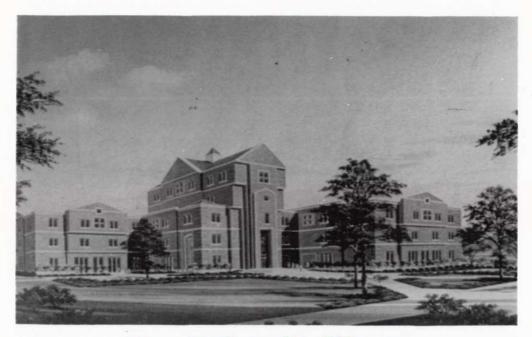
# Prairie View AGM University

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 Dr. Elaine P. Adams

GUEST SPEAKER Vice-President Student Affairs

THE GUEST SPEAKER Mr. Robert Wedgeworth

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

<sup>\*</sup>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

THOMAS J. CLEAVER, Ph.D Executive Vice-President

Academic Affairs

GARY W. O'NEAL, B.S., C.P.A. Vice-President

Fiscal Affairs and Audits

HERBERT N. WATKINS, Ph.D

Executive Vice-President Administration

ELAINE P. ADAMS, Ph.D

Vice-President Student Affairs

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. Gloria Armstro 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 Kujoory, Ph.D. Miss Earnestine Law

Miss Gayle Lindsay

Miss Ollie Mayberry Mrs. Dorcas Okoro

Mrs. Clara Stewart

Mrs. Sheryln 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