

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



F.Y.I.

**Northwest Houston Center
newsletter**



**Volume 8, issue 2
Dec 2015**

**Chancellor Sharp Shares His Vision of
Leadership with Future PVAMU Leaders**

DEAN'S CORNER



HELLO AND GREETINGS FROM NWHC!

I am excited about the future of the Northwest Houston Center and its contributions to the higher education space in Northwest Houston. If you are looking to improve your career and future job prospects, complete an unfinished degree, participate in non-degree continuing education programs, you have come to the right place.

NWHC offers a number of high quality nationally accredited graduate and undergraduate programs offered in a flexible, student-friendly setting. Among the graduate degrees you can pursue include: Education (counseling and administration); Business (Executive MBA, MBA and MSA); Architecture (community development); Nursing (teaching and administration). The four year (degree completion) bachelor's programs include – Business (accounting, management); Arts and Sciences (sociology, communications); Nursing (RN to BSN) and architecture (construction science). Most of the classes are offered in the evenings (after 5:30 pm) on weekdays in the traditional, online and hybrid modes of instruction, and on Saturdays. Generous scholarships are available for students who take courses on the NWHC campus. Among services present or expected are, library, computer center, fitness center, food court, banking, study space, testing, proctoring, and copying. We are working with a number of partners including the Lone Star Community College System (Cy-Fair, Tomball) to attract students who are interested in completing a four-year degree. I am interested in hearing your ideas.

Please contact me at muquddus@pvamu.edu or reach my office at 713-790-7146. The student friendly staff members in NWHC are available from 9:00am – 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and from 9:00am – 5:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

With best wishes on your future learning,

Munir Quddus, Ph.D.

Associate Provost and Dean

Imagine

YOURSELF HERE

Quality PROGRAMS



Dear Student,

Prairie View A&M University Northwest Houston Center (NWHC) has been providing exceptional higher education services to the residents of Northwest Houston since 2010. We are glad that you have made the decision or are considering taking advantage of the outstanding educational opportunities available at the Northwest Houston Center.

For those of you who are incoming students, I extend a warm welcome and want your transition to the Northwest Houston Center to be as seamless as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask me or our exceptional, service-oriented NWHC staff questions; we are here to help. For those of you who are returning and already know the excitement, rigors and challenges of academic life, welcome back!

As a student of the Northwest Houston Center, you have many advantages, which include course offerings close to home, a broad selection of courses and degree programs, highly qualified faculty, and staff and administrators who are dedicated to enhancing your overall educational experience. Welcome to the Northwest Houston Center!

Sincerely,
Rahim Quazi, Ph.D.
Associate Director,
Northwest Houston Center

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Northwest Houston Center Celebrates Five Years

2015 marks a major milestone year for the Prairie View A&M University Northwest Houston Center (NWHC). Five years ago, Prairie View Administrators sought to tap into the growth and expansion of student demand for higher education in Northwest Houston.

As demand for graduate programs and certifications increased, PVAMU saw an opportunity to purchase the former Lone Star College building located on Grant Road in Houston near Willow Brook Mall. The campus is now called the new Northwest Houston Center. This location primarily offers graduate level and certification courses for those persons who want a quality education near home.

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

In addition to the academic programs the NWHC campus offers a (newly built) fitness center, bookstore, and library. The vision for the NWHC is to be a campus where students are provided a quality education with appropriate support and services.

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Prairie View A&M University takes issues surrounding campus security very seriously and strives to create policies and implement practices within the law that promote safety and security on campus and in all premises owned or leased by the university. We believe, and evidence indicates, that PVAMU is both safe and secure for our students, employees, and guests.

Efforts will be made to hear from our constituents and inform them of decisions and actions surrounding the implementation of the "Campus Concealed Carry" law (SB 11).

Campus Carry—The Law

Since Texas passed its concealed handgun license law (SB 273) in 1995, it has been legal for concealed handgun license holders (who must be at least 21 years old, have passed a background check and have satisfactorily completed a handgun training course approved by the State of Texas) to carry a concealed handgun on the grounds, but not the premises (i.e., in a structure), of an institution of higher education. SB 11 will allow holders of a handgun license to carry a concealed handgun into university premises as well when it goes into effect on August 1, 2016. It is estimated that less than 1% of PVAMU students have concealed handgun licenses.

