

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

F.Y.I.

Northwest Houston Center newsletter



Celebrating Black History Month

PrairieView Co-Eds All Girl Band  
Pages 12-14

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# Northwest Houston Center



Dr. Tyrone Tanner, Executive Director, and professor in the Whitlowe R. Green College of Education, brings a wealth of leadership experience and community partnerships to the NWHC. In addition to authoring numerous books and articles, Dr. Tanner has served as a middle and high school teacher, principal, and central office administrator. His scholarship on culturally responsive teaching, parenting, and partnerships has made him highly sought after by school districts locally and nationally. At present, he is responsible for membership efforts for the Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender, Special Interest Group for the American Educational Research Association.

## History

Prairie View A&M University was founded in 1876 and is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, corporate leaders, nurses and educators, the historically black college offers a variety of bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs through eight colleges and schools. A member of The Texas A&M University System, the University is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and service. During the university’s 134-year history, more than 54,000 academic degrees have been awarded.

The original Office of Civil Rights Texas Plan, assigned PVAMU the responsibility for satisfying higher education needs of the citizens of Texas, especially in the Northwest Houston Corridor. A demand for graduate and certification courses led to PVAMU establishing a presence in the Northwest Houston area in the late 1980. All courses offered were in partnerships with school districts in the area and were held on designated school campuses. In the early 1990s, PVAMU centralized all course offerings in the N.W. Houston area by leasing 20,000 square feet of contiguous space from Compaq Computer Corporation, Inc. (20525 SH 249 – Suite 150, Houston, TX) to be used for classroom and office space. In 1998, PVAMU relocated all course offering to 16800 Stuebner Airline Road, Spring, TX thus establishing the N.W. Houston Academic Center. In 2000, approval was obtained from the appropriate regulatory and accrediting agencies to offer the Master of Education in Educational Administration degree and the Master of Arts in Counseling degree.

In 2009, PVAMU purchased, from Lone Star Community College, the current facility located at 9449 Grant Road north of Willowbrook Mall. This two-story building, near Tomball Parkway and FM 1960, has 52,000 square feet of classroom, meeting and student service space. The Northwest Houston Center is a fully functional extension of the PVAMU main campus.

<b>Featured in this Issue</b>		Black History Month Film: Tell Them We Are Rising: History of HBCUs	8-11
NWHC Executive Director	2	Divas of the Decade: Prairie View Co-eds All Girl Band	12-14
NWHC Art Exhibit	4	Building on Resilience Lecture Series-Dr. Judy A. Alston	15
A Reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr.	5 & 18	Technology News	16-17
Income Tax Seminars at NWHC	6	HMAAC honors Sandra Bland	18-19
Library Talk—Amazing Women	7	Editorial Information	20



# Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education & Texas Alliance of Black School Educators Joint State Conference

Hyatt Regency Houston  
February 22-25, 2018



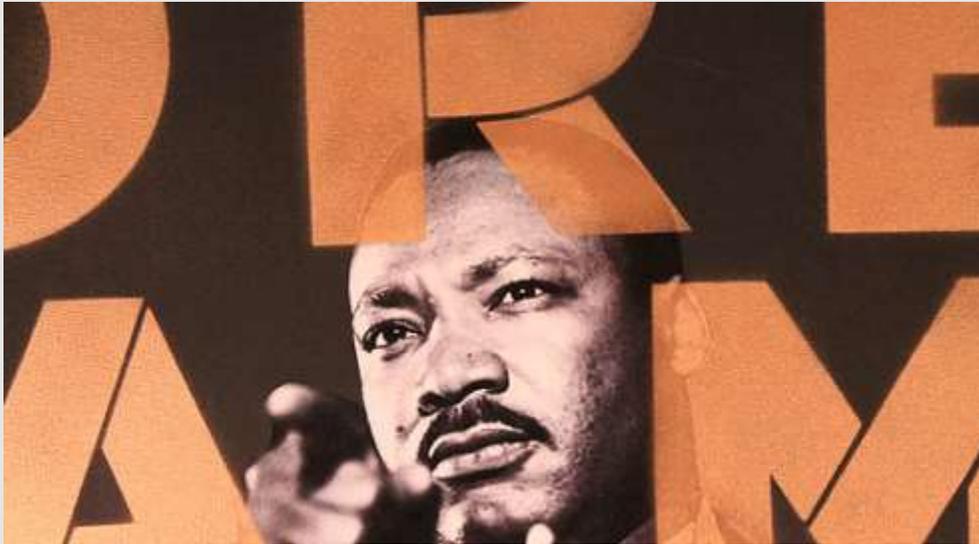
## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ruth J. Simmons

TABPHE is excited to hold its 45th Annual State Conference, February 22-25, 2018 in Houston, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Houston Hotel. This will be a joint state conference with the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE). The Houston Chapter of TABPHE will be the host for this important convention. Since 1973, the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education has been a dynamic organization which provides a statewide vehicle for a diverse, multicultural workforce to learn, share, direct, lead and influence our educational system. As rich as the organization is in resources, it is also rich in history. The founders of this great organization had a vision to formally organize an association to promote, maintain and assure the development and growth of African Americans in the educational process.

