for 25 years.

"We have a lot of young and eager musicians that want to be the best, so that means that I need to take every opportunity to expose them to great musicianship, and this game was one of those opportunities," said head band director and 1992 Southern University graduate, Dr. Timmey Zachery. "It was a homecoming of sorts for me, it was great to see the camaraderie and fellowship, and it was great to see the level of growth in both bands."

The Panthers fell in overtime after a second-half rally by the Jaguars to lose the football competition 62-59. ★ J. Peevy



28] Noteworthy Class of 2035!

Amayah Elyce Lambson joins a family of proud PVAMU Panthers. Her mother **Allyson L. Washington '08** and aunt **Alexis Washington '12** both were active students participating in several student organizations and clubs. Amayah is quickly catching up—she's already sporting her purple and gold to daycare.

DON'T FORGET

to submit your story ideas, announcements and births to alumnirelations@pvamu.edu. You never know where your good news may show up.





Mark your calendars now for these Prairie View A&M Athletics Events

FEBRUARY

- 4** **Tennis hosts Texas A&M-Corpus Christi**
2 p.m.

- 8** **Basketball hosts Texas Southern**
Women 5 p.m./Men 7 p.m.

- 14-16** **Baseball at**
Houston Baptist
2 p.m./1 p.m./2 p.m.

- 14-16** **Bowling at Track-Kat Clash (Houston)**

- 15** **Basketball hosts Jackson State**
Women 3 p.m./Men 5 p.m.

- 17** **Basketball hosts Grambling State**
Women 5:30 p.m./Men 7:30 p.m.

- 18** **Baseball hosts Texas College**
1 p.m.

- 26** **Baseball hosts Wiley College**
1 p.m./4 p.m.

MARCH

- 1** **Basketball hosts Alabama A&M**
Women 3 p.m./Men 5 p.m.

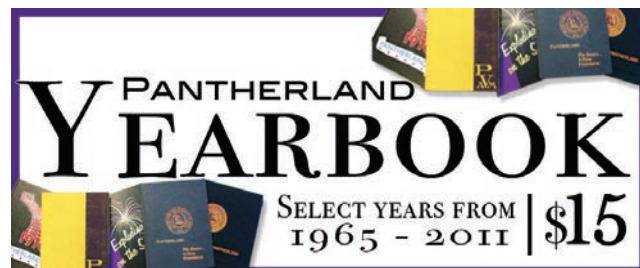
- 4** **Softball hosts Evangel University**
1 p.m./3 p.m.

Did you know?★

The NROTC Unit at Prairie View A&M University was commissioned in 1968. During the 1970s and early 1980s, PVAMU produced more African-American Naval and Marine Corps Officers than any other source outside of the U.S. Naval Academy. The unit will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2018, and celebration plans are taking shape. The planning meetings are open to anyone interested in participating in the celebration, contact LCDR Emmerson Edwards at 281.712.8010 for more information. ★



PVAMU [29



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