



PVAMU SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK HISTORY

Prairie View A&M University experts delve into the history of "African Americans and the Arts."

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (Jan. 24, 2024) – Prairie View A&M University, a leading Historically Black University, celebrates Black History Month by highlighting rich legacies and exceptional programs that illustrate this year's national theme, African Americans and the Arts. The 1,400-acre campus, known for its commitment to cultural excellence, serves as a valuable source of information during the month-long celebration.

Prairie View A&M's sought after experts are available to highlight innovative programs and research and offer impactful historical perspectives on compelling topics including:

- PVAMU Instruction Librarian **Kimberly M. Gay** shares her knowledge on how African Americans can trace their ancestry. Her research presentation titled "Let's Get Gritty with Researching African American Genealogy and Heredity" outlines how to develop a concise methodology for researching at local, county, state, national and international levels.
- Score a great story featuring the history of the marching band with **Professor Ralph Chapman**, the first band director at Concordia College-Selma. Mr. Chapman has arranged music compositions for collegiate band programs, including Southern University and A&M College, Alabama State University, Jackson State University, Delaware State University, and Prairie View A&M University.
- Making the band. **Dr. Timmey T. Zachery**, Director of Bands, helped lead the renowned PVAMU Marching Storm Band to a triumphant season. Dr. Zachery is available to share what it takes to lead the most respected band in the nation.
- Explore the legacy of the historical PV Co-eds with **Dr. Danny Kelley**, who is available to talk about the pioneering all-girl band that was established in the 1940s. The group, now disbanded, set a powerful precedent in overcoming challenges during a time of gender and racial barriers, shaping the cultural landscape of the University.
- Music man brings life to PVAMU's vision for the choral and music education. **Dr. Demetrius Robinson** is the new Music and Choral Director at the University. A highly regarded music educator, conductor, and composer who has performed with the University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Meridian Symphony, and the Transylvania, State Philharmonic Orchestra, among others, Dr. Robinson is available to talk about his artistic journey.
- Discover the University's renowned Gilpin Players Performance Troupe. **Professor Hardy Bates** will discuss the troupe's commitment to promoting African American voices through impactful performances.
- Prairie View A&M University is home to a renowned flutist. **Daniel Pardo**, Assistant Professor of Flute at Prairie View A&M University, works regularly as a studio musician in orchestral and commercial settings, is available to talk about the history of the instrument as it relates to African Americans in the arts.
- A powerful conversation about race and justice with PVAMU expert. **Dr. Melayne Price**, Director, Center for Race and Justice. Dr. Price is an Endowed Professor of Political Science at Prairie View A&M University and principal investigator for their African American Studies Initiative, which is funded by the Mellon Foundation.

PVAMU is also hosting newsworthy events for Black History Month:

- The TIPHC Art Gallery Reception will feature two exhibitions celebrating Black creativity in Texas on Feb. 13.
- A Conversation with Common: The Grammy award-winning artist, respected actor, and activist will visit PVAMU, the only HBCU on his multi-city tour, on January 31 to talk about his new book *"And Then We Rise."*

Our team is here to facilitate timely interviews with these top experts. Additional faculty members with expertise in the arts are available by request. For further information, please contact Liz Faublas Wallace, Email: lswallace@pvamu.edu or Marchita Shilo, Email: mlshilo@pvamu.edu.

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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an "institution of the first class" in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 9,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its ten colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor's and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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