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons is the current President of Prairie View A&M University. She previously served as the 18th president of Brown University, the first black president of an Ivy League institution. Simmons was elected Brown's first female president in November 2000, assuming that office in the fall of 2001. She also held appointments as a professor in the Departments of Comparative Literature and Africana Studies. In 2002, *Newsweek* selected her as the Ms. Woman of the Year, while in 2001, *Time* named her as America's best college president. According to a March 2009 poll by The Brown Daily Herald, Simmons had more than an 80% approval rating among Brown undergraduates.

**To register for the conference go to [www.tabphe.org](http://www.tabphe.org).**

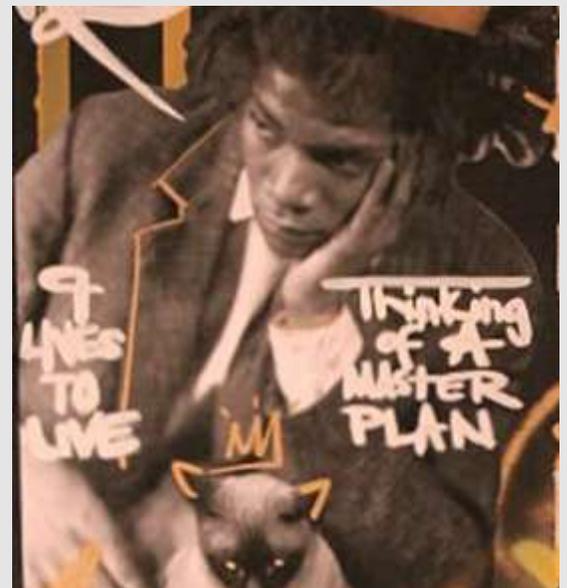
NWHC Art Exhibit  
Celebrating Black History  
February 1-March 1, 2018  
Reception  
February 21st  
6:00 to 8:00 pm



Dope Art Dealers gives you the feel and beauty of timeless art captivating history and culture in its nostalgic form.

Rita Ann Reyes and Peter Roshan Dowdy, by way

of Houston, Texas, together bring ideas and design to canvas with a unique appeal to the admiring eye.



Peter Roshan Dowdy, a Prairie View A&M University alum, will showcase many of his works at the Northwest Houston Center in celebration of Black History month. The exhibit will be displayed in the lobby, library and second floor. For more information please contact Elizabeth Jean Brumfield at [ejbrumfield@pvamu.edu](mailto:ejbrumfield@pvamu.edu).

# A Reflection on the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

## By Dr. Ruth J. Simmons

Reprinted from PVAMU Campus News

<http://www.pvamu.edu/blog/a-reflection-on-the-legacy-of-martin-luther-king-jr/>

The tragic circumstances of Martin Luther King's untimely death and the upheaval and alienation that followed are etched in the memories of anyone who lived through that turbulent period. But the fact that MLK recognition events remain relevant a half-century later reveals not simply the importance of King's life and vision, but also the stark reality of a nation still dogged by the legacy of slavery, racism, and Jim Crow. In every decade following the King era, we have found a renewed reason to remind the world and especially the coming generations of the legacy of this great man. For no philosophy, no leader, no movement has yet emerged to unseat King as the broadest and most defining civil rights activist in the Nation's history.

At the same time, since those days, there has been no protracted period of advancement that convinces us there is less need to focus on what King and his vision represent for the country. Today, can there be any doubt that we are mired in social ills and divisions that cry out for robust policies and actions that advance the central aims of our democracy: freedom, equality, and justice? Shaping a path through the current divisions in the country is an urgent task. As hatreds and biases are irresponsibly stoked by the highest levels of power, we long for a compelling voice of reconciliation and a humane and healing expression of inclusiveness. Martin Luther King, Jr. was that voice in his time, and he remains that voice today.

In a 1957 article in *Christian Century* (*Christian Century* 74, 6 February 1957, 165-67), the prophetic King warned us of the consequences of "physical violence and corroding hatred." He said that if we "succumb to the temptation of using violence in the struggle for justice, unborn generations will live in a desolate night of bitterness, and their chief legacy will be an endless reign of chaos." Martin Luther King's vision for justice in America required Agape love, which he defined as "redeeming goodwill for all men." He called for us to "project the ethics of love to the (very) center of our lives."