The law allows the university to establish reasonable rules, regulations, or other provisions regarding the carrying of concealed handguns by license holders on the campus or premises of PVAMU based on one or more of the following three justifications:

- The nature of the student population;
- Specific safety considerations; and/or
- The uniqueness of the campus environment.

Such rules, regulations or provisions may not generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders from carrying concealed handguns on the campus of the institution.



Chancellor Sharp with LeadershipPVAMU



As part of the culminating events of the yearlong leadership development program, the LeadershipPVAMU Cohort 1 participants had an exclusive luncheon with Chancellor Sharp, his wife Charlotte, and Vice Chancellor Hamilton. The meeting took place at the prestigious Miramont Country Club in Bryan, TX. During the two hour session, the LeadershipPVAMU participants were privy to Chancellor Sharp's leadership strategies and philosophies. In addition, the Chancellor answered the participants' questions with regard to how they can continue their leadership development efforts and provide outstanding service to Prairie View A&M University.

LeadershipPVAMU —Prairie View A&M University's Leadership Development Program, will nurture the participants existing leadership strengths, providing them with tools that will help them deal with complex business and socially related challenges while advancing their personal and professional development.

The Leadership Development Program will help bolster the PVAMU talent pipeline of managers and enhance the skills of emerging university leaders. By employing a comprehensive curriculum targeted at faculty and staff at different levels of the leadership and management continuum, the program will infuse the participants with the skills needed for current and future positions within the university; and will continue to programmatically support the program's graduates throughout their careers at PVAMU.

The Business Services Team, within the Office of Business Affairs, in conjunction with The Office of Continuing Education is ushering in a new era of innovation and university advancement with the introduction of a campus wide professional development program under the banner of LeadershipPVAMU. The primary goal of the program is to fortify PVAMU's leadership pipeline through the creation of a talent pool of qualified and PV trained individuals with effective leadership competencies. LeadershipPVAMU is valuable to Prairie View A&M University in that the program is designed to make positive transformational changes in the landscape of the university, and to ensure the University is primed for continued success by institutionalizing a methodology that enables the targeted development of PVAMU's faculty, staff, and administrators for future leadership positions.

Dr. Gin Chong Recognized as Top Accounting Professor in Texas



Prairie View A&M University is proud to congratulate NWHC professor, Dr. Gin Cong for being recognized as one of the top 10 Accounting Professors in Texas by Accounting Path. To get this list, The Accounting Path started by looking at Rate My Professors (RMP) to see what students were saying about accounting professors in each state. The publisher then created a short-list of the best professors according to students, and began comparing everything from publishing record to years of experience. The Accounting Path evaluated hundreds of candidates to get to the list of top 10 accounting instructors.

With a PhD in Accounting and Auditing, as well as an MBA, Professor Chong specializes in Auditing Systems in Emerging Economics, Fair Values and Disclosures, and Performance Measurements and Accountability. That's partly what got him a 4.6 RMP score and why one former student says, "Chong could be teaching a sewing class and I'd take it!"

NWHC MBA PROGRAM—TOP 50 BEST

According to figures from the U.S. Department of Education, the MBA has become the most popular postgraduate degree in the U.S. An estimated four out of five companies plan to hire an MBA graduate and nearly 95 percent of professionals with MBAs are employed. In fact, a Graduate Management Admission Council survey reported that MBA alumni regained about one-third of their financial investment immediately after graduation, and current MBA students report that they expect a 54 percent increase in their salary after completing their online program.

In response to this growing trend, data analysts at AffordableCollegesOnline.org compared cost and quality metrics for hundreds of public, not-for-profit universities offering online degree programs and released their ranking of the Best Online MBA Programs for the 2015-2016 school year.

