2016 Program Highlights

Graduate Studies Convocation
Friday, May 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.
William “Billy” Nicks, Sr. Building

Morning Commencement Convocation
Saturday, May 14, 2016
9:00 a.m.
William “Billy” Nicks, Sr. Building

Afternoon Commencement Convocation
Saturday, May 14, 2016
1:00 p.m.
William “Billy” Nicks, Sr. Building
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR MAY 2016 GRADUATES!

Amidst all of the congratulations and celebrations, I hope that you reflect upon all of the wonderful times that you have had here at Prairie View A&M University. We fully expect that you will become one of PVAMU’s many Proud Productive Panthers as you embark upon this next chapter of your lives.

We want your graduation day to be a special one. Within the pages of this booklet you will find information about our commencement convocations that should help make the day go smoothly for you and your loved ones.

Of course, commencement marks a special occasion, but this is not the conclusion of your educational journey. Learning is a lifelong endeavor and we do not want you to ever stop progressing and growing.

Again, we congratulate you and we wish you the best and brightest future!

Felecia M. Nave

Felecia M. Nave, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

GRADUATION ELIGIBILITY

Students intending to graduate must complete and submit an Application for Graduation online through Panthertracks via PVPlace.
(Paper Applications can be accessed via http://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/graduation/applying-for-graduation/)

Before applying for graduation, student must read all of the information provided on the Graduation page.

1. Make sure you have completed the graduation checklist. (Applying for graduation prior to completing the checklist may result in being disapproved by your department. Reapplication and repayment will be required).

2. After completing the graduation checklist, login to PVPlace and navigate to Panthertracks.

3. In Panthertracks, go to Student Records and click on Apply to Graduate.

4. Follow the instructions on each page presented during the application process.

5. Upon submitting your application, follow steps on sections called “After Applying” on Graduation checklist.
TICKETS
Tickets will be distributed the week of April 25, 2016 through each College and School to graduates who have been certified to participate in the ceremony. Each graduating student will be issued 10 tickets for family, friends and other guests. Tickets are required for admission to each commencement ceremony. Only children 12 months of age or younger who will sit on a guest’s lap during the entire ceremony will not require a ticket.

If a student is not approved to graduate, the tickets MUST BE RETURNED to their College upon status of graduation notification.

Selling extra tickets is strictly prohibited. However, students are free to give their unused tickets to their fellow classmates.

SEATING
There is no reserved seating. All tickets are General Admission. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to find parking and seating.

PARKING
Parking attendants will be on hand to guide visitors to parking spaces. Please follow instructions closely as doing so will allow for convenient event parking and exiting. Parking for the event is free and no prior permission or parking pass is needed to park. Drivers are expected to follow all parking regulations set forth by the parking attendants.

SPECIAL SERVICES
A section will be reserved in the William “Billy” J. Nicks, Sr. Fieldhouse for persons requiring special needs accommodations. Space in this area is limited, so please plan to arrive early if special assistance is needed.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Official photography for each Commencement Ceremony will be done by a professional photography service. Photos of all graduates will be taken while the graduate is on the stage and when the graduate is walking back to his/her seat. Graduates will be given cards and order forms at the Commencement Rehearsal to be completed and returned to Flash Photography should he/she want to order photos.

Guests may take personal photos of the graduates but are prohibited from blocking the aisles and walkways.

SIMULCAST
Should the William “Billy” J. Nicks, Sr. Fieldhouse become full, overflow rooms will be available in the Memorial Student Center for guests. All Commencement Ceremonies will be simulcast live and will be shown in the overflow room in real time.

LIVE STREAMING
For those friends, families and guests unable to attend the Commencement Ceremonies in person, Prairie View A&M University will stream the event live. Links to the stream can be found on the www.pvamu.edu homepage as well as by visiting www.pvamu.edu/stream.

SOCIAL MEDIA
We welcome graduates and guests to post their graduation photos to social media sites using the hashtag #2016ProudPVgrad

CAPS AND GOWNS
The University Bookstore will provide information about pricing and pick-up of caps and gowns, class rings and graduation announcements. Please visit http://www.bkstr.com/prairieviewamunivstore/home for additional information.