It is not only physical violence that is the companion of hatred; it is violence of other kinds. The violence of bigotry. The violence of exclusion. The violence of exploitation. The violence of benign indifference. The violence of hateful speech. Hatred, the very opposite of the love that King espoused, is formed in the crucible of pride and self-interest, a toxic mix causing individuals and groups to demean, exclude, exploit and violate the rights of others to secure a privilege or dominance over them. King's greatness as a historical figure emanates from many aspects of his philosophy and example. His "Beloved Community" was the image of a community of cooperation and respect for all. He vigorously eschewed the notion that some are more entitled or more privileged than others. He gave his life to the idea that the least of us is deserving of love, respect, and equality. The goal of establishing such a community remains a worthy one.

However, today, our nation is unabashedly replete with demands of privilege: economic privilege, racial privilege, social privilege, individual privilege. Social and economic inequality, many may assert, are the natural and preferred order. They may express scorn for those who would offer a more humane approach in the vein of King's Beloved Community and depict them as unknowing and irrelevant, cowardly and envious. Loud voices calling for acceptance of inequality, poverty, brutish exclusion and racial domination are often amplified by the silent nods of some and the indifference of others.

**(Continued on page 18)**

# Income Tax Seminars at NWHC

Prairie View A&M University's College of Business hosted Income Tax Seminars on January 8-9, 2018, at the Northwest Houston Center. The first seminar (2017 Federal Income Tax Update) provided an update of current federal tax developments affecting tax returns for the coming tax season. The primary focus was on new and pending legislation, IRS interpretations, and recent court decisions on tax laws. The second seminar (S Corporations: From Formation to Liquidation) provided a comprehensive review of the tax laws relating to S corporations. The complete workings of the S corporation, from making the election to the final termination, were covered. More than 55 people attended the first seminar and 45 people attended the second seminar.

The seminars were conducted by Dr. James Hasselback, a nationally recognized scholar on tax issues. He currently teaches at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He has also taught full-time at several universities, including the University of Florida, Texas A&M University, and Florida State University. A member of the American Accounting Association and the American Taxation Association, he has published over 150 papers in professional and academic journals, including several top level journals. He is the editor of the Hasselback Accounting Faculty Directory published each year for the past 30 years. He was also the editor of a number of faculty directories in various disciplines, including management, marketing, finance, economics, engineering, computer science, and nursing.

The College of Business worked with the Office of Continuing Education to provide CEUs, continuing education units, needed annually to maintain CPA licenses.



# Library Talk—Amazing Women



Wanda Bryant—"Persistent" Library User

Prairie View produces persistent purveyors of library books. Meet Wanda Bryant. The student who has read the most NWHC library books. Wanda Bryant believes her middle name should be changed to Persistent, that quality, she says is what has pushed her through three degrees. As she completes her masters this fall, she takes with her the distinction of being one of the most dedicated library users.

Wanda started her educational journey later in life, having raised three children, Angel, Amati Faith and Darrell. It was difficult and sometimes, she felt out of place with the younger students but she persisted. Her advice to older students is to have courage and to always be open and in tune to your environment. Listen to what is around you and pay attention to the small things as well as the big picture. She says "You can miss your blessing if your are not in tune and aware of the opportunities available to you." Wanda has three words that she relies on: **Vigilant, Unique and Optimistic.**

She encourages all to stay *vigilant* and alert, not only to your immediate surroundings but also to what is happening in the world globally. Wanda says about her other word, *unique*, that everyone is different and should embrace their differences. "You are the one and only one-there is need to compare yourself to others. If you are doing your best that is the best it can be." Her third word is *optimistic*-she says, "we should always try to think positively." In class it can be tough when a paper or presentation doesn't turn out how you anticipated, but learn to respect the information, look at the benefit it provides. Wanda's final words about herself, something she said she has learned through many years of reading and attending classes, "Education is at the top of the list of my success and accomplishments."

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**Hard Questions, Heart Answers**, speaks on troubling issues of social injustice and racial inequality that plagued Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., many years ago and remain today. Having an opportunity to talk to Dr. King's daughter, Reverend Bernice King, was an honor and will remain a cherished memory.

Reverend King recently published a powerful anthology of her sermons and speeches that address many of the hard questions we face today. Reverend King says there are three kinds of people, those who watch what's happening, those who make things happen and those who don't know what is happening. She admonishes young people to be risk takers and to make things happen. There are some who have written an eulogy for this generation, writing them off as a lost cause. She encourages young people not to be paralyzed by the inactivity of leaders who dismiss their existence but to speak the truth and show the hypocrisies, to value honesty and challenge double standards. Yes, she says there will be struggle. "Where there is no struggle, there can be no progress." Struggle has always been part of our history. It was part of our movement during Civil Rights and is part of the movements occurring today. Reverend King says, we must keep our heads high because in our veins flow the courage, perseverance, inspiration and genius of many who came before us. Even in the face of adversity, to achieve excellences means to hold on and to hold out.