Prairie View A&M University ranked as one of the Top 50 Best Online MBA programs in the country by Affordable Colleges Online. The full ranking and methodology can be found here: <http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/degrees/mba-programs/>

"The stigma surrounding online programs is fading in the job market, and more employers are hiring candidates with online MBA degrees," said Dan Schuessler, CEO and Founder of AffordableCollegesOnline.org. "Which means these institutions are preparing the next generation to be an integral part of our workforce."

Ranked schools meet a number of criteria and metrics, including:

- Must be a public or private, not-for-profit institution
- Must offer at least one fully-online bachelor's degree program
- Academic and counseling services
- Job placement for graduates

Affordable Colleges Online has distinguished its ranking scale by the use of Peer-Based Value, or PBV. The PBV score compares the cost of each program to the cost of similar programs with the same qualitative score



Librarians collaborate on grant project



Lisa Stafford
Special Collections Librarian
John B. Coleman Library

Picket Fences Revisited: Digitizing the Sabine/Prairie View Farm Project Families

The John B. Coleman Library Special Collections/Archives Department (SCAD) proposes a project that will investigate and research the family histories of fourteen (14) Sabine/Prairie View Farm Project Families and show the importance of their role in helping to mold the community of Prairie View, Texas into the city it is today. Several Coleman librarians have teamed up to make this project a reality, with Lisa Stafford, Special Collections Librarian serving as the Principal Investigator. Along with Ms. Stafford, the team consist of SCAD staff, Phyllis Earles, University Archivist, Elizabeth Jean Brumfield, Distance Services Librarian, and Samira Fares, Library Assistant .

These families included in this project were selected in 1935 by the U.S. Federal Government as part of a redevelopment effort to provide food during the depression. In 2008 picket fences were erected on the property where these farms were located. The fences served as a symbol of the commitment of the families and the impact on the community. The need to digitally preserve this vital piece of Prairie View's history is time sensitive since many of the elder generations of these families are passing away and the younger generations are moving away from the area resulting in the history being lost.

Over an 18 month period SCAD will research family histories, assign liaisons to establish contact and communication, hold a Digitizing Day where families can bring archives based on criteria set forth. After receiving the items SCAD will begin the process of digitizing which will ultimately lead to an online and/or physical exhibit. In addition SCAD will provide preservation education and training to the 14 family representatives, Prairie View students and other researchers. This project has as a goal to serve as a model on preserving histories of small communities.

A partial grant was received from Humanities Texas to assist in the project. Humanities Texas grants enable communities throughout the state to develop programs of local interest promoting heritage, culture, and education.

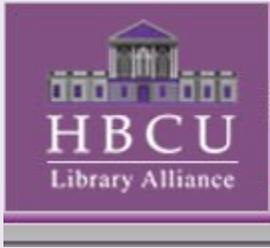
Since 1974, they have awarded more than 2,500 grants supporting a wide range of public humanities programs, including lectures, oral history projects, museum exhibitions, teacher institutes, reading programs, and documentary films.

iRead Book —To Kill a Mockingbird

To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel by Harper Lee published in 1960. It was immediately successful, winning the Pulitzer Prize, and has become a classic of modern American literature. The plot and characters are loosely based on the author's observations of her family and neighbors, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936, when she was 10 years old.

As a Southern Gothic novel and a Bildungsroman, the primary themes of To Kill a Mockingbird involve racial injustice and the destruction of innocence. Scholars have noted that Lee also addresses issues of class, courage, compassion, and gender roles in the American Deep South. The book is widely taught in schools in the United States with lessons that emphasize tolerance and decry prejudice.

PVAMU students, faculty and staff are encouraged to read the suggested iRead books , use in class assignments and discussions. The library has available several copies for check out as well as on reserve.



Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research

The Coleman Library and the NWHC Distance Library Services participated in a unique grant funded study conducted by the HBCU Library Alliance. The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents.

Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research-Educational Programing

The following reports were produced as a result of the “Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research” project. In partnership with the HBCU Faculty Development and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project’s goal was to foster improved library services on individual HBCU campuses and develop collaborative approaches to expand HBCU community-wide library support for faculty research.

