



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

**October/November 2021**



## Greetings from the NWHC!

Dear Panthers,

We are already at the midpoint of the semester: moving forward together! Our Fall Open House scheduled for all Deans, Department Heads and Program Coordinators will be held on November 10, 2021 at the NWHC at 9449 Grant Road. As we continue to protect ourselves and others, please consider both your physical and mental health. Our fitness center is open daily—a great place to take care of your physical well-being, free from crowds. Your mental health is important during trying times. **Counseling services are available to you at the Northwest Houston Center.** Go to <https://www.pvamu.edu/healthservices/appointments-and-emergency-services/> to schedule an appointment.

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month; early detection improves treatment outcomes. So, I encourage all women to take the necessary preventive measures by scheduling a yearly mammogram. About 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 13%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2021, an estimated 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 49,290 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. (<https://www.breastcancer.org/symptoms/understandbc/statistics>)

Not only are women affected by Breast Cancer, a small percentage of men develop Breast cancer. Less than 1% of all breast cancers occur in men. In 2021, about 2,650 men are expected to be diagnosed with the disease, and an estimated 530 men are expected to die from breast cancer. For men, the lifetime risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer is about 1 in 833. ([https://www.breastcancer.org/symptoms/types/male\\_bc](https://www.breastcancer.org/symptoms/types/male_bc))

It has become increasingly more important to take care of ourselves and each other. As we approach the holiday season, we encourage you to access available resources to help you physically as well as mentally. We must be more vigilant than ever to take care of ourselves: mind, body and spirit.

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# NORTHWEST NEWS

## *NWHC Graduate Assistant wins Panther Invent Competition*



**Gursimran Kaur**

Gursimran Kaur, a NWHC graduate assistant and graduate student in the College of Business, along with her team, won 1st place at the Panther Innovation Competition. Contestants were challenged to solve real-world problems in this inaugural event hosted by the PVAMU Division of Research and Innovation,

Kaur was the *only* student from a business school among the competitors. Other competitors were from mechanical and electrical engineering.

Kaur's creativeness led her to the firm's logo, "HyperSpace", shown below. She was also in charge of planning, organizing, and overseeing the project's completion.

After a 3-day presentation of ideas to Sandia Laboratories, sponsors of the event, Kaur and her team were awarded the first place. They received a \$1,400 scholarship.

Other members of Kaur's team included Heba Afzal— College of Mechanical Engineering, Emanuel Santiago Sanchez— College of Mechanical Engineering, and Thomas Carroll— College of Mechanical Engineering.

Congratulations to Kaur and her team!

Gursimran Kaur's Logo Design



# PANTHER TALK



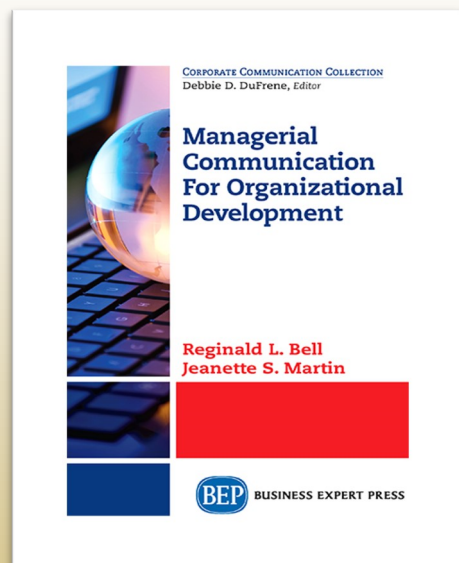
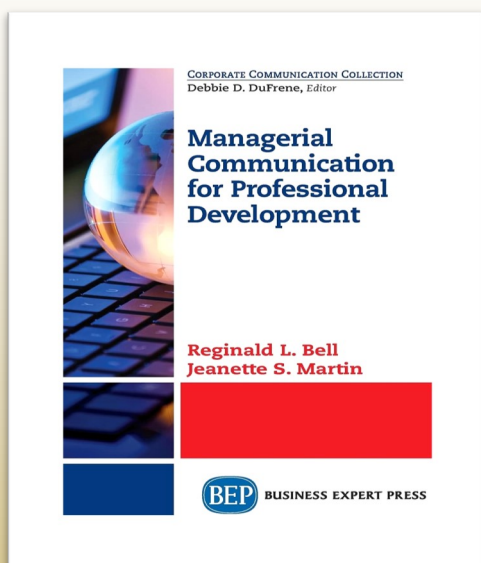
**Dr. Reginald L. Bell**