Reverend Bernice King



Tell Them We Are Rising:  
The Story of Historically Black Colleges  
and Universities

February **28**, 2018

5:00—7:30 pm

Northwest Houston Center

Film viewing and discussion

Refreshments included



# Black History Month Film

## About the Film

The rich history of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) began before the end of slavery, flourished in the 20th century, and profoundly influenced the course of the nation for over 150 years — yet remains largely unknown. *With Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities*, the latest documentary from Stanley Nelson (Black Panthers, Freedom Riders) and Marco Williams, the powerful story of the rise, influence, and evolution of HBCUs comes to life.

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists, and revolutionaries — and a path of promise toward the American dream — HBCUs have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field while remaining unapologetically Black for more than 150 years. These institutions have nurtured some of the most influential Americans of our time, from Booker T. Washington to Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois to Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison to Oprah Winfrey, Alice Walker to Spike Lee to Common. A key driver of Black social, political and economic progress, HBCUs were also a place of unprecedented freedom for African American students and a refuge from the rampant racism that raged outside the campus walls. *Tell Them We Are Rising* captures this important history to tell the dynamic story of Americans who refused to be denied a higher education and — in their resistance — created a set of institutions that would influence and shape the landscape of the country for centuries to come.

## The Filmmakers

Stanley Nelson has been acknowledged as one of the preeminent documentary filmmakers of our time. He has directed and produced over 12 documentary features including *Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*, *Freedom Summer*, *Freedom Riders*, *Jonestown: The Life and Death of People's Temple* and *The Murder of Emmett Till*. Nelson has won every major award in broadcasting. In 2016, he was honored with a Lifetime Peabody Award, a Lifetime Emmy Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association. He is a 2014 National Humanities Medalist, multiple Emmy Award winner, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He holds a BFA from City College of New York, and Honorary Doctorates from Duke University and Haverford College. He has taught documentary film production at Howard University, Brooklyn College, and the University of California, Berkeley and guest lectured at universities and film schools around the world. Nelson is co-founder of Firelight Media, a nonprofit production company dedicated to using historical films to advance contemporary social justice causes, and to mentoring, inspiring and training a new generation of diverse young filmmakers committed to advancing underrepresented stories.

Marco Williams is a filmmaker and a film educator. He is an Arts Professor at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Undergraduate Department of Film and Television. His directing credits include *The Black Fives*, *The Undocumented*, *Inside the New Black Panthers*; *Banished*; *Freedom Summer*; *I Sit Where I Want: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education*; *MLK Boulevard: The Concrete Dream*; *Two Towns of Jasper*; *Making Peace: Rebuilding our Communities*; *The Spiritual Deficit and The American Dream*; *In Search of Our Fathers*; and *From Harlem to Harvard*. His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a George Foster Peabody Award, the Alfred I. duPont Silver Baton, the Pan African Film Festival Outstanding Documentary Award, the Full Frame Documentary Festival Spectrum Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists First Place Salute to Excellence.

# Black History Month Film (Continued)

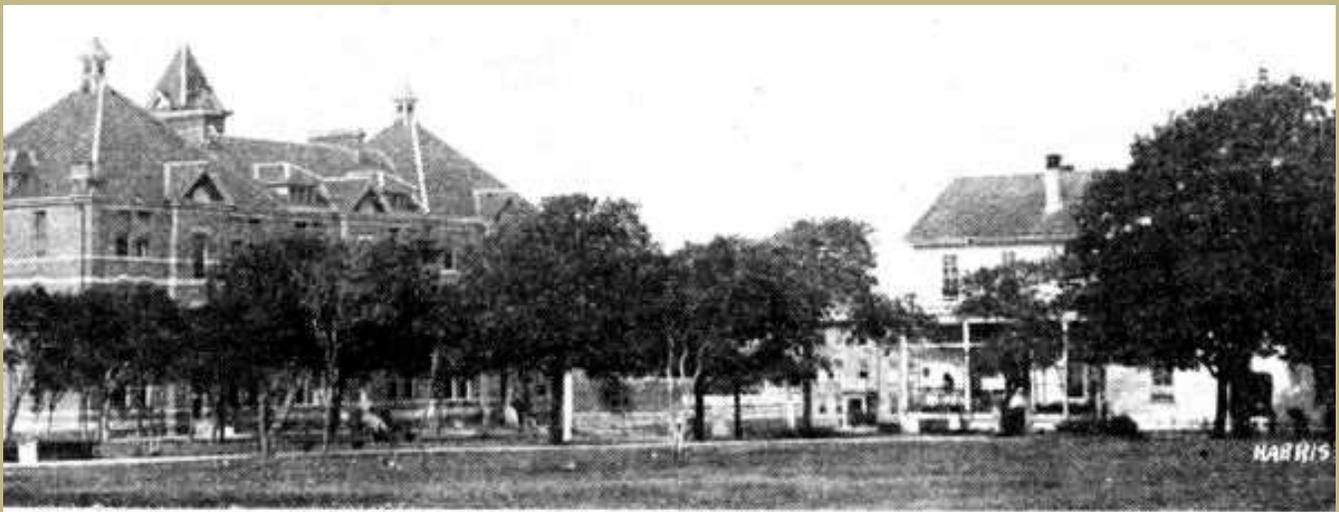
**Guest Presenter: Lisa Stafford, Special Collection Librarian**



