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Faculty & Staff News - April 1998

Prairie View A&M University

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FACULTY/STAFF N • E • W • S

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APRIL, 1998

"This is a first of a kind initiative..." Peace Corps Days at PV

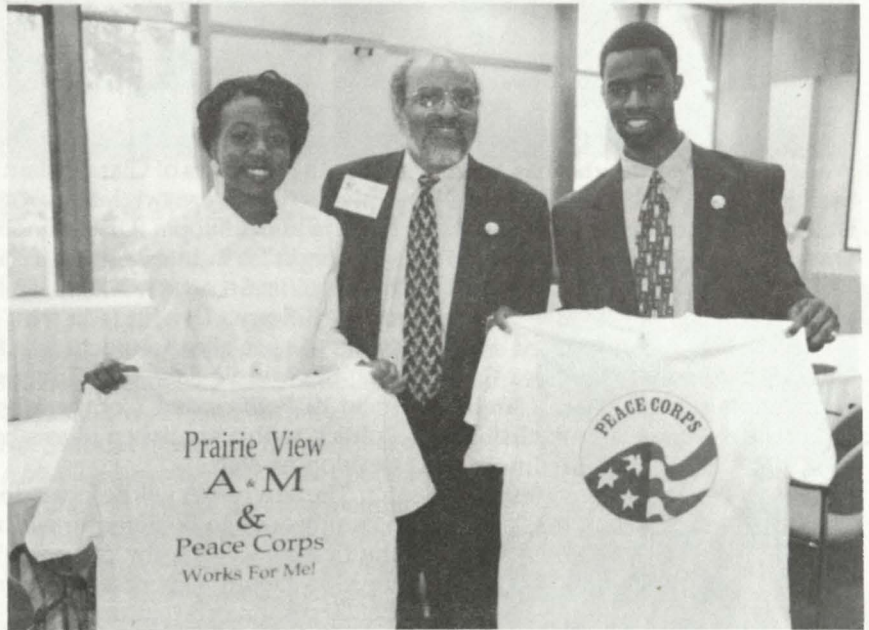
Like any proud papa, Jay Pennywell, director of Career Placement at Prairie View A&M University, proclaimed the launch of "Peace Corps Days" at PVAMU. "This is the first of a kind initiative at an HBCU featuring a cooperative recruitment program by the Peace Corps," Pennywell said as he extolled the virtues of the new undertaking.

The Peace Corps is working particularly hard to reach African Americans who could benefit and provide valuable knowledge to the organization in serving overseas. The Peace Corps came to PVAMU as part of its ongoing national effort to recruit African Americans at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

PVAMU is the first such university to welcome the Peace Corps' new '10,000 by 2000' Millennium Initiative during the two-day recruitment event.

Representing President Charles A. Hines, vice president of Student Affairs, Ron Jones stated, "We hope that the initiative the Peace Corps and PVAMU are about to embark on will benefit the students of our university as they travel and give service around the world." He further said, "It makes you proud to see young Americans giving service to humanity around the world."

Dr. Morris Baker, Peace Corps regional manager, was the featured speaker Monday, March 2, telling students, "I have a passion for the Peace Corps because it made a significant impact in my life."



Baker, who served the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, Indonesia and the Philippines during his youth illustrated, "People who you might not know are in fact returning or returned Peace Corps

Volunteers." He gave such notable former Peace Corps volunteers as former Atlanta Mayor and UN Ambassador, Andrew Young, and U.S. Transportation Secretary, Donna Shalala.

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program Sponsors Unique Youth Entrepreneur Symposium

Seminars for business success and networking are familiar to most in business but the Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) at Prairie View A&M University has a new twist on entrepreneurship. CEP will host a Youth Entrepreneur Symposium (YES), April 22-26, designed to inspire, motivate and nurture a whole new generation of business professionals. The teen symposium will be held at the Astrodome Hotel,

Houston, and is co-hosted by the National Coalition for Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs (NCEYE).

Participation for the Youth Entrepreneur Symposium is limited to the first six hundred registrants. Teens and adults interested in the symposium should contact Beverly Spears at (409) 857-2517, or E-mail, ba-spears@tam.u.edu. or visit the web site at <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/kidbiz>.

International Studies Center to be Established at PVAMU

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Prairie View A&M University Political Science Program, in the Division of Social and Political Science, \$142,000 to establish a Center for International Studies at the university. The grant, which will be matched by the university, will bring total funding for the center to \$284,000.

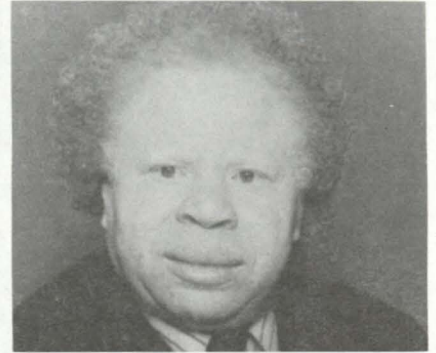
The proposal was written by Dr. Fredoline Anunobi, who joined the Political Science Department in the Fall of 1997. Assisting him was Dr. Walle Engedayehu, who has been teaching at PVAMU since 1989 and is currently heading the department. Dr. Anunobi will serve as director of the Center and Dr. Engedayehu as project coordinator.