GRADUATION GIFTS & MEMORABILIA
Information about PVAMU branded gifts and alumni merchandise can be found on the University Bookstore’s website at http://www.bkstr.com/prairieviewamunivstore/home

DIPLOMAS
During the ceremony, graduates receive a diploma case presented to them by the President of the University or a University Representative. The actual diploma is mailed to the graduate at the mailing address designated by the graduate in his/her Graduation application. Please allow 6–8 weeks for diplomas to arrive.
The Commencement Ceremony

Please make sure that cell phones are on silent. Please do not bring anything in the Fieldhouse that could obstruct the view of other guests. Loud noises and/or inappropriate outbursts are prohibited. We want to provide a courteous environment for our graduates and their guests.

Tips for an Extraordinary Ceremony

• Please notify someone on the Commencement Committee as to the proper annunciation of your name to ensure that it is pronounced correctly during the commencement ceremony.

• Leave personal items like coats and purses with guests. There are no facilities available for storing these items during the ceremony. Prairie View A&M University cannot be held responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items.

• Arrive early enough to allow adequate time to line up for the procession.

• Dress appropriately for this special occasion.

• Alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Alumni Association

Prairie View A&M University wants its new alumni to stay “pinned” to the university. The Alumni Initiation Ceremony will be held Thursday, May 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm and is designed to serve as a bridge from PVAMU student to PVAMU alumnus. Attire is business casual.

Representatives from the PVAMU National Alumni Association (NAA) will be on hand to discuss NAA membership costs and benefits.

Registration for the pinning ceremony is required. To register, visit www.pvamu.edu/alumniinitiation. Registered graduates must be present to receive a pin.
Mayor Sylvester Turner was elected Mayor of Houston on December 12, 2015, to serve a four year term beginning January 4, 2016. Sylvester Turner was born and raised in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston. His parents moved to Acres Homes in 1954, the year Sylvester was born. Sylvester’s mother worked as a maid in the old Rice Hotel in Houston. His father worked as a painter for Continental Ensco and cut yards with his sons on the weekends to make extra money. The Turners raised nine children in their modest two-bedroom home in Acres Homes. Sylvester lost his father to cancer when he was 13 years old. Afterward, his mother took over the Turner household. Although she never finished high school or learned to drive, she ensured her children got an education and inspired them to achieve.

Sylvester attended neighborhood public schools until forced integration came to Houston and he was bused to Klein High School. After a predictably rocky start, the student body adapted to its new enrollees — and Sylvester was later elected president of the student body and graduated as valedictorian.

Sylvester graduated from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He later founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983.

In 1988, Sylvester was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve the people of House District 139 in Northwest Houston. He served until his election as mayor, working on the House Appropriations Committee for 21 years and serving as Speaker Pro Tem for three terms. He was appointed to several Budget Conference Committees to help balance the state’s budget and served on the Legislative Budget Board.

He is very proud of his daughter Ashley, who is continuing the Turner family tradition of public service in the health care field.
## Commencement Committee

Dr. James A. Wilson, Chair  
Ms. Carol Campbell, Co-Chair  
Dr. Betty Adams  
Ms. Yolanda Bevill  
Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr.  
Dr. Lauretta F. Byars  
Ms. Kim Dickey  
Ms. Deborah Dungey  
Mr. Quinn Jenkins  
Ms. Candace Johnson  
Dr. Danny R. Kelley  
Dr. Michael McFrazier  
Dr. Felecia M. Nave  
Ms. Thelma Pierre  
Mr. Steven A. Ransom  
Ms. Zena Stephens  
Mr. Fred Washington  
Ms. Tressey Wilson

## Helpful Websites

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<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Main PVAMU Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pvamu.edu/">http://www.pvamu.edu/</a></td>
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<td>Office of the Registrar</td>
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<td>Campus Maps and Directions + Virtual Tour</td>
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<td>PVAMU National Alumni Association</td>
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