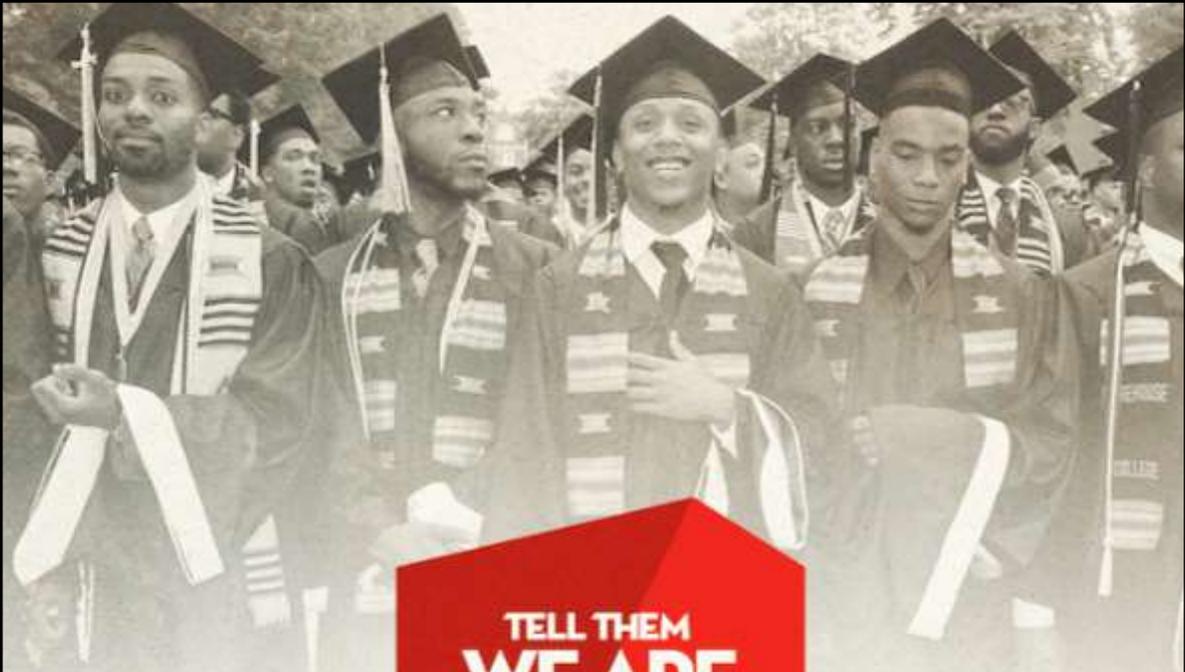
When Lisa Stafford was a young girl growing up in Prairie View, Texas, the college campus was her playground and it provided some of the only forms of entertainment. One of the few places her parents allowed her to go on the college campus, besides her father's office, was the W.R. Banks Library. In particular, she and her siblings would go to the Children's Reading Room for programs and the Learning Resource Center before exploring the stacks for interesting books. This was one of her first introductions to libraries. It started for Lisa what would eventually become a lifelong love, respect and appreciation for libraries. On October 15, 2014 she began her tenure as the Special Collections Librarian with Prairie View A&M University John B. Coleman Library.

A native Houstonian and a "Campus Child" in Prairie View, Lisa is very familiar with Prairie View A&M University and the surrounding communities. She is the youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George H. Stafford, both HBCU graduates. Her mother, Mrs. Eula Patrick Stafford is a Home Economics/Interior Design graduate and former Campus Queen of Tuskegee University (formerly Tuskegee Institute). Her father, an Agriculture Bachelors and Masters graduate of Prairie View, was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball and baseball. Both of her parents attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Additionally, they both worked for Prairie View A&M University, but her father eventually worked for the University for fifty (50) years in the capacity of Director of Admissions/Counseling, Interim Athletic Director, Instructor in Agricultural Economics and Director of Developmental Studies until 1999.

Ms. Stafford continues a legacy with Prairie View A&M University started by her paternal grandmother's family (Mrs. Bessie Lee Barrens Stafford) nearly one hundred years ago. Lisa attended the Waller I.S.D. schools before attending The University of Texas at Austin where she received her Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Masters of Library and Information Science degree with an Endorsement of Specialization in Legal Informatics.



