GRADUATE STUDIES CONVOCATION  
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017 | 6:00 P.M.

MORNING COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION  
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 | 9:00 A.M.

AFTERNOON COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION  
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 | 1:00 P.M.

WILLIAM “BILLY” NICKS, SR. BUILDING
While this is definitely a time for festivities and celebrations, I hope that you take a moment to congratulate yourselves on completing this important step of your educational journey. On behalf of the faculty and staff here at Prairie View A&M University, we salute you, your family and your efforts. We also 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!

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

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL
Rehearsal for all candidates will be held Friday, May 12, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the William “Billy” Nicks, Sr. Building (Babydome)

2017 COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Friday, May 12, 2017
6 p.m. (Candidates should report by 5:15 p.m.)

MORNING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Saturday, May 13, 2017
9 a.m. (Candidates should report by 8:00 a.m.)
Participating Colleges:
• College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
• School of Architecture
• Marvin D. and June Samuel Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences
• Roy G. Perry College of Engineering

AFTERNOON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Saturday, May 13, 2017
1 p.m. (Candidates should report by 12:00 p.m.)
Participating Colleges:
• College of Business
• Whitlowe R. Green College of Education
• College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology
• College of Nursing

All ceremonies held in the William “Billy” Nicks, Sr. Building
**TICKETS**

Tickets will be distributed 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 notification of graduation status. 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](http://www.pvamu.edu) homepage as well as by visiting [www.pvamu.edu/stream](http://www.pvamu.edu/stream).

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

**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](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](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.
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, students 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.

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.
FRIDAY COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Alma A. Allen, PhD
Texas House of Representatives, District 131

Prior to being elected to the Texas House of Representatives, State Representative Dr. Alma A. Allen was elected to, and served on, the State Board of Education for more than 10 years.

Beginning her career in education as a teacher at Parker Elementary School and Grimes Elementary School, Rep. Allen went on to become assistant principal at Foster Elementary School and then served as principal at Peck Elementary School, Windsor Village Vanguard Magnet School, and G.B.M. Turner Elementary School. She also worked in human resources and central administration, and retired from Houston Independent School District after 39 years. Thereafter, Rep. Allen continued her career in education as an adjunct professor at both Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M University. Currently, she is a motivational speaker, and an educational consultant.

Rep. Allen holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Education degree from Texas Southern University and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston, as well as a certificate in administration and supervision from the University of Houston. Rep. Allen has received many awards and honors, including Principal of the Year, District 5, and Outstanding Alumnus of the University of Houston. Rep. Allen also received the Texas Freedom Network "Walking the Walk Award," from Governor Ann Richards, the Living Legend Award, presented by the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators, and was recently honored in her hometown of Livingston, Texas, with Alma Allen Day.

Rep. Allen is a member of the Houston Association of Professional Administrators, American Association of Supervision and Curriculum, Texas Association of School Administrators, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Texans Concerned for Superior Schools, the Women's Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Democratic Women, The American Association of Curriculum and Development, and the Council of Negro Women.


Rep. Allen and her husband, Lawrence A. Allen, Sr., are the proud parents of two children and the grandparents of five grandchildren.
SUNDAY COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Ricky Anderson
Managing Partner, Anderson & Smith P.C.

Attorney Ricky Anderson attended Prairie View A&M University, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1983, and his Juris Doctor Degree, from Texas Southern University’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1992. Anderson was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1992.

Anderson is a managing partner of the Law Firm of Anderson & Smith P.C. and serves as an Adjunct Professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he lectures on Entertainment Law, Music Industry Contracts, and Trial Preparation.

Anderson’s law firm represents a host of high-profile celebrities including: Emmy Award-winning actor, comedian, and author Steve Harvey; Academy Award winner and Golden Globe winner, comedian/actor Mo’Nique; actor Isaiah Washington; actress Cassi Davis; judge Greg Mathis; four-time Grammy Award recipient Yolanda Adams; Grammy Award winner Tye Tribbett; Grammy Award winner Bishop Hezekiah Walker; Emmy Award-winning producer Rushion McDonald; four-time Grammy Award winning gospel duo Tina Campbell and Erica Campbell p/k/a Mary Mary; comedian/actor Rickey Smiley; civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump; comedian/actor Sinbad; and comedians J. Anthony Brown and Adele Givens.

Throughout his stellar career, Anderson has been the recipient of numerous awards including: The National Bar Association’s Entertainment Attorney of the Year, 2006–2007; the National Bar Association’s Presidential Award 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2016; the Houston Bar Association Entertainment Attorney of the Year 2014; the State Bar of Texas – African American Lawyer’s Association Outstanding Achievement Awards 2015 and the North Houston Frontier Club – Greater Houston Frontier Club, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award 2017.

In addition to the network television, movies, feature films, pay per view and HBO deals that Anderson develops, he is the former chairman and CEO of the Black Broadcasting Network Inc., is the former CEO and president of CBS Records, Inc., a Texas corporation and the majority shareholder in Big City Enterprises, and Qudel Promotions, Inc., producing national concerts such as the “Kings of Comedy,” “Jazzfest,” “the Boys are Back,” and “the Hip Hop Comedy Reunion Tour.” He is also the executive producer of the nationally-syndicated Music Video Television Show, “Big City,” and such independent feature films as “Renegade,” “Beach Party Weekend,” “A Freakin’ Documentary with Shamar Moore,” and “Beach Party.”

Anderson is a proud life member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and a generous supporter of Prairie View A&M University serving as a trustee on the Prairie View A&M Foundation since 2013.
US Army Maj. Lisa Jaster graduated from the United States Military Academy with a B.S. degree in civil engineering in 2000. Upon commissioning, she attended the Engineer Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Jaster was based at Fort Stewart, Ga., from 2001 through 2004. After the 9-11 attacks of September 2001, she was selected to lead a security force at Fort Stewart, home of the 3rd Infantry Division. Jaster was deployed to Afghanistan in 2002. In 2003, she was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as a company executive officer. While there, she oversaw all construction work for a 150-soldier company. In 2004, Jaster earned an M.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Jaster was then stationed in South Korea and soon became a company commander in charge of ammunition distribution and maintenance.

After leaving the Army, Jaster became a project engineer for SEPCo, a Shell subsidiary. In 2015, Jaster took a six-month leave of absence from Shell and attended Army Ranger School — becoming one of only three females to have ever graduated from the Army’s premier leadership course.

Jaster has earned more than a dozen military awards, including: the Bronze Star Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; three Army Commendation Medals; the Operation Iraqi Freedom Service Medal; and the Operation Enduring Freedom Service Medal, and several others.

Jaster is married to a fellow reserve officer and has two children.