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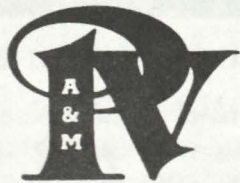
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FACULTY/STAFF N • E • W • S

A Monthly Publication for Prairie View A&M University
"A Member of the Texas A&M University System"

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5

APRIL - MAY, 1999

Chancellor Barry Thompson Named Commencement Speaker

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, will be featured speaker for the PVAMU Spring Commencement program.

Chancellor Thompson has served as head of the Texas A&M University System since September, 1994. He is noted for his sense of vision, optimism, leadership and inexhaustible spirit.

Dr. Thompson received a B.S. degree in Biology, Secondary Education at Texas Tech University and an M.S. degree in Educational Administration, Physical Science from East Texas State University. He possesses a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, Sociology, from Texas A&M University.

Before becoming chancellor, Dr. Thompson served as interim chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, president of West Texas State University, president of Tarleton State University. He was chief academic officer and vice president for Academic Affairs at East Texas State University, and professor and department head of the Dept. of Secondary and Higher Education at East Texas State University. Thompson was professor and head of the Department of Secondary Higher Education at the University of Texas at Pan American.

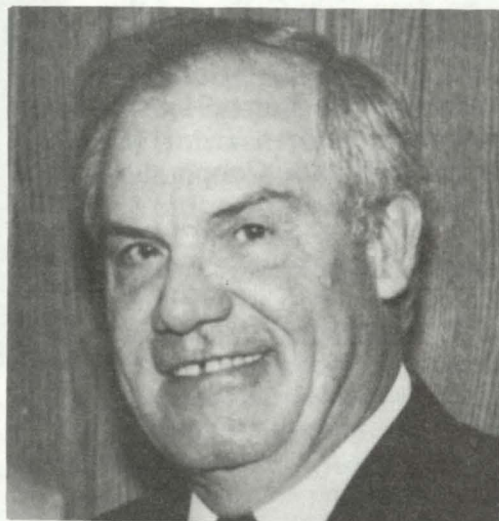
As chancellor, Dr. Thompson created "Operation Lone Star", a public awareness campaign de-

signed to reconnect grassroots Texans with the values of the A&M System and help educate the public about the benefits they receive from the System.

Thompson developed the Center for Leadership in Higher education to identify potential leaders within the A&M System and to provide them with the training and education necessary to serve in future management positions.

The chancellor reorganized the System Administrative and General Offices to provide better service to System members and bring the System closer to the people it serves.

Dr. Thompson and his wife of forty-one years, Sandra Sue Davison Thompson, have two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren. Thompson grew up in west Texas in the community of Kermit. Three of his four



Barry B. Thompson

children now teach in Texas public schools. He and his family own a small ranch in Leon County where they raise racing quarter horses and polled Hereford cattle. Dr. Barry B. Thompson is a descendant of a long line of Texans, with his first relatives coming to the state in 1846.

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Prairie View A&M University Spring Commencement Set, Saturday, May 8

Prairie View A&M University will hold its Spring Commencement exercises Saturday, May 8, 1999, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the William J. Nicks, Sr. Health and Physical Education Building. (Candidates for graduation should report at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 8th for line-up.) The commencement exercise is

open to the general public.

Commencement rehearsal will be held Friday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m., also in the William J. Nicks, Sr. Health and Physical Education Building. Prospective graduates may purchase caps and gowns at the University Bookstore on campus.

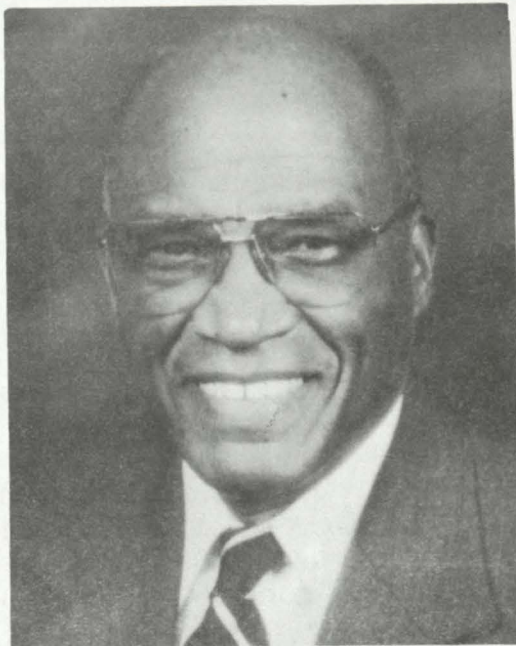
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PVAMU Science Building "Ground Breaking Ceremony" Planned