Prairie View Girl's Dormitory



FIRELIGHT FILMS PRESENTS

# TELL THEM WE ARE RISING

A FILM BY STANLEY NELSON

THE STORY OF  
**BLACK COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES**



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**DOC FORTNIGHT  
2017**  
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2017  
**sundance**  
film festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**full frame**  
documentary film festival  
2017

PRODUCED BY STANLEY NELSON DIRECTED BY CYNDEE READOAN EDITED BY STACEY L. HOLMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARCIA SMITH AND K.A. MILLE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARCO WILLIAMS



Premiering on *Independent Lens* on PBS February 19, 2018 / 9pm ET. Check local listings.

# DIVAS OF THE DECADE

## Prairie View Co-eds All Girl Band



Music has always been a large part of the culture of African Americans. From jazz to classical, African American artists wrote, produced and performed crossing all color and culture lines, establishing a presence in the volumes of music history.

From the 1920s to 1940s many black colleges promoted music education as an alternative to menial labor, such as domestic work and share cropping. Prairie View was one of a small number of black colleges distinguished as a leader in musical education.

Prairie View was home to the famous dance band known as the Prairie View Collegians. The Collegians traveled nationally and internationally raising awareness of the beauty and spirituality of African American music. Like most bands at the time, the Prairie View Collegians was an all male organization. World War II changed that. The Selective Service Bill was passed in 1942, requiring all men to sign up for the draft. By 1943 so many of Prairie View's male student



population were drafted that the once all male band had dwindled to a male group. Will Henry Bennett the bandleader and music teacher decided to recruit women for an all-female dance band, thus the Prairie View Co-eds was born. The band initially played campus events, but within just four months of existence, the Prairie View Co-eds were in demand in North, South, East and Western states. The *Chicago Defender* stated "The talk of the Southwest now is this Prairie View Co-ed band (June, 1943)."

Clora Bryant was a young teenager when she started playing the trumpet. She didn't have formal musical training. She had picked up her brother's trumpet when he got drafted and from improvising she taught herself how to play. Her mother had died when she was a child and her father was forced out of their town by white men who accused him of stealing a can of paint. When her younger brother, Mel, joined the Marines, Clora devoted her energies into perfecting her skill to eventually play for the Prairie View Co-eds. When Bryant joined the Co-eds, she became a vital player, esteemed for her ability to dazzle audiences with her creative solos and note-for-note renderings of famous trumpet soloists.



**Clora Bryant**

The Prairie View Co-eds performed at other historically black colleges such as Tuskegee and Howard. The college connection was crucial for recruiting and stimulating hopes for social and economic improvement in the black community. Like the men's band, the Prairie View Co-eds represented the achievements of black education, and of the economic gains of black women at that historical time in American history.



Prairie View Co-eds embodied dignity and respectability with a upbeat and refreshing style. They offered audiences a glimpse of natural talent combined with precision and skill. Each member of the band was an accomplished performer and college educated professional.





The neglected history of the African American all girl bands of the 1940s should be a concern for women, men and historians every where, most notably at an HBCU. The fact that these accomplished women are PVAMU alum deserves recognition. Their legacy lives on in the photographs and recordings found in the Archives and Special Collection Department of the John B. Coleman Library.

For the few researchers who take the time to venture into the Archives, they leave with a wealth of information about the histories of PVAMU students, faculty and staff.



For more information on the PVAMU Co-eds All Girl Band (Orchestra) please visit the Coleman Library Archives Department. Additional information is available on the mobile web-app and website:

<https://prairieviewcoeds.wordpress.com/>

Much of the research for this article was obtained from books and articles by Sherrie Tucker. The references are listed on the website.

Written by Elizabeth Jean Brumfield with special thanks to Phyllis Earles, University Archivist for the pictures.

**MACH III**  
MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT, CREATIVITY, AND HIGH ABILITY CENTER  
**Building on Resilience**  
**Lecture Series**

Sponsored By: Dr. Fred Bonner, II, Executive Director & Endowed Chair

February 20, 2018  
6:00 pm—7:00 pm Refreshments

7:00 pm—9:00 pm Lecture

PrairieView A&M University  
Don K. Clark Building  
Room 155  
Juvenile Justice Auditorium  
PrairieView, Texas 77446



Judy A. Alston, Ph.D. holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Doctoral Studies and Advanced Programs at Ashland University. Her research foci include Gender and Educational leadership with a focus on Black Female school superintendents; Urban Education and Educational Leadership highlighting administrative reform in urban schools; and Diversity and Educational Leadership exploring how the intersections of class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual diversity, and ability affect leaders.

She is author of numerous articles and book chapters, including Multi-Leadership in Urban Schools and the co-author of the 7th, 8th, 9th, and upcoming 10th editions of the bestselling textbook, School Leadership and Administration: Important Concepts, Case Studies, & Simulations, as well as co-author of Herstories: Leading the Lessons of the Lives of Black Women Activists.

