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William A. Lawson Chosen PVAMU Commencement Speaker

May 10th is a magical date for many prospective Spring graduates at Prairie View A&M University. It is Commencement Day on the Hill. Graduation exercises will begin at 10:30 a.m., in the Billy Nicks Complex (Fieldhouse). And, the President's Office has announced that the commencement speaker will be Reverend William Alexander Lawson, Jr.

Lawson, the pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church (Houston) is noted for work in civil affairs and civil rights. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Lawson was called to preach in his senior year in high school. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at Tennessee A&I State University (TAISU), Nashville, where he was also active in religious organizations and served as student government president.

Following graduation from TAISU, Lawson accepted the pastorate of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, in Pittsburg, Kansas, earning both the Bachelor of Divinity and a Master of Theology degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, in Kansas City. In 1954, he married Audrey Ann Hoffman and the Fall of 1955, he moved to Houston, becoming director of the Baptist Student Union at Texas Southern University. While BSU director at TSU, he received a fellowship to study at the University of Chicago, where he concentrated on ethics and society, a dialogic field between sociology and theology. During this year, he was drawn to the concept of a "community church" and shortly after his return to Houston, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church was formed. Lawson helped establish Upward Bound at Texas Southern University and the Black Studies Program at the University of Houston. Also, he chartered the Houston Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). More recently, Lawson has worked with the Houston Council on Human Relations, Operation Crackdown: Houston Mayor's Commission on Drug, the Advisory Board of the Texas Commerce Bank-Houston, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was also appointed to the board of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation by then Governor Ann Richards. His community commitment has led him to create several community development corporations to revitalize the inner city through housing and economic development.

Minister William Lawson has been honored by such diverse groups as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA), Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; the United Negro College Fund (UNCF); Texas Southern University; the National Conference of Christians and Jews; the Houston Symphony, the American Leadership Forum and the Anti-Defamation League.



Rev. Wm. A. Lawson, Jr.

"We're On Our Way To The JFK Center!"

For college actors there are few honors more revered than being invited to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The Charles Gilpin Players of Prairie View A&M University have been on a quest to secure that honor since Fall 1996. The talented troupe of actors have won a host of awards at the Region VI American College Theatre Festival, held February 26 through March 1, at the University of Oklahoma (Norman, Oklahoma).

The Gilpin Players won the "Director's Choice Award for Region VI (which covers a 5 state area) and a "Director's Choice Award for Best Play" in the regional festival. In the Technical Olympics, Terrence Gambie, Eric Jackson and Ricjuane Jenkins all were awarded an "Honors Crew" second place. Students from PVAMU competed against each other in various areas of technical expertise.

Over 190 college students throughout the region competed in preliminaries from five states with 32 contestants chosen for the semi-final round of the Irene Ryan Scholarship Competition. PVAMU had two nominees to make it to the semi-final round. They are Adrian "Babtunde" Thomas, partnered with Cliff Alexander, and Ezekiel Morgan, partnered with Taryne Metcalf.



Tomball Regional Hospital & PVAMU Join Hands!

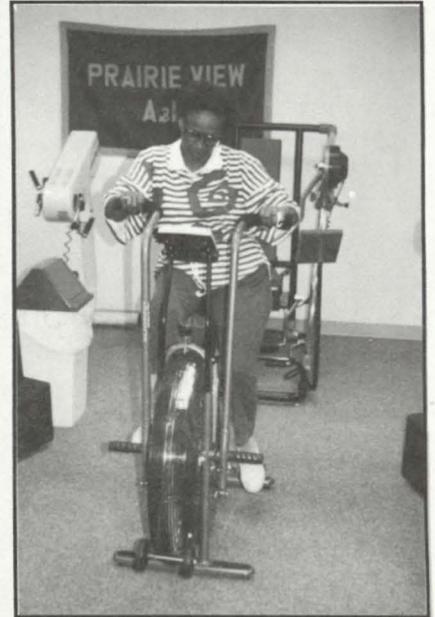
Sports Medicine Facility Takes Shape

When professional sports trainer John Mayes came to Prairie View A&M University in 1989, he was surprised to note that a sports medicine program was not in place and from that point it became his dream to develop such a program to serve the Waller County area. Mayes was pleased that he was able to see his dream come to fruition as the Tomball Regional Hospital and the PVAMU Sports Medicine facility was officially unveiled in March.