Dr. Reginald Bell came to Prairie View in 2002 as a limited term assistant professor; in 2008 he was awarded tenure and in 2014 received full professor status. He states, "At the time, I had maybe forty-eight articles published and one book, and I received promotion to full professor". Dr. Bell has more than six dozen articles published in peer reviewed journals and proceedings and is a frequent contributor to Supervision. "I really enjoy teaching. I've dedicated my life to teaching here at Prairie View, especially. You have to look at some of the success stories of some of these students from 15 years ago. It is amazing. I think I have almost 1600 people in my LinkedIn network and I'd say about half are Prairie View alum. They're doing big things".

Dr. Bell currently teaches Business Communication and Principles of Management courses at the undergraduate level, in addition to Managerial Communication and Executive Managerial Communication in the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program. As a professor in the College of Business at Prairie View A&M University, he has several articles published along with his current and former EMBA students. In fall 2014, four EMBA students - Omer Cloutier, Laura Felusiak, Calvin Hill, and Enda Jean Pemberton-Jones - were successful in publishing their co-authored article titled, "The Importance of Developing Strategies for Employee Retention," in the Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics 12, no. 2 (2015)." Dr. Bell talked with NWHC manager, Dr. Kamala Williams, to discuss the methods and strategies he uses to assist graduate students work on projects that lead to publications.

There are total of 25 students from the EMBA program who have published articles with the help of Dr. Bell. "I created a module system; the students go through module 1, module 2, module 3, module 4, and then they'll have to write a final version of the paper. Module 4 becomes the penultimate version of the paper. I give them all of the criticisms and editorial comments. They have to put together something, which I would consider publishable quality. Because I serve as an ad hoc reviewer and I serve on the editorial review boards of some of our best journals, I know what good quality writing is".

Dr Bell's most recent books are, Managerial Communication for Organizational Development (2019); and Managerial Communication for Professional Development (2019). The College of Business encourages faculty to use experiential learning and to engage students in research. Faculty are encouraged to work collaboratively and with students on research projects.





# PANTHER TALK CONTINUED

Below are links to a few of the publications authored by Dr. Bell and his students.

## EMBA Students' Publications:

Chatman, J. E., Johnson, A., White, E., & Bell, R. L. (2020). The leader as effective communicator. *American Journal of Management*, 20(2), 22-32. Retrieved from <http://pvamu.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/leader-as-effective-communicator/docview/2437944134/se-2?accountid=7062>

Williams, C., Williams, C., Jones, R., Bell, R., Holloway, R. (2019). Using an Integrated System Approach to Manage Conflict. *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics*, 16(4), 125-137. Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/openview/9f01d7370d40d50cf764cd0572975486/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=39006>

Nguyen, T., White, S., Hall, K., Bell, R. L., & Ballentine, W. (2019). Emotional intelligence and managerial communication. *American Journal of Management*, 19(2), 54-63. Retrieved from <http://pvamu.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/emotional-intelligence-managerial-communication/docview/2264108931/se-2?accountid=7062>

Cloutier, O., Felusiak, L., Hill, C., & Pemberton-Jones, E. (2015). The importance of developing strategies for employee retention. *Journal of Leadership, Accountability and Ethics*, 12(2), 119-129. Retrieved from <http://pvamu.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/importance-developing-strategies-employee/docview/1726791378/se-2?accountid=7062>

# NORTHWEST STAFF NEWS

## *NWHC Welcomes New Administrative Associate*



The NWHC welcomes our new Administrative Associate, Briana Derry. With a background in communications and fluency in American Sign Language (ASL), Briana is happy to welcome all visitors to the NWHC with helpful intentions. A native of Beaumont, Texas, Briana is an ambitious self-starter, moving to Houston to pursue her education and greater opportunities. Briana has a BA in Communications, with concentration in Public Relations, Master of Business Administration (MBA), with emphasis in Marketing, and is applying to PhD programs for fall 2022 with aspirations for a career in higher education.