**Dr. Judy A. Alston, Professor**  
Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio

**For More Information:**

**Call 936-261-3532**

**Email: [MACH-III@pvamu.edu](mailto:MACH-III@pvamu.edu)**

# TECHNOLOGY NEWS

**Coleman Library has acquired 195,000 new eBooks . Vendor information below:**

<b>Collections</b>	<b>Title Count</b>
eBook Academic Collection	159,041
eBook Business Collection	16,543
eBook Education Collection	3,452
eBook Nursing Collection	504

## **eBook Academic Collection:**

This growing subscription package contains a large selection of multidisciplinary e-books representing a broad range of academic subjects. The breadth of information available through this package ensures that students and scholars will have access to information relevant to their research needs. Offering more than 150,000 e-books, this collection includes titles from leading university presses such as Oxford University Press, MIT Press, State University of New York Press, Cambridge University Press, University of California Press, McGill-Queen's University Press, Harvard University Press and many others. Additional academic publishers include Elsevier and Ashgate.

## **eBook Business Collection**

This collection offers more than 16,000 business e-books selected to assist students and scholars with various business research, special project and entrepreneurial needs. A key resource for academic and business school libraries, eBook Business Collection encompasses a variety of topics, such as marketing, finance, supply chain management and entrepreneurship. Titles are available from many noteworthy academic and business publishers, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, World Scientific Publishing Company, Princeton University Press, AMACOM and Gallup Press.

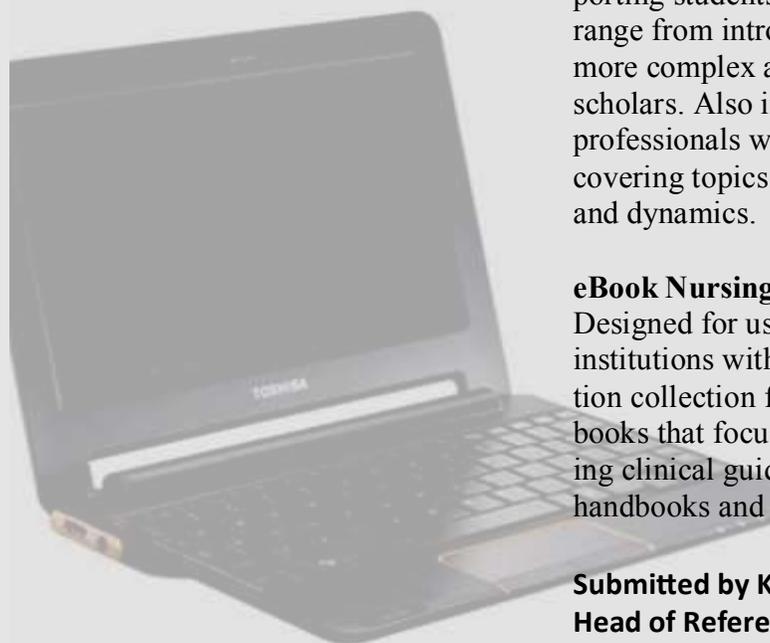
## **eBook Education Collection**

This collection features more than 3,400 quality e-books supporting students and faculty in the education discipline. Titles range from introductory texts for undergraduate coursework to more complex and detailed works for advanced students and scholars. Also included are support materials for teachers and professionals working in K-12 and higher education classrooms, covering topics from curriculum building to student behavior and dynamics.

## **eBook Nursing Collection**

Designed for use in hospitals, medical institutions and academic institutions with nursing or allied health programs, this subscription collection features more than 500 hand-selected, quality e-books that focus on the needs of nursing professionals, including clinical guides, evidence-based practice manuals, practical handbooks and professional growth titles.

**Submitted by Kimberly Gay,  
Head of Reference and Instruction, John B. Coleman Library**





**Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 5:00 pm**  
**Workshop: Creating Websites with Word Press**  
**Presenter: LeWebster Lacy**  
**Information Technology Professional**

This workshop will guide you through the steps of creating a website. WordPress is an online, open source website creation tool. Probably the easiest and most powerful blogging and website content management system (or CMS) in existence today.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 5:00 pm**  
**Workshop: Online Database Research**  
**Presenter: Elizabeth Jean Brumfield**  
**Distance Services Librarian**

Learn simple and effective database search techniques. This workshop introduces you to transferable skills that can be used to find books or articles in any database! Learn how to use our online catalog of library holdings and tour a few key re-

search databases. This workshop covers: Searching the Library's online catalog, Inter Library Loan, basic database search techniques: keyword searching, topic development and refining research questions for best results.

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 5:00 pm**  
**Workshop: Creating Powerful Presentations with PowerPoint**  
**Presenter: Elizabeth Jean Brumfield**

Microsoft PowerPoint is a powerful software that allows you to create captivating slide presentations that can easily be shared on the web. If you want to present any information creatively and professionally, then Microsoft PowerPoint is the perfect tool.