PVAMU/Tomball Regional Hospital Program material states that, "Today's athletic trainer is a well-trained professional who is an integral part of a complete athletic program. The trainer's duties consist of implementing prevention-of-injury programs and immediate treatment and rehabilitation procedures for the injured athlete as directed by the team physician." Also, "...a certified trainer must have a thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology, hygiene, nutrition, taping, conditioning, prevention of injury methodology and protective equipment."

Mayes, who has been a professional sports trainer for the Houston Oilers game staff of the National Football League since 1986 and head trainer at North Forest Independent School District, is committed to helping athletes and to offering students a rapidly expanding career option which may be unknown to them. The sports medicine program head is convinced that students from a variety of educational disciplines can use the skills obtained in sports medicine within their respective fields. He says, "The thing that keeps me driving the way I do is seeing the intense interest that minority students have in this relatively new field."

Mayes, who received a bachelor of science degree from Texas Southern University and a master of education degree from Prairie View A&M University, believes, "There isn't any reason that our athletes should be treated as second classed citizens and I was very pleased to note that our president, Dr. Charles A. Hines was supportive of this project."



The Sports Medicine Program provides useful knowledge for students, medical attention for student athletes (at PVAMU and regionally), and provides wellness opportunities for students, faculty and staff. And, Mayes believes that the program is unique among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

When hired in 1989, he was provided a small office from which to work as a trainer and Dr. Mary L. White, head of Health and Human Performance, was instrumental in helping get Mayes' specialty program off the ground saying, "Make sure that whatever you start...you finish!" She also provided a strong admonition that any initiative in sports medicine be designed so that it will help students who are majoring or minoring in health and human performance.

The young sports trainer realized that any sports medicine facility must have a reasonable amount of designated space, and, visiting Owens-Franklin Health Care Center director, Thelma Pierre, Mayes found an enthusiastic advocate who was willing to provide a place for the new facility to be located. She took a leading role in negotiations with Tomball Regional Hospital along with Mayes. Surpassing these hurdles, the professional trainer passed along his dream to Dr. Lewis Horman, chief of staff at Tomball Regional Hospital (TRH), and Tom Dolan, TRH administrator who serves on a new PVAMU Sports Medicine Advisory Board and was amazed when they rolled up their sleeves to make it a reality. Dr. Lewis Horman also facilitates the Sports Medicine Clinic at PVAMU on Mondays.

Tomball Regional Hospital bankrolled the project entirely in cooperation with Prairie View A&M University. In fact, TRH maintains a Sports Medicine Clinic which is now open to the public. TRH board members were especially

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COMING SOON!

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See HOSPITAL page 4

Jacket Given "Dearest" Award

Legendary university and olympic track coach, Barbara Jean Jacket, has won another prestigious award, adding to her long list of national and international accolades. This new award, however, may be the dearest of all! Jacket received the "Nell Jackson Award", to be presented by the National Association for Girls & Women in Sport, March 21, in St. Louis, Missouri. Jacket, a Prairie View A&M University professor, also an inductee in the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame, was a student of the legendary Dr. Nell Jackson, the first Black woman track coach of the modern Olympic Games.

"This award is special to me because it is personal. The other awards that the Lord allowed me to receive were important, but, the Dr. Nell Jackson Award is personal because of the camaraderie and friendship we had...even after my graduation." The honored coach commented, "Dr. Jackson was instrumental in helping me get my first job and she encouraged me to start a track team at Eufaula, Alabama (Van Buren High School). She even gave me shoes to give the athletes on my new track team. She was that kind of person."

According to Coach Jacket, "Dr. Jackson was a friend and she always had a part in my life. No matter where I was, we would always keep in touch, up until she died in 1988...such as, when we were both at the Goodwill Games in 1985, in Moscow." "She was a quiet-spoken individual who never raised her voice...but she earned respect." said Jacket.

During her career at PVAMU, Barbara Jacket, a native of Port Arthur, Texas, has commanded national and international attention by winning twenty national track championships, claiming twelve indoor Southwestern Athletic Championships (seven of which are consecutive) and coaching US track teams in Europe and in Russia. She has been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, the SIAC Hall of Fame, the SWAC Hall of Fame and was the first woman to be inducted into the Drake Relays Coaches Hall of Fame. And, Port Arthur, Texas, her hometown saluted her by naming a park in her honor. She has had the distinction of being one of a few female college athletic directors in the country as she served in that capacity at PVAMU from 1990-1995.



Coach Barbara Jacket

PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame

Banquet and Induction Ceremony Set

Prairie View A&M University Sports Hall of Fame committee chairman, Dr. George H. Stafford, has announced that the Tenth Annual Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony has been set for May 10, at 7:00 p.m., in the West Wing of Alumni Hall on the University campus. The purpose for the annual program is to raise funds for athletic scholarships at the university.