Prior to joining the Northwest Houston Center, Briana was a 1<sup>st</sup> grade STEM teacher. The year 2020 brought many changes, including the loss of two parental figures, “Momo” and “Papa”, her grandparents. They were always so proud of her and in communication with her daily, despite Briana living miles away. It was after this gutting loss that Briana decided to focus more on pursuing her biggest goal yet – a PhD. She is grateful to have Prairie View’s NWHC amazing faculty and staff to serve as her examples and support. Assisting students as they pursue their higher education goals gives Briana a small dose of the sense of purpose that she will have as an educator.

Briana brings her experience in communication, assisting with the publication of the NWHC newsletter as well as providing content for the NWHC Twitter and Instagram social media pages. She loves technology and works to ensure that upcoming events, courses and other information are broadcast on the digital monitor in the NWHC lobby.

The next time you visit the NWHC campus, say hi to Briana in English or ASL!

# HEALTH WELLNESS

## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among African-American women. There are different symptoms of breast cancer, and some people may have no symptoms at all.

In the US, about 255,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and about 42,000 die from the disease every year. Men can also get breast cancer, but it is not as common. Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women.

Symptoms of breast cancer can include pain in any area of the breast, a lump in the breast or underarm, change in the size or shape of the breast, nipple discharge, etc.

Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.

**Take care of yourself by taking advantage of PVAMU's partnership with Houston Methodist,**

## Screening Mammogram Day for Prairie View A&M Employees

**SATURDAY, NOV. 6  
8 A.M. – NOON**

**Houston Methodist Breast Care Center  
at Willowbrook**

18220 State Hwy. 249, Suite 1280 | Houston, TX 77070  
Complimentary parking available

A limited number of mammograms will be offered. Attendees must be 40 years of age or older, have had no breast health problems or symptoms and must not have received their last annual mammogram within one year of the event.

To sign up, call **281.737.PINK (7465)** and mention "Prairie View A&M." We do not require a doctor's order for your annual screening mammogram. Please have your insurance card ready when scheduling. If you have had previous imaging elsewhere, our team can coordinate obtaining your records on your behalf.

Join us for a day dedicated to breast care — presented by Houston Methodist Breast Care Center at Willowbrook.

You can be confident we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe during your visit.



# NORTHWEST HAPPENINGS



## ***The NWHC Hosts Cyber Security Webinar***

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. With the increased use of the internet for everything from shopping, banking and socializing, the security of our identity and other confidential information is more important than ever. In 2019, 14.4 million consumers became victims of identity fraud — that is about 1 in 15 people. Overall, 33 percent of U.S. adults have experienced identity theft, which is more than twice the global average and more than 1 in 4 older adults, aged 55 and over, have experienced identity theft.

(source: <https://www.identityforce.com/blog/identity-theft-odds-identity-theft-statistics>)

We are at greater risk with the pandemic increasing our reliance on the internet for business and personal productivity and functionality. In addition, as technology advances and we connect to more devices through smart phone applications we are vulnerable to cyber-attacks. In an effort to educate and inform our students, faculty, staff and community, the NWHC hosted a webinar: *Cyber Security Webinar: Confronting Cyber Attacks* on October 26, 2021. A Special Agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigations shared his expertise on how to protect yourself and your information online.

During the webinar, Special Agent discussed the potential threats we are exposed to and simple steps we can take to prevent such harmful and costly attacks. The information shared encouraged us to demonstrate safe and secure online behavior and good decision-making.