Dr. Anunobi has submitted similar grant proposals to the Coca-Cola Foundation and Proctor and Gamble for projects aimed at establishing the Coca-Cola Center for International/African Studies and develop-

ing an international business concentration in the PVAMU College of Business. Prior to coming to PVAMU, Dr. Anunobi was successful in getting grant proposals funded while at Xavier University, Louisiana, and earlier at Selma University, Alabama. He was the recipient of grants from the Coca-Cola Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education and the International Paper Company, which funded the establishment of a center for Third World Studies.

Drs. Anunobi and Engedayehu are both graduates of Clark-Atlanta University and are originally from Nigeria and Ethiopia. Dr. Anunobi is a specialist in international relations, political economy and research methodology. Dr. Engedayehu's fields of specialization include Africa, the Middle East, U.S. Government & Politics and Comparative Politics, with a special emphasis on developing states.

The new center will be located at a campus site to be determined. In the first two years, the center will develop faculty expertise and curricular resources on cultural and linguistic diversity in Africa. The international studies program has the potential to internationalize PVAMU's curriculum, broaden the scope of foreign language instruction and strengthen the interdisciplinary na-



Dr. Fredoline Anunobi

ture of the curriculum. It is hoped the new center will foster links among the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences and business. With a university commitment to promote language study across the curriculum, the program will endeavor to make students more sensitive to international and cross-cultural issues.

The grant will allow for the support of faculty release-time and travel for course design/development; workshop/seminar attendance; modernization of language lab equipment, acquisition of needed instructional materials, enrichment of library resources and sponsorship of visiting faculty. In the long term, the grant will allow PVAMU to establish a sound base for an ongoing program supported by the University when funding for the U.S. Department of Education has expired.

Faculty Staff News

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NASA Signs Agreement with PVAMU

International Space Station & Shuttle Programs Highlighted

NASA's Johnson Space Center has entered into cooperative agreement with Prairie View A&M University Computer Science Department to develop a computer software engineering capability for the International Space Station (ISS) and the Space Shuttle Program. The Space Station will be a permanent, nearly gravity free, orbital research institute parked in Earth orbit.

The station will research how gravity affects life, science and technological processes. Medical and life science research on the station will encompass a study of science applications and technology. It will also include engineering research in combustion science, gravitational biology, materials science, microgravity physics and biotechnology.

Russia and the United States are joined by thirteen countries in the International Space Station Program. PVAMU will work collaboratively with Texas A&M University Kingsville and North Carolina A&T University in the Software Engineering Project.

A goal of the collaborative agreement is to have a "pipeline" of graduates who have the desired skills to support software needs going to NASA and its aerospace companies. The recognized talent of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and Other Minority Institutions (OMI's) is seen as an asset in creating a cutting-edge engineering software personnel pipeline.



Dr. Prestage Conducts Socials Workshop

Dr. Jewel L. Prestage, director of the PVAMU University Scholars Program, conducted a workshop on "Social Skills/Coping Skills: Addressing the Issues Through Leadership and Scholarship". The workshop was held February 21, at Memorial Student Center on the campus of Texas A&M University and was sponsored by "Women in Science and Engineering".

The goal of the conference was "to provide a forum for the exchange of successful careers". Other workshop directors were from the University of Illinois, Colorado State University, Mississippi State University and Texas A&M University.



Dr. Jewel Prestage

Building Dedication

honoring

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Houston Endowment, Inc.

Tuesday, April 14th

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Agricultural Research Center

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April '98

April 8
University Scholars Program
Spring Lecture Series
Speaker: Honorable Calvin Botley, U.S.
Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court
at Houston, Texas

April 8
18th Annual Education Job Fair
sponsored by College of Education and
Career Placement & Outreach Center,
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Alumni
Hall West Wing.

April 10
Good Friday
Close 2:00 p.m. per TAMUS memo

April 14
Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones
Building Dedication
Cooperative Agricultural Research Cen-
ter (CARC) 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

April 14-17
HUD Training for HBUCs
NAFEO 23rd Annual Conference,
Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Topics: Community 2020 Software,
HUD's HBCU Competition, Future HUD
HBCU Competitions and post Award
Requirements for Grantees.
Call 1-800-998-9999.

April 20
Recital 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Rubye N. Hebert, Mezzo-Soprano
Dr. Danny R. Kelley, Piano
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall

April 23
University Symphonic Band
Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall

April 22-26
Youth Entrepreneur Symposium
PVAMU Cooperative Extension
Program Sponsor
Sheraton Astrodome Hotel, Houston.
Contact: Beverly Spears, Ext. 2517,
(Register Now!),
e-mail: ba-spears@tamu.edu.
web site: <http://www.agnr/users/kidbiz>.

April 28, 29, 30
"Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope!"
Musical, 7:00 p.m.
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall

April 28, 1998
Texas Veteran's Land Board Forfeited
Land Sale. Sealed Bid Sale,
1-800-252-VETS

Call old military buddies
on the NET! US Army Website:
<http://www.army.mil/vetinfo/vetfloc.html>

MAY 1998

May 1
Percussion Ensemble In Concert
12:00 Noon
Hobart Taylor Recital Hall

May 1-2
PVAMU Goat Field Days
Former Congressman E. "Kika"
de la Garza, Building Dedication
International Goat Center Dedication

May 9
1998 Spring Commencement
Billy Nicks HPE Building, 2:00 p.m.,
Featured Speaker: Former President
George Bush

May 11
Texas Water Law Conference
Hyatt Regency, Houston, Texas
1-800-873-7130

SUPPORT

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