**All workshops are free.**  
**Send email to [ejbrumfield@pvamu.edu](mailto:ejbrumfield@pvamu.edu) to register.**



Sandra Bland Mural by Lee Carrier



## Houston Museum of African American Culture Sandra Bland Exhibit February 3-28th

Sandra Bland's story is being told from smiling pictures -- and days of her lives -- to the Waller County traffic stop just three days before her tragic death. The artists who have turned her story into works of art say they learned so much about her on their journey. What Bland's mother feels when she sees this exhibit is unimaginable. She said everyone can learn something. At the heart of the exhibit, curated by HMAAC CEO John Guess, Jr., is an interactive engagement allowing visitors to experience the emotions of Sandra Bland on the fateful day of her arrest.

The Houston Museum of African American Culture (HMAAC) explores stories inspired by themes of opportunity, empowerment, creativity, and innovation and cultural interrelationships through the lens of the African American experience.



Pictured above: Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, Melanie Lawson, John Guess, Jr., and Sandra Bland's mother, Geneva Reed-Veal and Sandra's sister, Sharon Cooper.

## A Reflection on the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. (continued)

In a no less contentious era, Martin Luther King lived his life out loud, inviting us into his struggles and fears. No matter how much he was extolled and celebrated, he expressed no scorn for others. Indeed, he did not hesitate to reveal his doubts. The brash certitude and arrogance at large today were not for him; humility guided his steps and respect for others illumined his way. His questioning and thoughtfulness did not diminish him; it elevated him even further as a leader. His essay on suffering in the context of the many threats against his life still teaches us how to cope with the kind of virulent hatred so often espoused today.

So many today fear that we may be moving backward as a nation. The frequency of references to the good old days which were good for some but not for others; the systematic minimizing and embellishment of past brutalities; the stoking of resentments and the highlighting of divisions – these are all indications of a move backwards and away from the values and ethics central to Martin Luther King’s teachings.

What are we to do in response? King showed us a way forward instead of a way backward, and his teachings point the way for us. First, he taught us how to be exacting in our expectations of ourselves. We often endorse aspects of his teachings deemed relevant for our adversaries while ignoring admonitions relevant to how we behave. Racism and bigotry are problematic not just when others perpetrate acts of hostility in its name but also when we in the very secret enclaves of our thoughts and actions, think and express racist beliefs. If we are to be serious about being with King on the right side of history, we must actively work to banish bigoted behavior from our own actions. Leaving space in our hearts and actions for bigotry of any kind offers a petri dish environment for hatred and discrimination. Like King, we must rid ourselves of hatred of the other.

Second, we can hope. James Melvin Washington’s edition of King’s writings is entitled, “A Testament of Hope.” King was optimistic. In the face of death threats and bombings, he was optimistic. In the face of jailings, he was optimistic. In the face of “bitter and dangerous adversaries,” he was optimistic. His optimism arose, he said, from “the sense of affirmation generated by the challenge of embracing struggle and surmounting obstacles.” (p. 314, Washington, A Testament of Hope.) And that is what we must do: remain optimistic because we are engaged in the struggle to improve lives and build the Beloved Community; remain hopeful because we are actively working to surmount obstacles to equality and justice; remain stalwart because we are responding to virulent hatred and clearing our own hearts of hate.

King was a beacon to the young people of his day. We cannot be the giant that he was, but we can strive to live our lives in ways that point to the validity of the King ethic. We can live out loud, exposing our uncertainties and wrestling with solutions to intractable social problems. This exercise can be instructive to others. We can speak truth to power and privilege, claiming the voice that King called on us to raise in the service of humanity. We can show courage when the rights of others are being denied or stolen. We can be unwavering in our support of the ideal of Agape love occupying the centermost part of our motivation. We can be drum majors for justice, not just for our clan and our personal interests, but for the human race.

I believe that a century from now, the world will still be reaching out to and elevating the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. Those of us privileged to live in these times are closer to his example than those who will look to him a century from now. We must use this proximity to his lived example to renew our commitment to the just world for which he fought and died.

-Ruth J. Simmons, President

**R. A. D.**

**RAPE** AGGRESSION

**DEFENSE**

**S Y S T E M S**

**Because not knowing your options is not the same as not having any.**



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

**Class Schedule**  
**February 19-22,**  
**5:30p.m. – 9:30p.m.**

**Location: Leroy G. Moore Jr. Gym**  
*Participants must be 16 years of age or older.*  
*Participants 16 years of age MUST have parent approval.*  
*Participants must attend each class.*  
*Space is limited to first 25.*

**For Assistance with Disabilities Dial X 3585**

*Class taught by Certified  
Instructors from the Prairie  
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Contact Officer Shanklin-McCartney for  
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## F.Y.I.

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