# AFTER THE TASSEL



**Robert Thomas**

Meet Robert Aaron Terrelle Thomas. Robert graduated from Prairie View A&M University in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation Robert worked as an elementary substitute teacher at a charter school in Houston, Texas. Due to Robert's interest in technology, he was soon hired as the Technology Coordinator where he worked until 2017 when he began teaching full time in Fort Bend ISD. He received his MBA in 2019, from PVAMU. Robert is not only a proud Panther he is also a part of the NWHC family, serving as a Graduate Assistant from 2017 until his graduation in 2019. We caught up with Robert for an update.

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*"The most significant benefit from attending PVAMU was building a lasting bond with friends, faculty, and staff members".*

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## **Tell me about yourself.**

I was born in Ipswich, England, grew up between Austin, Texas, and Missouri City, Texas.

## **What made you decide to come to Prairie View?**

I originally had dreams of attending school outside the state of Texas, but after visiting a few friends at PVAMU one summer, they convinced me to join them, and I loved every moment of my experience.

## **Do you see any benefit to attending an HBCU as opposed to a PWI (predominately white institution)?**

Not familiar with the term "HBCU," I enrolled in PVAMU believing it was just like any other university. It wasn't until after I felt the closeness of faculty and staff members who reminded me of my own family that I became educated on the significance of HBCUs. The most significant benefit from attending PVAMU was building a lasting bond with friends, faculty, and staff members.

## **What were your goals as an undergrad, and did they change or remain constant?**

I entered my freshman year of college wanting to enter the field of Criminal Justice. Working as a Juvenile Correctional Officer, I dreamed of obtaining a degree in Criminal Justice and climbing the career ladder in the Texas Criminal Justice field. Later attending a business class, my education and career goals changed to wanting to own my own business, resulting in a change of my degree to Business Administration.

## **What made you decide to go into the field you are in?**

After graduating from college, my best friend convinced me to substitute at his school. Enjoying the experience of being in the classroom so much, I later became a certified teacher. Having such a great passion for education and technology, I later moved into a technology role.

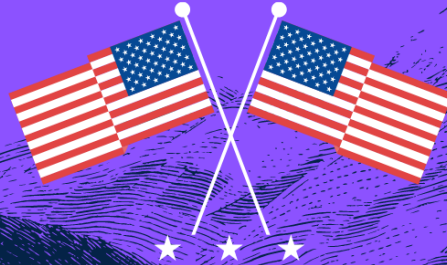
## **What is your current job/position?**

I currently serve in the role of Senior Laboratory Coordinator at PVAMU.





TO ALL VETERANS AND ACTIVE  
MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN:



# HAPPY VETERANS

*Day!*

Your honor, courage, and sacrifice  
will be remembered forever.



Today, we salute you for your service.



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NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO RECOGNIZE

**FAMILY  
CAREGIVERS**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**PRAIRIE VIEW  
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CENTER

**"A SPECIAL INVITATION"**

## FALL 2021 OPEN HOUSE

*Please Join Us!*

**Wednesday,  
November 10th**

9449  
GRANT ROAD,  
HOUSTON, TX  
77070

**For more information,  
contact the NWHC at  
(713) 790-7146**



- Session 1: 09:00 AM - 10:55 AM
- Session 2: 11:00 AM - 12:55 PM
- Session 3: 01:00 PM - 02:55 PM
- Session 4: 03:00 PM - 04:55 PM

Deans, Department Heads, and Program Coordinators or Designees

Introductions, General Information, Overview of Services, Personalized Tour, and Q&A

Thanksgiving Holiday  
November 25th & 26

Commencement  
December 11, 2021

Winter Break  
December 24th thru  
December 31st

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### Library:

<https://pvamu.libguides.com/nwhc/library>

### Academic Calendar:

<https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/academic-calendars/fall-2021-16-week-session>



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*Congratulations!*

## 2021 GRADUATES

Northwest Houston Center  
Graduation Ticket Pick-Up



November 15th

Monday - Thursday 10:00am to 7:00pm  
Fridays 8:00am to 5:00pm



**Contact Person NWHC**  
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