

Prairie View A&M University
The Texas A&M University System

Groundbreaking Ceremony



New University Library



All Faiths Chapel
July 18, 1986 at 10:30 a.m.
Prairie View, Texas

W. R. Banks Library

On April 19, 1879, the Fifteenth Texas State Legislature provided funds to the Normal School at Prairie View, Texas to initiate a library collection. An 1885-86 report indicates that \$19.00 was allocated for books.

In 1888, the Normal School administration presented a proposal to the state for a \$500.00 appropriation to be used in support of the library. Through frugal budgeting and planning, the library was able to amass 2,400 volumes. Special libraries were housed in different educational departments and the Academic Hall (Administration Building).

In 1912, Mr. G. W. Buchanan assumed the responsibilities of the library and book store.

Mrs. Gertrude Williams, Commercial English Teacher, served as librarian from 1919-1930. The collection was moved to the east half of the first floor of the newly erected Science Building in 1924.

Under the leadership of Mr. O. J. Baker, librarian, the year 1931 saw the collection of approximately 10,000 volumes and 3,000 unbound periodicals moved to the third floor of the newly constructed Education Building.

In 1943, the Forty-Eighth Legislature appropriated \$160,000.00 for the construction of a library building and added a supplement of \$20,000 for equipment and books. The Alumni Association was instrumental in naming the library in honor of Principal Willette Rutherford Banks. The Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 provided funds for the construction of an addition, which served to increase the volume capacity from 100,000 to 301,000 volumes.

In 1966, after 30 years of service, Mr. Baker retired and was succeeded by Mr. William B. Scott, who served until his untimely death in 1968. Mr. Frank Francis, Jr. began his tenure in 1969, serving as Head Librarian until 1983. The collection had grown to over 200,000 volumes. Mrs. Joyce K. Thornton served as Acting Director during the 1983/84 academic year. Dr. Donald Sweet, hired in 1984 as University Librarian, has aided in the orchestration of a new library building to be completed by early 1988, at an estimated cost of 16 million dollars.

Mr. Robert Wedgeworth, Jr.

On September 2, 1985, Robert Wedgeworth, Jr., became the sixth Dean of the School of Library Services at Columbia University, the oldest and best known library school in the United States. He came to this position after serving as Executive Director of the American Library Association.

It is particularly appropriate that Mr. Wedgeworth participate in this 16 million dollar project. As Chief Executive Officer of the ALA, Mr. Wedgeworth revitalized and computerized its publication program, introduced the use of video-telecommunication for professional education programs and oversaw the development of new offices for the ALA's Chicago headquarters. He restored the Association's fiscal health and generally strengthened ALA's role as the leading organization in North America devoted to libraries, librarianship and information services. He was prominently involved in founding the Coalition for Literacy.

Mr. Wedgeworth describes himself as "professionally, a child of the technological revolution with a humanistic grounding."



New Library Groundbreaking Ceremony

Convocation

PRELUDE	Dr. Danny Kelley Associate Professor Music Department
THE INVOCATION	The Reverend W. Van Johnson Dean All Faiths Chapel
THE OCCASION	President Percy A. Pierre
THE WELCOME	Dr. Lee Henderson President Faculty Senate
GENERAL GREETINGS	Ms. Mary Powell President Student Government
THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER	Dr. Elaine P. Adams Vice-President Student Affairs
THE GUEST SPEAKER	Mr. Robert Wedgeworth Dean School of Library Services Columbia University
SPECIAL RECOGNITION	President Percy A. Pierre Dr. Donald Sweet Director W. R. Banks Library
THE BENEDICTION	The Reverend W. Van Johnson
RECESSIONAL TO SITE*	

Groundbreaking

Presiding: Mr. Robert K. Goodwin
Mrs. Marion Williams

ARTISTIC RENDERING	Dr. Theodis Shine Drama Department
GROUNDBREAKING	University Administration, Faculty, Student, Board of Regents Representative, Alumni Representative, Director of Library
RECEPTION: Alumni Hall	

**Audience is requested to remain seated until the speakers and Miss Lenice Brown, 1986/87
Miss Prairie View exit.*

Executive Officers

PERCY A. PIERRE, Ph.D
President

HERBERT N. WATKINS, Ph.D
Executive Vice-President
Administration

THOMAS J. CLEAVER, Ph.D
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Vice-President
Fiscal Affairs and Audits

DONALD HENSE, M.A.
Vice-President
Development and
University Relations

W. R. Banks Library Staff

Donald G. Sweet, Ph.D
Mrs. Cecilia J. Wang
Mrs. Joyce K. Thornton
Mrs. Helen Yeh
Mrs. Linda Aaron
Mr. Anthony Adam
Mrs. Sandra Allen
Mrs. Gloria Armstrong
Mrs. Mary Boozer
Mr. Johnny Boykin
Mrs. Marie Clem
Miss Phyllis Earles
Miss Audrey Edwards
Mr. Frank Francis, Jr.
Mrs. Benita Garfield
Miss Cassandra Harris
Miss Angela Jordan
Parvin Kujoor, Ph.D.
Miss Earnestine Law
Miss Gayle Lindsay
Miss Ollie Mayberry
Mrs. Dorcas Okoro
Mrs. Clara Stewart
Mrs. Sheryl Swanson
Mrs. Arnetta Taylor
Mrs. Jimmizine Taylor
Mrs. Dhana Thiagarajan
Mrs. Ruth Wachter-Nelson
Mrs. Marion Williams

University Librarian
Administrative Secretary
Assistant Director for Public Services
Assistant Director for Technical Services
Library Assistant
Assistant Reference Librarian
Cataloging Librarian
Library Assistant
Circulation Librarian
LRC Audio/Visual Technician
Acquisitions Librarian
Assistant Reference Librarian
Library Assistant
Collection Manager
Library Assistant
Library Assistant
Library Assistant
Assistant Reference Librarian
Library Assistant
Nursing School Librarian
Library Assistant
Periodicals Librarian
Clerk/Typist
Library Assistant
Library Assistant
Reference Librarian
Library Assistant
Archivist
LRC Coordinator