2015 Library Survey Report, by Sandra M. Phoenix, Executive Director, HBCU Library Alliance (GA)

2015 Faculty Survey Report, by Dr. Sharon Freeman, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Mississippi Valley State University

2015 Comparative Report, by Sandra M. Phoenix, Executive Director, HBCU Library Alliance (GA)

Presentations

The survey results were presented by Sandra Phoenix and Elizabeth Jean Brumfield at the 2014 HBCU Faculty Development Network conference in Raleigh (NC), at the 2014 HBCU Library Alliance Membership meeting in Atlanta (GA), at the 2015 American Library Association conference in San Francisco (CA), and at the 2015 National Conference of African American Librarians conference in St. Louis (MO).

Click here to access the [Survey Says: Expanded Library Support for Faculty Research presentation](#).

Sub-Grants

Sub-grants were awarded to 8 member libraries to help support development or expansion of programs to improve library services. John B. Coleman Library was a recipient of a sub-grant.

Educational Programming

Twenty-six webinars were presented to members on topics related to library support of faculty research. Classes were presented by experts within the HBCU Library Alliance community as well as non-HBCU Library Alliance partners. Several class recordings are listed below.

View from Both Sides: Expanded Library Support for Faculty Research – Sandra Phoenix, Executive Director, HBCU Library Alliance (GA) <http://lyrasis.adobeconnect.com/p25btu2c2mb/>

Communication + Collaboration = Successful Library Services – Shatiqua Mosby-Wilson, Director of Library Services, Southern University New Orleans (LA) <http://lyrasis.adobeconnect.com/p4ycqhduwr0/>

In Motion: Providing Faculty Research Support – Elizabeth Jean Brumfield, Distance Services Librarian, Prairie View A&M University (TX) <http://lyrasis.adobeconnect.com/p1gin3v3xvp/>

Lincoln University's Inman Page Library: Innovation in Library Support - Rinalda Farrar, Director of Library Services, Lincoln University (MO) <http://lyrasis.adobeconnect.com/p4i1s0yumc6/>

Scholarly Communications: How Scholarship is Changing – Lisa Macklin, Director of Scholarly Communications, Emory University (GA) <http://lyrasis.adobeconnect.com/p88qy0n7e4u/>



BCALA Lends Support to Jones School “Pick-A-Book Give-Away”

Black Caucus of the American Library Association members showed their support of young readers by donating books to the Prairie View A&M University’s (PVAMU) doctoral student project, “Pick-A-Book-Give-Away”. PVAMU, Coleman Library, Distance Services Librarian, Elizabeth Jean Brumfield solicited the assistance of BCALA members, asking for new book donations to give as gifts to the 361 elementary students.

Black Caucus of the American Library Association Lends Support to Jones School “Pick-A-Book Give-Away”

Herman T. Jones Elementary serves PreK to fifth grade students with quality educational programs that honor individual learning styles in positive and supportive environments. Approximately 43% of the H T Jones Elementary School students are "limited in English proficiency", 83% of the students are classified as "economically disadvantaged", and 90% are paying reduced lunch prices. House Bill 5 (HB 5) of the 83rd Texas Legislature requires school districts to evaluate and assign ratings on 9 performance categories, Jones received the highest rating of Exemplary as the overall score. The school does a fantastic job and the book drive was another opportunity to show that we are all interested in our young people.

BCALA members donated over 379 new or slightly new books. The donations came from individuals, publishers, literacy groups, book stores, etc. Most reflected the multicultural heritage of the students, African American, Latino, Native American, and other. The diversity of the books was an unexpected bonus. The children were very excited to pick their book and many took their time and really reflected on finding the “right” book. It was an honor to be a part of this project, which would not have been successful if not for the donations of so many caring BCALA members.

(Photos taken with permission)



Thank You

Black Caucus of the American Library Association

Jameka Lewis / Head of Special Collections/Curator / M. B. Tolson Black Heritage Center

Give a Child a Library, Langston University

**Doris Railey Kieh
Global Libraries Institute, Inc.**

**Wade Hudson
Just Us Books**

Amber Communication Group, Inc

**Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)
Executive Director
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is a collaboration of the John B. Coleman Library & the Northwest Houston Center, Prairie View A&M University.

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