A much anticipated "ground breaking ceremony" hailing the commencement of construction on a new science building for Prairie View A&M University has been set for April 1, 11:30 a.m. Dr. Edward W. Martin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will preside at the official ceremony to be held at the construction site located directly across from the Carden-Waller Cooperative Extension Building.

When President Charles Hines came to PVAMU in 1994, he realized a new science building was needed. In fact, the current Harrington Science Building, constructed in 1961, was bursting at the seams.

Original plans in 1952, called for a building able to accommodate a student body of 3,000 stu-



Dr. Charles A. Hines

dents. PVAMU current population totals are in excess of 6,000 students and it is expected that the student population will grow to 12,000 by the year 2005, hence the need for a new facility.

Inadequate small animal housing, seminar facilities, few study areas; no adequate Greenhouse and a lack of essential science equipment have made the old building a difficult proposition for students and faculty. Dr. Hines, however, has been successful in convincing the Legislature, the Coordinating Board and the Texas A&M University System that a new science facility is necessary.

The new science building will have 140,000 total square footage and 86,000 square feet in assignable area (actual usable area), at a cost of \$28.09 million. Completion of the new facility is anticipated in 2001.

The facility is needed to provide adequate teaching class-

rooms; teaching labs; research labs; state-of-the-art lab equipment; science learning resources for students and essential administrative facilities.

The new science facility is needed to maintain Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation for science programs and to obtain American Chemical Society accreditation for the chemistry program. The building is crucial to providing research experiences for PVAMU equal to those students performing summer research at Ph.D. granting institutions and to enhance opportunities for competitive research training

grants. Such a facility would be designed to meet minimum requirements for current research and training grants funded by agencies such as the National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, NASA and the Department of Energy.

It is hoped the new science building will allow institutional programs to expand, which are currently constrained because of inadequate facilities and resources to allow increased enrollment.

President Hines states, "We need this new science building to enhance opportunities for students and to prepare them for employment or entry into graduate and professional schools." He also believes the new building will be helpful in maintaining the accreditation of the Southern Association of colleges and Schools and in serving the state through research programs that improve the quality of life for Texans.

Faculty Staff News

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PVAMU Classic Dance Ensemble to host Prestigious Black College Dance Exchange

The Classic Dance Ensemble, of Prairie View A&M University, will host a national array of colleges as it welcomes the Black College Dance Exchange (BCDE), April 8-11. The Black College Dance Exchange is a coalition of dance companies from Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the country.

Founded in 1982, the BCDE motto is, "Striving for Excellence Through Dance". The major goal of BCDE is to provide opportunities for dancers from HBCU's to come together for learning, social and performance experience. However, the main thrust of the exchange is to provide an educational base for dancers.

The conference provides for exposure through master class participation in various dance styles and techniques. Seminars on the African American influence in dance are also conducted. Performances, lectures, demonstrations and master classes are provided by a selected professional company.

This year, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company, Denver, Colorado, will perform selections from their repertoire. Anyone interested in attending the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company performance April 8, at 8:00 p.m., should contact Ms. Paula Williams of the PVAMU Dance Program at 409/857-2440.

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12th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Banquet Set for June 5

Dr. George H. Stafford has announced the 12th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 5, in the West Wing of Alumni Hall. Stafford, chairman of the Sports Hall of Fame Executive Committee, says the affair is designed, "...to raise funds for athletic scholarships and to continue financial support for our student athletes."

