RECAP: PVAMU’S EPA COMMITTEE DISCUSSES THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY AND THE IMPACT OF SEGREGATION ON PVAMU AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

The special event featured research from the center's Epa committee and recognition of the descendants of Jared Kirby, the former owner of the Alta Vista Plantation, where PVAMU was built.

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (April 28, 2022) – Last Thursday, the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice explored the preliminary findings of the Epa Committee on the Legacy of Slavery and the Impact of Segregation at Prairie View A&M University. The presentation is available to view here.

The Epa Committee is composed of PVAMU administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community members who are engaged in a multi-year research endeavor to bring light to how slavery and segregation have impacted PVAMU and the communities that the university serves. The committee plans to host a yearly event to report findings that will culminate with a compiled report in 2026, PVAMU’s 150th anniversary.

This June, the committee will present additional special programming discussing its findings in honor of Juneteenth. The committee will present the oral histories of the descendants of the enslaved people held at the Alta Vista Plantation, divulge passages included in a co-authored scholarly publication by the Epa Committee and the Kirby family, in addition to hosting a forum for professors across universities in Texas studying their institution’s connections to slavery in August.

For more on the Alta Vista plantation, visit www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/prairie-view-tx-waller-county.

For more on the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, visit www.pvamu.edu/simmonscenter.

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About Prairie View A&M University: Designated an institution of “the first class” in the Texas Constitution, Prairie View A&M University is the second-oldest public institution of higher education in the state. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees, master’s degrees, 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. For more information regarding PVAMU, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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