To participate in the banquet or to receive further information, contact Dr. George Stafford, at (409) 857-4610/4613 or mail to:

Dr. George H. Stafford, Chairman
Sports Hall of Fame Executive Committee
P. O. Box 428 • Prairie View, Texas 77446

KPVU Goes Bilingual

KPVU FM 91.3 has announced that it has the capability to produce bilingual public service announcements for airing on the station. Currently, the secondary language skill is available in Spanish. Those requesting bilingual translation services should note that several days lead time are necessary in the preparation of public service announcements.

Goat Field Day Returns

Big Doings Planned!

The International Dairy Goat Center has plans as it gears up for the Annual goat Field Day slated for May 2-3. This years field day plans to be bigger than ever as planners have indicated that an invitation has been sent to the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Daniel R. Glickman, to attend the 14th annual event.

The Goat Field Day (GFD) will begin in the auditorium of the Cooperative Extension Building at PVAMU both Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3. The GFD will provide hands-on workshops for professionals in the industry, as well as for novices, who want to know more about the lucrative and rapidly expanding field.

Pre-registration for both days is \$40 for adults and \$20 for youth. Registration is \$30 for adults and \$15 for youth 18 and under. For registrations postmarked after April 22, or registration at the door on the days of the conference, a late fee of \$5 per person will be charged. Fees include refreshments, Saturday's and Friday's BBQ and copies of all handouts from both days of the Goat Field Day. For more information about the Goat Field Day, call: (409) 857-3926.

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pleased with the level of commitment to the project espoused by PVAMU President, Dr. Charles A. Hines, and were greatly encouraged by his active participation. The new TRH/PVAMU facility is open daily for student athletes and trainer/interns who are working to perfect their craft.

Mr. Mayes is particularly proud of senior intern, Eric Frederick of Waller, TX. who has done a two year internship with the Atlanta Falcons football team (NFL) and has received a pro football athletic trainers scholarship. Senior, Anthony Cole, is pursuing an internship with the NFL.

According to Mayes, who is a member of the Southwest Trainers Association (SWATA) and the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), although the potential for profit is excellent, the number of minority trainers currently in the field is pitifully low. He stresses that an assistant trainer for a professional sports enterprise can make \$35,000-\$45,000, working about six months a year. And, a head trainer for one such organization has the potential to make between \$50,000-\$100,000 annually. He also notes that often trainers work privately some even opening private training facilities which they maintain during the off-season, bringing in additional profit.

Recent National Athletic Trainers Society figures put the number of certified athletic trainers in the U.S. at about 23,000, with 125 African American trainers recorded nationally and only three in the State of Texas. The three Texans are Keith Jones of the Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and John Harvey of Texas Southern University and, of course, John Mayes at PVAMU.

"We can do something about boosting the number of athletic trainers available in the U.S. and certainly we can help increase the number of minority trainers who are qualified to work in this field through programs such as ours," commented Trainer Mayes.

Supporting the idea of expanding the qualified workforce, Director Mayes was recently asked to serve on the Southwestern Athletic Trainers Association and University Athletic Trainers Committee which he hopes will allow him to broaden the appeal of the Athletic Training/Sports Medicine Specialty Program (AT/SMSP) at PVAMU and the profession in general.

John Mayes believes, "We can't depend on others to solve our problems! This was an innovative approach to solving a medical situation which must be improved not only for PVAMU but for the total community as well." The veteran trainer stated, "I don't care who gets the credit...do the job of making things better! Ecclesiastes chapter 10, verse 19, says, "A feast is made for laughter and wine maketh merry but money answereth all things."

Coming Soon!



Thursday, April 17
College of Business Spring Convocation
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall, 3-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23
Department of Music Spring Concert
Brass Ensemble, 7:00 p.m., Hobart Taylor Recital Hall

Thursday, April 24
Department of Music Spring Concert
University Percussion Ensemble, 7:00 p.m.
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall Friday,

April 25
College of Business Graduate Recognition Banquet
Memorial Student Center Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.

May, 1997
May 5-10
Final Examination Period

Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3
Dairy Goat Field Day
College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Location TBA

Saturday, May 10
Semester Ends

Saturday, May 10
Spring Commencement
Billy Nicks Complex
10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 10
PVAMU Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony
West Wing, Alumni Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13
Final Grade Reports Due in Registrar's Office

May-July
College of Nursing Community Summer Camps Project