Tickets for the banquet and

induction ceremony are \$50 individually and a reserved, sponsored table for eight persons can be obtained for \$300. Also, the committee is making ads from the souvenir booklet ranging from \$15 to \$300. (All ads must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 21, 1999.)

For more information, call 409/857-4611. To fax a request, dial 409/857-2750.

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PVAMU Classic Dance Ensemble Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In conjunction with the Black College Dance Exchange, Classic Dance Ensemble will celebrate 10 years of excellence in dance. PVAMU alumni

from around the U.S. will return for a banquet to be held in the West Wing of Alumni Hall on campus.

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Biology Seminar Series Continues

Professor, Dr. Ronald Humphrey, Ph.D., has announced the staging of the final seminar in a Biology Seminar Series aimed at providing a look at trends and substantive issues within the advancing field of biology. The series is supported by the Prairie View A&M University Biology Department and the Office of Educational Access and Equity at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston.

Seminar sessions will be held on Mondays from 4:00 - 4:50 p.m., at the Harrington Science Building, Room 102, at PVAMU. The last session will be:

Immunology April 5
Joann M. Moulds, Ph.D., Associate Professor Div. of Rheumatology, Dept. Internal Medicine Med. School, Univ. Texas Health Science Center Houston.

Dr. Wright Gives Presentation at NAAAS /NAHLS Conference

Dr. Reuben L. Wright, assistant professor and coordinator of Health and Human Performance Laboratory, presented a research paper entitled, "Exercise Hypertension: Racial Differences" during February. Wright presented his topic before the National Conference of the National Association of African American

See PRESENTATION page 4

PVAMU HHP Department & Houston/Gulf Coast District American Heart Association Partner for Public Good

During February, the American Heart Association of the Houston/Gulf Coast District partnered with the Prairie View A&M University Health and Human Performance Department in addressing "National Heart Month".

Both entities noted that stroke death rates for African Americans are twice those of Caucasian Americans. African Americans have a higher prevalence of high

blood pressure than other racial groups.

The Houston/Gulf Coast district of the American Heart Association has formed a speaker's bureau for Health and Allied Professionals to provide lectures for groups in order to increase public awareness of this chronic disease.

PVAMU Health and Human Performance Department has implemented a collaborative ef-

fort with the Houston/Gulf Coast District spearheaded by Dr. Reuben L. Wright, assistant professor of Health and Human Performance.

During February, Dr. Wright presented lectures to the 5th Ward Missionary Baptist Church and the Jewish Community Center on topics such as "Stress Management" and "Heart Disease and Exercise".

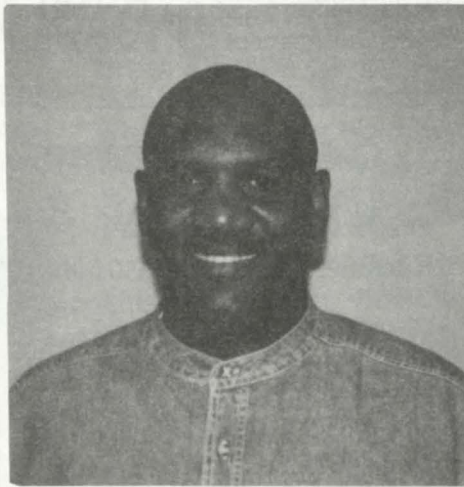
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PRESENTATION Continued from page 3

Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies.

The presentation given by Dr. Wright focused on the fact that African Americans have a higher incidence of hypertension (high blood pressure) than other racial groups. His research sought to determine if in normotensive (normal) blood pressure African Americans exhibited exaggerated blood pressure responses to static and dynamic exercise relative to Caucasian and Asian Americans.

The purpose of both associations is to promote acquaintance-ship and group effort among minorities, further the cause of



Dr. Reuben L. Wright
research on minority issues, and to better inform the public concerning minority health concerns.



University License Plates
Carolyn Bradley-Oliver proudly displays her University License plates. Call the Office of Institutional Development, (409)857-4091 to purchase a license plate.

19th Annual Job Fair

April 14th - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

West Wing Alumni Hall
(409) 857-2256

*Sponsored by College of Education
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